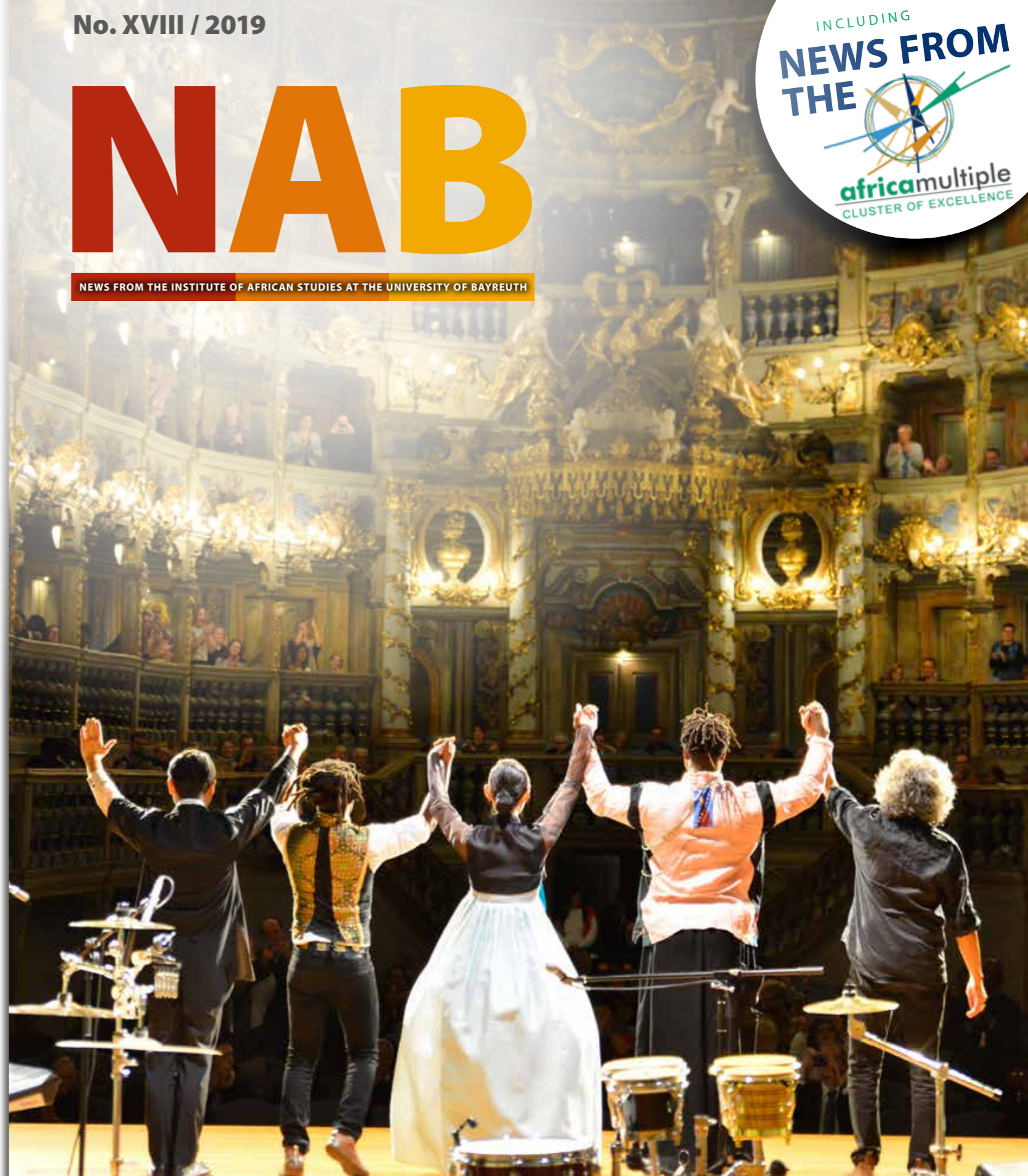


# NAB

NEWS FROM THE INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH



## Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence

Kick-off Conference: Interdisciplinary and International / 21 excellent Research Projects / African Cluster Centres: Four Pillars of the Cluster's Network

## Institute of African Studies Bayreuth

Research Centre "Society, Technology, and Ecology in Africa" / BRIAS launches new project

## Iwalewahaus

Feedback - Art Africa and the Eighties / Barber Pop / Iwalewa Art Award / Exhibition and digitisation

# Dear reader,

Things emerge, and they emerge by distinction – i.e., by the temporal fixing of what they are not. The present *News from the Institute of African Studies at the University of Bayreuth* (NAB) volume neither serves new wine in old wineskins, nor old wine in new wineskins. Instead, this volume presents nothing less than the renaissance of both content and wrapping, while reflecting the distinguished institutional knowledge gained over 30 years.

This NAB covers the year of 2019, which was a game-changing one for Bayreuth and the Institute of African Studies (IAS). The new momentum is brought by the mighty Cluster of Excellence “Africa Multiple: Reconfiguring African Studies”, a structural subdivision – a kind of cuvée – of the IAS, yet with a mind-blowing bouquet. The relaunched NAB format befits the new directions the IAS is taking and gives credit to this kinship by demonstrating the vital role of the Cluster in in-

novative research and cooperation within the IAS.

African Studies in Bayreuth is growing rapidly, and so are the many stories worth telling about its people and academic activities. At this time, we would like to thank the former NAB chief editor Eric Anchimbe and his team for their long dedication to the NAB. He is succeeded by a diverse crew of four editors coming together from the IAS as well as the Cluster, who will continue to tell the story of the IAS and its many members and friends.

Enjoy the read.

NAB Editorial Team

**Sabine Greiner (Editor-in-Chief),  
Doris Löhr,  
Ivo Ritzer & Irina Turner**



Zooming around (in clockwise direction) Doris Löhr, Irina Turner, Ivo Ritzer and Sabine Greiner

# Welcome!



Cyrus Samimi



Eva Spies



Rüdiger Seesemann



Ute Fendler

After a long period of silence, the new board of the IAS, represented by Cyrus Samimi and Eva Spies and the Cluster of Excellence, led by Rüdiger Seesemann and Ute Fendler, can finally present the latest NAB to you. The delay since the last NAB does not mean that we did not have significant news to report. Quite the opposite: the last two years were among the most successful in the history of African Studies at the University of Bayreuth.

In September 2018, a group of researchers of the IAS made it through the extremely competitive two-step selection process in the Excellence Strategy of the German Federal and State Governments and was awarded one of the 57 coveted Clusters of Excellence. Called “Africa Multiple: Reconfiguring African Studies”, our Cluster will be funded with 37 million Euros until 2025.

Our agenda of conducting research with Africa is boosted by four African Cluster Centres, located in Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa. We will continue to cultivate our close connection to the BIGSAS partner universities through the integration of BIGSAS into the Ccluster. We will also strengthen our cooperation with other partner universities through joint initiatives. In addition to BIGSAS, we also incorporated the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies into the Cluster, where it serves as the institutional home of a high-profile fellow programme and postdoctoral working groups.

Another milestone was the grant of 23 million Euros the IAS received in March 2019 from the German Federal Government and the Bavarian State Government for a research building on campus. The new building will become the home of Bayreuth African Studies in 2025.

Raising a total of 60 million Euros for African Studies is a great recognition, but also a huge obligation. Together with its African partners, the IAS and the Cluster are committed to keeping our focus on the conceptual shift required to steer the study of Africa in new directions.

In addition, the IAS was successful with further proposals. Together with Bordeaux Montaigne University (France) and the University of Porto (Portugal), we received a grant from the European Commission to establish an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree programme. The new European Interdisciplinary Master

African Studies (EIMAS) will start in October 2020. Yet another successful grant application was the Africa-Bayreuth International Alumni Network (afriBIAN), funded by the DAAD since 2019. Last but not least, the Universities of Bayreuth, Ingolstadt, and Neu-Ulm started their first joint project under the umbrella of BRIAS (Bayerisches Forschungsinstitut für Afrikastudien). Other highlights included the ten-year anniversary of the Tanzanian-German Centre for Eastern African Legal Studies (TGCL), celebrated in September 2018, and the numerous exhibitions and events held in Iwalewaha that, as always, drew big crowds.

In the last two years we had to bid farewell to quite a few colleagues: Kurt Beck, Georg Klute, Dieter Neubert, Achim von Oppen, and Ulrike Wanitzek all retired from service at the University of Bayreuth. We remain indebted to them for decades of dedication to African Studies. Their successors have already joined the IAS. In addition, several professors affiliated to the IAS received tenure, and three new professorships were established: African Legal Studies, Epistemologies of the Global South with an Emphasis on Africa, and Interdisciplinary Data Management and Knowledge Generation. Finally, Franz Kogelmann, who has served as Academic Coordinator of the IAS since 2013, joined the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence as its Managing Director. His successor is Ron Herrmann, who became the new coordinator of the IAS in May 2020.

Just when research in the Cluster was about to take off with many colleagues planning field trips to Africa and elsewhere, the COVID-19 crisis struck and disrupted most of our activities, including the fellow programme, guest visits, workshops, conferences, and travel to international destinations. Like other research institutions elsewhere on the globe, we have moved to holding events online, hoping to resume our full activities as soon as possible. What we miss most during the pandemic are the personal encounters with our students and colleagues in Bayreuth, Africa, and elsewhere in the world. We hope to be able to get together again soon!

**Cyrus Samimi and Eva Spies**  
Director and Vice Director,  
Institute of African Studies

**Rüdiger Seesemann and Ute Fendler**  
Spokespersons, Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence

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# Interdisciplinary and international: The kick-off conference of the Cluster of Excellence



Text SABINE GREINER  
Photos FABRICA LUX / ROBERT GÖTZE

**T**he Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence celebrated its first months of existence with a two-day international and interdisciplinary conference in November that came to a festive close with a fusion concert in an extraordinary setting.

Conversations and Building Networks – this was the motto under which the Cluster of Excellence invited scholars and the interested public from 30 to 31 October 2019 to its official kick-off event on the campus of the University of Bayreuth. Approximately 400 participants followed the invitation to the inaugural network conference that was coordinated by Doris Löhr and designed to not only celebrate the newly instituted Cluster, but also to bring together representatives of all institutions and researchers affiliated with the research organisation.

The conference programme offered to the participants was as broad and diverse as African Studies itself. The debates conducted during the two-day event covered a broad range of questions regarding African Studies, and the audience eagerly took the opportunity to participate in the numerous discussions.

“Designed as the official kick-off event for the Cluster of Excellence, the conference constituted an opportunity for our international network partners from all over the world to get to know each other and jointly debate important current issues regarding modern African Studies,” the Dean and spokesperson of the Cluster of Excellence, Rüdiger Seesemann, explained.

#### Wide range of topics ranging from Knowledge Production ...

The items on the event’s agenda showed which topics are especially high on the Cluster’s list of priorities and which themes are close to the core of Afri-

can Studies today. The first day of the conference began with the premises of knowledge production: Who produces knowledge, who has access, and how is this knowledge passed on? Chaired by Katharina Schramm, Muyiwa Falaiye from the Cluster’s African Cluster Centre at the University of Lagos in Nigeria, and Morie Kaneko from the University of Kyoto, Japan, both gave lectures on the topic before engagingly discussing the matter with the audience.

#### ... to African Diaspora ...

The prevailing topic of the day, however, was “African diaspora.” Giving the audience individual insights into the field, John Tunde Bewaji from the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica, and Ajay Dubey from the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, India, each scrutinised the question of the diaspora from a different geographic perspective, chaired by Susan Arndt.

One of the highlights of the conference also revolved around the issue of African diaspora. In his keynote lecture, one of the most important Francophone authors of our time and Prix Goncourt laureate – Patrick Chamoiseau of Martinique – elaborated on his thoughts regarding this immensely important topic. Taking the audience on a philosophical journey from poetry to new worlds of imagination and possible political utopias, Chamoiseau invited his listeners to imagine a world without frontiers and exclusion. Deriving his theories from Édouard Glissant’s oeuvre, Chamoiseau concluded that diaspora today might better be conceived as “metaspora” in order to include all dimensions of the context. The session was chaired by Ute Fendler and Gilbert Ndi Shang.

A round table with Yacouba Banhero from Université Joseph Ki-Zerbo, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Yongkyu Chang from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul, South Korea, and Dominique Darbon from Sciences Po, Bordeaux, France, concluded the first day with responses from their multiple perspectives, chaired by Iris Clemens.

#### ... to Gender and Diversity ...

On the second day of the conference, one of the primary topics included “Gender and Diversity in African Studies.” Chaired by Christine Vogt-William, this segment of the conference gave space to views by Akosua Adomako Ampofo from the University of Ghana, Accra, Emmanuelle Bouilly of Les Afriques dans le Monde, Sciences Po, Bordeaux, France and Patricia Godinho Gomes from the Centro de Estudos Afro-Orientais, Salvador de Bahia, Brazil. Sharing their ideas on questions of gender and identity, the scholars gave gripping lectures elaborating on diverse research examples of experiences and perspectives.

#### ... and Digitalisation.

The last item on the agenda of the conference was “African Studies in the Digital Age.” This vast topic, chaired by Cyrus Samimi, was approached from various angles: Tunde Ope-Davies from the University of Lagos, Nigeria talked about digital synergies and creating a digital research environment in translational and transdisciplinary studies. Tsepho Mosweu from the University of Botswana conveyed to the audience her ideas by showcasing examples from Botswana while John Hanson from Indiana University in Bloomington, USA explained practices from the United States.

The second day was concluded by voices from multiple perspectives. Chaired by Uli Beisel, Shigeta Masayoshi from Kyoto University, Japan, and two African Cluster Centers directors, Enocent Msindo from Rhodes University, South Africa and Peter Simatei from Moi University, Eldoret, gave their responses to some of the current questions raised during the conference.

#### Connecting scholars from all over the world

The conference was designed with one of the Cluster’s core goals in mind: The intensifying of an extensive global network of institutions that will ensure an international and interdisciplinary exchange of knowledge gradually bringing forward



Gender and Diversity in African Studies was the main topic of the lectures and discussions led by (from left) Emmanuelle Bouilly, Patrícia Gomes and Akosua Adomako Ampofo.

the field of African Studies. The versatile conference programme was intended to attract scholars from all kinds of disciplines and all parts of the world.

“The participants of the conference were colleagues from the University of Bayreuth as well as doctorates and scholars from institutions from all over the world,” Ute Fendler, deputy spokesperson of the Cluster of Excellence, pointed out. “We invited representatives from African Cluster Centres as well as from other network partners in North and South America and Asia to participate in the event, shape programme slots, and take part in panel discussions. In doing so, we came closer to one of our core objectives: To intensify an international exchange between the Cluster and scholars from all over the world.”



Yacouba Banhoro, Yongkyu Chang and Dominique Darbon responded from their multiple perspectives to some burning questions (from left)



The kick-off conference attracted participants from all over the world.

**Festive concert reflected international character of the conference**

Just when the vivid discussions and debates of the two-day conference came to end, the Cluster had one more highlight up its sleeve. On the evening of 30 October, the organisers invited participants to a remarkable concert in an exceptional location. The baroque Margravia Opera House of Bayreuth – a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2012 – offered a historic stage for the festive closing event of the conference proceedings. After introductory speeches by Seesemann and the President of the University of Bayreuth, Stefan Leible, it was up to the Nigerian author and satirist Elnathan John to give the keynote address of the evening. The author of *Born on a Tuesday* and *Be(come)ing Nigerian* reviewed his ob-

servations of the conference and entertainingly criticized some variations of the academic debates.

Finally, it was time for the music. The Cluster had invited the internationally renowned musicians JaeHyo Chang, EunKyung Kim, Tao Ravao, Childo Tomas, and Matchume Zango – all virtuosos on their respective instruments – to perform for this special occasion. In the week prior to the concert, the musicians – some of which had met each other for the first time in Bayreuth – put together a programme especially crafted for that evening. The set list they came up with took the audience on an extraordinary musical journey. Inspired by their traditional instruments and their individual musical influences, the programme was a fusion of surprising rhythms, melodies, and languages. Chang on the janggu – a Korean drum – and Kim on the gayageum – an Asian harp – referenced traditional Korean tunes. Tomas on the bass and Zango on the timbila infused the songs with Mozambican rhythms, while much-travelled Ravao from Madagascar on the kabosy – the box-shaped wooden

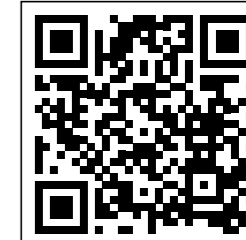


The musicians Childo Tomas, Tao Ravao, Matchume Zango, EunKyung Kim and JaeHyo Chang (from left) took the audience on an extraordinary musical journey.

guitar – contributed various musical elements of the Global North.

“This unique fusion concert reflected the central idea of the Cluster. It translated our central concepts – multiplicity and relationality – into music and performance and made them almost palpable for the audience. It was a fitting and festive close of these exciting and interesting last two days, underlining the interna-

tional character of the conference and ultimately of the Cluster of Excellence as well,” concluded Fendler, the Vice-Dean of the Department of Internationalisation and Public Engagement, which was responsible for the event. 🌍



Follow this QR-code for a video of the concert

From left: Muyiwa Falaiye, Yacouba Banhoro, Ute Fendler, Peter Simatei, Rüdiger Seesemann, Elnathan John, Stefan Leible and Enocent Msindo



# “We seek to set new standards and produce innovative results”

**T**he Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence started its interdisciplinary and innovative work in 2019. Now, a few months into the second year of funding, Dean Rüdiger Seesemann and Deputy Spokesperson Ute Fendler take stock of things the Cluster already accomplished and share their anticipation for the Cluster's future.

Interview led by SABINE GREINER

**The Cluster of Excellence was launched in January 2019. Can you tell us a little bit about the goals and concept that you had in mind when you started the application process?**

*Rüdiger Seesemann:* The application process actually began as early as in the summer of 2016. Over the course of many discussions involving Bayreuth-based scholars working on Africa, we identified one core question that eventually guided your further application process: How can we, as researchers based in Germany coming

from a wide range of disciplines, produce knowledge about Africa and its diasporas in a way that offers a better understanding of the simultaneity of heterogeneous and mutually influential African lifeworlds, and, at the same time, involve Africans as active producers of knowledge, rather than treating them as objects of research or mere informants? Therefore, our major objective is to advance an understanding of Africa as multiple, by studying it jointly with African colleagues in the sense that it is, and always has been, constituted through its ever-changing relations – not as a given, but a reality constantly in the making, globally entangled and in flux.

Our concept seizes the postcolonial moment and departs from “classical” Area Studies with its rather static understanding of “areas”, but it also does not fully embrace the propositions of Global Studies that tend to dissolve the “areas” by exclusively focusing on global connections. Thus, on the one hand, the idea of “Africa Multiple” revolves around new conceptual and theoretical approaches in the study of Africa and its diasporas. On the other hand, we also work towards the structural reconfiguration of African Studies by establishing new forms of collaboration between researchers based in Bayreuth and at African partner institutions.

**The Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence was awarded funding as one of 57 Clusters of Excellence in Germany in 2018 – how does the Cluster of Excellence at University of Bayreuth set itself apart within the Excellence Strategy of the DFG (German Research Foundation)?**

*RS:* Among the 57 clusters selected for funding, only ten work primarily in the humanities and social sciences. There is currently no other cluster with an exclusive focus on areas outside of the Global North. So the Africa Multiple Cluster clearly stands out. Among our greatest assets in the competition were our disciplinary breadth and interdisciplinary strength. In our proposal, we demonstrated how we intend to create synergies between a wide range of disciplines, methods, and approaches, not only at the University of Bayreuth, but especially in our cooperation with our African Cluster Centres (ACC) at Rhodes University, Moi University, Joseph Ki-Zerbo University and the University of Lagos.

The close collaboration with partner institutions outside of Germany is another

aspect that makes our cluster distinctive. When the application process started, some colleagues felt that our focus on Africa would make us appear marginal, compared to other clusters with their more conventional thematic interests. Yet, combined with our innovative theoretical framework and transformative structural measures, the focus on Africa was key to our success. Of course, we now need to ensure that we live up to the high expectations.

**Now the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence has been in full swing since 2019. If you were to take stock, what is your assessment of the Cluster after being active for a little over a year?**

*RS:* Obviously, a significant amount of time and energy went into establishing the new structures of the cluster. Hiring researchers, hiring staff, selecting the African Cluster Centres, filling new professorships, recruiting fellows for our fellowship scheme, setting up research projects – all these activities kept us extremely busy. The first major highlight was our official opening conference in late October 2019, and over the course of the winter semester 2019/20, our joint intellectual work started to evolve in the Cluster's Knowledge Lab. By the beginning of 2020, the Cluster had close to 130 members, 49 of whom based at one of the four ACC.

Just when many of the Cluster's researchers were about to start field research in Africa, the COVID-19 pandemic forced almost the entire planet into a lockdown. For a Cluster such as ours, with a research agenda based on mobility – be it to undertake field work, to attend conferences and workshops, or to receive fellows and guests in Bayreuth – the repercussions of the pandemic were particularly severe. Looking back to the first year, we are very pleased with what we were able to achieve so far. But looking ahead, after several months into the pandemic, we realize that the COVID-19 crisis forces us to develop entirely new approaches to doing research in African Studies, especially in those disciplines that use empirical methods. These important conversations are just about to begin.

**What are your plans for the remainder of the funding period?**

*Ute Fendler:* In response to the challenges of the Covid-19 crisis, and in order to mitigate the effects of the lacking mobility, we

will increase our effort to develop our Digital Research Environment, so that new digital and hybrid formats allow us to pursue our research agenda while adjusting it to the changing circumstances. Currently, we are about to establish the four independent Junior Research Groups, which will be the last step in building our institutional structures. We are also preparing a new call for project proposals with a deadline in early 2021. This will give colleagues from Bayreuth who joined the Cluster later as well as ACC-based researchers the opportunity to start their own projects.

In the next round, we also intend to involve researchers from our wider network, such as the research center Les Afriques dans le Monde at the University of Bordeaux in France, the Centro de Estudos Afro-Orientais at the University of Salvador de Bahia in Brazil, and Indiana University in Bloomington, USA, in order to strengthen our international cooperation even further.

With the launching of new projects over the course of 2021, we will establish new research lines together with our partners, thus taking our synergies to new levels. Another innovative feature we seek to implement in the near future are the artist residences, which will be part of the fellowship scheme in the Bayreuth Academy. We intend to expand this program over the next years, thus contributing to our transdisciplinary research and outreach formats. Furthermore, we anticipate that our measures to promote intersectional research perspectives, especially through the Gender and Diversity Office in Bayreuth and the newly recruited Gender and Diversity Representatives at the ACCs, will have a deep impact on the future direction of research in the Cluster.

**When the funding period is over at the**



**With the launching of new projects over the course of 2021, we will establish new research lines together with our partners, thus taking our synergies to new levels.**

*Deputy Spokesperson  
Ute Fendler*



Photo: Ute Fendler

**end of 2025, what are you hoping to have achieved for the field of African Studies?**

*UF:* First of all, we hope that we will use this funding period to lay the groundwork for an extension by another seven years. We anticipate that our research projects will have developed innovative approaches to relational research fields, shedding new light on the complexity of African and diasporic lifeworlds across national, geographic, linguistic, historical, and disciplinary boundaries. We also hope to see the fruits of our effort to build new forms of research partnership, with the ACCs as well as with other partner institutions across the globe. With our pioneering Digital Research Environment, we seek to set new standards and produce innovative results by the end of the funding period. Our output will not be limited to various publication formats, including open access, but also include other forms of public engagement and outreach. Last but not least, by 2025 we expect to inaugurate the new African Studies research building on Campus, financed through a programme of Federal and State Governments, which will open up unprecedented opportunities for African Studies at the University of Bayreuth.

**There is currently no other cluster with an exclusive focus on areas outside of the Global North. So the Africa Multiple Cluster clearly stands out.**

*Dean Rüdiger Seesemann*



# Cluster of Excellence: Six research sections, 21 research projects

Text SABINE GREINER

**In 2019, the Cluster's six research sections launched a total number of 21 research projects scrutinizing a considerably wide range of topics and areas.**

One of the paramount goals of the Cluster of Excellence is to initiate and support innovative research projects contributing valuably to the Clus-

ter's agenda. For this purpose, upon its foundation the Cluster organized six research sections providing a coherent structure to six thematic fields:

- Affiliations,
- Arts and Aesthetics,
- Knowledges,
- Learning,
- Mobilities and
- Moralities

The Cluster's principal investigators

and their colleagues work within these research sections, developing specific projects that all pursue an inter- and/or transdisciplinary agenda and involve close cooperation between researchers from Bayreuth, Africa, and the global Cluster network. In the first year of the Cluster's existence, a total number of 21 research projects have been launched. Each project has a specific duration ranging from one to four years, exploring a very specific topic within the thematic field of its research section.

## Research Section: Affiliations

**Multiplicity in Decision-Making of Africa's Interacting Markets (MuDAIMa): The Functioning of Community Law, the Role of Market Participants, and the Power of Regional Judges**

*Research Team: David Stadelmann, Alexander Stroh-Steckelberg, Volker Wiese*

Many African states are members of more than one regional community, whose objectives and declared aims are economic, legal, and/or political integration. Thus, it is commonplace that multiple, overlapping, and potentially competing economic, legal, and political affiliations influence the status quo of regional integration. Due to the very nature of regional integration, MuDAIMa aims at a truly transdisciplinary analysis of the entangled integration situation and its



Photo: Alexander Stroh-Steckelberg

relational implications by combining economics, law, and political science.

## Human Rights, Corporate Social Responsibility, and Interacting Markets in Africa

*Research Team: Jörg Gundel, Bernd Kannowski, Franz Kogelmann, Juliana Masabo, Cecilia Ngaiza, Richard Frimpong Oppong, Omondi Robert Owino, Daniel Shayo, Ulrike Wanitzek*

## Research Section: Arts and Aesthetics

**"Black Atlantic Revisited" – African and South American UNESCO World Heritage Sites and "Shadowed Spaces" of Performative Memory**

*Research Team: Ute Fendler, Gilbert Shang Ndi, Thierry Boudjekeu*

The project investigates how memories of slavery are constructed in UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Gorée (Senegal), Ouidah (Benin), Cartagena (Colombia), and Salvador da Bahia (Brazil). The project's research is based on the premise that these heritage sites respond to touristic telos and readings of history that do not go uncontested and uninterrogated by alternative memory sites and media. In this regard, the project establishes a corpus of literary texts, film, audio/visual, and per-

The project deals with human rights and the responsibility of businesses in the context of African regional economic communities, scrutinizing the perception of social responsibility of state and non-state actors under circumstances of multiple relations and affiliations. For this purpose, it focuses on collective human rights, which can be seen as representing a specifically African dimension of human rights. As far as the responsibility of businesses is concerned, several African countries have recently enacted legislation which mandates corporate social

responsibility for certain companies or sectors. At the same time, there appears to be a recent revival of interest in attempts to hold multinational corporations legally accountable for wrongs committed in African host states; this has resulted in recent cases decided in the United Kingdom and in Canada. The project will especially analyse the impact of the multi-layered relations among and between state and non-state actors influenced by the legal frameworks of overlapping affiliations, such as cultural, religious, national, regional, or international affiliations.



Photo: Clarissa Vierke

formative arts that in/directly respond to the official sites and instigate alternative archives of lived and shared memories of the transatlantic slave trade. Apart from textual and cinematographic analyses, the project's research critically engages with performative audio/visual practices (photography, painting, comics, songs, etc.) which enter into dialogue with official documents produced in and for the museums/heritage sites.

tural and aesthetic exchanges, and mutual perceptions and appropriations. "African" aesthetic production may be considered even more dividual due to the oft criticised extraversion, i.e. orientation of "Africa" towards the "West", but also because of its involuntary (post)colonial dependencies on "Western" aesthetic norms and concepts, genres and formats, and conditions of production and distribution.

## Aesthetic Dividuations

*Research Team: Ivo Ritzer, Michaela Ott, Sophie Lembcke*

The project is based on the insight that cultural and aesthetic articulations in the arts of today, insofar as they strive for global visibility, are necessarily embedded in intercultural and mediatised exchanges, in processes of formal appropriation and recombination, of allusion and parody. In order to highlight their manifold and even contradictory character, they can be called "dividual articulations" (Gilles Deleuze), incessantly recombining and transforming their aesthetic elements while nevertheless providing a singular expression. This characterisation of time-based art productions seems to be even more true in times of globalised art languages, mediatised intercul-

## Of Art Worlds – Collecting and Archiving Modern and Contemporary Art on the African Continent

*Research Team: Ulf Vierke, Katharina Fink, Katharina Greven, Nicole Klug, Alexandra Kuhnke, Lena Naumann*

The project looks at art collections on the African continent by analytically starting with the artworks as entities. The latter appear as material objects in artist's studios, in museums, in biennales, in auctions, as well as in various analogue or digital media representation. The material object in general comes from a collection and goes back to a collection. Thus, the project's research team select artworks and collections as empirical jointures, as research on modern and contemporary art in Africa is so far mainly focused on history and context rather than on the

artwork itself. The project is inspired by new formalist approaches and their renewed attention to form as organisations or arrangements that afford representation and portability across materials and contexts (Levine 2015).

**Multiple Artworks – Multiple Indian Ocean**

*Research Team: Ute Fendler, Rémi Tchokothe, Clarissa Vierke*

The project focuses on the multi-layered co-presence and circulation of verbal arts in relation to narratives, imagery, and sound travelling in the Indian Ocean. Taking into account networks of literary multilingualism, and going beyond the monolingual straitjacket of modern literary histories and disciplinary boundaries that partition Luso- and Francophone literature from Swahili and Arabic, the project adopts a multi-sited and multilingual approach focusing on the multilingual (foremost French, Portuguese, Swahili, and

Arabic) and multi-medial practices of authors, the dynamic configuration of imagery, narratives and sounds in specific works, and their relationship to other media and art forms (primarily film, music, and installation). Secondly, beyond any dichotomy of centre and periphery, the circulation of sounds, imagery, and narratives across various sites of research (chiefly Comoros, Mozambique, Mauritius, La Réunion, Zanzibar, and Oman) show the entanglements and co-constitution of French, Portuguese, and Swahili literary productions.

**Research Section: Knowledges**

**Karakul Circulations: Colonial Economies and the Un-Making of Disciplinary Knowledges in Germany and Namibia**

*Research Team: Katharina Schramm, Memory Biwa, Eleanor Schaumann*

Human-animal relations play an important role in colonial histories. Domestic animals such as sheep have had a profound impact on colonial and postcolonial landscapes, politics, and epistemic practices. This research project examines the circulations of people, sheep, and knowledges in and through post-colonial spaces and timescales. These Karakul sheep circulations mark and transgress boundaries of race and species in multiple ways. Bred on an experimental farm in Germany in the early 1900s, the sheep were exported to the colony of South West Africa, where they played a major role in colonial settlement and economies. They were also crucial agents in scientific controversies on agriculture, Mendelian genetics, and race. The project's transdisciplinary approach analyses the relations between bodies (human and sheep), representations (documents, scientific publications, and memories), and knowledges (local, tacit, taxonomic, scientific, and silenced). The ways in which Karakul circulations were instrumental in producing a racialized or nonhuman other, while simultaneously challenging conventional species boundaries, are examined.

