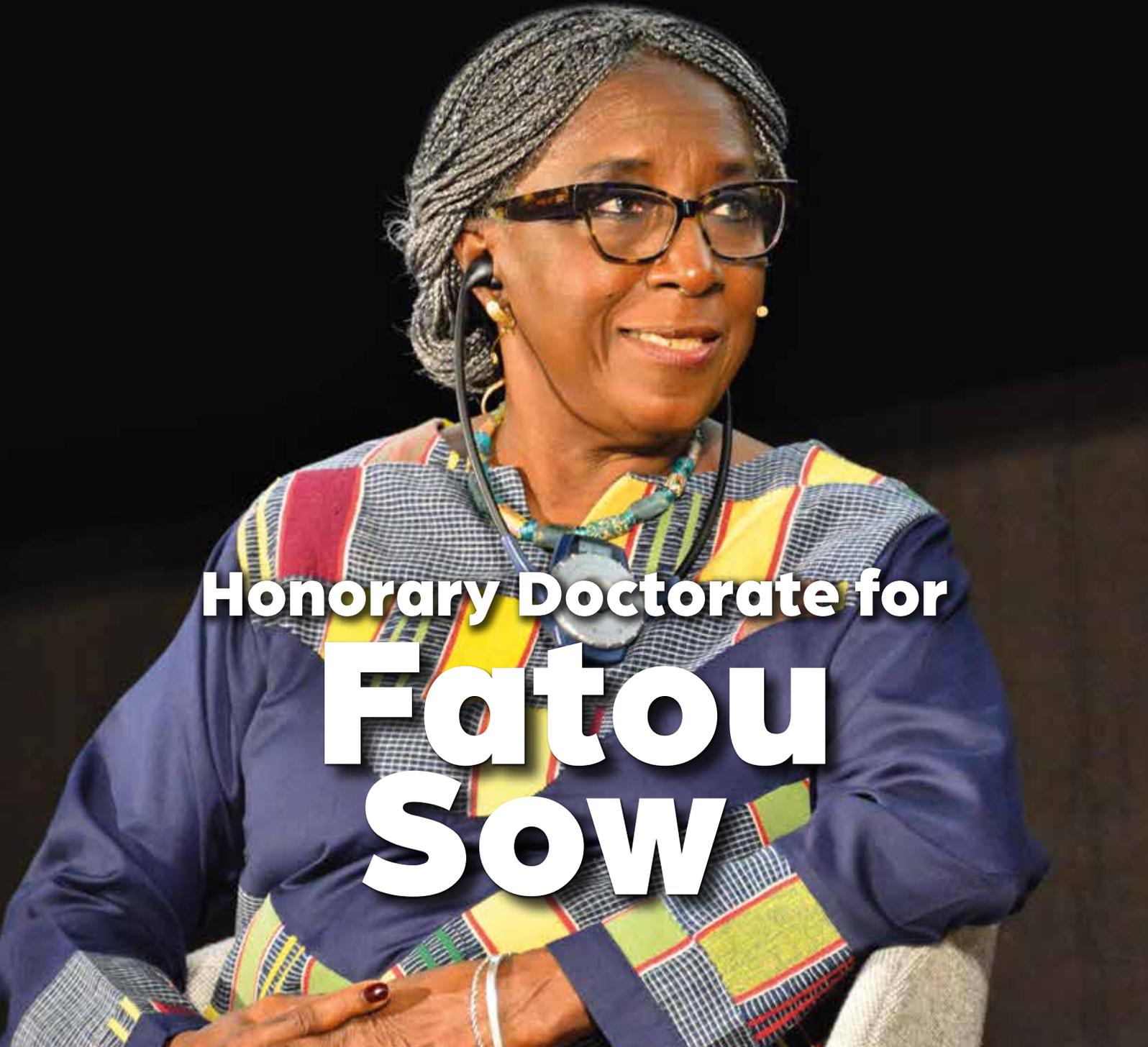


NAB

NEWS FROM THE INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH

including
NEWS
FROM THE



Honorary Doctorate for **Fatou Sow**

Institute of African Studies Bayreuth

afriZert | EIMAS | TGCL |
African Legal Studies

Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence

Honorary Doctorate for Fatou Sow |
Cluster Events | African Cluster
Centres: Activities 2022 |
Junior Research Groups

Iwalewahaus

Artist in Residence | Art Passport |
New Additions to the Iwalewahaus
Collection

Dear reader,



Sabine Greiner

Boom! the latest edition of NAB is here. It's engaging, informative, and entertaining. For twenty years, the Institute of African Studies (IAS) has been bringing you News from African Studies in Bayreuth. We are pleased with yet another exciting edition unfolding the most unforgettable and precious moments of the IAS in 2022.

Key in this issue is the award of an honorary doctorate from the University of Bayreuth to Fatou Sow. A sociologist and women's rights activist, Sow is a pioneer of gender studies in Africa and a feminist who has combined her academic work with a decades-long commitment to women's rights across all walks of life. As the women's movement continues, strong women like Sow are an inspiration to scholars both young and old. In featuring Sow, we seek to showcase the trajectory of gender studies and feminism in Africa from a global perspective.

Insights into ongoing research and activities of the IAS and its entities, namely: Iwalewaha, the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence in Bayreuth, its partners in Africa, and the rest of the world, are within, as well as research reports from current Cluster projects, fellows, junior researchers, and early career scholars. Besides academic endeavours, we present our activities beyond academics, i.e., classroom visits and other public engagement events.

Written with passion, the stories will keep you engrossed as you check out each article. Enjoy and stay tuned to the activities of the IAS at the University of Bayreuth which have a lasting impact on African Studies here and in the rest of the world.

NAB Editorial Team

Sabine Greiner (Editor-in-Chief)

Jane Ayeko-Kümmeth

Doris Löhr



Jane Ayeko-Kümmeth



Doris Löhr

Welcome!

We are happy to present the 21st edition of the *News from the Institute of African Studies* (NAB XXI). So many things have happened in African Studies at the University of Bayreuth and our partners in the year 2022 that we struggled to pack it all into a single issue.

Let us start at the beginning: Peter Simatei's stirring New Year's Lecture on *Ways of Knowing Africa: African Literature and Shifting Imaginaries*, where he presented literature not only as an object of study, but as a peculiar way of world-making and knowledge production. Knowing and experiencing Africa through the arts also became possible again in Iwalewaha after the pandemic. Iwalewaha re-opened in May with the multimedia installation *To Be King* by the South African artist Christine Dixie and the exhibition *We will now go to Kpaaza*, presenting transitions and journeys through the work of the late Nigerian artist Uche Okeke. Only a few months later however, we had to mourn the loss of Ijeoma Loren Uche-Okeke, who had curated this exhibition of her father's work together with Nantume Violet. Uche-Okeke's passing leaves a deep void in the world of African art and the Asele Institute in particular, where she was Chief Executive Officer. We were glad to host Ugandan artist and co-curator Nantume Violet for the annual Okwui Enwezor Distinguished Lecture in November. She had collaborated closely with Ijeoma Uche-Okeke and fondly referred to the work of the Uche Okeke family when she laid out her ideas about overcoming colonial divides through curatorial knowledge production and pedagogy.

We also gained new partners in 2022. Two colleagues without whom we can no longer imagine the IAS have strengthened our team. Jane Ayeko-Kümmeth started in March as the new academic coordinator. She has become a tireless advocate for African Studies at the university and the city of Bayreuth. Around the same time, Claudia Gebauer assumed her position as the coordinator of afriZert, an online study programme for students all over Bavaria, funded by the Bavarian state government. Thanks to her great commitment, the programme was off to a very successful start in autumn 2022, and Claudia has continued to be the creative driver and executive director of the programme.

In May, the Senegalese sociologist and feminist scholar Fatou Sow was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Bayreuth. Her astute analyses of the social conditions of inequality, sexuality, and gender, and her courageous advocacy for women's rights inspired many scholars. We are happy and honoured that she accepted the award, for which she was nominated by the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS). The Nigerian linguist Ousseina Alidou gave the laudatory speech for this African intellectual icon, whom we would like to honour again with this edition of the NAB. Before the award ceremony, both scholars participated in an impressive roundtable discussion on "Decolonial feminisms", together with Françoise Vergès, Akosua Adomako Ampofo, and convener Christine Vogt-William, confirming once more the crucial role of women scholars' perspectives for the reconfiguration of African Studies.

Existing partnerships were also strengthened; for example, at a visit of representatives of the four African Cluster Centres during which colleagues from Ouagadougou, Makhanda, Lagos, Eldoret, and Bayreuth discussed ideas and new pathways for the development of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence. The annual conference of the Cluster on the theme of "Medialities" was hosted in July at two locations, Rhodes University in Makhanda, South Africa and the University of Bayreuth.

Last but not least, the construction of the new Africa Research Centre on the campus of the University of Bayreuth started in 2022. Although researchers will not be able to move into the new building until 2025, innovative research designs and agendas are in the making – in cooperation with our existing and with new partners. So please stay tuned and read NAB XXI in the meantime.

Eva Spies and **Thoko Kaime** (Director and Vice Director, Institute of African Studies)
Rüdiger Seesemann and **Ute Fendler** (Spokespersons, Cluster of Excellence)



Eva Spies



Thoko Kaime



Rüdiger Seesemann



Ute Fendler

Editorial	2
Welcome	3

COVER STORY

Honorary Doctorate for Fatou Sow	6 – 9
---	--------------

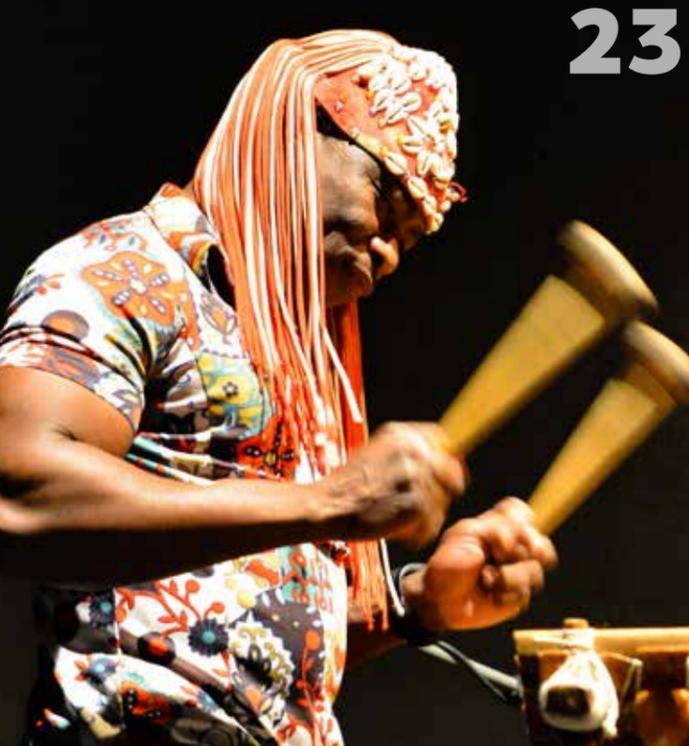
CURRENT AFFAIRS

Week of workshops of the five ACCs	10
State Visit at the Cluster	11
afriZert Is Up and Running	12
African Legal Studies: Cooperation with Somalia	13

EVENTS

Cluster Conference	14 – 15
Ways of Knowing Africa The Cluster's Third New Year Lecture	16
The Knowledge Lab 2022	17
Okwui Enwezor	18
Young Asian Africanist Camp in Kyoto, Japan	19
Weingarten Africa Talks 2022	20 – 21
ALS Debate Series	22
Aly Keïta: A Passion for Music	23
Engaging with Schools and Teachers – Sensitising the Next Generation	24 – 25
Workshop: Slave Trade Memories	26 – 27
Between Mauritius and India: Reading with Ananda Devi	28
Cluster Project Multiple Indian Ocean: Workshop in Mauritius	29

IWALEWAIUS 30 – 39



AFRICAN STUDIES AROUND THE GLOBE

The 2022 Activities of the ACCs	
ACC Université Joseph Ki-Zerbo, Ouagadougou	40 – 41
ACC Moi University, Eldoret	42 – 44
ACC Rhodes University, Makhanda	45 – 46
ACC University of Lagos	47
Fábrica de Ideias 2022	48 – 49
Developments at the TGCL in 2022	50 – 51



EMERGING SCHOLARS

BIGSAS Status Quo 2022	52 – 53
BIGSAS Trajectories	54 – 55
Another Year in the European Interdisciplinary Master African Studies	56 – 57



RESEARCH

Terminated Projects	58 – 60
“Communities of Practice” Revisited	61
Junior Research Group “African Knowledges and the History Public*ation”	62 – 63
Junior Research Group “Politics of the Unknown”	64
Junior Research Group “Sexualities, Political Orders, and Revolutions in Africa”	65
Junior Research Group “Economic and Monetary Sovereignty in West Africa”	64 – 67



NEWS & PUBLICATIONS

News	68 – 69
Books	70 – 73

GUESTS & EVENTS

The International Fellowship scheme in 2022	74 – 76
Thokozani Mhlambi's Aesthetic Investigations	77
2022: List of Events and Guests	78 – 86

Imprint	88
---------	----





Honorary Doctorate for Fatou Sow

Photo: Jonas Schöpf

Text MICHELLE HEESE, SABINE GREINER, CHRISTIAN WISSLER

On the initiative of Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS), the West African sociologist and women's rights activist Fatou Sow received an honorary doctorate from the University of Bayreuth. The award ceremony took place on 18 May 2022 at the University of Bayreuth.

A feminist and pioneer of gender studies in Africa, the Senegalese sociologist Fatou Sow has combined her scholarly work with decades of advocacy for women's rights in all facets of human coexistence: politics, society, economics, and religion. Sow received an honorary doctorate from the University of Bayreuth on 18 May 2022. The Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS), the graduate school of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence at the University of Bayreuth, proposed Fatou Sow for this honour – making her one of the first African women to receive an honorary doctorate from a German university.

More than 150 scholars, students, BIGSAS alumni, and friends of Bayreuth's African Studies gathered on campus for the award ceremony. They came together to honour the internationally acclaimed scholar and women's rights activist, to whom many attendees felt indebted for inspiring their own work in various fields of academics, society, and culture. Aly Keïta from Ivory Coast and Matchume Zango from Mozambique provided a festive musical framework, accompanying the event with sounds and rhythms on traditional African instruments, such as the balafon and the timbala.

In his opening speech, Stefan Leible, President of the University of Bayreuth, related the success story of African Studies in Bayreuth, which dates back to the university's founding in 1975. One of the highlights in this history was the opening of the BIGSAS in 2007, which was funded for twelve years by the Excellence Initiative of the German federal and state governments. Today, BIGSAS is an integral part of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence at the University of Bay-

reuth. President Leible emphasised the unique interdisciplinary character of this Africa focus area, with its vast international network, spanning the humanities, social sciences, the natural sciences, computer science, law, economics, and engineering. "Throughout all these academic fields, gender, equal opportunity, and diversity are topics that matter highly to the University of Bayreuth, which will continue to strive for their institutional anchoring," said Leible.

"Where is 'Africa' in African Studies?" was the question Rüdiger Seesemann, Dean of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, asked at the beginning of his welcome address. For decades, the African Studies focus area in Bayreuth has followed the maxim of "Research on Africa only with Africa", and the 86 Junior Fellows and 176 alumni of BIGSAS, more than half of whom come from Africa, represent an impressive testimony to this credo. However, as Seesemann pointed out, there are still significant imbalances in academic knowledge production about Africa. "Throughout the Global North, many

people continue to consider 'Africa' as a problem to be solved, rather than a voice to be heard," Seesemann said. To redress some of these imbalances, the Cluster of Excellence established new forms of research cooperation, in particular four African Cluster Centres at African universities. Indeed, several representatives of these ACCs were present at the award ceremony.

Fatou Sow is the first African feminist and the first French-speaking African scholar to be honoured in this way by a German university. "At BIGSAS, we are highly inspired by your life and work as a feminist researcher, educator, activist, and role model for young scholars," said Andrea Behrends, BIGSAS spokesperson, in her welcome speech. "You stand up for women's rights, especially for their access to equality, freedom, health, education, employment, and political agency. By doing this, you have constantly shown – and continue to do so – the importance of never stopping to work for these causes."

The highlight of the ceremony was the laudatory speech by the Nigerian scholar Ousseina Alidou, Professor of Linguistics, Gender and Cultural Studies at Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA. She placed the significance of the BIGSAS honorary doctorate in a broader context: Today, global awareness and ethical commitment are required to eliminate the legacies of injustice, exclusion, and marginalisation due to social, cultural, religious, political, and geographical differences. In the face of this challenge, Sow, as a recipient of the

honorary doctorate, has set new standards through both her scholarly work and her feminist commitment. "I cannot think of a more deserving African intellectual icon to celebrate with a university's highest honorary distinction than Dr. Fatou Sow," said the laudator. Alidou paid particular tribute to Sow's pioneer-

"At BIGSAS, we are highly inspired by your life and work as a feminist researcher, educator, activist, and role model for young scholars" Andrea Behrends

ing work in integrating sexuality and gender studies into French-language African Studies. Especially through her involvement in the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), Sow has brought a feminist sensibility to these fields within the male-dominated African social sciences.

Alidou also emphasised Sow's commitment to calling out new forms of oppression and marginalisation of women rooted in a "complicity" of patriarchal elites and neoliberalism. Very early on, the Senegalese sociologist Sow critically observed the consequences of globalisation as promoted by African political elites that, while strengthening economic and cultural freedoms, detached itself from universal human rights and the principle of gender equality. At the same time, Alidou said, Sow, whose academic work focuses on the impact of various religions on the lives of African women, is a staunch advocate of secularism. Everywhere in Africa, the laudator

noted, state and religious authorities are closely connected. This intertwining of religion and politics is evident in many public debates – for example, on sexual freedom, contraception, abortion, AIDS prevention, sexual orientation, same-sex parenting, and bioethics – and poses a moral challenge that

affects the identity of every individual. After the ceremonial conferment of the BIGSAS honorary doctorate, Sow shared emotional words of thanks to all those who had accompanied and supported her on her life journey, especially her parents and siblings and family. Sow also addressed personal words of thanks to the social scientists Akosua Adomako Ampofo, Professor for Gender Studies and African Studies at the University of Ghana, and Françoise Vergès, political scientist, historian, educator, and activist, who were present in the audience, as well as to all those who had contributed to the awarding of the honorary doctorate: "I am deeply moved and proud to receive this honorary doctorate from the University of Bayreuth."

Keïta and Zango enraptured the audience once more with their musical performance at the end of the ceremony. Many attendees could no longer remain in their seats and started to dance, bringing the honorary award ceremony to an emotional close.



Award ceremony BIGSAS honorary doctorate for Fatou Sow



Akosua Adomako Ampofo, Spokesperson of the Advisory Board of the Cluster of Excellence, University of Ghana, Accra; Fatou Sow, Honorary Doctor of the University of Bayreuth; Rüdiger Seesemann, Dean of the Cluster of Excellence; Françoise Vergès, Fondation Maison des sciences de l'homme, Paris; Andrea Behrends, Spokesperson of BIGSAS; Ousseina Alidou, Rutgers University, New Jersey/USA; Christine Vogt-William, Director of the Gender and Diversity Office of the Cluster of Excellence (f.l.t.r.)

Photo: Jonas Schöpf

Fatou Sow – A Pioneer of African Feminism

Photo: Jonas Schopf

Born in Senegal, Fatou Sow is a social science scholar who received degrees in sociology from the University of Dakar, Senegal, and the University Paris-Sorbonne and the University Paris-Diderot, France. Sow taught and researched on social and gender issues at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar for several decades, and at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) in Paris.

Sow also worked as a trainer at the CODESRIA. She was president of the Reproductive health research network in French-speaking Africa (Réseau de recherche en santé de la reproduction en Afrique francophone) from 1992–1996, coordinator for francophone Africa in the Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) network from 1995–2007, and international coordinator of the International Solidarity Network Women Living under Muslim Laws (WLWML).

A pioneer in the field of gender studies and African feminism, Sow has been an advocate for women's rights in West Africa and beyond for more than 50 years. In her research, she analyses the living conditions of women in francophone West Africa and focuses on social structures and ways of thinking that have their roots in colonialism and continue to have an impact today. Sow tirelessly calls for the assertion of women's rights and their political participation in Africa and worldwide, especially in Muslim cultures, both inside and outside academia.

Her main publications include:

Femmes sénégalaises à l'horizon 2015 (Senegalese Women in 2015) (with M. Diouf), 1993.

Engendering African Social Sciences (ed. with A. Imam and A. Mama), 1997.

Les Sénégalaises en chiffres: étude sur les données socio-économiques relatives aux femmes (Senegalese Women in Numbers: Study on Socio-economic Data Relating to Women) (with M. M. Guèye, A. Fall-Touré, and N. Diakhaté), 2000.

Notre corps, notre santé: Santé et sexualité des femmes en Afrique subsaharienne

(Our Bodies, Our Health: Women's Health and Sexuality in Sub-Saharan Africa) (ed. with C. Bop), 2004.

La recherche féministe francophone: Langue, identités et enjeux (Francophone Feminist Research: Language, Identities and Issues) (ed.), 2009.

Le sexe de la mondialisation: Genre, classe, race et nouvelle division du travail (The Sex of Globalisation: Gender, Class, Race and the New Division of Labor) (ed., with J. Falquet, H. Hirata, D. Kergoat, B. Labari, N. Le Feuvre), 2010.

Genre et Fondamentalismes (Gender and Fundamentalisms) (ed.), 2018.



Roundtable: Decolonial Feminism

Text CHRISTINE VOGT-WILLIAM

As an academic pre-event to the conferral of UBT's honorary doctorate on Fatou Sow, Christine Vogt-William, the Director of the Cluster's Gender and Diversity Office, organised a high-profile and insightful roundtable on *Decolonial Feminism – A Transdisciplinary Transgenerational African Feminist Conversation*.

On the morning of the conferral of the Honorary Doctorate on the Senegalese feminist Fatou Sow, Christine Vogt William, Director of the Cluster's Gender and Diversity Office, invited three renowned feminist scholars to engage with the scholar Sow on the topic of "Decolonial Feminism", addressing Francophone and Anglophone African feminist perspectives. The invited speakers were: Ousseina Alidou, Professor of African Literatures and Languages at Rutgers University, USA; Akosua Adomako Ampofo, Professor of African and Gender Studies at the University of Legon in Accra, Ghana; and Françoise Vergès, Professor of the Chair "Global Souths" at the Collège d'Études Mondiales Paris, France.

This gathering of "four scholarly giants", as Rüdiger Seesemann, Dean of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, put it in his introductory words, made for an "exceptional event, opening up new perspectives on how we see the world." In her welcome address, Andrea Behrends, then BIG-SAS spokesperson, commented on the event as a "roundtable of highest relevance for a socially just higher education landscape." As Vogt-William introduced each panellist individually, she reminded the audience in Bayreuth's Kolpinghaus that the impressive panel could collectively look back on over 120 years of insightful scholarship contributing to the transdisciplinary epistemic phenomenon that is decolonial feminism. In the ensuing discussion, the speakers shared perspectives from their respective academic lives on how colonial Eurocen-

tric ideas had shaped African women as political subjects and their roles in academia in general.

Reminiscing about her life as a scholar in the 1960s, Sow stated that "several theories confront each other from a Western scientific patriarchy and also from an African one, and as women we are fighting around ideas that were extremely difficult to conceptualise at the time." She also pointed out: "We have progressively succeeded in transforming into a discourse that I would call feminist, that some people would call Black feminism, Afro-feminism, African feminism, feminism in Africa." She considers decolonial feminism as having "this root of feminism, to measure it against colonisation, but to open it up to what the past offers women."

Ampofo pointed out the necessity of rethinking gendered spaces in African contexts, whereby "instead of measuring the household around husband, wife, and children, the household should be measured around the woman and her children." Here the question of a decolonial feminist reconceptualisation of the household as a feminised agential space "as a very important contribution towards destabilising the notion of family and [...] the notion of the housewife" was necessary in understanding African family contexts.

Alidou observed that it was a "historical milestone to have this transgenerational event" and that when she started out on her academic journey, Sow had been her scholarly role model – someone "who planted the seed in all of us." Alidou emphasised that the recognition, conservation, and incorporation of the libraries of African women was paramount to decolonial feminist studies: "Theory cannot happen with-

out a comparative recuperation of women's orality, women's multi-linguality, multi-literacy, multi-script."

Vergès agreed with Alidou that "epistemic transformation is important, that it's no longer possible to ignore the work of women, the theoretical work of feminists." Vergès addressed African cinema, indeed art in general from the continent and the Diasporas, alongside reproducing libraries and collecting document archives as ex-

woman and who it belongs to." Ampofo addresses transgenerational caring among women scholars invested in "regenerating ourselves in the younger generation, creating those spaces for them so that they can continue that care work and do it with grace." She also recognises in this vein that "the Academy and these spaces of knowledge production are very fraught, they can be very exhausting, that work is being done on women's bodies a lot of the time."



Christine Vogt-William, Akosua Adomako Ampofo, Ousseina Alidou, Françoise Vergès, Rüdiger Seesemann, Fatou Sow, Andrea Behrends (f.l.t.r.)
Photo: Robert Götze

amples of decolonial acts. She pointed to "the violent reaction of patriarchy around the world" evident in the current panic raised by fascist and racist powers. She warned there is "a global war against Black women, against indigenous women", whereby their lives are restricted and jeopardised by permanent war and climate disaster, poverty, lack of access to public health, education, and water. Vergès pointed out that decolonisation was an ongoing historical process: "It will be done perhaps when we are done with capitalism, imperialism and racism."

Concerning the dimension of care in decolonial feminist practices and embodiments involving diverse forms of labour – cultural, political, and intellectual – Sow responds: "We have to interrogate what is the body of a

Pointing out the value of knowledges produced by non-academic women as feminist political praxis, Vergès concludes that the aspect of decolonial feminist care whereby in learning to unlearn what we have learned, we remember that "We learn to be free [...], we have to build courage." While mindful of the necessity for students to know that "Hope is a possibility," Vergès emphasises the value of "loving each other and effectively building collectives" as part of decolonial feminist care politics.

To the applause and cheers from the audience, Vogt-William ended the event by observing that this seminal gathering had been a masterclass on "the nuances of how we can go about decolonial scholarship, developing visions and community." This is just the beginning.



Week of Workshops of the Five ACCs Marks the Half-way Point at the Cluster of Excellence

Text and photo SABINE GREINER

From 9 to 14 May 2022, 21 representatives of the four African Cluster Centres (ACC) of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence visited the University of Bayreuth to discuss the future direction and new opportunities for cooperation at the halfway point of the Cluster of Excellence's funding by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

The Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, which began its work in January 2019, has reached the halfway point of its term. To mark this occasion, the five Cluster institutions met in Bayreuth in the week from 9 to 14 May 2022 to take stock and determine new cooperation opportunities. In a series of thematic working meetings and plenaries, the delegations of the four African Cluster Centres, which are based at universities in Burkina Faso (University Joseph Ki-Zerbo, Ouagadougou), Kenya (Moi University, Eldoret), Nigeria (University of Lagos) and South Africa (Rhodes University, Makhanda), discussed this with members of the Cluster of Excellence at the University of Bayreuth.

"Even though in recent months, due to the pandemic, the collaboration with the ACCs could continue seamlessly primarily via online platforms, we are very happy to finally welcome our African

colleagues back to Bayreuth in person and to discuss new collaborative projects," explains Ute Fendler, co-spokesperson of the Cluster of Excellence and Vice Dean of the Internationalisation and Public Engagement department. The African delegation's five-day visit focused on intensive exchange, in which previous research and cooperation were also critically discussed.

Cluster More than the Sum of its Research Projects

Since the beginning of the Cluster of Excellence, a total of 70 research projects have been launched in the five Cluster institutions. The topics of the multinational and interdisciplinary projects cover a broad spectrum of African studies and are located in the six Research Sections Arts and Aesthetics, Affiliations, Knowledges, Learning, Mobilities, and Moralities. However, the Cluster of Excellence is not simply the aggregate of its research projects," as the Dean of the Cluster of Excellence, Rüdiger Seesemann, points out. "Together we are constantly creating synergies between our projects, and since the beginning of the Cluster, we have been pursuing a very ambitious agenda designed to create new forms of knowledge production between the Global North and the Global South."

Thematic Agenda of the Meetings During the visit, the participants re-

peatedly split up into smaller working groups to discuss central topics of knowledge production. Digital collaboration and the linking of archives and research results, from which in turn new questions can be generated, played a major role here. The respective teams of the Cluster Centres, for instance, discussed the issue of "fluid IT ontologies". The meetings of the Gender and Diversity (GDO) officers of the five Cluster locations served to develop intersectional perspectives to be implemented in the Cluster's research, as well as measures to promote equity in the various spheres of the work conducted in the Cluster.

Setting the Course for the Future

The meeting in Bayreuth offered a unique opportunity to the participants to take stock of the achievements made so far and the tasks lying ahead, as the Cluster of Excellence reached the mid-term of its funding phase. "Naturally, our gaze is directed towards the future," explains Seesemann. "Especially with regard to a possible extension of the funding of our Cluster of Excellence by the DFG, we have to keep asking ourselves how we can make the work of the African Centres even more visible and how the research that takes place in Africa about Africa can gain more recognition. We have to set the course for this today." 🌍

State Visit at the Cluster

Text SABINE GREINER

The Minister of State for Culture and the Media, Claudia Roth, visited Iwalewahaus together with Members of the German Parliament Katrin Budde and Thomas Hacker, as well as Member of the Bavarian State Parliament Tim Pargent to learn about the work of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence.

On Monday, 25 July 2022, the Minister of State for Culture and the Media, Claudia Roth, paid a visit to the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence at Iwalewahaus. Together with Thomas Hacker, Member of German Parliament, who initiated the visit, Katrin Budde, Chairwoman of the Committee on Cultural and Media Affairs, Tim Pargent, Member of the Bavarian State Parliament, and Andreas Görgen, Secretary General of the German Federal Ministry for Culture and the Media. Rüdiger Seesemann, Dean of the Cluster of Excellence, and Ute Fendler, Cluster Spokesperson and Vice-Dean for Internationalisation and Public Engagement, described the Cluster's multilateral research work with four centres in Africa and explained how new paths of knowledge production will achieve the Cluster's vision of reconfiguring African Studies.

The President of the Art Council of the African Studies Association, USA (ACASA), Adepeju Layiwola from

the University of Lagos, Nigeria (at the time a visiting Fellow at the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies), Diana Kisakye, a doctoral researcher in political science, and Thierry Boudjekeu, a doctoral student at the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIG-SAS), briefly presented their research

Minister of State said that the Cluster of Excellence made it possible to remain in ongoing dialogue.

The venue for this meeting of academics and politics was well chosen: Iwalewahaus has been in close exchange with African artists for over 40 years. After the discussion, the Deputy



From left to right: First row: Stefan Leible Claudia Roth; second row: Rüdiger Seesemann, Katrin Budde and Thomas Hacker; third row: Katharina Fink, Tim Pargent, Adepeju Layiwola, Thierry Boudjekeu, Ute Fendler, Diana Kisakye, Najidi Dike, Sigrid Horsch-Albert, Nicole Klug

Photos: Robert Götz

projects to the politicians. Afterwards Directors Katharina Fink and Sigrid Roth engaged in an exchange with the scholars about the transfer of knowledge between the Global South and the Global North. The topic of decolonisation was also briefly discussed: "What are the next steps that need to be taken in terms of restitution? What can we do to create more awareness of the effects of colonisation?" the Minister of State asked the group.

