

NOVEMBER 10-13 2025
WORKSHOP &
RESEARCH
COLLOQUIUM

CROSSING AREAS CROSSING STORIES CROSSING THEORIES – – TOWARDS NEW SHORES

WITHIN PRACTICES OF
CRITIQUE AND CONVIVIALITY

PROGRAM DETAILS



UNIVERSITÄT
BAYREUTH



FAU
FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER
UNIVERSITÄT
ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG

africamultiple
CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE



UNIVERSITÄT
LEIPZIG



VolkswagenStiftung

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

THIS MULTI-DAY WORKSHOP AND RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM AIMS AT PROVIDING EXCHANGE, NETWORK, AND COLLABORATION ON A NUMBER OF THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES AT THE CROSSROADS OF POSTCOLONIAL, DECOLONIAL, DIASPORA, AND INTERSECTIONAL STUDIES AMONG SENIOR AND JUNIOR RESEARCHERS AND TO GIVE IN-DEPTH CROSS-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH INSIGHTS INTO NEW THEORIES AND METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO CURRENT ISSUES AT THE THREE UNIVERSITIES AND THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED CLUSTERS OF EXCELLENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH AND FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER UNIVERSITY ERLANGEN-NUREMBERG. THE AIM IS TO EXCHANGE IDEAS WITH SCHOLARS AT THE LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY AND THE VOLKSWAGEN FOUNDATION PROJECT MEDIA SYSTEMS AND OPEN SPACE IN AFGHANISTAN, THE UBT AND THE AFRICA MULTIPLE CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE AS WELL AS WITH SCHOLARS AT THE FAU AND THE CHAIR OF REFORMDISCOURSES IN ISLAM AND AFGHANISTAN STUDIES, THE TRANSFORMING HUMAN RIGHTS CLUSTER AT THE FAU.

THE INITIATIVE IS UNDERSTOOD AS AN INTENSIFICATION OF STUDIES IN SOUTH-SOUTH AND DIASPORA-DIASPORA ENCOUNTERS, INTERSECTIONAL, CRITICAL THOUGHT, AND BEYOND. ON THE ONE HAND, CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EXPERT PROFESSORS IN THE TWO CLUSTERS AND THE THREE UNIVERSITIES WILL GIVE EMERGING RESEARCHERS INSIGHTS INTO THEIR OWN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PARTICIPATING JUNIOR RESEARCHERS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THEIR WORK IN QUESTION AND DISCUSSION ROUNDS AND ENGAGE IN CRITICAL EXCHANGE WITH ESTABLISHED ACADEMICS AND PEERS, THEREBY CREATING SYNERGIES FOR FURTHER REFLECTION.

IN ADDITION, THE PHD AND POSTDOC PARTICIPANTS WILL PLAN AND ORGANIZE JOINT PANELS AND PRESENT THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL PROBLEMS IN THE HUMANITIES AND PRESENT THEM WITHIN GROUP-WORKS AND DISCUSS THEM IN PEER REVIEW ROUNDS. THE WORK AND PARTICIPATION OF THE EMERGING RESEARCHERS WILL ALSO BE CONFIRMED AND RECOGNIZED BY A CERTIFICATE COVERING THE RELEVANT TOPICS AND WORK.

THIS INITIATIVE EMERGED FROM A COOPERATION BETWEEN THE CENTER COMMUNICATION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE (C4SC) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEIPZIG AND THE CHAIR OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AT THE UBT AND THE PLATFORM OTHERNESSES – TOWARDS HUMANISM BEYOND BORDERTHINKING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH IN 2024 WITH A WORKSHOP AND FOLLOWED BY A SUMMER SCHOOL AT THE LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY IN 2025.

WHILE ON THE FIRST DAY THE PERSPECTIVES PROBLEMATIZED BY THE ESTABLISHED RESEARCHERS AND PROFESSORS WILL BE PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED, ON THE SECOND DAY, PHD CANDIDATES FROM THE UBT, AND THE LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY AND THEIR ASSOCIATED JUNIOR SCHOLARS, AS WELL AS PHD CANDIDATES AND POST-DOCS THE FAU WILL INDULGE IN PRESENTATIONAL DIALOGUES AND DISCUSSIONS THAT WILL BE FURTHER CONTINUED AT THE FAU.

POSSIBLE POINTS OF DEPARTURE

- § PROBLEMS OF POSTCOLONIAL STUDIES – AND OTHER WOR(L)DS – WHERE AND HOW CAN WE FIND CONNECTING POINTS OF DEPARTURE FOR FUTURE ENVISIONING AND THOUGHT – ACROSS AREAS?
- § (HOW) CAN WE CONNECT OUR 'WOR(L)DS' WITHOUT EXCEPTIONS AND EXCLUSIONS?
- § CAN THE EXPERIENCE OF SUFFERING BE A POINT OF ETHICAL BONDING? WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ACADEMIC WORK AND WRITING?
- § HOW CAN WE DEAL WITH CROSS-CULTURAL, LATENT FORMS OF RACISMS (INCLUDING ANTISEMITISM, SEXISM, CLASSISM, ABLENES, HOMOPHOBIA ETC.) THAT ARE PART OF LANGUAGE AND/OR RESIDUES OF PAST AND COLONIAL HISTORY AND IMAGERY IN LANGUAGE AND DISCOURSE? HOW CAN WE TRANSCEND THEM?
- § WHAT CAN BE THE ROLE OF 'DIALOGICITY' IN CROSS-ACADEMIC, AND SOUTH-SOUTH, DIASPORIC KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION?
- § (HOW) CAN WE INTEGRATE CRITICAL COMMUNICATION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE ACROSS AREAS FROM WITHIN ACADEMIC APPROACHES?
- § CAN 'ENGLISH' BE ANOTHER LANGUAGE OF CROSSING-AREAS IN POSTCOLONIAL TIMES? PROBLEMS AND POSSIBILITIES.
- § POSTCOLONIAL, INTERSECTIONALLY INFORMED CRITICAL STUDIES – FOR A BETTER WORLD – CHALLENGES, PROBLEMS – AND HOPES?
- § WHAT ARE THE SENSES AND SENSIBILITIES OF 'CRITIQUE' IN OTHER LANGUAGES?
- § WHERE CAN WE FIND POSSIBILITIES FOR BEGINNINGS?
- § HOW CAN WE THINK PRODUCTIVELY TOGETHER 'IN DIFFERENCE'? WHAT CAN 'DIFFERENCE' MEAN? WHEN IS IT A CHANCE, WHEN A HINDERANCE? WHO DEFINES IT – ALONG WHICH PARAMETERS?
- § QUALITATIVE METHODS AND QUESTIONS OF THEORY – ARE THEY COMPATIBLE? WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES WITHIN SOUTH-SOUTH RELATIONS IN ACADEMIA AND BEYOND?
- § LITERARY STUDIES, CRITICAL COMMUNICATION STUDIES, OTHER HUMANITIES, AND PROBLEMS OF REPRESENTATION IN (ACADEMIC) LANGUAGE.
- § ACADEMIC WRITING IN 'EURO-AMERICA' AND OTHER CULTURES OF WRITING: DIFFERENCES, SIMILARITIES, PROBLEMS OF TRANSMITTING AND ADDRESS.
- § QUESTIONS OF POWER, MARGINALITY – AND ACADEMIC CAREERS (IN GERMANY AND OTHER PLACES) – WHAT IS TO CHERISH – WHAT SHOULD BE CHANGED?
- § HOW DO DIFFERENT POSTCOLONIAL THINKERS ACROSS THE WORLD – ENVISION A NEW 'PLANETARITY', ANOTHER 'HUMANISM'? WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THESE APPROACHES?

NOVEMBER 11 2025

ABSTRACTS

THE PRESENCE OF THE PAST – TIMELY (RE)DIRECTIONS and the AFTERLIVE OF THE PhD-PHASE

Dr. Bakheit Mohammed Nur - "(In)Compatibility between Reason and Faith: Critical Reflections on a Resurgent Islamic Epistemology"

This paper engages with the broader discourse of Muslim knowledge politics and critically examine the narratives of dichotomies such as reason vs. faith, epistemic certainty vs. skepticism. In analyzing these themes, the paper draws on ethnographic research conducted in Sudan between 2019 and 2020, as well as a critical discussion of the premises of theories of the Islamization of knowledge. A critical engagement with the concepts of (un)certainty and reason will help to understand how these two concepts relate to the question of Islamic knowledge production and the notion of good scholarship in both historical and contemporary discussions. What is reason and what is it used for in the discourse on the Islamization of knowledge? Why do some Muslim scholars see a conflict between reason and religion and others do not? How sciences and religion are epistemologically (in)compatible? The relevance of these questions stems from a reductionist notion that defines Islam in spiritual terms and absorbs sciences and social sciences in religious epistemology. The paper argues that Islam is not only a religion but also a civilization, a knowledge system, a philosophy, and socio-cultural heritage that encompasses worldviews and ontological realities. This argument has the potential to broaden the horizon of Islamic epistemology by taking seriously not only that which confirms the religious principles of Islam, but also that which contradicts them. In this paraconsistent logic, a new epistemological direction based on Islam could be claimed. One that does not ignore or avoid internal contradictions but deals with them.

Dr Hazrat Bahar - "International Media Assistance and Local Realities:Lessons from Afghanistan"

This presentation critically examines international media assistance in Afghanistan from 2001 to 2021, drawing on insights from the study "Priorities Were Chosen by Donors." The discussion highlights how media development efforts are often influenced more by donor agendas than by local needs, raising questions about effectiveness, sustainability, and participatory engagement. By exploring the tensions between externally driven priorities and the realities faced by Afghan media practitioners and audiences, the panel considers broader implications for media aid in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. The conversation aims to generate insights that inform both scholarly understanding and practical approaches to media development worldwide.

JUNIOR
RESEARCHERS
PANELS

POST-DOC
RESEARCH
PANEL
&
ROUND TABLE
DISCUSSION

NOVEMBER 11 2025

SECTION I – BETWEEN CONSTRUCTIONS OF PUBLIC SPACES AND THE SPACING OF CRITIQUE

PANEL I “Integrating Critical Communication for Social Change in Academia”

(How) Can we integrate Critical Communication for Social Change (CCSC) across areas from within academic approaches?