**Colonial Letters and the Contact of Knowledges**

*Research Team: Eric A. Anchimbe, Glory Essien Otung*

Letters were one of the major means of communication during the 19th-20th century British colonialism of Africa. Through them, the instructions, intentions, decisions, complaints, justifica-

these correspondences will be studied from sociolinguistic, critical discourse analysis, discourse-historical, historical linguistic, and postcolonial linguistic perspectives.



tions, and agenda of resident British colonial officers, local colonial administrators and collaborators, colonial officials in Britain, and colonised subjects (individuals, villages) were transmitted across time and space. This research project studies, from a predominantly linguistic perspective, the instantiations of colonial contact and postcolonial heritages that are embodied in, and transmitted through, letters written during British colonisation of Southern Cameroons (1916-1961). Markers of the construction of multiple identities, the discursive enactment of (social, political, hereditary) power, and the coalescence of colonial and precolonial social norms of interaction (hierarchy, respect forms, kinship affiliation) found in

**Colonial Body Archives – A Media Studies Approach**

*Researcher: Christine Hanke*

This project explores contemporary knowledge practices related to colonial collections of human remains in European museums and scientific archives. With respect to requested restitution, these “sensitive objects” have been subjected (once again) to various identification procedures. Although “modernized”, some of the applied methods appear disturbingly close to colonial identification procedures of “race” and “sex” that rendered human bodies into scientific objects of colonial collections in the first place. The project analyses the persistence of anthropometric and mor-

phological approaches in contemporary anthropological and forensic knowledge practices, introducing a media studies perspective on the nitty-gritty techniques of metric-statistical data generation, statistical techniques, and imaging processes into the debates about the legacy of colonial collections and the restitution of human remains. The project follows the medialisations the human remains undergo, thus the transformations from the very materiality of bones into data, into data work, correlations, and comparisons into the eventual results from which provenance is assessed.

**Research Section: Learning**

**Making a Living: Learning Trajectories towards the Ability to Earn a Livelihood**

*Research Team: Erdmute Alber, Iris Clemens, Sabrina Maurus, Issa Tamou*

The educational landscape in rural Africa is currently shaped by a unique historical process. As a result of large globally-influenced schooling campaigns, more young people than in the past have been enrolled in school, often as pioneers in their families. However, in contrast to expectations, a high number of students struggle to find employment in the local job market and remain unemployed despite their education. Within this context, the research project asks how young people actually learn to make a living and earn a livelihood. Looking

**Travelling Knowledge and Trans\*textuality. African Sources in Shakespearean Drama**

*Research Team: Susan Arndt, Michael Steppat, Ifeoluwa Aboluwade, Taghrid Elhanafy*

The project investigates whether and how African (and Middle Eastern) textualities have influenced the drama of Shakespeare and his contemporaries. It aims to identify, contextualise, and interpret the impact of African and also Middle Eastern textualities on selected plays mainly

at young people's multiple learning processes – within and outside of school – the role of learning in their life courses is analysed by following their learning trajectories and the related processes of making a living over four years. The starting point of the study is a small town in rural Benin from which the young adults are followed who take part in the study through time and spaces, wherever they go. In its theory and methodology, the research team combines relational approaches from social anthropology with network theory.

**Advice as Practical Epistemology in Multilingual Africa – an Analysis of Expert/User and User/User Contexts in Cameroon**

*Researcher: Susanne Mühleisen*

This research project focuses on facets of learning (and resistance) in the context of advice-giving and advice-receiving in

by William Shakespeare. It is innovative also in exploring how African narratives, visual arts, and performative practices are likely to have travelled to Elizabethan England, and how such pathways can be proven and understood. The object of study is textualities that travel rhizomically and partly orally, influencing a text without an author being necessarily aware thereof (“re\*source”), thus transgressing the category of written source.

multilingual Cameroon. The study is situated at the interface of variational linguistics and pragmatics, and will investigate Cameroonian English, Pidgin, and selected indigenous languages contrastively and relationally with regard to norms and organization of this complex linguistic activity, the particular role (expert/user) as well as the uneven distribution of power and social relations (including gender and age) which is associated with the interaction. This will also be compared and related to advice-giving in French and to other postcolonial contexts in the African diaspora, e.g., Jamaica. Advice/counselling will be considered in an exemplary way, since it is an act of communication which involves knowledge transfer in many everyday situations (e.g., family life, romance) as well as in institutional contexts (e.g., the health sector, education).

**Toward an Islamic Cultural Archive: Building a Collaborative Database of Islamic Learning in Africa**

*Research Team: Rüdiger Seemann, Franz Kogelmann, Ulrich Rebstock, Britta Frede, Hassan Ndzovu, Mohamed Mraja, Abdourahmane Seck, Fatimatou Abdel Wahhabe, Ramzi Ben Amara*

The overarching aim of this project is the establishment of a dynamic archive of Islamic culture in Africa based on innovative digital working formats, developed together with mostly Africa-based cooperation partners. During the project's duration period, the team will focus on those aspects





of Islamic culture that revolve around religious learning in the widest sense. For the purpose of this project, learning will be perceived as processes where teachings and practices pertaining to Islam are conveyed: these may be found in formal education, but extend to many other settings and contexts. In addition, given the interconnectedness of learning networks, data on religious affiliations and networks will be included, thus creating synergies with the research section “Affiliations”. If successful, a long-term perspective for the project beyond the first funding period, including other realms of Islamic culture in Africa is possible.

**Learning beyond the Classroom: Coping with Illiteracy in Urban Literate Environments in Bolivia and Benin**

*Research Team: Erdmute Alber, Carlos Kölbl*

Few ideas have travelled around the globe as successfully as the notion that literacy is a basic need, right, and standard throughout the world. Today, people everywhere move through lifeworlds heavily shaped by written signs, even as new illiteracies constantly emerge, seemingly failing to achieve “development through education”. Master narratives of illiteracy situate it as

“historical” or “traditional”, something that will become obsolete. In contrast, the project assumes that not having learnt to read and write at school can no longer be seen as “old” or “other”. Instead, we see “new” illiteracies as being related to and constantly produced by ongoing global processes that mainstream western-oriented literacy through schooling. The project aims to test this assumption by studying processes for coping with illiteracy in urban lifeworlds in two countries, Benin and Bolivia. The project identifies similarities and differences in its case studies, while acknowledging that both countries are influenced by the same global processes of mainstreaming literacy.

scrutinises the intentioned and improvised registers of the mobility of electronic devices – their physical circulations, their composition through design, repair, and maintenance, as well as the attendant material-semiotic transformations of the devices themselves.

**Oil Movements: the Production and Government of Petro-(im)mobilities in East Africa**

*Research Team: Martin Doevenspeck, Paddy Kinyera, Goretti Nabanoga, Fredrick Okaka*

The discoveries of commercially viable hydrocarbons in East Africa, for which the development of strategic infrastructures in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania are underway, squarely puts the region within the frames of transboundary petro-politics. East Africa’s oil industry not only promises substantial economic development and energy security within the region, but also significant profits for the oil multinationals involved. The region is a striking example of how (im)mobilities framed around substances such as oil are integral

to socio-political and socio-economic issues. This projects studies the dynamics of oil movements in order to understand how inter-state power relations are integral to the (im)mobility of people, ideas, practices, and things. Additionally, the inquiry into East African ‘oil-mobilities’ promises to generate new empirical and theoretical insights that could help explain how strategic natural resources influence the production and government of patterns of (im)mobilities.

**Africa in the Global History of Refugee Camps (1940s to 1950s)**

*Research Team: Joël Glasman, Jochen Lingelbach*

Despite well-established criticism of refugee camps from both scholars and humanitarian practitioners, camps are still key instruments in the management of refugee (im)mobility in Africa. The common narrative of refugee camp history portrays them as a device that emerged in the 1940s in Europe and was transferred to Africa in the 1960s. However, the research team argues that there is a longer and more entangled history of encampment in Africa. This project will look into the global history of this seemingly ahistorical and technical humanitarian device. Focusing on the “emergency phase” the project asks why and how refugee camps emerge and what knowledge, personnel, and things must be mobilised in order to “make” a camp.

**Uhamaji wa Wanyerwanda: Migration and Conflict in Ituri, Democratic Republic of Congo**

*Research Team: Martin Doevenspeck, Nene Morisho, Aloys Tegera*

Much of the ongoing violent conflict in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo is related to both volunteer and forced migration of Kinyarwanda speakers in the past, and linked disputes of autochthony, identity, and access to land. In the course of one of the most recent population movements in the region, the massive, but until now non-documented, migration of Hutu peasants from North Kivu to Ituri, one can already observe the development of similar conflict lines. By empirically analysing the migration of Hutu toward, and their settlement in, Ituri, as well as the rumours and stereotypes travelling with this population movement, this research project will conceptualise the Banyarwanda movement, the migration of Kinyarwanda speakers, as a “travelling idea” which connects and

reconnects various actors along its trajectory and results in a variety of informal conflictual institutions and assemblages which can both trigger and solve conflict.

**Migration Control, Forced Immobility and Violent Mobilization in the Border Triangle of Burkina Faso, Benin, and Niger**

*Research Team: Uli Beisel, Martin Doevenspeck, Kamal Donko, Abou-Bakari Imorou, Daouda Traoré*

The externalized European “migration management” in West Africa has technologically modernised and militarised border posts threatening visa-free travel, freedom of settlement, and borderland economies in parts

of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). At the same time, one can observe intensified and asymmetrical violent conflict in some of these borderlands. This project aims to understand to what extent forced immobility relates to violent mobilisation and constitutes an unexpected result of European migration control on the African continent. The project conducts a multi-sited ethnography at the border triangle of Burkina Faso, Benin, and Niger, studying the various practices and ramifications of movement and stasis and their relations. Migration control, forced immobility, and violent mobilisation as a paradigmatic case of multiplicity are also examined, shedding light on the consequences of how Europe is situated in Africa and, in turn, of how Africa and Africans are situated in the world.

**Research Section: Mobilities**

**Planned Obsolescence, Circular Economies and Ecologies of Electronic Devices in Trans-disciplinary Perspective**

*Research Team: Uli Beisel, Ruth Freitag, Erdmute Alber, Christina Roth, John Kuumuori Ganle, Grace Akese*

Planned obsolescence denotes design practices that are assumed to build an artificially limited life span into a technical device. This discourse links electronic waste to the logics of capitalism and renders the design of devices into a process imbued with politics. It also transforms the electronic product into waste, or rather, into a material object that has outlived its intended usage patterns. However, the fact that an electronic device has reached its intended shelf life does not mean its life is over. On the contrary, this is a moment where the device enters into different processes of transfer and transformation. Using mobile phones and fridges as examples, and examining their mobility between Germany and Ghana, this project

**Research Section: Moralities**

are no moral phenomena, but only moral communication about phenomena. According to such a view, conversationalists constantly and co-constructively bring about the moral meaning of a state of affair or an event. The paramount aim is to investigate the interactive processes by which moralities emerge and are negotiated in communication.

as outcomes of the practices and performances of “doing ethics”.

**Moral Geographies of Re-Existence: Socio-cultural Practices and Visions of a Good Life in Afro-descendant Communities in Salvador da Bahia (Brazil) and Cartagena de Indias (Colombia)**

*Research Team: Valerie Gruber, Eberhard Rothfuß, Livio Sansone*

This research project sheds light on the ways in which Afro-descendant communities resist and re-exist in postcolonial and post-slavery Latin America. The focus is on Salvador da Bahia (Brazil) and Cartagena de Indias (Colombia), two major arrival ports of the transatlantic trade in enslaved Africans, recognised as UNESCO World Heritage since the 1980s. In these traumatic places, the research team collaborates with Afro-descendant leaders and young artists from peri-urban neighbourhoods which tend to be “off the map” of many tourists, researchers, and political actors. Applying ethnographic, documentary, and participatory action research methods, they jointly explore the socio-structural, moral-cultural, and identity-related dimensions of transformation stimulated by arts-based community initiatives. While breaking new ground in the field of moral geographies, this project adopts a transdisciplinary approach of knowledge co-production, fostering dialogues between diverse theoretical, methodological, and practical experiences from Africa, Latin America, and Europe.

**Religious Engineering. The Making of Moralities, Development and Religion in Niger**

*Research Team: Ibrahim Bachir Abdoulaye, Hamissou Rhissa Achaffert, Paula Schrode, Eva Spies, Mahaman Tidjani Alou*

The interdisciplinary research group studies religious projects of transformation in Niger in their relation to international development activities. Understanding such projects of improving, developing, or transforming Nigerien society as mutually influencing ethical projects, the study explores moralities in the making. Along the lines of different cases, it will scrutinise how actors refer to “religion” as well as to other actors, projects of transformation, donors, target groups, and the state, and ask how and which moralities are generated in and through such multiple processes of relating. Ethics/moralities are thus not conceptualised as discrete principles and rules that clash in contexts of competing transformative projects, but

**Health Discourses as Moral Communication? Linguistic Case Studies from Ivory Coast and Cameroon**

*Research Team: Martina Drescher, Oumarou Boukari, Jean-Benoit Tsoufack*

The research project zooms in on moral communication in Ivory Coast and Cameroon. It adopts a comparative perspective and engages with everyday moral talk in the domain of health. Since the articulation of ordinary ethics and language is still under-investigated, the research team aims to contribute to this rather new intersectional field of study by bringing forward a specific linguistic understanding of moral communication. The project refers to constructivist and phenomenological conceptualisations of ethics, assuming that there



Photo: Martina Drescher



Photo: Martin Doevenspeck



# The Knowledge Lab: Review 2019 and outlook

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**The Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence has established the Knowledge Lab at the centre of its research activities, linking the Cluster's Research Sections, the African Cluster Centres, and the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies.**

The overarching aim of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence is to reconfigure African Studies on both the conceptual and the structural level. The Cluster is conceived as a transformative space in which research on Africa and its diaspora is to be systematically advanced by pursuing transdisciplinary research. Building on decades of internationally outstanding research in African studies at the University of Bayreuth, the Cluster will develop new approaches to the analysis of African and African diasporic lifeworlds observed and analysed through the lens of multiplicity.

The Knowledge Lab is located at the centre of the Cluster's research activities. It interlinks the three main research structures of the Cluster: the African Cluster Centres (ACC), the Bayreuth Academy (BA), and the Research Sections. The Knowledge Lab offers a variety of event formats – from ad hoc meetings to regular and formal meetings – for members and guests of the Cluster who come together to exchange ideas and promote academic debate.

### Exchanging ideas

In the Knowledge Lab, scholars present themselves and their research projects in order to exchange ideas, discuss methods and engage in systematic reflection on their work and disciplines. The events of the central plenary colloquium, which takes place on Thursdays from 2 to 6 pm, form the overarching framework. Planned and coordinated by the Vice Dean of Research, Erdmute Alber, and a small, rotating working group, it creates a lively intellectual and interdisciplinary environment that also includes non-academics, such as artists and activists, and stimulates transdisciplinary research and synergies.

The Knowledge Lab is the crucial forum in which the theoretical, epistemological, and methodological issues of the Cluster are raised, related, and connected. Accordingly, it is subdivided into three interlinked spaces for debate and exchange: the Theory Forum, the Reflexive African Studies Forum, and the Methodology Forum.



After the Cluster was founded on 1 January 2019, the Knowledge Lab started its work in the summer semester 2019, with the Research Sections focussing on their theoretical concepts and presenting their research projects, as well as a series of guest lectures with renowned guests from South Africa, the USA, Nigeria, and Sweden. Outside the central colloquium, invited guests of the Cluster enriched the research work of the project teams and the Research Sections with their high-level contributions. It soon became apparent, nevertheless, that the central part of the guest lectures should be organised around a common theme. This idea was to strongly influence the further development of the Knowledge Lab.

Throughout the year 2019, several workshops on topics were held under the lead organisation of Cluster members, which provided important impulses both for individual projects and for the Research Sections. A notable example was the workshop *Un-doing post-colonial knowledges: perspectives from academia-arts-activism*, organised with colleagues from Leipzig, which took place in Bayreuth and Leipzig from 18 to 21 July. Since then, the number of workshops organised within the Cluster has steadily grown, which reflects the most welcome increase in academic activities, but also poses some organisational challenges.

Thanks to technical equipment installed since the winter semester 2019/20, the Knowledge Lab allows for the virtual participation of researchers across the globe and facilitates transdisciplinary and transcontinental debate and exchange within and between research projects. It thus stimulates multidirectional flows of theoretical and reflexive

debates and empirical findings that contribute to the refining of methods and the driving of conceptual advances. The fact that it is possible to participate without physical presence is particularly relevant to the colleagues from the African Cluster Centres (ACC), who participate in the Bayreuth events via video, and who also open their events to Bayreuth participants.

### “What does it mean to reconfigure African Studies?”


In 2019, important presence meetings took place with the members of the ACC teams. In particular, a panel discussion with the four ACC directors took place on 28 October in Iwalewaha, titled *What do we mean by “Reconfiguring African Studies”?* With this event, a fundamental question of the Cluster

was directly addressed and animatedly discussed. It was a starting point – a continuation is required, and is already planned.

Here begins the outlook in which the Knowledge Lab gains in profile. From summer semester 2020 onwards, the events of the central plenary colloquium have a general theme during an academic year. The general theme takes up fundamental theoretical concepts of the Cluster. The events are organised and coordinated by a group consisting of Principal Investigators, postdocs, and other Cluster members, as well as the team of the Vice Dean of Research.

### The general topics are:

- *Relationality* – summer semester 2020
- *Modalities* – Oct 2020 to Jul 2021
- *Medialities* – Oct 2021 to Jul 2022
- *Spatialities* – Oct 2022 to Jul 2023
- *Temporalities* – Oct 2023 to Jul 2024

The general topic forms the thematic frame of reference for the sessions in the plenary colloquium, e.g., through guest contributions, joint readings, discussion groups. Furthermore, the general topic can and even should play a role in sub-forums, projects, and contributions made by members and guests. An annual programme culminates in an international conference dedicated to the general theme. All members of the Cluster are invited to participate in the organisation of the programme and to submit their suggestions and ideas to the coordinating team. 



# “Change in the making”

**A**s envisaged in its concept, the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence has established a Gender and Diversity Office (GDO). In the interview with NAB, the GDO's Director, Christine Vogt-William, talks about the Cluster's goals and how her work commits to achieving these.

Interview led by SABINE GREINER

**You joined the Cluster of Excellence in April 2019 – what made you want to be a part of this research organisation?**

One appealing aspect is that the Cluster actually values multiple perspectives, in research projects, scholarly interests and politics of African Studies. I find this quite a novel approach to African Studies, which indeed requires the kind of reconfiguration that the Cluster pursues. This is extremely important for me as an educator and researcher of colour, active in fields of diaspora and post-colonial studies, given the current political context. The GDO position itself is a wonderfully hybrid pragmatic interface

with research agendas, as laid out in the Cluster proposal. Advocating a reconfiguration of African Studies entails interrogating the ways in which the field has been shaped by Euro-American and African knowledge perspectives, politics and productions.

*“I firmly believe this particular Cluster provides a fabulously mobile concept, where you see change in the making.”*

**So would you say this was an agenda close to your heart?**

Indeed, as an active educator and researcher of colour, I firmly believe this

The Cluster's agenda requires reflexive work while we build strong relations with our colleagues on the African continent and diverse diasporic African contexts. We need to reflect on our approaches to the field from our different disciplinary trajectories.

“Reconfiguration”, as I see it, means moving towards transformation. The Cluster's approach is highly proactive and aims to scrutinise our own research practices. Subsequently, we do not necessarily subscribe to some kind of singular linear progress narrative that merely allows for producing more textual and cultural output, but rather, we actually want to reflect on how we do the research that produces knowledge: Are these forms of research empowering, and if so, who are they empowering?

**How can these multiple perspectives be considered effectively?**

The central principles of the Cluster are reflexivity, relationality and multiplicity. We need to reflect on our own positionalities: how do I want to engage with multiplicity on a conceptual and a practical level? How did I come to African Studies – e.g. as a Black European woman, a white European man, as a Black European man, an African woman, an African man, an Asian woman, an Asian man, as a white European woman etc.? We are situated beings, with our knowledges, our histories, our imaginaries, our politics. And yet, we are dynamic creatures. Situated knowledges do not anchor and fix us in just one general fossilized idea of what

African Studies ought to be. The idea of reconfiguring African Studies shows that

we can actually be quite mobile in the ways we produce knowledge, in the ways that we generate relationalities. The question is: when we do our research – are we prepared to encounter and dialogue with different perspectives that are not our own? Are we then ready to reflect on our own modes of scholarship?

Such reflexive work on our positions involves considering how hierarchies are structured and our situatedness within these. The fact is: The university – where we work – is a hierarchal space. Those engaged in knowledge production processes are located in relationalities of power. Contingent on this, in addressing relationalities, it is not just a matter of how we relate to our cultural texts or our theoretical perspectives. It

is also how we relate to the people we do the research with. How do I relate to my research project and to my informants? How do I relate to my colleagues, both on-site and internationally? Where am I in all this and what is my contribution to, my impact on African Studies as a field?

**In your function as Director of the Gender and Diversity office, is it your main task to help guide the Cluster through this process?**

My job in the Cluster is not much different from everyone else's: to foster these

*“Unless conflicts are addressed, we are not going to be able to drive forward the reconfiguration.”*

central principals of multiplicity, relationality and reflexivity in all our Cluster activities. We have to engage with them as tangible practices and not mere ideals – while interrogating them as they apply to our work.

Hence I basically consider sites where such practices and processes can be pragmatically implemented in this interdisciplinary field, and thus my own work embraces the idea that “the politics of

*“[It is] my job in the Cluster [...] to foster these central principals of relationality and reflexivity in all our Cluster activities.”*

knowledge cannot be disarticulated from a politics of care”, as Martin, Myers and Viseu have observed in their 2015 article on the subject. I look at structural inequalities because we have to understand that the university is a conglomeration of spaces and positions, informed by power relations: people, research interests, political standpoints and prejudices as well as different points of access to funding

*“As a German scholar of Southeast-Asian diasporic cultural background myself, I do indeed self-designate myself in particular intersectional positions with a set of knowledges in relation to my work here for the Cluster.”*

sources, to labour and knowledge resources. My own research profile in intersectionality and diversity studies, as well as diaspora and postcolonial studies enables me to engage at multiple conceptual levels, cultural contexts and structural interfaces.

As a German scholar of Southeast-Asian diasporic cultural background myself, I do indeed self-designate myself in particular intersectional positions with a set of knowledges in relation to my work here for the Cluster. This also includes engaging with the notion of Germanness

ment thus far, after my first year here, include among other things an Intersectionality and Critical Diversity Literacy Lecture and Workshop Series, where international and German scholars of Intersectionality and Critical Diversity Studies are invited to provide insights from these fields that might productively facilitate the deployment of these analytical tools in research agendas. In addition, I have

managed to develop a childcare financial support policy for early career researchers; and in cooperation with the University's Diversity Representative and Equality Opportunity Office, I have helped implement a measure for Conflict Counselling in English for international scholars and faculty, starting July 2020.

In order to promote the intersectionality and critical diversity agenda in the Cluster, I am an active co-organizer and participant of intersectionality and critical diversity events, planned with Cluster PIs, which form part of the Knowledge Lab's schedule. Together with the university library I am working to set up an ICDL bibliographical database, which will be connected to the Digital Research Environment, as a supplementary tool for Cluster research projects.

**In an ideal world, what do you want to have achieved once the Cluster has come to the end of its seven-year run?**

In an ideal world, our Cluster would, for the most part, have brought African Studies to that transformative space where it works as an empowering critical discipline, designed to effect positive socio-political change in the spheres of education and research. After seven years it would be grand to have inculcated decolonial and intersectional thinking. 🌍

*“The GDO position is a wonderfully hybrid pragmatic interface of research and administrative responsibilities.”*

of research and administrative responsibilities that suits my scholarly and political interests.

When I say “politics”, I reference the palette of political and theorising activities based, not only on the experiences of sociopolitical injustice shared by marginalised groups, but also the kinds of political activity and policy-making undertaken by hegemonic positions. One such example in African Studies concerns Global North and Global South epistemological positions in knowledge production, e.g. in citation practices. Hence, I detect an immensely promising investment in bringing together the respective political positionalities along

particular Cluster provides a fabulously mobile concept, where you see change in the making. What I found particularly interesting is how vocal the Cluster is in its proposal to achieve its goal in the process of developing new innovative interdisciplinary strategies in order to work with African scholars from the continent and diasporic contexts. We address the idea of equal participation and academic freedom against this canvas – and this is something that always needs to be critically interrogated in the course of achieving our goal of reconfiguring African Studies.

**What are the biggest challenges in trying to achieve the Cluster's goals?**

# Digital Solutions for the Cluster of Excellence

Cyrus Samimi is the Vice Dean of the Digital Solutions team. Photo: Sabine Greiner



Text MATTHIAS CHRISTEN, UTE FENDLER, FRANZ KOGELMANN, CYRUS SAMIMI, EVA SPIES

**Innovative and interdisciplinary the new research centre currently under construction on the campus of the University of Bayreuth will bring together scholars from all over the world to work on current issues of African Studies.**

By the end of 2024, a new milestone in African Studies in Bayreuth will be reached. By that time, the new state of

planning immediately started. Due to strict planning and building regulations the opening of the centre is scheduled for late 2024 or early 2025.

### Modern media lab at the core of the Centre

The centre is to be situated close to the central library and the Faculty V building on the campus of the University of Bayreuth. It will help to coordinate the scattered locations of the Cluster of Excellence, BIGSAS, the Academy and other units working in African Studies, and above all, bring junior researchers

structure will help to link up academic partners in Africa and worldwide. The archival capacities and the analytical tools on offer for researchers across a broad range of disciplines will contribute to making the research centre a digital hub of international renown for African Studies. Beside its normal function of producing media of various formats, the media lab will foster virtual research collaboration and be the control centre for conference and performing facilities. The main hall can host 300 conference participants and will have facilities for simultaneous trans-

## Research Centre “Society, Technology, and Ecology in Africa – Challenges of the 21st Century”

### Research Data Management and the creation of a Knowledge Information System for the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence are the key tasks of a newly created department.

Text TEAM DIGITAL SOLUTIONS

The importance of research data that has been gathered with great expenditure of time and resources by the individual scholar and its impact in interdisciplinary re-use in the scientific community has been a topic in German science policy at least since 2008. In that year, the Alliance of German Science Organisations published its “Principles for the Handling of Research Data”. Viewing research data as a valuable resource, there has been an ever-increasing demand on universities for more accessibility, sharing and the long-term availability of gathered research data. Among the different academic disciplines, the awareness of and openness to these new developments is far from a shared understanding, due to differing conceptions of what the term “data” itself means or implies. Nevertheless, the submission of a Research Data Management Plan along with a research project proposal, e.g., when applying for funding from the German Research Foundation (DFG), is about to become a standard procedure.

Although these developments started

about ten years ago and there are European institutions wholly devoted to the topic of Research Data Management and its procedures, like the Digital Curation Centre in Edinburgh, similar efforts at German universities are a very recent development. The University of Bayreuth established a Research Data Management Team only in 2017, and the Digital Solutions Team (DST) of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence has been active only since 2019. The latter, comprising four Data Curators headed by the Vice Dean, Cyrus Samimi, professor of climatology, is the contact point between the Cluster and the IT Team for the Africa-related research of the Cluster of Excellence. The DST has developed a Research Data Management Plan and issued a first version of its Research Data Management Guidelines.

#### Building a knowledge information system

Apart from these “classic” activities, one of the most challenging objectives of the DST, in close cooperation with Stefan Jablonski, Chair for Databases and Information Systems, and his team, is building a knowledge information sys-

tem as a graph-based database for the storage of the research data gathered within the Cluster of Excellence and other Africa-related projects. This data can be stored in a system architecture that is meaningful because the data does not exist in “scholarly isolation”, but becomes rich through structure, consistency, and descriptive metadata.

After extensive research in 2019, a decision was made in favour of the open source system WissKI, a German acronym for “Wissenschaftliche Kommunikationsinfrastruktur”, which can be translated as Scientific Communication Infrastructure. The Virtual Research Environment based on the content management system Drupal is a flexible tool for data collections that provides the benefits of semantic web technology. The WissKI system shall fulfil, as far as the data allows for it, the FAIR principles of findability, accessibility, interoperability, and the reuse of digital assets. The aspect of interoperability with research data from the African Cluster Centres and database systems run on their account is, in particular, one of the major tasks in trying to avoid a digital North-South divide. 🌍

the art research centre on campus will be ready to host approximately 100 staff members – visiting scholars, and those colleagues based in Bayreuth. The name of the centre “Society, Technology, and Ecology in Africa – Challenges of the 21st Century” reflects the challenges the world, including Africa will face in the current century. The broad interdisciplinary setup of the Institute of African Studies in Bayreuth (IAS) and its partners enables the Africa Studies team to contribute theoretical as well as applied research on these topics. The building is funded through an initiative of the Federal Government of Germany and the Bavarian State Government. The two-step proposal was finally approved in May 2019 and the

together in one place. The idea is to create an innovative interdisciplinary working environment with open creative labs. The centre’s core is the media lab, which will provide innovative forms of collaboration. Its digital infra-

lations. Two additional seminar rooms flank the conference hall. To foster the involvement of scholars at our partner institutions worldwide, conferences and workshops will be streamed. 🌍

Figure: Functional context of the Research Centre

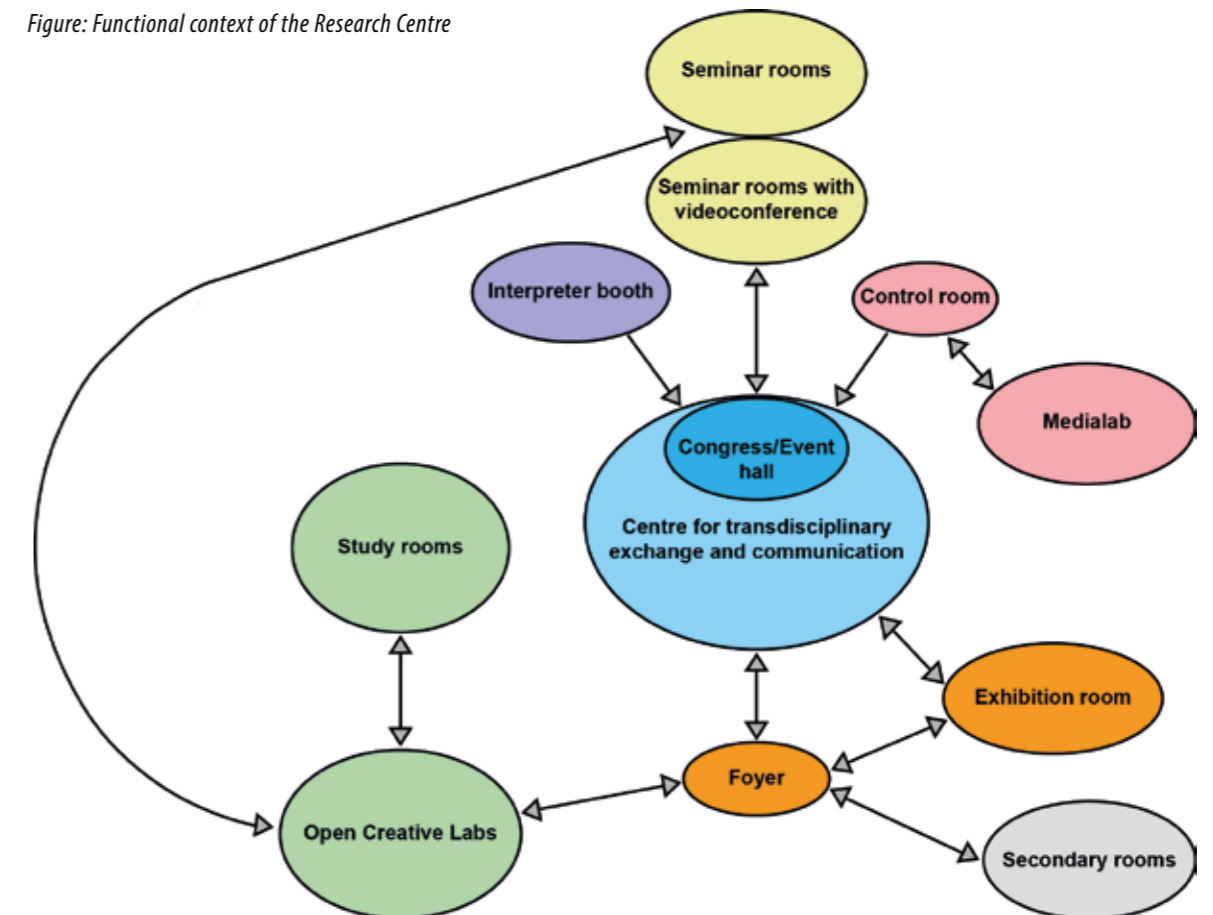




Photo: Sabine Greiner

For three days, the participants of the workshop discussed the matter of post-colonial objects.

