

Workshop **SLAVE TRADE
MEMORIES AT THE
CROSSROADS OF
LITERATURE,
PERFORMANCE AND
HISTORY**

27 JUNE-01 JULY 2022

Programme



UNIVERSITÄT
BAYREUTH



PROGRAMME

MONDAY
27.06.2022

18h30–19h30

VENUE: KULTURHAUS NEUNEINHALB, BAYREUTH

**Film "The Flesh of History" (35 min),
followed by a discussion with the
artist/filmmaker Fabienne Kanor**

Moderator: Ute Fendler

TUESDAY
28.06.2022

17h00–18h00

VENUE: ZOOM, WITH ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

**Keynote Address by Dr. Javier Ortiz
Cassiani**

*"El Incomodo color de la memoria de la
presencia africana en Cartagena"*
(*"The uncomfortable colour of the memory
of African presence in Cartagena"*)

Moderators: Gilbert Shang Ndi / Jonas do Nascimento

18h00–20h00

VENUE: ZOOM, WITH ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

**Round-table discussion: *(re)searching the
slave trade archive – views from history,
performance and literature***

*With Kangni Alem, Fabienne Kanor, Wilfried
N'Sondé & Ashanti Orozco*

Discussants: Viviane de Freitas / Babacar Mbaye Diop

17h30–19h00

VENUE: KULTURHAUS NEUNEINHALB, BAYREUTH

Literary readings with Kangni Alem & Wilfried N'Sondé: *Slavery in history, memory and literature: an African perspective*

Moderators: Josias Semujanga / Thierry Boudjekeu

WEDNESDAY

29.06.2022

18h30–20h00

VENUE: KULTURHAUS NEUNEINHALB, BAYREUTH

Poetry performance by Ashanti Orozco
"Muntú: palabras liberadas del cepo y el látigo"
("Muntú: words freed from whip and clamp")

Moderator: Gilbert Shang Ndi

THURSDAY

30.06.2022

14h00–15h30

VENUE: BIGSAS CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH

Keynote by Josias Semujanga
"Mise en récit des mémoires traumatiques dans les littératures postcoloniales"
("The emplotment of traumatic memories in postcolonial literatures")

Moderators: Patrice Mwepu / Thierry Boudjekeu

FRIDAY

01.07.2022

PARTICIPANTS

KANGNI ALEM



(Togo)

Born in Lomé, Togo, in 1966, **Kangni Alem** is a writer, translator and literary critic, playwright, art collector and exhibition curator, director of the "Atelier Théâtre de Lomé" founded by him in 1989. He has received numerous awards, including the Grand prix littéraire d'Afrique noire for his book *Cola Cola jazz*, the Tchicaya U'Tamsi Prize of the Concours Théâtral Interafricain for his play *Chemins de Croix* and more recently the 3rd Prize of the Williams Sassine Literary Prize for his short story *Une histoire américaine*. He is an associate researcher at the CELFA (Centre d'Études Linguistiques et Littéraires Francophones et Africaines) at the University of Bordeaux III and is currently editor-in-chief of the review *Notre Librairie* and translator of the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa. Kangni Alem is a lecturer in comparative literature and theatre pedagogy at the University of Lomé. He directs the professional Master's programme, and has been working for the last few years on the mediation between literature, visual arts and performance.

Viviane de Freitas is an associate professor of English and Literature of the Center for Culture, Languages and Applied Technologies at Universidade Federal do Recôncavo da Bahia, Brazil (CECULT-UFRB). Member of the CECULT/UFRB English Language Extension Program (PROELI). Coordinator of the research project *The multiple temporalities and the body in the works of contemporary Afro-Brazilian female artists from Bahia-Brazil* and a collaborator in the research project *Critical studies in literatures of the Recôncavo da Bahia* (UFRB). Member of the research groups FIPE – Formation and Investigation in Teaching Practices (UFRB), Poéticas – Gender, Body, Culture and Subjectivity (UFRB) and Mulheres na Literatura – Maria Firmina dos Reis (UNIFAP/UNIFAL). Served as deputy-director of Center for Culture, Languages and Applied Technologies (05/2019–09/2021), Extension manager at CECULT/UFRB (07/2018–05/ 2019), and General coordinator of the Languages without Borders Program at UFRB (MEC/SESU/CAPES) (05/2017–07/2018).