During her visit, Minister of State Roth also signed the University of Bayreuth's Golden Book. In it she wrote, "It is an honour and privilege for me to get my first glimpse of a so important, so unique, so worthy of support area of university research and teaching! Thanks from the bottom of my heart to you as bridge-builders between Germany and Africa, but also between Africa and Germany." 🌍



Claudia Roth signed the Golden Book of the University of Bayreuth.

In this context, Roth was also interested in the position of those present on the issue of the restitution of art objects and cultural assets that were forcefully taken from Africa to Europe during the colonial period. Summing up, the



Is Up and Running

Text CLAUDIA GEBAUER
JANE AYEKO-KÜMMETH

Having received funding in 2021, the Institute of African Studies started to work on developing a new certificate programme (afriZert) for students in Bavaria to gain a better understanding of Africa's diversity and professional excellence.

In November 2022 afriZert, meanwhile joined by Sinah El Kord as additional staff, took off with a workshop in which the 23 enrolled students from across Bavaria participated. The team also had the pleasure of welcoming representatives of the Bavarian Research Alliance (BayFOR Bayern-Afrika), as well as the managing director of the Foundation for International Youth Exchange Bavaria, Mirjam

The second semester saw students tackle Africa in and with the World, a module designed to give students a deeper understanding about the continent amidst global entanglements and to deliver their own presentations. In the context of the seminar M3.2, the participating students were asked to consider in more detail, which role(s) language and communication, as well as their diversity, play in varying African contexts.

An internship in an African country is a requirement of afriZert. Students are already preparing for what will be a maiden trip to the continent for some. Preceding this was a preparatory seminar, *Stay Abroad*, held in Bayreuth at the beginning of May. Funded by the Foundation for International Youth Exchange Bavaria, the afriZert students came together for a short intercultural training and to gain insights on important issues such as health awareness, e.g., necessary vaccines, local transport means in the different countries, and dietary aspects. Students were happy to benefit from wealth of knowledge from the University's doctor Katrin Pietschmann-Berr.

While the current courses are taking place, the project team is already looking at the winter semester. An asynchronous Swahili language course offered specifically for afriZert is currently being developed, and the lecture series from last winter are being partially revised with the help of student feedback. In addition, the lecture series and the seminar of the module M5 (subject-specific knowledge) will take place for the first time this winter, hence the designing, planning, as well as exam preparation is underway. It is raining work at afriZert.

We recently joined Instagram to reach out to potential new freshmen. You can access our profile via the QR code to the right.



Participants of the workshop M4 in May 2022

Photo: afriZert

After the module handbook and the study and examination regulations were presented to the University of Bayreuth's Senate in June 2022, afriZert was established and set to begin in the winter term of the same year.

In a short period of time, the project team had to advertise the programme to inform students all over Bavaria about its existence and to finalise the contents of the two winter term courses (the lecture series *Encountering Africa Differently* for module M1 and the lecture series *Language Encounters* for module M3). Thanks to a team of unwavering staff at the University of Bayreuth who tirelessly worked to ensure that everything was set for a smooth start.

Eisele, to Bayreuth to celebrate the start of afriZert. The workshop itself included two lecture units by Rüdiger Seesemann and Gabriele Schrüfer, as well as getting to know the team members, the city of Bayreuth, and some of the lecturers involved in afriZert. The workshop was rounded off by a half-day workshop on the topics of racism, white fragility, and intersectionality. The students were excited to finally start their studies, as they can now take full advantage of the opportunity to expand on their interest "to learn an African language, to learn more about the diverse socio-economic conditions of the continent in an interdisciplinary way, but also to critically reflect" on their own perspectives.

African Legal Studies: Cooperation with Somalia

Text PHILIPP BOGENSPERGER

The Chair African Legal Studies at the University of Bayreuth has been supporting the Somali government in an advisory role in creating a new constitution.

Since June 2022, the Chair of African Legal Studies has worked on establishing strong connections between the University of Bayreuth and actors in government and the academy in the Federal Republic of Somalia. Firstly, the Chair has established a productive collaboration with SIMAD University in Mogadishu, Somalia, which is the leading university in terms of research and outreach in that nation. The institution has made it a priority to empower young people in all situations of life, especially women. The collaboration comprises joint teaching and research activities. For instance, since Winter Semester 2022/23, SIMAD law students have participated in the Chair's courses online and the department is currently working on fully integrating all courses into their law programme. Additionally, the Chair has launched the Asli Ahmed Award on the African Legal Studies blog which rewards outstanding articles by Somali scholars around legal developments in the Federal Republic of Somalia. In their endeavours to strengthen this special cooperation, team members of the Chair of African Legal Studies visited Somalia twice in 2022, and, in return, a visit to Germany by a delegation from SIMAD University is planned.

Secondly, the Chair has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Somali Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs in September 2022 to support the upcoming constitutional review of Somalia's current provisional constitution in various ways. Since its entry into force in 2012, the provisional constitution has



Representatives of the Chair of African Legal Studies meet SIMAD University Delegates in Mogadishu. Photo: ALS

provided a framework for governance and shaping statehood in Somalia. It sets out the basic structure of the state and its institutions. However, the provisional constitution comes with a number of weaknesses, such as the lack of a precise distribution of powers and responsibilities between the federal states and the federal government. Overall, the basic framework of the provisional constitution regarding political parties, territorial constituencies, and an effective check and balances system has not yet been achieved. In the past, this has led to coordination issues and even open conflicts. The absence or dysfunctionality of certain safeguarding mechanisms, such as a stable and reliable constitutional jurisdiction and, with regard to the acceptance of the population, the absence of functioning guarantees of justice, have caused the provisions of the constitution to often fall into the void. In view of these challenges, the new presidency under Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud has set out to initiate a

constitutional review to address the constitution's current weaknesses. This process will be based on Article 137 of the provisional constitution, which provides for a referendum at the end of such a review process. Additionally, this includes an agreement on the structure of federalism as well as safeguarding laws, such as the revision of the electoral law and the creation of a Federal Constitutional Court Act. The Chair strongly believes that this project not only further enhances the department's internationalisation strategy, but can also contribute to the research on regional integration at the Tanzanian-German Centre for Eastern African Legal Studies (TGCL) in the long run.

<https://africanlegalstudies.blog>



Annual Conference 2022: Medialities

Text **SABINE GREINER**
Photos **ROBERT GÖTZE**

The annual Cluster conference 2022 brought the Cluster's academic year 2021/2022 to an end by focusing on the theme of "Medialities". The hybrid event was organised on-site in Bayreuth and Makhanda and presented two keynotes, two film screenings, and numerous panels on the topic.

In our rapidly evolving digital age, where media platforms and communication channels are constantly transforming, the concept of medialities has gained significant prominence. As one of the Cluster of Excellence's heuristic angles, the research organisation's work reflects medialities as pertaining to all forms of cultural, social, and economic production. Mediality means



The Deputy Spokesperson of the Cluster
Ute Fendler

the general presupposition or condition under which cultural, economic, and social production is able to take shape at all. Hence, media encompass, but are in no way limited to, means of mass communication and communication technologies, including everything from languages to numbers, cars to light bulbs, clothes to guns, money to resources. Correspondingly, the concept of the medium can be employed to stress the processual and performative character of all culture, whose multiplicity of practices and phenomena are perpetually mediated in various forms. The concept of *Medialities* was chosen as the core theme for the Cluster's work in the academic year 2021/2022 as well as the contextual framework for the Cluster's annual conference that took place between 6 - 9 July 2022.

Just like the annual conferences in the years before, the four-day event provided a forum for members and affiliates of the Cluster of Excellence to present and discuss their latest research with their peers and the interested public. After the annual conference 2021 had to be held exclusively online due to the pandemic, the Cluster's leadership was excited to be able to conduct its third annual conference in a hybrid fashion. The on-site venues were shared between the Cluster at the University of Bayreuth and the African Cluster Centre (ACC) at Rhodes University in Makhanda, South Africa, and from there the conference proceedings were streamed to the two venues and all other corners of the world.

First keynote by Rey Chow

The organisers planned an extensive programme for online and on-site participants. The conference kicked off in the afternoon of July 6 with the opening keynote address delivered by Rey Chow. In her insightful online lecture, *The Jargon of Liberal Democracy*, the Professor of Literature at Duke University, USA, took the question of

medialities back to practices of everyday language, in particular the widespread (neo)liberal lexicon of freedom and democracy. Afterwards, visitors, panellists, and organisers could exchange ideas at the festive reception.



Maroua El Naggare

The transcendental mimetic

The next conference day began with the second keynote: The Tunisian-French author and philosopher Mehdi Belhaj Kacem talked about *Le transcendental mimétique (The transcendental mimetic)*. Kacem approached the question of medialities through a concept central to his philosophical work, that of mimesis. In his opinion, mimesis presents a whole range of phenomena, in which technology and science originate. While certain animal species might display mimetic abilities, only humans are capable of imitating the laws of nature and being. Science originates as an aptitude for mimesis, as demonstrated by the archaic techniques by which



humans, three or four dozen millennia ago, surpassed their simple animal condition. In his lecture, Kacem argued that mimesis was the absolute mediation between people and their surroundings.

Film screening *When Women Speak*

The day continued with six panels on the broader subject of medialities, two of which were always held in parallel. In the evening, two more programme highlights were presented to the participants: First, the film *When Women Speak: It's about Struggle, Sacrifice, Sisterhood, and Freedom* was screened to the auditorium. The documentary, which had premiered in Accra, Ghana earlier that year, was produced by Akosua Adomako Ampofo (University of Ghana) and Kate Skinner (University of Birmingham, UK) and directed by Aseye Tamakloe. The film shares the activist experiences of 16 Ghanaian women during the 1960s and the 1970s when Ghana's political landscape was impacted by military, single-party, and multi-party regimes. The film screening was followed by an engaging roundtable chaired by the Cluster's Director of the Gender and Diversity Office, Christine Vogt-William, with members of the production team.

Panel:

Augmented Island Topographies

A little later that evening, the venue changed to the University of Bayreuth's Iwalewahaus, where Ute Fendler and Clarissa Vierke (both UBT) presented a panel on *Augmented Island Topographies*:

Performing Alternative Imaginaries. The panel started with a lecture by Smriti Srinivas, Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Davis, entitled *Contemporary Lives in Indian Ocean Worlds: Towards New Keywords* combined with artworks and performance. While Marvin Rodríguez, a Cuban photographer, spoke about his work as a



Luciana Ramos Silva

photographer who accompanies and captures time/space snapshots of the relation between body and space in a context of post-colonial topographies in Cuba, Jean Renat Anamah, a choreographer and dancer from Mauritius, linked drawing and choreography to the question of entanglements and topographies, proposing dance as a somesthetic thinking on space/body in a post-colonial context.

Diverse programme on day three

On Friday, 7 July 2022, the panels on medialities continued. One of the slots that day was designed as a 'Knowledge Slam' on the subject of digitisation. The short-paced and animated buzz session

in PechaKucha style was moderated by the Senegalese visual artist, producer and curator Ken Aicha Sy from Dakar. In the evening, participants could choose between a screening of the 1965 television production *Taiwo Shango: Der 2. Tag nach dem Tod (Taiwo Shango: The Second Day after the Death)*, with a subsequent discussion, or a roundtable discussion entitled *Decolonising African Media Studies*. The short presentations and subsequent discussion revolved around the need for a decolonial refocus on media as forms and technology, and on the general impact of media.

On the last day of the conference, participants were once again invited to explore the topic of medialities in a series of panels, such as *Mediality, Aesthetics, and Materiality in Comics and Popular Visual Art* or *Literature as Medium: From Ideal to Empirical* – before the event's organisers, Ute Fendler and Ivo Ritzer, officially ended the 2022 annual Cluster conference with their closing remarks.

For videos surrounding the 2022 Cluster Conference, please visit the Cluster's YouTube playlist:



Ken Aicha Sy

Ways of Knowing Africa

The Cluster's Third New Year Lecture

Text and photo SABINE GREINER

For the third time, the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence organised a New Year Lecture as the official kick-off for the Cluster's new year events. On 13 January 2022, Peter Tirop Simatei delivered the lecture entitled *Ways of Knowing Africa: African Literature and Shifting Imaginaries*.



Each year, the New Year Lecture marks the beginning of the Cluster's annual activities. In 2022, the Cluster invited Peter Tirop Simatei, Professor of Comparative Literature and Director of the African Cluster Centre (ACC) at Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya, to speak to the Cluster's members and affiliates as well as the interested public. The event took place on 13 January 2022 and due to the pandemic had to be conducted online.

Welcome Address and Introduction

During his welcome address, Yacouba Banhoro, Professor of History and Director of the African Cluster Centre at the University Joseph Ki-Zerbo in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, emphasised that although the pandemic had been a major obstacle for Cluster activities during the previous months,

the Cluster's ACCs were still very much committed to the Cluster's goals of re-configuring African Studies. Banhoro went on to say that the pandemic not only created obstacles, but also new opportunities than a problem, as it had helped the Cluster move forward with its transcontinental and transdisciplinary research.

For the introductory words, Akosua Adomako Ampofo, Professor of African and Gender Studies, Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana in Accra, took the audience on a biographic journey of Simatei's academic life and publications. She summarised that Simatei's research focus was on negotiations of diaspora, migration, gender, and popular culture, and explained that the scholar aims to understand how diaspora and diasporic identities work within, against, and around national identities.

Ways of Knowing Africa

For the New Year Lecture, Simatei chose the complex topic *Ways of Knowing Africa: African Literature and Shifting Imaginaries*. First, Simatei scrutinised the politics of knowledge production in relation to Africa and reflected on the role that specifically African literature plays in "knowing Africa". Quoting Harry Garuba, Simatei explained that literature was indeed capable of teaching about Africa. He pointed out that African literature, at least in its written form, had gone through a number of interrelated phases with shifts in topics and style. In response to possible criticism of his approach to colonial African literature, Simatei explained, "Modern African literature especially has a complex symbiotic relationship with colonialism (...) The specificity of African literature, its distinctiveness, is marked in part by its relation to imperial history." He went on to talk about the different positions of writers like Chinua Achebe and Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o on the role of African writers and their

works in postcolonial times, and described decolonisation as a "cultural and political project of African literature in the early phase of the immediate postcolonial period." Moving on to today's literary works, Simatei noted that third-generation African writers like Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Teju Cole, or Dinaw Mengestu seek to address emerging identities in the transnational and cosmopolitan locations and Diasporic spaces from where they were created. The ACC director explained, "While the task of the pioneer African writer was to reclaim community from within the boundaries defined by colonialism, contemporary writing, written as it were from transnational locations, grapples with realities generated by fluid, overlapping, and sometimes conflicting spaces."

For the last part of his lecture, Simatei talked about writers of the Indian diaspora in East and Southern Africa. These diasporic authors and their fictional work are indicative of the relations based on territorial understanding and their individual histories. They narrate questions of history, displacement, and cultural identities belonging both to East Africa and "elsewhere". Simatei explained, "In this case, diaspora and diasporic identities work within, against, and/or around national identities to construct plural spaces for enacting the difference of the diasporic subject." Reflecting on diasporic literature in general and a person's often colourful and transnational biography, Simatei concluded his talk by asking, "Where is anyone from these days?" before taking audience questions.

The lively discussion that ensued was chaired by Susan Arndt, Professor of English Studies and Anglophone Literatures at the University of Bayreuth. The topics that the audience brought up were mainly focused on the question "Can Africa be known?" and on the complexity of African literature as a vast field. 🌍



The Knowledge Lab 2022

Text and photo ROBERT DEBUSMANN

After the pandemic, the Cluster's Knowledge Lab regained momentum, serving the institution as an important forum for exchange and discussion.

In 2022, the programme offered by the Knowledge Lab in 2022 was outstanding. For the first time, the seminar series *Africa in Theory* was held in the 2022 summer semester, a co-production of the Chair Epistemologies of the Global South with the Johannesburg Institute of Advanced Studies (JIAS). Leading theorists such as Achille Mbembe, Elisio Macamo, Toyin Falola, and Elelwani Ramugondo attracted large audiences with their online lectures. Later in the year, Godwin Murunga and Akosua Adomako Ampofo followed with their contributions to the theme.

Other highlights of the Knowledge Lab were the contributions of the African Cluster Centres to the annual theme, the BIGSAS colloquia, and the high-profile guest lectures organised by the Cluster's Gender and Diversity Office. The Junior Research Groups also contributed topics with brilliant guests: Ndongo Samba Sylla, Howard French, Obioma Nnaemeka and Lyn Ossome presented and discussed new book publications and their fundamental theoretical contributions. And the prominent activist Stella Nyanzi made no less than three appearances

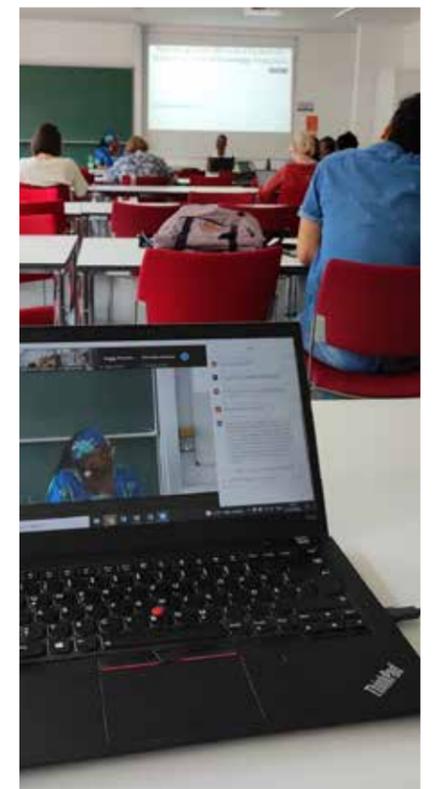
in the summer programme, to which she lent an impressive luminosity.

The thematic thread of the first half of the year was the annual theme *Medialities*, which culminated in the Cluster's annual conference in July. The conference took place in a hybrid format simultaneously in Bayreuth and at ACC Rhodes in Makhanda. Although individual colleagues had deemed the theme challenging during preparation, the conference panels were consistently of great coherence and originality, helping to make the event a profound and heartfelt one.

The new annual theme, *Spatialities*, kicked off in October with great momentum with a reading seminar and contributions from various units of the Cluster. The annual conference in October 2023 also tackles this theme with an extensive and promising programme that looks at the topic of spatialities from a wide variety of angles.

The Cluster had always envisioned the Knowledge Lab as the central marketplace of the Africa Multiple Cluster, where all Cluster members bring their treasures and present them for discussion before all eyes and ears. Feedback that the programme was "overloaded" or "overheated" led those responsible to divide the programme into two parts: a handful of outstanding events will be flagged as "keynote events" in future, in which all Cluster members

are warmly encouraged to participate in order to maintain the common framework. The remaining events will continue, but it is conceded that they are tailored to a narrower circle of interested parties. It is hoped that this new programme shape will be more in line with the natural life cycle of collective Cluster activities. 🌍



The Knowledge Lab sessions were conducted in a hybrid manner.

The Okwui Enwezor Distinguished Lecture 2022

Text SABINE GREINER

In late November 2022, the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence and Iwalewahaus of the University of Bayreuth invited the interested public to the second annual *Okwui Enwezor Distinguished Lecture*. This year, the event, named after the late art curator Okwui Enwezor, was held in memory of Nigerian artist and curator Ijeoma Uche-Okeke who had passed on a few months earlier.

Established in 2021, the *Okwui Enwezor Distinguished Lecture* annually features a prominent artist, curator, or scholar who has enriched the art world with groundbreaking contributions to the rethinking of African arts in a global perspective. While the first Enwezor Lecture was presented as part of the Cluster's annual conference programme in 2021 and held in an online format due to the pandemic, the second edition on 30 November 2022 had artists, scholars as well as the interested public gathering at Iwalewahaus to celebrate the life and work not only of Okwui Enwezor but also of Ijeoma Uche-Okeke. Together with the main speaker of the night, Ugandan artist and curator Nantume Violet, Uche-Okeke had curated the extensive exhibition *We Will Now Go To Kpaaza* for Iwalewahaus earlier in 2022, which featured the work of her late father Uche Okeke, before she herself unexpectedly passed away in the summer of 2022. With Iwalewahaus festively decorated in candles and white flowers, it was especially befitting that her sister Salma Uche-Okeke attended the 2022 Enwezor Lecture programme remotely,

thus joining Violet who presented her talk entitled *Collective Making: Multiplying Perspectives in Curatorial Knowledge Production & Pedagogy* to the audience at Iwalewahaus.

In her lecture, Violet scrutinized the consequences of colonial divisions that spill over into contemporary practices of curatorial creation. Violet mapped a way to overcome this divide by turning binaries into moments of decolonial curatorial transgression. Adopting the term from the oeuvre of Uche Okeke, Violet used 'Kpaaza' as a guiding metaphor in her talk: Kpaaza refers to a spring in Nimo/Nigeria, but at the same time encompasses de/coloniality and utopia. Intensively explored in the exhibition and research project *We Will Now Go To Kpaaza*, the idea of Kpaaza is an exploration of its emergence from a vast field of idiomatic expressions, fluidity and conceptual resources. These expressions and resources constitute references for African art history, with the potential to bring forth fresh pedagogical models in cultural practices. Through the practice of collective making, Violet pointed out, it is possible for curators to decontextualize the very foundations of art and knowledge production and root it in multiple entanglements, processes, and heterotopic destinies.

Violet also highlighted the pitfalls curators have to avoid when engaging in new projects: "Negotiating the immaterial of an exhibition is surely one of the most taxing jobs, when curating exhibitions. Making a grand gesture in a show is often what people see. Rarely, the learning curves that curators go through in the rigorous

testing of ideas and defending their rational. You also hold a considerable amount of authority and power to decide possible explorations, to facilitate or constrain social action, therefore, curators must take full responsibility in their action to include or exclude –, which is a form of power."

About Nantume Violet

Nantume Violet is a curator and director at UNDER GROUND, a nomadic contemporary art space in Kampala, Uganda. She has worked as a cultural producer and collaborated with artists and curators in Eastern Africa, Ghana, South Africa, and Germany. Apart from the exhibition *We Will Now Go To Kpaaza*, which she co-curated with Ijeoma Uche Okeke, she has also, together with Julia Gyemant, co-curated the exhibition, *That Those Beings Be Not Being*, at the Alpha nova & Galerie Futura in Berlin.



Further curatorial works include *Close* at the Johannesburg Art Gallery; *Indulgence* at Goethe-Institute in Nairobi (both in 2018); *Being Her(e)*, in Luanda, Angola (2017); *Zikunta: Gale of Human*, a solo show by Wasswa August Donald (2016); and *Heart of Darkness*; a solo show by Christian Tundula, *Cast a Light on Prejudice*; a photography solo exhibition by Papa Shabani, and *Together We Can*, an installation by Hellen Nabukenya; at the UNDER GROUND Art Gallery in Kampala (2015).

The *Okwui Enwezor Distinguished Lecture* was attended online and on-site at Iwalewahaus.

Young Asian Africanist Camp in Kyoto, Japan

Text UTE FENDLER

From 16 to 19 December 2022, the Young Asian Africanist Camp took place in Kyoto, Japan, and was entitled *Bridging African Studies Across the Continents*.

The longstanding University of Bayreuth partner institution, the Institute of African Studies at the Hankyong University of Foreign Studies (HUFS), South Korea, organised the Young Asian Africanist Camp in December 2022, the first in-presence camp after the pandemic. The camp host was the Centre for African Area Studies (CAAS) at the University of Kyoto under its Director Motoki Takahashi.

Over the last eight years, the Institute of African Studies (IAS) of the University of Bayreuth and the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence have been collaborating with the Asian Network of African Studies. Students have participated in the summer schools organised by the larger network of the Cluster in Bayreuth, Salvador da Bahia, Maputo, Seoul, Kyoto, and New Delhi. Yongkyu Chang (HUFS) is the Director of the Programme for Young Scholars that

brings together Master and PhD students from Asian and African countries. The seminar is a format where professors and young researchers meet to discuss across disciplines and regional research foci. Furthermore, there are special keynotes from the field of African Studies and a seminar during which the professors give classes linked to the overall theme of the camp. In 2022, the theme was *Bridging African Studies Across the Continents*,

which was particularly important after the long interruption to personal exchange during the pandemic.

The lecture by Ajay Dubey from Jawaharlal Nehru University, India, on Diaspora Studies opened perspectives on the long-standing interactions between Africa and Asia, while Kyudeug Hwang (HUFS) gave a critical introduction to concepts of political philosophy in African contexts. The lecture by Ute

Thierry Boudjekeu was recognized for the best project presentation.



Photo: Yongkyu Chang

Fendler (Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, Bayreuth) on African films entitled *Challenges of Everyday life: Youth in African Films* allowed a discussion with students from all disciplines. Three PhD students from the Cluster's network were able to present papers at the camp in Kyoto: Charles Kipng'eno Rono of Moi University, Kenya: *Post-colonial Disorders: Disability, Illness, and African Discourses on Biopolitics*; Mujeeb Olábodé Adédèjì from the University of Lagos, Nigeria: *Emotions and Emotive Communications in Yoruba* and Thierry Boudjekeu from BIGSAS, Bayreuth: *Writing the Slave Trade Trauma in Francophone Africa: A Study of Selected Novels*.

The last day of the camp was co-organised with a joint seminar with the IAS (Tokyo) during which the presentations of thirty students were evaluated by a board of six professors from India, Japan, and South Korea. Boudjekeu from BIGSAS Bayreuth won first prize and Adédèjì from the ACC Lagos won the second prize in this international competition. On the margins of the seminars, the directors of the institutes held a meeting to plan further joint activities, also envisioning intensifying the collaboration with the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence in the near future.



Participants Rono (Kenya) and Adedèjì (Nigeria).

Photo: Ute Fendler



Celebration of the decolonial renaming of the M*Street in Berlin August 23, 2022

© Bernd Sauer-Diete

Weingarten Africa Talks 2022

"Colonial Africa: Stories of the German present"

Text LUISA SCHNEIDER
Photos MARIE LUDEWIG
(ACADEMY OF THE DIOCESE OF
ROTTENBURG-STUTTGART)

Organised by the Academy of the Diocese at Rottenburg-Stuttgart and the Institute of African Studies (IAS) in Bayreuth, the overarching topic of the Weingarten Africa Talks was how the colonialism of the past still impacts the present.

For the past 12 years, the Institute of African Studies (IAS) and the Academy of the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart have been organising the *Weingarten Africa Talks* (*Weingar-*

tener Afrikagespräche). The Talks, held every December, are a platform to deliberate on current developments and issues in African research. It is an open event, which addresses both experts and those with a professional interest in topics related to the African continent. While the Talks have been taking place in Weingarten, the impact of Corona led to a change of venue, hence the 2022 'Afrika Gespräche' were held at the conference centre Stuttgart-Hohenheim under the theme *Colonial Africa: Stories of the German Present*. The theme was informed by the fact that while colonialism is long past, it continues to structure the present.

The workshop featured a series of presentations and roundtable discussions by experts from various disciplines, including academia, politics, and civil society, offering valuable insights to participants who included among others scholars, students, and development practitioners. In her keynote speech, Cassandra Mark-Thiesen, a Junior Research Group Leader at the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence at the University of Bayreuth, illustrated historical connections between Germany's colonial past and its lasting legacy in the present, which sparked a lively discussion on aspects of institutional and everyday manifestations of anti-black racism, official recognition

of genocides such as that committed against the Nama and Herero in present-day Namibia, decolonial street renaming, and the need to create more inclusive public spaces.

Ranging from social aspects to politics and economics, the workshop facilitated an exciting exchange and learning from one another between practitioners and theorists.

From a historical perspective, Stefanie Michels, a professor of history at the Heinrich Heine University in Düsseldorf spoke about Germany's colonial history in Africa. Using the example of Askari soldiers in German East Africa (modern-day Tanzania), Michels demonstrated the various agencies of Africans inscribed in colonial histories. Furthermore, she showed how historical documentation and narratives can have an intrinsic bias depending on the author, leading to a distorted view of colonial violence and war crimes under colonial rule.

Journalist Kofi Shakur spoke about *Afro-descendants in Germany*, providing a historical overview of the socio-political activism and scholarship of Afro-descendants in Germany while highlighting the current racist deficiencies in the so-called „inclusive“ German society.

The second part of the workshop was dedicated to public education by reflecting on current practices vis à vis colonial history. Inés de Castro, direc-

tor of the Linden Museum Stuttgart, shared her knowledge on how museums can work with communities that have been affected by colonial violence and discussed new approaches taken by public history institutions regarding the ongoing restitution debate. Her insights were shared by Robert Heinze from the University of Trier, who spoke about historical revisionism regarding Germany's past and its instrumentalisation by the political party Alternative für Deutschland (AfD). In a panel, the four experts discussed what they see as the need for action in their field. The evening was crowned by a theatre performance by the political-artistic group *Hope Theatre Nairobi*. Their message revolved around the persistent perception of Africans as unable to decide for themselves and the dominant stereotypes of dancers in colourful clothes.

The workshop's final day focussed on German and European Africa policies. Alexander Stroh-Steckelberg from the University of Bayreuth presented on the complexity of German development policy in Africa. Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana, a sitting member of the European Parliament from the Green party, shared her views on EU-Africa relations. In her talk, *Politics from the Inside. Reflections of an Afro-German European Politician*, Fofana reflected on the conduct and attitudes of EU policies and institutions and how these influence the relationship between the Global North and the Global South. She could not hide her



Cassandra Mark-Thiesen on the meaning of "Colonial Africa: Stories of the German present".



Kofi Shakur reflecting on "Afro-descendants in Germany today".



Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana

frustration at the way EU relates with its partners saying that often, when colleagues from the Global South are invited to the EU parliament, members did not turn up, something Herzberger-Fofana described as disrespectful.

The 2022 *Africa Talks* provided an essential step in addressing the marginalization of colonial narratives in German history, a history which as Ibrahima Sene, a master's student of "Kultur und Gesellschaft Afrika" at the University of Bayreuth, highlighted in an event report is until now characterized by "a certain non-thematization of the German colonial past from an institutional point of view (e.g. school) and in the German media coverage (e.g. portrayal of Africa in reports)".



Performance by the Hope Theatre Nairobi

ALS Debate Series

Text GIFT MAULUKA

The Chair of African Legal Studies (ALS) organised a debate series on the topic of Human Rights in Africa scrutinising topics such as LGBTQI+ Rights and Human Trafficking.

In 2022, the Chair of African Legal Studies at the University of Bayreuth, together with Rhodes University, hosted a diverse group of academics, practitioners, activists, and artists from a wide variety of fields in a series of debates titled Everyone's Human Rights. The experts featured in the series engaged in debates to tease out their views, work, experiences, and perceived solutions to intractable human rights problems, specifically, but not exclusively, the problems of child labour, human trafficking, and LGBTQI+ rights. The experts shared best practices from their field of work both in methods and interventions that have succeeded in addressing the problems. As expected, the series accorded a platform for challenging participants to think outside the box about these human rights problems and to offer solutions beyond what has been suggested and proposed by existing legal frameworks.

While the 2022 debates series was the second of its kind for the Chair of African Legal Studies, this edition was based on the ongoing learnings from the research project *When the Law Is Not Enough: Intractable Problems of Human Rights* funded by the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence.

Setting the tone for the event, Habiba Osman, Chief Executive Officer for the Malawi Human Rights Commission, shared how the Commission is addressing child protection issues in general. She highlighted that among the key interventions is the implementation of child protection projects through the Directorate for Children Rights within the Commis-

sion's agenda. Furthermore, Osman emphasised that the Commission has carried out specific research across Malawi on how children and the vulnerable sectors of society are enjoying their rights. Just as the research project specifies, she shared that Malawi has a rich legal framework meant to address the issues, but compounding challenges make it difficult to resolve the problems.