# Handle with Care: Post-colonial object-matters

Text KATHARINA SCHRAMM AND NADINE SIEGERT

**A workshop that was held between July 19 and 21 2019 by the Research Section “Knowledges” of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence focused on the topic of “un-doing post-colonial knowledges: perspectives from academia-arts-activism” discussing the manner of how colonial objects should be dealt with today. The three-day workshop that took place in both Bayreuth and Leipzig brought together scholars and practitioners from Europe and Africa.**

At the end of 2018, cultural politics in Germany and many other European states were shaken by the debate on how European museums should deal with objects originating from colonial contexts. Up until now, this debate has been dominated by actors from the museum field in Europe, while African and African-di-

asporic voices are often marginalised. Decolonial positions, too, remain largely invisible or are being delegitimised as uninformed, non-pragmatic, and biased. However, many of these actors had been engaging with the post-colonial history of European collections long before it became a public hype. The workshop *un-doing post-colonial knowledges: perspectives from academia-arts-activism* was jointly organised by Katharina Schramm (University of Bayreuth, Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence), Nadine Siegert (now at the Goethe Institute Johannesburg) and Manuela Bauche (Free University Berlin).

The workshop followed up on the current debate by forging a conversation among practitioners and scholars from arts, academia and activism, with a special focus on views emerging from the African continent and the African diaspora. In line with the research objectives and intellectual agenda of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence the workshop sought to

decentralise the dominant focus on institutional concerns and to consider objects, archives, and knowledges as parts of wider relations.

Departing from the demands for the return of African objects in European museums that was sparked off by the recent report on restitution by Felwine Sarr and Bénédicte Savoy, the workshop widened the debate beyond matters of provenance research, following up on the broader question of how a “new relational ethics” (Felwine Sarr, Bénédicte Savoy: *Rapport sur la restitution du patrimoine culturel africain. Vers une nouvelle éthique relationnelle*. Paris 2018; The Restitution of African Cultural Heritage. Toward a New Relational Ethics) between formerly colonised and colonising people, communities, and states could be designed. In addition, the conveners wanted to open up new imaginary spaces for thinking further about object matters – be it in terms of new curatorial practices, forms of circulation and meaning-making, or through deeper engage-

ments with modes of conservation and care. They wanted to discuss the possible futures of objects marked by colonial relations of power and knowledges.

From 19 to 21 July 2019, a number of scholars artists and activists from Europe and Africa met in Bayreuth and Leipzig: Temi Odumosu (Malmö), El Hadji Malick Ndiaye (Dakar), Greer Valley (Cape Town/Durban), Paola Ivanov (Berlin), Christian Jarling (Bremen), Eva Bahl (Göttingen/München), Nashilongweshipwe Mushaanja (Windhoek/Cape Town), Wazi Apoh (Accra), Peju Layiwola (Lagos), Regina Sarreiter (Stuttgart/Berlin), Sam Hopkins (Nairobi/Köln), Larissa Förster (Berlin/Köln).

Temi Odumosu opened the workshop with a keynote on “Who is the subject? On portraiture in the colonial archive.” During the following workshop sessions, all participants were invited to present short provocations from which the broader discussion unfolded. In the course of the deliberations, three related themes emerged:

un-doing post-colonial knowledges, objects and affects, and (disrupting) institutions. The discussions ended with a public roundtable at the Grassi-Museum in Leipzig on “Postcolonial reflections: On the future lives of objects” which was hosted by the initiative “Leipzig postkolonial.”

Instead of a conventional publication of conference proceedings, a more creative and accessible format that would include academic, activist, and artistic contributions was decided upon. The resulting zine



Book launch of the zine at “The Commune – A radical bookstore in Johannesburg”

Photo: Manape Shogole

was conceptualised and designed by students of the seminar *Art and Activism* that Siegert and Schramm held prior to the workshop (Monika Rohmer, Loana Auer, Yosé Reeders). Involving the students in an active role throughout the workshop and zine design was also an attempt to undo well-established hierarchies in academic knowledge production. Both the workshop participants and the students contributed to the zine that was published by iwalewabooks and launched in Johannesburg at “The Commune” bookshop on 10 January 2020. Here, the audience took up the themes and discussions in a very engaged manner, as they resonated with current debates around decoloniality in South Africa. On 4 July 2020, there was a digital launch during the *Festival of African and African Diaspora Literatures: Care, Responsibility and Solidarity: Narrating Resistance in Arts, Academia and Activism*, where Peju Layiwola and Nashilongweshipwe Mushaanja related their artistic works and post-colonial object matters to the broader theme of care, responsibility, and resistance.



Panel discussion at the Grassi-Museum in Leipzig, hosted by Leipzig postkolonial

Photo: Katharina Schramm



The organisers (from left) Manuela Bauche, Nadine Siegert and Katharina Schramm

Photo: Sabine Greiner



Brainstorming during the workshop

Photo: Katharina Schramm

Text SERENA TALENTO  
Photos MOHAMMED K. GHASSANI (Deutsche Welle)

**F**ounded in 1987, the *Swahili Colloquium* has become a well established forum in Bayreuth inviting scholars and researchers from multiple disciplines to discuss various aspects of the Swahili language. In 2019, the annual event put its focus on “Coast and Mainland”.

The 32nd annual *Swahili Colloquium* was held from 31 May to 2 June 2019 at Iwalewahaus. Funded by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG) and organised by Clarissa Vierke (Professor of Literatures in African Languages at the University of Bayreuth), the colloquium is a well-established forum in Bayreuth that brings together a large international community of scholars and researchers from different disciplines, who work on various aspects of the language and the respective culture(s) in Eastern Africa and the



## Pwani na bara. Coast and mainland: The 32nd Swahili Colloquium



diaspora. Senior and junior researchers participated, as well as PhD and MA students from 15 countries, including Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana, United Arab Emirates, Italy, France, Norway, Austria, the Netherlands, Russia, Poland, the UK, the USA, and Germany.

The 32nd *Swahili Colloquium's* thematic focus was “Pwani na bara. Coast and mainland”. Contributors critically reflected on the dichotomous constructions of coast and mainland, and their effects on language, social practices, and policies, as well as literary writing. The topics discussed and presented at the colloquium aspired to a dynamic interrelation of conceptions of coastal and mainland spaces, including the topics of dialect mixing, the creation of popular geographies through music, the translocal historical role of Muslim leaders, maritime images and the fluidification of regions, as well as Swahili as a transregional language of Islamic poetry.

The main topic was

*The poetess Sikudhani Jalala Mohamed*

developed especially in the panel organised by Vierke and Annachiara Raia (University of Leiden) *Baina pwani na bahari. Indian Ocean networks: Relations of People, Texts and Practices*, that focused on a variety of networks, such as personal relations of kinship, maritime trade, financial inter-community transactions, teaching, and the exchange of valued texts and literary trajectories.

*Sociolinguistic Variation and Change in Kiswahili: Creative Practices, Playful Language, Translocal Communication*, a panel organized by Andrea Hollington (University of Cologne) and Nico Nassenstein (University of Mainz), addressed aspects of creative language practices in urban centres of Eastern DR Congo, in the speech of mine workers in Lubumbashi, and among Swahili-speaking immigrant communities in Ghana.

A number of events were featured on the colloquium schedule. On its first evening, 31 May, the colloquium hosted a tribute to two personalities: Elena Bertoncini Zúbková, a scholar, who has contributed much to Swahili literary scholarship; and Ahmad Nassir Juma Bhalo, a poet and expert of Swahili language from Mombasa. On Saturday, 1 June, Serena Talento (University of

Left: The 2018 first-prize winner of the Mabati-Cornell Kiswahili Prize for African Literature, Zainab Alwi Baharoon

Bayreuth) and Lutz Diegner (Humboldt University Berlin) ran a workshop for the teaching of Swahili as a foreign language in European universities. Furthermore, there were a series of book launches: Flavia Aiello Traoré and Roberto Gaudio presented their collected volume *Lugha na Fasihi: Scritti in onore e memoria di/Essays in honour and memory of Elena Bertoncini Zúbková* (Napoli: Unior Press, 2019); Traoré and Irene Brunotti presented *Shuwari*, an edited collection of poems from Zanzibar by Haji Gora Haji, along with their translations (Paris: Buluu Publishing, 2019); Kai Kresse presented his *Swahili Muslim Publics and Postcolonial Experience* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2018); and the Kenyan poet Kithaka wa Mberia presented his latest volume of poetry, *Doa* (Nairobi: Marimba Publications, 2018).

In the evening of 1 June, the 2018 first-prize winner of the Mabati-Cornell Kiswahili Prize for African Literature, Zainab Alwi Baharoon, read from her novel *Mungu Hakopeshiwi*. The last day of the conference opened with the inspiring reading by the poetess Sikudhani Jalala Mohamed from Dar es Salaam who read (and performed) from her collection of poems *Nimetumia Ndotoni*.

In addition, the publishing house Rüdiger Köppe that specializes in African literature was represented with bookstalls and the Swahili Department of the Deutsche Welle Radio, in the person of Mohammed K. Ghassani, reported directly from the conference.

The participants of the 32nd Swahili Colloquium (below)



# An Exhibition on World Tour: FAVT in Kampala and Kigali

**T**he renowned exhibition project FAVT: Future Africa Visions in Time ended in 2019. Originating in Germany, the exhibition travelled to several other countries, namely South Africa, Brazil, Kenya, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Burkina Faso, and Cuba. FAVT was first conceptualized and initiated at the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies and Iwalewahaus at the University of Bayreuth in 2015, by Storm Janse Van Rensburg, Nadine Siegert and Katharina Fink. From there on, the show bringing together over forty researchers and artists toured, changing its format and works in every city it stayed in. The travelling part of the exhibition was realised in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut. A rich academic-aesthetic framing programme accompanied each edition. FAVT's last two stops were in Kampala, Uganda and Kigali, Rwanda, where, like in all other editions, the travelling exhibition incorporated local artists into the existing presentation. In Kampala, a focus was given on fashion and material culture. In Kigali, future economies and healing were in the foreground. FAVT was realized in cooperation with the Goethe Zentrum Kampala/The Ugandan German Cultural Society. The framing programme was supported by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Uganda. In the following, the two curators of FAVT Kampala and FAVT Kigali, Martha Kazungu and Gloria Igabe, share their views.

Text MARTHA KAZUNGU

## FAVT – Kampala August 2019

In August 2019, FAVT – Kampala exhibition was hosted in Makerere Art Gallery. The exhibition presented art from former FAVT editions (Lilian Magodi, Serubiri Moses, Ruth Sacks, Abass Zoungana, Syowia Kyambi, James Muriuki, Simon Rittmeier, Kae Sun, Emeka Alams), as well as commissioned work from two Ugan-



At the official opening of FAVT Kampala workshop participants presented their creations in a fashion show. Photo: Tony Musimwe

dan artists, Derrick Komakech and Pamela Enyonu. FAVT-artists James Muriuki and Emeka Alams, as well as researcher Yamara Wessling (University of Mainz/Germany) were present and engaged in discussions, aesthetically and otherwise.

### Bong Luputu by Derrick Komakech

*Bong Luputu* was a video and sculptural installation inspired by an Acholi proverb from the famous Ugandan poet Okot p'Bitek's *Song of Lawino* poem. *Song of Lawino* was written in 1966, five years after Uganda's independence, which was a significant moment in the country because it allowed one the space to observe the remnants of the

colonial past and how these either floated further away or towards the citizens of Uganda. Uganda still grapples with the colonial situation today, but how does one respond to those moments of transition, which have shaped the discourses that we have inherited today? The poem therefore problematises the effects of colonialism, warning Uganda's own men and women to take heed that they do not succumb to the persuasions from the "other side". For Komakech, p'Bitek's caution against uprooting the pumpkins in the old homestead was such a magnificent thread that he chose to base his installation on the writings of p'Bitek: "The pumpkin in the old homestead must not be uprooted."

The interpretations of this proverb can be many and subjective. Komakech interprets the proverb as a salient reminder of identity, no matter where one finds oneself in the world. The artist emphasizes what we all already know, that travel is inevitable, and that people compulsorily find themselves in constant movements, both physical and emotional. But even in those journeys, we should never allow ourselves to feel uprooted from our identities.

The video installation shows the artist fully covered in soil. Pumpkins grow from the soil until the matured pumpkin leaves take the shape of the artist's body. Beneath the video installation was an assemblage of real and artificial pumpkins resting on

a pile of pumpkin seeds and surrounded by the pumpkin stalk. According to Komakech, the work "aims to portray the notion of uprootedness/migration in contemporary Africa because mankind is in continuous pursuit of new desire/visions. The more these desires gather together, the larger and more complicated the constructed being becomes. Thus, this is the constructed fantasy, a fantasy of desire, and a fantasy of our time in contemporary Africa."



*Bong Luputu (Detail)* by Derrick Komakech. FAVT Kampala. Makerere Art Gallery. Photo: Tony Musimwe

March 1987 in Gwengdiya, an informal township in Gulu, Northern Uganda, he grew up in a family that made things by hand: things that sometimes transitioned into rudimentary technology, which has influenced all his works as a visual and performing artist. His father specialized in tailoring, modifying old clothes, mixing colours, and dyeing fabrics. Komakech became more interested in working with materials found by the roadside: scrap metal and wires that he reassembled to create sculpture. Following his passion and artistic practice, Komakech has taken part in KLA ART 014: The Boda-Boda Project as well as undertaking a residency at 32° East | Ugandan Arts Trust, which gave birth to his recent series of installation works coined Rampant Kampala, which focus on social context, pop-up collectivity, and inventing experimental forms in urban context to bring art to the community.

### Everyday Queens by Pamela Enyonu

The second commissioned work was done by Ugandan artist Enyonu and titled *Everyday Queens*. *Everyday Queens* was a mixed media installation project depicting 14 pieces uniquely developed to speak to and acknowledge certain traits of the 'everyday' women whom

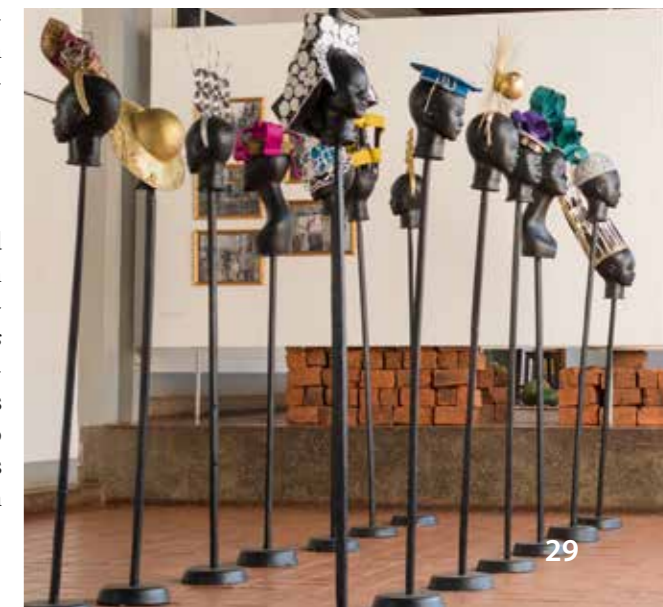
### About the curator

**Martha Kazungu** was born on 10 April 1993 in Iganga, Eastern Uganda, and lived there until 2012 before moving to Makerere University in Kampala where she did her first degree.

we usually ignore in our environments. The artist engages with those people in the community whose work is never appreciated or even remunerated, but yet they create and enhance our lives. In the Ugandan context, the "endless, nameless, tireless servicewomen include the tea girl or lady, the cleaning lady, the road sweeper, the chips (seller) lady, the saloon lady, the kiosk lady, the nanny or babysitter, the maize roaster, landlady, food lady, and so on." These women, "the kind whom we would normally take for granted but [are] quite invaluable to our existence" inspired the artist to think of ways to not only recognize their contribution but to also celebrate their zeal in daily showing up and working despite receiving no outward appreciation.

According to Enyonu, "*Everyday Queens* seeks to explore the counterintuitive power dynamics at work in our daily lives. If service is leadership, or leadership is service, surely the people who serve us are the ones to wear the crown – true kings and queens. This project is about unchained/ing dreams unbound by circumstances or history, challenging the very boundaries of gendered 'fact' and 'logic'. It is giving ourselves permission to create our future, no apologies or editing. It's about existing where our humanity isn't questioned, challenged, or dismissed. It is about a world where we can feel the whole spec-

*Everyday Queens (2019)* by Pamela Enyonu. FAVT Kampala. Makerere Art Gallery. Photo: Tony Musimwe



trum of emotions – anger, pain, joy, etc., and not look to be fixed. It is a world where we just live. See me. See us. The Everyday Queens. “

Enyonu is a Kampala-based artist. She started practicing art professionally in January 2017 with a three-month residency at Ugandan Arts Trust in Kampala. Prior to that, she was a copywriter and art director in three top advertising agencies in Kampala. From 2017-2019, Pamela has participated in nine group

exhibitions, one solo exhibition, AtWork Workshop by Moleskin Foundation with Simon Njami, and facilitated two festival workshops for K’la Art- 2018, Segou Art – 2019 in Mali, and the German travelling exhibition Future African Visions in Time – FAVT Exhibition 2019. Enyonu is inspired by stories, unfamiliar materials, and the process it takes to transform them into works of art. She believes that one cannot go through the process of creating without themselves being ‘recreated’ or ‘transformed’.

Text GLORIA IGABE

## FAVT – Kigali November 2019

FAVT: Future Africa Visions in Time made its final stop in Kigali, Rwanda in November 2019. The exhibition was made possible through a partnership between Iwalewaha, the University of Bayreuth, the Goethe Institute Kigali, and the host of the exhibition; Kandt House Museum. FAVT Kigali

showcased new works by local artists (Crista Uwase, Cedric Mizero, Chris Schwagga) together with artworks from former FAVT editions by Miram Syowia Kyambi, Ingrid LaFleur, Lilian Magodi, Sam Hopkins, Moses Serubiri and Rui Assubuji. A rich discursive programme was, as in all editions, part of the Rwandan FAVT-exhibition. FAVT-initiators Katharina Fink (Iwalewaha, University of Bayreuth), and Nadine Siegert (Goethe Institute Johannesburg) together with Henriette Gunkel (University of Bochum) were the key figures here.

Through the FAVT curatorial process, a set of keywords as ‘modes of futuring’, namely intervening, performing, healing/remembering, suspending/waiting, desiring/longing, optimising, accelerating/decelerating had been developed and translated into symbols that serve as mapping tool for the exhibition. For the Kigali edition, ‘healing/remembering’, as well as ‘optimising’ were chosen in the curatorial process, as they are particularly relevant in the Rwandan context. They encompass prominent topics such as gender, socio-economic stratifications, resilience, and culture dynamics in contemporary Rwanda. The exhibition’s thematic focus was thus on raising self-awareness, re-visiting the past, envisioning a better future and getting ready for it. The subject of healing in particular was very important for Rwandans, considering the traumatizing past the country has gone through. Uwase’s body of work, for instance, explored the theme of healing/remembering. Uwase explains healing as a process that starts with facing the past and involves the acceptance and re-visitation of one’s trauma to overcome fears. Her works start a conversation on how to face the past in order to build the future(s), reinvent oneself, heal, and be resilient.

Kyambi’s cups installation *My Mother’s Mother* resonated particularly with the country’s agenda of empowering women. The *My Mother’s Mother* project questions the role of women in society, their impact on, and struggles with, social structures. Kyambi’s research focused on the correlation between history and gender roles: How have constructions of female identities been presented in the past and in which way does this influence what women think of their roles today? For the FAVT Kigali edition, the installation fused women’s voices from Rwandan urban spaces and women living in a middle-class milieu. Their individual stories and aspirations are universal. Kyambi created subtle domestic references that ask how future choices are shaped by the past and whether our mother’s mothers’ voices can be ignored.

The exhibition was framed by a one-day, hands-on workshop on re-thinking alternative curatorial models in the Rwandan art scene, which culminated in a proposal drawn by the participants as a future model for curators and artists-curators in Rwanda. The workshop marked a radical departure for museum managers, guides, and curators to reflect on their practices and the potential of contemporary curatorial practices for the growing Rwandan art scene.



Crista Uwase in front of her work. Photo: Igihe Rwanda



Cedric Mizero – Injection – FAVT Kigali . Photo: Igihe Rwanda



Syowia Kyambi – My Mother’s Mother- FAVT Kigali 2019. Photo: Igihe Rwanda

### About the curator

Born in Kigali, Rwanda, **Gloria Igabe** is a student at University of Bayreuth, Germany. She is completing her Master’s degree in African Verbal and Visual Arts with a focus on Media, Curating and Languages (Swahili and Arabic).



# A cinematographic journey across the African continent: Cinema Africa in Bayreuth

Text and photos SABINE GREINER

**T**he film festival *Cinema Africa 2019* brought four extraordinary movies to Bayreuth, taking the audience on a unique cinematographic journey across the African continent. Around 280 people attended the four-day film festival and had a chance to discuss the films with each of the directors. The twelfth edition of *Cinema Africa* took place between 21 and 24 October 2019.

Climbing the stairs of Bayreuth's Cineplex movie theatre, ticketholders could already make out sounds highly unusual for this location. For the opening of the 2019 film festival *Cinema Africa*, the Mozambican musician Luka Mukhavele had set up station just in front of the door of "Broadway" – the largest movie hall of the theatre. With an array of handmade traditional instruments, Mukhavele performed music that set the right tone for the first film of the four-day event.

## "Redemption is what comes after the film"

With the Mozambican tunes still resonating in their ears, the audience soon settled into their seats and were visually transported to Maputo, the capital of Mozambique. *Resgate – Redemption* let them dive into a part of town where gangs rule and crime is omnipresent. Following pro-

tagonist Bruno, who after having spent some time in jail returns home with best intentions to take care of his family, the audience is taken on a fast-paced and heart-breaking emotional rollercoaster ride. They feel with the young man, whose financial pressures soon pile up and prompt him to follow down the path that he was determined to leave: He gets involved with the same crowd that led him to prison in the first place and Bruno's life as a criminal takes its course.

The leading man is portrayed by Gil Alexandre. As Antonio Forjaz, the movie's producer and cinematographer, explained: "Gil was our mechanic. We were looking for someone to play Bruno and weren't successful, when suddenly we looked at Gil Alexandre and thought "This is our guy." He went on talking to the audience about how accurately the current situation in Mozambique is depicted in the film. "The idea for the movie came about when there were a lot of kidnappings going on in Mozambique," the producer explained. "We wanted to make a movie about a kidnapping; it turns out we made a movie about Bruno." And when asked about the title, Forjaz said: "Redemption is what happens with the character when the film is over."

## Cinema Africa's twelfth edition

For the twelfth time, the Chair of Romance and Comparative Literature at the University of Bayreuth Ute Fendler invit-

ed African filmmakers to present their work to the Bayreuth audience. Fendler: "Art – and especially the cinematographic expression – is an important means in transmitting original stories from the continent that show the large diversity across the continent and counterbalance the often one-sided reportages on Africa in German/European media." Fendler, who also acts as co-speaker of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, was able to get the support of the Cluster for her longstanding project. *Cinema Africa* has always done what the Cluster's agenda now stipulates: to connect the arts and the academic world with a larger public, making possible a fruitful multidirectional exchange."

## A tale of one who travelled ...

During that exchange, the arts and the world of scholarship still sometimes collide. After the screening of the film *Duga – Les Charognards*, set in Burkina Faso, the first question aimed at Abdoulaye Dao, the movie's director, was: "But why didn't you show more of the socio-economic troubles of Burkina-Faso?" It had not been his intention to make a documentary, but a work of fiction, the filmmaker replied, adding: "I just wanted to tell a story." In fact, the story he told had all the elements of a fable: A tale of one who travelled in order to find a respectful burial site for his best friend Pierre. During his journey with the corpse, protagonist Rasmáné is rejected by the eldest of Pierre's

village as well as by the Christian and the Muslim places of worship, but finds help and support in the most unusual people like highwaymen and the rogues of his village, the so-called "Vultures". Although the movie is told as a satiric tale, the director was inspired by a real life event: "A friend of mine was indeed having trouble getting a proper burial for someone, that's how I got the idea for the film," the director explained during the lively Q and A. The story struck a nerve with the audience, not only in Bayreuth: previously, the film received two awards at the famous *FESPACO (Festival Panafricain du Cinéma et de la Télévision de Ouagadougou)* 2019.

## Ending with a bang

Another award-winning movie was presented on Saturday, the third day of the renowned festival: *Fatwa* was selected as "Best film" of the JCC (Journées Cinématographiques de Carthage) 2018 and won the bronze prize for best film at *FESPACO 2019*. Set in 2013, the movie follows a grieving father trying to figure out what has happened to his beloved son Marouane. He soon finds out about Marouane's ties to the Salafist community and about his own ex-wife's troubles with the same crowd. Due to her book criticising religious practices, she was given the status of fatwa. The movie ended with a "bang", leaving the audience gasping while the end credits rolled. Subsequently, the shaken audience was full of praise for the director, who had managed to create a well-crafted polyphonic and differentiated depiction of the situation in Tunisia from that time.

## Experiencing the mercy of the jungle

The last film of the 2019 festival was *The Mercy of the Jungle* by director Joël Kar-

*The organizers and directors in front of Bayreuth's Cineplex theatre (From left: Natalie Röthlingshöfer, Gilbert Ndi-Shang, director Joël Karakezi, the festival's curator Ute Fendler, cinematographer Antonio Forjaz and Thierry Boudjekeu)*

akezi from Rwanda. The film is about the atrocities of the first Kongo war, which the young director experienced first-hand, witnessing his village being burned down and his father being killed. This movie about war also asks existential questions about the meaning of belonging. It concentrates on two soldiers, Sergeant Xavier and Faustin, who become separated from their battalion and have to make it back to camp through enemy and rebel lines. Facing all the dangers of the jungle and even a gorilla, they have to redefine their beliefs and affiliations. In the Q and A that followed, the charismatic director Karakezi talked about the difficult process of financing the film, only his second, and shooting in the jungle, including the scene with the gorilla. All of this hard work paid off, however, as the film was awarded the "Eton d'Or" at *FESPACO*, naming it the best African movie of 2019.



The Rwandan director Joël Karakezi presented the last movie of the festival.



Director Abdoulaye Dao in conversation with the audience



# BIGSAS Journalist Award 2019

Text DINA FALTEN, JULIANE FENDER  
Photos FRANK WUNDERATSCH

**I**n 2019, BIGSAS once again honoured contributions to journalism with an exceptional view of the continent of Africa. In its fifth year, the BIGSAS Journalist Award had a special novelty in store: the acknowledgement of a whole magazine.

In South Sudan, a determined young woman coaches a men's basketball team; in Kenya, Ghana, and South Africa, young people are changing their home countries through innovation, courage, and creativity; and in South Africa, an institute's maths elite grows up – a small selection of stories submitted as contributions to the BIGSAS Journalist Award which represent excellent journalism on the African continent. On 29 October 2019, the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS) awarded the BIG-

SAS Journalist Award for outstanding journalism on Africa at the University of Bayreuth for the fifth time.

## First prize for Anja Bengelstorff

The well-known public image of Africa, often encouraged by politicians and transmitted by the media, is that young Africans come to Europe in order to establish their lives here. What most Europeans are not aware of is the large number of young people who stay in their home countries. These young people prefer to try to create spaces in which individual developments lead to collective upheavals, and they use their unlimited creativity to do so. Digital innovations, entrepreneurship, and the rebellion against corrupt elites lead to solutions for national and global challenges. In her article *Jugend in Afrika: das langsame Aufbegehren* (Youth in Africa: the slow rebellion", published in the WOZ), the winner of the first prize, Anja Bengelstorff, shows the added value of

organisations that offer space for personal development and networking in African countries.

Through an up-and-coming young generation, colonial and elitist patterns of thought can be changed. In an interview, Bengelstorff explained how she came up with the subject for her article: "Since I live permanently in Kenya, I naturally get to see what happens in the country, what moves the people. Youth unemployment and a lack of prospects have been recurring themes for a long time, even beyond Kenya. At the same time, I personally know many interesting, committed, and self-confident young people who are socially involved in many different ways. So I wanted to know more: How do young people in Africa deal with the fact that a rapidly growing young population expects a stagnating/decreasing number of formal jobs? What strategies are they developing to build a future under these circumstances?"

Bengelstorff has been living in Nairobi, Kenya, for more than ten years and reports from there as a freelance journalist for primarily German-language media. She is particularly interested in topics and trends underrepresented in the media. The BIGSAS Journalist Award has set itself the goal of showing Africa from a different perspective, thus counteracting common media images. In this regard, says Bengelstorff, balanced reporting is particularly important: "To show the versatility and complexity of a topic, to meet the media users where they are, and if they are stuck in a stereotype about Africa, then this should be taken up and informed (by the way, this also applies the other way around). Wars and diseases are facts; there is no point in pretending they do not exist. People who suffer under such circumstances have every right to be written about and read about." For her, the context makes the big difference. And in the future? "I would like to focus more on the consequences of climate change in Africa. This is THE big issue for the continent as well. And there is so much to be found and told about it!" In addition to journalism, Bengelstorff works in the DAAD office in Nairobi and supports young academics on their way to a doctorate in Germany.

## Second prize for Katharina Wecker

The second prize went to Katharina Wecker for her contribution *Südsudan: Wie Susana als erste Basketballtrainerin ihr Land verändern will* (South Sudan: How Susana wants to be the first female basketball coach who changes her country, published in the online magazine ze.tt). She portrays a young woman becoming an activist in spaces that at first glance do not seem particularly political. "If people say I can't do it, I'll prove to them that I can" – words of the ambitious Susana, who trains an all-male basketball team in South Sudan. There is more than just winning a cup behind her desire to perform. Susana positions herself as a strong-willed woman in a patriarchal society and becomes a role model through her rebellion against traditional structures. Although South Sudan is known worldwide for its basketball players, women are a rarity in the sport. The 25-year-old coach would therefore like to train more female players as coaches and thereby change her country in the long term.

