

Sahel and West Africa Club Forum, Milan, 27 October 2015

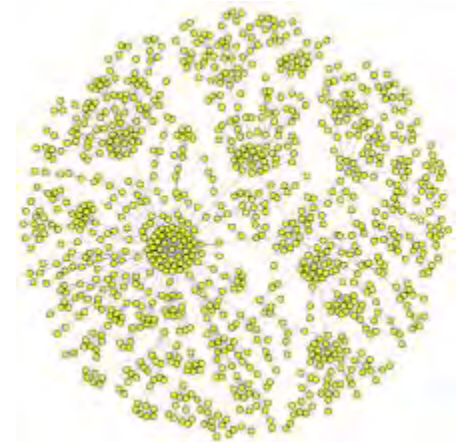
Social network analysis

An innovative tool for development

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What is social network analysis?

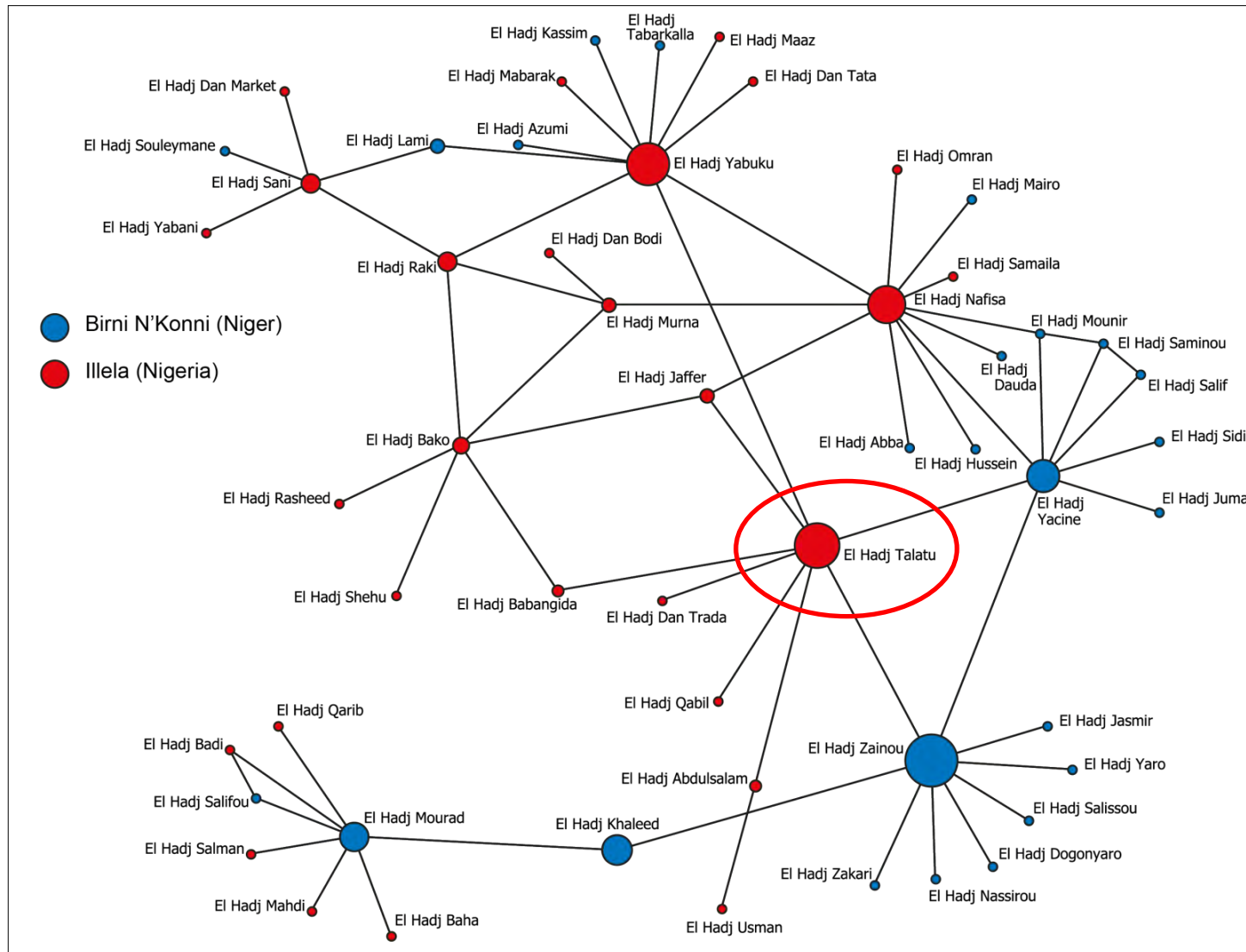
- A formal study of social, economic, and political interactions
- Social networks can be composed of individuals, groups, or organizations
- Social networks can be formal or informal
- Rarely used in Africa