In the second session of the debates, Desmond Mhango, Executive Director for the Centre for Youth and Children's Affairs (CEYCA), also serving as Chair of the Child Rights Coalition in Malawi, echoed that the coordination challenge in the child labour problem undermines the strides that have been made at the grassroots. Mhango pointed out that although the Coalition has tried pulling stakeholders together, there are still problems in



how the children rescued from child labour practices are supported.

The sessions on human trafficking, whose exhilarating moments were ignited by Liza Moroney, Director at Expose HOPE, South Africa, were later reinforced by a presentation by R. O. Iroanya, Professor of Security and Strategic Studies at the University of Namibia. The sessions highlighted hidden forms of human trafficking by the example of sex trafficking in South Africa. While painting a disheartening picture of how women and girls find themselves trafficked into the sex industry, the two presentations shared how grounded work by local organisations is helping in freeing women from the bonds of such practices. They further pointed out non-conventional methods of dealing with the problem that go beyond the provision of hot meals, sanitary

pads, counselling, and follow-up sessions and provide a perspective for some victims. Again, the two debaters stressed that all efforts by local organisations, government, and even individuals can be strengthened by coordination and resource sharing.

In November 2022, Stellah Bosire, Executive Director of Africa Centre for Gender and Health Systems Fund, and Pamela Adie, who is a filmmaker, artist, and Executive Director for Equality Hub Nigeria, shared their grounded experience on issues around LGBTQI+ rights. Firstly, they said that homo- and transphobic perceptions and practices are generally made worse due to the lack of explicit legal frameworks to protect LGBTQI+ persons against torture, cruelty, and inhumane and degrading treatment. Nevertheless, the attitudes and perceptions of general issues around

LGBTQI+ rights have started shifting. Among others, the inclusion of same-sex variables in the housing and population census in Kenya; the registration of organisations working on LGBTQI+ rights, as well as discussions in the public domain are positive strides towards the realisation of the rights of all people regardless of their status. While celebrating the little rays of success, the two guests called for more support from different sectors. Adie and Bosire specifically reflected on the lack of tangible action from the government in addressing the problem, saying LGBTQI+ rights serve for the rhetoric in speeches that government officials deliver where they promise more action. Furthermore, while acknowledging that human rights violations in Africa are rampant, Adie and Bosire were hasty in pointing out the uniqueness of the LGBTQI+ rights problem.

Aly Keita: A Passion for Music

Text SABINE GREINER

Photos ROBERT GÖTZE

As part of the celebration of the BIGSAS honorary doctorate awarded to Fatou Sow in May 2022, the Internationalisation and Public Engagement Department of the Cluster organised a concert with renowned balafon player Aly Keita and his band.

On 17 May 2022, the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence at the University of Bayreuth presented an evening full of African rhythm and beats. The Cluster invited the Aly Keita Trio, whose unique music combines Afropop with funk and jazz elements, to play at the historic Reichshof Theatre in Bayreuth. The event marked the start of the two-day-celebration of the BIGSAS honorary doctorate awarded to Fatou Sow by the University of Bayreuth (see pages 6–9) for her extraordinary work in the field of Gender Studies.

The evening began with an opening act by Mozambican musician Matchume Zango and South African choreographer and dancer Desiré Davids. Zango played timbila, traditional marimba-like instruments revered as part of Mozambique's national heritage, while Davids impressively and entrancingly



Aly Keita is a virtuoso on the balafon.

interpreted his music and sounds, turning them into movements and dance.

Zango and Davids warmed up the audience for what was to come. As soon as Aly Keita entered the stage, one could feel his passion for music. Keita's enthusiasm for his craft was palpable and he was able

to easily communicate his joie de vivre and energy to each and every person in the theatre while playing his music. It did not take long for the rhythm to take over, making people clap and dance.

Descended from a family of musicians, Keita grew up surrounded by traditional instruments like the djembe and the kora. But his favourite instrument became the balafon, which he made with his own hands as a young man, and which he has played ever since. Since then, Keita has earned worldwide renown for his mastery of the balafon. While rooted in tradition, Keita's Afro-pop, funk-fuelled rhythm section and taste for complex jazz-oriented arrangements set him far apart from most balafonists. With the Dutch drummer Marcel van Cleef and the Italian bass player Roberto Badoglio, Keita created the Aly Keita Trio. Together they combine West African balafon music with funky, jazzy grooves. Only a few days before performing in Bayreuth, Aly Keita won the German jazz prize (Deutscher Jazz Preis) in the category Special Instruments.



Matchume Zango (left) and Desiré Davids performed as the opening act.



Mo Asumang



Kharis Ikoko



Evan Sohun



Deena Mohamed



Ines Johnson-Spain



Matchume Zango

Engaging with Schools and Teachers – Sensitising the Next Generation

Text DORIS LÖHR

Collaborating with numerous artists and scholars, the Cluster's Internationalisation and Public Engagement (IPE) Department organised a wide range of events in 2022 to sensitise young people on questions of racism and decolonisation.

To decolonise learning “about Africa” in the classroom at schools in Germany is an important part of the Cluster's agenda. This is why, as in previous years, the Cluster's Internationalisation and Public Engagement department, together with pupils and students and the interested public, has taken up the challenge of questioning the image of Africa in order to ignite discussion and reflection within all generations.

To ensure that topics like racism are no longer dealt with stereotypically in the classroom, but are included in

everyday school life in a contemporary way and without common clichés, IPE regularly organises workshops to sensitise adolescents and teachers to these issues. With committed teachers from schools in Bayreuth, and scholars and artists invited from Africa and overseas, classroom visits are organised. The IPE holds workshops for pedagogical students and for all interested pupils, students, and the wider public. The team invites artists and filmmakers to discuss current issues evoked after their performances and film screenings.

Workshop

In 2022, the Cluster's Project Learning and Resource Platform Africa (PLURA), in cooperation with the Centre for Global Learning/Didactics of Geography's project manager, Kirstin Wolf, and the Centre for Teaching and Learning of the University of Bayreuth organised a workshop series entitled *Criticism of Racism*

in (School) Practice – Space for Exchange. The aim was to reflect on thought patterns and structures shaped by racism in addition to jointly discussing possibilities for action in the context of school and teaching. Teachers, students, multipliers, and people interested in Global Learning were the target groups. Led by the consultant and activist Kharis Ikoko from the Black Community Foundation in Augsburg, Germany, experiences and challenges in (school) practice were discussed and reflected upon together, implementing approaches critical of racism in schools and other institutions.

The successful cooperation led to the grant of the project *Creation and Implementation of Teaching Material on the Topic of “Africa” for Geography Lessons at Bavarian Secondary Schools*. The cooperation between the Cluster, Didactics of Geography, and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation

and Development (BMZ) will develop theoretically sound and practically applicable teaching material for the new geography curriculum (LehrplanPLUS) in Bavaria, in which “Africa” will be taught for the first time in the 10th grade with new topics and competencies.

Classroom encounters

In July 2022, as a follow-up to prior classroom visits, three African artists held workshops at the Markgräfin-Wilhelmine-Gymnasium Bayreuth (MWG), Altstadtschule Bayreuth, and the Staatliche Fachoberschule und Berufshochschule Bayreuth (FOS BOS). Matchume Zango from Mozambique visited classes at MWG and Altstadtschule and built musical instruments with the pupils in the classroom while telling them about the musical heritage of his country. The illustrator Deena Mohamed from Egypt and the graphic artist Evan Sohun from Mauritius were panellists at the annual Cluster Conference on Medialities and found time to engage with graphic designer classes at FOS BOS and the 9th grade pupils at the Altstadtschule. The children were very interested to hear about the life and work of an artist and tried out some of the techniques that were shown to them.

Cinema

As part of its ongoing event series AfriKaleidoskop, the Cluster invited two filmmakers to present their documentaries to the interested public.

Ines Johnson-Spain

The German/Togolese independent filmmaker Ines Johnson-Spain, who has become known recently for her autobiographical documentary *Becoming Black*, presented her film on 27 September 2022 at the Cineplex Bayreuth to students of the FOS BOS and MWG. *Becoming Black* tells the filmmaker's life story growing up as a Black girl in an adoptive white family in the former GDR. After the screening, the pupils engaged in a surprisingly intense discussion about the social and ethical issues addressed in the documentary, such as belonging, social norms, family concepts, and persistent racism in German society.

Mo Asumang

On 28 November 2022, the German film director, television presenter,

author, actor, singer, dubbing artist, and film producer Mo Asumang showed her 2014 documentary *The Aryans* at Iwalewahaus. In this Grimme Award-nominated film, Asumang meets and confronts international racists, members of the Ku Klux Klan, and a group of ethnic Aryans in the Middle East. The moving documentary triggered engaged discussions on the topics of racism and integration. Asumang turned the discussion in an impromptu workshop on how to react to people who do not share the same belief system as oneself – a tool set that helps her tremendously when she as a Black person engages with people who are clearly racist.

For more information, please visit:



Deena Mohamed and Evan Sohun drew together with students from Bayreuth's Altstadtschule.



Matchume Zango showed a class how to build traditional African instruments.

Workshop: Slave Trade Memories

Text GILBERT NDI-SHANG

As part of the Cluster project on slave trade memories, the research team organised an extensive workshop entitled *Slave Trade Memories at the Crossroads of Literature, Performance, and History*, that took place between 26 June and 1 July 2022.

The workshop organised by the Black Atlantic Revisited project was aimed at fostering transatlantic debates on memories of the slave trade by bringing in voices from Francophone Africa and the French/Hispanic Caribbean in order to discuss the coincidences, convergences, or divergences in memory politics and aesthetics as practised in creative works and on memorial landscapes. The workshop engaged with authors on the aesthetics of their craft as well as the underlying presumptions or ideologies that influence their approach to transatlantic memories. The research team led by Ute Fendler opted for both literary authors and academics from various disciplines to bring into dialogue trans-disciplinary perspectives on the complex questions of memory, hence the choice of Togolese novelist Kangni Alem, French/Congolese novelist Wilfried N'Sondé, Colombian historian Javier Ortiz Cassiani, Colombian poet/academic Ashanti Dinah Orozco-Herrera, and Martinican academic/novelist/filmmaker Fabienne Kanor. The Cana-

dian/Rwandan literary critic Josias Semujanga and the Congolese/South African critic Patrice Kabeya Mwepu were the guests of the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS) and the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence during the workshop and actively took part in the very enriching exchanges. For the June workshop, the Colombian guests, Cassiani and Orozco-Herrera, were only able to participate online. However, they later made it to Bayreuth from 23 to 27 November 2022, thereby presenting their keynote and poetry performance, respectively, to both live and virtual audiences.

Through a variety of formats, ranging from keynotes, literary readings, roundtable discussions, to poetry performance and filmed performances, the discussions centred around modes of approaching the slave trade archive; new approaches to slave memories; the peculiarities of each form of representation; as well as interconnections between commemorative practices on both sides of the Atlantic. The opening performance by Kanor, titled *The Flesh of History*, brought into focus the haunting spectre of slave memory on racial and gender practices in the Caribbean. Her performance, connected with her novel *Humus*, constituted, in the author's words, an attempt to pursue the elusive traces of the trauma of the slave trade and participate in archive-building which cannot be

consigned only to historical records, many of which were documented by literate slave merchants. Given the irrecoverably tragic silence of victims who perished without having the opportunity to narrate their experiences, performance and writing become modes of making meaning from the transatlantic caesura and re-imagining the ethical consequences of the trauma on the survivors and their descendants.

The workshop participants explored the capacity of new rewritings of the slave trade to subvert meta-narratives about culpability and responsibility and to unearth existing silences and taboos. The novels of N'Sondé and Alem stem from the necessity to uncover these silences and to enable African societies to assume their proportionate responsibility for their participation in the deportation of fellow Africans. The two authors specifically highlighted the persistence of moral guilt in families and royalties in Africa who built their wealth on the slave trade. They explored ways in which slavery has affected contemporary relations in African societies and conditioned their responses to its trauma. N'Sondé, in particular, posited that slavery and the 'slave trade need not be spoken about in past tense, for these fundamentally continue to define racial, ethnic, and gender relations worldwide, imposing capitalist relationalities that fetishise capital



Photo: Sabine Greiner

and production to the detriment of ontological human love.

N'Sondé and Cassiani stressed the need to pay attention to prior and current transatlantic relations amongst Africa and Latin America that hinge on diplomatic relations of mutual respect. However, the intensification of the trade in enslaved Africans perverted such relations and truncated more dignified commercial transactions between these continents. Cassiani underlined the role of creative writing, especially in the Colombian context, in commemorating the role of enslaved Africans in nation-building in Latin American countries. Not only did the pioneering works of literary authors such as Candelario Obeso (1849–1884) and Manuel Zapata Olivella (1920–2004) inspire contemporary historians, but they also used the currency of the creative media (creative texts and choreography in the case of the latter) to popularise the marginalised history of Afro-descendants in a way that traditional historians could not.

Cassiani stressed that new approaches to slave trade historiography need to move away from focusing on mere eventfulness but rather must lay emphasis on the piecemeal processes of liberation and agency, as well the social, psychological, and spiritual dimensions of the slave trade. This is particularly pertinent in addressing slavery in major Latin American cit-

ies, whereby "household slaves" known as "jornaleros" were able to engage in petty trading and consequently bought their freedom, thereby operating freely while slavery still existed. It is this category of formerly enslaved that played a huge role in the independence struggle in Cartagena, for instance, against the Spanish hegemony. Cassiani insisted that the current legacy of invisibilisation of Afro-descendant peoples and cultures dates back to the period following independence, whereby most Latin American nations wanted to present their countries to European powers as white and progressive. An example, in the case of Colombia, was Colombia: Relación Geográfica, Topográfica, Agrícola, Comercial y Política de este País (Colombia: Geographical, Topographical, Agricultural, Commercial and Political Relations of this Country), purportedly written by the Colombian diplomat posted to London, José María del Real, which presented the country as made up of indigenous and creole populations, with the progressive whitening of the population as the desired endpoint. This and other official historical accounts invisibilised Afro-descendants as major population components and contributors to national identity, a legacy that has haunted Cartagena as a city and Colombia until today. However, Cassiani posited that the phenomenon today is perhaps less about invisibilisation than negative presence, whereby the African culture is denigrated or presented as mere folk-

lore, void of any spiritual, epistemological, and historical content.

It is precisely at the juncture of an erased presence that the poetry of Orozco-Herrera constitutes a trans-cultural medium in order to underline the persistence of the African spiritual presence in Colombia. Orozco-Herrera's poetry can be considered not just as an epistemological translation, given that the spiritual textuality of the Yoruba religion is transformed in Latin American Diasporic contexts, but also as archive-building in the sense used by Kanor in her opening performance. The construction of this archive is more important in a context like Colombia, whereby African ancestry is less institutionalised than in spaces such as Brazil and Cuba. Orozco-Herrera's poetry is not only Afrocentric but equally bears traces of European literary influences. Nevertheless, the author gives prominence to her African heritage due to its tacit denial or active relegation in the public archives as well as in private genealogies in the Colombian Caribbean coast.

It is worth mentioning that the discussions among participants during the workshop have instigated various academic papers on the subject of transatlantic slave trade memory which are currently being submitted as part of an edited volume by the Black Atlantic Project.



The workshop was accompanied by a public discussion round at Bayreuth's Kulturhaus Neuneinhalb (left) and a number of interviews with the participants that may be found on YouTube. Photos: Sabine Greiner

Between Mauritius and India: Reading with Ananda Devi

Text and photo SABINE GREINER

On 14 July 2022 the Cluster's Department of Internationalisation and Public Engagement held a book reading with one of the most important voices of Mauritian literature: Ananda Devi.

On a sunny summer evening in July, the small cultural venue Kulturhaus Neuneinhalb in Bayreuth was packed with people wanting to experience a book reading that would take them to both shores of the Indian Ocean. After many invitations by Ute Fendler, the Cluster's deputy spokesperson and Vice-Dean of Internationalisation and Public Engagement, Ananda Devi had finally been able to come to Bayreuth.

Devi, who stands for Mauritian literature like no other, as Fendler pointed out during her introduction, is central to Fendler's various research projects scrutinising questions in the context of the Indian Ocean.

During her reading in Bayreuth, Devi first read from her 2006 novel *Eve out of Her Ruins*, which was later turned into the film *The Children of Troumaron* (2012). Found on the mandatory reading list of many French and Mauritian schools, the book tells the life story of a group of young friends in Mauritius and how they survive in a world that will not offer them a future. The protagonist Eve feels particularly abandoned by society and her parents, leaving her with only her body as a

currency. Before reading excerpts of the book, Devi pointed out that it was her goal to provoke thought in the reader by portraying the dark side of Mauritius, in contrast to the tropical sunny island it is often perceived as being.

The second novel that Devi presented was *Le rire des déesses* (*The Laughter of the Goddesses*). Published in 2021, the book is set on the other side of the Indian Ocean: India. The novel was inspired by the author's experience in India when she was introduced to women who were trying to get their children out of the vicious cycle of prostitution and pover-

ty. In the novel's centre is the fate of a prostitute's daughter raised in the middle of the hypocrisies of a highly patriarchal and religious society.

About Ananda Devi

Born in 1957 in Mauritius, Devi started writing at a very young age and began to be noticed at the age of 15 when she won a prize for a short story. She published her first short story collection at the age of 19. Over the following five decades, she has become one of the major literary voices of the Indian Ocean, winning numerous literary prizes.

Devi looks back on an impressive oeuvre comprising 26 books: mostly novels, but also poems and essays. Her narratives let readers dive into personal destinies on both sides of the Indian Ocean, sometimes Mauritius, sometimes India. Her writing is dominated by a harsh outlook on modern society, especially with regard to the status of women. Her characters are trapped by the contrary forces of society, religion, human cruelty, and the seismic faults of history. Their only recourse, in their solitary quests, is their lucidity and humanity. Despite the harshness of her themes, Devi brings to her writing a poetry and sensuality that shines a light in the midst of the darkness she explores.

Devi's works have been translated in several languages and have received international recognition. In 2014, she was presented with a major award from the French Academy. The University of Silesia, Poland, conferred upon her a *Honoris Causa* doctorate.

To watch the reading online, please visit:



Cluster Project Multiple Indian Ocean: Workshop in Mauritius

Text UTE FENDLER

Organised by the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence in collaboration with the University of Mauritius and the Mahatma Gandhi Institute in Moka, Mauritius, the workshop *Naviguer le Tout-monde de l'Océan Indien: Poétiques Relationnelles entre Écritures et Arts Visuels* (*Navigating the Whole World of the Indian Ocean: Relational Poetics Between Writing and the Visual Arts*) took place in Mauritius from 3 to 5 October 2022.

In October 2022, Ute Fendler co-organised an international workshop in close collaboration with Kumari Issur at the University of Mauritius in the context of the research project Multiple Indian Ocean. Members of the project, Clarissa Vierke and Duncan Tarrant, talked about their re-

search in Tanzania and Zanzibar with the project's associated key researcher, Elena Brugioni from the University of Campinas, Brazil. For two days, researchers and artists gathered at the University of Mauritius to exchange views on relational poetics in the Indian Ocean area, including the islands as well as the East African Coast, bringing in approaches from various disciplines.

While literature and the arts were at the focus of the conference, Roukaya Kasenally gave insight into geopolitical approaches to the construction of an archipelagic identity in literature, film, visual arts, political science, and history. The public appreciated the perspectives on the Indian Ocean that linked

various countries and cultures. The internationally renowned writer Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor and the storyteller and researcher Mshai Mwangola, both from Kenya, shared historical knowledge and cultural practices from the continent, while Jean-Luc Raharimanana contributed his writings on the complex experiences in

Madagascar from the French context. Mauritian writers tuned in with their analyses as well as their poems and texts, like the renowned author Ananda Devi and the poet Umar Timol, who has recently turned towards photography. Sharvan Anenden spoke on the process of making a documentary film based on local history, which dovetailed nicely with the archival studies of Robert Furlong on the first cinemas in Mauritius. The interregional and intermedia imaginaries were reinforced by the collaboration with the Mahatma Gandhi Institute's School of Fine Arts. Krishna Luchoomun and Nooreen Lallmamode accompanied their students through a process of several weeks of creation, taking texts by the aforementioned writers as an inspiration to respond by paintings, sculptures, installations, and clips. Leena Ramduth and Hans Ramduth are both specialists in visual and digital culture and dealt with the oeuvre of famous writer and painter Malcolm de Chazal and the visual culture history of the Indian Ocean, respectively. The exhibition of the art works at the end of the conference was the climax, making the intensive exchanges highlighting relational imaginaries of the Indian Ocean both "visual" and "material".



Photos: Maira Naboo

Artist in Residence



Uche Okeke. Primeval Beast (Fabled Brute), 1961. © Asele Institute

We Will Now Go To Kpaaza — An exhibition rethinks the work of Uche Okeke

With the exhibition *We Will Now Go To Kpaaza* curated by Ijeoma Uche-Okeke and Nantume Violet, Iwalewahauss commemorated one of the most important artists of Nigerian modernism: Uche Okeke. When Nigeria gained independence from the British colonial power in 1960, Okeke had already founded the Zaria Art Society with other artists. A leitmotif that accompanied Okeke throughout his artistic life was the one of Kpaaza - both to be found in his poetry and visual art. Kpaaza as a concept of spiritual search and political attitude was thought further, deeper, and more broadly by the two visionary curators, the late Ijeoma Uche-Okeke, the artist's daughter who died much too early in September 2022, together with curator Nantume Violet. Moving Kpaaza from an utopian space into a thoughtful direction, the curators also changed from the 'I' into the 'We', affirming all art as collective effort.

This strictly collaborative approach also came into play in the making of the exhibition. As an outstanding collaboration with the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence and the inclusion experts of BayFinK, this seminal exhibition featured a rich discursive programme, realised by Lena Naumann and Katharina Fink of Iwalewahauss. The process as such was a joyful,

feminist engagement with Okeke's legacy.

Most of the drawings, prints, and paintings on display were on view in Europe for the first time. Okeke met the public here as a lyrical illustrator, expressive storyteller, and innovative designer. His works were contextualised with pieces by companions such as Demas Nwoko, Bruce Onobrakpeya, Ego Uche-Okeke, Emmanuel Tetteh and others. Uli design, the traditional visual language given new meaning by Okeke, formed a graphic focus in the exhibition. The curators picked this thread up as a guiding symbol.

This exhibition is planned to travel to South Africa and to Nigeria. A publication will further an understanding of Okeke, a visionary artist who was deeply rooted in his own time, from a contemporary perspective.

Text // Katharina Fink/Philipp Schramm
Curators // Ijeoma Uche-Okeke, Nantume Violet
Curator Programme // Katharina Fink
Project Coordination and Logistics // Katharina Fink, Sigrid Horsch-Albert, Lena Naumann
Cooperation // Asele Institute, Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, Institute of African Studies, Iwalewahauss

Melting Stone — Talya Lubinsky's Tender Destruction of Conventional Commemoration

Some of the most challenging places for art to intervene are at sites that commemorate crimes against humanity. In 2021, Iwalewahauss, supported by the IAS, started a collaborative project with the Flossenbürg Concentration Camp Memorial. Guided by Jörg Skriebeleit, Director, and Julius Scharnetzky, Director of Exhibits and Communication, the project team invited South African artist Talya Lubinsky to address questions of memory and commemoration. Known for her poetic visual language, Lubinsky worked with a material iconic for the suffering at the former concentration camp: granite. In an elaborate process, she created 'melting' objects that aesthetically challenge vocabularies around the past. 'Melting' emerged as a new metaphor in the conversations around commemoration, intersectional memory studies, and art.

Besides the stone objects, a haunting work interacted with the site: A glass 'ceiling' that worked with a partly destroyed mural from the offices of the Deutsche Erd- und Steinwerk GmbH, the company created to procure building materials for state construction projects in Nazi Germany.

Text // Katharina Fink
Curator // Katharina Fink, Philipp Schramm
Cooperation // Flossenbürg Concentration Camp Memorial, Institute of African Studies



Crossing Conversation — Iwalewahauss Collection

In October and November 2022, the South African artist and curator Abrie Fourie created an interactive and multi-spatial work. The project *Crossing Conversation* was a photographic intervention on large billboards in public spaces in Bayreuth and other German cities. It focused on the dialogue and connection between 24 analogue photographs, showing the remains of Monobloc plastic chairs in Tshwane, South Africa. *Crossing Conversation* is part of the African Modern Art Collection at Iwalewahauss of the University of Bayreuth, which is unique in Germany and, to a large extent, digitised. Artworks by Uche Okeke, Collette Omogbai, Diane Victor, Olu Oguibe and many more became part of the virtual archive of the collection, which was made accessible via a QR code on the billboards. The collection became therefore more visible and invited viewers into a direct conversation on social media. *Crossing Conversation* is now part of the Iwalewahauss collection and, through interactions, animates, prompts, and invites the viewer to discover and immerse oneself in the newly created database.



Crossing, Tshwane, South Africa, 2003 © Abrie Fourie

Abrie Fourie (1969) is a South African artist based in Berlin, Germany. Fourie was born in Pretoria, South Africa where he lived, studied and worked until emigrating in 2007. His practice is largely photography based, but he is also active in teaching, publishing and curatorial projects. Whilst lecturing at the Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria, South Africa (1993 - 2007), he established outlet (2002-2007), an experimental exhibition space. Curatorial projects include *Mine*, a traveling exhibition of South African video art which has been shown internationally, including Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Bayreuth, Germany and Johannesburg, South Africa. In 2022 he created an interactive and multi-special work as part of the project "*Crossing Conversation*" shown in various German cities.

Text // Katharina Greven, Alexandra Kuhnke
Curator // Abrie Fourie
Project Coordination and Logistics // Abrie Fourie, Katharina Greven, Alexandra Kuhnke
Cooperation // BBK, Neustart Kultur, Funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media, University of Bayreuth

Christine Dixie — To be King

Christine Dixie, a renowned artist and printmaker, often expresses her art through films and elaborate installations. One such multi-media installation was the To Be King exhibition hosted by the University of Bayreuth. Dixie, who is also a senior lecturer at Rhodes University in Makhanda, South Africa, uses her work to challenge gender roles as they have historically been conditioned by society, myths, and image-making. Topics including the manifestation of colonial history that haunts her hometown Makhanda and the European legacy in Africa play a major role in her work. The installation challenges the control of the gaze inspired by the famous Diego Velázquez painting Las Meninas and an art criticism text by Michel Foucault, Dixie tells a de-stabilising narrative through various techniques, 'dethrones' the King, and re-positions characters and spaces from the periphery to a centralised position of power and the dominant gaze. Dixie thereby not only highlights the fragility of the established order of things, but also suggests the possibility of change.



Christine Dixie. To be King © Christine Dixie

Text and Curator // Nicole Marina Klug
Project Advisory // Christine Dixie, Ute Fendler
Project Coordination and Logistics // Ute Fendler, Nicole Marina Klug
Cooperation // Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence



Special Guest — Anette Kramme

On 26 July 2022, Bärbel Kofler, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, visited her colleague Anette Kramme, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, in Bayreuth. Kofler and Kramme also paid a visit to Iwalewahaus at the University of Bayreuth. In addition to topics such as accessibility, problems with visa procedures, and digitisation as a means of cultural preservation, art was not neglected. Katharina Fink and Sigrid Horsch-Albert led the conversation and showed the current exhibition We Will Now Go to Kpaaza, with works by Uche Okeke. Additionally, Sarah Böllinger provided insights into her research.

Text // Sigrid Horsch-Albert



Photo: Goethe Institut/ Julian Manjehahi

Colonialism — A Musical Narrative For Children (and Adults)

by Wangari Grace and Sven Kacirek

Colonial history has continued and solidified into racist structures and thoughts, which affects today's structures in Germany. Elementary knowledge about the colonial era must be a basic prerequisite to understand current political and sociological developments and should start with the very young. Therefore, in May 2022, Iwalewahaus and the IAS invited the Hamburg musician Sven Kacirek and the storyteller Wangari Grace from Nairobi, Kenya to present the play "Colonialism - A Musical Narrative For Children (and Adults)" at Iwalewahaus, with the cooperation of Bayreuth's Studiobühne and Das Zentrum. Grace and Kacirek took the audience back to Africa from 1870 to 1990 to explore the past and to find a responsible way to deal with the colonial era and to recognise and overcome future oppression and exploitation. While Grace reconstructs the inhumane events, she questions the European perspective. As a storyteller, she follows the technique of musical storytelling, for the transmission of knowledge and experience to the next generation. On stage, Grace stands in a dark space, surrounded by objects and portraits of the personalities from the colonial era, and leads the audience with her narration through five former African colonies: Congo, Kenya, Tanzania, Namibia, and South Africa. Based on her research of individual fates, she reports on the deeds of the occupying powers, accompanied by the live music of Kacirek.

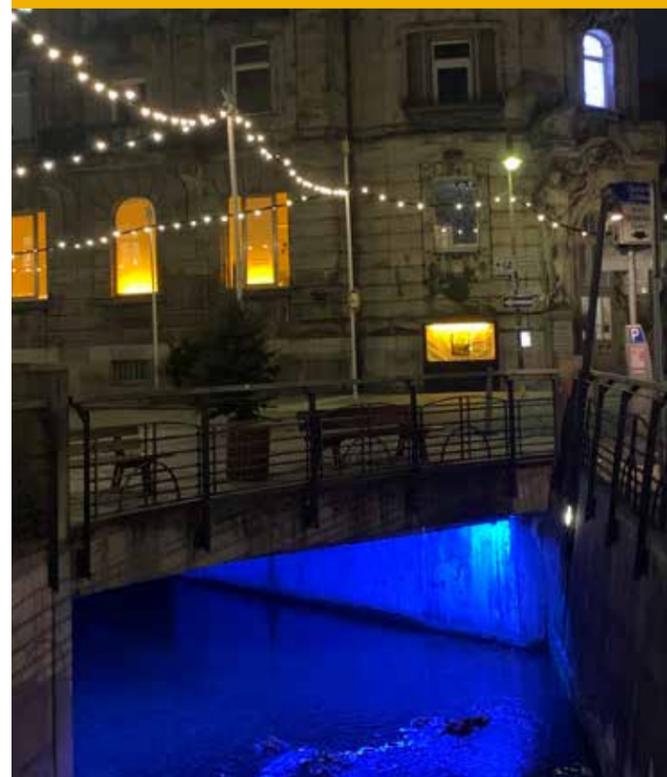
Project Coordination and Logistics // Katharina Greven
Cooperation // Institute of African Studies, Studiobühne e.V., Das Zentrum

Orange The World — A Visible Sign Against Sexualised Violence and Discrimination

25.11.-10.12.2022

The University of Bayreuth illuminated Iwalewahaus in orange for the period of the United Nations initiative Orange the World. This UN campaign takes place annually between 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and 10 December, Human Rights Day. Buildings around the world are lit up in orange to set a visible sign protesting violence against women and thus contributing to the removal of taboos about this issue. Sexualised violence and discrimination can be found everywhere – even in universities. Hierarchical structures and dependencies on the allocation of jobs and grades all create imbalances of power, which facilitate the practise of harassment, violence, and discrimination. Orange the World highlights not only these issues, but also the stance against them. The orange light calls for change, and workshops and lectures were offered during the campaign to facilitate a positive change.

Text // Inken Böbert
Technical Support // Sefer Polat
Project Coordination // Miriam Bauch, Inken Böbert



New Additions

to the Iwalewahaus Collection



Christine Dixie

Christine Dixie has generously gifted Iwalewahaus, at the University of Bayreuth, with her To Be King installation, consisting of the sculpture The Black Infanta, and a file storage medium containing the digital installation, two pamphlets, 41 art prints, (Colonising Foucault's Meninas) and two guard costumes, following the successful exhibition of her work in July of 2022.



Collection Kristin Diehl

The collector Kristin Diehl has again donated works from her private collection to Iwalewahaus.

