What are we taking about?

- Interviewing and interpretation for a research on demographic and family dynamics evolutions in the Bwa country in Mali (V. Hertrich, M. Lesclingand)

- Martine Quaglia
  Survey Department
  INED
Two surveys ...

- A census
  - 7 villages from the Tominian circle (3600 inhabitants)
Updated, every 5 years...

- A biographical survey

  - 2 villages: Sirao et Kwara (1500 inhabitants)
In accordance with

- a regional and national demand for data identifying the main evolutions in terms of:
  - mortality, fertility, migrations
  - marriages and marital relations
  - family structures and relations between generations

2nd Annual Conference on Social Science Research, Orlando, 2005
Institutional exchanges and scientific collaboration

- Meetings with national and local institutions (University of Bamako, CNRST, National Population Direction, Tominian circle, Church of San, etc.)

- Organization of a conference on demographics and coordination of a collective publication: « Population questions in Mali, from international stakes to local perspectives » (V. Hertrich, S. Keita, 2004)
Adaptation and data collection organization

- Living in the villages:
  - getting to know the people, learning the codes and the village rules

- Meetings with villagers to organize the data collection
A biographical survey ....

- Matrimonial biography
- Genesic history
- Migrations
- Religious itinerary
Qualitative interviews for a quantitative survey

- From French, and a researcher point of view

- To boomu and bwa villagers ...
Conducted by...

- **Interviewers**
  - French and Malian students

- **Interpreters**
  - secondary students from villages around
Interviewers ask questions ...

- To non readers
  - Oral proposal of every possible answers

- From a different culture
  - Learn the codes and meanings
  - Anticipate most of the answers and their links to other questions

- Using familiar words with a new meaning
Interpretation ... and ....

- Asking questions from an unknown cultural background
  - looking at one’s own culture through the « researchers glasses »

- Discovering interviewing
  - and its basic rules

- Discovering interpreting
  - being in between two cultures
  - translating the concept included in the sentence, but not always...
Several days training sessions

• interviewers:
  – new concepts
  – what’s behind an answer?

• interviewers and interpreters:
  – simulation of interviews

• interpreters:
  – what’s behind a question?
  – How would you translate....?
  – Disapear, but not entirely...
  – Respect the question mode
Documents:

- historic calendar of the villages
- equivalences in terms of dates, seasons, periods
- list of religious stages
- adapted formulation

ANNEXE 7

Calendrier historique du village de Sirao

1916 Révolte des Bobo.
1918 *Baa*, distribution de graines de ricin pour avoir des huiles de graissage.
1919 Arrivée du premier médecin à San.
1921 *Hun wa hina*, invasion de criquets. Recensement.
1925-1926 Construction de la piste San-Koula.
1927 *Luluana*, vol de criquets et hivernage pluvieux.
1929 Démonstration de charrues à Siensu et Kwarza.
1932 Le chef de canton de Kwarza, Yibaro Kamaté est relevé de ses fonctions.
1933 *Hina zere mi*, invasion de criquets et famine.
1935 Distribution de boutures de manioc et de semences d’arachides.
1938 *Heremu zere mi*, peu de pluies.
1946 Abolition du travail forcé.
1949 Ere Dabou (forgeron à Sirao) revient de l’armée.
1952 Installation des protestants à Sirao (Nicomè Diarra est catéchiste).
1957 Tominian devient subdivision. Construction de la maison du commandant à Tominian.
1960 Indépendance du Mali.
1967 Décès de Séri Tera, Bathyo devient chef de lignage des Tera.
1968 Coup d’état au Mali.
1972 Wathyo Kamaté est nommé chef administratif de Sirao, il succède à Sabere Kamaté.
Fév. 1978 Décès de Yaya Kamaté, Nyumuni Kamaté devient maître de la terre.
1980 Première mission Chaventré.
1982 Construction de la pompe (forage).
1984 *Nyauvenu zere mi*: carence d’eau, les puits sont taris.
A few examples...

Matrimonial biography: « Are you married? »

The process:

- who thought about the marriage, at first?
- was there a demand for an agreement?
- whose agreement was needed?
- was the agreement given?
- was the girl kidnapped and where was she dropped?
- was there a demand to be forgiven?
- were there any gifts or services offered?
- of what kind and to whom?
- how long did the process last?
A few examples...

« Where was the girl ‘dropped’ ? »

- From the interviewee point of view :
  - « at my mother ‘s friend ‘s place »
- From the interpreter :
  - at his mother ‘s friend ‘s place : biological mother or aunt
- From the interviewer :
  - at his biological mother ‘s friend ‘s place
A few examples ...

« How was the engagement decided ? »

- **Interviewer** :
  - relationship before the wedding

- **Interpreter** :
  - 2 different meanings / 2 words :
    - formal, decided by the old ones (traditional)
    - unformal, decided by both boy and girl (modern)

- **Interviewee** :
  - « There was no engagement... »
A few examples...

« ...husband’s reasons for divorce »

- **Interviewer:**
  - « The woman thought the man wasn’t taking enough care of their children »

- **Interpreter:**
  - « You didn’t care enough for your children »

- **Interviewee:**
  - « I really care for them »

- **Interviewer:** ?
A few examples...

Migration: «How long did you stay in Bamako?»

- Interviewee:
  - « at Christmas »

- Interpreter:
  - ?

- Interviewer:
  - ?

♫ Same sentence for period and date
A few examples ...

Genetic history: « What is the child name? »

- Interviewee:
  • « Issa, Ferdinand... »

- Interpreter:
  • Issa, Ferdinand... the child names *known by the respondent*

- Interviewer:
  • the child names: Issa, Ferdinand...
Questions and ... answers are made of:

- Reasearchers, villagers, interviewers, interpreters, talking about:

  - Cultural concepts, social relations and rules in terms of
    - gender
    - age group
    - status within the family
    - religious beliefs
    - economic status
    - geopolitics
Restitution of results and interaction ...

- Pedagogical presentation to the villagers
- Filming villagers ‘produced sketches on demographic evolutions in the bwa country
- Screenings of the sketches in the villages
An audiovisual presentation
(Véronique Hertrich, Marie Lesclingand)
Screenings of the sketches ....
M’baria !

Fanta, Wathyo, Dako, Soison, Dabouné, Véronique, Marie, Diaratou, Marie-Claire, Amaurie, Abed, Céphas, Judith (Mougnoussi), Sanibé, Philippe, Constant, Aimée, Kodyo, Eré, Honoré, Paulin, Abdoulaye, Mustapha, ..... 

Hoping you’re doing well, wherever you are....