Wecker has been writing and filming as a freelance journalist on the topics of climate change, women, society, and development since 2015. She has worked



in the United Kingdom and Colombia. Although Wecker wrote her master's thesis on start-ups in Uganda, she visited Africa for the first time with a research grant from the International Women's Media Foundation. And that is how this article about Susana came about: "I especially wanted to report on the situation of young people in South Sudan, some of whom have spent a large part of their lives in war, refugee camps, or exile. Before the trip, I had already made contact with a health activist and a designer. Samir Bol, one of the local journalists, then said I should definitely also meet the basketball player and coach Susana, about whom half the city is talking."

Wecker also spoke about why it was so important to tell the story of Susana: "Traditional gender roles prevail, especially in rural areas. In some parts of South Sudan, according to the United Nations, three out of four girls do not go to school, more than in almost any other country. This is mainly due to the civil war, which has been raging almost non-stop since the end of 2013. Another factor is that families place less emphasis on

education for girls than for boys, and girls are married early. South Sudan has one of the highest rates of child marriages in the world. But in the capital, Juba, there are more and more women and men who are discounting traditional gender roles. I have met impressive women artists, political activists, and sportswomen who do not conform to common stereotypes. Unfortunately, far too little is reported about them."

Both articles contribute to high-quality, thoroughly researched, and balanced journalism on Africa. The award winners break with well-known stereotypes and distance themselves from sensationalistic writing. They show that journalism on Africa requires investment: it takes time, will, and passion to write carefully, realistically, and in a balanced way.

## Special acknowledgement for MUTmagazin

On the occasion of its fifth anniversary, the BIGSAS Journalist Award acknowledged *MUTmagazin* for their special issue titled *Afrika anders: Reportagen aus einem unterschätzten Kontinent* (A differ-



For the fifth time, the BIGSAS Journalist Award celebrated outstanding reporting on Africa in German-speaking media.

ent Africa: reports from an underestimated continent). The editors-in-chief, Tilman Wörtz and Uschi Entenmann, as well as one of the reporters and contributors to the issue, Rike Uhlenkamp, came to Bayreuth in order to accept the prize on behalf of the editorial staff.

For Wörtz, publishing an entire issue of the magazine about the “underestimated continent” was the result of working together with African journalists: “I had already developed a slightly different view of Africa before. I helped to build the ‘Studio-École Mozaik’ school of journalism in Abidjan and have been very active there for about ten years. In my work with the journalists there, I felt a need to meet each other at eye level. In my opinion, it is very important to perceive what people from a different cultural background have in terms of skills and talents, because if you manage to meet each other in this way, a great and grateful cooperation develops. At some point I came across ten slides by Max Roser, a German economist who teaches and researches in Oxford. In his Twitter account, „Our World in Data“, he publishes facts and figures about Africa and shows key development indicators and how positively they are changing. Even my image of Africa was shaken. And it

was clear to me: I want to make a magazine about it!”

His team was also rapidly persuaded and brainstormed about how to select the different topics: “We had briefly considered whether we shouldn’t have an African curate the whole issue. But in the end we decided against it, because it should also be a magazine for German readers. And that’s why we wanted to create a good mix, geographically dispersed and covering different areas.” In the magazine, the reader finds stories about Nigerian boxers, Zimbabwean grandmothers working as healers, South African maths geniuses, or chocolate manufacturers from the Ivory Coast. The range of unusual topics convinced the jury to award a third recognition in 2019: the special acknowledgment for *MUTmagazin*.

Just as exciting was the appearance of the Ethiopian-born moderator and entertainer Yared Dibaba. As keynote speaker, Dibaba pointed out the importance of journalistic contributions that can change our view – even if sometimes in small steps – in the long run. Dibaba gave his entire speech in Plattdeutsch, which challenged the English-speaking as well as the German-speaking audience. The BIGSAS Junior Fellows Johanna Sarre

and Asaf Augusto moderated the programme eloquently and entertainingly.

The BIGSAS Journalist Award, sponsored by the Partners and Friends of the University of Bayreuth (Universitätsverein Bayreuth e.V.), is awarded biennially. Rüdiger Seesemann, Dean of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, emphasized in his opening speech that the award will continue to be presented to excellent journalists. The ceremony also honoured Helmut Ruppert, former President of the University of Bayreuth, who has been member and chairman of the jury since the Journalist Award was established in 2011. With great enthusiasm, he accompanied the organisation of the ceremonies and the work of the jury for all these years. As in previous years, the jury consisted of 14 BIGSAS alumni, which make it unique compared to the selection committees of other journalist awards. As in the years before, the winners emphasized the remarkable composition of a jury that not only possessed the relevant expertise, but also comes from the region concerned.

Musical contributions by the multi-instrumentalist Matchume Zango as well as many conversations between old and new friends rounded off a successful evening. 🌍

From left: Juror Oumarou Boukari, Matchume Zango, TV-presenter Yared Dibaba



The article of first prize winner Anja Bengelstorff can be found following this QR-code.

The editorial team represented by Uschi Entenmann, Tilman Wörtz and Rike Uhlenkamp (from left) accepted this year’s special award for their Africa edition of *MUTmagazin*.



Katharina Wecker was awarded the second prize for her article on a female basketball coach in South Sudan.



# Climate, Migration, and Racism – the 9th BIGSAS Literature Festival focused on main topics of crises

Text SABINE GREINER  
Photos MAX ARNDT

**The BIGSAS Literature Festival of African and African-Diasporic Literatures celebrated its ninth anniversary by discussing topics such as climate change and war as global causes of crises, and also by scrutinizing the European narrative about the “refugee crisis”. The diverse and entertaining three-day program included readings, workshops, and art performances.**

“The BIGSAS Festival of African and African-Diasporic Literatures is an indispensable component of Bayreuth’s cultural landscape” – with these words Beate Kuhn, a mayor of Bayreuth, officially opened the 9th annual Literature Festival in the afternoon of Friday 5 July 2019. Almost all the seats at the auditorium of Iwalewahaus – Bayreuth’s number one address for displaying and experiencing African art – were taken when the mayor pointed out the importance of the annual festival organized by the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS) and now supported by the newly founded Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence.

## Fridays for Future demonstration opened the festival

Prior to the mayor’s speech, the participants had already experienced a festival opening of a very special kind. The event’s organizers had invited people to take part in a *Fridays for Future+* demonstration, marching all the way from the University of Bayreuth campus via the Refugee House to the city’s centre. The *Fridays for Future* movement that has motivated millions of international pupils and students to take to the streets since March 2019, creating an awareness for the global climate crisis, also resonates in the underlying topic of the 2019 festival: Crises and Responsibilities. kNOWledges in Academia, Arts and Activism. Susan Arndt, Professor of English Studies and Anglophone Literatures, the festival’s spokeswoman, explains, “*Fridays for Future* has reminded all of us to face the planetary crisis and the responsibilities it entails, and we are very happy to have opened the festival in cooperation with this resistance movement.”



The 2019 Literature Festival of African African-Diasporic Literatures started off with a *Fridays For Future* demonstration.

In this context, climate change and the crises it thus causes was the major theme of the festival’s first day. After settling in Iwalewahaus and listening to the opening speeches of Arndt, Kuhn, and the spokesperson for the newly founded Cluster of Excellence Africa Multiple, Rüdiger Seemann, the audience was first shown the Afrofuturist short movie *Pumzi* by Kenyan Wanuri Kahiu. The movie’s topic – water shortage and its implications – was later discussed by Alice Pinheiro Walla, professor of political philosophy, and Oliver Nyambi both in their separate keynotes, as well as in the podium discussion that followed. Next up was a reading of the works by Dikko Muhammad (Nigeria) and Mai’a Williams (USA).



The festival’s organizers Dilan Zoe Smida, Shirin Assa and Susan Arndt (from left) hosted and moderated the three-day event.

Later that day, the festival’s venue moved to its second location – the distinguished Old Palace of Bayreuth – where the audience was invited to take part in an intergenerational workshop discussing the “Thunberg Effect” and developing a method to experience the power of solidarity in the face of the climate crisis. Furthermore, the exhibition *Imagitorium Resistance* was officially opened to the public. The day concluded back at Iwalewahaus, where the mesmerizing *Spoken Word Night* featuring Musa Okwonga of BBXO, Blesz, Faten El-Dabbas, and Kolade Igbasan invited listeners to reflect on topics such as solidarity and colonialism.



The event offered an extraordinary mixture of readings, workshops, and discussions.



## Special performances on the topic of Migration

The major theme of the festival’s second day was “migration” and a scrutiny of the term “refugee crisis”. It started off with two keynote speeches by Encarnación Gutiérrez Rodríguez and Riem Spielhaus, who explored the question of how crises generally are treated in academia. In the discussion, Arndt suggested that at its gist, the term “refugee crisis” is more about an “identity crisis.” Arndt questioned the widespread claim that white Christians were rightfully entitled to own their European privileges, resources and futures.

Later, back at the Old Palace, a multilingual discussion and reading in English, Arabic, and German was held. Subsequently, three books were presented in cooperation with the Partners and Friends of the University of Bayreuth (Universitätsverein): *HAYMATLOS*, *Das Herz verlässt keinen Ort, an dem es hängt* by Lina Atfah and Rabab Haidar, and *Das Aufbrechen* by dilop. While the audience was attentively listening to the readings, the Syrian artist Ahmad Karno captured his interpretation of migration and flight on canvas as part of a live art performance addressing the bombing of Idlib, Syria, that was happening at that very moment.

After a podium discussion on war in the MENA region and the experiences of migrants in Germany chaired by Arndt, and a children’s workshop *Kids write for kids*, Anabela Rodriguez invited the audience to take part in a multigenerational workshop developing a method to experience

the power of solidarity. A hip-hop concert concluded the festival’s second day on Saturday evening: In their performances, the artists Okwonga, Blesz, and the duo Lina Sur & Ucy talked and rapped about racism, among other topics, and celebrated music as their vision of new futures.

## Shadows and music highlight the festival’s agenda

On Sunday morning, two keynotes started the festival’s last day. In her keynote, Arndt pointed out the connection between the history of racism and the migration crisis before the influencer and entertainer Tarik Tesfu talked about racism and sexism, engaging his audience with his satire. Also, Haidar talked about the need for more solidarity and empathy for people dying in Idlib and elsewhere in the MENA region and all over Africa. Amongst others, Tesfu also took part in the discussion when the Bayreuth network of Gender, Queer, Intersectionality and Diversity Studies (GeQuInDi) invited the audience to listen to their opinions on the topics of resistance, empathy, and responsibility.

The first reading of the day was held by the Malawian writer and activist Shadreck Chikoti, who gave the audience insight into his art by reciting from his

Afrofuturistic novel *Azotus the Kingdom*, and later discussed the art of writing and publishing in Malawi with a panel held in cooperation with the Bayreuth Graduate School. Another highlight of the day was the captivating shadow performance of the Iranian fairy tale *The Little Black Fish* by the Sepidar Theatre Group, leaving the audience moved and entertained at the same time. Following the play, the audience was presented with three more books, two of them BIGSAS doctoral theses: *Täuschung des weißen*



*Blicks* by Julia Dittmann, *Fictioning Namibia* by Renzo Baas, and *Life-Writing from the Margins in Zimbabwe* by Oliver Nyambi.

Music concluded the festival: First, the queer feminist duo A Lazy Cat & Pi reflected on this year festival with a griotage before the official ending of the 9th BIGSAS literature festival was accompanied by sounds of the Saba Duet. The musicians Alireza Mehdizadeh und Jawad Salkhordeh enchanted the audience with classical Persian music, already sparking anticipation for events to come.

## Epitaph for Dilan Zoe Smida

We mourn the death of our dear colleague, friend, and sister Dilan Zoe Smida, one of the founders of the literature festival. She was an amazing source of inspiration and love for all of us. We miss her bright mind, her gifted academic work, and her activist solidarity. She has made the world a better place.





Photo: Sabine Linn

# Feedback

## — Art, Africa and the Eighties

The international exhibition *Feedback* took both a historical and contemporary look at the 1980s in Africa through art, music, film and archival material from the Iwalewahaus (University of Bayreuth), the Weltkulturen Museum (Frankfurt), and the Makerere Art Gallery (Kampala, Uganda).

27.04.2018 –  
05.05.2019

*Feedback: Art, Africa, and the Eighties* was an in-depth, art-centered study of the 1980s in Africa through an ambitious exhibition that was both historical and contemporary in scope. The exhibition, which showcased also artworks from collections on the African continent, was part of the research project “African Art History and the Formation of a Modernist Aesthetic” and a cooperation with the Institute for Heritage Conservation and Restoration / Makerere Art Gallery (Kampala, Uganda) and the Weltkulturen Museum (Frankfurt a. M.). A highlight was the 12-channel video work *Till Death Us Do Part* by the world-known artist Theo Eshetu – a reinstallation of the original of the 1980s which has not been shown for about 30 years and had been reconfigured especially for the exhibition at Iwalewahaus.

The exhibition’s complex narrative highlights a tapestry of perspectives in works by artists at different stages in their professional careers, drawn from countries spread across East, North, West, Central, and Southern Africa. Some of the artists were very young in the 1980s, and now examined the decade from a temporal and critical distance, albeit subjectively. Their contemporary responses were presented in dialogue with works produced during the 1980s.

With this curatorial approach, *Feedback* mapped the trajectory of artistic vocabularies and complementary discourses in the 1980s, tracing its impact on post-1990 contemporary African art through the works of this exciting array of artists. In creating this important dialogue between old and new works, the exhibition provided a timely assessment of the historical importance of the 1980s for postcolonial African art.

*Feedback* explored the social, political, and economic realities in Africa in the 1980s through the crea-

tive visions of artists, then and now. To try to explain the significance of that period in Africa’s political history and art historical scholarship, the exhibition considered artists’ responses to or engagement with key events that defined the decade. These events include the spate of coups d’état, military and civilian dictatorships, and austerity measures that had a devastating impact on social and economic conditions, civil conflicts, famine, the beginning of the end of apartheid in South Africa, the rise of civil society, and the emergence of neoliberal politics and economics promoted by Western-based multilateral institutions and enacted by African governments in the 1980s. Scholars of contemporary African art have argued that the climate of uncertainty in the 1980s produced a new kind of cultural mobilisation in many African countries. As art historians Okwui Enwezor and Chika Okeke-Agulu observed, “Postcolonial critiques of the state form and neo-liberalism, responses to globalisation, austerity measures, reform movements of democratisation, state failure, migration, and exile” transformed artistic production in the 1980s.

Text // Katharina Fink

Curator // Ugochukwu-Smooth C. Nzewi (Cleveland Museum of Art)

Project management // Nadine Siegert

Curatorial Assistance // Lukas Heger, Christina Heydenreich, Alexandra Kuhnke, Martha Kazungu, Lena Naumann

# MAD

— Yassine Balbzioui

To say that Yassine Balbzioui and the Iwalewahaus team have known each other for a few years, would be an understatement. More than an ongoing cooperation, it is one stressing artistic freedom. Freedom is paramount in the life and work of Yassine Balbzioui, who lives in Marrakech, Morocco. His multi-media body of works and performances have taken him all over the globe.

08.06.–  
07.09.2019

In June 2019, the exhibition *MAD* was the first comprehensive overview of the variety of works by Yassine Balbzioui and allowed his cosmology come to life. One whole wing of Iwalewahaus brought together the body of work he had created there for the past eight years.

The exhibition showcased the astonishing diversity of his work. However, the true centrepiece of the show was not just his extraordinary visionary abilities and bold aesthetic, but the absolute freedom and accessibility he offers the beholders of his art. The radicalism of his creative process is inherently inviting – pleasurable and mentally stimulating without being patronizing. His work makes visible how curiosity can unfold as collective power in the museum space. Balbzioui describes the working atmosphere he creates at Iwalewahaus as a “kitchen” – a place for tasting, developing flavor, sharing with family, and engaging in multi-sensory experiences. For him, this kind of experimentation would be impossible in just any institution. In the face of his immense success in the international art world, hosting this exhibition was not only an honour, but also an assignment: to manifest the meaning of Iwalewahaus as a space for the freedom of art and experimentation.

Curators // Katharina Fink, Nadine Siegert  
Curatorial Assistance // Huriye Sahin, Loana Auer



Yassine Balbzioui, Grosse tête, 2018

Yassine Balbzioui, Wet Flower, 2018.

# BARBER POP

— Popular Art within the Collection Iwalewahaus

Popular art is located between academy and tradition, but also between rurality and the urban space. The ongoing rural depopulation and the resulting rapid growth of cities pushed the emergence of these art areas. During the colonial period, but also in the post-colonial era, new materials and media as well as the restructuring within the individual African countries shaped this art.

08.06.–  
07.09.2019

In the metropolitan areas, advertising was particularly important as commissioned work or on its own behalf. As information for the viewer, signs combined texts with illustrations. Themes of everyday life were taken up and discussed, often with critique on society and political leadership; newspaper, magazines, radio-shows, and TV-reports provoked this specific genre of art.

Their closeness to the so-called “airport art” is based on the development of survival strategies, and thus, the adaption of artisans to new buyers. Export availability and stereotyping in content, motifs and manifestations creates souvenirs for mass tourism.

*Barber Pop* shows a cross-section of popular art of the African continent within the collection of Iwalewahaus. The exhibition was structured by various themes.

The music and bar offers the opportunity to immerse oneself in the popular music of Africa via listening stations and to be carried by the sounds of Fela Kuti or Miriam Makeba. Wishes, dreams, and heroes highlight not only Mami Wata and national heroes, but also heroes of novels and fairytales. Different barber shop signs illustrated the competitive advertising market. Health policy, illnesses, and medical care as well as humanitarian aid were another focus of the exhibition. Politics and conflicts deal especially with the Biafran War. Nollywood, the massive film industry of Nigeria, among other things, also illuminated the subject of desires. Portraits or self-portraits reflected the archetypes of the beauty, but also presented depictions of politicians, religious leaders, national heroes, and artists of all genres.

The Congolese artist Chéri Samba describes popular art as “... painting that comes from the people, that concerns the people, and is addressed to the people.”

A special highlight of the Barber Pop exhibition programme was the presence of Congolese visual artist, Mega Mingiedi. Mingiedi was the Iwalewahaus Artist-in-residence from mid-June to mid-July.

Text // Sigrid Horsch-Albert

Curators // Christina Heydenreich, Sigrid Horsch-Albert, Alexandra Kuhnke

Project Assistance // Robin Frisch, Samanea Karrfalt, Okwiri Oduor



Middle Art, (Okoye, Augustin):  
His Excellency Mr. Jim Ifeanyiichukwu Nwobodo,  
Governor of Anambra State of Nigeria, 1981



El Anatsui: Triumphant Scale  
Installationsansicht/ Installation view, Haus der Kunst, 2019  
Photo: Maximilian Geuter

## Art Passport

— Artworks of the Collection of Iwalewahaus  
on Loan in inter\*national Exhibitions

### Congo Stars

22.09.2018 to 27.01.2019, Kunsthau Graz  
09.03.2019 to 30.06.2019, Kunsthalle Tübingen

Inspired by Fiston Mwanza Mujila's novel *Tram 83*, *Congo Stars* exhibited popular paintings from the 1960s and following decades – juxtaposed with contemporary and multimedia art. Through international cooperation between several institutions – Kunsthau Graz (Austria), the Royal Museum of Central Africa (Tervuren, Belgium), the Kunsthalle Tübingen, Picha (Lubumbashi, DR Congo) and Iwalewahaus Bayreuth – works from 70 Congolese artists living in Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, Brussels, and Paris came together in conversation with each other.

*Barber Pop*, Iwalewahaus Bayreuth, was an expansion of this larger exhibition: *Congo Stars*.

Curators // Sammy Baloji, Bambi Ceuppens,  
Fiston Mwanza Mujila, Günther Holler-Schuster,  
Barbara Steiner

### El Anatsui. Triumphant Scale

08.03.2109 to 28.07.2019, Haus der Kunst München  
01.10.2019 to 31.01.2020, Qatar Museums – Mathaf:  
Arab Museum of Modern Art Doha

The exhibition *El Anatsui: Triumphant Scale* gave a review of the work of El Anatsui, one of the most prominent living artists today. The exhibition focussed on sculptures, with the bottle-cap series of the last two decades, the wood sculptures, and wall reliefs, ceramic sculptures, as well as drawings, prints, and books – a summation of the triumphant and imposing quality of Anatsui's artworks.

Curators // Okwui Enwezor (1963–2019),  
Chika Okeke-Agulu

# Art Passport

— Artworks of the Collection of Iwalewahaus on Loan in inter\*national Exhibitions

## Into the Night: Cabarets and Clubs in Modern Art

04.10.2019 to 19.01.2020, Barbican Art Gallery, London

This exhibition spanned an overview from the 1880s to the 1960s and explored cabarets, cafes, and clubs as spaces of creativity. *Into the Night* delivered insight into the atmosphere of Berlin clubs during the Weimar Republic, the energy of Harlem's jazz scene, the vibrant context of the Mbari clubs in 1960s Nigeria, and many more.

Curator // Florence Ostende



Barbican London: © Max Colson

## Layers

07.12.2019 to 28.06.2020, extended because of the COVID-19 pandemic to 03.01.2021

Displaying a wide range of archival materials and restaging seminal Nigerian art exhibitions, *Layers* highlights a set of events and exhibitions, which took place in Nigeria between 1960 and the turn of the 21st century, like the exhibition of the independence, the exhibitions and workshops around the Mbari artgroups of Ibadan and Oshogbo, *FESTAC '77*, the Nsukka art-movement, and the art collective AKA, 1986. The exhibition will offer a contemporary reinterpretation of the notion of layers.

Curators // Iheanyi Onwuegbucha, Valentine Umansky

Information provided by // Sigrid Horsch-Albert



Photos: © Marc Domage

# Stolen Moments

## Namibian Music History Untold

“We have a strong interest in questions around archives in the post-colonial context. *Stolen Moments* offered a unique opportunity to address all kinds of questions within this field. The exhibition works like an archive. Instead of giving finite answers, the exhibition offers an extremely heterogeneous and rich corpus of information. The visitor is put in the position of a researcher. In contrast to the stereotype of dusty and tiring archives, this exhibition offers all kinds of streams of information, music, images and aesthetic content.” Ulf Vierke, 2019.

These few words eloquently positioned the highly debated exhibition on Namibia's Popular Music History in London. Discourse embodied within the exhibition prompts visitors to engage and discover histories on and in their own temporality. The fourth destination of *Stolen Moments* took place at the Brunei Gallery, hosted by SOAS Music. The exhibition was opened by Baroness Valarie Amos, Director of the SOAS University of London, in front of an animated audience brimming with anticipation stemming from extensive media coverage by the BBC World Service; BBC Radio 6; SOAS Radio; *Songlines Magazine* and

*OkayAfrica*. Invited guest speaker Bience Gawanas, Under-Secretary-General, Special Advisor on Africa to the United Nations and ex-member of the SWAPO Singers in the 1980s (featured in the exhibition), was part of the programme tied to the exhibition. With 9.400 visitors, it was another success. The President of SOAS University and widow of Nelson Mandela, Graça Machel, and Deputy Prime Minister of Namibia, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, both received private viewings of the exhibition as well as other dignitaries and diplomatic guests. The exhibition was made possible through the kind and

collaborative network of financial contributions from Namibia, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and Germany, namely Iwalewahaus and the Oberfranken Student Union.  
Text // Aino Moongo

Curator // Aino Moongo  
Project Advisory // Ulf Vierke  
Project Coordination // John Hollingworth, Angela Impey  
Artistic Direction // Thorsten Schütte  
Assistant Curator/Logistics // Siegrun Salmanian, Sabine Linn



Photo: Sabine Linn

12.07.–  
21.09.2019

Brunei Gallery,  
SOAS  
University of London



Visual Interpretation of Archive Texts:  
Stacey Gillian Abe receives

# Iwalewa Art Award



© Stacey Gillian Abe, Sylvia's Letters to my future self, 2017

She is a translator who converts text archives into new, visual units and reinterprets them with the help of her own spirituality and cultural mythology: Stacey Gillian Abe, 30-year-old artist from Uganda, is the winner of the Iwalewa Art Award 2019. The artist confronts texts from the Iwalewahaus archive with her own spirituality and mysticism.

The award from the University of Bayreuth is given to aspiring artists from the African continent. The Iwalewa Art Award receives special attention because established artists and curators from Africa propose the nominees for the award. With the award, Iwalewahaus supports the young art scene in Africa and at the same time consolidates its own international reputation as a unique space dealing with primarily African contemporary art in theory and practice. As the 2019 prizewinner, Abe wants to explore, deconstruct and ultimately reconstruct the emotional content. The stories of the texts, and the deeper connections inspire her artistic examination of the extensive archive of Iwalewahaus. For example, she puts the memoirs, autobiographies, and anthologies, which Iwalewahaus Founding Director

Ulli Beier compiled and described in his works, in direct relation to her spirituality and origins.

Abe was also interested in the tension between the work of the enthusiastic Beier on West Africa and the West African traditions of the prevailing spirituality, life and death, and identity. Abe added that in the relationship and the confrontation with the experiences of “their very personal” East Africa, she uses mainly video formats and photographic prints, experimenting with technology (long exposure) and materials or technology (cyanotype). The Iwalewa Art Award invited Abe for an art residency at Iwalewahaus. Her works will be shown in an exhibition and documented in an art edition and publication.

Text // Inken Bößert

# Exhibition and digitisation

— Iwalewahaus on its Journey into Accessibility

Digitisation has long been considered the big promise for the future. It has been like a vacation trip in a packed family car. From the rear moans the agonizing question of when will we finally get there. From the front always the mantra-like promise of an upcoming arrival. Secretly, all travelers seem to have agreed on a ritualisation of this process. A trip interruption or even a course correction would require a surprising initiative from the travel group itself or an unforeseen external influence. The peripetia may have just occurred. Digitisation could cause an important breakthrough for the creation of a barrier-free museum.

There is now an accessibility button in the menu bar of a well-known word processing software. It has long been a matter of course for users to use the spelling function. Now they can check the accessibility of their texts with the same casualness. This tool makes it particularly easy to create alternative texts for graphics and illustrations. Optimising information for reception via a screen reader thus becomes a common good.

This might be briefly exemplified in the illustration of this text, our vision for 2020. The analog display is only accessible to sighted users. The digitised photo can be stored with an explanation, which the screen reader reads as an alternative text: “The guidance system on the exhibition level of Iwalewahaus fulfills functional and aesthetic tasks. Blind and visually impaired guests can orient themselves. Design elements such as the special arrangement of the ceiling lighting are reflected in the guidance system. A star-shaped arrangement of fluorescent tubes corresponds to a star-shaped arrangement of tactile indicators.”

The example of the alternative text illustrates the task of digitisation in a museum context. Supplementary information is offered to the existing range of information in order to meet the requirements of the two-sense principle. This axiom of barrier-free design provides that at least two of the three senses “hearing, seeing and touching”, are addressed. This does not result in a functional disadvantage for any user. The

advantages result from addressing a diverse audience.

Sometimes there are reservations about the aesthetic quality of barrier-free offers. Doesn't an increased supply of information have a negative impact on the design of the museum rooms? Are the visitors not influenced by too many explanations? Isn't the contemplative judgment in face of the object threatened by offensively curatorial patronage?

Digitisation provides elegant solutions to these questions. Anyone who uses a screen reader can call up a supplementary comment. If you use an acoustically amplifying aid with a T-coil, you can call up audio texts via an induction loop. Anyone who is proficient in German sign language can call up video sequences in DGS using a monitor.

The use of digital information technology allows an individual bundle of communication offers tailored to the profile and possibilities of the respective institution. At Iwalewahaus, BayFinK is currently pursuing a concept for 2020 that will be differentiated according to requirements. The information will be created as texts, translated into foreign languages, plain language, and DGS, and recorded as an audio and video file in Iwalewahaus. In the exhibition, the information can be accessed using illustrated text cards, an audio pen as an audio guide, and permanently installed monitors for videos in German sign language.

Text // Philipp Schramm



Text SABINE GREINER

**F**our African Cluster Centres in Burkina Faso, Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa collaborate with the Cluster in its core objectives: collaborative research and reconfiguring African Studies.

“Africa Multiple” – the name of the Cluster of Excellence at the University of Bayreuth reflects the multifaceted goals set by the research organization upon its founding. At

#### Yearlong selection process

A yearlong decision process preceded the selection of the Cluster of Excellence’s African partner universities. The application phase began in May 2018. An impressive number of 55 institutions responded to the call for applications, indicating interest in becoming a part of this special network. Subsequently, a preliminary selection of possible institutions was made by an external committee. After screening, ten institutions were then visited by a delegation to begin conversations about possible

One of the many highlights on the visit’s agenda was an official meeting with the executive board of the University of Bayreuth, where the delegations each had the opportunity to give presentations on their respective institutions and sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the president of the University of Bayreuth, Stefan Leible; stressing the ACCs’ commitment to a fruitful and synergetic cooperation with the Cluster of Excellence and the University of Bayreuth.

## African Cluster Centres – Four Essential Pillars of the Cluster’s Network

the core of the Cluster’s strategy to reconfigure African Studies is the idea to create a unique global network of researcher, aiming to give the Cluster an important and valuable additional dimension.

During the first year of the Cluster’s existence, the research network was established and has gradually expanded. While the Cluster is supported by various renowned and well-established institutions in Bayreuth like the IAS, BIGSAS, and the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies, the research organization has also joined forces with a considerable number of international institutions. The most important partnerships, however, are “African Cluster Centres” (ACC), as members of the Cluster. In 2019, as envisioned by the Cluster’s founders, these four partner institutions became increasingly vital pillars within the Cluster’s research network. They are:

- The University of Lagos (Lagos, Nigeria)
  - Moi University (Eldoret, Kenya)
  - Université Joseph Ki-Zerbo (Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso)
- as well as
- Rhodes University (Makhanda/ Grahamstown, South Africa).

collaborations. Evaluating the applications, the committee focused not only on the institutions’ commitment to the Cluster goals, but also considered their infrastructure, regional network, research capacities, as well as their dedication to developing their own focal points of research. Finally, in April 2019, four African institutions in Burkina Faso, Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa became members of the Cluster, turning it into a transnational network of five institutions.

#### July 2019: First Intensive Discussions in Bayreuth

Following the announcement, the Cluster of Excellence invited representatives of the newly established ACCs for an inaugural visit, just before the University of Bayreuth’s summer semester came to an end in July 2019. During their stay, the eight delegates met with a considerable number of members of the Cluster of Excellence and the University of Bayreuth, getting to know one another, as well as examining the different institutions in Bayreuth that make up the Cluster’s unique organizational structure. During these meetings, common goals and routes were defined, possible first research projects were discussed, and various research and communication methods were developed, all with the aim of realizing the Cluster’s core idea – creating a global research network that will contribute towards reconfiguring African Studies.

#### October 2019: Official Signing of the ACC Contracts

On Thursday, 24 October 2019, the cooperation between the University of Bayreuth and the four African Cluster Centres was made official. In the days leading up to the Cluster’s kick-off conference, the representatives of the four African universities visited the Cluster to explore ideas of cooperation, work on existing projects, and ultimately sign the contracts that would be the basis of working together for the coming years. The ceremony took place in the presence of a considerable number of members of the Cluster. Signing for the University of Bayreuth and the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence were the President, Stefan Leible and Provost Markus Zanner.

The agreements signed that day specified the goals and the responsibilities of the cooperation. It was stipulated in writing that the ACCs would serve as nodes for joint research initiatives and networks within the Cluster. The contracts also stated that the ACCs would initiate and coordinate their own research endeavours that have close ties to the Cluster’s work. All parties agreed that they would do their best to intensify the exchange of ideas and experience, creating synergies and knowledge transfer. Furthermore, the implementation of joint access points to research data was announced.

