



CALL FOR PROPOSALS: POSTDOCTORAL WORKING GROUPS 2021/22

Expanding on the successful format established in previous years, the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies (BA) offers opportunities for postdoctoral academics based at the University of Bayreuth to convene international and interdisciplinary Working Groups. The Working Groups convene for one or two semesters and are designed to create space for the joint discussion of research results emerging from ongoing or starting projects. The Working Group program is particularly committed to promoting and connecting younger postdoctoral scholars. The next groups are planned for the summer semester 2021 and the winter semester 2021/22.

As part of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, the Bayreuth Academy solicits proposals referring to the Cluster's theoretical framework, in particular to its core concepts of Multiplicity, Relationality and Reflexivity in Africa and its diasporas. We especially welcome postdoc Working Groups who refer to the annual theme of [Modalities](#) (summer semester 2021) or [Medialities](#) (winter semester 2021/22). We welcome comparative perspectives involving Europe or other parts of the world that engage with questions of global entanglements and concomitant theoretical perspectives. Proposals for Working Groups that create synergies with one or more of the Cluster's [Research Sections](#) are particularly encouraged.

Detailed information about the Cluster's general theme, its theoretical approaches, and the Research Sections can be found under the following link:

<https://www.africamultiple.uni-bayreuth.de/en/Research/>

Information on previous Postdoc Working Groups, their composition, their topic and their activities are available at:

<https://www.bayreuth-academy.uni-bayreuth.de/en/postdoc-working-groups/index.html>

Proposals should feature interdisciplinary and self-reflexive encounters and preferably build bridges between African Studies and other research areas at the University of Bayreuth.

The Working Groups will feature the following elements:

- regular meetings with presentations and discussions, extending over one semester (ca. three months) and to be attended by the conveners, fellows and guests, members of the Bayreuth Academy within the Cluster, as well as interested Cluster members;

- a fellowship, which allows the members of the Working Groups to invite an international researcher to Bayreuth for a period of up to three months to participate in their activities. It is supplemented by other external and internal (short-term) guests;
- accompanying events on the Working Group's theme with a public impact (e.g., a conference, workshop, or outreach activities).

We invite applications for themes, formats and facilitators for Working Groups from groups (consortia) of postdocs based at the University of Bayreuth in the summer of 2021 and the winter of 2021/22. Proposals should include plans for preparatory work before and a wrap-up phase after the semester featuring the main activities. Financial resources of up to 15,000 Euros are available for the invitation of visiting guests, the organization of workshops and public events connected to the Working Groups. In addition, the Working Group has the possibility to invite a fellow to the Bayreuth Academy for a stay of up to three months.

The minimum number of conveners is three postdocs, who should come from different disciplines in African Studies and may include non-Africanists. At least two conveners need to be based at the University of Bayreuth. The activities of the Working Groups should result in some form of publication (edited volume, special issue of a journal, or a contribution to the [University of Bayreuth African Studies Working Papers](#)).

If you intend to apply, please use the application template available on the call site. The required information includes a summary of the proposed theme for the Working Group, details about the working formats and the planned internal as well as external events and activities. Applications also need to include the name of the fellow to be invited and a statement giving the reasons why the fellow is being suggested. Please also submit a CV for each convener.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with members of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence during the application process and, if selected, during the implementation phase. We also offer support in the identification of competent mentors from within the University of Bayreuth.

For further information or questions, please contact the Research Coordinator of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence Robert Debusmann
robert.debusmann@uni-bayreuth.de

Please send your application by email to the head of the Bayreuth Academy and Vice Dean of Research of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, Professor Dr. Erdmute Alber
africamultiple-calls@uni-bayreuth.de

The deadline for applications is **January 7, 2021**.