The selection ranges from Joram Mariga (1927-2000), the pioneer of modern sculpture in Zimbabwe, to Victor Nyakauru (*1977).

Mariga began sculpting in the 1950's and, as the "Father of Zimbabwean Sculpture", influenced the entire local artistic community.

He warned against the commercialisation of art and opposed the mere serving of public taste. He devoted himself primarily to the processing of particularly hard stones, such as the yellow leopard stone.

Nyakauru is a mixed media artist. In his art objects he mainly deals with upcycling and reusing discarded materials. Through this process he creates vivid-looking, fantastical creatures. His sculptures are a novelty in Zimbabwean sculpture.



Collection Kleine-Gunk

The collection of Bernd Kleine-Gunk is remarkable and rare, as it includes many key works by renowned artists that are extremely difficult, sometimes even impossible, to find on the art market. This year's selection of 47 sculptures is characterised by classics and well-known representatives of modern and contemporary stone carving from Zimbabwe. These sculptures are known in the Global North under the name "Shona stone sculptures": extremely popular and consistently exhibited in renowned museums alongside works by Henry Moore and Constantin Brancusi.

Through the gracious support of the University Foundation, Kleine-Gunk's external donation could be brought to Iwalewahaus.



Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz

Iwalewahaus has taken over a Nigerian batik from the Mainz Study Collection. It was acquired by Norbert Cyffer in Nigeria in 1975 and donated to the Ethnographic Study Collection in 1999.

Texts // Sigrid Horsch-Albert

Art Passport

— Artworks from the Iwalewahaus Collection on Loan in Inter*national Exhibitions



Installation views, 'When We See Us: A Century of Black Figuration in Painting', courtesy of Zeitz MOCAA. Photography by Dillon Marsh.

When We See Us A Century of Black Figuration in Painting

18.11.2022 – 31.08.2023, Cape Town, Zeitz MOCAA

When We See Us: A Century of Black Figuration in Painting explores Black self-representation and celebrates global Black subjectivities and Black consciousness from Pan-African and pan-diasporic perspectives. It boldly brings artworks from the last 100 years, by Black artists working globally, into dialogue with leading Black thinkers, writers and poets who are active today.

Curators // Koyo Kouoh, Tandazani Dhlakama and Thato Mogotsi

Black Orpheus Jacob Lawrence and the Mbari Club

Exhibition-Tour:
Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, Virginia: 07.10.2022 – 08.01.2023 • New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, Louisiana: 10.02.2023 – 07.05.2023 • Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, Ohio: 03.06.2023 – 03.09.2023

Black Orpheus will explore the connection between African American artist Jacob Lawrence and his contemporaries based in the Global South through the Nigerian journal Black Orpheus. The exhibition features over 125 objects, including Lawrence's little-known 1964–65 Nigeria series, works by the artists featured in Black Orpheus, archival images, videos, and letters.

The Mbari Artists and Writers Club was an artistic organization of Nigerian-based artists, writers, and dramatists promoting modern African and international artistic practice. The core of the exhibition centers on the Mbari arts and culture magazine Black Orpheus (1957–67).

Curators // Kimberli Gant, the Brooklyn Museum's curator of modern and contemporary art and Ndubuisi Ezeoluomba, the VMFA's curator of African art

Text // Sigrid Horsch-Albert

Stolen Moments Namibian Music History Untold

Launched at the Independence Memorial Museum on 09.12.2022 in Windhoek, Namibia

The Stolen Moments: Namibian Music History Untold project, initiated in 2010 by Aino Moongo, Eljakim "Baby" Doeseb, and Thorsten Schütte was launched and exhibited at Iwalewahaus in 2016 with the end-goal to permanently exhibit in Namibia. Shown in Basel, Berlin, London, and Stuttgart; the vision to exhibit in Namibia was realised in 2022. The Namibian Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, Honorable Ester Anna Nghipondoka, and the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, His Excellence Herbert Beck, officiated at the opening. The Stolen Moments exhibition spanning over 700m2 stands testament to the often overlooked musical history of Namibia. Covering the period from the 1950s to the late 1980s, the exhibition presents the history of Namibia's popular music. Narrated by veteran musicians and designed as an archive, it encourages visitors to delve into Namibia's musical legacy from a forgotten era. The exhibition addresses apartheid, suppression, segregation, and the struggle for freedom and independence, and reveals silenced creative expressions juxtaposed with vivid memories of youth.

Text // Aino Moongo

Curators // Lydia Nghilundilua Keewende, Aino Moongo, Olivia Nakale, Thorsten Schütte, Ulf Vierke

Team // Birgit Albrecht, Paul Bedon, Inken Bößert, Sigrid Horsch-Albert, Samanea Karrfalt, Sabine Linn, Lena Naumann, Felicia Nitsche, Sefer Polat

Cooperations // Namibian Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, Bayreuth University, Werkstatt Ökonomie e.V. Kirchliche Arbeitsstelle Südliches Afrika (KASA)

Group Dynamics Modern Collectives

19.10.2021 – 12.06.2023, EXTENDED!!!, München, Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus and Kunstbau München

The exhibition was created as part of the Museum Global program. Collections of the 20th Century in a Global Perspective of the German Federal Cultural Foundation.

Group Dynamics – Modern Collectives shows the emergence and development of artist groups against the background of their social and cultural contemporaneity. Not only their political intentions, but also the respective concrete and sometimes utopian ideas are examined. The period, spanning from about 1910 to the 1980s, coincides with beginning international modernisation efforts and anticolonial struggles for independence.

Text // Sigrid Horsch-Albert
Curators // Karin Althaus, Susanne Böller, Sarah Louisa Henn, Dierk Höhne, Eva Huttenlauch, Matthias Mühling, Tanja Schomaker, Stephanie Weber



© Fotos: Städtische Galerie Lenbachhaus und Kunstbau München

Foto: Norfolk (Virginia), Chrysler Museum



Meet the Art

— Artworks from the Iwalewahaus Collection in University Buildings

Meet the Art makes the unique and diverse collection of contemporary and modern art from Africa, India, Australia, and Papua New Guinea visible on campus and in city buildings: The collection is moving from the dark besement into the light.



© Omoregie Osakpolor|Modern Art Film Archiv

Nina Fischer-Stephan — Respectful Gaze

Photographer Nina Fischer-Stephan traveled to many countries on the African continent between 1959 and 1971 and documented her travels in her diaries and numerous photos.

In the open air exhibition The Respectful Gaze, the focus is on Nigeria, where Fischer-Stephan lived for a number of years.

Her photographic path in Nigeria led to artists' studios, to Oshogbo, and through the streets of the Brazilian quarter in Lagos. Her photo documentation ranges from visits to the opera to scenes of Atlantic fishermen.

The photographs from the cities of northern Nigeria are particularly fascinating, featuring royal palaces, impressive mosques, buildings of classic Hausa architecture, and the ancient city wall of Kano.

The exhibition was developed by the Modern Art Film Archive in cooperation with Iwalewahaus and other partners to mark the 100th birthday of Fischer-Stephan (1922-2018). The exhibition was also shown in Lagos in 2022. The basis of the collection was the estate of Fischer-Stephan, which was acquired by

Iwalewahaus from Oliver Stephan in 2018 with the support of the Oberfrankenstiftung.

Text // Sigrid Horsch-Albert
Curators // Akinbode Akinbiyi, Gisela Kayser



Objekt: Delio Jasse, Büro Nicole Kaiser



The 2022 Activities of the ACCs in Burkina Faso, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa

In 2022, the African Cluster Centres (ACCs) at the Université Joseph Ki Zerbo in Ouagadougou, the Moi University in Eldoret, the University of Lagos and Rhodes University in Makhanda have steadily advanced their research activities in collaboration with the Cluster of Excellence.

Text OUSSÉNI SORÉ

In 2022, the African Cluster Centre (ACC) Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, has been continuously involved in the dynamics of the reconfiguration of African Studies through the organisation of various scientific meetings, the implementation of research projects, the provision of scholarships, and the strengthening of international cooperation.

Research Section (RS) Learning

Under the leadership of ACC Coordinator Ousséni Soré, the Research Section Learning hosted an international seminar on *Bilingual Franco-Arabic Education in Burkina Faso: State of Play and Perspectives*. Based on the observation that this type of education holds a very important place in terms of educational provision, the seminar analysed Franco-Arabic bilingual education in Burkina Faso and identified prospects. The seminar also provided a general overview of Arab-Islamic education in Africa and sought to benefit from the experiences of other countries that are more or less advanced on the subject. The seminar was attended by researchers from various disciplines, including linguists, historians, geographers, and specialists in Arab-Islamic education from Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Germany. In sum, the exchanges

made it possible to discuss historicity, didactic and pedagogical contents, the geolocation of Franco-Arab schools, and employability. This panel also highlighted the need for Burkina Faso to pay special attention to this level of education lest graduates, faced with the crucial problem of unemployment, become trapped because they have difficulties finding jobs.

RS Knowledges

This research section organised a conference called *Le Café des Connaissances sur le Patrimoine Culturel* (The Cultural Heritage Knowledge Café), which provided a space for the exchange of ideas on knowledge and know-how related to cultural heritage. This year, the café was held under the theme: *Our Youth and Our Cultural Heritage: What to do?* Like the literary cafés, this activity was intended to be an opportunity for young academics to learn about important aspects of the culture and history of Burkina Faso, and particularly that of the Moaga area, so that they can contribute to its protection and perpetuation. Indeed, it appears that young Burkinabè know the culture of "others" better than their own culture. In order to reverse this trend, young people should be attached to their language and origins, and they should also benefit from an education based on the values of honesty, discipline, and respect for common property.

RS Gender and Diversity

Led by Eveline Sawadogo/Compaore, the Gender and Diversity Research Section, in collaboration with the Gender and Development Laboratory of the University Joseph Ki-Zerbo, carried out activities on the issue of gender in the university space. It consisted of a workshop on the state of play and perspectives on publications on gender and diversity within the University Joseph Ki-Zerbo, followed by a tribute to Fatoumata Badini-Kinda, a professor and pioneer in the field of gender and development research who has retired. The activity was an opportunity for the

speakers to retrace the professional trajectory of Badini-Kinda, the evolution of her research work, and her contribution to the development of gender studies at the University Joseph Ki-Zerbo. Held on 18 July 2022, the event was attended by more than 100 participants in person and online: teachers and researchers, students, NGOs, representatives of development institutions, former ministers, politicians, members of the media, directors, and presidents of institutions filled the day with presentations and debates on gender and diversity, a theme on which Badini-Kinda has, during her 32-year career, defended for a more inclusive development. This activity resulted in an exhibition of works on gender in scientific, professional, and popular circles.

This RS also led a quantitative study on gender in academia, and preliminary results were presented during the international symposium organised by ACC Ouagadougou. It is noted that there

has been a significant evolution in addressing gender-related issues since the 2010s. This fact is supported by the establishment of the Gender and Development Laboratory in 2013, the existence of gender-related teaching modules, initiatives related to gender research in research centres, and the creation of the Association of Women Scientists of Burkina Faso. It is also evident that women hold dominant positions in laboratories, with more male colleagues affiliated with gender-related initiatives. Challenges persist, but gender presents an interesting aspect in the landscape of research in Burkina Faso.

RS Moralities

From 9 to 11 November 2022, the RS Moralities organised an international symposium on *Managing Your Health: Multidisciplinary Views and Therapeutic Methods*. It was one of the major activities of ACC Ouagadougou which brought together a variety of specialists from different disciplines to deal with health issues from a multidisciplinary perspective. The exchanges focused not only on preventive practices, but also on curative practices. In turn, researchers and specialists in conventional and non-conventional medicine, including dieticians, homeopaths, acupuncturists, physiotherapists, psychotherapists, traditional therapists, herbalists, hypnotherapists, and specialists in physical and sports health gave their views on issues related to physical, mental, and spiritual health. This symposium was also enriched by a round table on *Alternative Care, Alternative Insurance* led by health insurance specialists.

RS Affiliations

Under the leadership of Ousséni Illy and Martial Zongo, this research section organised a conference in partnership with the Société Burkinabè de Droit Constitutionnel (SBDC) (The Burkinabe Society of Constitutional Law). This activity took place on 15 October 2022 on the issue of *African Regional Integration in the Face of Political and Security Crises: The Case of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Guinea Conakry*. The objective of this conference was to reflect on sustainable solutions for ending crises and consolidating African regional integration in light of the political and security context in these countries.

More than 150 participants took part in this seminar. In a multidisciplinary dynamic, the discussions focused on crisis exit strategies and the economic revival of these countries affected by the scourges of insecurity and terrorism.

RS Mobilities

This section is under the responsibility of Lassané Yameogo. The main activity conducted by this research section in 2022 was an international symposium on *Security Crises and Population Displacements: Cross-Approaches to Mobilities and Immobilities in the Sahel Region*. The discussions focused on a diversity of issues related to the realities experienced by the populations in the Sahel region. Some of the topics included: Is the mobility of "war"-dis-



Martial Zongo and Abdoulaye Soma from the Research Section Affiliations

placed individuals a genuine resilience strategy for the populations? Economy of "war" versus assistance for the recovery of internally displaced people; conflicts over the use, appropriation, or expropriation of natural resources and living spaces; "No man's land" as an alternative to the security crisis?; and the return and post-conflict reconstruction of displaced and exiled persons. Around these five thematic axes, this scientific meeting brought together 51 presentations from individuals coming from the West African sub-region: Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Togo, Benin, and, of course, Burkina Faso.

Early Career and Fellowship

In order to be part of the Cluster's Early Career programme, ACC Ouagadougou welcomed five doctoral fellows and five post-doctoral fellows in 2022. The objective is to enable the doctoral students to complete their dissertations and to strengthen the capacities of the young post-doctoral researchers who will have to complete their fellowships by publishing scientific papers in a col-



Eveline Sawadogo/Compaore and Ousséni Soré

lective work to be published at the end of 2023. In addition, ACC Ouagadougou offered two scholarships to visiting researchers from other Centres of Excellence. Thus, thanks to this mobility programme, the Cluster welcomed a scholarship recipient from the University of Lagos, Nigeria and a scholarship recipient from Moi University at Nairobi, Kenya, for a one-month research journey. These visiting academics conducted research and the preliminary results were presented at a workshop. Olukayode Eesuola's research was on *Beyond Elections: Knowledge and Attitudes of African Students Towards Holistic Political Participation: Findings from Burkina Faso*, and Hellen Kilelo shared the results of her research on *Women Policy Makers: The Policy Impacts of Women in Transitional Governments. A Case Study of Burkina Faso*. These presentations, to which ACC Ouagadougou members and others were present online, gave rise to fruitful exchanges that will enable the presenters to improve the final version of the works that will be the subject of future publications.

Book Publication

A total of three books were published by ACC Ouagadougou during 2022. These include a collective volume published by doctoral and post-doctoral fellows as a result of their research work, coordinated by F. Emilie G. Sannon-Ouattara and Ousséni Soré. The colloquium on terrorism in Burkina Faso also resulted in the publication of a two-volume book under the direction of Désiré Boniface Somé. The post-doctoral Fellow Wendgoudi Apolinaire Beyi also published the fruit of his research on the crisis of identity and administration, using the example of Tin Akoff in the tri-border region of Burkina Faso.

In the end, it is worth noting that the ACC Ouagadougou has maintained its momentum by contributing significantly to the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence agenda.



Meeting of participants, round table panelists and ACC members during the Bilingual Franco-Arabic education seminar



Writer in Residence Zukiswa Warner with a group of creative workshop students she tutored.

Text PETER SIMATEI

2022 got off to a busy start at the Moi University African Cluster Centre (Moi-ACC) in Kenya. Indeed, there was virtually no break between 2021 and 2022, as several activities rolled over from the preceding year. There were the continuing research projects, and there were workshops that, for a variety of reasons, had to be carried over. Before we knew it, it was business as usual – on a good business year.

Research Projects

Researchers based in Moi-ACC have so far been Principal Investigators in ten research projects funded by the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence: see table 01.

Of these, three (#6-8 in the Table above) started in 2022, two (#9 and #10 in the Table) started in 2021 and were running in 2022, and two (#3 and #4 in the Table) were wrapped up in 2022.

In 2022, Moi-ACC funded short term research projects for the first time: see table 02.

Table 01: Long term projects of the Moi-ACC

Project Title	Project Director(s)	Research Section	Duration
<i>East African Asian Writing</i>	Peter T. Simatei	Mobilities	18 months
<i>Changing Life Projects: African Identities, Moralities, and Wellbeing</i>	Eunice Kamaara	Moralities	12 months
<i>Framing Identities from Human Agency Mobility on the Kenya-Uganda Highway</i>	Omar Egesah †	Mobilities	18 months
<i>Regional Integration in Africa: The Case of East African Community</i>	Kenneth K. Oluoch †	Affiliations	24 months
<i>Mediated and Mediatization of Islamic Knowledge</i>	Hassan J. Ndzovu	Learning	12 months
<i>Indigenous Intelligence and Livelihoods</i>	Mosol Kandagor	Knowledges	First-year funding
<i>Pots, Fire and Gourds: A (Re)presentation of Cultural Knowledge Systems</i>	Justine Sikuku	Knowledges	First-year funding
<i>Ethics and Legitimacies in Modification of Moving Material Cultures in North Rift, Kenya</i>	Joram Kareithi	Mobilities	First-year funding
<i>Beyond the Digital Return: “New Heritage(s)”, Sustainability, and the Decolonisation of Music Archives in South Africa, Kenya, and Ghana</i>	Lee Watkins Tom Michael Mboya Markus Coester	Arts & Aesthetics	48 months
<i>Islamic Popular Culture and Public Performance Practices</i>	Hassan J. Ndzovu	Learning	48 months



**ACC Moi
Moi University
Eldoret, Kenya**

Workshops

Two of the research projects funded by the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence held well-attended workshops as part of their activities: see table 03.

These workshops came long after three carry-over workshops that ushered in the Moi-ACC workshop calendar for 2022. These workshops were carried over from 2021, when they could not be held due to unavoidable circumstances. see table 04.

The Moi-ACC Workshop Calendar 2022 included, for the first time, Cen-

tre-funded workshops that were convened by Moi-ACC Principal Investigators. Three successful workshops of this type were held: see table 05.

In keeping with the general reflexive agenda of Moi-ACC for the year, 2022 saw several housekeeping workshops. Each Research Section hosted an in-house team-building workshop whose

chief aim was the reinvigoration of the unit.

The reinvigoration of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence was the motivation for another important event hosted by Moi-ACC in 2022: The second annual meeting of the academic coordinators of the African Cluster Centres of the Africa Multiple Cluster

of Excellence. This meeting took place from 3 to 7 October 2022 in Moi University, Eldoret. Its deliberations were mostly on the ways of making the very good formats of research collaboration that are at the core of the project of re-configuring African Studies efficient.

Africa Colloquium

The now firmly established Africa

Table 02: Short term projects of the Moi-ACC

Project Title	Project Director(s)
<i>Harnessing Social Media in/for Kalenjin Indigenous Knowledge (re)Production and Preservation</i>	Caroline Sambai
<i>Post-mortem Reading and Writing of the Anatomy of Artistic War Imaginaries from Eastern Africa</i>	Christopher Odhiambo Joseph
<i>Lyre Music and Dance in Knowledge Preservation, Mitigation, and Adaptation Among the Kuria and Bukusu of Kenya</i>	Mary Lonyangapuo
<i>(Re)Researching African Identity, Sexuality, and Morality for Wellbeing among Students in Higher Institutions of Learning in Kenya</i>	Bernard Sorre
<i>The Performative Politics of Regional Integration from 'Above' in the East African Community (EAC)</i>	Bramwel Matui

Table 03: Workshops from 2022

Date	Title	Convenor(s)
29.06.–02.07.2022	<i>Economic Challenges to the Integration of the East African Community (EAC)</i>	Paul Abiero Opondo <i>Regional Integration in Africa: The Case of East African Community</i>
21.–23.09.2022	<i>Islamic Popular Culture</i>	Hassan J. Ndzovu <i>Islamic Popular Culture and Public Performance Practices</i>

Table 04: Workshops from 2021

Date	Title	Convenor(s)
13.–14.01.2022	<i>Moralities and Wellbeing in Africa</i>	Moralities Research Section
20.–21.01.2022	<i>Re-awakening African Ways of Knowing and Knowledge Production: Challenges, Hybridity, and Utility of Indigenous Knowledges</i>	Knowledges Research Section
27.–28.01.2022	<i>Knowledge Production, Transmission, and Formation of Cultural Identity: The Role of Religion, Media, Aesthetics, and Language in Africa</i>	Learning Research Section

Table 05: Workshops by Moi-ACC Principal Investigators

Date	Title	Convenor(s)
17.–18.02.2022	<i>Ageing and Leisure in Africa</i>	Jamin Masinde, Moi University/ Ademola Fayemi, University of Lagos
17.–18.03.2022	<i>Kenyans Abroad – Or, the World “as a Place”</i>	Tom Michael Mboya, Moi University/ Martina Kopf, University of Vienna/ Daniela Waldburger, University of Vienna
28.–29.04.2022	<i>Decolonising Anthropology for African Studies</i>	Bernard Sorre, Moi University



Colloquium seminar series continues to enrich the research culture at Moi University, expand the networks of Moi-ACC, and raise the profiles of Moi-ACC, Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, and Moi University.

were presented by colleagues from nine universities. One presentation was by an officer from the Ministry of Education/Kenya National Drama and Film Festival, and another by an independent researcher. See table 06.

In 2022, 19 presentations were made at the Africa Colloquium. The seminars

Fellowships

The research networks were also

further extended and strengthened through the fellowship programs of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence. In 2022, Moi-ACC hosted two Research Fellows and one Artist in Residence. The Research Fellows were Patrick Oloko and Abisoye Eleshin, both of the University of Lagos, Nigeria. During his residency, Oloko researched *Popular Culture and the Rise of Nigerian Oral Visual Writing* while Eleshin undertook a study of the topic *Reconfiguring African Studies: African Indigenous Languages to the Rescue*. The Artist in Residence was the award-winning writer Zukiswa Wanner. In her time in Eldoret, Wanner completed and submitted for publication a novel, *Love, Marry, Kill*.

Table 06: 19 seminars of the Africa Colloquium

Date	Title	Presenter
15.02.22	<i>Drama and Film in the New Kenyan School Curriculum: Opportunities and Challenges</i>	James Indimuli, Kenya National Drama and Film Festival
22.03.22	<i>Feminist Research, Masculinities, and Gender-based Violence in Africa</i>	Pacificah F. Okemwa, Kenyatta University
26.04.22	<i>What is "African" about "African Studies"?</i>	Francis Owakah, University of Nairobi
10.05.22	<i>Regional Security in the East African Community</i>	Phillip Nyinguro, University of Nairobi
24.05.22	<i>Transition to the Competency-Based Curriculum in Kenya: Reflections on Kayole One Primary School Performing Arts Club and Pedagogy</i>	Simon Peter Otieno, University of Nairobi
31.05.22	<i>(Un)doing Knowledge: (De)constructing English Idioms in Kenya</i>	Alfred Buregeya, University of Nairobi
14.06.22	<i>World Kiswahili Day in the UNESCO Decade of Indigenous Languages: Looking Back into the Future</i>	Kenneth I. Simala, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology
21.06.22	<i>The Need to Modify the Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIS) to Increase its Efficacy in Africa: A Guide from Kenyan Cultural Backgrounds</i>	Robinson Mose Ocharo, University of Nairobi
23.06.22	<i>Linking Gender to Research: An Exploration of Experiences, Challenges, and Best Practices in Africa</i>	Rubai Mandela, Kenyatta University
28.06.22	<i>Covid-19 and One Health: Towards a Biocentric Bioethics</i>	Karori Mbugua, University of Nairobi
04.08.22	<i>Linguistic Pluralism and Indigenous Knowledge Production: A Preliminary Study of Eldoret, Kenya</i>	Abisoye Eleshin, University of Lagos and Moi University
30.08.22	<i>Reggae and Freedom: Performing Texts and (A)Historical Narratives in the 2022 General Elections in Kenya</i>	Caroline Mose, Technical University of Kenya
20.09.22	<i>Voices from the Escarpment: Decolonising Keiyo Land Tenure and Indigene Livelihoods – A Spiritual Ecology Perspective</i>	Isaac Tarus, Egerton University
27.09.22	<i>Making Literary Print Culture More Legible Through Pop Music: The Performance of Akeem Lasisi</i>	Patrick Oloko, University of Lagos and Moi University
29.09.22	<i>Industrialisation and Challenges to East Africa Integration</i>	Samuel Okuro, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology
25.10.22	<i>Teaching of African Studies in an African University: Towards an Anthropological Approach</i>	Humphrey Jeremiah Ojwang, Independent Researcher
01.11.22	<i>The Minority Question and the Violations of Human Rights: The Case of Kenya</i>	Francis Owakah, University of Nairobi
08.11.22	<i>Men and Masculinities: Promoting Gender Equality in Research</i>	Jafred Muyaka, University of Eldoret
13.12.22	<i>The Trajectory of a Non-Conformist: The Travels of Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane, from Joni to Dar</i>	Livio Sansone, Universidade Federal da Bahia (UFBA)

gag that muted those Black mouths? That they would chant your praises? Did you think that when those heads that our fathers had forcibly bowed down to the ground were raised again, you would find adoration in their eyes?" Angry Black women, sassy Black women, women as too loud or too vocal about as stereotypes in culture – women who do not know their place. Sara Ahmed, bell hooks, Audre Lorde, Pumla Dineo Gqola,



Looking back on 2022, various members of the ACC Rhodes highlight a number of events that were particularly interesting and successful.

The Fifth African Feminisms (Afems) Conference

The 2022 *Afems Conference* was hosted by the Rhodes University Department of Literary Studies in English and the Wits University Department of Fine Arts, South Africa. This year's theme paid homage to Ghanaian writer Ama Ata Aidoo's debut novel. In 1977, Aidoo published *Our Sister Killjoy: Or Reflections from a Black-Eyed Squint*.

In it, the protagonist Sissie arrives on a fellowship in Germany. Her observations of white colonial culture, of relations between Black and white subjects, and historical collisions and disjunctures, even relationships between African men and women, come under her incisive interrogation and tongue. Both in form and in content, Sissie heralds a break with convention, demonstrating that African subjects have always been speaking and not always with the politeness that some would prefer. Jean-Paul Sartre (1948) in *Orphée Noir* said, "What then did you expect when you unbound the

Stella Nyanzi, and Peace Kiguwa all talk about how the angry Black women stereotype is used to silence subjects and yet, as Lorde tells us, anger is a reasonable response to injustice. The keynote speakers at the conference included Gqola, Dina Ligaga, Philiswa Lila, and Mary Sibande.



More information

Rhodes Africa Studies Centre (RASC) Knowledge Lab June 2023

In the lead up to the 2023 conference of the Africa Multiple Cluster

of Excellence with the theme *Spatialities*, the ACCs have been invited to contribute to the intellectual debate on what this theme might mean. For this Knowledge Lab, organised as a collaboration between staff from Music, Anthropology, and the International Library of African Music, all associated with the Rhodes Africa Studies Centre (RASC), *Spatialities*, as a wide ranging heuristic concept was drawn upon to reflect on, and to understand, multiplicity, relationality, and plurality both in the conceptual and empirical domains. Drawing on the work of scholars in the field of Anthropology, Music and Musicology, and Literature, participants discussed how *Spatialities* manifest in the various ongoing research projects that are currently at the RASC, their implications for African Studies, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, and ways in which this might deepen the debate, particularly in relation to temporality, multiplicity, relationality, transdisciplinarity, and plurality in both conceptual and empirical domains.

Boudina McConnachie and Vuyelwa Moyo's musical presentation *Sonic Spaces, Sacred Places and Listening for Research* reflected on interdisciplinary research which has brought indigenous knowledge practitioners



Participants during a break at the Afems Conference

A participant of the musicologist conference



together with marine scientists and musicologists to intervene in ocean conservation work in South Africa's Eastern Cape Province.

Dominique Santos (Anthropology), in collaboration with South African jazz pianist Paul Hamner and Thebe Shale, took an experimental approach to analysing and representing archival accounts of slave shipwreck survivors on South Africa's Indian Ocean coastline. The presentation *Amanzi e Alegria: Epic Journeys Through Space, Being, and Time* combined divination, dreams, music, and archival remnants to evoke the invisible stories that exist on the margins and in the gaps of slave shipwreck accounts from the early colonial era.

In *Hugh Tracey and the Power Vested in his Microphone*, Lee Watkins (International Library of African Music) continued

to explore the legacies and power relations embedded in archives, in particular the field recordings collected by musicologist Hugh Tracey across Southern and East Africa, focusing on the materiality of the microphone as an instrument of imperial power which captures and transmits sound over time.

Highlife Heritage Concert – Anthropology Department and the ILAM

The International Library of African Music (ILAM) and the Anthropology Department collaborated with Markus Coester of the University of Bayreuth to host a screening and discussion of Coester and Kofi Koduno's film, *Highlife Heritage Concert*, a live recording of the concert celebrating this musical genre's significance to Ghanaian heritage and African popular music. Despite the freezing July weather in South Africa, the well-attended event saw a lively discussion take place between Coester and ILAM's Watkins together with audience members around the power and influence of Highlife Music, both in Ghana and globally. The screening was followed by some turntable action and dancing at the International Library of African Music. SHARLENE KHAN

LYNDA GICHANDA SPENCER

Thandokazi May Speaks at the University of Washington

RASC-funded PhD candidate Thandokazi May of the Rhodes University Anthropology Department was invited by the University of Wash-

ington in Seattle, USA, to present at a seminar on Health Inquiry, discussing her research on the impact of trauma on indigenous people as it relates to the oppression of indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) in South Africa. DOMINIQUE SANTOS

Conversation with Hassan J. Ndzovu

The Rhodes University African Studies Centre (RASC) had the privilege of hosting a Visiting Research Fellow, Hassan J. Ndzovu, who is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Moi University, Kenya. Since 2019, he has been a member of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence at the University of Bayreuth, Germany. His research interests are focused on Islam in Africa, especially sub-Saharan Africa, and religion and politics and law, religious-based conflict, Islamic education, and religion and sexuality.

As part of the Centre's seminar series, Ndzovu hosted a seminar on 23 May 2023, titled *Feminisation of Learning Institutions and Religious Activities: Reflections from Female Muslim Scholars in Kenya*, where he examines the gendered arena of religious practice. In his presentation, Ndzovu showed, first, the increase of feminisation of religious learning institutions, and second, the increase of feminisation in religious activities. The two developments provide a lens to analyse how female Muslim preachers are using their religious agency to claim a space for themselves in the public religious sermonisation in Kenya. ZINZISA SIXABA

by Moses Yakubu and Feyi Ademola-Adeoye.

■ *Mobilities Across West African Corridors* by Taibat Lawanson and Abisoye Eleshin.

UNILAG-ACC also had one long-term project funded by the Cluster:

■ *The Socio-political Thoughts of Òrùnmìlà in the Home and Diaspora Practices of Ifá* by Kayode Eesuola and Muiyiwa Falaiye.

UNILAG-ACC continued its ongoing tradition of hosting its monthly

UNILAG-ACC lecture series which featured contributions from its principal investigators (PIs) as well as UNILAG-ACC visiting fellows.

Visiting fellows who took part in the lecture series included:

■ Munir Moosa Sewani from Sindh Madressatul Islam University with a paper titled *Brief Overview on the State of Human Rights Education (HRE) and Challenges of Introducing HRE in Africa-Hantering Conundrum*.

■ Ife Paul Atihou from the University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin Republic, with a paper titled *African Union and African Heads of State: Compromise or Failure? The Case Study of Benin Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, and Guinea Conakry*.