This panel examines how CCSC can be integrated into various academic disciplines to promote transformative and inclusive social practices. CCSC challenges traditional, top-down communication models by emphasizing dialogue, participation, and sharing voice and power. It aims to connect academic knowledge with real-world experiences, fostering methods that challenge and help transform existing social structures. The discussion explores what CCSC involves and how educational institutions can effectively incorporate its principles into teaching, research, and community engagement. It also highlights the potential of collaborations that link communication, social change, education, and media studies to enhance social impact.

The panel features five researchers linking Critical Communication for Social Change with digital and media practices around Afghanistan. Mariam Meetra studies gender activism on social media. Laily Habib examines Afghanistan YouTube channels as new public spaces. Ali Reza Hussaini analyzes social media use within the Afghanistan diaspora. Abumoslem Khurasani explores online radicalization. Hamid Obaidi investigates journalistic culture and its transformative potential for communication and education.

JUNIOR
RESEARCHERS PANELS

PHD-
CANDIDATES/
RESEARCH
PANEL

PANEL II “Crossing Media to Fill Gaps: Intersectional and Dialogical Approaches”

This panel addresses classic social science topics from a media perspective. It examines data from media workplaces, Newspapers, film and television archives, and social media platforms, such as Facebook. Each contribution highlights the mediation, construction process, and meaning-making related to one of the following issues: identity, safety, belonging, networking, rumor, or propaganda. Each paper lies at the intersection of a subject, a discipline, and a medium. The analyses are cross-references within the same medium or between different ones. The underlying question of the panel is how creators, users, and researchers define the boundaries of media, how these boundaries intertwine or overlap, and how situations are staged or performed within them to produce identity, safety, belonging, networking, rumor, or propaganda. The aim is to demonstrate media uses, and how information circulates within a medium, as well as from one medium to another, filling the meaning gaps through intersectional and dialogical approaches. In the sequence of presentations, Kingsley Jima analyzes the identity construction from the vantage point of Newspapers. Then, Shaden Kamel focuses on safety experience and maintenance in Women-Only Facebook groups. Next, Luisa Schneider shows how the Liberian diaspora expresses their sense of belonging through cultural performances and social media. In the following, Edidiong Charles Ibanga demonstrates the practice of networking and rumors within media workplaces.

Marie Nadège Tsogo Momo goes on to discuss how colonial cinema served as a means of propaganda. Finally, Saïkou Oumar Sagnane analyses how an individual's situation and position at the intersection of various media influences agency and shapes responsiveness regarding disruptive events.

NOVEMBER 11 2025

JUNIOR
RESEARCHERS
PANELS

PHD-
CANDIDATES'
RESEARCH
PANEL

SECTION II – CROSSING CONCEPTIONS OF BE.LONGING?

PANEL I “Difference as Opportunity or Challenge?”

How can we think productively together in Difference? What can ‘Difference’ mean? When is it a Chance, when a hindrance? Who defines it – along which parameters?

This panel examines the idea of Difference and its influence on collaboration, innovation, and social interaction. It explores how difference can be both an opportunity and a challenge, prompting participants to consider when it promotes creativity, dialogue, and growth, and when it acts as a barrier. The discussion also examines who defines difference and based on which social, cultural, or institutional criteria, emphasizing the role of power and context. By examining differences critically and constructively, the conversation aims to reimagine it as a space for inclusive dialogue and collective, transformative practice.

PANEL II “Convivial Crossings: Anthropology Between Precarity and Practice”

This panel explores how anthropologists examine human life at the intersection of precarity and everyday practice. The contributions highlight how people navigate uncertainty, moral ambiguity, and relational challenges across diverse social, economic, and cultural contexts.

Augustine Gyan investigates youth livelihoods, activism, and the politics of artisanal gold mining in Ghana, focusing on how social and moral legitimacy is negotiated in precarious economic environments. Sophia Ertlmaier examines education, life trajectories, and gendered aspirations among women in Lagos, Nigeria, emphasizing the intersection of personal ambition and social expectation.

Chahdi Nihal Ouazzani explores embodied ethical and spiritual practices in Moroccan Sufi ritual, highlighting relationality and the translation of cultural and religious knowledge. Abdallah Hassan Ounour addresses migration and its moral, social, and institutional complexities in Sudan, showing how individuals navigate precarity and opportunity within transnational networks. Bintou Koné investigates how individuals in Mali and Burkina Faso transform experiences of fear and shame into resilience and hope, showing the complex strategies people use to survive and reframe their lives in the face of terror. Sara Hayyat examines gendered labor and migration between Morocco and Spain, analyzing how women navigate affective, economic, and institutional pressures shaped by EU-Morocco border regimes.

PRESENTERS

FIRST DAY, 10TH NOVEMBER

DR KEFA HAMIDI IS A COMMUNICATION SCHOLAR AT LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY AND THE HEAD OF THE RESEARCH CENTER COMMUNICATION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE. HIS WORK CONNECTS RESEARCH, TEACHING, AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, FOCUSING ON PARTICIPATORY COMMUNICATION, DIASPORA COMMUNICATION, TRANSNATIONAL PUBLICS, AND POSTMIGRANT PERSPECTIVES. HE DEVELOPS THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORKS THAT LINK COMMUNICATION, KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION, AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION, ENGAGING WITH INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC DEBATES ON POWER, EPISTEMIC JUSTICE, AND PLURALITY. HIS PUBLICATIONS INCLUDE STUDIES ON PARTICIPATORY AND DIALOGIC MODELS OF COMMUNICATION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE, ON POSTMIGRANT AND TRANSNATIONAL DYNAMICS IN GERMANY, AND ON THE TRANSFORMATION OF MEDIA AND PUBLIC COMMUNICATION IN AND ABOUT AFGHANISTAN. HE IS ALSO THE INITIATOR AND PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR OF THE PROGRAM "MEDIA AND PUBLIC SPHERE OF AFGHANISTAN". SELECTED PUBLICATIONS INCLUDE: HAMIDI, K., MIELKE MÖGLICH, A. (2021): KOMMUNIKATION FÜR SOZIALEN WANDEL. EIN AKTUELLER BLICK IN DAS INTERNATIONALE FORSCHUNGS- UND PRAXISFELD MIT SCHWERPUNKT AUF DEUTSCHLAND / COMMUNICATION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE. A CURRENT LOOK AT THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD OF RESEARCH AND PRACTICE, WITH A FOCUS ON GERMANY. PUBLIZISTIK, 66, 565-588. HAMIDI, K. (2020): DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION AS DEVELOPMENT AID FOR POST-CONFLICT SOCIETIES. IN: JAN SERVAES (ED.), HANDBOOK OF COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL CHANGE. SINGAPORE: SPRINGER, 481-499.

PROF. DR. JIA HUI LEE IS A SCHOLAR OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH. HE WAS TRAINED AS A HISTORICALLY-INFORMED ETHNOGRAPHER. HE IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON A BOOK MANUSCRIPT ON HOW A GROUP OF PEOPLE IN TANZANIA TRANSFORM RODENTS INTO SENSING TECHNOLOGY. HE IS FROM MALAYSIA AND HAS LIVED IN TANZANIA, U.S.A., AND NOW, GERMANY.

PRESENTERS

FIRST DAY, 10TH NOVEMBER

PROF. DR. UTE FENDLER HOLDS THE CHAIR OF ROMANCE LITERATURE AND COMPARATIVE STUDIES WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON AFRICA AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH. SHE IS FURTHERMORE THE VICE SPOKESPERSON OF THE CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE AFRICA MULTIPLE, A PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR IN THE RESEARCH SECTIONS ARTS & AESTHETICS AND THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED RESEARCH SECTION RE:MEMBERING, AND THE VICE DEAN OF THE CLUSTER'S INTERNATIONALISATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SECTION. HER RESEARCH IS SPANNING, FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN, CANADIAN, AND AFRICAN DIASPORIC LITERATURES, INTERMEDIAL PHENOMENA, WORLD LITERATURES, AND VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS, IN PARTICULAR DANCE STUDIES, AS WELL AS CARIBBEAN AND INDIAN OCEAN STUDIES. UTE FENDLER'S RECENT PUBLICATIONS INCLUDE TRANSOCEANIC AND TRANSMEDIAL IMAGINARIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, LONDON; NEW YORK: ROUTLEDGE, 2026 (WITH VIERKE, CLARISSA), ASIA-AFRICA- MULTIFACETED ENGAGEMENT IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD. SINGAPUR, PALGRAVE MACMILLAN, 2024 (WITH CHANG, YONGKYU), MEDIALITIES. BIELEFELD: TRANSCRIPT, 2024 (WITH MWEPU, PATRICE; RITZER, IVO), AND OF WORLDS AND ARTWORKS: A RELATIONAL VIEW ON ARTISTIC PRACTICES FROM AFRICA AND THE DIASPORA, LEIDEN, BOSTON: BRILL, 2024 (WITH KOHL, MARIE-ANNE; NDI, GILBERT SHANG; ODHIAMBO, JOSEPH; CLARISSA VIERKE).

PROF. DR. GILBERT NDI SHANG IS HEISENBERG PROFESSOR OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE/CULTURAL STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH SINCE 2025. FROM JUNE 2019 TO 2025 HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE YOUNG COLLEGE OF THE BAVARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 2022 AND MARCH 2023, HE LED THE CHAIR OF ROMANCE STUDIES/COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AT UBT. AS A POST-DOC FELLOW OF THE EXCELLENCE CLUSTER, HE RESEARCHED UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN AFRICA AND SOUTH AMERICA. FROM 2017 TO 2019, HE WAS A FEDOR LYNEN FELLOW OF THE ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT FOUNDATION. AFTER COMPLETING HIS BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S DEGREES IN YAOUNDE (CAMEROON), HE CONTINUED HIS DOCTORATE AND SUBSEQUENTLY HIS HABILITATION AT THE UBT. HIS RESEARCH TOPIC INCLUDES "OF RAILROADS AND MINES: NETWORKS OF TROPICAL COLONIALITY IN AFRICAN AND LATIN AMERICAN LITERARY IMAGINATIONS." BACKGROUND IS HIS ASSUMPTION THAT MINING AND RAILROADS ARE EXEMPLARY OF THE (MIS)ENCOUNTERS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES WITH WESTERN MODERNITY, GLOBALIZATION, AND THE SOCIO-CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DYNAMICS. HIS MOST RECENT PUBLICATIONS INCLUDE: "THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE AND THE RE-IMAGINATION OF COLOMBIAN IDENTITY IN THE POETRY OF JORGE ARTEL." (2024) "THE POETICS OF MOBILITY, PROXIMITY AND EMBRACE IN JOYCE ASH'S A BASKET OF FLAMING ASHES (2010) AND BEAUTIFUL FIRE (2018)" (2024). HIS UPCOMING MONOGRAPH IS TITLED BODIES IN (CON)TEXTS: INTERSECTIONS OF CORPOREALITY IN THE NOVELS OF GABRIEL GARCIA MARQUEZ AND SONY LABOU TANSI (PALGRAVE 2025).

