



*Daniel Kojo
afronauts
francophone
2010*

Daniel Kojo, Professor of Art at Hampshire College, USA, was Visiting Professor and Artist in Residence at Iwalewa House in the summer semester 2010.

His installative painting 'afronauts-francophone' came out of a workshop involving students from the University of Bayreuth.

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Bayreuth African Studies on the Move

The Institute for African Studies (IAS) is the hub of Africa-related activities at the University of Bayreuth. The focus on Africa is a pillar of Bayreuth's academic profile, making it a centre of African Studies of national and international importance. This is not new as such. Initiatives to expand this focus, however, have considerably accelerated in recent years. African Studies in Bayreuth today means:

- a unique range of research on and with Africa, through projects, conferences and publications;
- notable programmes for graduate and undergraduate studies, with the BIGSAS doctoral research school, part of Germany's excellence pro-



▲ Achim von Oppen, Director of IAS
(Photo: BIGSAS)

When Ute Fendler (as deputy) and I took over the directorship of the IAS in early 2010, many of the fields of activity



▲ Ute Fendler, Deputy director of IAS
(Photo: IAS)

concentrated on the intricacies of the extension of the BIGSAS programme beyond 2012. Innovative approaches to the organisation of this programme as well as to its thematic framework are being intensely discussed in BIGSAS' "Research Areas" and Working Groups, among fellows and management.

The broader academic context for and beyond BIGSAS itself, however, also increasingly requires attention. Part of this is due to a current stimulating debate in IAS on the thematic pro-

New departures to expand the focus on Africa in Bayreuth

- gramme, as their flagship;
- a variety of cultural research and presentations for a wider public, many of them coordinated by the famous Iwalewa House;
 - numerous fields of cooperation with German, international and notably African partner universities and research institutions;
 - and novel projects of scientific documentation and communication, notably through the DEVA project.

As usual in this newsletter, a selection of Africa-related activities at Bayreuth University are reported on in the pages of this issue.

just mentioned were currently generating new departures and facing new challenges. So far, at the threshold of a new and promising year, we may say that these changes are very prom-

ising and that the challenges are being successfully met; but much work is still ahead. Let me therefore give a few glimpses of some significant new initiatives that are currently underway in Bayreuth African Studies.

Most energy is currently being

Sharpening the thematic profile of Africa-related research

file of Africa-related research in Bayreuth. Multiplicity is a great strength in academia, as in Africa itself. But discussions among Bayreuth Africanists have also shown a remarkable potential for synergies between disciplines and methodological

approaches around a number of common research themes that are now being more explicitly defined. The aim is to establish vantage points for new, cross-cutting perspectives on Africa between seemingly distant strands of African research: the different social sciences, language and literature studies, the geo-sciences, or even medical and technical sciences. There is also a growing

New steps in cooperation and networking

awareness that insights gained in Africa and other parts of the “global south” are relevant to the so-called mainstream of our disciplines, with its focus on the Euro-Atlantic north. New thematic perspectives, at any rate, are conducive to closer cooperation both within and beyond Bayreuth University, and to new coordinated research programmes. More details on the development of Bayreuth’s African research profile will appear in the next issue of NAB, and on the IAS website.

Cooperation and networking is another area in which the IAS has taken new steps in 2010. In August, a top-level delegation from Bordeaux, headed by the

www.ias.uni-bayreuth.de/de/degree_courses/ba_ma/

President of Aquitaine, visited Bayreuth to pave the way for a more comprehensive and intensive cooperation between the two universities, and notably their Centres for African Studies (see report, in this issue). In early October, the president of Bayreuth University, Rüdiger Bormann visited Kenya, accompanied by a mixed delegation from African Studies. Happily, during the president’s stay there, news came in that a new cooperation project between Bayreuth and its part-

initiative started by the IAS (notably Christina Ahr and Gerd Ulrich Bauer). On all these events, reports can be found in this issue. One news item remains to be added. Africa-related networking activities, notably the Alumni initiative, have resulted in the creation of a new comprehensive, web-based communication platform “Africa Network University of Bayreuth” (ANUB), which will hopefully go online very soon.

Finally, besides research and cooperation, there is a growing

Degree courses in African Studies are a valuable asset

ner Moi University at Eldoret on “New ICT Strategies for the Enhancement of Higher Education Management” (SEED) had been granted by the DAAD – the youngest of the IAS-affiliated institutions. And in November, another workshop for African alumni took place in Bayreuth (after one in Buea, Cameroon, and another one in Eldoret, Kenya, earlier this year), as tangible and very encouraging achievements of the alumni networking

awareness that undergraduate and graduate teaching in African Studies are valuable assets that deserve more publicity and further development even at IAS level. One important step in this direction has been the establishment of an information platform on all Africa-related degree courses (BA and MA) offered at Bayreuth University, with a regular update of the entire study programme.

Achim von Oppen

International Symposium of the



From 17th to 20th February 2010, the Institute for African Studies in Bayreuth hosted a Grantees' Symposium of the Initiative "Knowledge for Tomorrow – Cooperative Research Projects in Sub-Saharan Africa", funded by the Volkswagen Foundation (VWS). With more than 130 researchers from 15 African countries, and some 50 cooperation partners and referees etc. from German universities, the Symposium was the biggest Africa-related conference that has taken place at Bayreuth University so far.

The aim of the "Africa Initiative", initiated by the VWS in 2003, is the development and reinforcement of research in Sub-Saharan Africa, with a strong focus on the promotion of junior scholars' and academic networks in Africa (see interview next to this report). The Grantees' Meeting 2010 in Bayreuth provided the forum for the presentation and evaluation of eight project groups in the social sciences and humanities funded under this programme, following the two Calls for Projects: "Political, Economic and Social Dynamics" and "Violence, its Impact and Coping Strate-

gies". Each of these projects brings together a group of young African scholars from various disciplines, who are supervised and organised by African as well as German senior scholars and

In 2009, the Volkswagen Foundation had chosen the Institute of African Studies at the University of Bayreuth, represented by its directors Dieter Neubert and Achim von Oppen, as host

These projects bring together a group of young African scholars from various disciplines.

coordinators. Subsequent symposia at Witzhausen and Hamburg addressed projects related to Calls for medical, agricultural and natural science research projects.

and organiser of its Grantees' Symposium on the humanities and social sciences. In a press statement, Wilhelm Krull, VWS General Secretary of the Volkswagen Foundation, underlined

Volkswagen Foundation's "Africa Initiative"

◀ *Workgroup meeting during symposium*

Keynote speeches ▶

the international importance of Bayreuth University as an outstanding location for African studies in Germany. The success of the university's consequent policy of strengthening this profile is exemplified not only in its graduate school BIGSAS but also by the prominence Bayreuth has in coordinated research programmes such as the VWS Initiative "Knowledge for Tomorrow": Three out of the eight socio-political projects are



scholars from Africa, together with German research coordinators and project group directors, were invited to the Symposium

tracted numerous guests from the various Africa-related departments on the campus: the gathering of more than 130 African researchers in Bayreuth was also of considerable interest to the media. At the official opening session, to which the public was admitted, journalists from several national and regional radio stations were present, and their reports and interviews subsequently went out on air.

international importance of Bayreuth University as an outstanding location for African studies

located in Bayreuth (see box).

