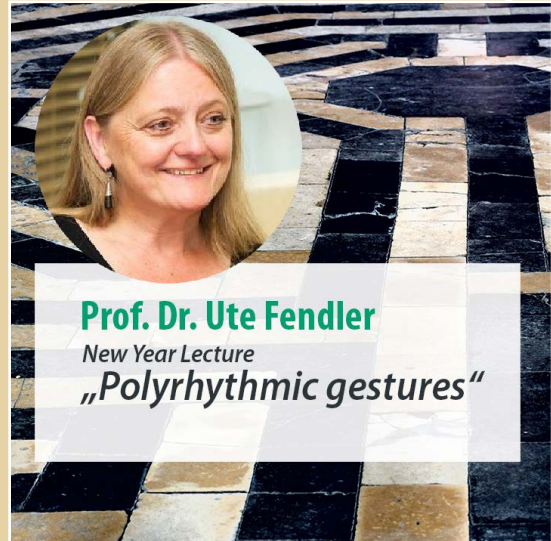


NEWSLETTER December 2020



Congratulations on the University Medal, Prof. Dr. Ulrike Wanitzek! – 02.12.2020

This year, the University Medal of the University of Bayreuth went to Prof. Dr. Ulrike Wanitzek, a founding member of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence for her lifetime achievement. The lawyer was recognized for the outstanding work in Legal and African Studies where she created a unique interdisciplinary and international exchange. The Medal was awarded during the 2020 „dies academicus“ of the University of Bayreuth. [...more](#)



New Year Lecture 2021 held by Cluster's Co-Spokesperson Prof. Dr. Ute Fendler – 14.12.2020

In January 2020, the annual New Year Lecture of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence was successfully launched to mark the official opening of the academic events of the year. Due to the pandemic, the 2021 edition of the talk will be held as an online-only event and will focus on the topic of Polyrhythmic gestures in African arts. The Cluster's Deputy Spokesperson Prof. Dr. Ute Fendler will be giving the lecture.. [...more](#)



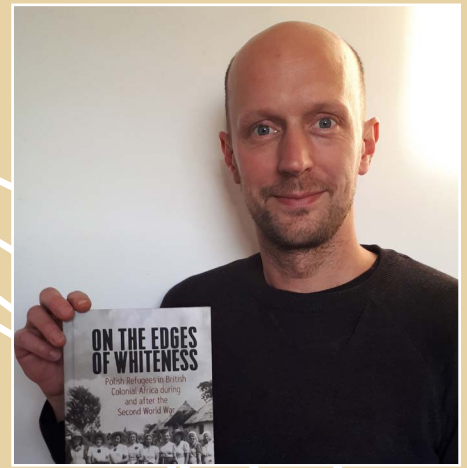
“We must make better use of the expertise from Bayreuth in Berlin!”: Member of Bundestag visits the Cluster – 01.12.2012

During a visit at the Cluster of Excellence politician Thomas Hacker expressed the wish for thematic collaboration between policy-makers in Berlin and scholars in Bayreuth and proposed to develop a regular dialogue between the institution and the national administration. [... more](#)



Great response for the Cluster’s call for artist fellowships – 04.12.2020

When the Cluster issued its call for the artist residency programme in the summer of 2020, it was not clear what kind of response was to be expected. However, with about 200 inquiries and 65 applications the call turned out to be a great success and in December 2020 the new participants of the fellowship programme were finally announced. [... more](#)



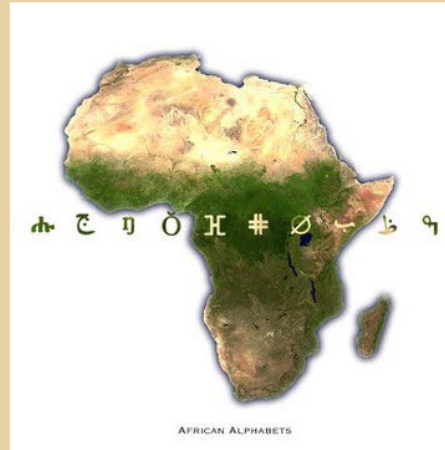
“Not so long ago Europe was the continent from where people fled” – 11.12.2020

In 2020, the Cluster member Dr. Jochen Lingelbach published “On the Edges of Whiteness” – a book on the history of Polish refugees in British Colonial Africa. In this interesting interview, the author talks about how his interest in the topic came about and why these historic events have relevance today. [... more](#)



Cluster research project “Making a Living: Learning trajectories towards the ability to earn a livelihood” – 17.12.2020

As part of the Research Section “Learning” one of its projects scrutinizes the ways of becoming an adult and making a living for rural members of the younger generation in West Africa who were part of the global schooling campaigns that were put into practice from 2000 to 2015. [... more](#)



