

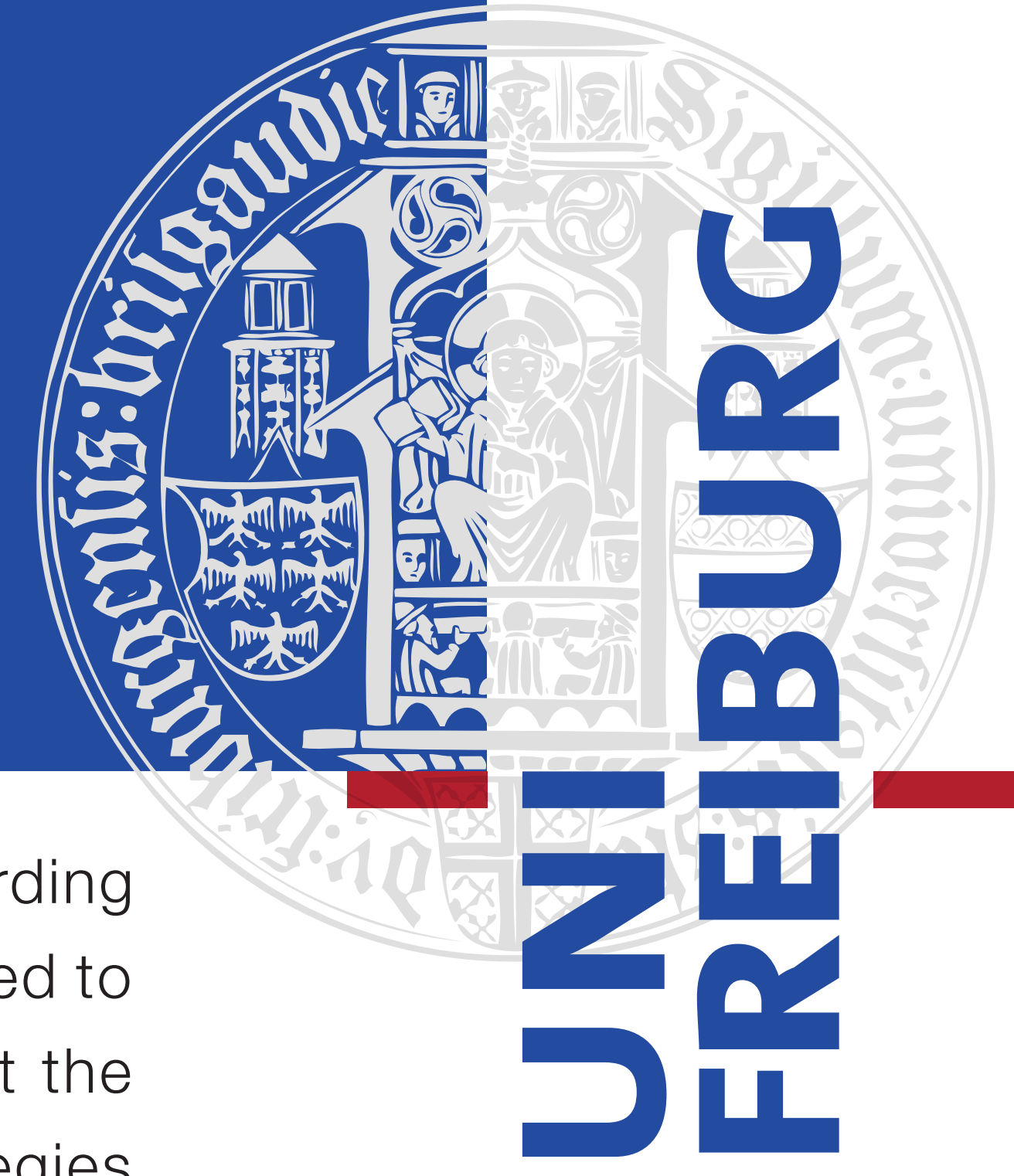
AGRICULTURAL CRISES AND MIGRATION IN RURAL SPACES OF SENEGAL

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Environmental Degradation and Mobility