Junior scholars, most of them from Africa, and many in Europe for the first time, were at the core of the symposium. The meeting provided them with an opportunity to present their ongoing research, to exchange experiences with colleagues within and beyond their mostly transnational project groups, and to build and deepen networks for future research cooperation. Junior scholars, country coordinators and associated senior

to present and discuss the projects in the presence of a number of external referees and evaluators of the programme. Also present were representatives of the Foundation itself. Among the latter were General Secretary Wilhelm Krull and Adelheid Wessler, responsible for projects in the fields of the humanities and social sciences. On the occasion of the Symposium, an interim evaluation of the programme as a whole was carried out.

The Symposium not only at-

mostly transnational project groups

Words of welcome by the President of Bayreuth University, Rüdiger Bormann, and by representatives from IAS and Volkswagen Foundation, were followed by keynote speeches by

Projects participating ...

...in the Volkswagen Foundation's Third Grantees' Symposium in Bayreuth, February 2010 and their coordinating institutions:

"Belief in the Paranormal and Occult: Its Influence on the Socio-Political, Economic and Religious Life in West Africa in the Era of Globalization"; University of Bayreuth (Tobias Wendl)

"Governance and Social Action in Sudan after the Peace Agreement of January 2005"; University of Bremen

"Local Strategies of Conflict Management in Guinea-Bissau"; University of Bayreuth (Georg Klute,), with the Guinea-Bissau National Institute for Studies and Research (INEP)

"Reconciliation and Social Conflict in the Aftermath of large-scale Violence in Southern Africa: the cases of Angola and Namibia"; Bergsträsser Institute Freiburg

"Shari'a debates and their perception by Christians and Muslims in selected African countries"; University of Bayreuth (Franz Kogelmann)

"States at Work. Public Services and Civil Servants in West Africa: Education and Justice in Benin, Ghana, Mali and Niger"; University of Mainz

"Travelling Models in Conflict Management"; University of Halle.

"Urban Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa: It's Impacts, Coping Strategies and Peace Building"; Technical University Darmstadt



▲ Poster session

top left: Symposium opening at Iwalewa House

top right: Katharina Zöller co-ordinator of Symposium

bottom left: Discussing projects

bottom right: Sightseeing in Bayreuth

Mahaman Tidjani Alou (LASDEL, Niamey) and Christopher Cramer (SOAS, London). Subsequently, a lively poster session took place in the conference's main location, the *Studentenwerk* plenary hall. The diversity of the participants meeting in Bayreuth was demonstrated not only by their different disciplinary backgrounds, research experiences and countries of origin, but also by the variety of their languages. Therefore, simultaneous translation was offered during the plenary sessions, whilst in some other sections communication was facilitated by translation by multilingual speakers.

The Grantees' Symposium comprised sessions for the re-

were invited to join the presentations to add their comments.

bringing together researchers from different project groups and functions

spective project groups, and also parallel workshops for discussion of general issues concerning the "Africa Initiative". One day was devoted entirely to parallel presentations and discussion of individual research results within the various project groups. Discussants from other projects within the same Call

Parallel workshops discussed their experiences with key aspects of the Funding Initiative and their realisation in the project work, notably the integration of societal stakeholders, South-South networks between African partners, North-South cooperation between African and German partners, and the



promotion of young scholars. The openness of the debates, in which individual experiences as well as general observations were expressed, was enhanced by a random selection of participants, bringing together researchers from different project groups and functions. To address the specific concerns and suggestions of the different status groups, another session subdivided the participants into groups of juniors, seniors and coordinators. The results of each of these group sessions were shared with the plenary.

The pleasant atmosphere of the symposium was both ena-

bled and enjoyed not only by its participants, but also by the Organising Team. Preparations in Bayreuth had started more than half a year in advance and, with such a high number of guests from abroad, notably from Africa, constituted quite a challenge. 15 students from Africa-related courses in Bayreuth assisted the organisers during the Symposium. On this occasion, the students could also utilise their interests in Africa-related topics and exercise their language skills.

Finally, the guests were offered a number of experiences of Bayreuth beyond the campus. An

Opening Reception took place at Iwalewa House; Bayreuth's culinary culture was tested at the "Aktienkeller", and, for those who could cope with the rather uncomfortable temperatures, guided city tours through snow-covered Bayreuth were available on the last day of the symposium.

Thanks to the participants, to the Volkswagen Foundation and to the possibilities Bayreuth can offer, the Symposium was a highly inspiring experience of research not only "on" Africa but "with" African researchers – a concern that is very much at home in Bayreuth University.

(Katharina Zöller)

“Knowledge for tomorrow”

In February 2010, one of the largest academic events relating to African research took place on the Bayreuth University campus. The Institute for African Studies of Bayreuth University hosted the second Status Symposium of the Volkswagen Foundation for their 2003-founded support initiative “Knowledge for tomorrow – co-operative research projects in Sub-Saharan Africa”.

The “Africa Initiative” of the Volkswagen Foundation, the promotion of young academics in Africa and the co-operation between German and African universities were among the subjects of an interview held with Wilhelm Krull, secretary general of the Volkswagen Foundation, and Achim von Oppen, managing director of the Institute for African Studies (IAS) of the University of Bayreuth. The interviewer was Christian Wißler M.A., Department of Research Marketing of Bayreuth University. (Please go to <http://www.uni-bayreuth.de/blick-in-die-forschung/03-2010.pdf> for the complete version of the interview in German).

Dr. Krull, as the secretary general of the Volkswagen Foundation, you coordinated and accompanied the “Africa Initiative” from the start. How did the concept evolve? What objectives and expectations does it have?