The Cluster launches App “African Alphabets of the Bayreuth Cluster” (AABC) – 01.11.2020

The Cluster of Excellence has developed an app for mobile and desktop devices providing users with keyboards for all common African languages and scripts. From Adlam to Wolofal – “African Alphabets of the Bayreuth Cluster” gives its users the necessary keyboard characters for communicating in 44 African languages [... more](#)



„Les Fellows sont des ambassadeurs ayant une double mission” – Entretien avec Prof. Dr. Miampika Moundele – 16.12.2020

Prof. Dr. Miampika Moundele is one of the Fellows currently working at the Cluster of Excellence. We talked to him about his experience in Bayreuth in the midst of the global pandemic and his research projects that he is currently working on. (Interview in French and English) [... more](#)



Personalia: A note from former fellow Dr. S.N. Nyeck – 04.12.2020

Since 2019 the Cluster of Excellence has hosted 32 fellows for a certain period of time. But even when the stay at the University of Bayreuth is over the Cluster has a strong interest to follow the academic paths of its former fellows creating a network of outstanding scholars affiliated with the institution. This is a summary of activities post-fellowship Dr. S.N. Nyeck sent for us to publish. [... more](#)



Prof. Dr. Michael Steppat speaks on “The Excellence Strategy:” – 10.12.2020

Prof. Dr. Michael Steppat, a member of the RS Knowledges, was invited by Moscow Region State University (MGOU) to speak about “The Excellence Strategy: Cutting-Edge Research in Germany?” in December. The lecture outlined topics such as how and why the original Excellence Initiative came into being in Germany and how its funding relates to normal research support [... more](#)



Change in the making” – Interview with GDO director Christine Vogt-William – 10.12.2020

As envisaged in its concept, the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence has established a Gender and Diversity Office (GDO). In this interview, Christine Vogt-William, who has been successfully filling the important role of Director of the GDO office, talks about the Cluster’s goals and how her work commits to achieving these. The interview was first published in the 2019 NAB. [... more](#)

COMMENTARIES & VIEWS

The items published in this section are articles, interviews, or op-eds by cluster members. The opinions expressed here are those of the authors and reflect individual research priorities and specific disciplinary approaches. They do not purport to represent the opinions or views of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence or its members.



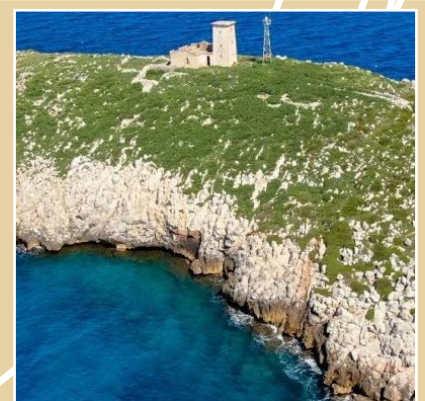
Aparajita Biswas: Unruly waves of rivalry in Western Indian Ocean - 10.11.2020

The region has the potential to become the new hotbed of a power struggle between the world’s two most populous nations. By Prof. Aparajita Biswas, President, African Studies Association of India, Centre for African Studies, University of Mumbai [... more](#)



Episode of “Trumanitarian” with Joël Glasman - 11.11.2020

Humanitarians say that they will base their interventions on needs. But how do you define needs? And how do standards and methodologies influence the way we think about humanitarian action? These are some of the issues Joël Glasman and Lars Peter Nissen unpack in this episode of the „Trumanitarian“ podcast. [... more](#)



Jochen Lingelbach: Swimming to safety’ - 20.11.2020

In 1942, an unnamed Greek man swam the seven kilometers from the island of Chios to the Turkish coast. According to historian Philip Argenti, he started his journey at the promontory of Haghia Heléne, putting his clothes in a watertight tin that also served him as a lifebuoy – a blog post on refugeehistory.org. [... more](#)

IMPORTANT DATES



[More Dates and Events](#)

14.01.2021: New Year Lecture 2021

The 2021 annual New Year's Lecture is titled „Polyrhythmic gestures: Relational Perspectives on/from verbal, audio/visual and performative arts across the African continent“. The Cluster's spokesperson Prof. Dr. Ute Fendler will engage with the key term of relationality by combining concepts from Glissant's poetics of relation as well as from Deleuze's polyrhythm, Benítez Rojo's concept of „chaos“ or Bra-thwaite's "tidalectics". ... [more](#)

PUBLICATIONS



Selected books, anthologies, articles and comments published by the members of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence may be found [here](#).

[Selected Publications](#)

Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence

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