Born in France of Martinican descent, **Fabienne Kanor** is a novelist and a filmmaker, and the author of several novels. Awarded *Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres* by the French Minister of Culture, she also received the Fetkann Award for her novel *D'Eaux Douces* (Gallimard, 2004), the RFO Literary Award for *Humus* (Gallimard, 2006), and the Grand Prix Carbet for *Faire l'aventure* (Lattes, 2014). Her most recent novel entitled *Je ne suis pas un homme qui pleure* (Lattes, 2016) talks about being a Black female writer in France and what is left when a man runs away, when love dies. In her work, she engages with the burden of collective memory on individual identity formation, the male/female love hate saga, West African immigration in Europe and the slave trade.

VIVIANE DE FREITAS



(Brazil/Germany)

FABIENNE KANOR



(Martinique/France /USA)

PATRICE KABEYA MWEPU



(DR Congo /
South Africa)

BABACAR MBAYE DIOP



(Senegal)

Patrice Kabeya Mwepu is the Head of the School of Languages & Literatures at Rhodes University. He holds a PhD in French Language and Literature. He is the Deputy-Editor of *French Studies in Southern Africa* (the only accredited journal for French Studies in Africa). He is a member of Editorial Board of *Écritures Plurielles* (an International academic journal published by the Université Cheikh Anta Diop). He seats in the Scientific Committee of *Les annales de l'Université de Mbuji-Mayi*. He has reviewed papers for *Equid Novi* and French papers submitted to *Tydskrif vir Letterkunde*. He is a member of several bodies, including the American Association of Teachers of French, French Studies in Southern Africa, International Federation of French Teachers, etc.

Babacar Mbaye Diop holds a PhD in Philosophy from Rouen University. He is currently associate professor of Aesthetics, Philosophy of Art and Culture at the Department of Philosophy, Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar where he coordinates the seminar on aesthetics. One of his latest works is *Critique de la notion d'art africain (A Critique of the Notion of African Arts)*, published in 2018. He has curated several exhibitions, individually and collectively in Senegal and elsewhere. A former director of the Dakar Biennale, he has authored several articles and books on African arts. He is also a member of the International Association of arts critics (AICA) and president of the Senegalese Association of Arts Critics (ASCA).

Wilfried N'Sondé is a prolific writer, musician, author and composer. Born in 1968 in Brazzaville, he studied political science in Paris before moving to Berlin, where he stayed for 25 years. He now lives in Lyon. In 2016, he taught literature at the University of Bern as a visiting professor. He is currently a lecturer at the University of Mayotte. As a writer, he publishes his work with Actes Sud, and his novels have been translated into several languages. He has won several renowned awards, including the Prix des Cinq Continents de la Francophonie and the Prix Senghor de la création littéraire for *Le Cœur des enfants léopards* (2007), the Prix Ahmadou Kourouma for *Le silence des esprits*. And numerous other awards for *Fleur de béton* (2012) and *Berlinoise* (2015) and *Un océan, deux mers, trois continents* (2018). His most recent novel is entitled *Femme du ciel et des tempêtes*.

Jonas do Nascimento is a Brazilian sociologist and interdisciplinary researcher. He completed his PhD in Sociology/African Studies at PPGS, Universidade Federal de Pernambuco (Brazil) in 2019 and was Associated Research Fellow at BIGSAS, University of Bayreuth (Germany), 2017-2019. His research interests lie in Culture, Racism, and (De-)Coloniality; Art and Politics; Media and Representativeness; Brazilian and Latin America studies. Some of his outstanding articles include *Recognition, Redistribution and Justice in Axel Honneth and Nancy Fraser in Problemata: International Journal of Philosophy* (2018) and *Africa as discursive and media construction: colonial propaganda and the 'invention' of the 'other'* (2017).

WILFRIED N'SONDÉ



(Congo/France/Germany)

JONAS DO NASCIMENTO



(Brazil/Germany)

ASHANTI DINAH OROZCO- HERRERA



(Colombia/USA)

Ashanti Dinah Orozco-Herrera is a doctoral student in the Department of African and African American Studies with a primary field in Romance Languages & Literatures. She has a degree in Education from the Universidad del Atlántico (Barranquilla-Colombia) and a Master's degree in Hispanic Literature from the Instituto Caro y Cuervo (Bogotá). Her research has focused on investigating and analyzing the literary works of Afro-Latin American authors, mainly from the Caribbean, from the perspective of the socio-criticism of literature, cultural studies, postcolonial, decolonial and feminist; and they have also focused on investigating how language, ideology and racism circulate in school textbooks to reveal ideologies, strategies of power, manipulation and reproduction of stereotypes and ethnic asymmetries. She is the author of the collection of poems *Las Semillas del Muntu* (*The seeds of Muntu*) in 2019. She won the Benkos Bioh Award in 2016 as well as the Afrodescent Women Recognition Award in 2019.