■ Mawuloe Koffi Kodah from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, with a paper titled *Literary Perspectives on Development Policies and Strategies in Africa: A Critical Reading of Selected Postcolonial African Novelists*.

In line with its commitment to supporting early career scholars, UNILAG-ACC awarded two UNILAG doctoral candidates a Thesis Completion Award, which is specifically aimed at supporting candidates to finish writing their theses. The 2022 awardees are Charles Akwen for his dissertation *Representations on the Move: Constructing Multiple Identities in Nigerian and Chinese Poetry from Taiwan and Ebele Chibuzor for her dissertation Gendered Disaster: A Comparison of the Experiences of Men and Women in 2012 Flood-Affected Communities in Anambra State*.

The Centre also welcomed post-doctoral fellows Shina Alimi from Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria (February to July 2022) and Christabel Aba Sam from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana (June to November 2022).

2022 notably saw the commencement of UNILAG-ACC's MPhil/PhD programme and two PhD students: Bolatito Kolawole and Hamed Olanrewaju traveled to Maputo, Mozambique in November for the 2022 Factory of Ideas Doctoral School at Eduardo Mondlane University.

Collaborating across institutions to foster knowledge production and develop theoretical concepts remains central to UNILAG-ACC's work in re-configuring African Studies. In line with this endeavour, the ACC hosted several workshops in 2022 which produced invaluable and robust contributions. The two-day workshop from

ACC Lagos: University of Lagos, Nigeria

12–13 April, *Regenerating Non-formal Learning in Africa: Digitising Folktales for Animation and Value Education*, was hosted by Academic Coordinator and PI Ayo Yusuff and PI Abisoye Eleshin. Another workshop was *Insecurity and Development Crisis in Africa* on 14 October 2022, which UNILAG-ACC hosted in collaboration with the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA) led by PI Moses Yakubu.

The year brought a series of firsts for UNILAG-ACC. For instance, PIs Taibat Lawanson and Abisoye Eleshin hosted a two-day writing workshop from 15 to 16 November entitled *Reimagining African Concepts and Contexts of Development: Writing Workshop*.

2022 also marked the convening of an inaugural Gender and Diversity workshop on November 23, 2022 titled: *Exploring the Impact of Intersectionality in Academia and Research*. Ndidi Zedomi, Head of UNILAG-ACC's Gender and Diversity Office, spearheaded the event, which featured a keynote by Sharon Omotoso from the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Gender Diversity Coordinators from the other ACCS also participated in the workshop as well as the Director of the Cluster's Gender and Diversity Office, Christine Vogt-William.

UNILAG-ACC funded the publication of two books in 2022: Peju Layiwola's *Indigo Reimagined: Rethinking Àdìrẹ in Yoruba Fashion and Textile Modernity* and Akinmayowa Akin-Otiko's *Hu Iwa Sii Bi Èniyàn Eléran Ara: An Ethical Theory of Interaction in African Traditional Medicine (ATM)*.

Welcoming visitors from far and

wide is one of the key parts of UNILAG-ACC's activities. UNILAG-ACC had the pleasure of hosting the Cluster Management Team and Advisory Board from Bayreuth from 22 to 28 August, 2022. In attendance were the directors of the ACCs and some key Cluster members from Bayreuth.

UNILAG-ACC looks forward to building on its momentum and providing further opportunities for scholarly engagement and collaboration in 2023.



Visiting fellows at UNILAG



PhD students from UNILAG



Visit of the Cluster's Management Team and Advisory Board in Lagos in August 2022

Text BOLATITO KOLAWOLE

2022 was an exciting and eventful year for the University of Lagos African Cluster Centre (UNILAG-ACC), Nigeria. The year kicked off with a visit and lecture from renowned US-based African Studies scholar Toyin Falola on 10 January. His lecture was entitled *Supernaturalism, Supernaturalism, and Spirituality in the Yoruba World*.

The vision to engage in research and collaborate drove the remaining part of the year for researchers in

UNILAG-ACC. In 2022, UNILAG-ACC had four ongoing short-term projects funded by the Cluster:

■ *Locating the Albatross in Women's Political Participation in Sub-Saharan Africa* by Feyi Ademola-Adeoye.

■ *Ethics Dumping: An Integrative Study of Research Ethics Governance in Burkina Faso, Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa* by Kazeem Fayemi and Akinmayowa Akin-Otiko.

■ *Municipal Road Construction in Kenya and Nigeria: Investigating the Politics of Infrastructure Development*

Developments at the TGCL in 2022

Text PETRO PROTAS

The year 2022 marked a new chapter in the history of the Tanzanian-German Centre for Eastern African Legal Studies (TGCL).

The Tanzanian-German Centre for Eastern African Legal Studies (TGCL) experienced several significant developments in 2022. While honouring the achievements of the former Coordinator, the esteemed Benedict T. Mapunda, Petro Protas took over as the TGCL Coordinator at the beginning of the year, marking the start of a new chapter for the Centre. With him on board, the Management Team continued and intensified its ongoing sustainability efforts as the end of the DAAD funding draws ever closer, as well as welcomed students, researchers, and policy-makers to the University of Dar es Salaam's Mikocheni Campus.

Visits

The first visitor was Alexander Stroh-Steckelberg from the University of Bayreuth, who visited TGCL from 6

to 12 March 2022. Stroh-Steckelberg managed to meet the TGCL leadership in the Dar es Salaam office, TGCL students, and some members of staff in the School of Law at the University of Dar es Salaam. All of these meetings were marked by positive discussions. The visit is a symbol for the long-existing cooperation between the University of Dar es Salaam and the University of Bayreuth. On 6 April 2022, the TGCL office in Dar es Salaam had the privilege of hosting TGCL Project Leader Thoko Kaime from the University of Bayreuth. Among other official activities, the TGCL Project Leader had a meeting with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and the Dean of the School of Law. The major discussion with these dignitaries centred on TGCL sustainability beyond 2023. Several agreements and understandings were reached which include maintenance of TGCL library and offices post-2023 as a research or resource Centre, as well as linking the TGCL library with the main library of the University of Dar es Salaam. It was further noted that the University

of Dar es Salaam is willing to discuss issues of fee waivers and partial scholarships should the TGCL management be able to obtain donors who are willing to partially support students' scholarships in the post-2023 funding phase. Lastly, it was noted that the Chair of African Legal Studies and the University of Bayreuth will continue supporting the TGCL sustainability plans after the 2023 funding phase. Director DAAD Regional Office/Nairobi, Beate Schindler-Kovats visited TGCL and the University of Dar es Salaam on 16 May 2022. During her visit, Schindler-Kovats held meetings with TGCL management, the Dean, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Dar es Salaam, and TGCL scholarship holders. She highlighted available DAAD scholarships and the opportunities for cooperation between the institutions.

Chilean-German-Tanzanian Legal Talk Series

In the year 2022, the Chilean-German-Tanzanian Legal Talk Series sought to foster thoughtful debate and discussion of noteworthy legal is-

ssues. The organisation of the fifth and sixth editions strengthened the Talk's footprint and connected students and scholars with their counterparts in East Africa, Latin America, and Germany. On 25 May 2022, the fifth Legal Talk's discussion tackled emerging issues related to capital flight and tax evasion and how these can be addressed to achieve economic sustainable development, and on 2 November 2022, the sixth Legal Talk dealt with corporate social responsibility and responsible conduct. The events were very informative and insightful with concrete proposed actions to inspire governments on the discussed issues, but also for further academic research. All sessions can be viewed on the official YouTube channel of African Legal Studies.

Sustainability

TGCL is part of the African Excellence initiative funded by DAAD. After its establishment in 2008, the programme has now reached its third and final phase of (partial) funding. This phase will expire by the end of 2023, which is why the achievement of sustainability for the Centre is the key objective of the Management Team. Subsequently, the Centre's sustainability efforts have increased significantly in recent years, which has resulted in substantial successes. Since the beginning of the last funding phase of DAAD in 2019, the dominant engagement of the Management Team has revolved around the facilitation of a successful transition from a DAAD-funded project to an independent Centre. In the past year, the Management Team has been able to record some important steps. Firstly, the shift of ever more administrative tasks to Dar es Salaam, for example in accounting, is a continuing and successful process. Secondly, the full integration of the programme into the University of Dar es Salaam School of Law has been agreed on and implemented already. Thirdly, initial conversations with the Hanns Seidel Foundation were held at the end of the year which have by now materialised into scholarships. These are complemented by fee waivers secured for 2024 and 2025. Finally, the University of Dar es Salaam School of Law is currently planning the establishment of a new Centre on African

Left to right: TGCL Coordinator Petro Protas, TGCL Project Leader Thoko Kaime and UDSoL Dean Sosteness Materu



Union Law, which would allow the integration of teaching and research programmes into this Centre, ensuring TGCL's sustainability in the long run. While summing up the efforts regarding sustainability, it is crucial to highlight the efforts and commitment of the University of Dar es Salaam and the School of Law towards TGCL. As much as TGCL is extremely thankful

to DAAD for the longstanding support, the Management Team looks forward to a new phase of TGCL and the evolvement of the independent Centre.



The YouTube Channel of the Chair of African Legal Studies



Thoko Kaime and the TGCL students at the TGCL facilities

Fábrica de Ideias 2022

Text JULIO SIMÕES
LIVIO SANSONE

The annual Factory of Ideas Doctoral School (*Fábrica de Ideias*), normally held in Bahia de Brazil, not only changed venue but countries and together with the symposium *Biographies and Liberation* were conducted in Maputo, Mozambique at the beginning of November 2022.

The international symposium *Biographies and Liberation* hosted in Maputo, Mozambique, from 31 October to 2 November 2022, was very successful. There were around 25 outstanding lecturers, ten from Mozambique and 15 from other countries. The organisers had the chance to debate the theme of (auto)biographic writing and its role in African liberation and postcolonial and decolonial historiography. The official history – named in the symposium as the “liberation script” – was confronted with its many contradictions and parallel versions, helping the audience to scrutinise the complexities of the context of liberation in several African countries. The symposium had an au-

dience mainly composed of professors and senior scholars, several of whom had been part of the liberation struggle and the effort to construct independent nations in the 1960s and '70s in countries such as Tanzania and Mozambique. A number of graduate students from Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Nigeria, South Korea, Costa Rica, and Brazil also followed the entire event. At times, the complexity of the context made it tricky for the graduate students to follow. Nevertheless, everybody had an excellent opportunity to learn more about the main issues of African liberation historiography concerning gender, literacy, visual culture, memory and heritage, nationalism, and unofficial controversial histories. The papers that were presented will compose a collective book that Chapane Mutia, Carlos Fernandes, Enocent Msindo, and Livio Sansone are organising to be submitted to the Cluster's E. J.-Brill Academic Publishers book series.

The 25th annual session of the *Fábrica de Ideias* (Factory of Ideas) Doctoral School, usually held in Brazil, took place at the Centre of African Studies (CEA), Eduardo Mondlane Universi-



Severino Ngoenha (Vice-Chancellor of the Universidade Técnica de Mocimboa do Congo)

ty (UEM), Maputo, Mozambique in intensive format from 3 to 11 November. The Factory of Ideas was devoted to the same theme of the symposium *Biographies and Liberation*, and took advantage of the presence of many of the presenters at the symposium to give lectures or mini-courses expanding on the symposium's topics for an audience of graduate students. The School



Participants of the 2022 *Fábrica de Ideias* came from all over the world to Maputo, Mozambique.



from left to right: Fabio Baqueiro, Issa Shivji, Patricia Godinho Gomes and Valdemir Zamparoni

also consisted of several workshops and debates. Ten students from abroad joined the more than 20 Mozambican students, creating a vibrant and mul-



from left to right, three students Constanção Nguja, Igor Carvalho, Emidio Xavier and technician Vasco Junior

ticultural atmosphere. Each and every student had the chance to share his or her point of view and research project, and to relate them to African liberation historiography, tracing many connections with other students' research.

In the words of one of the four Brazilian students attending, Julio Simões, (co-author of this article): “The accommodation and cost assistance provided by the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence ensured that we fully utilised the event and the facilities in Maputo. Personally, as a Master in African Studies, I had the chance to meet many

students and professors from the field of literature, which I was aiming to choose for a PhD candidature. Discussing with them, I scrutinised the uses of literacy in African history and gained insights for my PhD research. I had the chance to present my PhD research plan and discuss it collectively among colleagues, and have it evaluated by professors. Prof. Ute Fendler from UBT, who evaluated and discussed my research about the German folklorist Wilhelm Bleek and his role in colonial South Africa, encouraged me to get to know better the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies, where I applied for a PhD candidature for the next academic year. Moreover, I met several professors from Cape Town, South Africa, and shared my research plan and my intention to do archive research there. Overall, the environment was very friendly, and the prevailing horizontal attitude from the senior lecturers towards the students encouraged lively discussions and

strengthening South-South intellectual cooperation. The central participation of the Africa Multiple and the support of the University of Bayreuth shows how an academic initiative involving European, Latin American, and African universities committed to autonomy and the emancipation of knowledge in Africa can strengthen humanities scholarship in this continent and the African Studies agenda worldwide.”



Livio Sansone has been organizing the *Fábrica de Ideias* since 1998.

The Factory of Ideas took place in a hybrid format because, apart from the course held in Maputo, it was followed online by many students at the Federal University of Bahia, Brazil. The excellent English-Portuguese translation provided by the colleagues of the UEM meant that nobody was excluded and guaranteed a truly international atmosphere. The success of both events also showed how rewarding it can be to organise an intensive doctoral school,

questions in the debates after the lectures, during the coffee breaks, and informal meetings we had after the event. This unique experience on my first visit to Africa helped me better understand the research fields in different African countries. It provided a very interesting network between professors and colleagues based in Latin America, Africa, and Asia,



Carlos Fernandes (UEM)

in a hybrid format, in connection with international symposia: It is a way to optimise resources and explore new avenues in the internationalisation of our graduate teaching, along both the North-South and the South-South axes. 🌍



First row (f.l.tr.): Isaac Abotebuno Akolgo, Richard Ugochukwu Anyah (deceased), Carla Maria Coburger, Nihal Ouazzani Chahdi, Deborah Nwadiuto Dike, Robin Frisch, Danielle Audrey Isler
 Second row: Kingsley Celestine Jima, Samah Khalaf Allah, Saikou Oumar Sagnane, Hannah Svea Schild, Carolina Zucchi, Lucilla Lepratti, Luisa Schneider
 Not depicted: Asma Ben Hadj Hassen, Augustine Gyan, Gift Gawanani Mauluka, Jihad Alfakir

BIGSAS Status Quo 2022

Text MICHELLE HEESE

With the gradual fading out of Covid-19 restrictions during the course of the year 2022, the Bayreuth International Graduate School (BIGSAS) was able to fully resume its successful work in the framework of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence. This status quo provides an overview of the most important developments of this year.

In 2022, BIGSAS welcomed nineteen new Junior Fellows. While travel restrictions evidently had an effect on the admission numbers in the previous year(s) (in 2021, eleven new doctoral candidates were admitted), with Covid-19 restrictions fading out, admission numbers recovered and are now at an all-time high. Out of nineteen new doctoral candidates, we are pleased to have also two new DAAD Graduate School Scholarship Programme holders with us, a funding line BIGSAS successfully has applied for, and was granted 2 GSSP scholarships for the next two years.

BIGSAS takes great pride in the diversity of its doctoral community. The

nineteen new arrivals come from ten different countries (Ghana, Germany, Guinea, Italy, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Sudan, Switzerland, and Tunisia).

Status Quo – Doctoral Students
 By the end of 2022, the total number of Junior Fellows at BIGSAS had reached 82, demonstrating further growth from last year's total of 75, representing a total of 33 countries. The geographic distribution remains unchanged from previous years. While a majority of the Junior Fellows, namely 45, call an African country home, Europe (33 JF), Asia (3 JF), and North America (1 JF) are represented as well. Regarding gender composition, 45 of the total 82 doctoral students are women, 36 men, and 1 non-binary.

In the course of the year the six Junior Fellows successfully defended their PhD thesis: Mingqing Yuan, Ghadafi Saibu, Emiliano Minerba, Dikko Muhammad, Jocelyne Kenne and Paul Ateh Tafor.

In June 2022, BIGSAS published the 4th volume in the series *“Junior Fellows and their Research Projects”*. Please feel free to consult the BIGSAS website in order to download the brochure.

In Memory of Richard Ugochukwu Anyah
 Our dear colleague Richard Ugochukwu Anyah, PhD candidate within the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, University of Bayreuth, and the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies, BIGSAS, unexpectedly passed away in June 2022 at 30 years of age. His inquisitive, kind, and humorous character as well as his rigour and dedication to research will be duly missed by many friends and colleagues. We could never have imagined finding ourselves in such a situation, but his legacy will live on with his family, friends and colleagues.

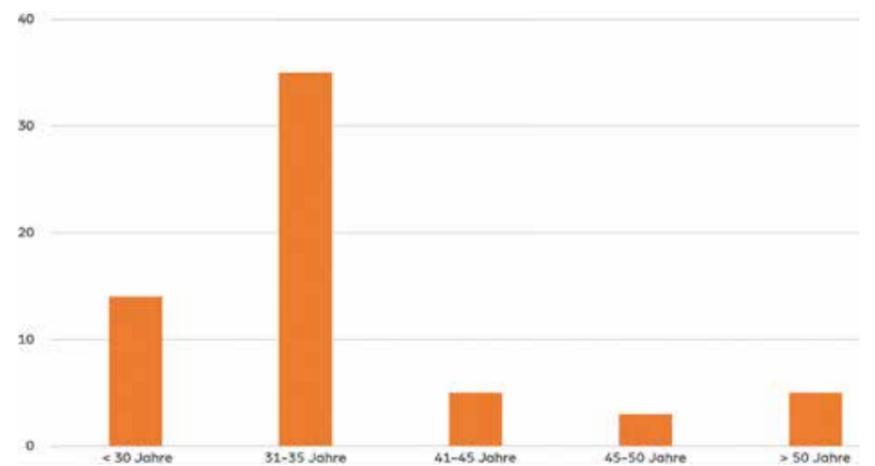
Status Quo – BIGSAS Alumni Network
 BIGSAS attaches great importance to the continuing involvement of its alumni. Since its foundation in 2007, 179 doctoral students have successfully completed their doctorate within the institution. Their know-how and professional experience are of great value to the current doctoral students at BIGSAS. The careers of BIGSAS alumni are as diverse as their personal backgrounds and research interests. Many continue to devote themselves to university research as post-docs, as-

sistant professors, and professors and have achieved permanent positions at their respective academic institutions. Others pursue their passion for scientific research in think tanks and private research centres. And while some alumni have remained in Bayreuth, others have chosen to pursue careers in their home countries. Despite the physical distance – the alumni have always maintained their close connection to their alma mater and support BIGSAS in many ways.

The BIGSAS alumni network is steadily growing. Thanks to seven successful doctoral defences during the year 2022, the number of BIGSAS alumni has climbed to 179. Multiple BIGSAS alumni published their dissertations with well-known publishers in 2022. Along with its most recent Junior Fellow Brochure, BIGSAS also published the third volume of its Alumni Brochure. On more than 80 pages, we invite readers to take a closer look at the academic projects and career paths of the most recent 41 BIGSAS alumni. The brochure can be downloaded from the BIGSAS website.

Workshops, Events and Awards
 Consistent with its goal to provide excellent conditions for a successful doctorate, BIGSAS offered a diverse portfolio of different workshops and training possibilities for its Junior Fellows in the course of the year 2022. The doctoral candidates benefited from academic master classes, extensive training sessions, expert seminars on specific academic topics and toolkits, language classes, thesis planning workshops, a mini workshop series on a broad range of academic knowhow and tools, and a lunch time lecture format informing them about relevant UBT institutions and their services. In addition, Junior Fellows were invited again to present their scientific work at the official BIGSAS colloquia taking place throughout the year. These colloquia serve as a unique platform for all Junior Fellows and senior researchers to engage in interdisciplinary dialogue of mutual benefit. BIGSAS also started a Work in Progress Colloquium where Junior Fellows have the possibility to discuss their current work and research development in a more open and informal way with their peers.

BIGSAS Alumni Ages (2008–2022)

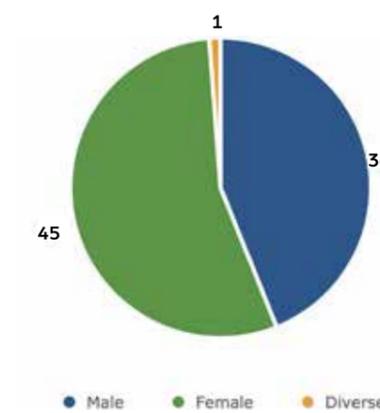


Apart from the academic training possibilities we held several further events in 2022. We are very proud to have organized and hosted the Honorary Doctorate Award Ceremony for the Senegalese sociologist Dr Fatou Sow on 18 May 2022. Dr Sow, who is based at the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) in Paris, is a pioneer of gender studies and African feminism. She has combined her scholarly work with decades of advocacy for women's rights in all areas of politics, society, economics, and religion. Countless university members, including students, alumni, external BIGSAS members, and friends of BIGSAS gathered on the campus for the ceremony. Dr Sow was awarded with an Honorary Doctorate

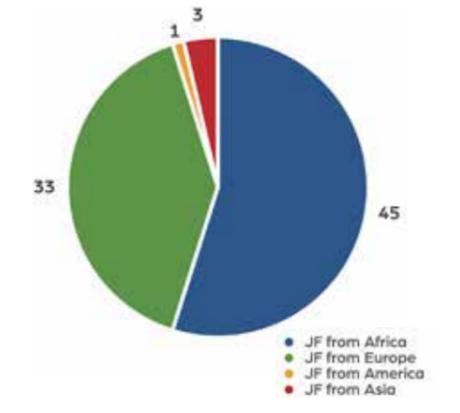
of the University of Bayreuth for her unwavering commitment to the cause of women and her outstanding scholarly achievements in feminist topics on the African continent and beyond for more than half a century.

BIGSAS received visitors from the think-tank and research institute Farafina and Prof Dr Isaac Sanga Kosgey, who is the Vice Chancellor of Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya in 2022. In cooperation with the European Interdisciplinary Master African Studies (EIMAS), BIGSAS and the Farafina Institute had a one-day network meeting on 24 August 2022 with all involved institutions. On 17 November 2022 Moi University's representatives officially introduced themselves to BIGSAS and its Junior Fellows.

BIGSAS Junior Fellows Gender Ratio



BIGSAS Junior Fellows Origin



BIGSAS Trajectories

The alumni of the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS) are found in nearly every part of the world and engage diligently in a wide spectrum of academic and non-academic endeavours. We caught up with two BIGSAS alumni to shed light on their times in BIGSAS and the impact of that institution on their career paths and intellectual visions.

Text ASEBE REGASSA DEBELO

My career trajectories through BIGSAS

For students from the Global South, particularly those with unprivileged background, joining one of the renowned institutions such as the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS) is not an easy process. I am among those who had to exert the maximum effort to get the opportunity. My motivation to join BIGSAS was informed by my exposure to an interdisciplinary program during my master's degree at the University of Tromsø, Norway. The master's program in Indigenous Studies exposed me to conceptual and methodological debates particularly from decolonial perspectives. It inspired me to look for an interdisciplinary program with a focus on Africa or at least on the Global South. As a result, I found BIGSAS an ideal program to pursue my career goals. In April 2020, I joined BIGSAS and used the first six months to develop my research proposal, and successfully proceeded to the full PhD program.

My four-years stay in BIGSAS were highly informative, productive, and inspiring. In addition to independently working on my PhD dissertation (of course guided by team of supervisors), I was actively engaged in seminars, conferences, and study groups. BIGSAS offers ample opportunities for PhD students to organize seminars and present papers on international conferences. We had a regular reading (study) group of five members whereby we discuss major theories in our field and also shared chapters of our dissertation for peer-feedback, critic and reflections. From such semi-formal study group, we organized a panel on German African Studies Associa-

tion (VAD) in June 2014. My PhD dissertation on the political ecology of nature conservation in Ethiopia was rated as Suma cum laude, and was published in 2016 with the title "Wilderness or Home?": *Conflicts, Competing Perspectives and Claims of Entitlement over Nech Sar National Park, Ethiopia*.

After completing my PhD in June 2014, I rejoined my former university in Ethiopia (Dilla University) where I served as Assistant professor at the Institute of Indigenous Studies for a year until I got Swiss Government's Excellence Postdoctoral Fellowship (2015-2016) which brought me to the University of Zürich, Switzerland. My time at the University of Zürich was productive in terms of publications and networking. Upon returning to Ethiopia, I served as Director of Research and Dissemination Office of Dilla University for three years, launched a master's program in Indigenous Studies in collaboration with the University of Tromsø, through NORPART Project.

In terms of individual and collaborative research projects, I won individual grants from African Peace Building Network (based in USA), twice from Gerda Henkel Foundation (Germany), and twice from Open Society Foundation, and two collaborative projects – NORPART (Norway) and Volkswagen Foundation (an ongoing project on UNESCO Cultural Heritage). From the research projects, I published over twenty journal articles, book chapters and policy brief papers.

My PhD from BIGSAS, the postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Zürich and the research grants and publications have opened the door for my career path to join one of the renowned institutions – the University of Zürich – in 2020 as a teaching

and research fellow. Here, at the department of geography, I teach critical development studies and research methodologies. In terms of research, my research interests include state violence, mega-development projects, pastoralism, resource frontiers and peace building in the Horn of Africa. Since July 2023, I am serving as Associate Editor of Journal of Geoforum. Currently, I completed my Habilitation Project, which is a pathway to professorship in academic institutions of German speaking countries.

Generally, I would like to reiterate that BIGSAS opened the way for my scholarly achievements, but I have also more personal attachments to Bayreuth apart from the academic sphere. It was in Bayreuth that our second child was born. For me, Bayreuth is a family friendly city where we felt at home even when we visited the city after nine years of our departure. 🌍



Asebe Regassa Debelo

Text MOULAY DRISS EL MAAROUF

As I ponder my BIGSAS journey from Sale, Morocco, to Bayreuth I'm reminded of how education, discovery, resilience, and determination can profoundly shape one's path. My story begins in Sala Al Jadida, Morocco, where whispers of BIGSAS reached me from the West. In 2009, fresh after my MA from the Centre of Moroccan Cultural Studies Centre in Fez, I learned about the BIGSAS doctoral program. Fate brought this revelation through an ex-professor, who, in a twist of fate, shared it with my father at the American Language Centre, where he was employed as a bookstore manager and he passed on this significant news, igniting a passionate spark within me.

Before BIGSAS, I stood at the brink of becoming a PhD student in Fez, a journey laden with mystery, akin to Robert Frost's poem The Road Not Taken. Opting for the less trodden path, like Frost's narrator, I chose the BIGSAS route, and that choice "has made all the difference".

I had to grapple, though, with the challenge of selecting a suitable doctoral research topic. The pressure to align my academic interests with a meaningful contribution to the field was overwhelming. Hours were spent in our apartment, trying to distil my thoughts into a coherent topic. The urgency to consolidate the myriad themes I'd encountered during my studies led to inner restlessness. My mind buzzed with competing ideas, each vying for attention, until I reached a point of saturation. Amid this internal turmoil, I recognised the need to step out, and let my thoughts wander. It was during a nocturnal stroll through the quiet streets of Sala Al Jadida that my clarity emerged – music festivals! That topic chose me, and not the other way around.

My time in BIGSAS unfolded as a whirlwind of profound impact and transformative encounters. The program provided me with intellectual nourishment, invaluable guidance, and a platform to connect with accomplished peers and scholars from across Africa and beyond. Bayreuth, with its captivating charm, became my academic haven, seemingly

tailor-made for my growth. My arrival coincided with a period of remarkable change for both the town and myself. The introduction of BIGSAS brought a multicultural vibrancy to Bayreuth, as African scholars joined the traditionally Germanic community. This cultural convergence reflected the broader global mobility of scholars and students. The transformation I underwent mirrored the city's own evolution, a symphony of change that was both inspiring and beautiful. Months before my 2013 doctoral defence, I found myself before an academic committee in Saly, Senegal. This marked the moment when the Volkswagen Foundation awarded me a three-year post-doctoral grant to explore Morocco's rich history of childhood games.

In 2015, amidst the lingering echoes of this grant, I received a pivotal message from Amir Hamid, an esteemed scholar from Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, who had greatly supported my academic journey. He inquired about my interest in the role of coordinator for the DAAD programme *The Maghreb in Transition: Media, Knowledge, and Power* marked a turning point. Eager for the opportunity, I embraced the chance to co-organise conferences that fostered academic ties between Morocco, Tunisia, and Germany from 2016 to 2019.

As the project neared its end in the summer of 2019, an intriguing prospect emerged from my all-time mentor, Professor Ute Fendler. She invited me to respond to an open alumni-centred call for applications by the DAAD. With just a week before the deadline and a yet-to-be-decided topic, crafting a proposal was a challenge, but I managed in a week-long sprint to compose a strong proposal titled *Rolling Religion on the African Map*. This collaborative endeavour with Ute Fendler and Ramzi Ben Amara, a fellow Tunisian scholar from BIGSAS, resulted in the establishment of *afriBIAN*, a BIGSAS alumni network spanning Senegal, Kenya, Nigeria, and Morocco.

Amid a workshop in 2020 to name *afriBIAN* at Iwalewaha, the unexpected outbreak of COVID-19 caught us off guard. Upon returning to Morocco, the pandemic's relentless grip posed challenges. Yet, undeterred, I dove into



Moulay Driss El Maarouf

diverse research projects, co-birthing a scholarly paper titled *COVID-19: A Critical Ontology of the Present*. Exploring the pandemic's impact within global turmoil, the paper reveals how the pandemic dismantled perceptions of certainty, unearthing our links to apocalyptic narratives. This paper's swift recognition led to acceptance at the journal *Educational Philosophy and Theory*, aided by fellow scholars Taieb Belghazi and Farouk El Maarouf, garnering, to our surprise, a mention in Walter Mignolo's book on *The Politics of Decolonial Investigations*.

My journey continued with research and publication, taking on administrative roles as department coordinator and vice-director at DESCRESOR laboratory. Balancing these duties and teaching, a new phase unfolded. Amid this, I embraced Morocco's 2023 educational reform initiative, applying to establish a "Green Cultural Studies" specialisation in the English department's BA program. Through meticulous planning, I secured the Ministry's endorsement and encouragement to elevate it to a Baccalaureate+5 Path of Excellence status, catering to BA and MA students.

From 2013 to present, I've contributed over 14 papers across diverse themes. A co-authored article on treasure hunting was published in 2023 by Chicago Press Journals. Three papers accepted this year delve into the diverse topics of Moroccan female dancers, waiting, and the history of eroticism. My exploration spans urban violence, gaming, childhood activism, rentier politics, street art, youth culture, embodied resistance, social movements, and more, enriching cultural studies. Anticipating future papers, I approach this phase with humility and gratitude. The nurturing guidance from BIGSAS shapes the scholar I am, evoking profound appreciation for this transformation. 🌍

Another Year in the European Interdisciplinary Master African Studies

Text and photos MIRJAM STRASSER

Founded in 2020, EIMAS, the unique European Interdisciplinary Master African Studies, is a collaboration of three European universities in Bayreuth, Germany, Porto, Portugal, and Bordeaux, France. The coordinator of EIMAS, Mirjam Straßer, looks back on the year 2022 and the first EIMAS graduates.

The first cohort of EIMASers who started their studies in 2020 embarked on the new year by traveling to various African countries in order to do at least eight weeks of fieldwork. Afterwards they returned to Europe to spend their last semester in Bayreuth, Bordeaux, or Porto, and were busily analysing data,

reading more and more literature, and working hard on answering their research questions.