# The four African Cluster Centres of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence

## ACC at Université Joseph Ki-Zerbo in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

The Ouagadougou ACC is hosted by the Université Joseph Ki-Zerbo and its Training and Research unit. Drawing from various research sections, the Ouagadougou ACC contributes to the Knowledge Lab of the Africa Multiple Cluster. The Ouagadougou ACC is specialized in the fields of History, Sociology, and Linguistics. It further enriches the Africa Multiple Cluster by its contributions in the fields of Archaeology and Media, among its other research specializations.

**Yacouba Banhero,**  
Associate Professor of Contemporary History and Director of the ACC at the Université Joseph Ki-Zerbo:

*"The Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence is unique in its own way, connecting so many researchers from different fields and geographical areas. It gives us not only the occasion to develop and implement research projects, but also to contribute to create a more research-friendly environment."*



Photo: Sabine Greiner

## ACC at Rhodes University, Makhanda, South Africa

The Rhodes University ACC is hosted by the Rhodes African Studies Centre of Rhodes University in South Africa. The ACC has a diverse team of scholars covering many disciplines, such as French and English literature, African languages, Social and Political history, Gender Studies, Trauma Theory, African Politics, Water Research, Climate Change, Environmental Learning, Arts and Aesthetics, African Musicology, and others. It hosts many rated researchers and other seasoned scholars from the listed fields.

**Enocent Msindo,**  
Associate Professor of African History, Director of the ACC at the Rhodes University:

*"Since the Rhodes ACC and three other ACCs from Africa have entered into an exciting collaboration with the University of Bayreuth, the key goal has been to reconfigure African Studies. Personally, I am excited about this partnership as it strengthens our global reach, as we broaden our intellectual voice continentally and internationally."*



Photo: Sabine Greiner

Rhodes University in Makhanda, South Africa



Photo: Rhodes University

## ACC at Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya

The Moi University African Cluster Centre (Moi ACC) is housed in the School of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS) of Moi University. The primary objectives of the Moi University School of Arts and Social Sciences are to offer interdisciplinary teaching and research in the broad field of African studies, and to act as the centre where all other Africa-focused scholarship coalesce. Within the context of these objectives, and building on the very strong tradition of exploring and interrogating diverse ways of knowing Africa which has developed in the School in the three and a half decades of its existence, the Moi ACC is envisioned as a hub of outstanding inter-, multi- and transdisciplinary research. The Moi ACC promotes conversations that contribute to the greater understanding of Africa in ways that enable addressing significant issues affecting the continent. At Moi ACC, research is carried out under sections that mirror those at the Centre in Bayreuth: Affiliations, Arts and Aesthetics, Mobilities, Moralities, Knowledge and Learning. Moi University, through its School of Arts and Social Sciences, is also a partner university of the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS), which provides training opportunities for doctoral students.

**Peter Simatei,**  
Professor of Comparative Literatures and Director of the ACC at Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya:

*"It is gratifying to note that Moi University is part of the new platform of research cooperation with UBT, under the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence initiative. As one of the ACCs, Moi will serve as a node for joint research initiatives and networks with University of Bayreuth, as it participates in the overarching aim of the Africa Multiple Cluster, which is to reconfigure African studies on both the conceptual and the structural levels. With this cooperation platform in place, one can only look forward to a robust research environment."*



Photo: Sabine Greiner

## ACC at the University of Lagos, Nigeria

The ACC Lagos is hosted by the University of Lagos in Nigeria and its Institute for African and Diaspora Studies (IADS). Drawing from various research sections, the Lagos ACC is poised to contribute to the Knowledge Lab of the Africa Multiple Cluster across different research projects, by galvanizing collaborative and interdisciplinary research among African scholars, as well as developing and implementing policies for the training of early-career scholars. The Lagos ACC offers courses in Philosophy, African Languages and Literatures, Culture and Anthropology, Religion, Politics and Governance, African Traditional Medicine, Race, Gender and Identity, Film and Theatre Studies, and Music and Visual Arts. The Cluster's research agenda is further enriched with contributions from the fields of Geography, Sociology, History, and Law.

**Muyiwa Falaiye,**  
Professor for Socio-Political Philosophy and African Diaspora and Director of the ACC University of Lagos:

*"I am very excited to be working with the University of Bayreuth on the very important project of Reconfiguring African Studies. In my opinion, this is the most important project embarked upon in the African Studies community in recent times. Changing the narratives, structure, and form of African Studies to reflect the reality of this time requires a lot of reflexivity, relationality, and multiplicity. Since October 2019, when the ACCs formally joined the Cluster system, the conceptual and practical expectations of the ACC about the reconfiguring process have progressed steadily. Synergies are emerging; research endeavours are reflecting the North-South collaborations in a magnitude never thought possible before now. African Studies under the auspices of the Africa Multiple is talking with and not talking down to Africans. After all, one cannot shave the head of another in his/her absence."*



Photo: Sabine Greiner



Staff and Principal Investigators at the African Cluster Centre at the University of Lagos, Nigeria

Photo: University of Lagos

Visit of the Cluster's Managing Director Franz Kogelmann and the Cluster's Financial Manager Stefanie Jost at the Université Joseph Ki-Zerbo in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso



Photo: Université Joseph Ki-Zerbo

The entrance of Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya



Photo: Moi University

## Future Africa Visions in Time: Transatlantic and Transdisciplinary Encounters in Salvador de Bahia

Text and Photos DORIS LÖHR

**A** workshop at the Federal University of Bahia taking place from 25 to 26 April 2019 fostered a transatlantic and transdisciplinary debate on the topic of “Future Africa Visions in Time”.

Building on a long partnership with the Centro de Estudos Afro-Orientais (CEAO) at the Federal University of Bahia (UFBA), Livio Sansone, CEAO Director, Ute Fendler, in her function as

stories that offered examples of historical and contemporary models that allow a counter-discourse to develop towards the dominant neo/colonial discourses. These perspectives were enriched by artistic practices in photography by Aderemi Adegbite (Nigeria), painting and animation by Carlos Smith (hierotv, Bogota, Colombia) and Ayodele Elegba, founder of Spoofanimation and Lagos Comic Con (Nigeria) that bring into being imaginative spaces of divergent perspectives and stories that can orientate the construction of identity in



The students at Campus St. Amara engaged in lively debates with the visitors.

the Vice Director of the Bayreuth Academy, and Doris Löhr, Coordinator of the Bayreuth Academy, organised a transdisciplinary and transatlantic workshop at the CEAO in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil. The topic of the workshop *Future Africa Visions in Time* inspired a dialogue between researchers and artists from Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Cuba, Germany and Nigeria, that concentrated on three major themes: “Embodied Past/Future: representations of the black body”, “Stories and Heroes: linking the past and the future”, and “Visions of Future: socio-political perspectives”.

Several talks reflected on the representation of the black body in painting and photography from colonial times up to today, questioning the repercussions of the past on the present and the future. Fendler and Osmundo Pinho (Universidade Federal do Recôncavo da Bahia – UFRB) presented papers on heroes and



Ayodele Elegba gave entertaining insights into his work. Photo: Doris Löhr



The poster was designed by the Brazilian artist Alberto Escobar.

post-colonial societies with a large Afro-descendant population, like Brazil, Colombia, or Cuba.

Rina Caceres (Costa Rica), C. Maribel Brull González (Cuba), and Edwin Salcedo (Colombia), the invited speakers, complemented the case studies from the Brazilian context. Furthermore, some comparative studies with contemporary African milieus allowed participants to critically reflect on the predominance of historical links to Africa in the Latin American context as well as the clash of mythic and mystic images of Africa with conceptualisations in contemporary socio-political contexts and their respective artistic expressions.

Contributions from Bayreuth were concentrated on the panel *Visions of Future: Socio-Political Perspectives*. Using research within the framework of the Academy’s project, Löhr presented on “The Use of African Languages in the Social Media and their Impact on Socio-cultural Trends and Developments,” and Florian Stoll on “Future(s) as a Research Focus of Lifestyle Groups – Middle-Income Milieus and their Perspectives of the Future in Urban Kenya.” The conference was held with the attendance of an interested wider audience; a publication is under way.

Prior to the conference, a workshop organised by Fendler, Kleber Amancio and Löhr was held at St. Amara campus of the UFBA. The master class students met with the Nigerian participants Elegba and Adegbite and engaged in lively discussions about histories and African futures in time and space and the conceptual transfer into animated films and photographs.

## Advanced Doctoral School in Ethnic and African Studies: The Factory of Ideas Celebrates its 20th Anniversary

Text and Photo LIVIO SANSONE

**From 26 August to 6 September 2019 the Fabrica de Ideias celebrated its 20th anniversary at the Centre of Afro-Oriental Studies in Bahia, Brazil. The ten-day summer school especially scrutinised the topic of “The New Era of Extremes: New forms of populism, extremism, and identity formation – a transcontinental perspective.”**

The Factory of Ideas (Fábrica de Ideias) held its twentieth conference in 2019. In that edition, the intensive and advanced course aimed at bringing forward the debate and analysis of the surge of new and exaggerated forms of populism by conducting a progressive South-South as well as South-North dialogue. These populist forms of doing politics and exercising power present themselves as absolutely new and anti-political, and hint at radical reforms of both the socio-economic and cultural-religious-educational type. Their supporters outright oppose previous projects aimed at reducing poverty as well as extreme and enduring inequality, as well as more conventional narratives based on class. To the vision of society mostly centred on forms of “mosaic emancipation” or “identity welfare”, the populist movement opposes new us-them confrontations centred – mostly – on lifestyle, religious belief, celebration of family life, or nationhood.

It is urgent to investigate how the new populist governments affect and possibly alter the structure of inequality, the process of identity, and class formation of subaltern groups and the building of broader types of collective identities. Who are winners and the losers in these processes? The course scrutinised the context of various

countries where new forms of populism can be found. It also focused on the traditional or new means and technologies that are deployed (social media, church pulpits, flash mobs, etc.) plus identified the various codes and registers in use (religion, politics, the production of culture and discourse leading to violence against strangers/foreigners and/or LGBT people).

The overall concept of the 2019 Fábrica was to invite respected scholars investigating the so-called “new era of the extremes” in countries such as India, Colombia, US, South Africa, Italy, Philippines, and Brazil to share their ideas. In addition to several lecturers from Brazil, the following scholars from all over the world attended to give their presentations:

- Eduardo Restrepo (Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia)
- Elísio Macamo (University of Basel, Switzerland)
- Marco D’Eramo (journalist from the Italian newspaper Il Manifesto, Italy)
- Aries A. Aruguay (University of the Philippines at Diliman, Philippines)
- Rosana Pinheiro-Machado (Federal University of Santa Maria, Brazil)
- Subhadra Channa (University of Delhi, India)
- Jack Menke (Anton de Kon University, Suriname)
- Cyrus Samimi (University of Bayreuth, Germany)

Each of them gave intense classes amounting to 68 class hours, which correspond to four credits in the Brazilian Graduate Education system.

### 20 years of experience

Furthermore, on the occasion of Fábriça’s

twentieth anniversary, a one-day panel was offered with a selected number of former Fábrica students that are now professors in various universities. The aim of the panel was to reflect on these 20 years of experience as well as to envision the future of the Factory of ideas project and South-South network. Such reflection was especially relevant in the light of the dramatic change anticipated in the politics and funding of higher education and academic life in South America.

All classes and debates were held in Portuguese, English, and Spanish, and were recorded and broadcast online. An edited format of the course’s recording was later made available for all the graduate partner programs in the organisation of the Factory of Ideas. A digital reading package was made available to the participating students. An edited selection of the papers presented by the lecturers and the students will be published in book format in two versions, one in English and one in Portuguese.

### International Participants

Sixty graduate students and postdocs were chosen through an international selection process. They were mostly from Brazil and Latin America, with a few from Africa. An important component of the Factory of Ideas is the discussion of the students’ research projects, under the leadership of one or two of the lecturers, in small groups. Students are advised to present their project, dissertations, or theses in paper format.

The students received four credits for successfully attending the course. A special effort was made to guarantee the presence of students who benefit from affirmative action measures, native Americans, descendants of Maroon communities, and LGBT activists, because all of them in their research are exposed and vulnerable to tension and aggression. Students based in minor and less central universities were also especially welcome.

Thanks to the generous support from the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), the Research Foundation of the State of Maranhão (FAPEMA), and the Ford Foundation, there was no tuition fee and students were provided with food and accommodation.



The 2019 summer school in Bahia discussed the New Era of Extremes in politics.

# International Conference: African Studies and Land Questions in Africa

Text DORIS LÖHR

**From 27 to 29 November 2019, an international conference at the University of Cape Town in South Africa debated an issue that is at the heart of African Studies today: Land questions in Africa. Scholars from various fields illuminated the topic from a wide range of perspectives and disciplines.**

In collaboration with the Institute of African Studies at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in South Korea and the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, Lungisile Ntsebeza, the National Research Foundation Chair in Land Reform and Democracy in South Africa at the University of Cape Town (UCT), invited scholars to an international conference on the topic of “African Studies and Land Questions in Africa.” Following that invitation, around 35 scholars and activists met at the UCT Upper Campus from 27 to 29 November 2019 in order to engage in discussion and analyses on various aspects of the topic.

## “Land questions” at the heart of African Studies today

Organisers had settled on the topic of “land questions” at the preceding conference in 2018. The 2018 conference, co-organised by the Institute of African Studies of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in South Korea and the Institute of African Studies (IAS), University of Bayreuth, and held in Hankuk, the second of the series of South-South dialogues debated “Africa in an Ever-changing, Multi-faceted and Multi-layered World.” During the discussions, it became more and more apparent that land questions were at the heart of African Studies, especially in countries such as South Africa, which is generally regarded as industrialised compared to other countries on the continent.

## Land as a rural and urban concern

For years, many academics and politicians have perceived labour and not land as central in understanding South African society. However, the implementation of the African National Congress’s policy

of land expropriation without compensation (afterwards adopted by the National Assembly) put the land question in South Africa high on the agenda. In all the years of its democracy, South Africa has marginalised the land question in economic, political, and social debates and discussions. “Land” has been considered to merely concern rural areas and agriculture. But persistent struggles for housing and livelihoods of black Africans, especially in urban areas, have been a constant reminder that the land question is as much of an urban concern as it is a rural and agricultural issue.

## A comprehensive conference agenda

The conference in Cape Town adopted this broader view of the land question and, due to the multi-disciplinary nature of African Studies, received contributions to the topic from a broad spectrum of perspectives and disciplines. During the event, linguists, philosophers, educationists, and artists expressed their views on the question of land in Africa through

their respective disciplinary lenses. The 30 presenters had travelled from near and far, coming from four continents and 13 countries: Africa (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Morocco, Mozambique, South Africa, Sudan), Americas (Costa Rica), Asia (India, Japan, South Korea) and Europe (Czech Republic, Germany).

The conference started with a welcome speech by Shose Kessi, the Dean of Humanities at UCT. Lungisile Ntsebeza introduced the participants to the conference subject before presenting the first keynote speaker, Fred Hendricks from Rhodes University. Hendricks gave his insights on “African Studies and Land Questions: Two Sides of Exclusion.”

Six panels during the following two days centred around various aspects of the land question (especially land redistribution in South Africa), the agrarian question (e.g., land reform), land tenure and administration (especially land rights), land governance in Africa (e.g., land conflicts), land grab (especially displaced communities), land and development in Africa, and language (case studies from Sudan, Mozambique, and India), and culture and urbanisation in Africa.

The second keynote by Ekkehard Wolff (Leipzig) focussed on the question, “Language and Territoriality in Postcolonial Africa: How ‘Indigenous’ are African Languages?” A concluding round table discussion attended by the co-organisers Ute Fendler (Bayreuth), Lungisile Ntsebeza (Cape Town), and EunKyung Kim (Hankuk) summarised the previous discussion and illuminated the future of the partnership and network that has been established and developed since 2017. A publication on the topic is planned.

The Cluster’s special network partners seized the opportunity of this intercontinental meeting to discuss further topics of the network. Representatives came from universities of New Dehli, India (Ajay K. Dubey, Chandani Tiwani), Hankuk, South Korea (Yuh Jin Bae, Chul-Joon Yang and EunKyung Kim), Kyoto, Japan (Akira Takada), Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (Yacouba Cissao), Rabat, Morocco (Moulay Driss El-Maarouf), San José, Costa Rica (Guillermo Antonio Navarro Alvarado), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Kelemework Tafere Reda), Prague, Czech (Petr Skalník), Cape Town, South Africa (Lungisile Ntsebeza), Bayreuth, Germany (Ute Fendler, Doris Löhr), and Khartoum, Sudan (Azza Mustafa Babiker).



The workshop participants enjoyed their lunch break in the shade. Photo: Minga Kongo, UCT

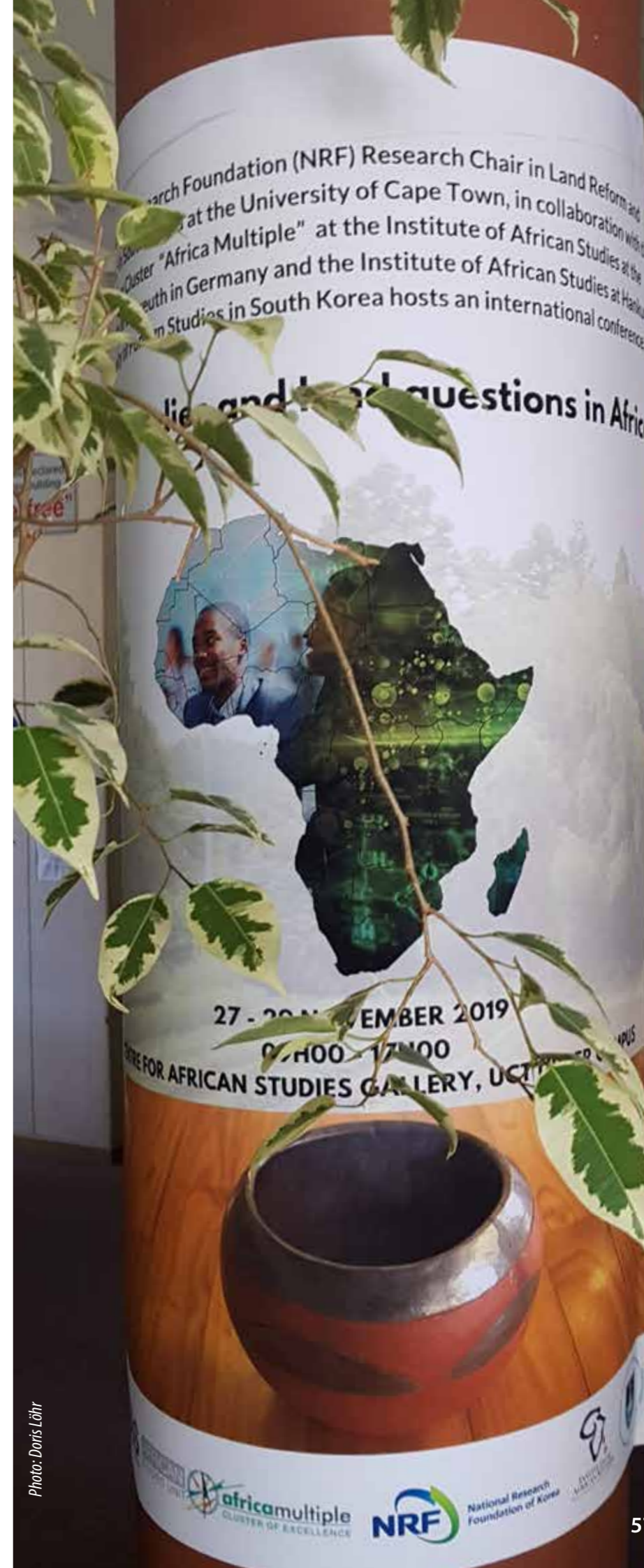


Photo: Doris Löhr



The participants of the TGCL Tenth Anniversary Alumni Conference at Ramada Resort, Dar es Salaam

# Alumni Conference Celebrates Ten Years of TGCL

Text NAOMI GICHUKI, CAROLIN HERZOG, ANTIDIUS KAITU, GOODLUCK TEMU, ULRIKE WANITZEK

**T**he alumni of the Tanzanian-German Centre for Eastern African Legal Studies (TGCL) converged at a lively conference from 26 to 27 September 2018 to celebrate the ten years of the Centre's existence. The theme of the conference was TGCL Alumni Perspectives on the Challenges and Opportunities of Regional Integration in East Africa. The conference, held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, brought together over 100 alumni from the six East African Community countries to review past experiences and to discuss the Centre's future. After ten successful years of full funding by DAAD, TGCL embarked on a transitional phase with a key focus on the sustainability of the Centre's programme. This transitional phase is planned to run for five years to 2023.

The conference was moderated by TGCL alumni George Bakari and Naomi Gichuki. The conference was opened with welcoming speeches by Hamudi Majamba (Dean, University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) School of Law), Ulrike Wan-

itzek (TGCL Project Leader, University of Bayreuth – UBT) and Lillian Mongella (TGCL Alumni Association President). The conference was graced by the presence of His Excellency Detlef Wächter (German Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania), Cuthbert Kimambo (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Knowledge Exchange, UDSM), Steven Bwana (retired Justice of the Court of Appeal of Tanzania and the long-serving TGCL Students' Adviser), and Richard

Frimpong Oppong (Thompson Rivers University, British Columbia, Canada, who serves as the TGCL Programme Adviser). Wächter commended the partnership between Tanzania and Germany that exists through the TGCL and expressed the German Embassy's commitment to supporting the TGCL.

Kimambo expressed the UDSM's appreciation to Germany for the ten years of generous support to the TGCL and af-

firmed the University's pledge to ensure the Centre's sustainability.

The conference also witnessed the festive launch of TGCL Research Series Volume Five by Wächter and Dean Majamba. The book addresses Harmonisation of Laws in the East African Community. The State of Affairs with comparative insights from the European Union and Other Regional Economic Communities. The book was the result of papers presented at a research workshop held in Dar es Salaam in 2015. The book is comprised of chapters authored by different experts from East Africa and Europe, including TGCL alumni.

The conference proceeded with presentations and panel discussions on TGCL Past Experiences and Visions for the Future. Johannes Döveling (TGCL Deputy Project Leader) presented a paper on the history and funding of the TGCL, Benedict T. Mapunda (TGCL Coordinator) and Carolin Herzog (TGCL Manager) spoke on the current management of the centre, and Majamba described the UDSM's involvement with the TGCL. In the subsequent panel discussion, TGCL alumni commented on the thoughts and reflections put forth by Bwana and Oppong. Bwana pointed out that the success of the alumni back in their different countries and fields of work is not accidental. It has been a cooperated effort from TGCL, UDSM, and the students.

The future of the African Centres of Excellence was discussed by Helmut Blumbach (Director, DAAD Regional Office, Nairobi). The panel discussion was moderated by Sostenes Materu

(Head of the Public Law Department of the UDSM of Law). TGCL is described as a unique institution in the area of regional integration and should take its research capacity to the next level. In this regard, many topics and ideas have been raised, from increasing the visibility of the Centre and its outcome over the commercialisation of its research to the providing of consulting services to governments and other institutions.

Day one of the conference ended on a high note with a speech delivered by Stefan Leible, the President of the UBT. In his remarks, Leible described the TGCL as a success story in the internationalisation of the University of Bayreuth and called for continued cooperation in future research projects. He commended the strong network existing among TGCL alumni and thanked all the organisers for preparing the conference successfully. The day was wrapped up with the conference dinner.

The second day featured a joint conference with the Alexander von Humboldt (AvH) Foundation and its Alumni Association under the title: Challenges and Opportunities of Regional Integration in East Africa. Kimambo and Leible warmly welcomed the participants. On behalf of the AvH Foundation, Josphat Matasyoh gave an overview of research funding opportunities in Germany. Blumbach and Wanitzek presented papers on German-East African collaboration for capacity building in research.

Tulia Ackson (Deputy Speaker of the Tanzanian National Assembly) introduced a good governance perspective

into the conference in her keynote speech on Good Governance: A Key to Regional Integration in East Africa. Discussions on this aspect took place in the succeeding panels. Panel I captured the theme, Perspectives on Law and Governance in East Africa. It was chaired by Juliana Masabo and Wanitzek. The papers presented dealt with renewable energy governance, international investment law, corporate social responsibility, and good governance in the East African Community. Panel II dealt with Energy Resources in East Africa – Challenges and Opportunities. Panel III covered Changing Family Forms and Social Security in Africa, while Panel IV dwelt on Challenges of Environmentally Sustainable Development in East Africa. These panels were chaired by Erdmute Alber, Frank Hilbrig, and Cyrus Samimi, respectively, all from UBT. Anne Nangulu (Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya) moderated the overall summary discussion of all panels.

The programme proceeded with the TGCL alumni meeting in the afternoon, when the alumni discussed the prospects of the TGCL Alumni Association. The meeting was led by the President of the Association, Mongella. After that, the alumni conducted general elections where the following new top leaders of the Association were elected, as well as the alumni's country representatives:

The conference was a great success and it is our hope that the spirit of TGCL will continue to grow and positively influence leadership, governance, and academic excellence in the East African Community.



Discussing the Centre's sustainability



Welcoming the president of UBT Stefan Leible at the TGCL library



TGCL Alumna Kalekwa Kasanga presenting her paper on regional integration

# Bayreuth Academy: The International Fellowship program started in the academic year 2019/20



The first Fellows of the Cluster of Excellence arrived in October (from left: Magnus Echlter, Sybille Ngo Nyeck, Vice Director Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies Erdmute Alber, Melina Kalfelis, Amalia Dragani, Samuel Ndogo and Academic Coordinator Robert Debusmann)

Text ROBERT DEBUSMANN

**The Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence invited a total number of 30 International Fellows to join the Bayreuth Academy, in the academic year 2019/20. These fellowships last between one and six months and are designed to create synergies with the Cluster's specific research goals.**

Drawing on the experience of the past years, the Bayreuth Academy established a new type of Fellowship programme, closely linked to the Cluster of Excellence. The International Fellowships were designed to enable scholars of African Studies pursue individual projects of significance, while contributing to the theoretical and thematic agenda of the Cluster of Excellence. During the Fellows' stay at the University of Bayreuth, they join the group of junior and senior scholars affiliated to the Cluster. The Fellows are also immersed into the Cluster's vibrant community of researchers, from more than fifteen academic disciplines.

The application process started in April 2019. Through an International Application Process, 96 scholars from all over the world submitted applications, to become the first international fellows of the Cluster. After a highly competitive process of selection, the Academic Committee of the Cluster decided to invite 30 applicants. The group was diverse, coming from 13 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas. 14 Fellows were based in universities on the African continent. The selection was carried out based on the quality of the proposed project and its contribution to the thematic and conceptual agenda of the Cluster. The Cluster members expected that the Fellows' projects would contribute substantially to research and scholarly debates in African studies.

In October 2019, seven Fellows at the Bayreuth Academy began work on different research projects. These Fellows were integrated as Cluster members for the period of time and participated actively in the meetings of the Research Sections, of which they were part. By

the end of the year, three more Fellows joined the group.

The International Fellows regularly attended Guest Lectures of the Knowledge Lab and contributed largely to discussions in plenary colloquia. Partly in small working groups, partly addressing large audiences, they presented their projects to Cluster members and developed multiple references and relations to topics raised by other colleagues. Some of the Fellows launched ideas for workshops and new projects, in which the African Cluster Centres were also involved.

The International Fellowship Programme is a great opportunity to open up the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence to the world, and to regularly involve new minds by integrating persons from other universities, other countries and other continents into the research activities of the Cluster. The resulting encounters are, intellectually and personally, among the most beautiful and enriching experiences that arise from the work in the Cluster of Excellence. 🌍

## Taofik Adesanmi (Nigeria): 10.12.2019 – 10.6.2020

Taofik Adesanmi holds a B.A. and a M.A. from the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Osun State, Nigeria. From 2016 to 2018, he completed a Ph.D. in English Language and Linguistics at the National University of Lesotho. His research field spans Epitaphic Discourse, Anthropological Linguistics, and Text Linguistics, as reflected in several conference papers. His Bayreuth research topic focuses on "Investigating the Nexus between Animals and Basotho's Identities in Epitaphs as Death Discourse", developed while he was in Lesotho. The eighth schematic element called "Closing" in the epitaphic typology was observed, making reference to each deceased person as belonging to an animal totem in every clan among the Basotho. The research is examining the animals pre-indicated for all the clans, the rationale behind the choice of animals, and why these animals are emphasized so much in the epitaphs.



## Nathalie Arnold Koenings (USA): 1.10.2019 – 31.12.2019

Nathalie Arnold Koenings is a Sociocultural Anthropologist, Literary Translator and Fiction Writer. In anthropology, Nathalie's interests include the mystical and geographical imaginations, the phenomenology of narrative, language, the poetics of landscape and memory, and, more recently, multispecies ethnography. Her ethnographic work has centered on rural Pemba, Zanzibar, where, since 1995, she has conducted field research. In her translations of Swahili literature, Nathalie Arnold Koenings aims to privilege works that, in unique voices, deploy geographies of power and knowledge that bypass and challenge traditional Western views. Currently, she is completing the manuscript "With Ripe Eyes You Will See: power, sorcery and the mystical imagination in Pemba, Zanzibar", based on over twenty years' ethnographic engagement with rural communities on this understudied, yet politically crucial island of the Swahili Coast.



## Mukhtar Bunza (Nigeria): 1.10.2019 – 31.10.2019

Mukhtar Umar Bunza is a Professor of Social History, Department of History Usman Dan Fodio University, Sokoto, Nigeria, where he obtained a PhD in History. His Fellow project refers to "The Learning Factors and Vectors in Islamic Education in Muslim West Africa: The Northern Nigeria Case Study". For more than five centuries, the Islamic education, learning forms and methods of North Africa and the Mediterranean Europe made their headways into the West African sub-region. The most fascinating aspect of the diffusion and transmission of Islamic knowledge and learning into the region was its assimilation into the culture of the people. Muslim traders and African rulers who realized the indispensability of literacy in governance and commercial transactions (Bookkeeping), supported the spread of Islamic education, through hosting of visiting 'ulama' and financially assisting the 'talaba' students. These historical realities were the secrets behind the self-sustaining, survival and resilience of Islamic learning among Muslims in Northern Nigeria.



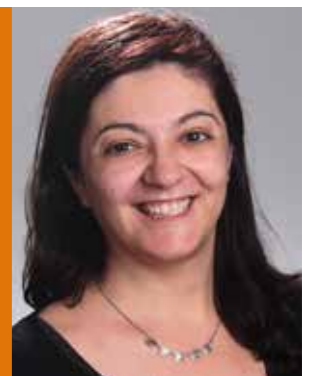
## Matthias De Groof (Belgium): 4.11.2019 – 3.1.2020

After his PhD in Cinema Studies on African Cinema, Matthias De Groof studied Postcolonial Film Theory as a Postdoctoral Fellow of the Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO). De Groof's scholarly work has been published by renowned editors. He is regularly invited to talk and write in non-academic contexts and to curate film programmes. De Groof's own award-winning films have been presented at international venues. The goal of his research is to study African Cinemas in, on and against the Anthropocene. To The Wretched of the Earth, the "wretched earth" is more a tangible reality than a threat in a distant future. The Anthropocene is indeed not merely descriptive; it is a social imagery whose conceptualizations open ways of thinking about the world. Rethinking the Anthropocene will have to include these experience-based perspectives. They are echoes which return to the readers from the South, and which allow such readers to hear the consequences of the Anthropocene, as colonized nature.



