**University of Leicester**

**Future F50 PhD Scholarship**

| **Project Reference** | HYPIR Fotou |
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| **Second Supervisor** | Dr Zoe Groves | | |
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| **Additional Supervisor** | Dr Kelly Staples |
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**Section 2 – *Project Information***

| **Project Title** | Africa-EU Migration, Mobility and Employment Partnership (MMEP)’s impact on migration and mobility in the African continent. | |
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| **Project Highlights:** | 1. | Addresses an important gap in research by focusing on African experiences of European migration management. |
| 2. | Makes an innovative, timely and significant contribution to research on migration within the Global South that has long been overlooked in favour of migration to the Global North. |
| 3. | Explores historical perspectives on African migration and mobility to reveal the complexity of migration experiences that are too often reduced to narratives of economic migration or derivatives of regional political instability. |
| **Project Summary** | | |
| The Africa-EU Migration, Mobility and Employment Partnership (MMEP), as well as other ad hoc EU states’ partnerships with African states, have been criticised as policy tools influenced by neoliberal ideas such as the market-oriented liberalisation of mobility (Maisenbacher 2015), or as efforts to externalise EU borders with the aim to restrict immigration from the Global South (Lebovich 2016 and others). Overall, the partnership reflects asymmetric power relations that mostly seek to guarantee the cooperation of countries in Africa with an EU agenda of strict migration control (Tittel-Mosser, 2018 and others).  This project will go beyond existing scholarship to shed light on the African experience of MMEP by exploring how the MMEP affects mobility within and across African states; how it undermines local moral economies involving facilitation of movement; how it affects migrant border-crossing trajectories; and how current practices reflect past and colonial practices.  The project will combine a historical approach to consider the impact of European management policies on specific African countries, with analysis of the African experience of this impact from an international political theory perspective, which will challenge the Eurocentric perspective of the current literature. The methodology will involve archival research and ethnographic fieldwork in the states identified as case studies at the initial stage of research.  The ideal candidate will have a background in the disciplines of History, Politics or International Relations (or a combination thereof), with an additional consideration of related sub-disciplines, such as migration, postcolonial or security studies. The successful candidate will have the potential to shape the project according to their interests, identifying the case studies and specific states they would like to work on.  The project will be co-supervised by migration specialists within HyPIR. Zoe Groves is an expert in African migration history, and Myriam Fotou has worked extensively on migration in the context of international political theory. Kelly Staples, with expertise in statelessness, refugeehood and sanctuary, will act as senior advisor. | | |