PRESENTERS

FIRST DAY, 10TH NOVEMBER

PROF. DR. ALMUT SCHILLING-VACAFLOR STUDIED SOCIOLOGY, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY, AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA. SHE RECEIVED HER DOCTORATE IN 2009 IN THE FIELD OF LEGAL ANTHROPOLOGY AND POLITICAL ANTHROPOLOGY. FROM 2010 TO 2017, SHE WORKED AS A POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER AND RESEARCH PROJECT MANAGER AT THE INSTITUTE FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES AT THE GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL AND AREA STUDIES (GIGA) ON RESOURCE EXTRACTION, PARTICIPATION, ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE, AND THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN THE ANDEAN COUNTRIES. SCHILLING-VACAFLOR THEN RESEARCHED AND TAUGHT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OSNABRÜCK ON GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS AND SUSTAINABILITY GOVERNANCE, WITH A FOCUS ON BRAZIL. SINCE 2023, PROF. ALMUT SCHILLING VACAFLOR HOLDS THE CHAIR OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS, SOCIETY AND SUSTAINABILITY AT THE FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER-UNIVERSITY ERLANGEN NUREMBERG. HER RESEARCH FOCUSES ON SUSTAINABILITY GOVERNANCE, BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS, GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND RESOURCE EXTRACTION, AS WELL AS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN LATIN AMERICA.: HER RECENT PUBLICATIONS INCLUDE.: SUPPLY CHAIN DIVERGENCE CHALLENGES A 'BRUSSELS EFFECT' FROM EUROPE'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DUE DILIGENCE LAWS IN: GLOBAL POLICY (2024) (WITH BASTOS LIMA MG) ISSN: 1758-5880 DOI: 10.1111/1758-5899.13326, AND TOWARDS MORE SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS? COMPANY COMPLIANCE WITH NEW HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DUE DILIGENCE LAWS, ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS, 33:3, 422-443, (WITH MARIA-THERESE GUSTAFSSON) DOI: 10.1080/09644016.2023.2221983

PROF. DR. ALENA RETTOVÁ IS PROFESSOR OF AFRICAN AND AFROPHONE PHILOSOPHIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH, GERMANY, WHERE SHE LEADS AN ERC-FUNDED PROJECT CALLED "PHILOSOPHY AND GENRE: CREATING A TEXTUAL BASIS FOR AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY" (2020-2026). PRIOR TO JOINING BAYREUTH, ALENA TAUGHT SWAHILI LITERATURE AND AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY AT SOAS UNIVERSITY OF LONDON (2006-2020). SHE CO-AUTHORED THE TRANSLATION INTO CZECH THE FIRST TWO VOLUMES OF EDMUND HUSSERL'S IDEEN ZU EINER REINEN PHÄNOMENOLOGIE UND PHÄNOMENOLOGISCHEN PHILOSOPHIE (2006, 2019). ALENA'S PUBLICATIONS INCLUDE AFROPHONE PHILOSOPHIES: REALITY AND CHALLENGE (2007) AND CHANTER L'EXISTENCE: LA POÉSIE DE SANDO MARTEAU ET SES HORIZONS PHILOSOPHIQUES (2013). HER FORTHCOMING MONOGRAPH IS ENTITLED THE NONHUMAN IN AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY (2026). CURRENTLY, ALENA IS CO-PRODUCING A SERIES OF DOCUMENTARIES ABOUT PHILOSOPHY, ENTITLED PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNEYS, FILMED IN THE DRC, RWANDA, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, AND FRANCE.

PRESENTERS

FIRST DAY, 10TH NOVEMBER

DR. SERAWIT DEBELE IS LEADER OF THE INTERSECTIONALITY JUNIOR RESEARCH GROUP WITHIN THE AFRICA MULTIPLE AT CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE, UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH SINCE 2021. BEFORE THAT SHE WAS A RESEARCH FELLOW AT THE SCD DEPARTMENT, MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUTE. SHE IS THE AUTHOR OF "LOCATING POLITICS IN ETHIOPIA'S IRREECHA RITUAL" (BRILL, 2019). CURRENTLY, SHE IS CONDUCTING RESEARCH ON RELIGION AND SEXUALITY IN ETHIOPIA.

PROF. DR. THOKO KAIME IS CHAIRHOLDER OF AFRICAN LEGAL STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH SINCE 2019, PROJECT INVESTIGATOR IN THE CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE AFRICA MULTIPLE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH, AND THE PROJECT LEADER FOR THE TANZANIAN-GERMAN CENTRE FOR EASTERN AFRICAN LEGAL STUDIES (TGCL) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM. HE ALSO SERVES AS TRUSTEE FOR THE ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST. PRIOR TO HIS APPOINTMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH, THOKO KAIME WORKED AS A SENIOR TEACHING FELLOW AT THE SCHOOL OF LAW, SOAS UNIVERSITY OF LONDON AND AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX AS WELL AS THE CO-CHAIR FOR LEGAL ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE AT THE GEORGE-WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY (USA). HE IS MOREOVER A PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAWYER AND MAINTAINS RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW. HE IS AN ADJUNCT FACULTY MEMBER OF FAU'S NEWLY ESTABLISHED CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE TRANSFORMING HUMAN RIGHTS, AND HAS TAUGHT, PRIOR TO THIS, A SPECIALIZATION COURSE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA. HIS WORK IS AN ONGOING SOCIO-LEGAL CRITIQUE OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH HE EXPRESSES THROUGH A CONSIDERATION OF A NUMBER OF CRITICAL ISSUES IN CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND SUSTAINABILITY GOVERNANCE. HE HAS WRITTEN EXTENSIVELY ON THESE SUBJECTS, FOCUSING ON THE INTERSECTION BETWEEN LAW, LEGITIMACY AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL RULE-MAKING AND POLICY IMPLEMENTATION.

PRESENTERS

FIRST DAY, 10TH NOVEMBER

PD^{IN} DR^{IN} DIANA MARIAM POPAL'S DISCIPLINARY FIELD IS
GENERAL & COMPARATIVE LITERATURE.

SHE IS CURRENTLY A RESEARCH AND TEACHING FELLOW AT THE CHAIR OF
COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH, AND MEMBER OF
THE CLUSTER'S RESEARCH SECTION ARTS & AESTHETICS. SHE IS ALSO AN
ASSOCIATE SCHOLAR IN AMERICAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF POTSDAM.

SHE RECEIVED HER PHD FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HAMBURG
(SUMMA CUM LAUDE) WITH A COMPARATIVE WORK ON LAW/SHARIA AND
FEMINIST, POSTCOLONIAL THEORY:

FURTHERMORE, SHE IS THE DIRECTOR OF AN ESSAY FILM/DOCUMENTARY THAT
HAS BEEN WELL RECEIVED THUS FAR. SHE HAD BEEN A RESEARCHER AND VISITING
SCHOLAR, AMONG OTHERS, AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BASEL, THE UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO, THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, AND HAS A
VISITING SCHOLAR STAY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD IN 2025.

HER HABILITATION WORK 'TOUCHING SPACES IN TEXTURES: AFFECTIVE HUMOR
AND DIALOGICITY IN CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE' (2025) IS A FUNDED OPEN-
ACCESS PUBLICATION (CURRENTLY IN PRINT). SHE HAS BEEN THE INITIATOR AND
CO-FOUNDER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ANTIRASSIST, POSTCOLONIAL AND
DECOLONIAL STUDIES - FG DEKOLONIAL E.V., CHAIRING IT UNTIL JULY 2023.

SHE IS ALSO THE FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF THE INTERDISCIPLINARY AND
INTERNATIONAL THOUGHT PLATFORM OTHERNESSES - TOWARDS HUMANISMS
BEYOND BORDERTHINKING THAT ALSO ENTAILS THE ACADEMIC BLOG THEORY-
TEXT WITHIN THE FIELD OF GENERAL & COMPARATIVE LITERATURE.

PRESENTERS

SECOND DAY, 11 TH NOVEMBER

DR. BAKHEIT MOHAMMED NUR HOLDS A PHD IN ANTHROPOLOGY FROM BAYREUTH INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN STUDIES (BIGSAS), UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH, GERMANY;

AND BACHELOR IN SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY, AND A MASTER IN SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY FROM UNIVERSITY OF KHARTOUM, SUDAN. BETWEEN 2019 AND 2021, NUR WAS A POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW AT THE CHAIR OF ANTHROPOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH WHERE HE WORKED ON THE PROJECT "ISLAM, POLITICS, AND SOCIETY: ISLAMIST EDUCATION POLICY AND EPISTEMIC ORIENTATION IN SUDAN" FUNDED BY THE FRITZ THYSSEN FOUNDATION. BETWEEN 2018 AND 2019, HE WAS A LECTURER AT THE INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN AND ASIAN STUDIES (IAAS), UNIVERSITY OF KHARTOUM.

HIS RESEARCH FOCUSES ON ANTHROPOLOGY OF ISLAM; ISLAMIC EPISTEMOLOGY; EDUCATION AND KNOWLEDGE; RELIGION AND CONFLICTS; AND MUSLIM RELIGIOUS SPECIALISTS; AUTOMOBILITY AND TECHNOLOGY.

