

Call for Papers  
“Intersectionality: Theory, Approach, Activism”  
[February 6-8, 2020, University of Bayreuth]

The Africa Multiple Cluster and the GeQuInDi network at the University of Bayreuth invites paper proposals for a three-day symposium on “Intersectionality. Theory, Approach, Activism”. This academic event focuses on intersectionality as a concept, an analytical approach, and in terms of how it influences political activism. Critical dialogues in academia and activism, addressing the poetics, ethics and politics of intersectionality are particularly welcome. The keynote speakers featured include:

**Sumi Cho (USA); Mai-Anh Boger (Germany); Pumla Gqola (South Africa)**

The symposium seeks to frame the discipline of Intersectionality Studies and its deep connections to the history of activism. It welcomes transdisciplinary research as well as activist interventions in forms of panels, workshops, presentations and posters. We invite contributions that advance the understanding of intersectionality as an academic theory, methodology, as well as its embeddedness as a discipline in activism and **socio-political** movements. We especially welcome rigorous contributions that disrupt the status quo within academic disciplines and in society. Research agendas from different disciplinary backgrounds with the objective of reconfiguring humanities in general and African Studies in particular are strongly encouraged.

We intend to address the theoretical, methodological and political challenges of doing intersectionality that deal with the questions including but not limited to the following:

- What are the chances, options as well as limitations and shortcomings of intersectionality both in academia and in social movements? How can the simultaneity of privileges and discriminations be investigated and scrutinized? How can categorical /essentializing identity formulations be questioned and possibly overcome? How do various forms of oppression interact, complement or subvert each other? Why is intersectionality still widely silenced in the white Western academic mainstream – and how can this be addressed and integrated into dialogue’?
- How can structural and analytical differences between categories such as ‘racism’, ‘capitalism’, ‘colonialism’, ‘patriarchy’ or ‘gender’ be taken into account while studying intersectionality?
- How can new alliances between fields like Postcolonial Studies, Queer Studies and Disability Studies, dealing with power and discrimination, be created and/or strengthened?
- How can new alliances between movements against power and discrimination such as feminism, LGBTIQ activism, anti-racism and decolonization be created and/or strengthened?

- What would a critical humanities disciplinary field look like? What tensions and synergies can be identified among different disciplinary approaches, e.g. from Sociology, Literature, Anthropology, Political Science, Cultural Studies or Law?
- Which (invisible) solidarities exist between activism and social movements?

All contributions should ideally implement and reflect on intersectionality approaches, in analyses of case studies taken from cultural, political, juridical or economic disciplines, crisscrossing temporalities and spatialities in Africa and beyond.

### **Guidelines for interested contributors:**

Please submit **an abstract of no more than 250 words** to [gequindi@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:gequindi@uni-bayreuth.de) by **December 15, 2019**. Proposals should feature the working title, the name(s) and affiliations of the presenter(s), together with the contact information of the presenter(s).

The abstract should provide a clear agenda concerning the presentation and its focus, so that organizers can allocate the proposed papers into relevant focus groups to facilitate reflective and engaged discussion.

Please note that each presentation should not last more than 20 minutes to allow ample time for discussion.

### **The Conveners:**

*Prof. Dr. Susan Arndt, [susan.arndt@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:susan.arndt@uni-bayreuth.de)*

*Shirin Assa, [shirin.assa@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:shirin.assa@uni-bayreuth.de)*

*Xin Li, [xin.li@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:xin.li@uni-bayreuth.de)*

*Nina Simon, [nina.simon@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:nina.simon@uni-bayreuth.de)*

*Dr. Christine Vogt-William, [Christine.Vogt-William@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:Christine.Vogt-William@uni-bayreuth.de)*

For more information:

<https://www.gequindi.uni-bayreuth.de/de/aktuelles/2019/Call-for-Papers-Intersectionality/index.html>