Newcomers in Bayreuth

At the same time, the second cohort of students arrived in Bayreuth, highly motivated for their second semester. The first challenges the newcomers had to overcome: learning how to deal with cmlife (the Student Lifecycle Management System of the University of Bayreuth), getting an appointment at the town hall to officially register in the city of Bayreuth (which was still under COVID restrictions), applying for a German residence permit, and trying to understand the universally hated Rundfunkbeitrag (broadcasting fee). In their Welcome Week, the students got a first impressions of the positive sides

of living and studying in Bayreuth – ignoring the fact that it was snowing in April, which was not appreciated by everyone – by visiting Iwalewahaus, Maisel's Beer Experience World, and our beautiful university campus, including the large Africa collection in the library and the Ecological-Botanical Garden. Social gatherings in more private contexts also helped the students to settle into their new life in Bayreuth. After their arrival, an East African Easter dinner party with delicious pilau was followed by a Nigerian jollof rice night, which resulted in a spontaneous karaoke party.

Music and culinary delights continued in May: At the EIMAS & Friends Afro-Latino Garden Festival, around 80 mainly African and Latin Ameri-



Students of the 2nd cohort "embody" the EIMAS lettering in Berlin.



The second and third cohort of EIMAS students surrounding guest scholar Alfdaniels Mabingo at the EIMAS Winter School 2022 in Porto

can students and other people with a passion for these countries met up to eat, drink, and dance together. In the framework of the guest scholar workshop *Popular Culture in Africa: Between Art and Protest* by Nikitta Dede Adjirakor, a former BIGSAS doctoral student, the cohort visited the Africa Festival in Würzburg.

Two more highly appreciated EIMAS guest scholars in 2022 were the BIGSAS alumni Joh Sarre and Alžběta Švábllová, who even gave two courses for the second cohort. In a five-day programme at the beginning of the semester, they taught the basics on how to do qualitative research in the *EIMAS Spring School on Qualitative Methods*. In order to prepare the students for their fieldwork in the best possible way, Sarre and Švábllová gave the workshop Applied Qualitative Methods at Bordeaux Montaigne University, France at the end of the third semester.

An excursion to Berlin with a visit to the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ),

a guided tour on "colonial present" through the Humboldt Forum, a meeting with a member of the German parliament, and more activities to discover the German capital city was organised in June 2022.

First Graduates

July not only meant the end of the semester for the second cohort, but also marked an important deadline for the first cohort students, who spent their last semester in Bayreuth: they had to submit their Master theses. A few weeks later, after most of them highly successfully defended their work, proud students, satisfied supervisors, a relieved dean, and a happy coordinator were the result: EIMAS proudly presented its first graduates!

For the second cohort, there was still a long and rocky road ahead of them, even before deciding on topics for their final theses. Not only throughout the second semester but also during their third semester at Bordeaux Montaigne University, they were working hard on planning the next edition of the EIMAS

Winter School. In November, they rewarded themselves for their tireless work by having achieved a truly extraordinary event back at their first host university in Porto, Portugal. *Heritage in and from Africa: Legacies to the Present. Going Back to Go Forward* was the title of the Winter School, in which also the EIMASers of the third cohort attended. Over three days, carefully selected guest speakers, students, and other participants exchanged views on "Epistemic (In)Justice and Indigenous Knowledge in Africa", "Traditional Governance and Justice in Africa and Contemporary Challenges", and "The Influence of Music and Dance in/from Africa". The year ended with a – from our Bayreuth perspective – nice surprise: 15 out of 16 students decided to come back to spend their last semester at the University of Bayreuth. I dare to say that this is probably neither because Bayreuth is the most exciting of the three host towns in the EIMAS programme nor because of our undoubtedly beautiful campus. Rather, Bayreuth has proven once more that it is the place to be when it comes to African Studies. 🌍



Completed Cluster Research

Text **SABINE GREINER**

Since its launch in 2019, the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence has funded the significant number of 72 research projects. Many of them will run until 2024, some until 2025 – the final year of the Cluster's first phase – but a few projects were intended to run for a shorter period and have already been completed. The following is a selection of seven Cluster projects that have been concluded.

Changing Life Projects: African Identities, Moralities and Wellbeing

01.09.2020–31.08.2021

Eunice Kamaara, Moi University, Eldoret; Eric Masese, Moi University, Eldoret; Eva Spies, University of Bayreuth

The research of this short-term project conducted in Western Kenya suggests that identities are intrinsically relat-

ed to moralities and moralities-making, as individuals exercise agency in pursuit of 'good life' and well-being within communities. The researchers concluded that a strong relationship exists between identity and moralities, and, in turn, between moralities and well-being. The dominant notions of morality surrounding circumcision, non-circumcision (unique among the Luo), marriage, and consequently parenthood come with a recognition of maturity and establishes the moral status of an individual. Generally, these practices lead to social belonging and social status with the accompanying social recognition, respect, and honour. These rites are therefore processes through which moral persons are made. However, unlike commonly assumed, these sites are neither cultural reservoirs nor are they mediating factors. They constitute an 'in-between' space for contesting, (re)constructing, (re)negotiating, and (re)inventing individual authority, autonomy, and freedom. Therefore, they are incubators of

change, zones of relational exchanges, and (re)construction of identities and moralities.

Intra-Africa Migration and Xenophobia: The Imperatives for African Integration

01.09.2020–30.09.2021

Franca Attah, University of Lagos; Kayode Eesuola, University of Lagos

The project investigated the mobility of West African migrants using Lagos and Ouagadougou as research sites. The research team set out to ascertain the integration of migrants in their destination context by juxtaposing their occupational engagements in terms of accessibility to the formal or informal sector. The migrants' access to education and health care, and whether they suffered any form of conflict or molestation were scrutinised to capture the existence of xenophobia in the two countries. The study shows that migrants in Ouagadougou and Lagos operate in the informal sector

of the economy as petty traders, food vendors, transporters, etc. Migrants in Ouagadougou had equal access to public education as citizens did, whereas the reverse was the situation in Lagos. For health care, 99.8% of migrants in Ouagadougou had access to healthcare. Interestingly, migrants in Lagos experienced some form of fear, as 24.6% expressed the desire to return to their original context as opposed to only 3.1% in Ouagadougou. The study shows that migrants in Ouagadougou are completely integrated and therefore do not desire to return. However, the fear expressed by some migrants in Lagos negates the spirit and letters of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Protocol and thus contravenes the African Union migration policy framework of 2018–2030.

East African Asian Writing and the Emergence of a Diasporic Subjectivity

01.06.2020–31.12.2021

Peter Simatei, Moi University, Eldoret

Although the history of Asian literary production and engagement in East Africa dates back to 1948, it was not until the first decade of independence that what might be described as East African Diaspora literature, by authors of South Asian origins writing in English, emerged. The emergence of this literature was integral to the literary developments in East Africa in the 1960s which were associated with the anxiety of independence. This project traced this emergence and reads East African Indian writings as texts framed not only by the ambivalent and Diasporic histories of Indians in imperial and postcolonial East Africa, but also as writings that consciously construct ambivalent Diasporic subjectivities as the basis of new forms of East African Indian identities. Such ambivalence reveals itself in the way the authors disavow dominant, nationalistic, even binary accounts of colonial relationships and create, instead, narratives that skirt the borderlines of both colonial and nationalist discourses. This constitutes a strategy of contesting both colonial history and the hi/stories of the postcolonial nation-state in East Africa.

Colonial Body Archives – A Media Studies Approach

01.10.2019–30.09.2020

Christine Hanke, University of Bayreuth

This short-term project set out to discuss the haunting presence of colonial knowledge formations in contemporary anthropological practices. In its outcome, it exemplified and problematised the colonial legacies and epistemic violence contained in data-driven science. While the restitution of human remains from colonial archives and collections across Europe is slowly getting started, data gained from the bodies appropriated under colonial power relations continue to be part of datasets for anthropological research. As the production of datasets proliferates even more by the call for digitisation in Virtual Anthropology as well as in Museology, the project undertook a more fundamental discussion of data-driven science by focusing on the fundamental relationality between scientific approaches to data processing

and European colonialism. The legacy and epistemic violence of metric-statistical knowledge practices continues to inform emergent modes of knowing, such as in Big Data analytics, biometrics, machine learning, AI, as well as Digital Humanities. With respect to the genealogies and legacies of these seemingly neutral approaches of knowing, the project shows how colonial relationality and epistemic violence linger in these very modes of knowing and enables a problematisation of the colonial legacies and epistemic violence contained in data-driven science. The project was realised in a transdisciplinary field between media studies, post-colonial studies, science and technology studies (STS), and data ethics.

Sounding Africa on the Indian Ocean littoral and in the Southwestern Indian Ocean

01.06.2020–30.06.2021

Lee Watkins, Rhodes University, Makhanda

Until recently, most research on music in the African Diaspora was on trans-Atlantic America and South America. In fact, while mobility and the slave trade in the Indian Ocean long preceded the Middle Passage across the Atlantic Ocean, in Music Studies there is generally a neglect of the Indian Ocean and its association with the African continent. That is why this project focused its research on the Indian Ocean littoral islands, the Arabic east coast of Africa, and regions in South and Southeast Asia where there are African descendants. Through fieldwork, detailed documentation, digitisation, and cataloguing, the project helps to return Africa into conversations and discourses on the Indian Ocean. The research feeds into the possibility of re-imagining the continent as one that is not limited to geographical space, but as one that is at the centre of east, west, south, and north. Starting out as conducting research on African music and its vestiges on the Indian Ocean littoral and the islands of the southwestern Indian Ocean, fieldwork soon showed that the more urgent intervention of digitisation was required: Collections in Tanzania, Madagascar, and Ethiopia were in dire need of digital preservation – a vital link in the process of conserving the music.

Judicial Institutions and Teenagers/Young people in Burkina Faso: "Life outside, inside and outside prison". A construction of the social trajectories of teenagers and young people incarcerated and released from detention centres in Burkina Faso

01.09.2020–31.12.2021

Bouma Fernand Bationo, Université Joseph Ki-Zerbo, Ouagadougou

This short-term research project devoted to the organisation and operation of centres for social reintegration shows the limits of the colonial context in the confinement of adolescents with a view to their social reintegration. The form of adolescent punishment introduced in the colonial period goes hand in hand with the estrangement of families. Broken social ties between these adolescents and their families are the result, which does not always encourage their reintegration. The research shows that the criminal justice system in Burkina Faso needs to acquire new spatial and innovative dimensions in line with the administrative and decision-making logic of the High Courts in order to keep adolescents undergoing punishment in their family environment. It is in this sense that local/endogenous systems must acquire legitimacy and become part of a legal framework to lay the

foundations for a solid collaboration between the justice system and community organisations to guarantee the reintegration of young people in conflict or at risk with the law when they leave detention centres, because the family remains the basis for the young person's reintegration. Studies of prisons show their limitations in a colonial context: prisons, which have evolved from the European penal system, have taken on new dimensions and meanings. The social bond turns out to be in crisis, and the many dysfunctions in the economic, social, and family spheres lead to a weakening of social achievements and a consequent redefinition of social roles. Minors are the future guarantors of community values and social norms. Social mediation/arrangements are needed to establish or re-establish a way of living together, so as to provide a better integration for the future minor.

Re-thinking the Artistic Trajectory of African Women Artists

01.09.2020–31.12.2021

Adepeju Layiwola, University of Lagos; Gladys Kalichini, Rhodes University, Makhanda

This study was devoted to the critical analysis of the invisibility of women artists in the broader discourse of

contemporary art and the canon of the history of art in Africa. It focused specifically on the absence of documentation and critical texts about women artists. The study was conducted on the theoretical premise that the visibility of women artists is largely affected by the domination of male artists and the non-availability and lack of access to technology. The study revealed that while the two main factors expressed in the theoretical assumption of this study do affect the visibility of women artists to some extent, research findings indicate that women artists, in general, are more involved by underlying internal political, social, and economic circumstances, which essentially complicate their agency. In the case of the two artists selected for this study – Agnes Yombwe and Elizabeth Olowu – there is a sense in which other circumstances that exist go far beyond the hypothetical questions raised in this study. Some major determinants of visibility include patronage, public perception of art, and how the artists define themselves or frame their artistic output.

To find out more about the Cluster's completed and on-going research projects, please visit:



"Communities of Practice" Revisited

Text VALERIE NUR, ALŽBĚTA ŠVÁBLOVÁ, ERIKA DAHLMANN'S

Established in 2022, the post-doc working group Communities of Practice (CoP) scrutinises how the concept of CoP can be refined and updated so that it reflects the particular realities in the field of African Studies, or (critical) area studies.

Practice theory approaches challenge biases, categories, and prior assumptions about people and their relationships. Practice theory looks at what people do, not at labels, narratives, or claims. When a group of researchers realised that all of them, although coming from different disciplines and working on different topics, were working with practice theory approaches and in particular thinking with the concept of Communities of Practice (CoP), they decided to form a working group and to deliberate further about shared practice in relation to the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence's annual theme of "Spatialities". The concept of CoP was coined by Etienne Wenger in 1998 as a social theory of learning, where learning is understood as a process of social participation. Wenger argues that learning is so crucial to the social order that theorising about the former is "tantamount to theorising about the other" (Wenger 1998: 15). Communities of Practice are defined by a shared practice and concern that brings and binds its members together. One of the strengths of the concept is that it does not imply categories such as gender, class, race, or religion. As a non-binary relational approach, CoP allows for and considers fluidities and fuzzy boundaries of the community.

CoP practitioners are entangled in multiple ways with other communities, individuals, and institutions like peacebuilding workers in Liberia, as Alžběta Šváblová, post-doctoral Fellow in Sociology of Africa at the Uni-

versity of Bayreuth shows, or like Angolan migrants in Portugal, for whom Asaf Augusto, Research Assistant in Religion Studies at the University of Bayreuth works, or for the collective memorising of the Koran in the madrasa in Darfur, on which Bakheit Mohammed Nur (post-doctoral student at the Cluster) wrote his doctoral thesis, and also for the learning of crafts within the family, as Valerie Nur (post-doctoral Fellow in Social and Cultural Anthropology with a special focus on Africa) investigated among the Tuareg in Niger.

In the fall of 2022, the working group issued a call for applications and were subsequently able to welcome nine additional members with whom to share how communities of practice play out and work on power structures, identity, and place/mobility. In regular online meetings, they especially discussed how a person can conceptualise communities whose practice have an impact beyond the boundaries of their own community. Here, questions about power and space become relevant. Moreover, if membership is defined solely by practice, the question arises who and what remains unseen.

From October 2022 to January 2023 the group invited a visiting scholar from South Africa. Erika Dahlmann's, Centre for the Study of Governance Innovation, University of Pretoria, worked on CoP in conflict resolution during her stay in Bayreuth. Dahlmann's was interested in dynamics arising from the initiative of the Namibian government to integrate rural courts into the state's justice system. The creation of this intersectional space linking rural courts to the sphere of the state with



The conveners of the working group Alžběta Šváblová, Asaf Augusto, Bakheit Mohammed Nur and Valerie Nur (f.l.t.r.) have met during their doctoral studies at BIGSAS. Photo: Kathleen Caughlan

the Community Courts Act (2003) has stimulated processes of learning and knowledge production, affecting practices of conflict resolution on various levels. In their attempts to resolve conflicts within the public court sessions, court officials mediate between the needs of the community, those of its members, and the requirements of different traditions of law. The success of conflict resolution practices in these settings is on the one hand tied to local power structures. On the other hand, it requires community court officials to create new relationships with officials of the state's executive arm (the local police) and legislative institutions (the magistrate courts).

As a visiting scholar of the Cluster, Dahlmann's also contributed to the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) international research project on social cohesion in Africa with a case study on conceptions of social cohesion in Rwanda, based on her previous research at the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS).





1

A Year in Review: JRG "African Knowledges and the History Public*ation"

Text CASSANDRA MARK-THIESEN

The Junior Research Group led by Cassandra Mark-Thiesen looks back on an eventful year 2022 as their endeavours are gaining more and more momentum.

January

The start of the year was very joyful. The Junior Research Groups (JRG) are finally complete and every-

one has arrived in Bayreuth to start working. Our research group, with its focus on multimodal narratives of history in Africa, brings together projects dealing with memory and video as a medium, negotiations over heritage in the digital arena, and Africa-based historiography through digitised historical journals from the continent. They are led by Cassandra Mark-Thiesen and PhD candidates Richard Anyah and Luisa Schnei-

der. This broad scope of research allows us to satisfactorily discuss the diverse aims and claims underlying different forms of historical narration, the interrelationships between different forms of media, as well as general power dynamics in the realm of knowledge production.

Also in January, the various research groups held a second JRG Work-in-Progress workshop to give those PhD

candidates who had joined later in the year the opportunity to present their proposals and receive constructive feedback. We ended the night at Oskar's.

February

The first batch of U-matic tapes from the Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS) holdings have been digitised! After a long and trepidatious trip from Liberia in September, the Filmstube Berlin eventually got to work on their preservation. The tapes provide the JRG with an opportunity to move beyond analytical work to actively participate in re-integrating African cultural goods. Members of the Cluster's Digital Research Environment (DRE) have been immensely helpful in this process. Fela Kuti, George Weah, and Samuel Doe ... all in motion and sound; all recorded by the hands of Liberians themselves (see image 2).

What better thing to do now than to take this material back to Liberia! In mid-February, the team (Cassandra, Richard, and Luisa; and student assistants Felix Ampoma and Ololade Edun) hosted our first annual team meeting in Monrovia. Nerves were high. But we managed to generate a lot of interest in the work of the JRG. Faculty from the University of Liberia attended, including Samuel Kortue. There were other prominent scholars and history practitioners present, such as C. Patrick Burrowes and D. Elwood Dunn. They were all very encouraging of our endeavours, all of which relate to or touch on the Liberian past and present (see image 1).

We participated in the University of Liberia's Renaissance conference, and also attended other parts of the bicentenary celebrations, including a tour of Providence Island and the parade at the Samuel Kanyon Doe (SKD) Sports Stadium that week (see image 3).

April

Cassandra and Luisa attended the African Studies Association of Africa (ASAA) conference in Cape Town, South Africa. Cassandra gave a keynote speech entitled *This Matter of Feeling Human Ain't No Joke*. She also organised a panel, *Media, Mediation, and the Production of History*, where Luisa was one of the panellists. Sabelo Mcinziba, later a visiting Fellow of the JRG, gave attendees of the conference a critical tour of Cape Town (see image 4).

Cassandra also presented a talk on pluralistic remembrance culture to the African-German Leadership Academy, German Development Institute.

May

The volume entitled *The Politics of Historical Memory and Commemoration in Africa* was launched by Cassandra, her co-editors, and a few of the contributors in the form of a debate organised by the Transnational and Global History Seminar, Oxford Centre for Global History (see image 5). A second launch event took place in the context of the Cluster's Knowledge Lab on 2 June 2022. The JRG's PhD fellows moderated a discussion between Cassandra, a co-editor, and a few of the contributors. Members of the Cluster joined in the lively conversation.

June-July

The last session of the course *Film in Africa: The Lens of (African & Global) History* course, co-taught by Cassandra and Richard, took place this month. Not long after, the team was devastated by Richard's death. In the same moments, he was meant to be presenting research findings as part of the *Making Things as Decentering Knowledge Productions* panel organised by Cassandra and Katharina Oke, the sad news of his death hit the JRG and

other members of the Bayreuth community. A memorial event was held in his honour at Iwalewahaus later that month event (see image 6). The panel *Mediating between the THEN AND NOW* at the Cluster conference marked the first subsequent JRG.

August-September

These months marked the start of fieldwork for members of the JRG. While Cassandra took off to Kenya, where she stayed in Nairobi and Mombasa, Luisa flew to Liberia for her first extended stay.

October-November

After attending the Workshop on critique as practice (see image 7), which was also attended by another JRG leader, Serawit Debele, Cassandra met up with Luisa, who had been doing fieldwork in Liberia since September. Together they presented on a JRG-organised panel on memories of indigenous slavery in Liberia at the University of Liberia's *Afterlives of Slavery* conference. Cassandra also interviewed and enjoyed performances by former members of the National Cultural Troupe in Liberia to better understand their contribution to a pluralistic culture of memory in the country since the 1960s. We welcomed Edidiong C. Ibanga (PhD candidate) to the Junior Research Group.

December

In December 2022, the JRG took the lead in organizing the 12th Weingarten Africa Talks (9 to 12 December) with the Academy of the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart, and the Institute of African Studies (IAS). The theme of the public workshop was *Colonial Africa: (Hi)stories of the German Present*. It drew an impressive crowd. Students from a course co-taught by Luisa and Cassandra at the University of Bayreuth also participated (see also page 20).



2



3



4



5



6



7

Interdisciplinary Endeavours: JRG “Politics of the Unknown” in 2022

Text JOSCHKA PHILIPPS
Photos AURÉLIEN GILLIER

The JRG *Politics of the Unknown. Conspiracy and Conflict* is founded upon a simple idea: that our heuristic tools structure not only what we see in the world, but also what we ignore. Working across different social scientific disciplines and art forms translates this idea into an inter- and transdisciplinary practice. Through the lenses of photography, cinematography, and biographical and sociological methods, we study and depict suspicions about politics and power, analyse imagined and real plots, and seek to grasp how the unknown becomes a political instrument.



Biographical research

The year 2022 saw the JRG come together, dive into exploratory fieldwork, and start working on several first publications. Kingsley Jima travelled to Nigeria to get a first impression of the catchphrase “unknown gunmen”, a highly mediatised and deliberately anonymised source of insecurities in Nigeria’s Northwest. Jima’s exploratory interviews with affected communities and journalists underscored the perceived importance of the military in the circulation of information about “unknown gunmen”. In March and October 2022, Joschka Philipps and Saïkou Oumar Sagnane left for Guinea to observe the dynamics of information flow in the country’s ongoing military transition since the September 2021 coup d’état. Sagnane undertook ethnograph-

ic observations in cafés, markets, and administrative offices to understand the modalities of discussion and the multiple transformations of information on the coup d’état, while Philipps focused his research on the biography of N., a Guinean woman who has spent a good part of her life navigating the intricacies of Guinean politics.

Philipps and Sagnane also organized a workshop in Conakry, Guinea to reflect on the theme of the secret. Two djélis, or griots (oral storytellers) – Nfaly Franwalia Kamissoko and Youssouf Condé – were invited to Général Lansana Conté University in Sonfonia, Guinea. The griots commented on the meaning of secrecy in Guinea, i.e., how a secret is kept or revealed, and how it structures social and political relations. Followed by a Q&A session with students and teaching staff, the workshop also constituted a dialogue between “traditional” forms of knowledge that have long been regarded as opposed to scientific knowledge. On the artistic side, a diverse team of artists assembled and started working on different projects. Their methods range from photography (Aurélien Gillier and Mohamed Camara), cinematography (Bilal Sow), and sonic cartography (Tilune Gülgönen and Paul Schweizer) to sculptures and paintings about Guinea’s First Republic (Sékou Oumar Thiam). The photos that accompany this text are examples of some of this work, taken by Gillier.



Photoshoot and sound collection,
Conakry 2022

Collective publications include two open-access articles on conspiracy theories and rumours in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic: Philipps and Sagnane wrote a paper on how rumours relate to class conflict in the article *A Disease of the Rich and a Disease of the Poor*. Comparing Rumors about the Coronavirus and Ebola in Guinea. Oumarou Boukari and Philipps questioned the idea that conspiracy theories are necessarily heterodox forms of knowledge in their paper “*Complóóót? Theorizing about Covid-19 Conspiracies in Côte d’Ivoire*”. Both are book chapters in the edited volume *Conspiracy Theories and the Coronavirus Pandemic* (Routledge, 2023). Philipps and Gillier further contributed an article to the Cluster’s 2021 annual theme *Modalities Reflected*, which is forthcoming.

Finally, the JRG’s research featured in various academic conferences, colloquiums, and roundtables, including the 2022 Cluster Conference on Medialities, the BIGSAS colloquium, the Association for African Studies in Germany (VAD) conference in Freiburg (featuring a panel co-organised with Serawit Debele), and the roundtable discussion *Coups d’état in West Africa*, and was part of several knowledge transfer initiatives. Sagnane collaborated with the Timbuktu Institute and the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), while Philipps and Gillier worked with the Peace and Development Advisor of the United Nations in Guinea. 🌍

JRG: “Sexualities, Political Orders, and Revolutions in Africa”

Text SERAWIT DEBELE

Our Junior Research Group (JRG) has been engaged in research on gender and sexuality since the summer of 2021, and within this time-span, we have achieved quite some milestones. Here are some of the activities in 2022 worth reiterating.

Our JRG launched a lecture series known as *African Feminisms Past and Present* in July 2022. On 20 July, the series started with a lecture by Obioma G. Nnaemeka from Indiana University in Indianapolis, USA, and in October Lyn Ossome from the Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR) in Kampala, Uganda delivered another invigorating lecture. Both intellectuals drew on their years of long-standing work on intersectional feminism and feminist political economy to critically engage the purchases of intersectionality when transported to the African context. The JRG’s in-depth engagement with intersectionality was taken further in a three-day debate where various scholars and activists from the continent and its Diaspora were invited to participate in *Thinking and Doing Intersectionality in/from Africa*, a workshop organised in the spirit of transdisciplinarity that African Studies demands and the Cluster advocates.

Workshop reports:



With regards to our ongoing research focusing on Tunisia, Ethiopia, and Sudan, both archival and ethnographic research have been conducted in all three countries in an attempt to understand what possibilities have emerged in the way we think about genders and sexualities, with a focus on the formation of political subjectivities in crucial moments of transformation. From Sudan, preliminary findings show that the country’s feminist struggle has become more complex and complicated due to new challenges posed by queer feminist activists to the existing feminist movement that seems to have operated within the heteronormative framework. Tunisia shows that the revolution has enabled a certain atmosphere previously unimaginable and this is manifested, among other ways, in the introduction of an ambitious annual queer film festival that brings films not only from the continent but also from countries like Brazil, from Latin America. Regarding Ethiopia, we have focused on what some scholars call a “discursive explosion” that the country experienced in the early 1990s following a change of government. Erotic magazines introduced sex and sexuality in a way that the public could not avoid. The question here is how global changes, particularly after the end of the cold war, can be thought of from the African context through the prism of sexual pleasure. Team members have presented some preliminary findings in different international conferences and workshops such as the African Studies

Association in Cape Town, South Africa and the Cluster conference on Medialities in Bayreuth.

Grant from the Volkswagen Foundation

Another activity worth mentioning is the collaboration with colleagues from the Max Planck Institute in Berlin and University of Halle, Germany. Together with Stephanie Lämmert and Yusuf K. Serunkuma, the JRG wrote a project proposal on rethinking African Studies in Germany for which we received a grant from the Volkswagen Foundation’s “New Research Spaces for the Humanities and Cultural Studies” initiative. Titled *German African Studies Through the Lens of Critical Race Theory*, this project examines the histories and/or archives of different institutions concerned with African Studies to appreciate how knowledge production processes are shaped by race and racialisation. This project complements the work the JRG does within the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence whose main agenda is reconfiguring African Studies. The project officially kicked off in September 2022 when we made an introductory presentation in Hannover in a conference organised by the funding foundation itself. In the course of winter 2023, we hope to share some exciting findings with those interested in the subject.

The other collaborative endeavor is on revolutionary mothering. The JRG, along with Carlie Coetzee, Editor of the *Journal of African Cultural Studies*, and three other Black feminist intellectuals, namely Dina Ligaga of the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, Serena Dankwa, from the University of Basel, Switzerland, and Dipio Dominic of Makerere University, Uganda, to (re)think motherhood as a revolutionary praxis. The debates and conversation gave birth to a special issue, which was published at the beginning of this year. Here, the commitment to revolutions and intersectional feminism have met in our conceptualisation of motherhood as a collective political practice. 🌍

Professor Lyn Ossome with colleagues at the University of Bayreuth Photo: JRG Intersectionality

JRG on Economic and Monetary Sovereignty in West Africa



JRG and international advisors in front of the Museum of Black Civilizations in Dakar, Senegal. Photo: Carla Coburger

Text **KAI KODDENBROCK**
ISAAC ABOTEBUNO AKOLGO
CARLA COBURGER

The Cluster's Junior Research Group The political economy of monetary and economic sovereignty in West Africa compared led by Kai Koddenbrock looks back on an intense, eventful and fruitful year.

The reemergence of the debt crisis across Africa, rising interest rates and inflation, and the growing continental dialogue about alternatives to the Euro-American dominated global financial system highlighted the relevance of the Junior Research Group (JRG) Monetary and Economic Sovereignty's work. For a group that is focused on studying monetary systems and finance in West Africa, these turbulent times provided an opportunity to make sense of the bigger theoretical picture of understanding

West Africa's subordination within the globally financed capitalist order.

Events

In October 2022, JRG leader Kai Koddenbrock and one of the supervisory group members, Ndongo Samba Sylla, organised the second Conference on African Economic and Monetary Sovereignty in Dakar, Senegal. The first conference edition had produced an edited volume, including a contribution from Carla Coburger on *The West African CFA Franc Zone as a Double Monetary Union: Loss of Economic Competition and Anti-Developmental Path-Dependencies*. The 2022 conference was titled *Facing the Socio-Ecological Crisis: Delinking and the Question of Global Reparations*, and brought together diverse perspectives and analytical frameworks rooted in decolonial Pan-African feminism, delinking through food and energy sovereignty, ecological justice,

and South-South cooperation. Associated PhD researcher Caroline Cornier published the conference report in the *Review of African Political Economy*. At the close of the conference, delegates signed the Dakar Declaration 2022 demanding, among other things, unconditional widespread, deep, and swift debt write-downs for African countries.

Earlier in May 2022, the JRG invited Sylla for a masterclass on *Rethinking Democracy and Economic Liberation in Post-Independence Africa*. Organised together with Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS), this masterclass brought together a wide community of students travelling from different European countries to participate, share, and exchange. As a result of Sylla's Keynote at the Cluster's Knowledge Lab, the 33rd University of Bayreuth African Studies Working Paper was published under the title *Live as African: On the Relevance of Thomas Sankara's Agenda for Economic Liberation*.

In November 2022, all JRG members were invited to an annual workshop at Sciences Po Bordeaux, France, where Koddenbrock was a visiting scholar at the *Laboratoire Les Afriques dans le Monde* (LAM) with a Feodor-Lynen Scholarship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. In Bordeaux, the team carried out archival work at the Sciences Po library and discussed the progress of its research on the political economy of money and finance in West Africa.

Within the period under review, the JRG also granted a number of interviews to the media regarding its research. Isaac Abotebuno Akolgo, for instance, has appeared regularly as a guest expert on the South African radio station, Channel Africa, speaking on interest rates hikes, debt, and conversations regarding the establish-

ment of a Pan-African payments system. He also spoke with the popular *A Correction* podcast on the 2022-2023 Ghanaian debt crisis, arguing that beyond the fixation on Covid-19-induced spending and the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the current wave of indebtedness is rooted in the structural dysfunction of most African economies.

Looking forward to the second half of its established overall duration of four years, the JRG plans to organise its annual workshop in Accra, Ghana in 2024 and an international closing workshop in 2025.

Publications

In terms of the wider theoretical debate to understand the political dynamics and proposals for enhancing economic sovereignty in West Africa, the research group has made significant progress with these publications:

Carla Coburger co-authored the book *The State of Capitalism. Economy, Society, and Hegemony* (September 2023 with

Verso) with her colleagues from the European Research Network on Social and Economic Policy (ERENSEP) writing collective.