NUR'S MOST RECENT PUBLICATION INCLUDE: THE RELIGIOUS MEN IN JEBEL MARRA: THE PROCESS OF LEARNING AND THE PERFORMANCE OF ISLAMIC RITUALS AND PRACTICES, LIT 2017; A CASE STUDY OF SOCIO-CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL FACTORS IN AUTOMOBILE DESIGN: DISCOURSES BETWEEN DESIGNERS AND POTENTIAL USERS ON A NEW ELECTRIC VEHICLE IN AFRICA, TECHNOLOGY IN SOCIETY, 2020; SUDANESE ISLAMISTS' CIVILIZING PROJECT: THE CASE OF COMPREHENSIVE CALL. THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF ISLAM IN AFRICA, 2020; MUSLIM EDUCATION POLICIES AND EPISTEMOLOGIES IN AFRICAN TERTIARY EDUCATION; IN: JAMAINE ABIDOGUN AND TOYIN FALOLA (EDS.) "THE PALGRAVE HANDBOOK OF AFRICAN EDUCATION AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE", PALGRAVE MACMILLAN, 2020.

DR. HAZRAT BAHAR IS A POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW AT THE INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA STUDIES AT LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY. HIS RESEARCH INTERESTS INCLUDE THE IMPACT OF (SOCIAL) MEDIA, MEDIA SYSTEMS, MEDIA IN FRAGILE STATES, MEDIA ASSISTANCE, AND POLITICAL COMMUNICATION, WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON AFGHANISTAN.

CURRENTLY, HE HAS BEEN STUDYING THE AFGHAN MEDIA SYSTEM FOR THE PAST TWO DECADES.

HIS RESEARCH HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN JOURNALS SUCH AS MEDIA ASIA, CROSS-CULTURE COMMUNICATION, AND GLOBAL MEDIA JOURNAL-GERMAN EDITION.

RECENT PUBLICATION:

- 1) "PRIORITIES WERE CHOSEN BY DONORS" - A CRITICAL REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL MEDIA ASSISTANCE IN AFGHANISTAN (2001-2021) BY GLOBAL MEDIA JOURNAL (2025) [HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.60678/GMJ-DE.V15I1.353](https://doi.org/10.60678/GMJ-DE.V15I1.353) , AND
- 2) CHINA'S PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN AFGHANISTAN: THE ROLE OF MEDIA BY CSEP(2025) [HTTPS://CSEP.ORG/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2025/07/CISA_2025-04.PDF](https://csep.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/CISA_2025-04.PDF)

PRESENTERS

SECOND DAY, 11 TH NOVEMBER

MARIAM MEETRA IS A PHD CANDIDATE AND RESEARCH ASSOCIATE AT THE INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA STUDIES AT LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY. SHE IS A RESEARCHER, JOURNALIST, AND POET.

HER DOCTORAL DISSERTATION, THE DIGITAL MOVEMENT OF WOMEN OF AFGHANISTAN IN EXILE, EXAMINES HOW AFGHAN WOMEN IN EXILE USE DIGITAL PLATFORMS TO SUSTAIN ACTIVISM, SOLIDARITY, AND FEMINIST RESISTANCE BEYOND NATIONAL BORDERS. HER BROADER RESEARCH INTERESTS INCLUDE GENDER, DIGITAL ACTIVISM, AND MEDIA REPRESENTATION IN POST-CONFLICT SOCIETIES. MEETRA HOLDS A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION AND A MASTER'S DEGREE IN SOCIAL SCIENCES FROM HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY IN BERLIN, WHERE SHE RECEIVED A SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE HEINRICH BÖLL FOUNDATION.

HER RECENT PUBLICATION, THE TALIBAN'S GENDER APARTHEID REGIME AND THE DISMANTLING OF SOCIAL COHESION IN AFGHANISTAN (2025), EXPLORES THE IMPACT OF GENDER-BASED SEGREGATION ON AFGHAN SOCIETY.

LAILY HABIB (RESEARCH ASSOCIATE AT LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY) OBTAINED HER MASTER'S DEGREE IN 2019 FROM EGE UNIVERSITY IN IZMIR, TURKEY. SINCE 2008, SHE HAS BEEN AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION AT THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION, BALKH UNIVERSITY, AFGHANISTAN.

SHE ALSO COLLABORATED WITH DEUTSCHE WELLE (DW) IN BERLIN ON THE PROJECT "MEDIA DEVELOPMENT: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN JOURNALISM."

ALI REZA HUSSAINI (RESEARCH ASSOCIATE AND PHD CANDIDATE AT LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY)

IS A RESEARCHER-PRACTITIONER WHO WORKS AT THE INTERSECTION OF POLICY, EVIDENCE, AND SOCIAL IMPACT. HE HOLDS AN MA IN INTERCULTURAL CONFLICT MANAGEMENT FROM THE ALICE SALOMON UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES BERLIN, ALONGSIDE BACHELOR'S DEGREES IN LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE FROM KABUL UNIVERSITY AND IN

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION FROM THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF AFGHANISTAN.

HE HAS ALSO HELD A FELLOWSHIP WITH THE CENTER FOR INFORMATION RESILIENCE (CIR).

PRESENTERS

SECOND DAY, 11 TH NOVEMBER

ABUMOSLEM KHORASANI (RESEARCH ASSOCIATE AT LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY)

HOLDS A DEGREE

IN JOURNALISM FROM HERAT UNIVERSITY IN AFGHANISTAN.

HE ALSO TEACHES AT THE FACULTY OF JOURNALISM AT
RENA UNIVERSITY IN KABUL.

HE HAS WRITTEN EXTENSIVELY ON EXTREMISM, TERRORISM, HISTORY, AND
SOCIOLOGY, PUBLISHING MORE THAN 500 REPORTS AND ARTICLES IN VARIOUS
NEWSPAPERS. HIS BOOK AFGHANISTAN'S NATIONAL SECURITY PATHOLOGY
WITH EMPHASIS ON INTERNAL FACTORS WAS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLICATION IN
SEPTEMBER 2021, BUT ITS RELEASE WAS HALTED DUE TO THE FALL OF THE
AFGHANISTANS GOVERNMENT.

HAMID OBAIDI (RESEARCH ASSOCIATE LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY) IS A RESEARCHER
AT LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY, WHERE HE FOCUSES ON JOURNALISTIC CULTURE IN
CONFLICT ZONES.

WITH A POSTGRADUATE DEGREE IN JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION FROM
SHANGHAI JIAO TONG UNIVERSITY,

HAMID HAS OVER A DECADE OF EXPERIENCE IN JOURNALISM, ACADEMIA, AND
MEDIA RELATIONS.

HE WORKED AS AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF JOURNALISM AT KABUL
UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN TEN ACADEMIC YEARS. NOTABLY, SOME OF HIS
WORKS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN INTERNATIONAL JOURNALS.

SAÏKOU OUMAR SAGNANE HOLDS A BA IN SOCIOLOGY AND A MA IN SOCIO-
ANTHROPOLOGY. HE JOINED

THE UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH FOR HIS DOCTORAL STUDY
AS PART OF THE "POLITICS OF THE UNKNOWN" RESEARCH GROUP. EXTENDING
HIS MASTER'S DISSERTATION ON

"THE SOCIAL LIFE OF HEALTH MESSAGES", AND TAKING GUINEA'S POLITICAL
REGIME CHANGE IN 2021 AS A CASE STUDY,

HIS CURRENT WORK ANALYSES THE CIRCULATION OF INFORMATION FLOWS
AND THE LOGIC OF QUEST IN THE CONTEXT OF UNEXPECTED EVENTS.

HE ALSO EXPLORES KNOWLEDGE TRADITIONS, THEIR ECOLOGIES, AND THEIR
APPLICATIONS TO CONTEMPORARY ISSUES.

BESIDES HIS RESEARCH AND TEACHING ACTIVITIES, SAGNANE IS INVOLVED IN
KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER PRACTICES AND CONSULTANCIES.

PRESENTERS

SECOND DAY, 11 TH NOVEMBER

HASNAA ESSAM FARAG IS A DOCTORAL RESEARCHER, SPECIALIZED IN SOCIOPRAGMATICS, AFFILIATED WITH THE BAYREUTH INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN STUDIES IN THE FIELD OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE, ARABIC STUDIES. HER RESEARCH FOCUS IS ON GENDER STYLES AND EGYPTIAN TELEVISION SOCIAL DRAMAS.

HER ACADEMIC BACKGROUND INCLUDES ENGLISH/ARABIC LINGUISTICS, APPLIED LINGUISTICS, TRANSLATION, LITERATURE, AND ISLAMIC STUDIES. HASNAA'S RESEARCH INTERESTS LIE AT THE INTERSECTION OF THESE DISCIPLINES, WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON ARABIC IN AFRICA.

HER RECENT PUBLICATIONS INCLUDE: (2023): BOOK REVIEW FOR THE JOURNAL OF ARABIC SOCIOLINGUISTICS (EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY PRESS): SINATORA, FRANCESCO L. 2020. LANGUAGE, IDENTITY, AND SYRIAN POLITICAL ACTIVISM ON SOCIAL MEDIA. LONDON: ROUTLEDGE. [HTTPS://WWW.EUPPUBLISHING.COM/DOI/ABS/10.3366/ARABIC.2023.0008](https://www.euppublishing.com/doi/abs/10.3366/arabic.2023.0008)

KINGSLEY JIMA IS A PHD CANDIDATE AND DOCTORAL RESEARCHER WITH THE JUNIOR RESEARCH GROUP PROJECT:

"POLITICS OF THE UNKNOWN: CONSPIRACISM AND CONFLICTS"

AT THE "AFRICA MULTIPLE" CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE, WITH BIGSAS.

HE HAS A JOINT MASTER'S DEGREE IN GLOBAL STUDIES: A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF LEIPZIG, GERMANY, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA, AUSTRIA. KINGSLEY HOLDS A BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FROM THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA (AUN).

HIS RESEARCH INTERESTS ARE IN POLITICAL VIOLENCE, MEDIA NARRATIVES, AND THE ETHICS OF REPRESENTATION IN CONFLICT REPORTING.

JIMA'S WORK EXPLORES HOW AMBIGUITY, LABELLING, AND SILENCE FUNCTION AS TOOLS OF POWER IN CONTEXTS OF INSECURITY, PARTICULARLY IN NIGERIA AND THE BROADER SAHEL.

SHADEN KAMEL IS A MEDIA STUDIES DOCTORAL RESEARCHER AND JUNIOR FELLOW AT THE BAYREUTH INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN STUDIES. SHE HOLDS A MASTER'S DEGREE IN MEDIA AND GLOBAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI.