Wilhelm Krull: Essentially, two experiences in the 1990s prompted us nearly ten years ago to think about a new configuration of our offers of assistance with Sub-Saharan Africa in mind. Initially, there was the personal experience: After my involvement in the transformation of academia and research in former East Germany as an academic council member and heading the re-structuring of the Akademie der Wissenschaften of the GDR in particular, the South African Government asked me whether I was able to provide advisory support in terms of concept regarding an evaluation and restructuring of South African research facilities after the end of apartheid. In 1998, I was actively involved in this process as an advisor. This enabled me to get to know the economic system there via my own observations and a lot of personal contacts. The second expe-

rience related to a development programme, which had been back then offered by the Volkswagen Foundation for nearly 30 years. The programme’s aim was to assist the co-operation between German academics and partners in the developing countries. Due to the fact that this programme offered support for relatively short periods, the assistance of the Volkswagen Foundation was often used as a stepping stone to move to the Anglo-Saxon countries. For this reason, we said by the end of the 1990s: We need to create an entirely new assistance programme, which complements the “research about Africa” (that was outstandingly well developed in some German institutions) with a strong “research with Africa” component. We intended to create an assistance basis whereby symmetrical research partnerships could prosper between Germany and Africa. This kind of co-operation should begin with a co-operative definition of the research topics, continue by the carrying out of projects where

the responsibilities are shared, and encompass joint publications.

Based on these experiences and conceptual considerations, the new “Africa Initiative” “Knowledge for tomorrow” came about in 2003. The Volkswagen Foundation’s major objective was and is to assist and support young academics.

Promoting young academics in Africa:

Thwarting the African brain drain

Are you under the impression that the “Africa Initiative” has succeeded so far in countering the African brain drain?

W.K.: Well, naturally you can never prevent individuals from leaving their homeland to opt for a career outwith Africa. However we can note a clear tendency that a growing number of young African academics are willing to contribute to strengthening the economic systems in their respective home countries. They want to advance Africa through personal commitment and therefore contribute to improving the local conditions. We



Research about Africa with young academics in Africa

now observe that our initiative with its long-term support of projects is an incentive to stay in Africa. Therefore the initiative, within its limitations, is on a good path to countering an African brain drain. It is however premature to make any final conclusions; a lot of research projects are not yet completed. We will work towards ensuring that the best PhD students, who are currently being assisted in such projects, receive continued support via post doc fellowships, so that they can grow into responsible positions in academia, economy and society. In the forthcoming years, this method of supporting young academics will be a major focus of the entire "Africa Initiative".

We know from experience that academia in Germany will also benefit from such long-term investments in individuals.

Achim von Oppen: From my point of view, it is vital that the young academics not only receive an excellent academic education, but also remain in Africa long-term and thereby strengthen the academic institutions in particular, for the African initiative to succeed. Africa has a great number of promising talents, requiring two-fold support: There is the academic infrastructure on the one hand, ranging from literature and quick internet access, to personal exchange at international conferences. On the other hand, academics in Africa need the ma-

▲ *Wilhelm Krull, Secretary general of the Volkswagen Foundation*

terial preconditions for a professional existence. Many African colleagues spend a great deal of their working day with part-time jobs to secure their livelihood. And the majority of African countries do not provide native research promotion.

In my opinion, only long-term research co-operations will succeed in strengthening academic capacities in Africa. In this context one shouldn't just think in terms of national borders. Because one can observe interesting intra-African migration processes that may have quite a positive effect on education and research.

Think and act as a constellation of stakeholders

How does the Volkswagen Foundation go about finding its "Africa Initiative's" range of topics, whose projects are all close to imminent problems and challenges? And how does the Volkswagen Foundation assist in the transfer of research results into relevant areas of practice?

W.K.: The independent positioning of the Volkswagen Foundation determines the processes as well in which the subject areas for future promotional projects are outlined. The Volkswagen Foundation organises open bargaining processes, where competent representatives of academia, economy and society take equal part. The search for topics normally starts by having talks with experts in our house – however we do emphasise integration with local African voices at this early stage, as opposed to the time when a subject area has already been defined and a bid has been sent into the wider world.

You need to consider though that the Volkswagen Foundation is a foundation which solely promotes academic study. Hence we are able to contribute to the publication of research results, but have a limited influence on the application and use of the results. It is however an essential aspect of our policy from the outset to think and act as a constellation of stakeholders. The Volkswagen Foundation therefore also invites leaders of organisations who are involved in related fields (for example the GTZ, the German Society for Technical Co-operation, and the SIDA, the Swedish International Development Agency, to name just two)

to the expert talks, from which finding an academic subject areas begins. In this manner, it is ensured that the flow of information and, frequently, personal contacts with important parties are set out in the early stages of the development projects in such a way that the research results do not end up in no man's land.

Changes of the politics concerning African development and academia

How are education and research in African countries assessed by the governments? Do they recognise factors in academia and therefore in state universities that are crucial for the future development of their countries – in particular for promoting the economy and technology?

A.v.O.: After the end of the colonial era, during the 1960s and 70s, academic and higher education policy were considered very important by the African governments. They intended to strengthen the performance of their now sovereign countries, educating an elite. This also affected researchers from abroad. At the time in Zambia and Tanzania, we had to undergo a complex procedure in order to receive a research permit. The crucial question was: Do the planned projects result in something of benefit to the country? The African governments wanted to prevent foreign academics from using their countries merely as "data quarries".

The situation changed after the 1980s. The international pressure to fight debt overload



▲ Achim von Oppen, Director of IAS

– the provisions of the International Monetary Fund in particular – frequently prompted the governments to reduce or at best freeze state benefits in the policy of development and academia. At the same time, there is an increasing need for well-educated professionals everywhere in Africa. Not only does this need apply to the fields of medicine, science and technology, but also to social science and the humanities. Expertise was and is sought to assist in overcoming enormous social turmoil, promoting national consciousness, and providing orientation in the realm of civil society. People now begin by not just appreciating hard statistics, but also looking at interpretative frameworks, ethnicity and intercultural processes, as studied by historians, ethnologists or literary academics.

The Volkswagen Foundation with its "Africa Initiative" also aims to promote intra-African networks within academia. Can you see initial successes in this area?

W.K.: Indeed; it is not just important to us to build contacts

Intra-African network of young academics

Approaching a sustainable structure

between North and South. Such contacts are continually consolidated in part by large research projects within DFG-Collaborative Research Centres or by other third-party funding. The development policy of the Volkswagen Foundation strongly aims to bring North-South contacts between German and African research partners into a new symmetry long-term, simultaneously stimulating South-South co-operations. In the "Africa Initiative", we strove from the outset to promote young academics from various African countries within the same projects, thereby supporting their intra-African contacts. Today, it looks as if we've been pretty successful in doing that. The goal of the next level is to give this kind of young academics' network a sustainable structure.

Diverse cultures of academia, a common understanding of science

Development programmes such as the "Africa Initiative" bring together young academics that sometimes differ greatly in culture, language, tradition and educational systems. Is the impression correct that the research partners from Germany and African countries nevertheless agree in their basic concept of science?

