

Colonial Letters and the Contact of Knowledges

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 these correspondences will be studied from sociolinguistic, critical discourse analysis, discourse-historical, historical linguistic, postcolonial linguistic perspectives and other disciplinary (literature, history) perspectives.

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Contact:

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<https://www.africamultiple.uni-bayreuth.de/en/Research/iresearch-sections/knowledges/Letters/index.html>

Venue:

University of Bayreuth (Campus)
Room: S 123 (GW1)

Organisers:

Research Project “Colonial Letters and
the Contact of Knowledges”

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Data and Theoretical Perspectives on Colonial Letters

Inaugural Workshop of the Research Project
Colonial Letters and the Contact of Knowledges

Bayreuth
4-8 March 2020

Wednesday, 4 March 2020

All day Arrival of participants
19:00 Warm up get together (Laineck)

Thursday, 5 March 2020 (Campus, S 123–GWI)

12:00-13:00 Registration
Welcome by the Dean of the Cluster:
Rüdiger Seesemann
Introduction of project: Eric Anchimbe

13:00-15:00 Data: Colonial letters
Reports on letters collected so far
- Buea: Emmanuel Kengo, Eric Anchimbe
- Nigeria: Boniface Mbah, Uche Oyali
- Ghana: Sarah Marjie
- Overall: Glory Otung

15:00-15:30 Coffee break

15:30-16:30 Visit to University of Bayreuth Library
(British colonial historical documents and books)

16:30-18:00 Participation in Cluster events (if any)

Friday, 6 March 2020 (Campus, S 123–GWI)

9:30-11:30 Emmanuel Kengo
Historical perspectives: British colonial history in
Southern Cameroons
Discussant Uche Oyali

11:30-13:00 Gratien Atindogbe
Linguistic perspectives on colonial exchanges
Discussant Valentine Ubanako

13:00-14:30 Lunch (Mensa)

14:30-16:30 Pepetual Chiangong
Literary perspectives on colonial exchanges
Discussant Sarah Marjie

16:30-17:30 Anja Dreiser
Working with digital data and the Cluster's DRE

Saturday, 7 March 2020 (Campus, S 123–GWI)

9:00-10:30 Glory Essien Otung
PhD session: Identities and power in colonial letters

Discussant s All

10:30-12:00 Theoretical perspectives to knowledges
in colonial exchanges

Brief notes on possible theories to use:

- English Linguistic theories: Stephen Mforteh
- African linguistic theories: Julius Eyoh
- Literary theories: Pepetual Chiangong
- History theories: Emmanuel Kengo
- Other theories: Boniface Mbah

12:00-12:30 Final discussion and agenda for the future

19:00-22:00 Workshop dinner

Sunday, 8 March 2020

All day Departure of participants

Sample colonial letter

