

Annual New Year Lecture

Each year, the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence starts its line of annual activities and events with the New Year Lecture open to the interested public, featuring prominent speakers who address questions and concepts central to the Cluster's agenda. This year again, the COVID-19 pandemic forces us to move the New Year Lecture to a digital format. Even though we all got very much used to holding our events virtually, it is our sincere hope for 2022 that we will be able to return to meeting in person.

Best wishes for 2022

Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Seesemann

Prof. Dr. Ute Fendler



*Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence
University of Bayreuth*

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NEW YEAR LECTURE

13
01
22
4:30-6 PM

PETER SIMATEI TIROP

"WAYS OF KNOWING AFRICA:
AFRICAN LITERATURE AND SHIFTING
IMAGINARIES"

THIRD ANNUAL NEW YEAR LECTURE

Welcome Address

YACOUBA BANHORO

*Director of the Ouaga African Cluster
Centre, Professor of History,
Joseph Ki-Zerbo University, Ouagadougou,
Burkina Faso.*

Introduction

AKOSUA ADOMAKO AMPOFO

*Spokesperson of the Cluster's Advisory
Board, Professor of African and Gender
Studies, Institute of African Studies,
University of Ghana, Accra*

Lecture

PETER SIMATEI TIROP

*Director of the Moi African Cluster Centre,
Professor of Comparative Literature, Dean,
School of Arts and Social Sciences,
Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya*



"WAYS OF KNOWING AFRICA: AFRICAN LITERATURE AND SHIFTING IMAGINARIES"

Starting from the position posited by the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, that Africa is, and always has been, constituted through its ever-changing relations, globally entangled and in flux, this lecture broaches the subject of the role that African literature has played and continues to play in the reconstitution of ways of knowing Africa and in the production of new conceptions of African subjectivities, African ways of life and modes of relations.

The lecture proceeds from the understanding that literature's engagement in world-making involves the construction of fictional spaces that either contest the existing ones or are relational to them. The lecture also explores how African literature questions and transforms current relations of power – whether these relations are subsumed under such categories as gender, religion, ethnicity, nation, class, or race – to call alternative temporalities into being. The talk concludes by focusing on African diasporic writings and their production of political and cultural realities that contest and transform relations based on national rootedness and territorial logic as it visualizes diasporic imaginaries and new poetics of relation.

THURSDAY, 13.01.2022 / 4:30-6 PM (CET) / Info on www.africamultiple.uni-bayreuth.de or:

