

## SMUGGLING NETWORKS IN NORTH-WESTERN BORDERLANDS OF NIGERIA: A SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS

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### **Abstract**

*This study examines the organisational dynamics of smuggling networks along the North-Western Borderlands of Nigeria from the perspective of Social Network Analysis. To understand its theoretical base, the paper discussed some of the theory's fundamental concepts, assumptions, arguments and its applicability to the specific context of Illela, Kamba, Dole-Kaina and Lolo borders of Sokoto and Kebbi states. Through its theoretical and empirical tests, the paper identifies the network of operators and the dynamics of their operations. It found out that most of the large-scale smuggling activities across the border areas are carried out with the collaboration of customs officers operating at the borderlands. Hence, unless the government is able to curtail official corruption at the borderlands and discourage the actors from seeing smuggling as a means of survival, smuggling activities will continue to flourish across the nation's borders regardless of the government policy in place.*

**Keywords** – Network, Smuggling, Traders, Brokers, Customs, informants