A.v.O.: This is true. The academic concept shaped by the Enlightenment as well as a West-

oriented university system are also well-established in Africa – despite national differences that partly originated in the fact that the establishment of the educational systems during colonial times was oriented towards the respective "mother lands". This orientation can also be observed in the recent creation of a number of universities and research institutes that are run under the auspices of social (mainly religious) or private sponsorship – also as a reaction to the aforementioned neglect of state universities. So we see in Africa an abundance of different academic and campus cultures, with a simultaneous orientation towards a Western-rooted understanding of science.

Germany – an attractive university location

Bayreuth – an international centre of research of Africa

to other European countries, there is still a language problem in relation to the attractiveness of programmes to young academics. Moreover degrees from British, French or American universities continue to have a comparatively high prestige in Africa. What makes German universities particularly attractive, as African students have repeatedly told me, is that they have often found a better supervisory system than anywhere else. Besides I have repeatedly heard African PhD students in Bayreuth say that they encounter an easy-going, friendly atmosphere.

However I would like to draw attention to another benefit: In Germany, young academics experience more multi-lateral support than in other countries. The co-operation with universities and support organisations from other European countries

is particularly well-promoted. This applies especially to the research of Africa, of which Bayreuth has an internationally renowned centre.

W.K.: This European dimension is also of vital importance to the research support of the Volkswagen Foundation. We are working more closely with other large foundations in Europe. So we try with these intra-European co-operations to open up new perspectives to young academics in Africa, therefore establishing a Europe-wide responsibility for furthering the development of academia in Africa.

New Status Quo of BIGSAS

70 Junior Fellows and five successful defences

Particularly good news at the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies is the successful submission and defence of dissertations: five Junior Fellows, namely Dida Badi (Algeria), supervised by Georg Klute, Germain Nyada (Cameroon), supervised by Ute Fendler, Tsévi Dodounou (Togo), also supervised by Ute Fendler, Clarissa Vierke (Germany), supervised by Said Khamis and Tebarek Lika Megento (Ethiopia), supervised by Beate Lohnert, successfully completed and defended their dissertations. In addition, Kristin Kastner (Germany) who has been supervised by Kurt Beck, has also submitted her thesis and awaits the evaluations.

The number of Junior Fellows again grew again considerably.

Since winter term 2009, BIGSAS has had two selection procedures: one in January 2010 and one following a special call in September 2010. For the two procedures BIGSAS received in total 65 eligible applications from applicants of 22 different nationalities. 46 candidates applied from countries in Africa, 17 applicants were European citizens; one application came from the United States of America and one from Mexico.

The number of applications and the wide range of applicants, in terms of nationality and citizenship, reflect the international perception and attractiveness of the Graduate School. Within the wide range of applicants BIGSAS observes a growing number of young African academics who recently graduated from German

and other European Universities and who want to continue their training within BIGSAS.

Currently the International Graduate School numbers 70 Junior Fellows, of which 65 are admitted at BIGSAS and 5 are attending a preparatory course. In total, 40 Junior Fellows are citizens of African countries and 31 Junior Fellows are European citizens.

There is complete equality in the overall gender ratio, with 35 male Junior Fellows to 35 females. Nevertheless, with regard to nationality, an imbalance becomes visible: out of the 40 Junior Fellows with African citizenship, 29 are male and only 11 are female; out of the Junior Fellows from non-African (mostly European) countries the ratio is 7 male to 24 female Junior Fellows.

▼ *Juliana Macek during field research in Tanzania (Photo: Macek)*



First guest junior fellow

During the winter term 2010/11 BIGSAS welcomed a first guest junior fellow, Juliana Franca Macek from the Department of Linguistics at the University of Sao Paulo (Brazil). After a BA on Portuguese and English and their literatures, Juliana Macek obtained a Masters degree in Linguistics at her home university with an MA thesis on the aspects of linguistic politeness in 2007. Since 2008 she has been participating in a doctoral program at Sao Paulo extending her MA topic into the investigation of youth language(s) and language change in the urban centers of Tanzania. Juliana Macek is currently working within the framework of the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies and is affiliated also to the Chair of African Linguistics I (Niger Congo) where she participates in courses and research activities concerning the study of the Swahili language and topics in sociolinguistics.

Double-degree and Sandwich Programmes for joint training and mentoring

Vice Chancellor of Bayreuth University visits BIGSAS Partner University

Shortly before the winter semester, Rüdiger Bormann, Vice Chancellor of Bayreuth University, took the chance to visit Moi University, one of the five Partner Universities of BIGSAS, with a delegation from the Institute of African Studies, IAS, and BIGSAS. He summarised the visit as follows: "Bayreuth University connects continents by inter-culturally training young promising academics and fosters multi-disciplinary research in the humanities by challenging different cultural perspectives." In order to strengthen research and training collaboration between the institutions, Vice-Chancellor Bormann signed documents which support the implementation of double degrees between the universities and foster sandwich programmes and innovative IT-structures that allow video-conferencing and streamlining of lectures in order to share teaching potential.

The Vice-Chancellor was accompanied by Ute Fendler, founding Dean of BIGSAS and Vice Director of the Institute of African Studies, IAS, Ulf Vierke, Director of Iwalewa-Haus and Head of the Digital Archive of Bayreuth African Studies, DEVA, Christine Scherer, Coordinator of BIGSAS, and IT-Manager Mathias Endres. Bormann and his colleague Vice Chancellor Richard Mibey exchanged experiences of university management. During the visit, many further aspects of higher education management were touched on, in particular the general support of guiding specific research profiles at higher education institutions, relevant



▲ *The management of Moi University and the BIGSAS delegation in front of the main building. In the centre: VC Ruediger Bormann, UBT and VC Richard Mibey, Moi University. (Photo: MU/BIGSAS)*

Proud of another step forward: The VCs after signing. (Photo: MU/BIGSAS)



strategies and development of competitive training structures, and aspects of international research and training collaboration.

More than 22,000 students are currently registered at Moi University, which was founded in 1984 and can be seen as a good example for the higher education landscapes on the continent of Africa. The increasing need and immense demand for Higher Education is confronted by a limited number of staff. Fundamental research questions are opposed by limited research budgets. Nevertheless, excellent research and training are the main pillars that characterise Moi University, which is committed to providing quality in nurturing innovation and talent.

In the field of common training and mentoring, both Mibey

and Bormann, as representatives of their respective universities, see the enterprise of BIGSAS as a straight path of successfully advancing collaboration for the challenges of tomorrow. „The concept of the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies with the close cooperation of its partners sets an example“, explained Vice Chancellor Bormann. "It establishes standards in intercultural and joint training and supervision as such, double degrees as well as joint lectures via the internet." Vice Chancellor Richard Mibey commented on this during a radio interview in the following way: "Such an endeavour creates excellent synergies for future academic collaboration between Africa and Europe."