Also published in 2023 was Isaac Abotebuno Akolgo's paper *History Repeating? Ghana, Financial Dependency and the Political Economy of Africa's Debt*. This article will be part of the *Development and Change's* 2023 Forum Issue on the looming debt crisis in the Global South. Akolgo's article *On the Contradictions of Africa's Fintech Boom: Evidence from Ghana* was published in the *Review of International Political Economy*. This paper analyses the outcome of the fintech-financial inclusion agenda in developing and emerging economies in Africa and beyond. In the context of Ghana, Akolgo shows that fintech has increased access to formal financial services but at the same time has generated household indebtedness from digital microlending. Earlier in March 2022, Akolgo published a briefing on *Collapsing Banks and the Cost of Finance Capitalism*

in Ghana at the Review of African Political Economy in which he linked the banking sector crisis in Ghana to its long history of international financial subordination.

Contributing to our understanding of the resilience of finance capitalism, the DFG-funded research network, led and organised by Koddenbrock and Benjamin Braun, has published its edited volume *Capital Claims: Power and Global Finance*. Koddenbrock has furthermore co-authored an article on *International Financial Subordination: A Critical Research Agenda* published in the *Review of International Political Economy* and has intervened in the German-international relations debate with an article on *Die Relevanz der deutschen Internationalen Beziehungen und die Notwendigkeit polit-ökonomischer Konfliktanalyse* (The Relevance of Germany's International Relationships and the Necessity for Political-economic Conflict Analysis) as well as on the relationship between capitalism and war. 



The JRG in Bordeaux, France

Photo: Fawziyya Issa

NEWS



Hanza Diman was awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany

During the “Building Bridges” ceremony on 30 September 2022, BIGSAS alumnus Hanza Diman received the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany at Bellevue Palace in Berlin. This honourable tribute to outstanding service to the Federal Republic of Germany is awarded for political, social, economic or intellectual achievements in the field of social, charitable, or philanthropic work.

During the event, which was part of German Unification Day ceremonies in 2022, Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier awarded Diman, the Benin scholar and University of Bayreuth alumnus, this prestigious prize. Diman was honoured for linking his scientific work with everyday commitment in an exemplary manner and thus making an outstanding contribution to processes of understanding in an environment characterised by cultural and religious diversity.

Diman has co-founded and worked for various cultural projects in the course of the last few years, including BIGSAS@school (now renamed Afrika@School), where African doctoral students from the field of African Studies teach and participate in project days about Africa at schools in Upper Franconia; the Model African Union (MAU), with its conferences including high-ranking African guests; or Africa Politicum, an independent and non-profit “think-and-do-tank” which stimulates reflection on political, socio-economic, cultural, and geopolitical issues related to Africa and its Diaspora. Diman has always worked for a fairer society, respect and tolerance, and towards building bridges between science and society, and Germans and Africans.

Text: Michelle Heese



Diana Kisakye one of the top five candidates

The Think Tank Academy for Doctoral Education, SGroup – Universities in Europe network, hosted its first edition of a PhD Training and Competition event in 2022. Following an intensive academic training session about crafting a professional pitch, in which the student learned to effectively explain and communicate their research work, all 26 participating PhD candidates were encouraged to submit a three-minute pitch video of their thesis to an expert jury. The ten selected and ranked finalists had their videos and information made public to explain their research project to a non-specialist audience as well. In a final in-person ceremony at the Think Tank Conference of the SGroup Annual Meeting in Guimarães, Portugal, on 26 October 2022, the top five candidates, one of them BIGSAS Junior Fellow Diana Kisakye, were invited to deliver their pitch in order to receive an SGroup PhD Mobility Grant of up to 1000 euros to carry out research in any institution of their choice, and to establish contacts and collaborations among PhD candidates and international offices and leadership staff from over twenty SGroup members in Europe and associate members around the globe.

Text: Michelle Heese



To watch Diana Kisakye's pitch, please visit:

The Frobenius Research Promotion Prize for Valerie Nur



In 2022, the Frobenius Institute for Research in Cultural Anthropology awarded BIGSAS alumna Valerie Nur the Frobenius Research Promotion Prize for young researchers for her outstanding dissertation *Handicraft Work as Social Practice. An Ethnological Study of the Craft Practices of the Endogamous Artisan Group of the Inadan Tuareg of the Air in Niger*. (Handwerkliche Arbeit als soziale Praxis. Eine ethnologische Studie über die handwerklichen Praktiken der endogamen Handwerkergruppe der inadan Tuareg des Air in Niger).

The prize honours excellent ethnological dissertations in German-speaking countries with an endowment of 3,000 Euros.

Nur's doctoral thesis contributes to migration research and convinced the committee with its underlying intensive and self-reflective ethnographic research, as well as the excellent linguistic presentation of the results.

Text: Michelle Heese

Carsten Mildner received the Young Scientists Prize for Development Research



The Third Prize for Excellence in Applied Development Research from the KfW Entwicklungsbank and the Development Economics Committee of the German Economic Association (Verein für Socialpolitik) was given to BIGSAS alumnus Carsten Mildner during their 13th award ceremony for scientific excellence and practical relevance for his dissertation project *DEAF-DEAF-DIFFERENT. Ambiguities of Being Deaf in Benin*.

At the Committee's annual conference in Hohenheim, Mildner was one of three young scientists honoured for their doctoral theses and research achievements that showcase an excellent development research approach combining technical excellence and practical relevance, and opening a dialogue between science and practice.

With his ethnographic work on deafness in Benin, Mildner examined a less frequently focused-on topic, despite its high relevance, and therefore brought to light the diverse communities and lifestyles of deaf people in Benin, as well as the ambivalences between belonging and exclusion within this group of society.

Text: Michelle Heese

Ijeoma Loren Uche-Okeke 1972–2022

"I live my life according to how I view what is right or wrong. I love my family dearly, and my friends who are close to my heart, I treasure. I wish I could do more." Ijeoma Loren Uche-Okeke

In April 2022, the exhibition *We will now go to Kpaaza* opened at Iwalewahaus with selected works by Uche Okeke, curated by his daughter, Ijeoma Loren Uche-Okeke. At the time, no one suspected that this would be the last joint project with Uche-Okeke.

Uche-Okeke's kindness and her driven determination were always appreciated. Her empathy and warm humour transformed collaborations into joyous events. She also provided insights into aspects of the work of her father, the artist and scholar Uche Okeke, and continued his legacy of appreciation for Iwalewahaus.

After completing her BA with honours in Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka in 1992 and graduating with distinction and from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, from which she earned her MA in Heritage Studies and a postgraduate diploma in Arts, Culture, and Heritage Management, Uche-Okeke managed and coordinated projects for regional and international art programmes. As Executive Director of the Asele Institute, Nimo, Nigeria, a cultural institution founded by her father, Uche-Okeke developed exhibitions and programmes.

Uche-Okeke will be remembered fondly, not only for her professional competence and commitment, but also for the joy and laughter that always accompanied her work. The team of Iwalewahaus and the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence – students, staff, and friends – mourn the loss of Ijeoma Loren Uche-Okeke. *Text: Inken Bößert*



African Studies in Bayreuth: Reading Recommendations

We continue our section by presenting research by members of the Institute of African Studies (IAS), the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, and graduates of the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS). Although our members also publish their work in journals and other formats, we limit our selection to books and monographs. Enjoy!

Erdmute Alber & Tatjana Thelen: **Politics and Kinship: A reader.** Routledge, 2022

Politics and Kinship: A Reader is a unique exploration of the interconnectedness between politics and kinship in both theoretical discourse and practical scenarios. Despite assumptions of their divergence during modernisation, this book traces the idealisation and translation of their separation,

revealing its epistemological limitations. By combining discussions from political anthropology and kinship studies, the texts span diverse topics, including military strategy, DNA testing, child fostering, and state kinship practices.

Over the years, political anthropology and kinship studies developed in parallel, initially centring on identity

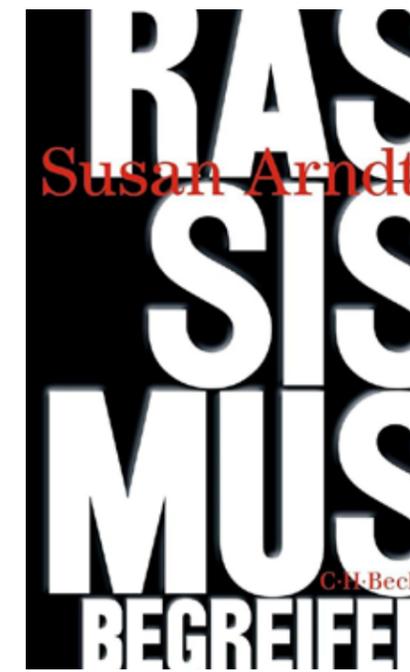


constructions like ethnicity and political order, such as chieftaincy. Both sub-disciplines transitioned to processual and constructivist approaches, emphasising the emergence, use, and transformation of concepts by field actors and in anthropological theory. However, anthropological teaching often keeps politics and kinship separate, hindering bridging concepts in research. This text breaks that pattern by bringing both sub-disciplines together, aiding students and scholars in understanding their co-production and boundaries.

Organised into three parts, the reader's introduction contextualises politics and kinship trajectories and presents critical voices challenging their separation. It examines their historical development, their role in 19th-century social sciences, and their impact on everyday practices. The first part delves into politics' modern separation from kinship, while the second demonstrates how kinship's apolitical classification transformed globally into politics. This volume critiques their epistemological division, serving as an innovative textbook for anthropology and related fields, enabling a re-evaluation of contemporary societies via the entanglement of politics and kinship.

Arndt, Susan, **Rassismus begreifen. Vom Trümmerhaufen der Geschichte zu neuen Wegen,** C.H. Beck, 2021.

In 2021, Susan Arndt published *Rassismus begreifen. Vom Trümmerhaufen der Geschichte zu neuen Wegen (Understanding Racism. From the Ruins of History to New Ways)* with C.H. Beck, Germany's renowned history publisher, making it the first German book to examine the enduring nature of racism from antiquity to the present. Arndt dissects the structural and discursive evolution of racism as white supremacy, revealing how various forms like antisemitism, anti-Black racism, and more intertwined, rooted in the notion of 'white race' superiority. This perspective was exploited by white Christianity to justify colonisation, resource plundering, and enslavement. Arndt delves into racism's economic, violent,



and ideological facets across distinct phases. Early on, 'white' was linked to divinity, justifying colonial missions. The narrative shifted to civilising 'inferior' colonies, while mapping skulls and genetics marked the second phase. The third phase saw eugenics and 'elimination', leading to events like the Holocaust.

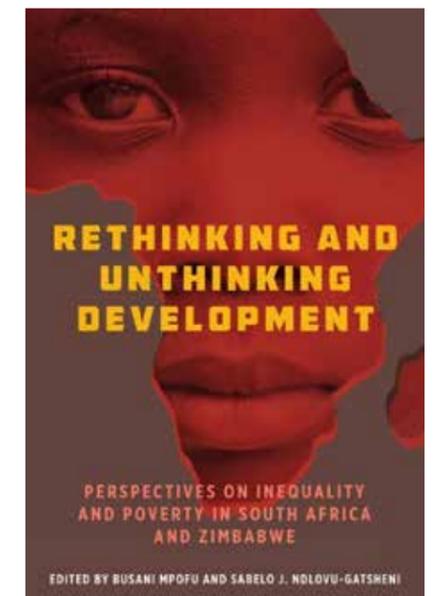
Post-nationalism, racism persisted via colonialism and structural elements, perpetuating white supremacy and affecting Germany. Arndt tackles issues like racist political parties, profiling, legal gaps, and discrimination in education, employment, housing, and healthcare, discussing representation and microaggressions. Gaslighting racism sustains its presence. Arndt's work dismantles racial constructs, highlighting the persistence and impact of racism, its power dynamics, and the need for intervention.

Busani Mpofu, Sabelo Ndlovu-Gatsheni (eds.), **Rethinking and Unthinking Development: Perspectives on Inequality and Poverty in South Africa and Zimbabwe,** 2022

Rethinking and Unthinking Development: Perspectives on Inequality and Poverty in South Africa and Zimbabwe, edited by Busani Mpofu and Sabelo J. Ndlovu-Gatsheni, offers a thought-provoking

analysis of inequality and poverty in South Africa and Zimbabwe. Through a critical lens, the editors challenge conventional development paradigms, providing a fresh perspective on these pressing issues. The authors' deep engagement with historical contexts and socio-political complexities enriches the narrative, inviting readers to question established notions of progress and growth.

Ndlovu-Gatsheni's and Mpofu's examination of both South Africa and Zimbabwe allows for a comprehensive understanding of the shared challenges the countries face while acknowledging their unique trajectories. The book presents a rigorous exploration of the impact of colonial legacies, neoliberal policies, and global power dynamics on development outcomes. By encouraging readers to 'unthink' prevailing assumptions about development, the



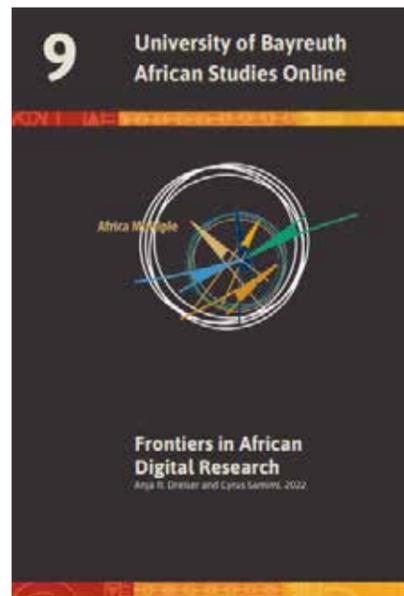
authors open up space for alternative approaches that prioritize social justice and equity.

One of the book's strengths lies in its interdisciplinary approach, drawing on insights from history, political science, economics, and anthropology. The writing is accessible yet intellectually stimulating, making complex concepts accessible to a wide range of readers. By intertwining theoretical analysis with real-world case studies, they provides a nuanced picture of



the challenges faced by these nations, grounded in empirical evidence.

In conclusion, *Rethinking and Unthinking Development* offers a valuable contribution to the discourse on inequality and poverty in South Africa and Zimbabwe. Ndlovu-Gatsheni and Mpofo's unconventional approach challenges readers to re-evaluate their perspectives and consider new pathways toward addressing these crucial issues. This book is recommended for those seeking a critical and thought-provoking exploration of development paradigms in the context of these two nations.



Anja R. Dreiser, Cyrus Samimi, **Frontiers in African Digital Research**, 2022, Bayreuth.

This book by Anja Dreiser and Cyrus Samimi presents a compilation of presentations from the conference *Frontiers in African Digital Research*, organised and hosted by the Digital Solutions portfolio of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence at the University of Bayreuth. This volume seeks to elucidate the significance of the Digital Solutions portfolio within the Cluster of Excellence and to explore the concept of frontiers in the context of African digital research.

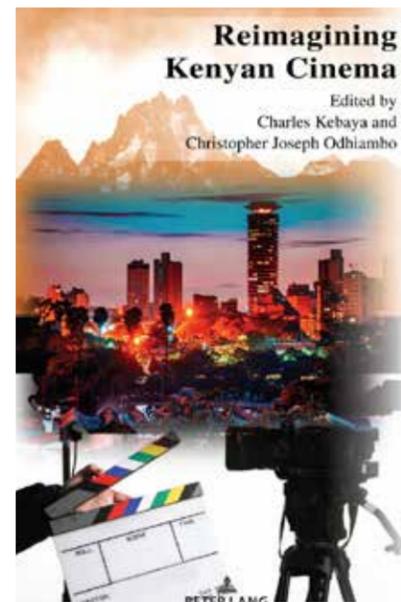
The emergence of research data management units at German universities is a relatively recent development. Originally advocated within natural

sciences like astronomy and climate studies, these units tackle the challenge of handling extensive data and curating e-science processes according to FAIR principles. Although such units have surfaced in fields like social sciences (e.g., SowiDataNet | datorum by GESIS Institute), they remain scarce in the humanities, arts, and cultural studies. The Cluster of Excellence's Digital Solutions portfolio aspires to counteract this. By creating a digital research repository for a diverse array of projects, the portfolio endeavours to address disciplines ranging from economics and climate studies to linguistics and media studies. The unifying factor is the focus on the 'Africa' and 'African Diasporas' realm. Furthermore, the aspiration extends to connecting this repository with those of the African Cluster Centres (ACCs) and other collaborative partners like the Federal University of Bahia in Brazil.

However, establishing this repository requires bridging communication gaps between researchers and aligning diverse disciplinary perspectives on the nature of data. Negotiating these frontiers constitutes a central task.

The conference structured discussions into four thematic panels, addressing eSciences and the digital transformation across academia and society. Topics ranged from knowledge management as a big data business model (Stefan Ouma) to digital neo-colonialism (Michael Kwet) and legal aspects (Oliver Watteler, Markus Coester). Challenges related to bias in semantic data processing (Gábor Bella et al.), digitalisation initiatives in Africa (Jody Butterworth), digitisation projects in Europe (Wolfgang Kraus), and more were explored.

The publication anticipates a readership not only well-versed in these domains but also those who have had sporadic contact with the subject. It aims to foster deeper exploration, stimulate fresh perspectives, and inspire digital approaches to research. While not all speakers could contribute due to commitments, the collection maintains relevance despite evolving research data management practices and toolsets.



Charles Kebaya, Christopher Joseph Odhiambo (eds.), **Reimagining Kenyan Cinema**, Peter Lang, 2022.

Kenyan cinema provides one of the most striking case studies in the growth and development of film in Eastern Africa. The film industry has grown tremendously at the turn of the 21st century. Notably, there has been a significant increase in the number of domestic film productions, film screenings, film audiences, and film festivals in the country. Indeed, Kenya has become one of Africa's major film markets. Kenyan actors and films are increasingly entering and featuring in global films and markets, and are connecting with international audiences in commercial cinemas and at major international film festivals.

Adding to this impressive success is an upsurge in the number of tertiary institutions training in film and a corresponding surge in the number of students currently pursuing film studies in and outside the country. In academic circles, interest in Kenyan cinema as a serious scholarly subject has grown exponentially. The evolution of Kenyan cinema scholarship is also noteworthy.

Therefore, *Reimagining Kenyan Cinema*, edited by Cluster member Christopher Joseph Odhiambo with Charles Kebaya, seeks to situate current scholarship on Kenyan cinema within the ongoing debates in national and con-

temporary global film studies. It thus advocates for diverse methodologies, critical tools, and theoretical perspectives in interrogating Kenyan film. This approach is premised on the realisation that critical discussions on film should lead out of the films themselves

towards matters of aesthetics, culture, history, and society. The cumulative effect of this approach is that it allows for the presentation of a simultaneously synchronic and diachronic approach to the study of Kenyan cinema. While individual chapters will provide

in-depth analyses of particular films, historical moments in Kenyan and key film texts, the chapters as a whole cohere into a well-grounded and deeply informative collection of original contributions on the practice of cinema in Kenya. 

Africa Multiple connects 1-5

WORKING PAPER SERIES

of the
Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence



All Working Papers are downloadable (Open Access).

Sylla, Ndongo Samba:

Live as African: On the Relevance of Thomas Sankara's Agenda for Economic Liberation.

Bayreuth, Germany: Institute of African Studies, 2022. – VII, 19 S. – (University of Bayreuth African Studies Working Papers ; 33) (Africa Multiple connects ; 5)

Drescher, Martina; Boukari, Oumarou; Ngawa Mbaho, Carline Liliane:

Une étude comparative des discours sur le Covid-19 en Côte d'Ivoire et au Cameroun beaucoup de peur et de questionnement.

Bayreuth, Germany: Institute of African Studies, 2022. – IV, 29 S. – (University of Bayreuth African Studies Working Papers ; 29) (Africa Multiple connects ; 4)

Breuer, Andras; Doevenspeck, Martin; Donko, Kamal; Ouedraogo, Serge:

COVID-19 and (Im)mobilities in West Africa.

Bayreuth, Germany: Institute of African Studies 2021. – XIV, 153 S. – (University of Bayreuth African Studies Working Papers ; 26) (Africa Multiple connects ; 3)

Bewaji, John Ayotunde (Tunde) Isola:

African Studies and the Question of Diasporas.

Bayreuth, Germany: Institute of African Studies, 2021. – VI, 16 S. – (University of Bayreuth African Studies Working Papers ; 25) (Africa Multiple connects ; 2)

Seesemann, Rüdiger:

Figuring out how to Reconfigure African Studies.

Bayreuth, Germany: Institute of African Studies, 2020. – V, 15 S. – (University of Bayreuth African Studies Working Papers ; 24) (Africa Multiple connects ; 1)

The International Fellowship scheme in 2022

Text **ROBERT DEBUSMANN**

In 2022, the considerable number of 24 scholars accepted the Bayreuth Academy's invitation for a fellowship. During their visit, they became an integral part of the Cluster community.

There was a sigh of relief in 2022 after the never-ending complications of the Covid-19 restrictions lifted, and academic operations could finally take place again without restrictions, international travel could be resumed, and seminar rooms could be used in their entirety. All this helped the Fellow programme to return to its original form.

Twenty-four International Fellows accepted their invitation to Bayreuth in the course of the year, eight of them benefiting from the newly introduced 10-month fellowships. In addition, two artists came to the Bayreuth Academy as part of the Artists in Residence programme, and three internal Fellows completed the tableau.

The presence of the Fellows on site led to an intensive and dynamic group life in which the guests, although coming from different countries and researching in different disciplines, intensively exchanged intellectual ideas and also supported each other privately with words and deeds. The weekly Academy lunch meetings quickly became highlights of academic life in the Cluster, where the participants' project presentations were received with open curiosity, lively discussion, and constructive commentary.

At the same time, the Fellows seamlessly connected to the Cluster members' activities through their involvement in one of the Research Sections, in the context of which they also gave their Fellow Lecture. Numerous Fellows also actively participated in the Cluster's annual conference *Medialities*, with contributions or even their own panels, either in person or by presenting their research results online.

But not everything was rosy in the Fellow programme. Some guests, who

had actually planned to come to Bayreuth with family, failed with their plans due to the restrictive policies of their country's German Embassy. Additionally, difficulties in finding suitable flats or childcare facilities became apparent in Bayreuth – a problem that has since become worse. Money transfers through the university took ages, and the guests unexpectedly found themselves in such financial straits that their hosts had to help them out of with private loans. The guests certainly vented their displeasure, and the programme managers had to note down a long list of grievances, for which they compiled an equally long list of measures to remedy.

Fellows 2021/22



Fellows 2022/23

Fellow Lectures



The fellows of the winter semester 2022/23 met up every Tuesday for the so-called Fellow Lunch and presentation.

Photo: Sabine Greiner



Henriette Gunkel:
01.10.2021–31.07.2022
Alien Time



Larissa Kojoué:
01.04.2022–30.06.2022
Queering the Internet:
Digital Practices and Sexual
Politics in Contemporary
West and Central Africa.



Sakariyau Alabi Aliyu:
10.01.2022–09.05.2022
No Longer 'Christian'
Education: Ulama Edu-pre-
neurship in Ilorin in the New
Millennium



Isao Murahashi: 13.01.–12.03.2022
Mobility and translocality in the border regions of South Sudan, Uganda, and Kenya



Susanne Lachenicht: internal
fellow: 01.10.2021–31.03.2022
Knowledge Transfer, the Clash of
Knowledge Systems and the For-
mation of New Knowledge about
the Americas in the Atlantic World
between the Sixteenth and the
Early Nineteenth Centuries



Sharon Omotoso:
11.10.2021–07.01.2022
When "She" is the Crook:
Women's Political
Communication on
Corruption in Nigeria.



Aharon de Grassi:
01.03.2022–31.07.2022
Decolonising State Theory,
or Weber Through a Global
Lens: Situating the Study of
the State in Contexts of the
Colonisation of Africa and the
Institutionalisation of African
Studies



Jorge Cardoso Filho:
30.05.2022–29.07.2022
The South Atlantic Afrodi-
asporic and Perspectivistic
Rock from Recôncavo da
Bahia, Brazil



**Endurance
Midinette Koumassol Dissake:**
01.03.2022–31.07.2022
Safeguarding African Customary Law:
The Case of the Customary Judicial
System of the Banen Community



Eun Kyung Kim:
27.06.2022–31.07.2022
Party Institutionalisation
Revisited: A Comprehen-
sive Explanation of African
Parties



Babacar Mbaye Diop:
01.10.2021–28.02.2022
The Relational Dimension
in the Artistic Practices
of the Collective "Portes
et Passages du Retour"/
Return Doors and Pas-
sages of Senegal



Viviane de Freitas:
01.10.2021–31.07.2022
The Multiple Temporalities and
the Body in the Works of Con-
temporary Afro-Brazilian Female
Artists from Bahia-Brazil



Lekan Balogun:
31.05.2022–
31.07.2022
Living With Horror
Without End in a
Postcolony



**Adepaju
Layiwola:**
01.05.2022–
31.07.2022
Textiles // The
Restitution/
Repatriation
Question of the
Benin Collection
in Germany





Noemi Alfieri:
01.10.2022–31.07.2023
Mapping Anti-colonial
Networks Through Literature.
Transnational Connections
of African Thinkers in the Re-
configuration of Space and
Thought (1950s–70s)



Lamine Doumbia:
01.10.2022–31.07.2023
Land Governance and
Bureaucratization in Bamako,
Ouagadougou, and Dakar –
Mimicry and Hybridisation of
Logics



Thokozani Mhlambi:
16.10.2022–15.04.2023
Umgungundlovu Suite for
Reed Ensemble

Stênio José Paulino Soares
01.10.2022–31.07.2023
„Body-archive“ and „body-wit-
ness“: spatiality, artistic languag-
es and memory in Kisangani's
contemporary dance (RDC).



Renzo Baas:
01.10.2022–31.03.2023
Speculative Spatialities



Judith Bachmann:
01.10.2022–31.07.2023
The Conquest of Distance:
A Genealogy of Ifa's Global
Spatialities (Tandem Pro-
ject)



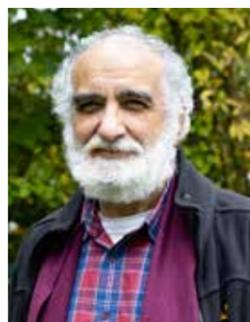
Femi Jegede:
01.10.2022–31.07.2023
The Conquest of Distance:
The Dialectics of Ifa
Divination Systems from
Yoruba land to Afro-
America Spaces (Tandem
project)



Stephen Brown:
01.10.2022–
31.07.2023
Strategic
Litigation and the
Decriminalisation
of Homosexuality
in Africa



Bakheit Mohammed Nur:
01.10.2022–31.07.2023
Relational Knowledge
Politics in Sudanese Islamic
Universities



Anthony Okeregbe:
04.10.2022–03.12.2022
The Child's Right to 'Sex': Nego-
tiating Sexuality Pedagogies in
Entangled Moral Spaces

Dhruv Raina:
01.10.2022–31.01.2023
Decolonising the Disciplines:
The Experience of India and
Africa (1950–1970)

Wandia Njoya:
24.10.2022–23.04.2023
New Imaginaries and Critical
Engagements for Education and
Knowledge Production (Tandem
project)



Faisal Garba Muhammed:
01.12.2022–30.06.2023
Theorising Migration from
Shifting Notions of Territoriality,
Belonging and Mobility in Africa



Elizabeth Cooper:
24.10.2022–23.04.2023
New Imaginaries and Critical Engage-
ments for Education and Knowledge
Production (Tandem project)

Thokozani Mhlambi during his concert in November 2022

An Archive of Feelings:

Thokozani Mhlambi's Aesthetic Investigations

Text **KATHARINA FINK**
Photos **JENS WAGNER**

Thokozani Mhlambi joined the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies as an Artist Fellow from October 2022 to May 2023, engaging in numerous academic and creative activities.

Acclaimed composer, academic, and musician Thokozani Mhlambi worked with the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence in Bayreuth for half a year in 2022–23. He devoted his time to his aesthetic research project, *Umgungundlovu Suite for Reed Ensemble*, which presents a music-based story set in the ancient Zulu capital of Umgungundlovu.

With his aesthetic project, Mhlambi gives life to the legacy of Umgungundlovu, where King Dingane lived in the 1830s. In 2019, Mhlambi even had the chance to visit the ruins of the old Zulu capital. This was as part of a group of investigators from the University of Cape Town, the KwaZulu-Natal Museum, Amafa, and Research Institute, and other South African institutions. Most of the information currently known about the site is from archaeological reports and the travel writings of European interlocutors. Umgungundlovu Suite for Reed Ensemble aims to

reimagine the site by using composition and performance.

Another project, *An Archive of Feelings*, emerged during Mhlambi's time in Bayreuth. In the months filled with discussions with artists and researchers from all over the world, and dives into the university archives, both at Iwalewahaus and its larger surroundings, Mhlambi excavated soundscapes that address the fact that Bayreuth was a temporary space and creative refuge for a number of creatives throughout the decades. Not only did Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o find a temporary home in Bayreuth, many others followed, shaping the town, and being shaped by it, in all imaginable ways: joy, frustration, ennui, inspiration, despair. This project found its form as a short music film, launched in September 2023, and based on communal video-shooting right at the feet of the Bayreuth Festival Theatre of Richard Wagner, in Wahnfried, and at Iwalewahaus.

Embodying this special time, on 23 November 2022, Mhlambi played an unforgettable, packed concert at Ahnensaal, at the The Research Institute for Music Theatre Studies (Forschungsinstitut für Musiktheater) (fimt), Thurnau Castle, organised by his two hosts, Marie-Anne Kohl, Managing Director

of fimt, and Katharina Fink, Deputy Director of Iwalewahaus, and supported by the association of Friends of Iwalewahaus. Master students of the African Verbal and Visual Arts (AVVA) programme Curatorial Studies shaped the night into a celebration of community and music.