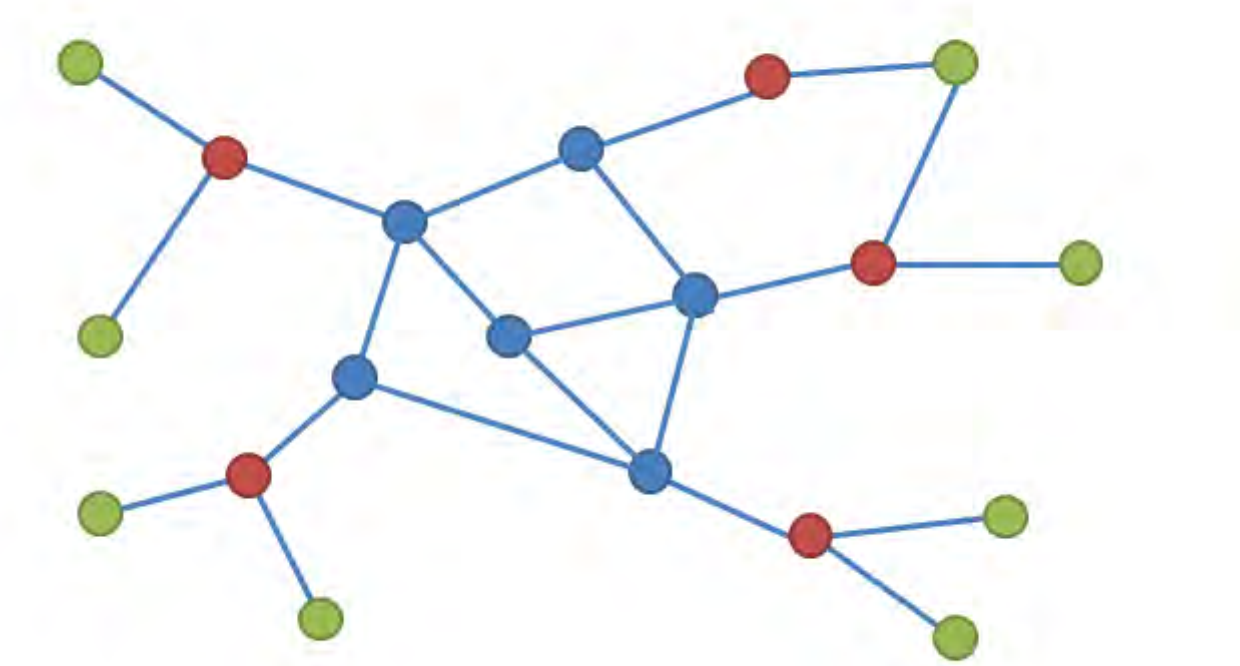
Cross-border trade in West Africa



Brokers bridge nationally-organized markets



Trade networks and value chains



large trader



middleman



producer

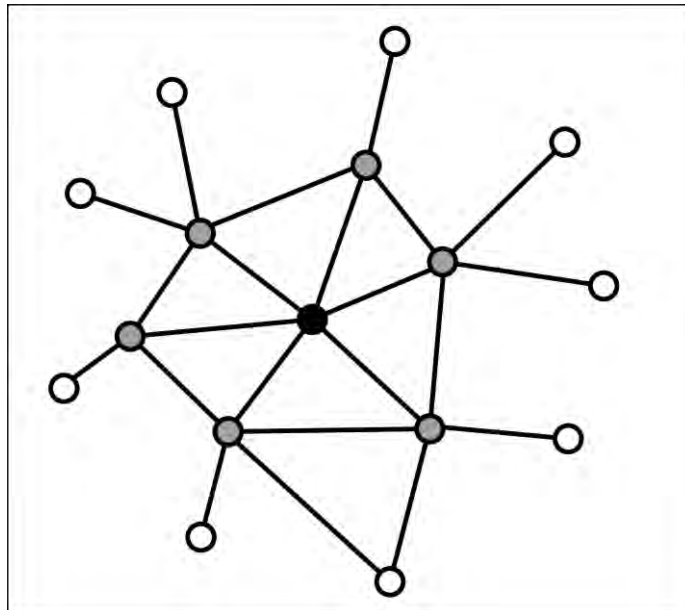