KAMEL'S CURRENT RESEARCH EXPLORES WOMEN-ONLY FACEBOOK GROUPS AS A POPULAR COMMUNICATION PHENOMENON IN EGYPT. HER RESEARCH INTERESTS INCLUDE DIGITAL MEDIA AND POPULAR CULTURE, WITH A FOCUS ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND INTERNET-BASED TRENDS, ONLINE COMMUNITY FORMATIONS, AND GENDER.

PRESENTERS

SECOND DAY, 11 TH NOVEMBER

LUISA SCHNEIDER IS A PHD CANDIDATE AT THE BAYREUTH INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN STUDIES (BIGSAS).

SHE HOLDS AN MA IN AFRICAN STUDIES FROM THE INSTITUTE FOR ASIAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES AT HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY OF BERLIN.

HER DOCTORAL RESEARCH EMPLOYS AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO EXAMINE THE INTERSECTIONS OF MEMORY, HERITAGE, AND TOURISM IN LIBERIA THROUGH THE ANALYSIS OF UNCONVENTIONAL HISTORICAL SOURCES, INCLUDING SOCIAL MEDIA DISCOURSE, ARCHIVAL TELEVISION FOOTAGE FROM THE LIBERIAN BROADCASTING SYSTEM, AND (DIGITAL) ETHNOGRAPHY OF HISTORICAL MEMORY THROUGH TOURISTIC TOURS.

BY BRIDGING MEMORY, MEDIA, AND HERITAGE STUDIES, HER WORK CONTRIBUTES TO CRITICAL DEBATES ON CULTURAL MEMORY, HISTORICAL RECKONINGS AND IDENTITY IN AFRICA AND ITS DIASPORA.

SHADEN KAMEL IS A MEDIA STUDIES DOCTORAL RESEARCHER AND JUNIOR FELLOW AT THE BAYREUTH INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN STUDIES.

SHE HOLDS A MASTER'S DEGREE IN MEDIA AND GLOBAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI.

KAMEL'S CURRENT RESEARCH EXPLORES WOMEN-ONLY FACEBOOK GROUPS AS A POPULAR COMMUNICATION PHENOMENON IN EGYPT.

HER RESEARCH INTERESTS INCLUDE DIGITAL MEDIA AND POPULAR CULTURE, WITH A FOCUS ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND INTERNET-BASED TRENDS, ONLINE COMMUNITY FORMATIONS, AND GENDER.

EDIDIONG IBANGA IS A RESEARCH ASSISTANT AND JUNIOR FELLOW AT THE AFRICA MULTIPLE CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH. SHE IS A DOCTORAL CANDIDATE WITHIN THE RESEARCH GROUP

"AFRICAN KNOWLEDGES AND THE HISTORY PUBLIC*ATION SINCE THE 70S". HER RESEARCH INTERESTS INCLUDE GENDER, WOMEN'S HISTORY, SOCIAL HISTORY, MEMORY, KNOWLEDGE SOURCES, AND MEDIA IN AFRICA. HER CURRENT RESEARCH IS A HISTORY AND MEMORY PROJECT THAT COMBINES AUDIOVISUAL ARCHIVAL MATERIALS AND PERSONAL STORIES TO PROBE THE HISTORY OF WOMEN IN LIBERIA'S FORMAL ECONOMY.

EDIDIONG.C.IBANGA@UNI-BAYREUTH.DE

PRESENTERS

SECOND DAY, 11 TH NOVEMBER

MARIE NADÈGE TSOGO MOMO IS A JUNIOR FELLOW AT BIGSAS (BAYREUTH INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN STUDIES) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH. HER DOCTORAL THESIS FOCUSES ON GERMAN COLONIAL CINEMA IN CAMEROON. IN THIS WORK, SHE ANALYZES HOW COLONIAL PROPAGANDA UNFOLDS IN FILMS THROUGH THE LANGUAGE OF IMAGES, SOUND, AND, ESPECIALLY, EDITING. A HISTORIAN PASSIONATE ABOUT CINEMA AND AUTHOR OF SEVERAL ARTICLES, HER WORK EXPLORES THEMES OF REPRESENTATION, COLONIAL CINEMA, AND FILM AESTHETICS. AS A DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER OF DOCUMENTARIES, HER FILMS FOCUS ON ISSUES OF HERITAGE, IDENTITY, AND MEMORY.

SOMAIYA MEER IS A FORMER LECTURER AT KABUL UNIVERSITY AND CURRENTLY A PHD CANDIDATE AT THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY VIADRINA. HER DOCTORAL RESEARCH FOCUSES ON THE SOCIOLINGUISTIC DYNAMICS OF THE TRANSNATIONAL AFGHAN DIASPORA IN GERMANY. SHE HOLDS A MASTER'S DEGREE IN TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (TESOL) AND A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE. SHE CONTRIBUTED TO THE CURRICULUM REFORM AND QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEES. SHE WORKED IN THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTRE OF KABUL UNIVERSITY, WHERE SHE TRANSLATED AND EDITED THE UNIVERSITY'S DAILY NEWS FOR ITS WEBSITE. HER ACADEMIC ARTICLES HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN KABUL UNIVERSITY'S SCHOLARLY JOURNAL, EXPLORING TOPICS SUCH AS LINGUISTIC LANDSCAPES, LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION, THE ROLE OF EDX AND E-LEARNING IN AFGHANISTAN'S EDUCATION SYSTEM, THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN PEACE PROCESS OF AFGHANISTAN AND HER LANGUAGE VARIATION ARTICLE WAS PUBLISHED IN THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SCIENCE AND RESEARCH (IJSR) [HTTPS://WWW.IJSR.NET/GETABSTRACT.PHP?PAPERID=ART20199089](https://www.ijsr.net/getabstract.php?paperid=art20199089) HER BROADER RESEARCH INTERESTS ARE LINGUISTICS AND SOCIOLINGUISTICS, THE SOCIOCULTURAL INTERSECTIONS OF LANGUAGE, IDENTITY, MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION WITHIN A TRANSNATIONAL CONTEXT.

PRESENTERS

SECOND DAY, 11 TH NOVEMBER

PUJA KAUR MATTA IS A DOCTORAL RESEARCHER IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH. HER ACADEMIC BACKGROUND SPANS ANTHROPOLOGY (WITH A FOCUS ON AFRICAN STUDIES) AND AMERICAN STUDIES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINZ, AND A MASTER'S DEGREE IN GEOGRAPHY WITH A REGIONAL FOCUS ON SOUTH ASIA FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HEIDELBERG. HER WORK FOCUSES ON THE INTERSECTIONAL HISTORY OF AFGHAN SIKHS AND THEIR CURRENT LIVES IN WESTERN EUROPE. IN HER RESEARCH SHE EXAMINES HOW COLONIAL FORMATIONS, RELIGION, AND MIGRATION SHAPE QUESTIONS OF BELONGING AND VISIBILITY. RECENT BOOK CHAPTERS INCLUDE "HERMENEUTICAL MARGINALIZATION: A CASE OF AFGHAN SIKHS AND HINDUS" IN INTERSECTIONAL KNOWLEDGES (2024) AND "GENDER IDEOLOGIES OF PAST AND PRESENT: THE CHRISTIAN CIVILIZATION MISSION" IN INTERSECTIONAL APPROACHES TO FAR-RIGHT MOVEMENTS (2025).

SAJIA BEHGAM COMPLETED HER MASTER'S DEGREE IN PUBLIC POLICY AT ERFURT UNIVERSITY AND IS CURRENTLY A DOCTORAL CANDIDATE AND RESEARCH ASSISTANT AT GOETHE UNIVERSITY AND THE FRANKFURT UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES. HER RESEARCH FOCUSES ON THE BORDER MECHANISMS THROUGH WHICH THE AFGHAN POPULATION HAS BEEN EXCLUDED, REPRESSED, AND ABANDONED FOLLOWING THE COLLAPSE OF THE AFGHAN STATE IN 2021. SHE ALSO SERVES AS A BOARD MEMBER OF MEDICA AFGHANISTAN, AND IS PART OF THE STEP A PROGRAM AT THE FRANKFURT UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES, AND WORKS WITH ZAN E.V. IN MAINZ TO SUPPORT AFGHAN WOMEN REFUGEES THROUGH COUNSELING AND TRAINING INITIATIVES. HER RESEARCH INTERESTS INCLUDE AFGHAN MIGRATION IN GERMANY, CHILD AND FORCED MARRIAGES, AND PUBLIC POLICY. HER FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION EXPLORES THE EXPERIENCES AND CHALLENGES OF AFGHAN MIGRANTS IN GERMANY. PREVIOUSLY, SAJIA BEHGAM RAN AN UNDERGROUND SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS AND FOUNDED THE YOUTH AND CHILDREN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (YCDP) TO PROMOTE YOUTH EDUCATION DURING THE FIRST TALIBAN REGIME. SHE LATER SERVED AS A FACULTY MEMBER AT KABUL UNIVERSITY AND AS AN ADVISOR TO THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN.

PRESENTERS

SECOND DAY, 11 TH NOVEMBER

ZAKIA SHEFAYEE (PHD CANDIDATE - FAU) IS A SOCIOLOGIST AND SOCIALPEDAGOGUE BASED IN DUISBURG, GERMANY. SHE HOLDS MASTER'S DEGREES IN DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNANCE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF DUISBURG-ESSEN AND IN SOCIOLOGY FROM OSMANIA UNIVERSITY, INDIA, AS WELL AS A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY FROM KABUL UNIVERSITY. HER PROFESSIONAL WORK FOCUSES ON SUPPORTING MIGRANT AND REFUGEE FAMILIES, PARTICULARLY THE YOUTH, THROUGH HER ROLE AS A SOZIALPÄDAGOGIN AT SIDEKICK E.V. ALONGSIDE HER SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE, SHE WRITES SHORT STORIES AND ANALYTICAL ESSAYS ON THEMES OF IDENTITY, MEMORY, GENDER, AND DISPLACEMENT FOR VARIOUS ONLINE MEDIA OUTLETS. HER INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVE BRIDGES SOCIAL THEORY AND LIVED EXPERIENCE, REFLECTING A COMMITMENT TO EXPLORING THE INTERSECTIONS OF CULTURE, MIGRATION, AND EVERYDAY RESILIENCE.

