

Geographisches Kolloquium

Wintersemester 2022/2023



Ort: Hörsaal H8 (GEO)

Dienstag, 15.11.22, 16.15 - 17.45 Uhr

ANTONIO GOMES DE JESUS NETO

(University of São Paulo (USP), Brazil)

The Brazil-Africa circulation in the technical-scientific-informational period: a selective and diversified fluidity

When it comes to the relations between Brazil and the African continent, it is commonplace to consider Africa as a homogeneous totality, as if these relations took place with a supranational African territorial entity. In practice, however – and from the circulation perspective –, these relations are mediated by National-states through distinct technical and political-normative systems, setting a network of geographical fixtures (Santos, 1996) located in specific points of Brazilian and African territories. This research aims at critically analyzing the generic notion of “Brazil-Africa relations” through the systemic comprehension of how are articulated the dynamics of circulation of goods, people and information between Brazil and African countries, carried out by maritime/air operators and also fiber-optic submarine cables. In order to identify the 14 countries (out of 55) with which the Brazilian territory has been effectively integrated since the reestablishment of Brazil-Africa relations in the early 1960s (with special emphasis on the first decades of the 21st century), several types of flows were considered, specially commercial, touristic, religious, academic, migratory and informational. Besides acknowledging the main reasons for a selective and diversified territorial fluidity (Arroyo, 2015) between Brazil and different African territories, the idea is also to shed light on its contradictions and possibilities – since South-South relations are geographically unequal and inherently asymmetrical, but also politically necessary and potentially transformative.