Christine Scherer

Successful Workshop in Africa

Subjects of Writing – Writing the Subject

Since 2007 BIGSAS has been working with five Partner Universities in Africa. One of them is the University of KwaZulu-Natal, UKZN, where the Postdoc Amber Gemmeke, the former BIGSAS-Postdoc Viviane Azarian and the Partner Universities' Coordinator of BIGSAS, Ute Fendler, held a workshop from 29th April until 1st May 2010. The well-accepted workshop „Subjects of Writing – Writing the Subject“ was jointly organised by the Graduate School and the colleagues in South Africa of BIGSAS-PU coordinator Lindy Stiebel.

Together with the four Junior Fellows, Maroua El-Naggare, Samuel Ndogo, Katharina Fink and Nadine Siegert, they had three days of inspiring discussions with professors and with Bachelors, Masters and PhD students in Durban. The hosts of the University of UKZN prepared something special for the visitors from BIGSAS: an art exhibition which was the result of cooperation between the university and artists of the Kalahari. Additionally, a Masters student of the Faculty of Communication, Culture and Media displayed and explained his short movie. Another highlight was the performance of a play, which was arranged in English and Zulu by a group of UKZN students and professional actors. This workshop strengthened the relationship of BIGSAS and its Partner University; a future academic exchange is already scheduled.

Group photograph of the participants of the workshop after three days of intensive exchange on „Subjects of Writing – Writing the Subject“ at the BIGSAS-Partner University of KwaZulu-Natal. ▶



▲ Main building of the University of Kwa-Zulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa



Entre Ordre et Instabilité

Cultures, espaces et langues dans les Afriques en transition: International Colloquium in Abomey-Calavi, Benin, du 20 au 23 septembre 2010

The international colloquium «Entre Ordre et Instabilité: Cultures, espaces et langues dans les Afriques en transition» took place at the University of Abomey-Calavi, one of the BIGSAS Partner Universities, between 20th and 23rd September 2010. The colloquium, which was organised by the University of Abomey-Calavi in close collaboration with BIGSAS, aimed for an academic exchange between young and established scholars from the Partner Universities, members of BIGSAS and other participants. Students and scholars from Benin, Togo, Nigeria, Germany, Kenya, Morocco and Belgium covered a wide range of disciplines and research topics. The contributions included, among others, an anthropological analysis of communicative patterns among road traffic users of Benin's capital Cotonou,



presentations on contemporary arts in Africa and a linguistic lecture on the Pan African Language Agenda. The presentations and the organisation of the conference provided for vivid exchanges between the participants and for a further deepening of the successful cooperation between

▲ *The delegation of BIGSAS: C. Scherer (BIGSAS), N. Shitemi (representative of the Moi University), J. Martin (BIGSAS), K. Chegraoui (representative of the Université Mohammed V-Agdal, Rabat), S. Bello, M. von Roncador, E. Alber, M. Bakpa (all BIGSAS) (Photo: Univ. Abomey-Calavi)*

BIGSAS and its five Partner Universities. *Jeannett Martin*

DFG launches Image Video of BIGSAS



The characteristic Bayreuth credo of “Research about Africa with Africa” is now also visible in a film realised by the German Research Foundation (DFG) in close collaboration with BIGSAS Junior Fellows. The DFG started two years ago to portray each of their Centres of Excellence projects and has now recorded an image video about the Graduate School. In order ensure a perfect representation, BIGSAS worked closely with the University of Bayreuth and a professional media agency. The video is on the internet (www.exzellenz-initiative.de/uni-bayreuth-african-studies) and informs by examples of three different research projects, those of Junior Fellows Christian Ungruhe, Serah Kiragu and Maroua El-Naggare, reflecting the different aspects of research, training and mentoring within the BIGSAS' structures.



BIGSAS in Town

Graduate School the most international place in Bayreuth

In July 2010, the 5th Afrika-Karibik-Festival took place and the organisers invited BIGSAS to present the Graduate School at this occasion. BIGSAS participated in several activities under the label “BIGSAS in Town”. The aim was to inform the citizens of Bayreuth, and visitors to the festival from all over Franconia, about the Graduate School: probably the most international place in Bayreuth.

BIGSAS staff members and Fellows organised a stall and rooms equipped with a poster exhibi-

tion about the Graduate School, its Junior Fellows and their research projects, as well as a quiz with prizes. A BIGSAS Junior Fellow read African fairy tales to children and a percussion workshop for juveniles was offered. A student assistant working for BIGSAS presented her documentary about theatre in Cameroon. A particular highlight was the presentation by Veye Tatah, the editor-in-chief of the magazine “Africa Positive” and a guest of BIGSAS, who described her vision of a new image of Africa in Europe.

▲ Training on drums by Urbain N'Dakon (Photo: BIGSAS)

▼ Veye Tatah and Deans of BIGSAS (Photo: BIGSAS)



▼ Children playing drums (Photo: BIGSAS)



▼ BIGSAS informs (Photo: BIGSAS)



Third Advisory Board Meeting of BIGSAS

A Year of Stabilisation and prospectiveness

This year's meeting of the Advisory Board of BIGSAS took place on November 21, 2010. After the first year, the 'set-up phase', and the second year, the 'phase of consolidation', the agenda for the third Advisory Board was again to evaluate the developments of the last twelve months of the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies.

In the annual report of 2009/2010, the third year of existence was described as the 'year of stabilisation and prospectiveness'. Since its start in 2007, the



▼ *Dymitr Ibrizimow, dean of BIGSAS, Hans-Werner Schmidt, Deputy vice-chancellor of the University of Bayreuth, member of BIGSAS Advisory Board; Achim von Oppen, Director of IAS, member of BIGSAS Advisory Board; Jean Comaroff, University of Chicago, member of BIGSAS Advisory Board (Photos: BIGSAS)*



institution has now reached a stage in its development where the procedures are in place. In addition, BIGSAS is gaining momentum as it is being approached by internal and external research groups and research institutions looking for the possibility of being involved in the research and training of the Graduate School in the field of African Studies.

Three members commended the Academic Committee for the objectives it had already

achieved and commented on sensitive issues yet to be focussed on in order to further improve the institution with its present 70 doctoral students. The external advisor and two internal advisors, namely Jean Comaroff, Chicago, Hans-Werner Schmidt, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research, Bayreuth, and Achim von Oppen, Director of the Institute of African Studies at Bayreuth University, met formally during the one-day meeting with all sta-

tus groups in BIGSAS in order to develop their own picture of the situation. Wole Soyinka, second external advisor, was not able to attend the meeting this year. Special guests at this year's Advisory Board meeting were Naomi Shitemi and Eunice Kamaara from Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya, who attended the DAAD Alumni-Conference during the same week and contributed their impressions on the year under report.

