

Woubikan: Queering Language, Public Health, and NGO Networks

in Côte d'Ivoire

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IDEA Grants



Queer Ivorians

Woubikan [Wubikã]

- Queer speech
- Delicate situations
- With other queer people

Interviews

- 2 Focus Groups
- 20 Free Lists
- 22 Semi-Structured
- Focused Life-History Interviews
- 46 Informal Interviews



Géner busy [ʒɛɛbizi]

'Taking care of business'
- sex work

- Djaba [dʒaba]
- 'onion'
- sex worker



Candela

- Chat [ʃa]
- 'cat'
- client

- Samaraba [samaraba]
- 'boots'
- police

Abstract: My ethnographic project explores links between language and survival in Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa. Queer Ivorians have developed their own way of speaking to protect themselves from trans- and homophobia. They call this lexicon Woubikan: *woubi* means 'queer', and *kan* means 'language'.

Recruitment of Interviewees Through NGOs



Queer Shelter/Health Clinic :



Queer shelter's Queer Clinic + Simon (Gay) = Recruited Queer community members + testing and education prevention = Survival \$\$



Famu pas mon modèle [Famupaməmodel]

- Yan & Katia's Stories



Yan Katia

Negotiates the boundary of one being out.

Final Reflections:

WOUIKAN :

- Monitor their identities
- Manage delicate situations
- Express themselves
- Lexicon: 165 Words, 30 Expressions

References

