

Mobility, New Media and Political Change from Jebel Lebu to Cairo

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The timing of this study is very apt for a contribution to a panel on political insecurity and displacement cultures. As I write this, Sudan is in the process of dividing into two, with the ethnically diverse peoples of Nuba Mountains being nonetheless politically incorporated into the North. For many of them this seals their cultural fate since the Northern Government has announced plans to step up the Islamization and Arabization initiatives in the region as well as the whole North, following the Southern secession. This paper would present the results of the initial stages of fieldwork, a mapping of communicative practices among Moro people that are distributed between the Moro ancestral home in Jebel Lebu in South Kordofan, and their displaced relations, the large migrant community now residing in Greater Khartoum and the Moro living abroad in Cairo. Using a social networks approach, I'll be looking at the relationship between new media technologies, networks and sociality across these locales. One aspect of my PhD project will involve looking at the way diasporic groups are involved in Nuba current events, such as the local elections in South Kordofan (due to take place this Spring), how concepts of ethnic identity, regional or national belonging may be employed for certain political aims in this time of instability.