## Amalia Dragani (France): 1.10.2019 – 31.3.2020

After her PhD research on Tuareg poets' creative processes in Niger and in Mali (EHESS-Paris), Amalia Dragani received three post-doc grants, covering her broad research interests including, among others, poetical creation, intangible heritage, and oneiric inspiration. As an anthropologist, her fieldwork is about the Tuareg in Africa and in the diasporas. Amalia Dragani has published two books and several articles, special issues and an ethnographic documentary about Tuareg in Niger. Her Bayreuth Academy project investigates Saharan conversions to Christianity, in order to show the polysemy of contemporary religious dynamics in Sahara-Sahel and the impact of postcolonial African subjectivities on religious choices. These conversions constitute a reaction to jihadism, to which the populations in Northern Mali have been subjected, not only because of the occupation of this tribe's lands; and the forced application of Sharia law, but also because of its effects on every-day family-life.



**Magnus Echtler (Germany): 1.10.2019 – 31.3.2020**

Magnus Echtler is a social anthropologist interested in African religions, gender, cognition, practice theories, messianism and transgressive art. After his PhD (University of Bayreuth) on the Swahili New Year's festival in Zanzibar, he conducted research with an African Indigenous Church in South Africa, and published on Pentecostal videos from Nigeria and Christoph Schlingensiefel's Opera Village in Burkina Faso. Working as lecturer in the Study of Religion for a number of years, Magnus Echtler now pursues his habilitation in Anthropology. In his Bayreuth Academy project "Zulu salvation", he explores how doing ethics at the Nazareth Baptist Church strives to create the affective habitus of an utopian Zulu homestead, a heterotopia of perfection, as moralities materialize in gestures of respect, dancing, dress, in spatial layout and atmosphere.



**Melina Kalfelis (Germany): 1.10.2019 – 31.1.2020**

Melina Kalfelis' research interests include Politics and Work, Transnationalism, Civil Society, Law, Ethics, as well as Philosophical Anthropology and multi-sited ethnography. Melina wrote a PhD dissertation on lifeworlds of NGO-actors in Burkina Faso, transnational cooperation and poverty concepts in the language of Mooré. In February 2019, her second documentary film NGO Crossroads had its premiere. Melina Kalfelis' B.A. project "Moral Twilight. Security and Law at the Margins of Weak Statehood and International Human Rights in West Africa" examines controversies regarding claims of moral authority, justice and security in a transnational perspective. Her main goal is to research security and legal practices in moral grey zones and to develop new methodological and epistemological approaches to study the margins of legality and legitimacy beyond a Eurocentric perspective.

**Samuel Ndogo (Kenya): 1.10.2019 – 31.3.2020**

Samuel Ndogo graduated in 2013 at BIGSAS with a PhD in African Literature. Currently, he is a Senior Lecturer and Head of Department at Moi University, Kenya. He has a passion for literary studies, as well as History and Governance. Other research interests include auto/biographical writings, prison narratives, Diaspora and Postcolonial Studies, literatures in African languages, Translation, Performance and Cultural Studies. Samuel Ndogo has published several books, journal articles and book chapters, organized and convened international conferences. He was involved in various projects within the academia and beyond. His participation in the organization of the BIGSAS Festival of African and African-Diasporic Literatures confirms the Samuel Ndogo's role in the partnership between Moi University and the University of Bayreuth.



**Sybille Ngo Nyeck (USA): 1.10.2019 – 31.3.2020**

Sybille Ngo Nyeck is broadly trained in the International Political Economy of development, Political Theory and Comparative Politics with a focus on Africa. Although rooted in the discipline of Political Science, Sybille Ngo Nyeck is intersectional at the core in her theorization and analysis of gender and sexuality, borrowing from fields such as Philosophy, Anthropology, Law, Literature, Theology, Ethics, and Film Studies. As a B.A fellow, her objective is to complete a book manuscript on queer Africa dialectics and politics. This book reflects on queer identity struggles through selected African films, Proteus, Touki Bouki and Karmen Gei, Round Trip and Madame Brouette. It focuses on the symbolic interactions, negotiation styles, and strategies of the characters in each film to develop a framework of African Queer Dialectics and Politics, as simulation and simulacra following Baudrillard's (1994) characterization of the postmodern condition in mass reproduction.

**Jaouad Serghini (Morocco): 11.10.2019 – 11.11.2019**

Jaouad Serghini is Professor at the Faculté des Lettres et des Sciences Humaines, Oujda-Maroc. Jaouad specializes in Francophone Literature, analyzing intercultural aspects, Comparative Literature and the dialogue of cultures and religions. The aim of his project is to examine South-South Film Cooperation. It is a basis for the exchange of best practices and mutual support from African countries, for joint action to promote and develop cooperation, local and Pan-African Film production and Co-production. In this context, various issues relating to the film industry in sub-Saharan Africa will be examined. The project also provides an update on the issues of Inter-African Co-production. Is the South-South co-production able to give a significant new dynamic to the film industry in sub-Saharan Africa, thus creating new perspectives capable of perpetuating the peoples' cultural identities rooted in one another?



# Indigenization and Customization of Islamic Education

Text MUKHTAR UMAR BUNZA

**Cluster fellow Mukhtar Bunza gave a seminar presentation on indigenization and customization of islamic education.**

On Monday, 14 October 2019, Mukhtar Umar Bunza from the Department of History at the Usmanu Danfodiyo University in Sokoto, Nigeria, and Fellow of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence presented a paper as part of his cluster academic activities entitled: *Indigenization and Customization of Islamic Education in Central Bilad al-Sudan: Towards Understanding the Roots of Islamization and Islamism.*

The paper was presented under the chairmanship of Rüdiger Seesemann. The

presentation, among other things, highlighted the nature of introduction of Islam as the basis for the indigenisation of knowledge in the study area (Central Bilad al-Sudan, Hausaland, and Borno), African ulama cum traders and conversion to Islam in the Central Sudan, schools and institutions of learning and knowledge sharing and dissemination in local languages (basic education generally offered in local languages), the emergence of indigenous ulama and customization of Islamic knowledge/education (since the 15th century indigenous scholars have contributed significantly in education and the development of knowledge in the region); aspects of the indigenisation of education: indigenous authorship, (hundreds of books were produced on different aspects of education, including science and medicine), and sharh-com-

mentaries of previous texts also featured.

Finally, the presentation underlined the impact of indigenation of Islamic education in the making of homebased or homebred mujaddiddun-reformers and Islamists (the region has been a hub for reformism and revivalism since the 16th century; in the 19th century, Usmanu Danfodiyo led reform, and the 20th and 21st centuries Abubakar Gummi and the Salafis, leading to Izala revivalism). All could be connected with the nature and foundation of customised education and training right in the region, with less or foreign influence from outside the African continent.

The presentation included a viewing of illustrations and was followed by comments and a Q&A session.





## Shakespearean Pasts, African Futurities: Entanglements of Memory, Temporalities, and Knowledge(s) – A Brief Sketch

Text IFEOLUWA ABOLUWADE

**I**n the winter term 2019/20 one postdoc working group of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence scrutinises fictional and cinematic imaginations and (re)conceptualizations of futurities in contemporary African and African-Diasporic adaptations of and versions of Shakespearean plays as well as (comparatively) in the Shakespearean plays themselves. It also engages with the re-interpretation of Shakespearean topoi.

Working with the underlying concept of “literary afterlives,” the postdoc working group *Shakespearean Pasts, African Futurities: Entanglements of Memory, Temporalities, and Knowledge(s)* critically scrutinised the dialectical and dialogical intersections between Shakespearean dramas and their African reinterpretations

and (re)appropriations. The working group understands literary afterlives as constituted by intricate relations between glocal processes, media, and subjectivities that enable past texts to continue to live on in diverse forms across cultures, time, and space.

### Literary afterlife

The concept of “literary afterlife” does not denote a break with the antecedent text; rather, the working group conceptualises it as a multidirectional discourse between prior texts and their contemporary versions. Guided by theories of intersectionality, (cultural) memory, adaptation/translation, and postcolonial theory, the scholars investigated the re-imagination and re-articulation of African and African-diasporic nationalist, gendered, racial, and glocal futures and subjectivities in a diverse array of works.

Serena Talento, Pepetual Chiangong,

and Ifeoluwa Aboluwa focused on issues of translating/adapting/retelling Shakespeare in African contexts, illuminating the differing ideological motivations of the African authors and the ways these are frequently underpinned by intersectional interests such as gender, class, nationalism, ageism, and race. Oliver Nyambi and Sam Ndogo examined politicised and dissident (mis)uses of Shakespearean topoi to engage with African nationalist matters in Zimbabwe and Kenya. All group members explored and started developing these focal points during regular group discussions.

### Public lectures

The working group further organized two public lectures. Michael Steppat spoke on “The Future Lives of Texts: Understanding Literary Transmission Processes.” and Florian Kläger on “Time in Shakespeare, Shakespeare in Time.”



In his interesting public lecture Michael Steppat (3rd from left) talked about literary transmission processes.

## SKAnning Space from Africa: Seeing and Becoming

Text IRINA TURNER

**O**riginally based in South Africa, the Square Kilometer Array (SKA) radio telescope is an astronomical instrument that extends across the African continent and beyond. In the process, it creates state of the art research and new “becomings” of things and people. In the winter semester 2019/20, the Cluster’s working group *SKAnning Space from Africa: Seeing and Becoming* examined processes and conditions for these becomings, entangled with temporalities and spatialities of socio-technicality.

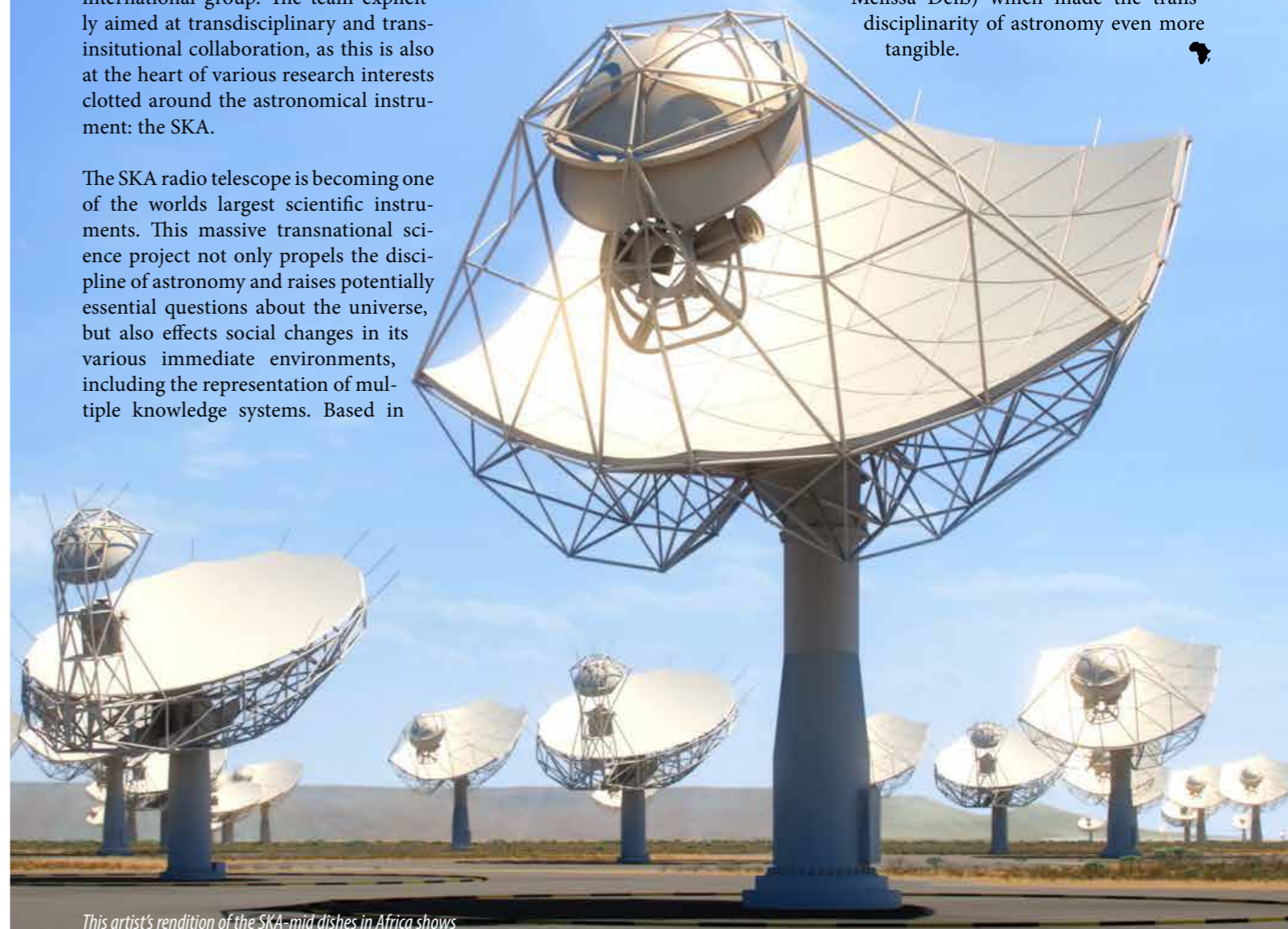
In October 2019, the conceptual work on the Cluster post-doc working group *SKAnning Space from Africa: Seeing and Becoming* commenced with some intense workshop-like meetings of the international group. The team explicitly aimed at transdisciplinary and trans-institutional collaboration, as this is also at the heart of various research interests clotted around the astronomical instrument: the SKA.

The SKA radio telescope is becoming one of the world’s largest scientific instruments. This massive transnational science project not only propels the discipline of astronomy and raises potentially essential questions about the universe, but also effects social changes in its various immediate environments, including the representation of multiple knowledge systems. Based in

South Africa and extending across the continent, the SKA enables cutting edge science as much as new “becomings” of things and people: existing telecommunication dishes are converted into astronomical instruments, and a new generation of experts and scientists are trained and celebrated as Africa’s bright future.

In preparation for the week-long workshop in February 2020, the group convenors Hanna Nieber and Irina Turner offered an introductory seminar with the title *Reading the African Sky – Semiotic Patterns in Astrophysics Approached from the Study of Religion and Language* to MA/BA students from the faculties of Languages and Literature and Humanities and Social Sciences. During this event, the panel tried and tested the pedagogical implications of the research project: “How can the SKA be

taught from a social and cultural science perspective?” was the guiding question of that endeavour. Interdisciplinary approaches to star reading in African contexts were discussed. Using the case study of the SKA telescope as a starting point, the course explored meaning-making in astrophysics from a socio-linguistic/discursive angle and from the perspective of the study of religion. The seminar delved into the question of how star science is narrated, integrated in “indigenous” and “religious” knowledge systems, and framed in different contexts. What is the sky, what are the stars to people, how are they related to African and/or ancestral cosmologies, and what role does academic research play in that regard? The event hosted some fascinating guests lectures from Sociology (James Merron), English (Florian Kläger) and African Literature Studies (Clarissa Vierke and Melissa Deiß) which made the trans-disciplinarity of astronomy even more tangible.

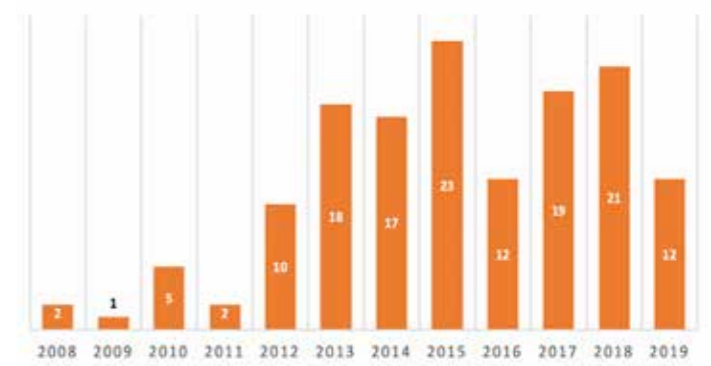


This artist's rendition of the SKA-mid dishes in Africa shows how they may eventually look when completed. Photo: SKA Organisation

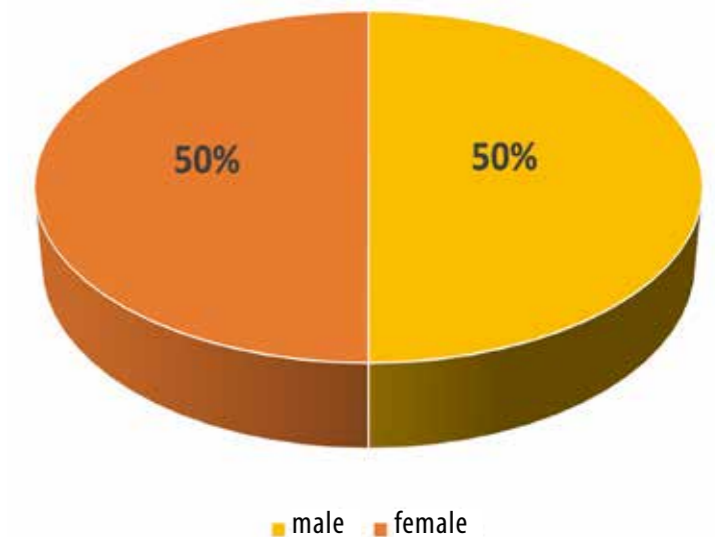


The group of newly admitted Junior Fellows of 2018 and 2019 included: Dandara Maia, Dikko Muhammad, Mickael Hounbedji, Shaden Kamel, Emiliano Minerba (1st row, f.l.t.r.); Isaac Osei-Tutu, Thierry Boudjekeu, Cecilia Ngaiza, Albert Irambeshya, Sheini Memunatu (2nd row, f.l.t.r.); Andreas Wüst, Ngozi Edeagu, Duncan Tarrant, Lena Naumann, Leiyo Singo (3rd row, f.l.t.r.). (The depicted persons own the rights to their own image).

BIGSAS ALUMNI 2008 – 2019



GENDER RATIO JUNIOR FELLOWS



BIGSAS was happy to welcome over 70 alumni to the first Alumni Conference on the African continent in November 2018. The conference *The Future of African Studies Scholars in Africa and Abroad*, at the BIGSAS Partner University Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, was not just a collegial gathering, but an important academic event,

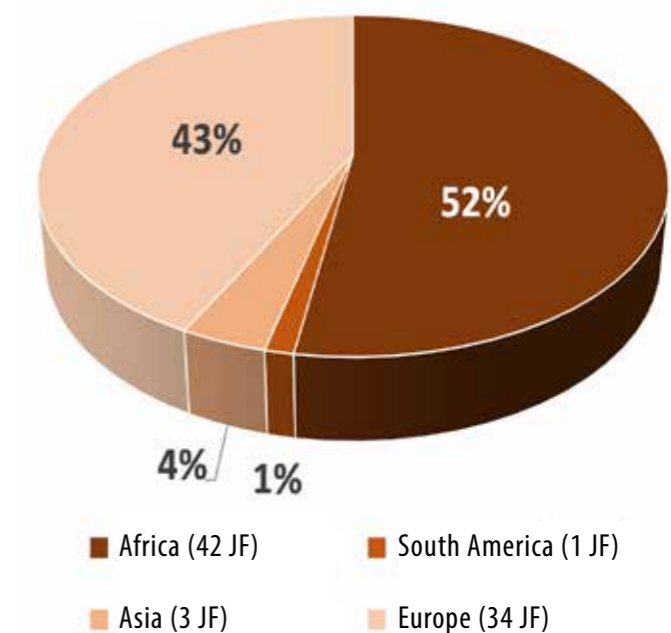
in which BIGSAS alumni, four BIGSAS Senior Fellows, an impressive audience of high-ranking guests, e.g. representatives of the African Union, the Ethiopian Academy of Science, and the DAAD, played an active role.

The president of the University of Bayreuth, Stefan Leible, gave the opening address and accompanied the alumni during the three-day conference and took part in the workshops and activities. All in all, the conference was a great opportunity for the alumni to deepen their relationships and to extend their networks.

BIGSAS alumni once again formed the jury of the BIGSAS Journalist Award on 29 October 2019. The 14 jurors selected the winners among the great number of contributions and travelled to Bayreuth in order to be present at the award ceremony. (see also page 36ff)

In addition, 25 alumni published their dissertations in 2018 and 2019: nine online, ten in the Institute of African Studies' series *Beiträge zur Afrikaforschung* with LIT Verlag, and one each with Basler Afrika Bibliographien, Cuvillier, edition assemblage, L'Harmattan, Rüdiger Köppe, and Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier.

REGION OF ORIGIN JUNIOR FELLOWS



# BIGSAS Status Quo

Text JULIANE FENDER

**A**t the end of the first year as part of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, the graduate school showed a perfectly balanced gender ratio among the Junior Fellows and a constantly growing number of alumni.

The turn of the year from 2018 to 2019 was also an important date for the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS). Since 1 January 2019, BIGSAS is no longer funded by the Excellence Initiative of the German federal and state governments, but is part of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence and thus funded through the

Excellence Strategy of the German federal and state governments. BIGSAS is the graduate school for the Cluster. Since then, the graduate school has been under the direction of the Vice Dean of Early Career and Equal Opportunity portfolio of the Cluster, Martina Drescher, Martin Doevenspeck was elected as the Deputy Head of BIGSAS.

In 2019, BIGSAS welcomed 16 new Junior Fellows; five of them are also employed in Cluster projects. The year before, seven new Junior Fellows joined the graduate school. The new doctoral students come from Benin, Brazil, Cameroon, Egypt, Germany, Ghana, India, Italy, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, and the United Kingdom. By the end of 2019, BIGSAS had a total number of 80 Junior

Fellows from 24 different countries: 42 of them from Africa, 34 from Europe, three from Asia, and one from America. The gender ratio was perfectly balanced: 50 percent of the Junior Fellows were male and 50 percent were female.

In 2018 and 2019, BIGSAS received 313 applications: 254 from Africa, 35 from Asia, 16 from Europe, seven from America, and one from Australia. Compared to previous years, the applicants' diversity with respect to their nationality increased again, with a number of applicants from Asian countries as well as the first applicant from the Australian continent.

Furthermore, the number of alumni grew to a total of 142, due to 33 successful doctoral defences in 2018 and 2019. Thus,

Text MICHELLE EPPS, GODSWILL ENYINNAYA AND DAGMAR KOHLMEIER

**A** Model African Union conference is a simulation of the African Union and its institutions. During the conference, the 54 member states of the African Union are represented, while engaging in interesting debates on various social, political and economic aspects of policy making in Africa. The 2019 conference hosted 70 delegates, who debated in five different committees.

*Africa in motion – Visions of Mobility, Identities and Citizenship* – this was the central theme of the annual conference of the Model African Union Bayreuth e.V. student initiative that simulates the General Assembly of the African Union.

It took place from the 7 to 11 June 2019 at the University of Bayreuth and aimed to create a framework for political discussions about current and future topics concerning the African continent.

A central goal of the Model African Union Bayreuth conference is to point out the complexity and paradoxes of the political situations of African countries and also to understand the multi-layered reasons why this is the case. Another one is to raise the awareness of the diversity of the African Continent and to draw a more differentiated image of Africa by giving young African entrepreneurs a platform to talk about their innovations.

Therefore, by taking on the role of a delegate and representative of an African country, the participants of the confer-

ence not only learned about the economic and political interests of an individual country of the African Union, but were also able to enjoy a rich workshop program that included topics like social entrepreneurship and start-ups, the “fees must fall” movement, and cultural workshops. The five days of the conference were hence a great opportunity for the participants and guests from all over the world to network, share experience, and evolve new ideas together.

Since the outcomes of the topics discussed during the Model African Union conferences have received attention from the African Union itself in the past, we were proud to welcome Ambassador Salah Siddiq Hammad, Head of the African Governance Architecture (AGA) Secretariat at the African Union (AU), for the

second time during the conference this year. He expressed his moral support for the conference and also presented the African Union’s Agenda 2063, which is in the process of being implemented.

Besides representatives of NGOs like Afrique Europe Interact and Visa Wie, who conducted a variety of workshops, several well-known people such as diversity consultant and curator Cassandra Ellerbe took part in the 2019 panel discussion on the topic of “Decolonizing knowledge systems in Africa”. In addition, Barrister Felix Agbor (Balla) Nkongho, a well-known Anglophone Cameroonian human rights lawyer, activist, founder and director of the Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa, held a lecture during the conference on the causalities of colonial heritage in present wars and conflicts on the African Continent.

“We would like to thank all the students who offered their time and effort towards making this outstanding conference in Bayreuth possible. We would also like to thank the university, and especially the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, who financially supported this year’s conference,” the president of MAU 2019 Cécile Diouf explained.

The association Model African Union Bayreuth e.V. was created back in 2015 from the need to counteract the homogenous and in many cases negative image of the African Continent in Germany. For this reason, the goal of the association is to change the image of “Africa” and provide alternative insights through personal networks. However, its tasks are not limited to the organization of a yearly simulation conference of the African

Union, but also to create an intercultural platform which strives to bring together motivated students from different faculties and interested non-students.

Besides workshops and movie evenings, which are regularly announced via the official website or social media (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube), a series of events called “MAU Academics” started in December 2019. This series of lectures entitled “entangled history” aims to function as ideal support to young African and African-interested students, who are most welcome to present their work on topics such as migration, diaspora, preservation of cultural heritage, the rights of others, citizenship & nationality, and more.

[www.modelafricanunion.de](http://www.modelafricanunion.de)



# Model African Union Bayreuth Conference 2019: Africa in Motion

The Model African Union conference took place from 7 to 11 June 2019.





Photo: Adobe Stock

Text HANZA DIMAN

**A**frika@school aims to enable encounters between students from Africa and those involved in African Studies, and pupils at schools in Upper Franconia, Germany and beyond, breaking with the dominant negative image of Africa and the association of Africa with crises, conflicts, and catastrophes, which is portrayed in many German textbooks and media.

Afrika@school brings students from PhD, MA and BA programs with a strong focus on Africa together with pupils in local secondary and primary schools. By the end of 2018, the BIGSAS@school project was transferred to the Model African Union Association (MAU e.V.). Following the re-labelling of BIGSAS@school into Afrika@school in the early 2019 the coordination team in charge of the project within MAU got quickly to work by responding to solicitations from Gymnasium Münchberg, Mark-

gräfin Wilhelmine Gymnasium Bayreuth (MWG), Gymnasium Ernestinum Coburg, and Graser Grundschule Bayreuth.

Afrika@school launched its activities by holding two workshops of 90 minutes per session with 15 pupils aged between 15 and 17 on 18 February 2018 at Gymnasium Münchberg. Hanza Diman (BIGSAS Junior Fellow) and Victor Kpokpoya (doctoral student at the University of Bayreuth) informed and exchanged with the school's pupils on, respectively, the school system in Benin and tourism in West Africa.

A presentation by Ernest Zriba on Traditional and modern Weddings in Ivory Coast in the course of a research-oriented seminar (W-seminar) at MWG on 12 March 2019 followed. On the 19th and the 26th of the same month, Odile Woni (MA student KUGEA) and Nicole Prokoph (Student research assistant at the University of Bayreuth) talked respectively about Languages and Cultures in Burkina Faso and Migration Dynam-

ics in Africa, focusing specifically on Nigerisa, at MWG. On 14 May, Thomas Konrad, geography teacher at MWG, invited Afrika@school for a presentation. Andreas Wüst (BIGSAS Junior Fellow) seized this opportunity and discussed the Arab Spring in North Africa.

In July 2019, ca. 125 pupils of the 8th grade of the secondary school Ernestinum Coburg took part in the Africa-Day-Project. During this Africa-Day-Project, graduate students from the University of Bayreuth gave ten slots of five workshops. The topics of the workshops included The School System in Benin (Diman), Durbar in Kano (Dikko Muhammad), Arab Spring (Wüst), Languages in Cameroon (Zra Kodji), and Life in Johannesburg (Jonas Possner). The successful implementation of the Africa-Day-Project in Coburg was not only documented by the school on its website, but was also reported in the local newspaper Coburger Tageblatt.

On 13 November 2019, Kpokpoya read

African fairy tales to children of the Graser-Grundschule in Bayreuth. Afrika@school planned and successfully carried out this session together with the Child Protection Association (Kinderschutzbund) Bayreuth.

Apart from the workshops and the range of presentations, Afrika@school also assisted pupils in the search for literature about Africa and helped them get in touch with interviewees for their research seminar papers at secondary school. A pupil at MWG wrote her seminar paper on *The Education System in Ghana – Same Opportunities for Girls?* and another pupil was assisted during her search for information and interview partners to produce her paper, *Voodoo – the Signification of a Tradition for contemporary Benin*. A third pupil researched *Refugee Camps in Libya – Some aspects for a Solution of the Migration Question in the EU?*

The success with Afrika@school activities in 2019 were a stimulus for improvement, and lay the groundwork for more cooperation and exchanges with schools, teachers, and pupils in Bayreuth and beyond.



Photo: Gymnasium Ernestinum Coburg

In the Afrika@school workshops pupils learn nuanced facts about the African continent.

Photo: Claudia Hartig, MWG Bayreuth



Afrika@school visited an 8th grade of the Markgräfin-Wilhelmine-Gymnasium (MWG) in Bayreuth.

# European Interdisciplinary Master African Studies (EIMAS)

## A New Era in the Teaching of African Studies Begins

Text MIRJAM STRASSER

**A**fter a lengthy process, the University of Bayreuth, Bordeaux Montaigne University and the University of Porto were able to receive funding for a new joint European Interdisciplinary Master African Studies programme in 2019.

For half a decade or even more, a project team from the University of Bayreuth and three other universities in Europe were working hard on writing an application for an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree (EMJMD). It was their vision to bring their different national approaches in African Studies together in order to create an interdisciplinary Master's programme that has never before existed. One of the partners got lost on this rocky road but another partner jumped in to continue this pursuit together. Two attempts failed in 2017 and 2018, but the project partners of the University of Bayreuth, Bordeaux Montaigne University and the University of Porto, did not want to give up their idea to reform and strengthen the visibility of African Studies on a European level.

### Hope springs eternal

They risked a third attempt in 2019 and submitted another application to the European Union. The months went by and slowly the project partners were losing their confidence when one day in July the notification arrived: Failed again. "Your application has been placed on a reserve list for EU co-funding." Nobody believed that this case would ever occur.

It was a Monday evening in the middle of October. The designated EIMAS Coordinator was standing in her kitchen about to cook dinner when she received an email on her mobile phone. Sender: the EACEA (Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency) of the European Commission. She immediately knew: "Dinner must wait!" With trembling hands, she opened the attachment and read the first lines: "Due to the availability of additional funding, I am pleased to inform you that your application is now selected for EU

co-funding." EIMAS, the European Interdisciplinary Master African Studies, was born!

### So, what exactly does this mean?

To put it in a nutshell, Bayreuth will have its first Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree (EMJMD) which will be funded with 2.936 million Euros over a period of six years. Between 2020 and 2025, 58 students – 44 from Erasmus Partner countries (countries outside of the EU) and 14 from Programme countries (mainly EU countries) – will receive an EMJMD scholarship in order to study the European Interdisciplinary Master African Studies (EIMAS) in Porto (1st semester), Bayreuth (2nd semester), and Bordeaux (3rd semester). After carrying out an Africa-based or Africa-related fieldwork or internship, they will write their Master's thesis at a consortium university of their choice. Besides these four highly international cohorts of students, guest lecturers will be invited to enrich not only the EIMAS curriculum, but also the broader academic environment of the three consortium universities.