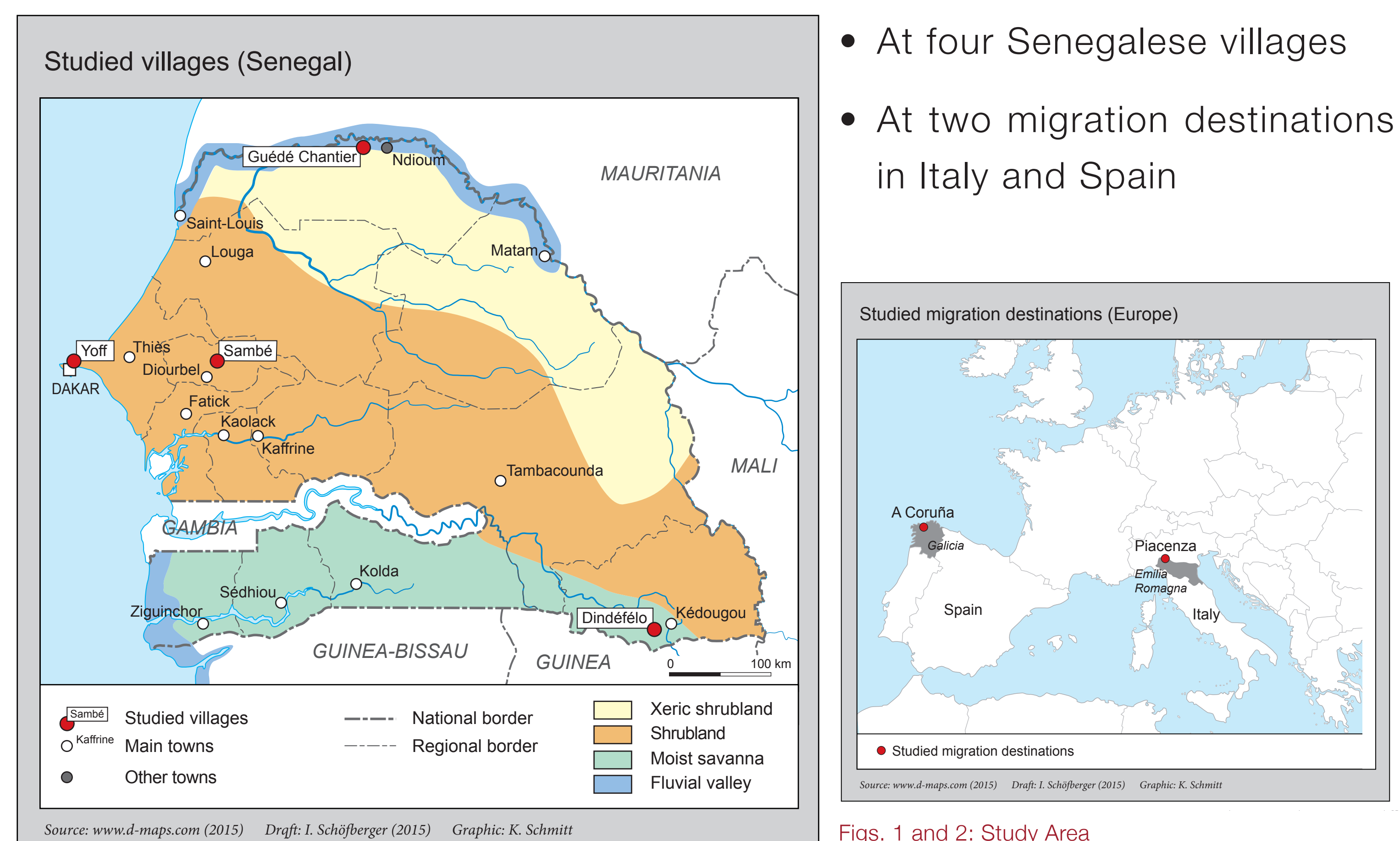
The debate over the relationship between environmental degradation and migration is gaining relevance. Some argue that climatic change and deteriorating ecosystems will produce a large number of environmentally motivated migrants.

It has frequently been overlooked, however, that mobile strategies have been present in the Sahel region for a long time and that, far from being an exception to the rule, they are a means to ensure food security in the context of a precarious environmental equilibrium.

Research Question

How do households in rural areas of Senegal combine local income generating activities like agriculture and mobile practices like migration?

Multi-Sited Ethnography



- Household strategies are negotiated according to structural conditions and they are adapted to changing contexts. Social networks permit the construction of translocal livelihood strategies and spaces.
- Internal migration is often adopted as an immediate response to agricultural crises. External migration can be an investment.
- Through remittances, contacts with external actors and transfers of know-how, migrants not only ensure local food security, but also provide direct and indirect support for further activities such as agriculture. This can help to solve funding problems and mitigate the impact of specific power structures.



Fig. 4: Market at Guédé Chantier



Fig. 5: Biological agriculture at Guédé Chantier (sustained by a former migrant)

Findings

- In contexts of vulnerability, households diversify their sources of revenue to maximize the benefits and minimize the risks. At the same time, they extend their livelihood strategies to different places through migration and other mobile practices.