JAVIER ORTIZ CASSIANI



(Colombia)

Javier Ortiz holds a PhD in History from the Colegio de México, a Master's degree in History of Universidad de los Andes and he is Historian at the Universidad de Cartagena. He is a specialist in the history of culture and history of Afro-descendants and has published widely in that field. He has been an advisor on issues of heritage and Afro-descendant population of the Ministry of Culture. Author of the books *El incómodo color de la memoria*, *Un diablo al que le llaman tren*, and co-author of *Desorden en la plaza*. In 2014, he received the Afro-Colombian Prize of the year. He also works as a columnist of the newspapers *El Espectador* and *El Malpensante*.

Josias Semujanga is a full professor in the Department of Literature at the University of Montreal, where he teaches Francophone African and Caribbean literatures. After a BA in literature (University of Burundi, 1986), an MA (1989) and a PhD (1992) at Laval University, and post-doctoral research (Laval University and Paris IV-Sorbonne University, 1992-1994), Josias Semujanga has worked as a professor at the National University of Rwanda and at the University of Western Ontario. His areas of research are the history of criticism, theories of the novel and narratives of genocide and mass violence. His main publications include *Qu'est-ce qu'un texte francophone ? Mélanges offerts à Christiane Ndiaye* (2021); *Le roman francophone et l'archive coloniale* (with Philippe Basabose) (eds.), 2020; *Narrating Itsembabwoko. When Literature becomes Testimony of Genocide*, 2016; *Le génocide, sujet de fiction ? Analyse des récits du massacre des Tutsi dans la littérature africaine*, 2008; *Origins of the Rwandan Genocide*, 2003.

JOSIAS SEMUJANGA



(Rwanda/Canada)

ORGANISERS

**THIERRY
BOUDJEKEU**



(Cameroon/Germany)

Thierry Boudjekeu is a Research Associate in the project “Black Atlantic Revisited” and Junior Fellow at the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS) of the University of Bayreuth. His PhD project is entitled “Writing the Slave Trade Trauma in Francophone Africa: A Study of Selected Novels”. His MA research focused on the aesthetics of oraliture in novels by Patrice Nganang and Alain Mabanckou. His current interests are trauma, memory and history of the Slave Trade in West Africa, including Benin and Senegal.

UTE FENDLER



(Germany)

Ute Fendler holds the chair of “Romance Literary and Comparative Studies”, University of Bayreuth. She is the co-spokesperson of EXC Africa Multiple (since 2019), and Vice-Dean of Internationalisation and Public Engagement. She co-directs the research project *Black Atlantic Revisited – African and South American UNESCO World Heritage Sites and “Shadowed Spaces” of Performative Memory* together with Gilbert Shang Ndi and also is a member of the research project *Multiple Artworks – Multiple Indian Ocean*.

Gilbert Shang Ndi is a Postdoc Fellow of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, University of Bayreuth, working on the Project: *Black Atlantic Revisited: African and South American UNESCO-World Heritage Sites and "Shadowed Spaces" of Performative Memory*. A member of the Junges Kolleg Programme of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities, he recently completed a Feodor Lynen Fellowship of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation at the Universidad de los Andes, Colombia. He received his Ph.D. in comparative literature from the University of Bayreuth in Germany in 2014. Among others, he is the author of *State/Society: Narrating Transformations in Selected African Novels* (2017), *Letter from America* (2019) and *The Radio and other Stories* (2021).

GILBERT SHANG NDI



(Cameroon/Germany)

Find out more about our
Research Project:

***Black Atlantic revisited – African and
South American UNESCO-World
Heritage Sites and “Shadowed
Spaces” of Performative Memory***



www.africamultiple.uni-bayreuth.de



UNIVERSITÄT
BAYREUTH



Contact:

Gilbert Shang Ndi
ndishang@yahoo.co.uk

Thierry Boudjekeu
thierry.boudjekeu@uni-bayreuth.de