### What makes EIMAS so special?

The "I" in EIMAS stands for "interdisciplinary" and this is absolutely meant literally, although it could also stand for "international", "intercultural", "innovative", or just "ideal". The study programme, which will be entirely taught in English, has been built on the following academic subjects: Cultural Studies, Demography, Development Studies, Economics, Environmental Studies, Geography, Geopolitics, History, Linguistics, Literary Studies, Media Studies, Political Science, Study of Religion, Sociology, and Urban Planning.

With its innovative "Global Africa Approach" as a framing concept, EIMAS will take Africa and Africans as global players and enhance previous concepts by adding to this perspective. It provides an integrated approach, focusing on the nexus between identity, territory, and sustainability, designed to transcend the limitations of both conventional area studies and global studies, while acknowledging alternative narratives and encouraging active involve-

ment and cooperation in and with Africa. Through its innovative training programme, EIMAS will enable its students to acquire a wide range of practice-oriented knowledge of Global Africa, to enhance their analytical and communication skills, and to strengthen their ability to work independently, which will significantly increase their employability. The consortium's wide range of already existing collaborations with academic and non-academic partners such as government representatives, NGOs, and corporate and diplomatic protagonists in Europe, Africa, and beyond ensures the best possible connection to the global job market.

### And what is next?

The first cohort of EIMAS students will start their studies in the 2020 winter semester in Porto and will come to Bayreuth in the 2021 summer semester. In a mutual selection procedure, 14 EMJMD student scholarship holders from the following countries have been selected: Ethiopia, Ghana, Greece, Italy, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, Philippines, Slovakia, and Turkey. Self-funded students were also invited to apply, and some of them will perhaps make the first EIMAS cohort even more diverse. In the coming years, EIMAS is looking forward to receiving many more excellent applications from students from all over the world. All necessary information can be found on the EIMAS website. 🌍



Photo: AdobeStock

# Weingartener Afrikagespräche 2019: On the role of religion in development cooperation

Eva Spies gave the introductory lecture on "Religion and Development: History, stakeholders, interests".



Text EVA SPIES AND SEBASTIAN MÜLLER  
Photo ALINE STEGER

**A**s a cooperation of the Akademie Weingarten in the diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart and the IAS, the Weingartener Afrikagespräche is an interdisciplinary congress that is held annually in December.

The Akademie Weingarten in the diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart and the Institute of African Studies (IAS) organise the annual Weingartener Afrikagespräche or Africa Talks in Weingarten. In 2019, the symposium was convened by Heike Wagner of the Akademie Weingarten with Franz Kogelmann (Dept. of Islamic Studies), Sebastian Müller (PhD student in Development Sociology) and Eva Spies (professor for the study of religion

with a special focus on Africa at the University of Bayreuth). From 6 to 8 December 2019, representatives of academia, development organisations, and politics discussed the provocative question of whether religious actors are more successful at supporting sustainable development than secular organisations.

Since 2014, the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has promoted value-based development co-operation and a development strategy that emphasises the involvement of religious actors. Against this background, the organisers of the conference invited representatives of BMZ, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit), and several religiously affiliated development organisations such as Humanity First, Islamic Relief, Horizont 3000, and Brot

für die Welt, as well as politicians, the spokesperson of the German Humanist Association, and scholars of religion to share their views and experiences of this strategy.

The speakers and the audience, including students from Bayreuth, development practitioners, and interested citizens, had a lively and controversial discussion about the concept of religious actors and values, their specific contribution to development, as well as the financial support of religious organisations.

The presentations and discussions of the conference will be published in the series *Bayreuther Studien zu Politik und Gesellschaft in Afrika* by Nomos. The theme of the 2020 conference (4 to 6 December 2020) will be: "Umweltwandel in Afrika / Environmental change in Africa". 🌍



## Every Day Mlawi Shawarma ...

Text and Photos MIRJAM STRASSER

**T**he Summer School *African Studies in Tunisia – Methodologies and Current Issues in Sousse* premiered in late September 2019 bringing German students to the Tunisian coastal town for the first time.

The University of Sousse, or more specifically, the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences (FLSH) and its Centre d'Anthologie – African Studies, and the Institute of African Studies (IAS) of the University of Bayreuth (UBT) are connected through a longstanding partnership. Over the past few years, several lecturers from Bayreuth have gone to Sousse to teach Master as well as PhD students from Sousse, who in turn regularly have come to Bayreuth to participate in the African Studies course during the Bayreuth International Summer School (BISS). Thanks to the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD),

this exchange programme enabled Tunisian students to learn more about living and studying in Germany. Because the BISS was developed for international students, participants from Germany seldom took part in it, and an exchange between Tunisian and German students had been neglected. With the application for the DAAD programme “German-Arab Transformation Partnership 2019: short-term measures”, the IAS intended to change this, and wanted to bring UBT students to its partner institution in Sousse for the first time.

DAAD was convinced and approved the organizers’ application. Numerous students from different Master programmes in the African Studies at the UBT also applied to participate in the two-week summer school “African Studies in Tunisia—Methodologies and Current Issues” at the University of Sousse. In a joint German-Tunisian selection procedure, the four most compelling applicants were selected and invited to travel to Tu-

nisia from 29 September to 12 October 2019.

The summer school, as part of a broader exchange programme funded by the German Academic Exchange Service and the Federal Foreign Office, consisted of two parts. In the first week, the participants – 15 second year students of the MA programme “African Studies” at the University of Sousse and the four students of the MA programmes “Culture and Society of Africa”, “Cultural and Social Anthropology” and “Development Studies” at the UBT – could broaden their knowledge of research design and methodologies in social sciences and humanities. Their lecturers, both alumnae of the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS), Valerie Hänsch, (LMU München), and Alžběta Šváblová (UBT), taught them which different research methods exist and encouraged them to use these methods within a small field research. Working in mixed groups of four, the students spent one day in the medina (old town) of Sousse and collected data about different kinds of traditional and modern arts and crafts and presented their experiences and results to the other participants.

In the second week, Serawit Bekele Debele, BIGSAS

*The IAS organised the first Summer School in Sousse, Tunisia, bringing together participants from Tunisia and Germany.*



alumna and postdoctoral researcher at the department of Socio-Cultural Diversity of the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Göttingen, conducted a workshop on the highly relevant issue “Religion, Gender and Sexuality”. At the same time, Gerd Spittler taught his group of students about development in his workshop, “The Colonial and Postcolonial State.”

After class, the participants from Sousse and Bayreuth usually spent more time together by discovering the city, going to the beach, or drinking tea in one of the beautiful salons de thé. Since the students and lecturers of the UBT came from the Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Germany, Namibia, Switzerland, and Uganda, the Tunisian students not only got new impres-

sions of Germany, but also learned more about the culture and life in other African and European countries.

One cultural highlight of the summer school was the joint field trip to El Jem, where the group visited the town’s famous mosaic museum as well as the Amphitheatre, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This was highly exciting not only for the participants from Bayreuth, but also for the Tunisian students because many of them have not been to these historical places before.

It is fair to say that all participants enjoyed these two exciting weeks a lot but there is one thing (apart from the aggressive mosquitos on the campus) that nobody will really miss: Every day *mlawi shawarma* ...



## An Impressive Teaching Experience of African Studies in North Africa

Text and Photo LAMINE DOUMBIA

**L**amine Doumbia, an alumnus of BIGSAS who is currently working as postdoctoral researcher at the German Historical Institute Paris (DHIP) and the Centre of Research on Social Politics (CREPOS) in Dakar, was invited to the University of Sousse in December 2019 to conduct a five-day seminar on the impact of the territorial partition of Africa, also known as the Scramble for Africa.

I was impressed by the welcoming words and the attitude of the seminar participants who said: “We are Tunisians, so Africans, but we had been learning more about the Orient and the West. We are committed to reorienting our perspective by tacking Africa under our nose. So it is a blessing to have a young scholar from Mali here”.

This amazing commitment was demonstrated by the fact that in addition to a lot of young Master students of the African Studies in Sousse, one octogenarian participated in the course and shared his considerable experience and broad knowledge with the other students and me. One Master student of the law faculty of the University of Tunis received the seminar announcement via Facebook and enriched the course by contributing

new perspectives due to his academic background. The participants showed a huge interest in extending their knowledge about critical issues such as cultures, societies, history, literature, states, borders, politics, economies, etc. in contemporary Africa and, even in the coffee and tea breaks, continued asking questions and having topic-related discussions. Another interesting point I

have taken home is that I learned about African Studies from North African perspectives.

During the wrap-up session on the last day, the students surprised me with a small farewell celebration in order to thank me. As a social anthropologist, I appreciated this teaching experience that I will not easily forget.



*Lamine Doumbia (middle row, third from left) was invited to Sousse in December.*

# The Bavarian Research Institute of African Studies (BRIAS) launches new project

Text ÖZGE DOLUNAY, EBERHARD ROTHFUß,  
CYRUS SAMIMI, MIRJAM STRASSER  
Photos ÖZGE DOLUNAY

**I**t is increasingly important to heighten the awareness of German society for all matters Africa. Founded in 2014, BRIAS has committed to this goal by combining research efforts of four Bavarian Universities – two of which specialised in Applied Sciences. In 2019 a new project was launched by the initiative.

The Institute of African Studies in Bayreuth (IAS) initiated a collaboration in African Studies in a joint research institute in Bavaria which combines the strong Africa competence of four Bavarian universities and universities of applied sciences: The University of Bayreuth, the Technical University of Ingolstadt, the University of Applied Sciences Neu-Ulm, and the Julius Maximilians University of Würzburg.

In 2014, the Bavarian Research Institute for African Studies (BRIAS) was inaugurated and officially established.

BRIAS combines a wide range of disciplines, from social sciences and humanities, bio-physical sciences, engineering, health studies, management and education studies, as well as medicine. The aim of BRIAS is lasting academic cooperation and the acquisition of larger research projects dealing with Africa's societies, economies, and industries.

## The PROCEED project

In 2019, BRIAS was successful in procuring the three-year project PROCEED (Pathway to Renewable Off-Grid Community Energy for Development: <https://www.bmbf-client.de/en/news/proceed-project-start>) coordinated by Wilfried Zörner from the Technical University of Ingolstadt and funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) under the CLIENT II International Partnerships for Sustainable Innovations.

PROCEED is a German-Namibian joint project exploring sustainable ways of im-

plementing efficient off-grid renewable energy systems in Namibia. Mini-Grid Community, Mini-Grid Economics, Mini-Grid Technology, and Mini-Grid Sustainability are the main research areas of



PROCEED, with researchers from the Ingolstadt University of Applied Sciences and the

University of Applied Sciences of Neu-Ulm. In Bayreuth, a research group under the leadership of Eberhard Rothfuss, Chair of Social and Population Geography, focuses on the Mini-Grid Community.

PROCEED's overarching goal is to improve the situation of populations in remote areas who do not have access to electricity or an adequate energy infrastructure. Therefore, innovative and sustainable problem-solving approaches are examined. At their core, they are searching for energy utilisation that is adequate, available, reliable, of high quality, affordable, legal, healthy, and safe. Therefore, suitable options for the design of energy supply models based on renewable energies should be developed through Micro-grids.

Within the scope of the project, Rothfuß attended the first meeting in Windhoek in March 2019 in order to exchange information, and to discuss project activities and future steps with German and Namibian project partners. In July 2019, Festus Boamah joined the kick-off meeting in Windhoek. Boamah did the first field observations with the PROCEED Team in the project sites of Tsumkwe and Gam. Özge Dolunay started her PhD in October 2019 within the PROCEED Project. She also visited the project sites Tsumkwe and Gam during her first research stay in February and March 2020. She met the local project partner Namibia Energy Institute and other renewable energy actors in Namibia. As



Tsumkwe Solar PV/Diesel Hybrid Mini-Grid System (303 kW) in Otjozondjupa, Namibia

part of the research, Dolunay conducted quantitative surveys at communal and household levels in Tsumkwe and Gam in order to investigate social, socio-economic, and socio-technical energy practices. Unfortunately, she could not complete her research activities due to the pandemic restrictions and had to return to Bayreuth early. Theresa Reiß (Master student in Development Studies) has recently started her thesis on the impact of land ownership and the right to energy, with a focus on Namibia, and contributes to the Mini-Grid Community research.

## Young BRIAS Network

This network of master and doctoral students from the four BRIAS universities started with a kick-off workshop at the University of Würzburg in June 2019, where 17 scholars met for two days to discuss their research projects. Literary scholars met engineers, scholars of law, economists, geographers, and historians to give talks and display posters. The lively discussions and the interdisciplinary exchange brought new insights into research concepts and methods. The success of the meeting encouraged follow up meetings to be rotational at all BRIAS universities.

In December, the first Young BRIAS Study Day with Guest Academics: Tunisian-Senegalese Interweavings took place at the University of Würzburg as well. Four Master students from the University of Sousse in Tunisia, who were

visiting the University of Bayreuth in the framework of the DAAD programme *German-Arab Transformation Partnership 2019: short-term measures*, met with Master students of the University of Würzburg and two guest professors from Senegal to discuss and present about their Master's theses.

Interview in front of the Gam State Clinic in Otjozondjupa



On the way to Tsumkwe. From left: Helvi Iлека (NEI), Nico Masheshu (Tsumkwe Settlement), Özge Dolunay (UBT)

Text DORIS LÖHR

**Before starting to officially fly under the flag of the newly instituted Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies wrapped up its activities in 2019.**

2019 witnessed the end of the extended second funding period of the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies (BA). Along with the institution's funding, the project Future Africa – Visions in Time, which was supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), ended in May 2019. In its last year of funding, BA conducted several events, rounding up a period of successful public engagement and science transfer. In January 2019, Matchume Zango

and Lulu Sala, two musicians from Mozambique, came for a two-month visit to Bayreuth to conduct several classes for the school project "Music and Dance" at the local Markgräfin-Wilhelmine-Gymnasium. Starting as pilot project, a film was recorded and documentation is currently underway.

**BA Documentary in Iwalewahaus**

At the end of January, the first public screening of the documentary film *Concepts On the Move – In-between Pasts, Presences, Absences – and the Future* took place at Iwalewahaus, in Bayreuth. Mariam Popal – a Bayreuth Academy postdoc – produced it together with Natalie Röthlingshöfer, Alice Mingqing Yuan, late Zoe Dilan Smida, Oladapo Ajayi, Shirin Assa, Weeraya Donsomsakulkij, Elias Poya, Kevin Weiß, Maximilian

Krogoll, and Matthias Meeh. The film was based on interviews made with former Bayreuth Academy fellows during their stay in 2016 and in cooperation with the Department of Media Studies. The interviews encompassed the concepts of images (kara lynch), history (Hakim Adi), literature (Anne Adams), digitalisation (Moses Serubiri), aesthetics (Phillip Khabo Koepsell), resonance (Ingrid LaFleur), future (Nabil Barham and Kien Nghi Ha), queerness (Abdi Osman), freedom (Rinaldo Walcott), race (Shirley Tate) and love (Wanguu wa Goro), and tackled other notions and categories like gender, class, colonisation, afrofuturism, emancipation, and resistance within different conceptions of time and its audio-visuality that affected spatio-temporal conditions in imagining (other) futures.

**Public Lecture: Our Racist Heritage**

In April, SPIEGEL correspondent and author Bartholomäus Grill gave a public lecture on his book, *Wir Herrenmenschen. Unser rassistisches Erbe: Eine Reise in die deutsche Kolonialgeschichte*. [Master Race. *Our Racist Heritage: A Journey into German Colonial History*]. It was chaired and moderated by Achim von Oppen (professor emeritus of history of Africa), the long-standing director of the Academy. A lively discussion with a wider audience at Iwalewahaus raised some critical issues in a constructive atmosphere.

**Project Learning and Resource Platform Africa**

In addition to the summer term activities of the postdoc working groups, the workshop Future Africa at Salvador de Bahia, and the FAVT exhibition in Kampala (see reports on pp 28), the successful launch of the "Project Learning and Resource Platform Africa" (PLURA) database was the last milestone of the Bayreuth Academy.



Matchume Zango with students from the Bayreuth Markgräfin-Wilhelmine-Gymnasium during the school project "Music and Dance" (Photo: Nacisse Wandji)

– currently mainly in German – provide scientifically sound and generally understandable information on current Africa-related topics. A photo database offers the opportunity to access royalty-free images that show the African continent

On 16 May 2019, the launch of the database was celebrated. After the well-attended thematic workshop *Africa in school – multiple perspectives on a continent*, a keynote lecture by Bea Lundt (professor emerita European University of Flensburg) addressed the topic "Learning about Africa, teaching for the future: The challenge of helping to shape globality", before the presentation of the learning and resource platform by Doris Löhr and Jennifer Scheffler. The successful launch of the PLURA database also marked the kick-off for the future of the BA under the umbrella of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence.

**Future Africa and beyond – Visions in Time**

After seven years of research and debates on different aspects of the topic "Future Africa and beyond – Visions in Time" this chapter came to an end. One of the most important aims, to intensify academic exchange between Africa-related and other fields of research, especially in the humanities and social sciences was achieved. The network with partners from Europe, Africa and the diaspora was intensified, innovative impulses for the development of African studies in Germany were triggered. Much of the results of the Academy's researches and debates were "translated" and presented to the wider public during the years. The fora for dialogues with experts involved e.g. in politics, economics, and cultural production will continue, as well as the focus on the promotion of postdocs. A final meeting of the management board in June 2019 officially concluded the existing phase and initiated the transition process under the Africa Multiple Cluster's umbrella.

# The Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies in Times of Transition



The PLURA database was successfully launched in May 2019. Photo: Doris Löhr



Last Meeting of the Bayreuth Academy Management Board (1st row from left: Doris Löhr, Katharina Fink, Ute Fendler, Michael Hauhs, 2nd row: Florian Kläger, Erdmute Alber, Achim von Oppen (Photo: Doris Löhr)

PLURA had received special funding by the BMBF and was undertaken by the BA as part of its efforts to transfer knowledge and communicate science. The aim of PLURA was to build an online platform that provides teaching materials and ideas as well as background information for teachers and lecturers in secondary and adult education by developing contemporary materials that take the diversity and complexity of the continent into account and reflect current developments. Dossiers, handouts, and background texts

in all its diversity and beyond the usual clichés. There are also videos and audio texts in which people from different African countries have their say. All materials were created and developed in close cooperation with African colleagues, teacher trainers and trainees, and teachers. At [www.zukunft-afrika.de](http://www.zukunft-afrika.de), teaching materials and didactics on various topics regarding Africa are freely available. The cooperation was established with the chair for school pedagogy and teachers from the Upper Franconian region.



# Access to Justice and the Role of the Judiciary in Transitional Libya since 2011

Text and Photos AMAL S. EL-OBEIDI

**A**mal S. El-Obeidi is Professor of Political Science and Comparative Politics at the University of Benghazi, and has been a guest at the Institute for African Studies. She is associate researcher in the DFG-funded project entitled “Political in the Making” at the University of Bayreuth. Her research interests are gender issues, local reconciliation and peace building, governance and security issues, migration, and conflict resolutions.

An independent judiciary is a key prerequisite for the rule of law, respect for human rights, and access to justice. Although Libya has acceded to several international covenants and agreements, including the Arab Charter on Human Rights, the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, and the United Nations special procedures – established to promote the independence of the judiciary and impartial justice – it has for many decades failed to comply with its

international legal obligations regarding judicial independence, and the judicial system has been continuously undermined by interference by the executive powers, corruption, and inadequate capacity building, which has led to a shortage of appropriately trained staff.

The Libyan judiciary was also negatively affected by the establishment of a parallel court system during the al-Gadhafi era, which included the People's Court, established in 1971 to try members of the former royal family and officials of the monarchical regime. Parallel institutions included military and revolutionary courts that ruled on cases related to political crimes against the regime. All of this directly undermined the independence of the judiciary and public trust in its rulings.

A number of judicial reforms were enacted by the al-Gadhafi regime after 2005 as part of the Libya Tomorrow initiative, launched by Saif al-Islam al-Gadhafi in 2003. Those reforms resulted, inter alia, in the abolition of the People's Court.

Judicial reform efforts continued in the early post-2011 transitional period under the auspices of the National Transitional Council. Article 32 of the 2011 Constitutional Declaration affirmed the independence of the judiciary. Furthermore, reforms to the Supreme Judicial Council provided for its members to be elected by the country's high court judges. The requirement that the Minister of Justice should be a member of the Supreme Judicial Council and chair its proceedings was abolished. The reforms also revoked the jurisdiction of military courts to try civilian cases.

The jurisdiction of the military courts has evolved over time. In that connection, the General National Congress promulgated Law No. 11 (2013) amending provisions of the Criminal Code and the Military Code of Criminal Procedure, which specifies that civilians working in the army and civilian volunteers in the armed forces shall not be tried by military courts, and that military courts shall only consider cases involving regular army personnel of a rank stipulated in the Military Service Act, and regular army personnel held in detention.

Further initiatives to promote judicial reform took place after 2014. These included the adoption by the General National Congress of Act No. 5 of 2015, which further amended the jurisdiction of military courts. Nonetheless, the judicial system continues to face numerous challenges, including, first and foremost, the deteriorating security situation in Libya.

The al-Gadhafi regime also adopted a number of laws that promoted women's participation in the judiciary, including Act No. 8 of 1989, article 1 of which provides: “Women may take up positions in the judicial system, in-



cluding posts within the public prosecution service and in the administration of justice, under the same terms and conditions as men.” Since 2011, however, there has been a decline in the number of women working in the Libyan judicial system and two petitions have been filed challenging women's right to hold positions within the judiciary. Furthermore, a number of women's rights defenders and women active in public affairs have been kidnapped or assassinated.

Despite the numerous challenges that female members of the judiciary have faced, they have continued to participate in all judicial bodies, and the percentage of female candidates for membership in the Supreme Judicial Council, certain appeal courts, and other judicial bodies sometimes reaches 50 per cent. In the Judicial Case Management Office, for example, four of the eight candidates were women, and in the Office of the Public Prosecutor, five of the nine candidates put forward for positions were women. Furthermore, Widad al-Hamali has been appointed to the Supreme Judicial Council, the first female judge to be elected to serve on the Council. Her election came at a time when appeals were being lodged challenging the constitutionality of women assuming positions in the judiciary. Although the appointment of a woman to the Supreme Judicial Council is considered a success and strengthens women's role in the judiciary, their presence in this field also underscores that

much needs to be done for women to be equitably represented in the Council, and that the goal of equitable participation of women in the judiciary is far from being realised.

The judiciary should not only be independent, but must also be held accountable. To achieve that objective, a clear code of conduct for judges, together with appropriate disciplinary measures for non-compliance is needed, including for judges involved in the perpetration of human rights violations or corruption. The implementation and enforcement of that code of conduct would help restore confidence in the country's judicial institutions. Careful scrutiny must be given to judges who held positions in the People's Court and who were responsible for blatant human rights violations.

Fortunately, the judiciary continues to function as a relatively united branch of government, unlike the divided legislature, executive, and other key state institutions. Its internal cohesion became apparent during the elections to the Supreme Judicial Council, when all members of the judiciary, regardless of the regions or cities they were from, participated in the electoral process, even though those cities and regions were under the control of rival governments. This perhaps shows that, by refraining from entering the political fray, the judiciary may be able to play a key role in restoring national unity.

The following key reform measures should be taken as a matter of priority:

- Outline a strategy for the full operation of the judiciary, to be put into practice following the successful implementation of the country's disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration process;
- Ensure judicial oversight of the implementation of the proposed reforms, in order to ensure that the judiciary remains impartial and independent;
- Ensure that women are equitably represented among members of the Supreme Judicial Council, and that membership of the Council is pluralist and fully representative;
- Implement measures and procedures to ensure that more women are appointed to the judiciary;
- Establish fair and transparent procedures for selecting judges and judicial trainees, and prohibit all forms of discrimination;
- Employ objective criteria when making all judicial appointments, ensuring that candidates' training, qualifications, experience, competencies, and integrity are all taken into consideration.

These reform measures will enhance the effectiveness of the judiciary and safeguard its cohesion.

Amal El-Obeidi



*DjumbaiALA – Contributing to Polyphonic Dialogues across the Middle Passage*  
by Valerie V. V. Gruber, acrylic on canvas with collage of images from the  
DjumbaiALA homepage, 2020

# DjumbaiALA – Contributing to Polyphonic Dialogues across the Middle Passage

Text CLÁUDIO MANOEL DUARTE DE SOUZA,  
VALERIE V. V. GRUBER, DIANA MIGNANO, GILBERT  
SHANG NDI

**F**ounded five years ago, DjumbaiALA is a network committed to enhancing intercultural conversations and a non-hierarchical co-production of knowledge in the Global South. Diverse researchers, artists and activists from Latin America, Africa and Europe are contributing to this cause.

DjumbaiALA is a polyphonic network aimed at fostering connections and conversations between Africa and Latin America through arts and the human and social sciences. “Djumba” is a term in Guinea Bissauan Creole which refers to a free and open exchange of ideas. In a similar current, “Ndjumba” in West African Pidgin can also stand for a friend/partner. “Ala” is the acronym for Africa/Latin America, implying the possibility of transgressing frontiers and crossing oceans. “Ala” is also the singular of “wings”

in Spanish, wings which enable us to fly over walls, boundaries and oceans. In the context of Brazilian samba schools, “ala” equally refers to a section where various persons dance together in tune. Such are the symbolic and conceptual bearings that gave form, steam, and substance to the DjumbaiALA network, bringing together researchers and socio-cultural actors from the University of Bayreuth (UBT), Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM) in Mozambique, the Federal University of Bahia (UFBA) and the Federal University of Recôncavo da Bahia (UFRB), both in Brazil, and the University of Valle (UV) and Observatorio Distrital Anti-discriminación Racial (ODAR), both in Colombia.

DjumbaiALA is a network of 16 current members committed to enhancing a non-hierarchical co-production of knowledge in the Global South. In a constant effort to transcend disciplinary and socio-cultural boundaries, their different voices engage critically with the realities of their lifeworlds and creatively build bridges of knowledge. A major

component of this partnership has been the desire to reach out to new publics beyond the purview of the university ivory tower. So DjumbaiALA functions as a cross-current network of artistic and academic agents, embarking on a fluid digital voyage that enhances conversations on new trends on both shores of the Middle Passage, linking the academic community with the civil society.

## The Main Axes of DjumbaiALA

The idea of a South-South network with a virtual platform was conceived by Ute Fendler and Eberhard Rothfuß from the UBT. They set the idea afloat through a webpage named “Agora” and over time the initiative has been given new tone and features with the creation of the DjumbaiALA website. Entries on this site constitute the kernel of DjumbaiALA and revolve around four main thematic axes: Heritage and Identity, Territoriality and Inequality, Body and Representation, Artistic Narratives and Transversal Connections. Any web surfer can access contents in both essay and artistic formats on a wide spectrum of themes

comprising fashion, racism/ethnicities, sexualities, memory, urbanscape/architecture, diasporas, bodies, gender, sports, and philosophy. This format is propitious in building encounters in a multiplicity of voices, highlighting meaning-making processes through artistic productions and academic research, without losing sight of the ethical implications of these exchanges.

The audiovisual trails of the DjumbaiALA network, available on its YouTube channel, equally follow the underlying polyphony between documentaries and testimonies by the various contributors. The channel enriches the page with new contents and acts as a bridge between the diverse communities that make up DjumbaiALA, thereby adding visibility to artistic narratives and scientific research as well as socio-cultural productions/mobilisation. The YouTube channel offers videos on demand and can be used for live streaming during conferences with free access. In addition, the crew will produce podcasts as a means of accommodating those who, due to visual impairments, for instance, may only be able to access audio trails. This could be an effort to “de-monumentalise written knowledge” as Boaventura de Sousa Santos posits in one of his manifestos for epistemologies of the Global South.

## Transdisciplinary Encounters

In the past five years, members of this network have organised workshops in Bayreuth, Germany (September 2016), Cali, Colombia (November 2017), Maputo, Mozambique (September 2018) and Salvador, Brazil (April 2019) (facilitated

by BIGSAS and Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies in the case of Brazil), bringing together experienced scholars, early-career researchers, artists, and activists to share and discuss their findings on research related to African and Afro-descendant communities. These encounters have ignited very engaging discussions and cast reflexive gazes on concepts and methodologies, mapping out ways of strengthening the transdisciplinary dimensions of various research endeavours and furthering co-operation between partner universities. The success of these events has been the culmination of long-existing contacts and individual research stays, facilitated most especially by the Chairs of Social Geography and Romance Literatures/Comparative Studies (UBT) and their counterparts in the partner universities. These encounters strengthened acquaintanceships and generated interviews and other content for the DjumbaiALA webpage and its YouTube channel.

## Surfing Ahead: Prospects and Visions

One of the initiatives in the pipeline is the production and circulation of multimedia e-books containing articles, essays, and interviews involving diverse themes by researchers and artists as well as other socio-cultural actors. This would amplify the contents of the network for the promotion and sharing of knowledge through the DjumbaiALA site. The preference for the EPUB format facilitates open access across telematic networks.

At the beginning of this year, the authors of this article participated in a contest of ideas for early-career researchers organ-

For more information on the thematic foci, visit the website

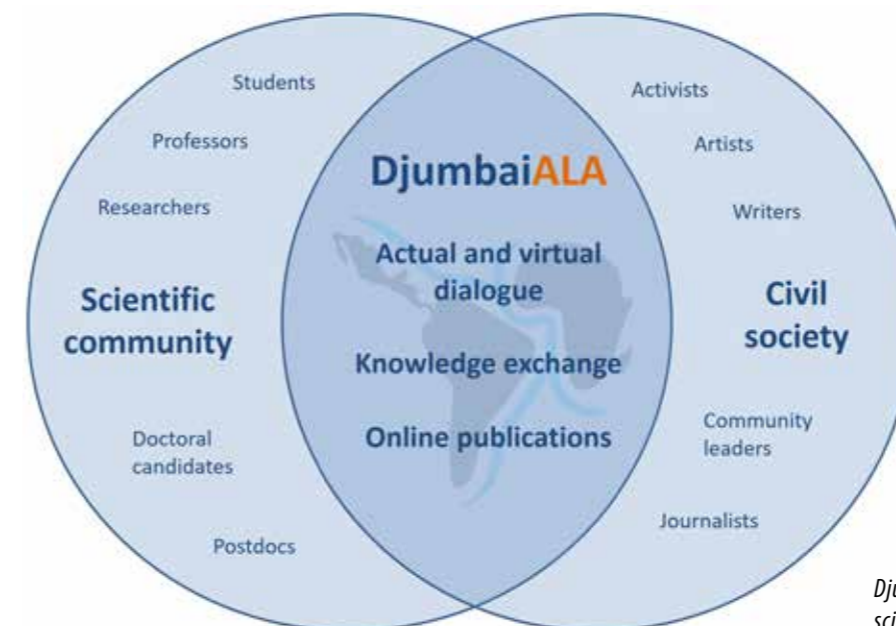
[www.djumbaiala.com](http://www.djumbaiala.com)

and contact the team for contributions at

[infodjumbaiala@gmail.com](mailto:infodjumbaiala@gmail.com)

ised by the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) with a project titled *DjumbaiALA: African and Afro-diasporic Dialogues in a Multimedia Era* within the framework of *Brasilientag* (Brazil Day). The project was shortlisted but the final selection has unfortunately been postponed due to the current Corona crisis. The project involves a workshop on digitisation to be held in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil and concrete plans to establish “DjumbaiALA Books” as an e-book publishing structure with interactive components that harness texts, sounds, images, and visual displays to reach a wider multilingual and multimedia e-dience. The workshop would bring together early-career academics and a technical team from Germany and Brazil versed in digital designing, programming, curatorial, and publication skills.