RAMIN KAMANGAR IS A SOCIAL SCIENTIST WHO HAS TAUGHT AND CONDUCTED RESEARCH AT VARIOUS UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS IN AFGHANISTAN. HE IS THE CO-AUTHOR OF THE STREET: PROTEST AND POWER (KABUL, 2021) AND HAS PUBLISHED TWO ADDITIONAL RESEARCH PAPERS. FROM 2018 TO 2022, HE WAS A RESEARCH FELLOW AT THE AFGHAN INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES (AISS). HIS RESEARCH FOCUSES ON THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON INTEGRATION AND SOCIAL COHESION. HE IS NOW A RESEARCH FELLOW AT THE CENTER FOR COMMUNICATION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE AND RESEARCH FOCUSES ON THE DIGITAL AFGHANISTAN DIASPORA IN GERMANY.

AUGUSTINE GYAN IS A PH.D. CANDIDATE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH, AFFILIATED WITH THE BAYREUTH INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN STUDIES (BIGSAS). HIS INTERDISCIPLINARY WORK DRAWS ON ANTHROPOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY, AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES TO EXPLORE THE EVERYDAY REALITIES OF PEOPLE LIVING IN RESOURCE-RICH REGIONS OF GHANA. USING ETHNOGRAPHIC METHODS, HIS RESEARCH INVESTIGATES THE INTERSECTIONS OF NATURAL RESOURCE EXTRACTION, GOVERNANCE, RESISTANCE, AND BOTH DIGITAL AND NON-DIGITAL FORMS OF ACTIVISM. AUGUSTINE IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN HOW COMMUNITIES RESPOND TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND POLITICAL PRESSURES, AND HOW THESE RESPONSES SHAPE LIVELIHOODS, LAND RELATIONS, AND THE BROADER POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY.

PRESENTERS

SECOND DAY, 11 TH NOVEMBER

SOPHIA ERTLMAIER IS A PHD STUDENT AT THE CHAIR OF SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH, A JUNIOR FELLOW AT BIGSAS, AND AN AFFILIATE MEMBER AT THE INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN AND DIASPORA STUDIES / AFRICAN CLUSTER CENTRE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS. HER RESEARCH IN LAGOS EXPLORES THE LIFE COURSES OF MIDDLE-CLASS WOMEN, FOCUSING ON FAMILY PLANNING AND MOTHERHOOD IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY.

NIHAL OUAZZANI CHAHDI IS A PHD. CANDIDATE AT THE BAYREUTH INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN STUDIES (BIGSAS). SHE IS ALSO AFFILIATED WITH THE ISLAMIC STUDIES CHAIR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH. HER RESEARCH BACKGROUND IS INTERDISCIPLINARY WITH A FOCUS ON CULTURAL STUDIES, ISLAMIC STUDIES, AND TRANSLATION STUDIES. HER CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECT CENTERS ON SUFI RITUALS IN MOROCCO IN RELATION TO QUESTIONS OF ETHICS, AESTHETICS, GENDER, AND AUTHORITY.

ABDALLAH OUNOUR IS AN ANTHROPOLOGIST AND A DOUBLE-DEGREE DOCTORAL CANDIDATE AT UNIVERSITY OF URBINO CARLO BO (ITALY) & UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH (GERMANY). HIS CURRENT PHD RESEARCH PROJECT IS TITLED: ASSISTED MIGRATION OR HUMAN TRAFFICKING? SUDAN'S ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION. HE IS ALSO A LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GADARIF IN SUDAN. HE HAS CONDUCTED RESEARCH ON HUMAN SMUGGLING TO AND FROM SUDAN, AND MORE RECENTLY, WITHIN EUROPE AND TOWARD THE UK. HIS WORK ALSO INCLUDES RESEARCH ON REFUGEE CAMPS IN EASTERN SUDAN, ARTISANAL GOLD MINING, AND SEASONAL LABOR MIGRATION.

PRESENTERS

SECOND DAY, 11 TH NOVEMBER

BINTOU KONÉ IS A DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FROM MALI AFFILIATED WITH THE BAYREUTH INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN STUDIES (BIGSAS). SHE IS ALSO A RESEARCHER AT INSTITUT DES SCIENCES HUMAINES DU MALI AND CONDUCTS HER RESEARCH IN MALI AND BURKINA FASO. SHE HAS PUBLISHED SEVERAL ARTICLES AND CO-AUTHORED FOUR BOOKS. HER RESEARCH CUTS ACROSS VARIOUS THEMES SUCH AS POLITICS AND DECENTRALIZATION, WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP, GOLD MINING, SECURITY AND SOCIAL TIES AND SELF-DEFENCE GROUPS.

SARA HAYYAT IS A PH.D. CANDIDATE IN ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH (BIGSAS) AND HOLDS AN M.A. IN CULTURAL STUDIES FROM SIDI MOHAMED BEN ABDELLAH UNIVERSITY. HER RESEARCH INVESTIGATES HOW FEMINIST POLITICAL ECONOMY, MIGRATION, AND GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS INTERSECT IN SHAPING THE LIVES OF MOROCCAN WOMEN AGRICULTURAL WORKERS IN SPAIN. BY TRACING THE GENDERED EFFECTS OF EU TRADE AGREEMENTS AND AGRARIAN RESTRUCTURING IN MOROCCO, HER WORK EXPOSES THE AFFECTIVE, GEOPOLITICAL AND UNEVEN STRUCTURES OF CONTEMPORARY AGRI-CAPITALISM.

ASMA BEN HADJ HASSEN IS A PHD STUDENT IN SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH. HER RESEARCH FOCUSES ON MIGRATION, CARE, GENDER, AND RACIALIZATION, WITH A PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION. SHE HOLDS A MASTER'S DEGREE IN ANTHROPOLOGY AND AFRICAN STUDIES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUSSE IN TUNISIA.

PRESENTERS

THIRD DAY, 12 TH NOVEMBER

PROF. DR. ABBAS POYA IS HEISENBERG PROFESSOR FOR REFORM DISCOURSES IN CONTEMPORARY ISLAM AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS STUDIES (DIRS) AT FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER UNIVERSITY ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG (FAU) AND ALSO THE CURRENT SPOKESPERSON OF THE DEPARTMENT. HE HOLDS A PHD FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HAMBURG AND A HABILITATION DEGREE FROM THE ALBERT-LUDWIGS-UNIVERSITY FREIBURG IN MIDDLE EAST STUDIES. BEFORE TAKING UP THE PROFESSORSHIP, ABBAS POYA WAS HEAD OF THE JUNIOR RESEARCH GROUP NORM, NORMATIVITY, AND NORM CHANGE AT THE FAU. HE WAS A FELLOW OF THE FREIBURG INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES, HAS TAUGHT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAMBURG, HOLD A DEPUTY PROFESSORSHIP AT THE ALBERT-LUDWIGS-UNIVERSITY FREIBURG, AND A GUESTPROFESSORSHIP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ZÜRICH. IN HIS CURRENT WORK ABBAS POYA IS INTERESTED IN HOW CREATIVE THINKING ARISES IN CRISIS SITUATIONS. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE DEALS WITH VARIOUS RELIGIOUS-INTELLECTUAL DISCOURSES IN CONTEMPORARY ISLAM, WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON IRAN, IRAQ, AND AFGHANISTAN.

HIS PUBLICATIONS INCLUDE: THINKING BEYOND DICHOTOMIES (2014), SHARIA AND JUSTICE (2018), RETHINKING ISLAMIC THEOLOGY (2023), AND AFGHANISTAN 2001-2021. IDEOLOGIES OF VIOLENCE AND A HINT OF OPEN SOCIETY (2024). HIS RESEARCH FOCUSES INCLUDE ISLAMIC LAW, AFGHANISTAN STUDIES (WITH FOCUS ON HISTORY AND LITERATURE), THE RELATION BETWEEN PHILOSOPHY AND THEOLOGY, POSTCOLONIAL AND DECOLONIAL STUDIES, AND EUROPEAN THOUGHT AND ITS INFLUENCES ON AND ALTERATIONS IN INTELLECTUALISM IN AFGHANISTAN, IRAN, AND DIFFERENT ARAB COUNTRIES IN MODERNITY.

DR. CAROLINE LICHUMA IS A POST-DOC AT THE CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG - UNIVERSITY OF ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG. S HE RECEIVED HER PHD IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW (SUMMA CUM LAUDE) FROM THE GEORG-AUGUST UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN IN GERMANY, WHERE SHE WAS A DAAD SCHOLAR. HER DOCTORAL RESEARCH WAS A COMPARATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE JUDICIAL ENFORCEMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS IN KENYA, SOUTH AFRICA, AND GERMANY.

SHE RECEIVED HER LLM IN PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL FROM THE NEW YORK UNIVERSITY WHERE SHE WAS A DEAN GRADUATE MERIT SCHOLAR, AND HER LLB FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI.

HER RESEARCH HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS JOURNAL, THE ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR AUSLÄNDISCHES ÖFFENTLICHES RECHT UND VÖLKERRECHT, THE OXFORD JOURNAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICE, THE JOURNAL OF WORLD INVESTMENT AND TRADE, AMONG OTHERS. CAROLINE HAS TEACHING EXPERIENCE FROM THE STRATHMORE UNIVERSITY AND RIARA UNIVERSITY, BOTH IN NAIROBI, KENYA, AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF LUXEMBOURG WHERE SHE WORKED PRIOR TO JOINING CHREN. HER CURRENT RESEARCH CRITICALLY ANALYZES REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS IN BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

PRESENTERS

THIRD DAY, 12 TH NOVEMBER

MELISA MUMINOVIC (PHD CANDIDATE) IS A RESEARCH ASSISTANT AT THE CHAIR OF ISLAMIC-RELIGIOUS STUDIES WITH FOCUS ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/PEDAGOGY AT FAU ERLANGEN-NUREMBERG. SHE FINISHED HER BA IN "ENGLISH AND AMERICAN STUDIES" AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA, AND MA IN "ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS STUDIES" AT FAU ERLANGEN-NUREMBERG. HER RESEARCH FOCUS IS SUFISM, ITS CONCEPTS, THEIR CONTEMPORARY APPLICATION AND DIGITALIZATION. SHE IS CURRENTLY WRITING HER PHD ON THE TOPIC "THE CONCEPT OF SECLUSION (ARAB. KHALWA) IN EARLY SUFI TEXTS (7TH-11TH CENTURY AH)" (WORKING TITLE).