PhD Publications in BIGSAS

The following Junior Fellows in the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies have published their PHD theses in the Bayreuth publication series Beiträge zur Afrikaforschung:

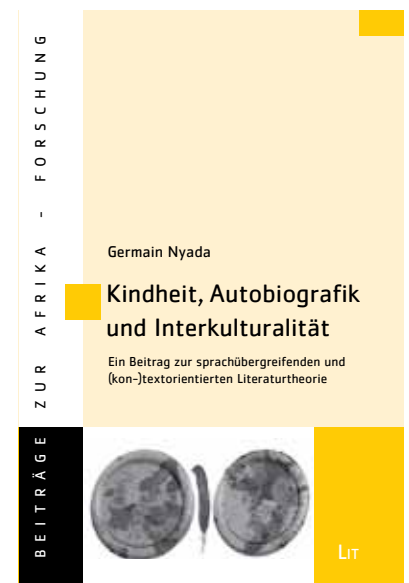
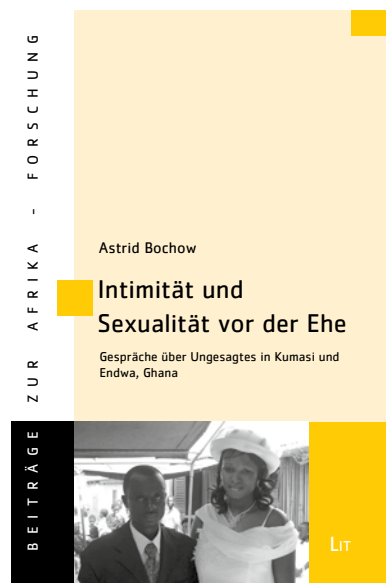
Boukari, Oumarou (2010): Articulation du discours dans le songhay. Une analyse des con-

nnecteurs dans le discours des Songhay-Zarmas émigrés en Côte d'Ivoire. Beiträge zur Afrikaforschung, Bd. 42. Münster: LIT Verlag.

Bochow, Astrid (2010) : Intimität und Sexualität vor der Ehe. Gespräche über Ungesagtes in Kumasi und Endwa, Ghana. Be-

iträge zur Afrikaforschung, Bd. 44. Münster: LIT Verlag.

Nyada, Germain (2010) : Kindheit, Autobiografik und Interkulturalität. Ein Beitrag zur sprachübergreifenden und (kon-)textorientierten Literaturtheorie. Beiträge zur Afrikaforschung, Bd. 46. Münster: LIT Verlag.



BIGSAS Works!

The BIGSAS Ph.D. candidates Antje Daniel, Lena Kroeker, Jaana Schütze, Katharina Fink and Julia Boger have created a promising publication project called "BIGSAS Works!". The publication of the online journal appears in the IAS-Series "Working Papers". Each volume contains miscellaneous thematic areas; in the first one, on „Gender Aspects in Africa“, these are regarded from different theoretical and empirical perspectives. The questions which are raised are ‘how is the current relationship between women and men concerning work, family, education, religion or health issues?’. Observations on ‘How women are presented in the media, in linguistics or literature’ are also critically discussed. This outcome of common or overlapping interests of the Junior Fellows offers a vital publication platform. At the same time the changing coordinators of the project are able to gain experience in the editing process in supervising the 2 or 3 issues per annum.. Further planned topics are “Uncertainty and Trust“ and “Migration and Transnationalism“.

Christophe Ndabananiye

Traces: Paintings – Installation – Video

Iwalewa House
29 April to 5 September

From April till September 2010 the German-Rwandan artist Christophe Ndabananiye presented his latest works. He studied at the École d'Art de Nyundo in Rwanda, the Hochschule der Bildenden Künste in Saarbrücken and the École Supérieure des Beaux Arts on the island of Réunion. Today he lives and works in Berlin.

In his installation "The Shoes", he uses the language of painting as well as that of installation. In the centre of the room are shoes which reflect the artist's social network with their object biographies. He presents the "personal" object as a contrast to the "impersonal" in painting. The room is arranged in such a way that it is itself a stage and thus also a part of the installation.

Ndabananiye's lacquer pictures in the series "Traces", "Self Portraits" and "Joella", are related to the meta-theme of traces. By applying layers of lacquer and oil paint to a wooden surface before the previous layer has completely hardened, he slows the whole drying process down. The result is a constantly changing and wrinkling surface – like human skin when it ages. The work "lives" and changes. His pictures create an archive of imagined pictorial traces,



▲ *Christophe Ndabananiye, Traces, 2010*

which, in a biographical sense, contain aspects of change, aging, renewal and memory.

Ndabananiye's exhibition

was for him also a (temporary) return to Bayreuth, where he spent his first years in Germany.

Curator: Anna Schrade



Johan Thom

becoming, binding & disappearing

a selection of video works

Iwalewa-House,
29 April - 5 September.

Johan Thom is a South African visual artist working with the body as the primary subject material. This is the first time that a comprehensive selection of his videos and video installations are being shown together.

Well-known for his performances, videos and video installations, Thom often subjects the body to extremes in a quest to map its ongoing transformation. His works are both enigmatic and playful, subverting preconceived notions about identity, the body, politics and knowledge.

Thom is part of the generation of South Africans born in 1976, the year of the Soweto riots and of the introduction of television in South Africa. This age group coincidentally exercised for the first time their right to vote in the democratic elections of 1994. This generation of South African artists stand precariously balanced between the past and the present of South African society, its culture

and history. In this regard Thom's works do not fit comfortably into the celebratory mould of the 'new' South Africa. But, rather, his work is anchored in a constant personal movement through, and exploration of, the contradictory poetics and politics of being a 'white-male-Afrikaans-speaking-African'. His artistic position is somewhere between a modern day shaman and a traditional court jester. The result is a darkly humorous and provocative artistic exploration of the relationship between subjectivity, knowledge and materiality. The exhibition includes a number of large-scale video projections and installations such as Challenging mud - after Kazuo Shiraga (2008), a video projection displayed on a thin layer of flour placed on the floor and showing the artist being buried alive with his body covered in gold leaf; Theory of displacement (2007/8), a massive immersive environment consisting of three video projections in which the artist lies tarred and feathered in a natural spring

situated in the area known as the Cradle of Humankind, South Africa; and a new large-scale installation titled Blood Rites (2010) showing the extreme close-up movement of the artist's face and hands as he places 50 individually engraved razor blades in his mouth, chewing and spitting them out, all projected onto a number of thick rope lengths hanging from the ceiling. Other video works featured in the exhibition include Outpost 4 (2008), Terms of endearment (2007), bind/ont-bind (2002/3), Theory of Evolution (2006) and The pencil test (2003), among others.

