

## **Beyond the Digital Return: New Heritage/s, Sustainability, and the Decolonisation of Music Archives in South Africa, Kenya, and Ghana**

[https://www.africamultiple.uni-bayreuth.de/en/Projects/Arts-and-Aesthetics/A\\_A\\_Beyond-the-Digital-Return/index.html](https://www.africamultiple.uni-bayreuth.de/en/Projects/Arts-and-Aesthetics/A_A_Beyond-the-Digital-Return/index.html)

### **Beyond the Digital Return-Workshop “New Heritage/s”, Accra/Ghana, 11-12.7.2023**

Venue **MAISON FRANCAISE AUDITORIUM – University of Ghana**

Reginald Amonoo Building  
Departments of French and Modern Languages  
University of Ghana  
(first session at J.H. Kwabena Nketia Archives)

#### **Programme**

#### **Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> July**

9.00 am      Welcome – Introduction to the Workshop topic by project directors

9.15-11.00    **Session**

*Digitization, Repatriation, Safeguarding – technical and ethical aspects & the AV-digitisation training initiative (Opening session held at Nketia Archives)*

Music/Audio & AV Collections. What are technical and ethical standards of digitisation and repatriation: how do we digitalise properly and practicably in “low-budget ecosystems”? “low-cost solutions”, redefining “best practices”

Intervention: Redefining “best practices” in archival preservation/digitalisation and “digital heritage production”, Elijah Madiba, International Library of African Music, Rhodes University, South Africa

Digital Music Heritage Management (data & metadata)

Introduction to Nketia Archives work process

Chair: Judith Opoku-Boateng, Director J.H. Kwabena Nketia Archives, University of Ghana, board member IASA (International Association of Sound Archives)

11.00-11.30 Coffee Break

11.30-12.30 **Session**

*Music as “Living Heritage” & Gendered Heritage-Making:  
ReConstructing Popular Music*

Chair: Dr. Grace Olaoluwa, Department of Creative Arts,  
University of Lagos

Discussants: Dr. Grace Takyi (University of Ghana), Sita Korley  
(Lipstick Band) (tbc), Tabitha Osoro, Moses Adjei, Dr. Eric Sunu  
(University of Ghana) (tbc)

12.30-1.30pm Lunch break

1.30-3.00 **Roundtable**

*Digital/Music Repositories, Heritage Industries, Management &  
Rights Issues (Copyright/IPR)*

*Intervention: “Folk Music”, Traditional Music, “Native  
Community Music”, Unprotected Music - Copyright and  
Royalties? Dr. Markus Coester*

Online presentation: 'Songs of Greeting, Healing and Heritage'.  
The Protection and Management of Intellectual Property Rights in  
Re/publishing Traditional Music in the Digital Era - Patrick Lee-  
Thorp (Songwrights Publishers)

Response: Prof. Anthony Seeger

Participants: Ghamro, Copyright Office, Legal Studies, UNESCO

3.00-3.15 Break/opportunity for informal exchange

3.15-4.15 **Session**

*Music/Archives as Decolonial Spaces – Concepts of  
Transformation*

Chair: Dr. Lee Watkins, Presenter: Nicole Pooley, Rhodes  
University. Discussant: Judith Opoku-Boateng, University of  
Ghana

4.30-5.15 **Roundtable** Benga Heritage/Kenya

Benga Heritage/Kenya – Benga Heritage Concert 2023. Chair  
Prof. Tom Mboya. Discussant Tabitha Osoro: Repatriation and  
Digital Recirculation of Equator Heritage Records, guest speaker  
(online): Matthews Juma (founder Equator Heritage Records)

- 5.15-5.30 Q&A *The Politics of Heritage – The Digitality of Heritage*  
Prof. Kodzo Gavua, University of Ghana (tbc)
- 5.30-7.00 Break
- 7.00 pm **Artist Talk** (tbc) or **Film Screening** – *Perished Diamonds* (tbc)

### Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> July

- 9 am -11.00 **Session** *Research in Progress: Beyond the Digital Return* PhD– students to present and discuss their research projects with invited participants.  
Resource scholar:  
Prof. Anthony Seeger, School of Music, UCLA; former director of Smithsonian Folkways Recordings at the Smithsonian, Washington DC.  
Research in progress: updates by project directors
- 11.30 am -12.30 **Roundtable** *Popular Music Heritage & “the UNESCO List”*  
Ghana’s initiative and pending proposal to have Highlife enlisted as Intangible Cultural Heritage of the World / “The proposal – The Highlife Archive”  
  
Chair Dr. Albert Oikelome. Guests/discussants: members of the team working towards the UNESCO proposal, UNESO rep. - Daddy Bosco (Musiga), Prof. John Collins, Dr. Markus Coester, Dr. Grace Takyi, Bernice Deh-Kuma (Director National Folk Board)(tbc), Akablay
- 12.30-1.30pm Lunch break - Live Performance: **Akablay’s Kundum Trio**
- 1.30pm- 3pm **Roundtable** *New Perspectives on ICH (In/Tangible Cultural Heritage) and New Approaches to Musical Repatriation, Documentation, Safeguarding, and Training from “the South”*  
Speaker: Prof. Shubha Chaudhuri – ARCE – India (via Zoom)