ELHAM DANIELA MAZLOUM IS A RESEARCH ASSISTANT AT THE HEISENBERG CHAIR FOR REFORM DISCOURSES IN CONTEMPORARY ISLAM AT FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER-UNIVERSITÄT ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG (FAU). IN ADDITION TO HER RESEARCH ROLE, SHE SERVES AS DEPARTMENT COORDINATOR, MID-LEVEL FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE, WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE, AND COORDINATOR FOR DIGITAL TEACHING. SHE HOLDS A MASTER'S DEGREE IN MEDIA STUDIES AND LINGUISTICS. HER ACADEMIC WORK CENTERS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON GENDER EQUALITY AND INTERSECTIONAL PERSPECTIVES. BEYOND HER UNIVERSITY COMMITMENTS, ELHAM IS ENGAGED IN COMMUNITY SERVICE. SHE CURRENTLY SERVES AS PRESIDENT OF THE LIONS CLUB ERLANGEN-ORANGERIE AND AS AN AMBASSADOR FOR SAVING VISION, REFLECTING HER DEDICATION TO SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT.

DERYA BUGUR (PHD CANDIDATE - FAU) IS A DOCTORAL CANDIDATE AND RESEARCH ASSISTANT AT THE CHAIR OF ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS STUDIES, SPECIALIZING IN TEXTUAL AND NORMATIVE STUDIES, AT FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER UNIVERSITY ERLANGEN-NUREMBERG. SHE PREVIOUSLY WORKED AT MODUS | ZAD - CENTER FOR APPLIED DERADICALIZATION RESEARCH. HER RESEARCH CENTERS ON POLITICAL-RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS IN ISLAM, TURKISH ULTRA-NATIONALISM, THE TURKISH DIASPORA, AND HERMENEUTIC QURANIC EXEGESIS. RESEARCH STAYS INCLUDE JORDAN AND THE WEST BANK.

PRESENTERS

THIRD DAY, 12 TH NOVEMBER

PROF. DR. FLORIAN HÖHNE IS CHAIR HOLDER FOR MEDIA COMMUNICATION, MEDIA ETHICS, AND DIGITAL THEOLOGY SINCE 2023. HE HAS BEEN ALSO CERTIFIED TO TEACH SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY BY THE FACULTY COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGY AT HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY IN BERLIN.

BETWEEN 2016 AND 2023,

HE WAS A RESEARCH ASSISTANT AT THE CHAIR OF ETHICS AND HERMENEUTICS (FACULTY OF THEOLOGY) AT HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY IN BERLIN. HIS PUBLICATIONS INCLUDE: RESPONSIBILITY IN PROTESTANT ETHICS. CONCEPT – IMAGINATION – SOCIAL PRACTICE, BERLIN 2024, AND PUBLIC THEOLOGY. CONCEPTUAL HISTORY AND FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS (PUBLIC THEOLOGY 31), LEIPZIG 2015. HIS RESEARCH FOCUSES ON DIGITAL THEOLOGY, (THEOLOGICAL) MEDIA ETHICS, JOURNALISTIC PROFESSIONAL ETHICS, AND RESPONSIBILITY.

PROF. DR. TAREK BADAWIA IS PROFESSOR OF ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS STUDIES WITH A FOCUS ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS STUDIES. HIS AREAS OF EXPERTISE INCLUDE: IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT IN AN INTERCULTURAL CONTEXT

(MIGRATION, EDUCATION, RELIGION); THEOLOGICAL-ANTHROPOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF ISLAM; (SOCIAL)

ETHICS FROM AN INTERRELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVE.

HIS PUBLICATIONS INCLUDE:

BETWEEN CONSCIENCE AND NORM – AUTONOMY AS A GUIDING CATEGORY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY (EDITED WITH SCHMID, HANSJÖRG), 2016); "THE THIRD CHAIR" – A GROUNDED THEORY STUDY ON THE CREATIVE APPROACH OF EDUCATIONALLY SUCCESSFUL IMMIGRANT YOUTH TO CULTURAL DIFFERENCE (2002).

DR. MARIANUS HUNDHAMMER IS A RESEARCH ASSOCIATE AT THE HEISENBERG CHAIR FOR CRISIS DISCOURSES IN CONTEMPORARY ISLAM AT FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER-UNIVERSITÄT ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG. HE PREVIOUSLY HELD POSITIONS AT THE UNIVERSITIES OF MUNICH AND BAMBERG. HIS RESEARCH INTERESTS INCLUDE QUR'ANIC STUDIES, HERMENEUTICS, EARLY ISLAMIC HISTORY, AND ISLAMIC TRADITIONS.

PRESENTERS

FOURTH DAY, 13 TH NOVEMBER

KILIAN BEJAN HAMIDI (UNIVERSITÄT BREMEN)

STUDIES SOCIOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA STUDIES AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF BREMEN.

HE IS ALSO INTERESTED IN WRITING LITERARY TEXTS
AND HAS ALREADY PUBLISHED SOME,
INCLUDING IN THE BOOK TRAMZEIT RISSE,
PUBLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF BREMEN.

DR. DANIEL GRABIC IS THE PROJECT COORDINATOR OF THE CENTER
COMMUNICATION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE (C4SC). HE STUDIED INTERNATIONAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HILDESHEIM AND
GRADUATED IN 2004. IN HIS MASTER'S THESIS, HE EXAMINED IDENTITY POLITICS
DISCOURSES IN THE CONTEXT OF MONTENEGRO'S INDEPENDENCE IN 2006.
FROM 2006 TO 2010, HE PURSUED HIS PH.D. AT THE LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY AS A
DOCTORAL FELLOW OF THE RYOICHI SASAKAWA YOUNG LEADERS FELLOWSHIP
FUND (SYLFF). SINCE THEN, HE HAS ALSO WORKED AS A MANAGER FOR THE
MUSICIAN AND ARTIST CAROLINA EYCK. FROM 2017 TO 2022, HE WORKED AS A
PROJECT MANAGER AND CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER (CMO) FOR THE LEIPZIG-
BASED COMPANY DR. DOBLER-OPTIMIERUNG (DDO). SINCE 2023, HE HAS LED
ADMINISTRATIVE PROJECTS AT THE INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNICATION STUDIES
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEIPZIG.

HE SUPPORTS THE RESEARCH PROGRAM BY ASSISTING WITH PROJECT
MANAGEMENT, ORGANIZATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLEMENTATION,
PUBLIC RELATIONS, AND NETWORKING TASKS. AS PART OF THIS ROLE, HE
ACCOMPANIES THE RESEARCH GROUP.

**FOR INFORMATION ON ALL OTHER PRESENTERS ON THE 13TH, SEE THE
SECTIONS ON THE SECOND DAY, THE 11TH OF NOVEMBER, ABOVE.**

ARTISTS

ON THE 10TH AND 11TH NOVEMBER

ERY CLAVER IS A PHOTOGRAPHER, CINEMATOGRAPHER, SCREENWRITER, AND DIRECTOR. OUR LADY OF THE CHINESE SHOP (2022, ANGOLA) IS ERY CLAVER'S FIRST FEATURE FILM. IT WAS SELECTED AT LOCARNO FILM FESTIVAL. CLAVER IS CONSIDERED AS 'ONE OF THE MOST VERSATILE FILMMAKERS IN ANGOLA'. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH ERY CLAVER WITH STRANDMAGAZIN CLAVER SPEAKS ABOUT HIS APPROACH TO FILM. IN THIS INTERVIEW CLAVER TALKS ABOUT CROSSINGS OF ANOTHER KIND, SAYING ABOUT HIMSELF: "SINCE I WAS A TEENAGER, I WAS ALWAYS A GOOD CINEPHILE. I ALWAYS LIKED MOVIES. BUT AT A CERTAIN POINT, I WAS MUCH MORE INTERESTED IN LITERATURE. SO I WENT IN THE AFTERNOONS, FOR EXAMPLE, TO THE NATIONAL LIBRARY IN LUANDA AND I STARTED TO READ SOME BOOKS ABOUT CINEMA. BUT THE FUNNY THING IS, I ALWAYS HAD THE CHANCE TO READ THE FILMS. WE, AT THE TIME, DIDN'T HAVE THE CINEMAS, EVEN NOW, WE DON'T HAVE MANY CINEMAS, SO I WASN'T ABLE TO WATCH THE MOVIES THAT I SPENT MY TEENAGE YEARS READING ABOUT! BY THAT TIME, I STARTED TO DO A SIMILAR THING WITH PHOTOGRAPHY, I TAKE ONE PHOTO AND THEN INVENTED A STORY FOR THIS PHOTO. SO, I STARTED FROM THE VERY BOTTOM WITH IMAGES AND MOVEMENT."

DR. EMRAH YALÇIN IS AN OUD PLAYER WITH A CULTURAL STUDIES BACKGROUND. HE WAS BORN AND RAISED IN KONYA, TURKEY, WHERE HE WAS DEEPLY INSPIRED BY REGIONAL MUSICAL TRADITIONS THAT CELEBRATE THE OUD AS ONE OF THE CENTRAL INSTRUMENTS. DURING HIS MASTER'S AND PHD STUDIES IN GERMANY, MUSIC REMAINED HIS CLOSEST COMPANION AND SOURCE OF EMOTIONAL SUPPORT. HE WAS ACTIVE IN BAYREUTH'S MUSIC SCENE WITH HIS INTERCULTURAL ENSEMBLE SHADIN ORCHESTRA UNTIL 2020. DURING HIS STAY IN NORTHERN GERMANY, HE PLAYED THE OUD IN TURKISH CHOIRS AND DEEPENED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF MUSIC THEORY AND PERFORMANCE TECHNIQUE THROUGH COURSES IN HAMBURG-ALTONA. NOW BASED AGAIN IN BAYREUTH, HE SEEKS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CITY'S CULTURAL DIVERSITY THROUGH NEW MUSICAL PROJECTS THAT MAKE PERIPHERAL MUSIC CULTURES MORE VISIBLE. SEE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION HIS INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT:

[HTTPS://WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/OUDEMUSIK_BAYREUTH](https://www.instagram.com/oudmusik_bayreuth) EMRAH DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS A CULTURAL MEDIATOR WHO NOT ONLY PERFORMS BUT ALSO CONTEXTUALIZES THE HISTORICAL AND MUSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MAQAM MUSIC TRADITION, WHICH HAS BEEN CULTIVATED IN VARIOUS REGIONS, FROM PARTS OF THE BALKANS THROUGH ISTANBUL TO NORTH AFRICA. HE REGARDS MUSIC NOT AS A COMPETITION, BUT AS A FORM OF PRAYER THAT HE WISHES TO SHARE WITH HIS LISTENERS.