2022: List of Events and Guests

January

10.01.2022 – Lecture by Toyin Falola: *Supranaturality, Supernaturality and Spirituality in the Yoruba World* in Lagos, Nigeria

11.01.2022 – Workshop: *Afr(io)futurism in Action: Southern Art Intervention*
Ralph Borland

13.01.22 – New Year Lecture 2022 by Peter Simatei: *Ways of Knowing Africa: African Literature and Shifting Imaginaries*

19.01.22 – Workshop: *With the Help of God(s)? Religious Actors and Sustainable Development in Africa* in Hamburg and Bayreuth
Matthias Basedau, Nabiela Farouq-Martius, Damaris Parsitau, Salau Rogei, Eric Stollenwerk

20.–21.01.22 – Workshop: *Reawakening African Ways of Knowing & Knowledge Production: Challenges, Hybridity, and Utility of Indigenous Knowledges* in Eldoret, Kenya
Emmanuel Furaha, Joseph K. Kahiga, Daniel Kipkorir, Catherine Jematia Kiprop, Jauquelyne Kosgei, Michael Maelo, Obala Musumba, Jane Akinyi Ngala Oduor, Simon Nganga, Oduor Obura, Opondo, Caroline Sambai

20.01.22 – ICDL event: *Remembering bell hooks*

23.–26.01.2022 – Workshop:
A Global Anthropology of Transforming Marriage
Janet Carsten, Susan Mckinnon, Eirini Papdaki, Julia Pauli

25.01.22 – Anthropology Lecture Series – Lecture by Carsten Mildner: *Sourds Durs – Negotiating Deaf Difference and Similitude in Benin*

27.–28.01.2022 – Workshop: *Knowledge Production, Transmission, and Formation of Cultural Identity: The Role of Religion, Media, Aesthetics and Language in Africa* in Eldoret, Kenya
Toboso Mahero

27.01.2022 – Knowledge Lab Lecture by Divine Fuh: *Publishing Africa: Towards a new politics of knowledge archiving*



Peter Simatei
13.01.2022

February

07.02.2022 – Roundtable-Discussion:
Coup d'états in West Africa
Mohamed Amara, Bano Barry,
Désiré Boniface Somé

10.02.2022 – BIGSAS Workshop with Josie Dixon:
Presenting at International Conferences

10.02.2022 – Knowledge Lab Closing Session
Reuben Abati, Rey Chow, Mehdi Belhaj Kacem

14.–16.02.2022 – Workshop: *Multiple Indian Ocean: Transoceanic and Transmedial Imaginaries*
Nathalie Arnold Koenings, Elena Brugioni,
Shihan De Sliva, Andrew Eisenberg, R. Benedito Ferrão,
Kumari Issur, Nikhita Obeegadoo, Annachiara Raia,
Zoly Rakotoniera, Hans Ramduth, Peter Tirop Simatei,
Pedro Sobral Pombo

15.02.2022 – Lecture by James Indimuli *Drama and Film in the New Kenyan School Curriculum: Opportunities and Challenges* in Eldoret, Kenya

16.02.2022 – Lecture by Olufunke Adeboye: *Revisiting Tink-Trunk Literacy in Africa: The value of internal sources for knowledge production* in Lagos, Nigeria

18.–19.02.2022 – Workshop: *Afr(io)futurism: Debates, Contestations, Interventions*

Ralph Borland, Armelle Choplin, Emilie Guitard,
Martins Kwazema, Louis Nana, Sybille Ngo Nyeck,
Patrick Armand Ouadiantou, Ludovic Pointougnigni Njuh,
Hervé Roquet, Moussa Traoré, Pius Jonas Vögele,
Mingqing Yuan

19.02.2022 – Lecture by Anima Adjepong: *Afropolitan Projects. Redefining Blackness, Sexualities, and Culture from Houston to Accra*

21.–23.02.2022 – Workshop: *Narrowing the Gap beyond Tokenism: The Transdisciplinary Search for Innovative Approaches in Decolonisation and the Integration and Dialogue among Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Epistemologies* in Johannesburg, South Africa, and Bayreuth
Olaide Agbaje, Sherif Azab-Els, Bosco Bwambale,
Otilia Chirambe, Michelle Louise Clarke,
Thazwilondi Daswa, Lamine Doumbia, Moulay
Driss El Marrouf, Wandile Ganya, Logan Govender,
Emmanuel Instiful, Tebogo Victoria Kgope,
Xholiso Ennocent Khazamula, Dikko Mohammad,
Shireen Motala, Sindi Msimango, Devika Naidoo,
Sibonokuhle Ndlovu, Phefumula Nyoni, Billian Khalayi
Otundo, Mariame Sano, Yusuf Sayed, Leonie Schoelen,
Abbes Sebihi, Emnet Tadesse Woldegiorgis,
Monicca Thulisile Bhuda, Makhnikhe Tshimangadzo Justice,
Irina Turner, Gert Van Der Westhuizen,
Vanessa Wijngaarden

24.–25.02.2022 – Workshop: *Production Chains and Security Apparatuses: On the Intersections of Value and Violence in the 21st Century*

Frauke Banse, Michael Berndt, Hans-Jürgen Bieling, Simone Claar, Kerstin Eppert, Sophia Hoffmann, Sebastian Hoppe,
Daniel Mertens, Franziska Müller, Lena Partzsch, Viktoria Roth, Christian Scheper, Klaus Schlichte, Andrea Schneiker,
Benjamin Schütze, Benno Teschke, Carola Westermeier

24.02.2022 – Keynote Lecture by Benno Teschke: *'Capitalist' World-Ordering Strategies from Early Modern to Modern Times*



Benno Teschke
24.02.2022

March

16.03.2022 – Lecture by Munir Moosa: *Brief Overview on The State of Human Rights Education (HRE), and Challenges of Introducing HRE in Africa- Hanking Conundrum* in Lagos, Nigeria

17.03.2022 – Lecture by Nanjala Nyabola: *Kenya's Abroad – or the World as a Place* in Eldoret, Kenya

22.03.2022 – Lecture by Pacificah K. Okemwa: *Feminist Research, Masculinities, and Gender-based Violence in Africa* in Eldoret, Kenya

April

03.–06.04.2022 – CBNRM Workshop in Windhoek, Namibia
Michael Bollig, Myrthe Detiger, Paul Hebinck, Selma Lendelvo, Ihuhwa Catherine Malulu, Alfons Mosimane

11.–16.04.2022 – Conference ASAA 2022: *Africa and the Human: Old questions, new imaginaries* in Cape Town, South Africa
Akosua Adomako Ampofo, Aghi Bahi, Yolande Bouka, Chambi Chachage, Divine Fuh, Faisal Garba, Akin Iwilade, Sandra Manuel, Nanjala Nyabola, Francis Nyamnjoh, Sybille Ngo Nyeck, Rogers Oroock, Maryam Quadri, Aidas Sanogo, Cheick Thiam

12.04.2022 – *Regenerating Non-formal Learning in Africa: Digitizing Folktale for Animation and Value Education* in Lagos, Nigeria
Akin Adejuwon, Omotunde Akiode, Akin Alabi, Akoété Amouzou, Adaora Lois Anyachebelu, Cosmas Bii, Ruth Goma, Obiageli C. Okoye, Mofeyisara Omobowale, Bamidele Vincent Omolaye, Oládélé Caleb Orimòògùnjé, Ifure Ufford-Azorbo

20.04.2022 – Lecture by James Barnett and Murtala Rufa'I: *Tit-for-Tat Violence, Communal Grievances, and the Banditry Crisis in Northwest Nigeria* in Lagos, Nigeria

21.04.2022 – Seminar Series from Chair in Epistemologies of Global South: Seminar with Achille Mbembe: *Africa in Theory*

23.04.–05.07.2022 – Workshop: *Partizipative Aktionsforschung* in Cartagena, Colombia
Arlenis Alvares Peres, Jamira Alves Muniz, Tiago Leonardo Alvez Muniz, Rigoberto Banguero, Carolina Beleño, Taciane Campos Rodrigues, Natalia Carmona Morales, Lorena Da Conceisao Sousa, Titiane Dos Anjos, Jaime Gomez Alcazar, Tamires Nascimento Da Silva, Marcos Vinicius Ornales Dos Santos, Wilfran Jose Ospino Hernandez, Melissa Alejandra Salgado Mendoza, Miguel Angel Salgado Padilla, Felix Antonio Salgado Romero, Uadson Santana Da Silva, Carlos Santos Da Luz, Gaabriel Santos Dias, Fernando Jose Vargas Herrera

25.–27.04.2022 – Workshop: *Education Alibi*
Nicola Ansell, Tyler Hook, Aikdande Kwayu, Murthee Maistry, Adeline Masquelier, Hildah Oburu, Edoardo Quareta, Amy Stambach, Issa Tamou

28.04.2022 – Lecture by Sakariyau Alabi Aliyu: *No longer 'Christian' Education: Ulama Edu-preneurship in Ilorin in the New Millennium*

28.04.2022 – Workshop: *Music Media Archives and Archiving. Beyond the "Digital Return": "New Heritage/s," Sustenance, and the Decolonisation of the International Library of African Music (ILAM)* in Makhanda, South Africa
Robbie Campbell, Noel Lobley, Elijah Madiba, Skhumbuzo Makandula, Jocelyn Mory

30.04.–07.05.2022 – BIGSAS Master Class with Ndongo Samba Sylla

23.04.2022: Cartagena de Indias, Colombia



Photo: Adobe Stock

11.05.2022: Christine Dixie



18.05.2022: Ousseina Alidou



02.05.2022: Ndongo Samba Sylla



May

02.05.2022 – Lecture by Ndongo Samba Sylla: *Rethinking Democracy & Economic Liberation in Post-Independence Africa*

03.05.2022 – Lecture by Ike Onyishi: *No 'African Time': A Call that Everyone Understands but No One Cares About.* in Makhanda, South Africa

03.05.2022 – Panel discussion: *Thinking Europe in terms of neighbourhood: results and perspectives of Germany's and Europe's development cooperation with Africa*
Hanza Diman, Christiane Kraus

05.–06.05.2022 – *Marriage: (Dis-)Entanglements and Detachments*
KOREEN REECE

05.05.2022 – Lecture by Henriette Gunkel: *Of What Remains: Spectral Infrastructures of Colonial Extraction in the Namib Desert*

05.05.2022 – Knowledge Lab: *Live as African. On the relevance of Thomas Sankara's agenda for economic liberation"*

05.05.2022 – Performance by Wangari Grace and Sven Kacirek: *Colonialism – A Musical*

05.05.2022 – Knowledge Lab/Afroglobal History Seminar Series: *Born in Blackness*
Howard W. French

09.05.2022 – Workshop: *(Semi-)Illiteracy and institutional flexibility: The integration of young migrants into Germany's school system Workshop: Learning ignorance and Illiteracy through Educations: Reflections on Highlands Bolivia*
Astrid Bochow, Andrew Canessa

09.05.2022 – Workshop: *Multiplicities of il-/literacy. Reading and writing beyond clear-cut dichotomies*

10.05.2022 – Seminar: *Regional Security in the East African Community (EAC) Territory* in Nairobi, Kenya
Phillip Nying'uro

11.05.2022 – Roundtable Session: *Incentivising Nature Conservation in a Time of Pandemic*
Eva Lohse, Walters Nsoh

11.05.2022 – Exhibition opening by Christine Dixie: *To Be King*

12.05.2022 – *BIGSAS Colloquium*
Isaac Abotebuno Akolgo, Babacar Mbaye Diop, Ange Dorine Irakoze, Saïkou Oumar Sagnane

12.05.2022 – Panel Discussion: *MUSIKTHEATER – MACHT– GESELLSCHAFT*
JESSICA NUPEN

13.05.2022 – Symposium: *South African Opera and Globalisation* in Basel, Switzerland
Johann Buis, Joshua Tolulope David, Robert Fokkens, Melissa Gerber, Andrew Holden, Setsoane Jeannette Ntseki, Jessica Nupen, Donato Somma, Tinus Spies, Alessandro Talevi, Lena Van Der Hoven, Sakhiseni Joseph Yende

17.05.2022 – Concert *Aly Keita Trio*
Desiré Davids, Ali Keïta, Matchume Zango

18.05.2022 – Roundtable: *Decolonial Feminism: A Transdisciplinary African Feminist Conversation*
Ousseina Alidou, Akosua Adomako Ampofo, Fatou Sow, Francoise Verges

18.05.2022 – Award Ceremony *Fatou Sow's Honorary Doctorate*
Ousseina Alidou, Ngozi Edeagu, Ali Keïta, Fatou Sow, Matchume Zango

24.05.2022 – Africa Colloquium Seminar: *Transition to Competency Based-Curriculum* in Nairobi, Kenya
Simon Peter Otieno

24.05.2022 – Anthropology Lecture Series: Lecture by Aharon de Grassi: *Decolonizing the Study of the State: Max Weber, Colonialism and African Studies*

25.05.2022 – Seminar Series Epistemologies of Global South Lecture by Elisio Macamo: *Sovereign Reason: Issues in African Studies* in Basel, Switzerland

27.–29.05.2022 – *34th Swahili-Colloquium*
Mark Kandagor, Dyoniz Kindata; Serena Talento

31.05.2022 – Seminar: *(Un)doing Knowledge: (Re/De) constructing English Idioms in Kenya*
Alfred Buregeya

June

02.06.2022 – Book presentation: *The Politics of Historical Memory and Commemoration in Africa*
Moritz Mihatsch

09.06.2022 – ICDL Lecture Series: *In Celebration of Utu/Ubuntu-inspired leadership: Profiles of two Kenyan Women Freedom Fighters*
Catherine Jematia Kiprop, Micere Githae Mugo, Mumbi Mugo, Rahab Njeri

09.06.2022 – Fellow Lecture by Larissa Kojoué: *Queering the Internet. Perspectives from Cameroon*

14.–15.06.2022 – 9th Asixoxe (Let's Talk!) Conference on African Philosophy

In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Bianca Boteva-Richter, Michelle Louise Clarke, Louise Du Toit, Claudia Favarato, Pierre-Philippe Fraiture, Susanne Gehrmann, Chantal Gishoma, Albert Kasanda, Dyoniz Kindata, Alemayehu Kumsa, Benedetta Lanfranchi, Viktor Marsai, Lea Melniková, Fasil Merawi, Emiliano Minerba, Tereza Nemečková, Cristina Nicolini, Mary Stella Okolo, Abraham Olivier, John Otieno Ouko, Gail Presbey, Linda Scott, Yahya Sseremba, Mpho Tshivhase, Lye Mudaba Yoka

14.–15.06.2022 – Workshop: *Reimagining Concepts and Contexts of African Development*

Tade Akin-Aina, Akin Iwilade

14.06.2022 – Lecture by Kenneth Inyani Simala: *World Kiswahili Day in the UNESCO decade of Indigenous Languages: Looking back into the future*

in Nairobi, Kenya

14.06.2022 – *African Union and African Heads of State: Compromise or Failure? The case study of Benin Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, and Guinea Conakry*

Ifè Paul Atihou

14.06.2022 – Talk: *Ideas on the Move: On the Institutionalisation of Neoclassical Economics in Africa*
Howard Stein

21.06.2022 – Round Table: *Fluid Ontologies*
Wynand van der Walt

23.06.2022 – Seminar Series Epistemologies of Global South: *From Pan-Africanism to Afro-Futurism: Trajectories of African Liberation Ideas*

Akousa Adomako Ampofo, Ayo A Coly, Toyin Falola, Shireen Hassim, Elisio Macamo, Achille Mbembe, Walter Mignolo, Elelwani Ramugondo

24.06.2022 – Lecture Series: *Being Muslim at the intersection of Islam and Popular Cultures in Nigeria*

Musa Ibrahim

27.06.-01.07.2022 – Workshop: *Slave trade memories at the crossroads of literature, performance and history*

Kangni Alem, Viviane De Freitas, Babacar Mbaye Diop, Jonas Do Nascimento, Fabienne Kanor, Wilfried N'sondé, Ashanti Dinah Orozco; Josias Semujanga

30.06.2022 – Lecture by CJ Odhiambo: *From Live Performances to the Screen: Implications on Participation in Theatre for Community Development*

30.06.2022 – Lecture: *Intermediality in/and popular music studies* in Eldoret, Kenya

30.06.2022 – Knowledge Lab: Stella Nyanzi: *Social media and political culture in Africa*



27.06.2022: Fabienne Kanor



06.07.2022: Catherine Kiprop

July

01.07.2022 – Lecture by Kendra Salois: *The Moral Entrepreneur: Co-Constructing Moroccan Citizenship through Hip Hop Music and Culture* in Nairobi, Kenya

05.07.2022 – Round Table of Fluid Ontologies: *The MODS Ontology*
Wynand van der Walt

06.07.2022 – 11th Iberian Conference on African Studies in Lisbon, Portugal

06.–09.07.2022 – 3rd Annual Cluster Conference: *Medialities* in Makhanda and Bayreuth

Eleshin Abisoye Ademola, Jean Renat Anamah, Gratien Atindogbe, Kara Blackmore, Carli Coetzee, Viviane De Freitas, Endurance Dissake, Jonas Do Nascimento, Sarah Grandke, Henriette Gunkel, Kingsley Jima, Isabel Katjavivi, Talya Ruth Lubinsky, Winston Mano, Christine Matzke, Mary Mbeve, Belhaj Kacem Mehdi, Deena Mohamed, Patrice Mwepu, Nelson Odume, Luciane Ramos-Silva, Marvin Rodriguez, Natewinde Sawadogo, Nancy Nyindem Sirih-Nagang, Evan Sohun, Ken Akya Sy, Nicole Wolf

11.–12.07.2022 – Workshop with Josie Dixon: *Writing Articles for International Publication in Peer-Reviewed Journals in the Humanities and Social Sciences*

11.07.2022 – Roundtable: *Empowerment for Black Persons and Persons of Colour*

12.07.2022 – Anthropology Lecture Series Lecture by Peju Layiwola: *From Germany with Love: New Narratives Around Benin Heritage Materials*

13.07.2022 – Lecture by Shina Alimi: *"A Tale of Two Cities": Cemetery Heterotopia and Spatial Relations in Lagos* in Lagos, Nigeria

13.07.2022 – Conversation presented by the Anti-Racism Committee of the University of Bayreuth: *Racism for white-positioned persons: Let's start the conversation*

14.07.2022 – Meeting: *Safeguarding African customary law: The case of the customary judicial system of the Banen community*

Koumassol Midinette Endurance Dissake



14.07.2022: Ananda Devi



25.07.2022: Claudia Roth



06.07.2022: Patrice Mwepu

14.07.2022 – BIGSAS Colloquium

14.07.2022 – Book reading with Ananda Devi: *Multiple perspectives from the Indian Ocean*

18.07.2022 – Lecture by Roberto D. Hernández: *Cogito Ergo Mendacio (I think, therefore I lie): The Meaning of Decoloniality and the Politics and Promise of Decolonial Feminist Horizons*

19.07.2022 – Round Table of Research Data Management (RDM): *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Fluid Ontologies – Third Session: Fluidity and Context*
Wynand van der Walt

20.07.2022 – Lecture by Obioma Nnaemeka: *African Feminisms Past and Present*

21.07.2022 – Project presentation: *Regenerating Non-Formal Learning in Africa: Digitizing Folktales for Animation and Value Education*

Olabode Adedeji, Anuoluwapo Adetomiwa, Gbenusola Akinwale, Abisoye A. Eleshin, Sandra Idawu, Ganiyu Jimoh, Luqman Ayodele Yusuff

21.07.2022 – ICDL lecture series: Lecture by Stella Nyanzi: *Rethinking Queer Africa As A Dynamically Productive Locus of Knowledge Production*

21.07.2022 – Seminar Series from Chair in Epistemologies of Global South/Seminar with Elelwani Ramugondo: *Theorising Present Struggle*

25.07.2022 – Lecture by John Ayotunde Isola Bewaji: *The Dire Future of Humanity – the Ubuntu/Omoluabi Alternative to the Destructive Individualism of Western Culture* in Makhanda, South Africa

26.07.2022 - Round Table of Research Data Management (RDM): *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Fluid Ontologies – Fourth Session: Introducing Ontologies*

29.07.2022 – Lecture by Alice Aterianus: *Ethnophilia and Religious Convers(at)ions* in Nairobi, Kenya

31.07.–04.08.2022 – Workshop: *Turkish NGOs in Africa*
Issouf Binata, Ezgi Güner

IAS Guests 2022			
Name	From	Institution / Profession	Visit
Grace Wangari	Kenya	Artist	27.04.–06.05.22
Sven Kacirek	Germany	Artist	27.04.–06.05.22
Abibatou Diagne	Senegal	Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar	20.05.–09.07.22
Talya Lubinsky	Germany	Artist	27.06.–18.07.22
Victor Iwuoha	Nigeria	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	01.07.–05.08.22
Ndeshi Namupala	Namibia	University of Namibia, Namibia	03.07.–31.07.22
Deng Zheyuan	USA	University of Florida, USA	21.07.–20.08.22
Gracien G. Atindogbe	Kamerun	University of Buea	10.09.–09.11.22
Mohammed Yahya Ould Babah	Mauretania	University of Islamic Sciences, Mauretanie	20.10.–18.12.22
Vedelin Tarmo Simon	Tansania	University of Dar Es Salaam	16.11.–23.11.22
Susi Vetter	South Africa	Rhodes University	23.11.–02.12.22
Hope Chavula Ndhlovu-Chanda	Zambia	Zambia Law Development Commission	02.12.22–20.02.23
Bonolo Dinokopila	Botswana	University of Botswana School of Law	17.12.22–16.01.23

August

02.08.2022 - Round Table of Research Data Management (RDM): *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Fluid Ontologies – Fifth Session: Discussing Fluidity*

04.08.2022 – Lecture by Abisoye Eleshin: *Linguistic Pluralism and Indigenous Knowledge Production: A Preliminary Study of Eldoret, Kenya* in Nairobi, Kenya

23.08.2022 – Advanced Methods Lab Session II: *When the law is not enough: Tackling intractable problems of human rights – Prospects for integrated approaches* in Makhanda, South Africa Uchenna Okeja

25.08.2022 – Seminar Series from Chair in Epistemologies of Global South: *"Second Thoughts on Africa in the Colonial Horizon of Modernity" by Walter Mignolo*

26.08.2022 – Lecture by Jonas Otterbeck: *Creativity and Islamic ethics and aesthetics in the 'West'* in Nairobi, Kenya

30.08.2022 – Presentation by Serge Noël Ouedraogo: *Comparative Study of Two Migration Dynamics in West Africa: The Case of Burkinabe Moving to Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire 1919–2019* in Makhanda, South Africa

30.08.2022 – Africa Colloquium Seminar with Caroline Mose: *Reggae and Freedom: Performing Texts and (a)historical narratives in the 2022 General Elections in Kenya* in Nairobi, Kenya

September

22.09.2022 – Seminar Series from Chair in Epistemologies of Global South/Seminar by Shireen Hassim: *Genealogies of Feminism in Africa*

27.09.2022 – Film screening and discussion with Ines Johnson-Spain: *Becoming Black*



03.10.2022: Raharimanana & Kumari Issur



17.10.2022: Sandra Manuel



10.10.2022: Manuel Padilla Cruz

October

03.–05.10.2022 – Workshop: Naviguer le tout-monde de l'Océan Indien

Sharvan Anenden, Elena Brugioni, Ananda Devi, Robert Furlong, Kumari Issur, Roukaya Kasenally, Mshai Mwangola, Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor, Jean Luc Raharimanana, Hans Ramduth, Leena Ramduth, Umar Timol

09.–14.10.2022 – Final conference of the project Mobilities and Socialities: COVID-19 in the Drylands in Nairobi, Kenya

Nurgul Alipbekova, Jamal Alkiranawi, Byambasuren Amarbat, Jonah Becker Antonelli, Batbuyan Batjav, Marina Bertocin, Amadou Kane Beye, Carla Marilia Teofilo Braga, Mahamat Ali Brahim, Dinah Kortom Chepkemol, Aude Karine Marie Pierre Chesnais, Nate Etsitty, Maria Joana Ferreira De Lima Roque De Pinho, Sariol Eduardo Gargallo, Mara Jil Goldman, Nurit Rachel Hashimshoni-Yaffe, Jona Heita, Steve Nyamokee Kaisuma, Daler Kaziev, Gabin Burkinabe Korbeogo, Angela Johanna Neloita Kronenburg, Stanley Ole Neboo Kutiti, Jacinta Lepaiton, Litan Mamus, Danicia Arlindo Munguambe, Primus Nurudong, Lenaai Ole Mowuo, Abdou Racide Ouedraogo, Andrea Pase, Mariasole Pepa, Wario Galgalo Sabdio, Annemiek Schrijver, Debra Seenoi, Troy Sternberg, Virginie Christine Martine Gaëlle Tallio, Apin Arik Yasin, Ouango Blaise Zongo

10.–12.10.2022 – Workshop: Doing ethics: Interdisciplinary perspectives on communicative practices and verbal devices

Jörg Bergmann, Oumarou Boukari, Gerda Haßler, Bi Tié Benjamain Irié, Carline Liliane Ngawa Mbaho, Manuel Padilla Cruz, Christian Plantin, Joe Spencer-Bennett, Véronique Traverso

11.10.2022 – Sneak preview of Nina Fischer-Stephan: The Respectful Gaze by Mudi Yahaya

Marieke Palmeira

15.–21.10.2022 – Feminismus in Afrika

Karam Aouini, Samia Elhadi Elnaggar Mohamed, Sandra Cristina Félix Manuel, Yedidya Sebsebie Haile

17.–19.10.2022 – Workshop: Thinking and doing intersectionality in/from Africa

Karam Aouini, Negede Gezahegn Gebremeskel, Yumna Mohammed Abdelaziz Guta, Larissa Kojoue Kamga, Hibist Kassa, Monia Lachheb, Anisa Ali Legesse, Sandra Manuel, Zintombizethu Matebeni, Gibson Ncube, Stella Nyanzi, Sybille Ngo Nyeck, Mihasi Reem, Bahiru Gezahegne Shewaye, Tarek Shukrallah

20.10.2022 – Seminar Series from Chair in Epistemologies of Global South/Seminar with Godwin Murunga: The Idea of Africa: Time and Queer Meditations

26.10.2022 – Debate series: Everyone's Human Rights | Child Labour I

27.10.2022 – Lecture Series: African Feminism's Past and Present: Lecture by Lyn Ossome: Intersectionalities from the Margins: Historical Subjects/Subjectivation in the Global South

31.10.–03.11.2022 – International Symposium: Biographies and Liberation: Life Writing in Transversal Perspectives in Maputo, Mozambique

Jocelyn Alexander, Fábio Baqueiro Figueiredo, Subhadra Channa, Colin Darch, Patricia Godinho Gomes, Patricia Hayes, Paolo Israel, Enocent Msindo, Ciraj Rasool, Livio Sansone, Issa Shivji, Peter Tirop Simatei, Cheick Thiam, Antonio Tomas, Valdemir Zamparoni

31.10.–04.11.2022 – Biographies and Liberation: Thinking and doing intersectionality in/from Africa in Maputo, Mozambique

Yussuf Adam, Fábio Baqueiro Figueiredo, Isabel Casimiro, Subhadra Channa, Teresa Cruz E Silva, Colin Darch, Carlos Fernandes, Patricia Alexandra Godinho Gomes, Patricia Hayes, Paolo Israel, Simao Jaime, Enocent Msindo, Clinarete Munguambe, Severino Ngoenha, Sybille Ngo Nyeck, Ciraj Rasool, Issa Shivji, Joel Tembe, Cheick Thiam, Antonio Tomas, Valdemir Zamparoni

November

03.II.2022 – Debate series:
Everyone's Human Rights / Child Labour
Lisa Moroney

04.II.2022 – Factory of Ideas/Biographies and Liberations:
African Liberation: Public History, Power and Citizenship in
Maputo, Mozambique

08.II.2022 – Africa Colloquium Seminar: *Men and
Masculinities: Promoting Gender Equality Research* in Eldoret,
Kenya
Jafred Muyaka

09.–11.II.2022 – International Symposium: *Gérer sa santé
– Regards Pluridisciplinaires et Methodes Therapeutiques* in
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
Jean-Francois Kobiané, Emmanuel Nanema

11.II.2022 – Debate series: *Everyone's Human Rights |
Human Trafficking 1*
Lisa Moroney

12.II.2022 – Workshop: *Speculative Spatialities*

15.II.2022 – *Gomes de Jesus Neto: The Brazil-Africa circulation
in the technical-scientific-informational period: a selective and
diversified fluidity*

18.II.2022 – Debate series with R.O. Ironanya: *Everyone's
Human Rights | Human Trafficking 2* in Windhoek, Namibia

23.II.2022 – Workshop: *The Afrokology of Media and
Communication Studies*
Winston Mano

23.II.2022 – *New Heritage: The appropriation and
reconstruction of popular music in Nigeria* in Lagos, Nigeria
Ayo Ajayi, Bimbo Esho, Albert Oikelome, Grace Olaoluwa
Stephen Titus Olusegun, Stephen Olusoji, Tunde Ope-Davies,
Lee Watkins

23.II.2022 – Debate series: *Everyone's Human Rights with
Stella Bosire | LGBTQ+* in Johannesburg, South Africa

23.II.2022 – Concert Lecture by Thokozani Mhlambi

24.II.2022 – Seminar Series from Chair in Epistemologies
of Global South/Seminar with Akosua Adomako Ampofo:
*African Citizenship and the Ownership of Material and
Intellectual Culture(s)*

25.II.2022 – Keynote Address: *Javier Ortiz Cassiani: Diaspora,
memory and nation: Afrodescendants in Colombia*

25.II.2022 – Poetry Performance: *Muntu: words freed from
whip and clam*
Ashanti Dinah Orozco

28.II.2022 – Screening und Discussion with Mo Asumang

30.II.2022 – Debate series with Pamela Adie: *Everyone's
Human Rights | LGBTQ+ 2*
in Abuja, Nigeria

30.II.2022 – Okwui Enwezor Distinguished Lecture:
*Collective making: Multiplying perspectives in curatorial
knowledge production & pedagogy*
Salma Uche-Okeke, Nantume Violet

December

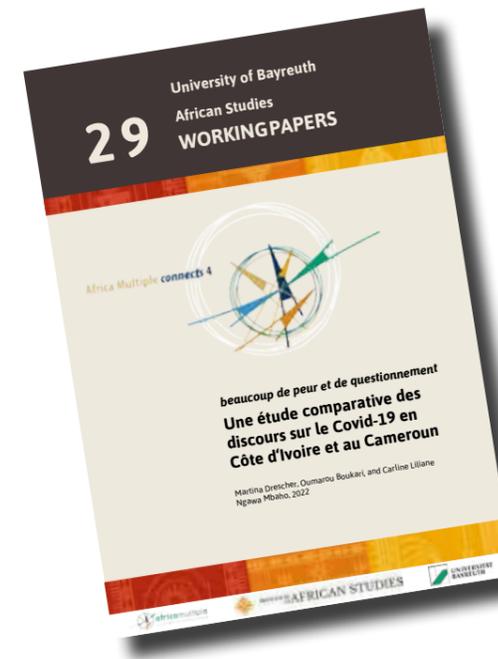
01.II.2022 – Screening and discussion: *When borders don't matter* in Lagos, Nigeria



28.11.2022: Mo Asumang



23.11.2022: Vincent Mano



The IAS Online Publication Series

The Institute of African Studies (IAS) promotes and coordinates the multi-disciplinary field of African Studies at the University of Bayreuth. The IAS publication series provide Bayreuth-based and visiting scholars with opportunities to publish their work on ongoing research and completed projects.

IAS Online Publications are uploaded on the Epub document server at the University of Bayreuth library. They are open access and connected to all common search engines.

University of Bayreuth African Studies Online

University of Bayreuth African Studies Online presents results of Africa-related research at the University of Bayreuth. Publications include articles, edited collections, and single authored monographs – including but not limited to PhD-theses.

The series is registered under ISSN 2628-1791 in the online catalogue of the University of Bayreuth library. Submitted documents are subject to external double-blind review.*

The editor-in-chief is Dr. Lena Kroeker
(Lena.Kroeker@uni-bayreuth.de).

*PhD theses submitted at the University of Bayreuth are not subjected to further review. This facilitates a fast publication process within a series of University of Bayreuth African Studies.

University of Bayreuth African Studies Working Papers

University of Bayreuth African Studies Working Papers present insights into ongoing research projects in the field of African Studies at the University of Bayreuth and beyond.

In addition to the main series, there are three subseries: *Africa Multiple connects*, *Academy reflects* and *BIGSASworks!*.

IAS members, scholars from the University of Bayreuth as well as national and international cooperation partners are welcome to submit their work to these series. Submitted documents are subject to internal peer review.

The editor-in-chief is Dr. Jane Ayeko-Kümmeth
(IAS@uni-bayreuth.de).



IWALEWAIUS



NAB

NEWS FROM THE INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH

Vol. XXI 2022

ISSN 1867-6634 (print)

ISSN 1867-6642 (online)

Published 2023 by the Institute of African Studies

www.ias.uni-bayreuth.de

University of Bayreuth

95440 Bayreuth, Germany

NAB online:

www.ias.uni-bayreuth.de/de/forschung/publications/nab

Editorial Board:

Sabine Greiner – Sabine.Greiner@uni-bayreuth.de

Doris Löhr – Doris.Loehr@uni-bayreuth.de

Jane Ayeko-Kümmeth –

jane.ayeko-kuemmeth@uni-bayreuth.de

All correspondence to:

NAB@uni-bayreuth.de

Layout:

fresh!Advertising

www.fresh-bayreuth.de

Iwalewahaus:

Inken Bößert – Inken.Boessert@uni-bayreuth.de

Nicole Klug – Nicole.Klug@uni-bayreuth.de

Cover photo:

Robert Götze

© 2023 IAS, University of Bayreuth

All rights reserved