

'Distorted migrants' households

- In what sense are foreign migrants' households well or misrepresented in the census?
- In what forms do they appear?

qualitative interviews in Paris

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A rapid overview of Migrants' HH

*Interviewing West-african migrants,
sometimes residents for more than 10 years
shows*

a « ménage » based on relationships
where

- Usual residence might be secondary
 - Legal constraints paramount
 - Desirability to name or hide exacerbated
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1. Tourists and / or *prête-noms*

Filly counts 3 more persons:

« ...*my niece and my young brother are students, the first one in Rouen and the other in Lille. They both use my address, so does my marabout who lives in Dakar. Then they can receive their letters here and look for a summer job in in Paris* ».

2. The usual husband(s)

Seydou is not part of a private HH:

« *I officially live in a foyer (collective HH) with others migrant workers, but in fact, I sleep at my wife's and this is where I receive my private mail.*

My official papers are shared with a friend who stays at the foyer.

3. The invisible parents

Declared HH (cohabiting parents and siblings)

Usual HH (couple with children)

Mériem enumerates the HH members:

« I live with my husband and our children... there is also my husband's mother...

... and also his sisters who take care of her... ».

4. The visiting husband

Declared HH (polygamous husband)

Usual HH (lone mother HH)

Bintou is married to a multiresidential man:

« I live with my husband and my daughter. He has another wife who lives two blocks away and two boys. He eats and sleeps here more often because I am less quarrelsome... »

Conclusion

Many hindrances on the data collection due to:

- ❑ Respondant perception of HH
 - ❑ Mobility and multi-residences of migrants
 - ❑ The residential situation of members in the H.H (legal and real)
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