ARTISTS

ON THE 10TH AND 11TH NOVEMBER

MARIAM MEETRA IS A BERLIN-BASED POET, JOURNALIST, AND RESEARCHER. HER POETRY EXPLORES THEMES OF EXILE, RESISTANCE, AND THE FRAGMENTED EXPERIENCES OF AFGHAN WOMEN ACROSS BORDERS. SHE HAS PRESENTED HER WORK AT LITERATURHAUS ZÜRICH, LITERATURHAUS BERLIN, LITERATURHAUS INNSBRUCK, THE FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR (2023), AND THE LEIPZIG BOOK FAIR (2018 AND 2025).

MEETRA'S FIRST POETRY COLLECTION, LIFE ON THE MARGIN, WAS PUBLISHED IN PERSIAN IN KABUL IN 2013. HER BILINGUAL COLLECTION ICH HABE DEN ZORN DES WINDES GESEHEN (I HAVE SEEN THE WRATH OF THE WIND) WAS PUBLISHED BY WALLSTEIN PUBLISHING HOUSE IN 2023. ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS OF HER POEMS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE LOS ANGELES REVIEW AND FEATURED IN NUMEROUS GERMAN ANTHOLOGIES. HER WORK HAS BEEN TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH, ARABIC, AND NORWEGIAN. ALONGSIDE HER LITERARY CAREER, SHE IS A PHD CANDIDATE AT LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY RESEARCHING THE DIGITAL ACTIVISM OF AFGHAN WOMEN IN EXILE.

HASAN AZARMEHR IS A SONGWRITER, COMPOSER, AND SINGER FROM AFGHANISTAN. HE HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN MUSIC FOR OVER A DECADE, CREATING HIS OWN ARTISTIC PATH AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO AFGHANISTAN'S MAINSTREAM MUSIC SCENE. HIS SONGS OFTEN REFLECT SOCIAL REALITIES AND CARRY A PROTEST MESSAGE. AFTER THE FALL OF AFGHANISTAN, HE WAS FORCED TO LEAVE HIS COUNTRY AND HAS BEEN LIVING IN GERMANY FOR MORE THAN THREE YEARS.

TWO YEARS AGO, BBC RELEASED A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT HIM THAT OFFERS A DEEPER INSIGHT INTO HIS ARTISTIC WORLD AND HIS REFLECTIONS ON ART:

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/K_80XQEFc2Q?si=T2YV4C-ZY4RJGKKX](https://youtu.be/K_80XQEFc2Q?si=T2YV4C-ZY4RJGKKX)

YOU CAN FOLLOW HIS OTHER WORK HERE:

YOUTUBE: [HTTPS://YOUTUBE.COM/@HASANAZARMEHR?si=UHDQBxJfU_14IJUE](https://youtube.com/@HASANAZARMEHR?si=UHDQBxJfU_14IJUE)

SOUNDCLOUD: [HTTPS://ON.SOUNDCLOUD.COM/HDGESZ6OQD6UORVWUL](https://on.soundcloud.com/HDGESZ6OQD6UORVWUL)

INSTAGRAM: [HTTPS://WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/HASAN_AZARMEHR?](https://www.instagram.com/HASAN_AZARMEHR?IGSH=ZXA5BNRHB2PLNM53)

[IGSH=ZXA5BNRHB2PLNM53](https://www.instagram.com/HASAN_AZARMEHR?IGSH=ZXA5BNRHB2PLNM53)

ORGANIZERS

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH

PROF. DR. UTE FENDLER CHAIR OF ROMANCE LITERATURE AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON AFRICA AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH, VICE SPOKESPERSON OF THE CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE AFRICA MULTIPLE, PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR IN THE RESEARCH SECTIONS ARTS & AESTHETICS AND THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED RESEARCH SECTION RE:MEMBERING, VICE DEAN OF THE CLUSTER'S INTERNATIONALISATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SECTION

PD-IN DR-IN DIANA MARIAM POPAL RESEARCH MEMBER IN THE CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE AFRICA MULTIPLE RESEARCH SECTION ARTS & AESTHETICS AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT THE CHAIR OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AND ASSOCIATE SCHOLAR IN AMERICAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF POTSDAM

RENATE CROWE TEAM ASSISTANT PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND INTERNATIONALISATION - CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE AFRICA MULTIPLE

HASNAA ESSAM FARAG DOCTORAL RESEARCHER SPECIALIZED IN SOCIOPRAGMATICS, AFFILIATED WITH THE BAYREUTH INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN STUDIES IN THE FIELD OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE & ARABIC STUDIES

AUGUSTINE GYAN PH.D. CANDIDATE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH, AFFILIATED WITH THE BAYREUTH INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN STUDIES (BIGSAS)

KHADIJA EL GUERCH M.A. STUDENT - ÉTUDES FRANCOPHONES: AFRIQUES MULTIPLES - STUDENT ASSISTANT CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE AFRICA MULTIPLE

MARYAM SHOJAEI M.A. STUDENT - FRANCOPHONE AND AFRICAN LITERARY STUDIES - STUDENT ASSISTANT CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE AFRICA MULTIPLE

ORGANIZERS

AT THE FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER-UNIVERSITY
ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG

PROF. DR. ABBAS POYA HEISENBERG PROFESSOR FOR REFORM DISCOURSES IN
CONTEMPORARY ISLAM AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS STUDIES
(DIRS) AND SPOKESPERSON OF THE DEPARTMENT

JULIETTA CHELIOTIS TEAM ASSISTANT AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC
RELIGIOUS STUDIES (DIRS)

ORGANIZERS

AT THE LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY

DR. KEFA HAMIDI HEAD OF THE CENTER COMMUNICATION FOR SOCIAL
CHANGE, INITIATOR AND PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
OF THE RESEARCH PROGRAM "MEDIA AND PUBLIC SPHERE OF AFGHANISTAN"
FUNDED BY THE VOLKSWAGEN FOUNDATION

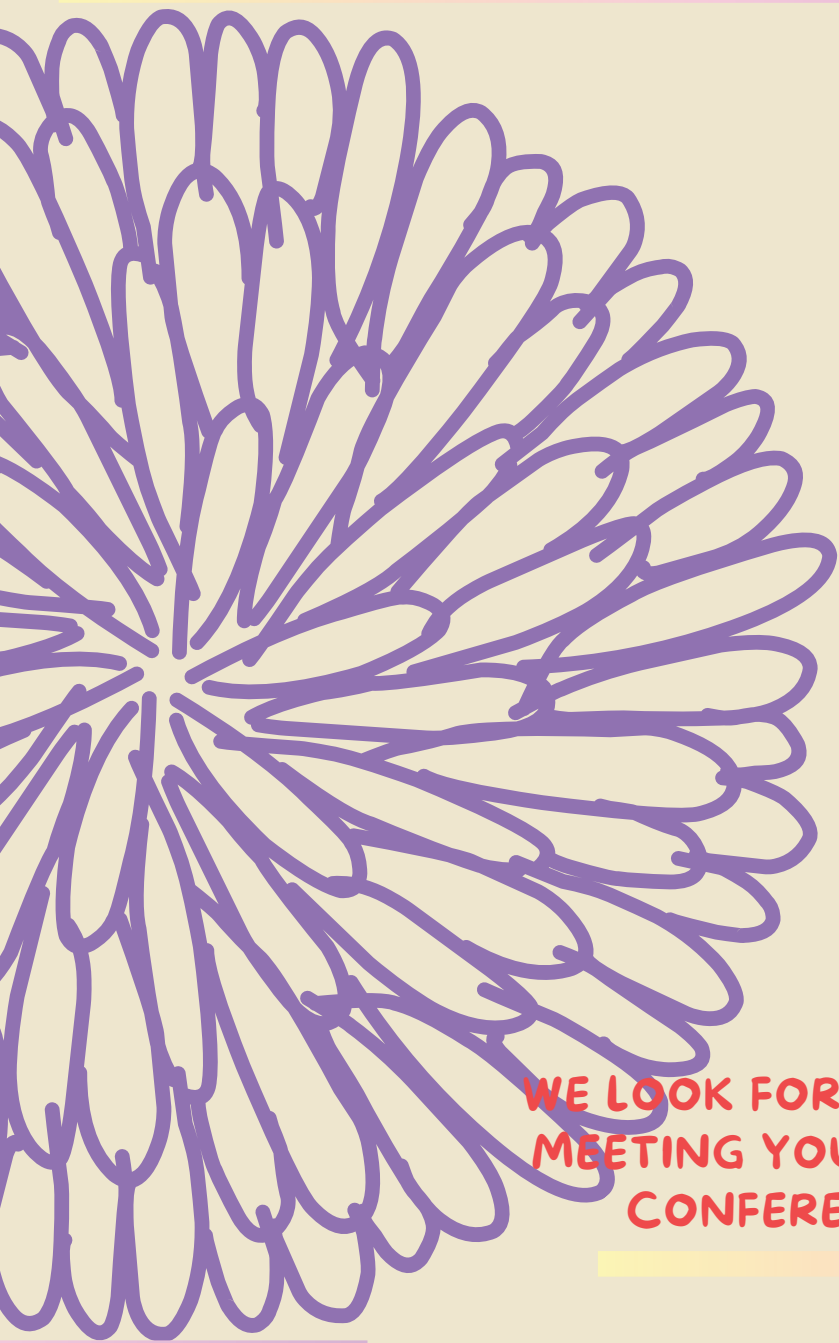
DR. DANIEL GRABIC PROJECT COORDINATOR AT THE CENTER
COMMUNICATION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE



NOVEMBER 10-13 2025
WORKSHOP & RESEARCH
COLLOQUIUM

CROSSING AREAS
CROSSING
STORIES
CROSSING
THEORIES –
– TOWARDS
NEW SHORES

WITHIN PRACTICES OF
CRITIQUE AND CONVIVIALITY



**WE LOOK FORWARD TO
MEETING YOU AT OUR
CONFERENCE!**