This solo exhibition is supplemented by the screening of Terrorizing the concept of meaning - Conversations with Johan Thom, a 43-minute documentary film produced by Iwalewa Haus and the Federal German Research Council and made by Thorolf Lipp and Tobias Wendl following extensive interaction with the artist over the course of the past two years.

Curator: Ulf Vierke

I W A L E W A - H A U S

22. April bis 04. Juli 2010

SOMOS IRMÃOS

Fotografien der angolanischen
Fotografenfamilie Pinto Afonso



Vernissage: Donnerstag, 22. April 2010, 19 Uhr

Iwalewa-Haus, Afrikazentrum der Universität Bayreuth

Münzgasse 9, 95444 Bayreuth

09 21 / 55 46 00

iwalewa.uni-bayreuth.de

Öffnungszeiten: Dienstag bis Sonntag 14 bis 18 Uhr

In Kooperation mit:



GOETHE-INSTITUT
ANGOLA





▲ Photo: José Antonio, "Carneval", Luanda, ca.1978

Somos Irmãos – We are brothers.

The Angolan photographer family of Pinto Afonso

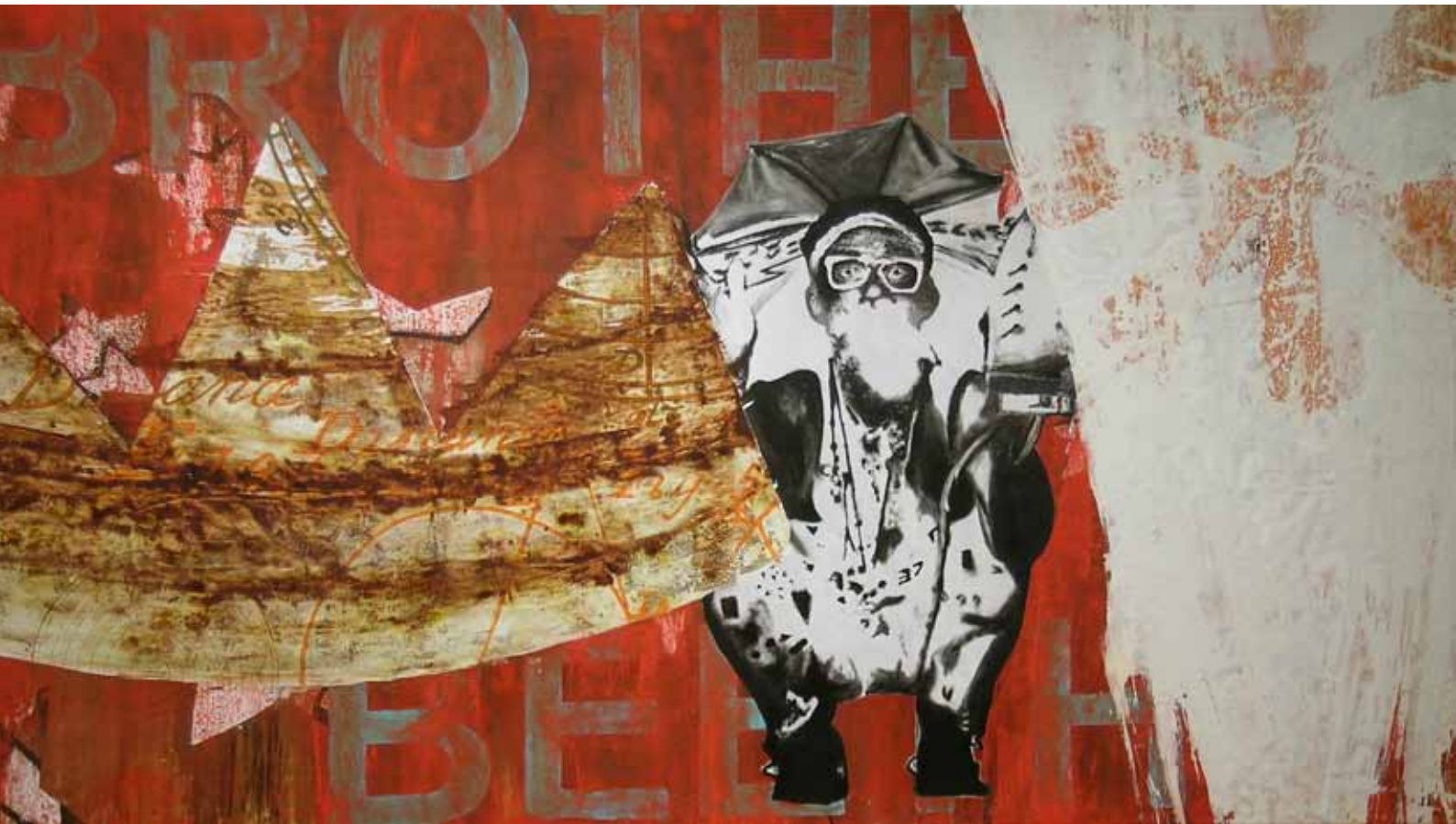
Iwalewa House
29 April to 14 July

In Luau, the Angolan-Congolese border town on the legendary Benguela railway, Zé Antonio opened the first photo studio in the region in 1968. Today, after four decades of civil war, there is not much left of Luau. But Foto Ngufo has survived, and after a number of intermediate situations, it is located today in the Angolan capital of Luanda. The three brothers Zé António, Ruy and Joaquim Pinto Afonso are all professional photographers, each in a different field and each with his own style. Their enthusiasm for the craft of photography has been handed down to their children. Today, the sons Sérgio and Rogério

are among the best fashion and advertising photographers in Angola.

The exhibition contains photographs by the three older brothers and their sons Sérgio and Rogério, from early studio portraits, or unique documents of the carnival in Luanda in the 1970s, to photographs by the younger generation. The latter focus on urban youth and the spirit of optimism after the end of the war, but also show the photographers' almost astonished view of their own country and its people outside of Luanda.

Curator: Fabian Lehmann



▲ Daniel Kojo, *afronauts*, 2008

AfroSat I

Daniel Kojo and Philip Metz

Iwalewa- House
15 July to 27 August

In the summer semester of 2010, the artist Daniel Kojo, Professor of Art at Hampshire College, USA, was Visiting Professor and Artist in Residence at Iwalewa House. In cooperation with students at the University of Bayreuth, he curated the exhibition AfroSat I, which opened on the 15th of July. Under the title "AfroSat", Iwalewa House now plans to offer a platform once a year to artists who refer in their works to historical, biographical, political, cultural or economic links between Germany and Africa, and who critically reflect on common images of Africa and their effects in Germany. For the first AfroSat exhibition this year, Daniel Kojo invited the artist Phillip Metz, who lives in Berlin, to exhibit. Like Daniel Kojo himself, Metz studied at the Munich Academy of Art and questions stereotyped images of Africa in his video works, photo



◀ Exhibition views, *AfroSat I*, 2010,
(Photos: P. Metz)



series and performances. Thus, the work "Of mimicry" is the result of a performance lasting several days in Dakar. The artist appeared there as an "African" wearing a carnival costume imported from Germany. The visual elements of this costume were regarded by people in Dakar as foreign and silly, but in no way as representing essential elements of their own culture.