Discussants Anthony Seeger, Tabitha Osoro, Lee Watkins, Tom Mboya

Intervention: Revisiting “Singing Wells”, Dr. Jane Mwonga, Moi University, Kenya

3.30pm– 5pm

**Session**

*Community Heritage Projects - Heritage Communities*

*Case study: Creating and Sustaining the Akpalu Heritage Community Archive, Anyako/Ghana*

Chair: Prof. Avorgbedor, University of Ghana

Discussants: El Anatsui, Prof. Kofi Anyidoho, Dr. Jane Mwonga, Kofi W. Bonuedi (research collaborator Anyako)

Research statement: Fidelia Ametewee

Themes: restitution/repatriation, “heritage community” building, ethics, revitalization, sustenance, “new archives”, transmission, learning, music, and art

**Keynote performance and discussion, postponed to 17<sup>th</sup> July, E.T.S. Drama Studio, University of Ghana - The Highlife Heritage Concert 2023**

ETS Drama Studio – University of Ghana

Presenter Bright Aheto, Ghana Broadcasting Corporation – Presenter of “Gram Time – Music Brought back from the GBC Gramophone Library”, Responses by Dr. Adowa Ahene (Head of Music Department - UG), Dr. Markus Coester, Kofi Kudonu, Dr. Grace Takyi

The Highlife Heritage Concert – 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 - E.T.S. Drama Studio - University of Ghana

Featuring

Kwesi Dankwa & Dzidudu Band //Henry Taylor & The Saltpond City Band //The Adaha Dance Band //The Lipstick Band // Akablai & Abiza Band, The Police Dance Band plus special guests

Beyond the Digital Return Research Team:

Prof. Daniel Avorgbedor, University of Ghana

Fidelia Ameteewe, University of Ghana

Dr. Jane Mwonga, Moi University, Kenya

Tabitha Osoro, Moi University, Kenya

Nicole Pooley, Rhodes University, South Africa

Kofi Kudonu, University of Ghana

Moses Adjei, University of Ghana

Dr. Albert Oikelome, University of Lagos, Nigeria

Elijah Madiba, Rhodes University, South Africa

Dr. habil. Markus Coester, University of Bayreuth, Germany

Prof. Tom Mboya, Moi University, Kenya

Dr. Lee Watkins, Rhodes University, South Africa

Additional information workshop:

Potential participants, resource persons, and invited guest will include the Secretary General of the relatively new UNESCO Commission for Ghana, Ama Nerquaye-Tetteh and her cultural director, the UNESCO regional representatives, A. Diallo, the director of the Ghana Folklore Board (UNESCO agent for ICH in Ghana), Mrs Bernice Deh-Kuma, the renowned artist El Anatsui (involved in a heritage initiative project with our team member Prof. D. Avorgbedor and Dr. Markus Coester in a in his home town Anyako in the Volta Region which our project seeks to support and studies).

Performers of the Highlife Heritage Concert will include musicians and bands who have started the revitalization and recreation of Highlife music by reinterpreting the “forgotten Highlife archive” retrieved through our project and previous digitalisation and research efforts, highlighting Intangible Cultural Heritage as a creative process and collaborative practice.

Invited are also members of the team working towards the UNESCO proposal to include Highlife on the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the World list, as well as members of

art/heritage activist groups, and those involved in music and art preservation, archiving, and heritage collection management. The Workshop (except for the opening session) is open to the interested public.

### **Beyond the Digital Return – New Heritage/s WORKSHOP 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

For more than a decade, as academics, artists, and activists, we've been entangled in an increasingly dynamic public discourse on cultural heritage, what could be called the "heritage buzz" (Meyer/van de Port 2018). Evoking a critical discourse on cultural heritage and its terminology of tangible, intangible and living heritage respectively, the workshop targets new heritages specifically in the fields of "digital music heritage," "popular music heritage," "Music as Living Heritage & Gendered Heritage, alternative and "unauthorised" heritage, and music/AV-archives/heritage repositories as transforming and "decolonial spaces"

The workshop also tackles issues of preservation, digitization, repatriation from technical and ethical points of views, as well as heritage community archives/heritage initiatives, seeking to promote "heritage activism". And how these practices and process are related to intellectual property rights and copyright. How does access to archival/heritage collections affect notions of self and others, reshape identities and historiography? The workshop seeks to provide an opportunity for in-depth exchange, sharing knowledge, and critical reflection on the new concepts and practices involved.

Our workshop seeks to create exchange of cultural experts, performers, activists, and scholars on our research topic and concerns, to conceptualise collaborations across disciplinary fields, to create synergies beneficial to our research endeavours as well as to the practitioners/communities involved. Attended by our research team members and invited participants, it brings together these different voices to discuss the relevance of digital return/repatriation and archival accessibility for digitised content and heritage practices with our research team. We are aiming at creating a forum for this subject as well as outreach for the project and the work of the African Studies Cluster of Excellence Africa Multiple. Apart from thematic sessions and roundtables, there will be an artist talk and/or a music performance.