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## Workshop Program

### Afr(io)futurism: Debates, Contestations, Interventions

February 18-19, 2022

University of Bayreuth, S 58

or virtually on Zoom

Convenors:

Xin Li, Britta Frede, Mario Faust-Scalisi

(PWG Afr(io)futurism)

### The Workshop

What might be Africa's futures? This question is part and parcel of both Afrofuturist and Africanfuturist movements. They focus on intersections of culture, philosophy, aesthetics, and history in the imagination of possible futures. While Afrofuturism is mainly concerned with afrocultural expressions in the African diaspora, Africanfuturism is an affirmation of the inadequacy of Afrofuturism in accounting for the different historical realities that shape continental Africa's contribution to the futurist imaginary.

Although distinct in emphases, Africanfuturism and Afrofuturism are interconnected strains of thought with a strong commitment to interdisciplinary interventions in the making and theorizing of futures. We adopt the term Afr(io)futurism as a conceptual bridge to investigate the interventions, debates, contestations taking place between these two perspectives. Further we conceptualize futures as nonlinear, plural, and inevitably entangled with power structures, silences, (ab)negation, and aesthetics.

**Kindly register and indicate your willingness of participating physically or virtually by sending an email to:**

**[mariofaustscalisi@gmail.com](mailto:mariofaustscalisi@gmail.com)**

## **Friday, 18 February 2022**

### **2pm-2.15pm CET**

#### **Welcome words**

Xin Li & Britta Frede, University of Bayreuth, Germany

### **2.15pm-3.45pm CET**

#### **Panel 1: Afr(io)futurist Urbanities**

Discussant & Chair: Stefan Ouma, University of Bayreuth, Germany

**Enclosed Imaginaries: the (Im)Material Performativity of Two Afrofuturist Iconic Objects**, Hervé Roquet and Armelle Choplin, University of Geneva, Switzerland  
**From Rosewater to Birnin Zana: Urban Futures in Africa Imagined from Nigeria**, Emilie Guitard, CNRS/UMR Prodig, Aubervilliers, France

### **3.45pm -4.05pm CET**

#### **Coffee Break**

### **4.05pm-5.35pm CET**

#### **Panel 2: Utopian/Atopian Afr(io)futurist Narratives**

Chair: Gilbert Ndi Shang, University of Bayreuth, Germany

**When Afrofuturism meets Sinofuturism: Re-imaginings of Afro-Asian Futures**, Mingqing Yuan, University of Bayreuth, Germany

**Reflecting on Francophone Afrobecomings Narratives: Léonora Miano's *Rouge impératrice* (2019) as an Afrotopianist Novel**, Louis Nana, University of Tübingen, Germany

**Becoming-Subjectivities and Posthuman Agency in Wanuri Kahiu's *Pumzi* and Lauren Beukes's *Zoo City***, Li Xin, University of Bayreuth, Germany

#### **Dinner**

## **Saturday 19 February**

### **10am-11.30am CET**

#### **Panel 3: Multiplicities of Afr(io)futurist Pasts**

Chair: Xin Li, University of Bayreuth, Germany

**Past Futures as Portals to the Future in Africa: Spotlight on Ghana's "Success Story" 1982-1992**, Martins Kwazema, Abo Akademi University, Finland

**A{n Afr(io)}Futurist Reading of a Popular Islamic Past?**, Britta Frede, University of Bayreuth, Germany

**The Surges of Deep Abyss – Aquatic Otherworlds in Hip-Hop's Sonic Fictions Abstract**, Pius Jonas Vögele, University of Basel, Switzerland

### **11.30am – 12.30pm CET**

#### ***Doing Afr(io)futurist Art***

Mario Faust-Scalisi, (Africa Multiple – Cluster of Excellence, University of Bayreuth, Germany) introduces

**AIAIA: Aesthetic Interventions in Artificial Intelligence in Africa**, Ralph Borland, HUMA - Institute for Humanities in Africa, University of Cape Town, South Africa

**12.30pm-2pm CET**

**Lunch Break**

**2pm-3pm CET**

**Keynote Lecture**

**On African Utopic Registers of the Future**, Sabelo Ndlovu-Gatsheni, University of Bayreuth, Germany

**3pm-4.30pm CET**

**Panel 4: Afr(io)futurist Globalities: Power relations reflected**

Chair: Britta Frede, University of Bayreuth, Germany

**Remaking the World Order: Africa Self-Projection in Global Affairs between Politics and Scholarship**, Ludovic Pountougnigni Njuh, University of Dschang, Cameroon

**Alchimie lexico-syntaxique: Problematique d'une langue comtestaire**, Patrick Armand Ouadiabantou, Université Marien Ngouabi, Congo

**Afrofuturism and Thomas Sankara's Revolution**, Moussa Traoré, University of Cape Coast, Ghana

**4.30-5pm CET**

**Coffee Break**

**5pm-6pm CET**

**Round Table**

**Final discussion of Afr(io)futurism: Debates, Contestations, Interventions**, directed by Mario Faust-Scalisi (University of Bayreuth, Germany) with Ralph Borland (University of Cape Town, South Africa), Moussa Traoré (University of Cape Coast, Ghana), Christine Vogt-William (University of Bayreuth, Germany)

**6pm-7.30pm CET**

**Book Launch**

**Afropolitan Projects: Redefining Blackness, Sexualities, and Culture from Houston to Accra** by Anima Adjepong (Cincinnati, Ohio, USA). A Conversation with Christine Vogt-William (University of Bayreuth, Germany)

**Dinner**