Cross-border cooperation in West Africa

- 2015-2016 West African Perspectives Program

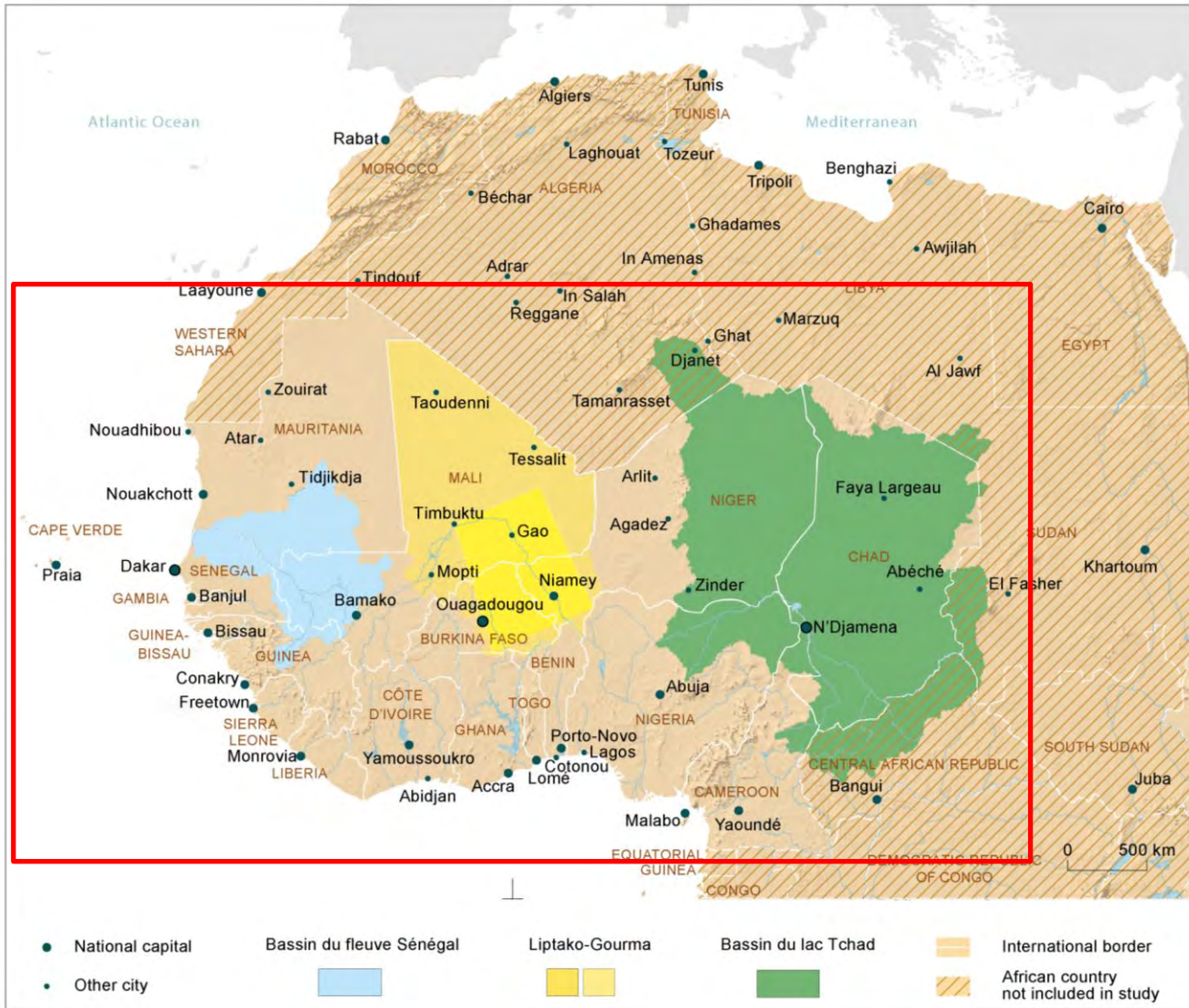


Mapping policy networks

- Who works with whom?
- Who are the most prominent actors?
- What is the effect of borders?



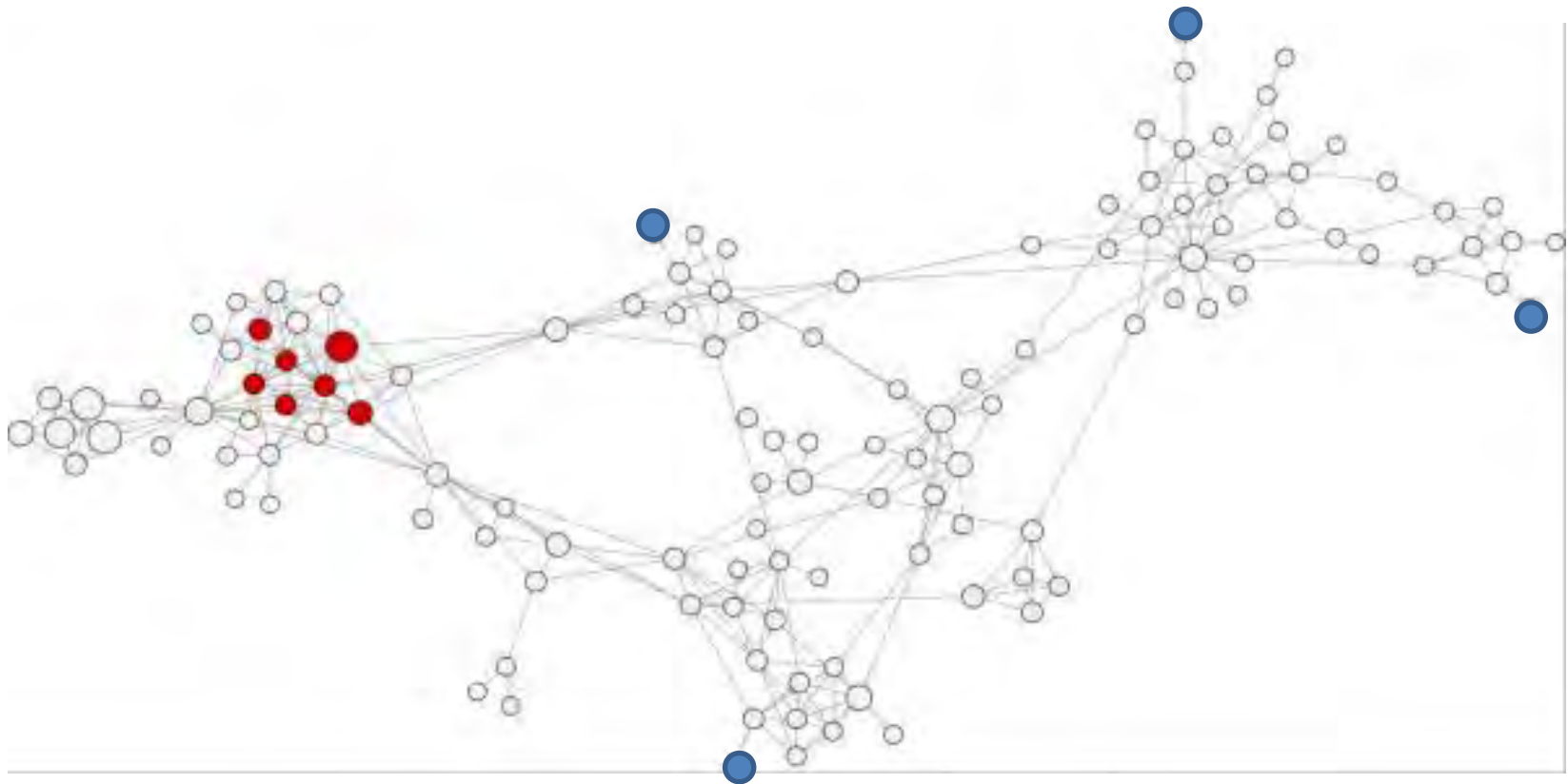
Mapping policy networks



ECOWAS + 3
Senegal River
Liptako
Lake Chad

Policy implications

- Improve coordination between various partners
- Identify bottlenecks and missed opportunities
- Identify structural constraints and power



Related papers

- Walther O. 2015. Business, brokers and borders: The structure of West African trade networks. *Journal of Development Studies* 51(5).
- Kuépié M, Tenikue M, Walther O. 2015. Social networks and small businesses performance in West African border regions. *Oxford Development Studies*.
- Walther O. 2014. Trade networks in West Africa: A social network approach. *Journal of Modern African Studies* 52(2).
- Walther O. 2015. Social Network Analysis and informal trade. Department of Border Region Studies Working Papers 1.