The DjumbaiALA crew will continue to approach the Transatlantic as a complex horizontal sphere of separation/connection that beckons us to imagine new ethics of co-existence and relationality. Using creative talents, DjumbaiALA intends to continue contributing to the contrapuntal circulation of knowledge between Africa and Latin America as a subversion of that ignominious page/space of human history, the Middle Passage. 🌍



*DjumbaiALA at the intersection between scientific community and civil society*

Text DIETER NEUBERT, ALEXANDER STROH-STECKELBERG AND MATTHEW SABBI

**Starting in July 2020, a group of scholars from the University of Bayreuth will take a closer look into the daily practice of decentralization in Ghana and Rwanda.**

Development agents expect municipal authorities in sub-Saharan Africa, as elsewhere, to respond to local needs,

In theory, local councillors and mayors are supposed to take charge of crucial decisions for effective service delivery and the fight against poverty. The usually strong focus of current research on formal structures and political control overlooks the local context that significantly impacts everyday decision-making processes. The influence of everyday life in and around the councils remains neglected. Councilors' incentives and rationales for running for office are largely ignored. The social relations between local actors in and outside

ject seeks to, firstly, analyse the logics of actors who run for office in municipal councils. Secondly, it explores how councillors take the opportunity to influence decisions in their local contexts and how these councillors are, in turn, influenced by the particular local setting. Only the contextualisation of decentralisation efforts will offer the necessary inside view to understand and plan effective decentralised administrative structures, equally taking into account external interferences with decentralised decision-making.

The project schedule includes intensive fieldwork. The unavoidable delay in field research due to COVID-19-related travel restrictions will be turned into an opportunity – though a sad one – to study municipal reactions and agency in this public health crisis. In Ghana and Rwanda, as in countries around the world, the governments, the local administrations, and the public are reacting to the threat of the COVID-19-pandemic. Most of the regu-

## In the shadows of autonomy: Decentralization, municipal decisionmakers, and local contexts in Ghana and Rwanda




A preliminary visit to the Gacurabwenge Sector, Kamonyi District, Rwanda in December 2018

Photo: Matthew Sabbi

fight corruption, and hold government officials to account. The autonomy of elected officials to make local decisions is a premise for such behaviour. In the decentralization debate, Ghana and Rwanda represent successful cases and are therefore promising examples for the analysis of local autonomy in decision-making in the context of international efforts to promote decentralization. In a research project funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) starting in July 2020, Matthew Sabbi, Alexander Stroh-Steckelberg, and Dieter Neubert will take a deeper look into the daily practice of decentralization.

the administration are hardly considered. Contrarily, this project suspects the particular local situation and its interface with international decentralisation promotion to play a crucial role in shaping challenges, options for reform, and the probable success of these reforms.

Building on a preliminary Ghana study, our aim is to highlight local realities through a comparative study with Rwanda. The everyday life of decentralisation is contingent on sets of relations between the state, its local representatives, municipal councillors (as decision-makers), and the local context. Therefore, the pro-

lations and precautions refer to daily life and take place within the communities at the local level. Municipal authorities are therefore centre-stage and to some extent officially in charge of health policies. The daily practice of implementing laws, by-laws, rules, and general guidelines with regard to the pandemic is not only in itself a burning issue for research. It also offers a very instructive comparative case to study municipal decision-making in different local contexts under the same and almost synchronous global challenge. Meanwhile, the main academic challenge will be to exploit a new intensity in online-based research. 

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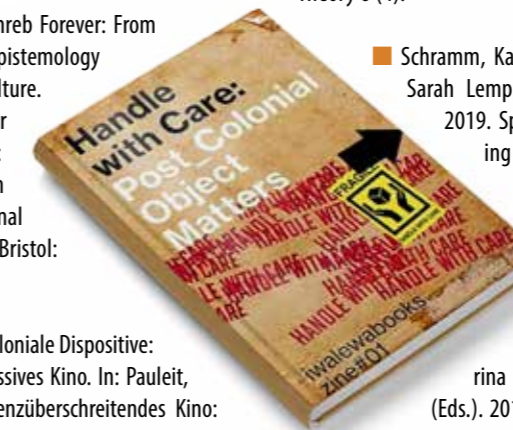
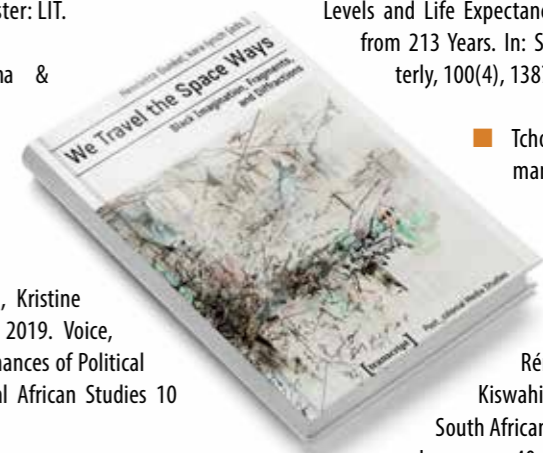
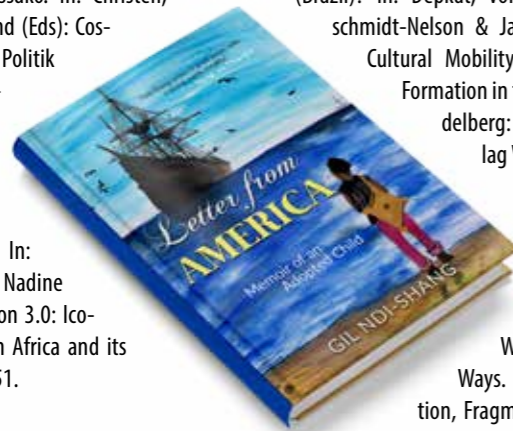
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# Personalia

## New IAS Steering Committee

Every two years, the members of the IAS elect their representatives in the steering committee. In proportion to the number of members in the participating faculties of the University of Bayreuth, Faculty IV (Languages and Literatures) currently sends three elected representatives, Faculty II (Biology, Chemistry, and Earth Sciences) and Faculty V (Humanities and Social Sciences) two, and Faculty III (Law, Business, and Economics) one. In addition to the elected members, the core units of the IAS (Iwalewahauss, the Cluster of Excellence, Africa Research Centre) and the academic coordinator of the IAS are represented in the steering committee as well. The steering committee elects a director and vice director (spokespersons) of the IAS.

The steering committee is responsible for the research and teaching strategies of the IAS, it coordinates the contacts with partner universities, and it is responsible for the representation of African Studies at the University of Bayreuth, to the city of Bayreuth, and within international networks.

From October 2019 the steering committee has been composed of the following members:

- Andrea Behrends (Faculty V)
- Martin Doevenspeck (Faculty II)
- Ute Fendler (Faculty IV)
- Ron Herrmann (IAS Academic Coordinator)
- Ivo Ritzer (Faculty IV)
- Eberhard Rothfuß (Faculty II)
- Cyrus Samimi (Africa Research Centre, IAS Director)
- Rüdiger Seesemann (Cluster of Excellence)
- Eva Spies (Faculty V, IAS Vice Director)
- Irina Turner (Faculty IV)
- Ulf Vierke (Iwalewahauss)
- Ulrike Wanitzek, from July 2020 Thoko Kaime (Faculty III)

(Text: Cyrus Samimi)

## Nikitta Dede Adjirakor wins the DAAD Prize 2019

BIGSAS fellow Nikitta Dede Adjirakor received the DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) Prize for Outstanding Achievements of a Foreign Student studying at the University of Bayreuth in November 2019.

Adjirakor holds a BA in English and Swahili from the University of Ghana and a master's degree in African Language Studies from the University of Bayreuth. Adjirakor's doctoral thesis, tentatively titled *Bongo Fleva and Spoken Word as Aesthetic Practices in Tanzania: Form, Experience, and Relation to Lifeworlds*, examines how popular cultural forms shape the lives of young people in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Adjirakor received the DAAD award in recognition of her research achievements and social commitment. She has been actively involved in creating awareness about the prevalence of women's sexual and reproductive health issues, for which she has produced a film titled *A Thousand Needles* ([www.athousandneedlesfilm.com](http://www.athousandneedlesfilm.com)), which has screened at numerous film festivals. She has also written fictional and non-fictional pieces that address women's experiences with reproductive health. In addition, she founded the Ghanaian Languages Literature Festival and Short Story Prize, which promotes and documents literature in the different Ghanaian languages. She was presented with her award during the President's Dinner.

(Text: Clarissa Vierke)



Photo: Adobe Stock

## Thoko Kaime assumes the Chair of African Legal Studies

Thoko Kaime took up the newly founded Chair of African Legal Studies at Bayreuth in December 2019, succeeding Ulrike Wanitzek. Kaime, who hails from Bangwe Township in Malawi, obtained his undergraduate law degree from the University of Malawi. Thereafter he completed his Master's degree at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. During his doctoral studies at SOAS University of London, he focused on international human rights, especially children's rights. The work from that doctoral research culminated in the publication of the book: *The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child: A Socio-legal Perspective*. Thereafter, Kaime undertook appointments in private legal practice, where he was able to expand his areas of research to include matters such as international energy law and the regulation of natural resources and matters concerning climate change. He subsequently joined the academia, holding his first faculty position at SOAS University of London; and thereafter at the University of Surrey, the University of Leicester and finally at the University of Essex.

With the assumption of the Chair of African Legal Studies, Kaime is now managing the hub for the teaching and research of "Law in Africa" at the University of Bayreuth. His move to the University opens further doors for international and interdisciplinary cooperation between different faculties and research institutions, especially in the African, legal and social sciences. His expertise enhances the profile of African Studies at Bayreuth as well as contributes to the University's efforts at internationalization and the enhancement of its law programme; particularly through the Chair's establishment of an innovative "English Legal Curriculum" within the Faculty of Law, Business and Economics.

Kaime's research and teaching focuses on the socio-legal critique of international legal arrangements; and the work of his Chair focuses especially on two areas: international human rights law and international environmental law. In relation to both, he is investigating how legal and institutional frameworks work alongside other factors in society to help unlock barriers to normativity such as persistent human rights failures or failure of energy policy. The key objective of this work is the creation of participatory and therefore more durable solutions to urgent legal problems. Kaime is also Project Leader for DAAD-funded Tanzanian-German Centre for Eastern African Legal Studies (TGCL) continuing the long-established collaboration established by Ulrike Wanitzek. The TGCL offers post-graduate programmes at the University of Dar es Salaam School of Law.

(Text: Thoko Kaime)



## Andrea Behrends appointed Professor of Anthropology in Africa at UBT



Andrea Behrends was appointed Professor of Anthropology in Africa in 2019. She and her team focus research – also beyond African contexts – on questions of mobility, digitalization, flight, conflict and intervention, as well as on experiencing lifeworlds in so-called crises. Applying a political/economic/STS-based anthropological approach, they shed light on differentiation and redistribution, especially with regard to processes of transformation and anticipations of the future. At the same time, the research is concerned with exploring the potential of diversity in coexistence, including in situations of violence and conflict. Andrea Behrends has published edited volumes on *The Anthropology of Oil* together with Stephen P. Reyna and Günther Schlee and on *Travelling Models in African Conflict Management* together with Sung-Joon Park and Richard Rottenburg. She is currently publishing a book on *Lifeworlds in Crises* which focuses on displacement, emplacement and humanitarian in the borderlands between Chad and Sudan. Articles were published in *Social Analysis*, *Focaal*, *Sociologus*, *Journal of Religion in Africa* and in blog contributions to *African Arguments*.  
(Text: Andrea Behrends)

## Ron Herrmann: New Academic Coordinator of the Institute of African Studies in Bayreuth

In May 2020, the Institute of African Studies appointed Ron Herrmann as its new Academic Coordinator. He holds a PhD in Political Sciences, a European Master Degree in Human Rights and Democratization and a M.A. Degree in International Relations. His main academic work focuses on conflict analysis and transformation, civil peace-building, democratic governance and sustainable development. Over the course of his prolific career as an academic, lecturer and senior expert for applied sciences he coordinated the establishment of the European Inter-University Centre in Italy, the curricula, human resource and capacity development at the University of Peace in Austria, at the UN Staff College in Italy and at the Peace University in Costa Rica. Additionally, he served for the German Foreign Office as a diplomat and in managerial, policy-making and research related positions at the EU, UNDP, UNDPKO, IOM, Interpeace, MSF and GIZ. He gained his distinct expertise on African Affairs in Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Namibia, Nigeria, Ruanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan (Dafur), Zambia and Zimbabwe. In this regard he taught at the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution, at the Tongji University, the American University of Beirut and the Khartoum University.



Already in 2009/2010 Ron Herrmann lectured at UBT, assessing the role of international organizations amidst in countries-of-conflict. At that time he also organized a related symposium with representatives from the United Nations, GIZ and the Centre for Peace Operations (ZIF). In 2020 Ron Herrmann was also appointed by the representatives of the UBT, the Universities of Applied Studies in Ingolstadt and in Neu-Ulm, and of the University Würzburg as Coordinator of the Bavarian Research Institute for African Studies (BRIAS).  
(Text: Ron Herrmann)

## Stefan Ouma – new Chair of Economic Geography at UBT

Since 1 March 2019, Stefan Ouma has held the Chair of Economic Geography at the Department of Geography at the University of Bayreuth. Previously, he did his doctoral and post-doctoral studies at Goethe University, Frankfurt.

Ouma's research is primarily concerned with the economic geographies of globalisation, drawing on insights from political economy/ecology, socioeconomics, and poststructuralist and practice-oriented theories. His overriding research goal is to rematerialise “the economy” in times of seemingly unbounded economic relations, and to open up for political debate questions regarding more sustainable and just pathways and forms of economy-making.

His current research on the themes “global commodity chains and critical geographies of logistics”, “industrial work in the digital age” and “agricultural transformations in the context of financialisation and digitisation” reflect this concern and complement existing focal points of the Department of Geography in Bayreuth. Ouma has research experience both in the Global South (West and East Africa) and in the Global North (Germany, New Zealand), and cultivates a global-relational perspective on processes of geographically uneven development. Ouma recently published *Farming as Financial Asset – Global Finance and the Making of Institutional Landscapes* (Agenda Publishing/Columbia University Press).

Ouma is also currently a Principal Investigator in the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) funded BATATA project, exploring visions of good life among pastoralists and farmers in Tanzania. (<http://batata-bioeconomy.de/research>)

(Text: Stefan Ouma)



### Working Papers – Africa Multiple connects

As the Working Paper series of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, *Africa Multiple connects* offers a forum for research conducted and presented by researchers affiliated to the Cluster. The series also accommodates papers such as invited lectures, workshop contributions, or conference papers submitted by the Cluster's guests and visiting scholars.

*Africa Multiple connects* complements the existing Working Paper series published under the umbrella of the University of Bayreuth African Studies Working Papers: *academy reflects*, the series featuring research by fellows of the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies, which is now part of the Africa Multiple Cluster; and *BIGSASworks!*, the platform for publishing research-related articles and edited volumes by Junior Fellows of BIGSAS.



# Guests



Photo: Frank Wunderatsch

## March 2019

Bruce S. Hall, Alice Bellagamba,  
Bernhard Stahl, Salaka Sanou,  
Aissata Soumana Kindo, Ousmane Mahamane Tandina,  
Benno Toggler, Naomi Moy

**SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE, Bayreuth**

## April 2019

Joachim Bessert-Nettelbeck

**SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE, Bayreuth**

Aderemi Adegbite, Ayodele A. Elegba, Edwin Salcedo  
Vasquez, Maribel Brull Gonzalez, Carlos Smith, Elena  
Brugioni, Rina del Carmen Caceres Gomez, José  
Rivair Macedo

**WORKSHOP “Future Africa – Visions in Time”,  
Bayreuth Academy and Centro dos Estudos  
Afro-Orientais der Universität Salvador de Bahia**



See report on page 54

Omondi Robert Owino, Raymond  
Siebetcheu Youmbi

**SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE, Bayreuth**

## June 2019



### June 2019 – July 2019: Méga Mingiedi Tunga

Born in 1976 in Kinshasa, Méga Mingiedi Tunga studied at the Académie des Beaux-Arts in Kinshasa and at the École Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Strasbourg. He is the co-founder of Eza Possibles, a collective of artists from various disciplines in Kinshasa and has participated in several exhibition projects and artist residencies in Europe and Africa. Mingiedi works mainly with the artistic media of drawing and collage. In his works, he deals with the urbane space – the city, and related themes such as mobility, traffic and economic influences. He is particularly interested in the contrast between the “actual” city and the “bidonvilles” (informal settlements). The starting point here is Kinshasa, the city in which he lives. Mingiedi creates large-format, imaginary cartographies that reflect social realities. In his cartographies, he recalls both historical events and their places as well as potential possibilities for the city.

Within the context of the exhibition *Barber Pop* Mingiedi was invited for an artist residency at Iwalewahaush for four weeks in June/July 2019. During his residency, he developed the work *Kinshasa – Bayreuth*, a mural painting spanning the walls of a whole room. *Kinshasa – Bayreuth* is a reflection about the connections in our globalized world. The main topic of this work is the political and cultural heritage of the two cities and nations as well as the artist’s personal experiences.  
*(Text: Felicia Nitsche)*

Mpho Tshivhase

**SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE, Bayreuth**

Dries Velthuisen,  
Clapperton Chakanetsa Mavhunga

**KNOWLEDGE LAB LECTURE, Bayreuth**

Collins Kimaro, Sabelo Ndwandwe, Felix Agbor Bella  
Nkhongho, Jerry Emmanuel Nkrumah, Anna Hujber,  
Christian Doungue Metambou, Olivia Scheer,  
Hans Georg Eberl, Cassandra Ellerbe, Abdou-Rahime  
Diallo, Abou Bakar Sidibe

**CONFERENCE MODEL AFRICA UNION  
(MAU), Bayreuth**



See report on page 68

James Gambiza, Barend Erasmus,  
Basil Opoti, Kupakwashe Mtata

**SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE, Bayreuth**

Seyni Mamouda Ibrahim, Pascale Laborier,  
Marie-Emmanuelle Pommerolle,  
Abdoulaye Sounaye

**WORKSHOP “Contestation Multiple. Power  
and its Critique in Postcolonial Africa”**

Adekoje Rafiaf Abetoro,  
Fatima Harrak

**SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE, Bayreuth**

**June – September 2019: Isabelle Akouhaba Anani**

Isabelle Akouhaba Anani from Benin was awarded a research grant to visit the Institute of African Studies at the University of Bayreuth from 29 June to 13 September 2019, hosted by Ulrike Wanitzek.

Born in Parakou, Anani received her legal education at the University of Abomey-Calavi in Benin and her PhD degree in private law within a DAAD-sponsored sandwich programme between the Universities of Abomey-Calavi and Bayreuth. Currently, she is a lecturer at the University of Abomey-Calavi and teaches family law, the law of persons, property law, business law and labour law.

During her academic stay in Bayreuth, Anani worked on an article dealing with “Consent to Marriage and Reverential Fear in Benin” which pleads for the consecration of a minor’s reverential fear as a cause of nullity of marriage in Benin’s family law. Moreover, she spoke on “Human Rights and Peoples’ Rights” within a workshop organised by the Institute of African Studies and the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence. (Text: Ulrike Wanitzek)



**MEETING ACC Directors and Coordinators in Bayreuth**

Yacouba Banhoro, Olumuyiwa Adebajo Falaiye, Enocent Msindo, Noelle Obers, Nathan Ogechi, Désiré Boniface Some, Peter Simatei Tirop, Luqman Ayondele Yusuff



See report on page 50

Antje Daniel, Ulrike Schultz

**SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE, Bayreuth**

**July 2019**

Shigeta Masayoski, John Hanson, Isabella Haidle

**SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE, Bayreuth**

Muhammed Alkhatib, Maaya Ashash, Caroline Assad, Lina Atfah, Renzo Baas, Tanu Biswas, Shadreck Chikoti, Julia Dittmann, Tamer Düzyol, Faten El Dabbaz, Hamody Gannam, Rabab Haidar, Elnathan John, Krisz Kreuzer, Evelina Kwartūnaitė, Alireza Mehdizadeh, Mamadoo Mehrnejad, Oliver Nyambi, Musa Okwonga, Taudy Pathmanathan, Anabela Rodriguez, Encanacion Rodriguez, Nihayah Saadeh, Bahareh Sadafi, Jawad Salkhordeh, Riem Spielhaus, Lina Sur, Tarik Tesfu, Astrid Utler, Alice Pinheiro Walla, Mai’a Williams, Ibrahim Mahamet Zane

**9th BIGSAS Festival of African and African-Diasporic Literatures: “Crises and Responsibilities. kNOWLEDges in Academia, Arts and Activism” in Bayreuth**



See report on page 38

Oshita Oshita

**KNOWLEDGE LAB LECTURE, Bayreuth**

**WORKSHOP “un doing post colonial knowledges perspectives from arts academia activism” in Bayreuth and Leipzig**

Wazi Apoh, Eva Bahl, Manuela Bauche, Raphael Chikukwa, Tahir Della, Larissa Förster, Paola Ivanov, Peju Layiwola, Nashilongweshipwe Mushandja, Malick Ndiaye, Temitope Odumosu, Nanette Snoep, Greer Valley



See report on page 24

**August 2019**

Ahonagnon Noel Gbaguidi, Fulera Isaaka-Toure, Akouhaba Isabelle Anani, Chukwuemeka Agu Alams, James Muriuki, Sarah Marjie

**SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE, Bayreuth**

Aries Arugay, Marco d’Eramo, Ousseini Illy, Cosmas Kipkemoi Bii, Olumuyiwa Adebajo Falaiye, Peter Simatei Tirop, Ganiyu Akinloye Jimoh, Eduardo Antonio Restrepo Uribe

**SUMMER SCHOOL, Fábrica de Ideias, Salvador de Bahia**



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**September 2019**

**September 2019: Sumi Cho**

Intersectionality, as one of the latest approaches in Postcolonial Studies, Feminist and Queer Studies, has been challenging the analysis of power structures and systems of discriminations. Prof. Sumi Cho, one of the leading voices of Intersectionality Studies was invited by the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence to participate in a workshop on “Intersectionality” where she introduced the audience to the political backdrop of the topic and set the theoretical bases for its discussion. The discussion was open for an interactive engagement of the participants with the objective of exploring the practices of intersectionality in their field of studies. (Text: Shirin Assa)





Daniel Shayo, Sumi Cho,  
Omondi Robert Owino

**SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE, Bayreuth**

**September – October 2019: Omondi Owino**

Omondi Robert Owino is a Senior Law Lecturer and Chair of Private Law Department at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) School of Law in Nairobi. He holds Dr. jur degree from the University of Bayreuth, an LL.M (Master of Laws) degree from University of Dar es Salaam and an LL.B degree from Moi University Eldoret in Kenya. He is an alumnus of BIGSAS and a member of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence in the Research Section “Affiliations”. During his stay from September to November 2019, he refined theoretical perspectives on his research “Legal Perspective of Corporate Social Responsibility and Climate Change in Africa” which examines the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of Multinational Corporations for climate change impacts in Africa. He splices the three cluster theoretical strands of multiplicity, relationality, and reflexivity into his research variously while arguing for CSR as a legal obligation for climate change impacts caused by multinationals in Africa. Owino’s research is a subset of the larger “Affiliations” research project on Human Rights, Corporate Social Responsibility and Interacting Markets in Africa. His other research interests generally focus on transdisciplinary aspects of climate change, renewable energy, and environmental law.



(Text: Omondi Owino)

**September – October 2019: Daniel Aloyce Msafiri Shayo**

Daniel Aloyce Msafiri Shayo, Lecturer and Head of Department of Economic Law at the University of Dar es Salaam School of Law, Tanzania, came to the University of Bayreuth following an invitation by the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence to discuss the future projects in the field of Africa Studies.



During his stay, Shayo attended various cluster meetings, roundtable discussions and conducted library research for the Research Project on Human Rights, Corporate Social Responsibility and Interacting Markets in Africa. He also worked on two articles on CSR, law and taxation. Shayo holds a Bachelor of (2001) and a Master Law Degrees from the University of Dar es Salaam (2004). From 2012–2016 he received a joint scholarship from the German Academic Exchange (DAAD) and Ministry of Education of Tanzania (MoEVT) to pursue his LL.M and a Doctoral degree at the University of Konstanz in Germany. His main research interests are corporate law, company law, competition law and corporate social responsibility.

(Text: Carolin Herzog)

**October 2019**

Halkano Abdi Wario, Issifou Abou Moumouni

**SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE, Bayreuth**

Gorette Nsubuga Nabanoga, Frederick Okoth  
Okaka, Gorette Nsubuga Nabanoga

**WORKSHOP “Oil Movements”**

Omondi Robert Owino,  
Daniel Shayo

**ROUND TABLE “Sustainability, Corporate Social Responsibility and Interacting Markets in East Africa”**

Ramzi Ben Amara, Akosua Ampofo, Yacouba Banhoru,  
Dmitry Bondarev, Emmanuelle Bouilly, John Ayotunde Isola Bewaji,  
Yongkyu Chang, Patrick Chamoiseau, Ayalew Gebre Cheru,  
Dominique Darbon, Tunde Ope-Davies, Ajay Kumar Dubey,  
Funso Alphonso Falade, Muyiwa Falaiye, Fabio Baqueiro  
Figueiredo, Patricia Godinho Gomes, John Henry Hanson,  
Brook Lemma Mamaru, Esmeralda Mariano, Tom Michael Mboya,  
Kaneko Morie, Tshepho Lydia Mosweu, Enocent Msindo,  
Anne Nangulu, Feridjou Emilie Georgette Sanon Ouattara,  
Roger Patier, Marko Scholze Radhamany Sooryamoorthy,  
Peter Simatei Tirop, José Júlio Tomás Tomás

**NETWORK CONFERENCE “Africa Multiple – Conversations and Building networks!”,  
Bayreuth**



See report on page 6

Elnathan John, Jae Hyo Chang  
Eunkyung Kim, Tao Ravao, Childo Thomas,  
Matchume Candido Salomao Zango

See report on page 6

**CONCERT “World Music in Fusion – An evening at the Margravia Opera House”, Bayreuth**

Gratien G. Atindogbe, Endurence Midinette,  
Koumassaol Dissake, Michaela Ott

**SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE, Bayreuth**

Anja Bengelstorff, Yared Dibaba, Tsevi Dodounou  
Dereje Feyissa Dori, Lamine Doumbia, Uschi Entenmann,  
Claudia Gebauer, Georg Materna, Louis Ndong,  
Simon Nganga, Germain Nyada, Billian Otundo,  
Christiane Rudic, Katharina Wecker, Tilmann Wörtz

**BIGSAS Journalist Award, Bayreuth**



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**Guests of the Institute of African Studies in Bayreuth (IAS)**

Name	From	Institution	Days
Khalil Alio	Tschad	Université de N’Djamena	30
Isabelle Anani	Benin	Faculté de Droit et Science Politique, Université d’Abomey-Calavi, Benin,	47
Messaouda Benmessaoud	Algeria	University of Tamanrasset, Algeria	15
Moussa Ahmad Bichera	Tschad	Université de N’Djamena, Tschad	30
Nicola Brandt	Namibia	University of Hamburg	12
Alfa Keita Djibo	Niger	University in Niamey, Niger	30
Sani Ibrahim	Niger	Abdou Moumouni University, Niamey, Niger	30
Kitso Lynn Lelliot	Johannesburg	University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg	70
Nadine Machikou	Kamerun	Centre d’études et de recherches sur les dynamiques politiques et administratives, Yaoundé	90
Harouna Marane	Burkina Faso	Université de Ouagadougou	30
Temitope Odumosu	Malmö	School of Arts and Communication, Malmö University	6
Oshita Oshita	Nigeria	Institute for Peace and conflict Resolution (IPCR), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja, Nigeria	90
Ulrich Rebstock	Freiburg	Professor emeritus	5

November 2019

Ines Macamo Raimundo

SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE, Bayreuth

Thoko Kaime

KNOWLEDGE LAB LECTURE, Bayreuth

FILM FESTIVAL "Cinema Africa 2019", Bayreuth

Abdoulaye Dao,  
Antonio Forjaz,  
Ben Mahmoud Mahmoud,  
Luka Mucavele,  
Joel Karakezi,



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WORKSHOP "African Studies and the Land Question in Africa", Cape Town

Guillermo Antonio Navarro Alvarado  
Yuh Jin Bae, Ajay K. Dubey, Oluwafemi Olajide  
Azza Mustafa Babikir Ahmed,  
Yacouba Cissao, Moulay DrissEl Maarouf,  
Kelemework Tafere Reda, Akira Takada



See report on page 56

Amadou Oumarou

SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE, Bayreuth

December 2019

Peter Brett, Babacar Mbaye Diop,  
Keyan Gray Tomaselli, Subodh Chandakant Kerkar

SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE, Bayreuth

Susann Ludwig, James Merron

Postdoc group "SKAnning Space from Africa: Seeing and Becoming"

Ramzi Ben Amara, Fatimetou Abdel Wahabe,  
Mohamed Mraja, Hassan J. Ndzovu,  
Ulrich Rebstock, Abdourahmane Seck

Research Project "Toward an Islamic Cultural Archive"(ICA)

Daniel Faas, Eva Bulgrin, Lee Pugalis,  
Judith Scheele

SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE, Bayreuth



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The Institute of African Studies (IAS) at the University of Bayreuth promotes and coordinates African studies in twelve subject groups distributed over the six faculties of the University of Bayreuth. It coordinates the research, teaching, and training of emerging scholars, as well as promoting the exchange of information between persons and institutions engaged in research and teaching in or on Africa and beyond. Moreover, it provides an opportunity to publish the work conducted in the realm of Bayreuth African studies. Publications from Bayreuth, guests of Bayreuth and affiliated institutions outside Bayreuth are all welcome.

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The series is registered under ISSN 2628-1791 in the online catalogue of the university library.

This series publishes single authored monographs, including but not limited to PhD-theses\* and edited volumes. Submitted documents are subject to external double-blind review

Editor-in-chief is Dr. Lena Kroeker (Lena.Kroeker@uni-bayreuth.de).

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Contributions to this series can be submitted directly through either a member of the academic staff or through members of the IAS.

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Editor-in-chief is Sabrina Maurus (Sabrina.Maurus@uni-bayreuth.de).

\*PhD theses submitted at the University of Bayreuth are not subjected to further review. This facilitates a fast publication process within a series of University of Bayreuth African studies.





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# IWALEWAHAUS

**TGCL** Tanzanian-German Centre for  
Eastern African Legal Studies



# NAB

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Editorial Board:

Editor-in-Chief:

Sabine Greiner – [Sabine.Greiner@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:Sabine.Greiner@uni-bayreuth.de)

Doris Löhr – [Doris.Loehr@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:Doris.Loehr@uni-bayreuth.de)

Ivo Ritzer – [Ivo.Ritzer@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:Ivo.Ritzer@uni-bayreuth.de)

Irina Turner – [Irina.Turner@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:Irina.Turner@uni-bayreuth.de)

All correspondence to:

[africamultiple-international@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:africamultiple-international@uni-bayreuth.de)

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Inken Bößert – [Inken.Boessert@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:Inken.Boessert@uni-bayreuth.de)

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