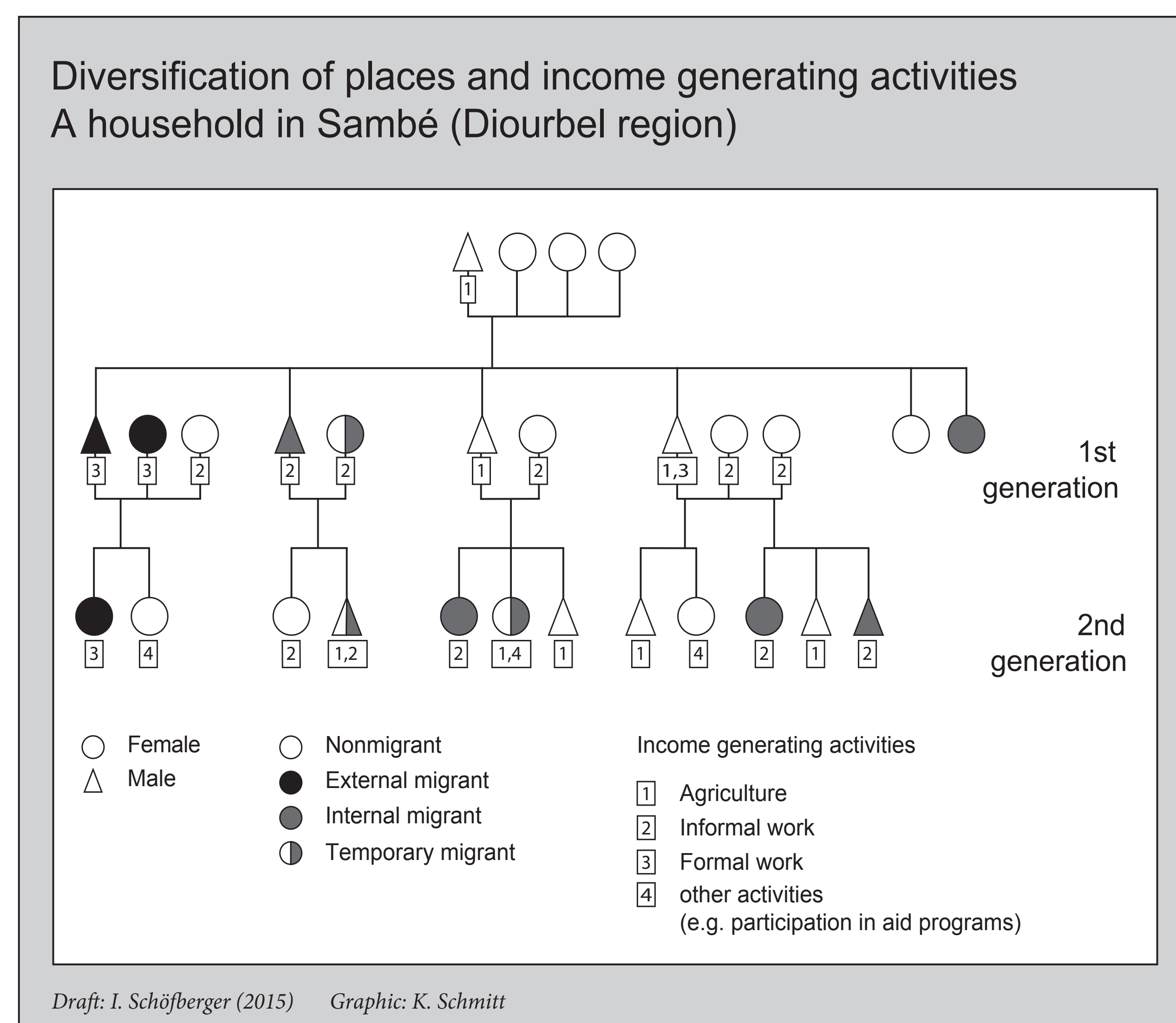


Fig. 3: Diversification of income generating activities and connected places

Conclusions

- Migration from Senegal is often not a way to escape from the home region, but a contribution to local income strategies and a means to permit further family and community members to remain in the village.**
- Agriculture concurrently maintains a primary role: it guarantees the covering of basic living expenses and ensures alternatives to migrants returning from migration destinations affected by economic downturns.**
- Migration and agriculture need to be analyzed simultaneously as part of broader collective, translocal and long-term livelihood strategies.**

Methods

- Participant observation
- Individual interviews, group interviews, informal conversations
- Focus groups
- Participatory photographic work

Acknowledgement

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