Over the past few years, Daniel Kojo himself has repeatedly depicted the conceptual figure of the "Afronaut" in one of his work groups. This figure can be located neither in Africa nor in Germany. Rather, he floats in an imaginary space "in between", in which he "can renegotiate and mix attributions, and experiments with the cornerstones of different fields of perception" (D. Kojo).



▲ Moustapha Souley, Senegal, barbersign (Photo: DEVA)

Meeting with Africa – in Erfurt

*Kulturhof zum Guldenen Kronbacken in Erfurt
4 September to 3 October 2010*

Almost 100 paintings and drawings from the Iwalewa House collection were displayed at the exhibition "Meeting with Africa" in Erfurt. The exhibition was held by the Afrikanisch-Deutsche Verein fur Kultur und Bildung, in cooperation with Iwalewa House and DEVA, the Bayreuth archive for Africa, on the occasion of the Intercultural Week 2010, in the Kulturhof zum Guldenen Kronbacken in Erfurt.

The items displayed give an insight into the broad range of contemporary African art. Twins Seven Seven, Muraina Oyelami, Adebisi Fabunmi and Tijiani Mayakiri represent the artists from Oshogbo

and Ife who emerged from the workshops of the 1960s and 1970s.

Besides these, artists like Middle Art, Charles Omenka, Mor Gueye, Aboubacar Diane, the Tinga-Tinga group, and the Weya artists, with their sign-board and glass paintings, give a good impression of popular painting from Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. The water-colour paintings by the Congolese artists Djilatendo and Lubaki were done in the 1930s and are thus the oldest items in the Iwalewa House collection.

Curators: Frank Nolde and Sigrid Horsch-Albert.

Gemälde und Grafiken
aus der Sammlung
des Iwalewa-Hauses,
Afrikazentrum der
Universität Bayreuth

Willy Arts, New African Barber No 64, O. J., Öl auf Sperrholz



Begegnung mit Afrika

Eine Ausstellung des Afrikanisch-Deutschen Vereins für Kultur und Bildung e.V.
zur Interkulturellen Woche in Erfurt 2010, 4. September bis 3. Oktober 2010

Kulturhof zum Goldenen Krönbacken,
Michaelisstraße 10, 99084 Erfurt
Tel.: 0361.6551960, www.kroenbacken.de
Öffnungszeiten: Di–So 11–18 Uhr

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Afrikazentrum der Universität Bayreuth

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1. u. 3.-5. Photo: Peter Irungu, Nairobi
2. Photo: Kennedy Mungai, Nairobi

PigaPicha!

A century of studio photography in Nairobi



Iwalewa House

28 October 2010 – 6 March 2011

PigaPicha! documents the history and unique visual culture of studio photography in Nairobi. While photographic portraits were at first a privilege of the upper class in the Kenyan capital, in the course of time it became customary for ordinary people to have their photograph taken on special occasions.

The famous photo studios, like Studio One, Ramogi, Maridadi and Neela, or the street photographers in Uhuru Park, offered their customers an almost unlimited stage for creating an ideal image of themselves.

The pictures taken there show the people as they liked to see themselves. They tell stories, show social relations, reveal dreams and wishes, and transform everyday realities into imagined identities, sometimes with mischievous humour. The photographers achieve this with composite pictures, tricks of perspective, painted back-

grounds and staged scenes, showing the protagonists for instance in front of a beach hotel, in the Kenyan highlands, in the Swiss Alps, or even in a Coca-Cola bottle.

PigaPicha! is a comprehensive overview of studio photography in Nairobi, from the beginning of the 20th century to the present, and offers insights into the urban culture of Kenya and the self-images of different generations and milieus. The exhibition contains 300 pictures, ranging from artistic-type studies to "trash takes", from the carefully staged, symbolically-charged photograph, or fantastic composite pictures, to quick passport photos.

PigaPicha! is the result of cooperation between the DEVA archive of the University of Bayreuth and the Goethe Institute in Nairobi.

Curator: Sarah Böllinger

Scarred Rwanda.

Society-history-genocide



Iwalewa House

28 October 2010 to 20 February 2011

Between April and June 1994, 800,000 people died in Rwanda in the genocide. Since then, Rwanda has been a scarred country. How do the people who experienced the genocide – who survived it or carried it out – see the history and society of their country today? What pictures would they draw of their society and history?

In the framework of an anthropological study carried out in Rwanda in 2006 by Erika Dahlmans, 130 women and men drew and described their ideas of Rwanda's society in pre-colonial times and today.

Curator: Erika Dahlmans

▲ *Drawing of a prisoner, Rwanda, 2008*

◀ *Drawing of a High-School-Graduate, Rwanda, 2008*

In Brief

DAAD Summer Academy 2010: Religion and Order in Africa – An Obituary



Referred to as one of the cornerstones of African Studies at Bayreuth University, the DAAD Summer Academy “Religion and Order in Africa” took place for the second time in July 2010. This four week summer academy offered ten young scholars from seven different African countries the opportunity to gain initial insights into the field of African Studies at Bayreuth University, with a special emphasis on social sciences. In addition to specially designed workshops, a series of lectures and active involvement in our academic life, the young scholars were invited to Berlin and Munich as guests of Members of Parliament. In spite of the tremendous success of this Summer Academy, more than fifty percent of whose participants applied successfully for further studies in Germany, the University did not find a way to offer Franz Kogelmann, the organizer of the Summer Academy, a viable future in Bayreuth. Thus, the Summer Academy 2010 was presumably the last one.

Activities of the Chair of Religious Studies I at the University of Uyo, Nigeria

Asonzeh Ukah, senior research fellow at the Chair of Religious Studies I, completed two sojourns at the University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria, in 2010. During his first stay, in January and February, he offered a workshop on social science research methodology. In October he gave a block seminar on “Religion and Art in African societies”. In addition, he provided two workshops on social science methodology and academic writing.

BIGSAS awards a prize for journalists writing about Africa

To mark the occasion of the FIFA-Soccer World Cup being held in 2010 in South Africa, the first time the World Cup competition has been held on the continent, BIGSAS will award a prize for journalists who are writing on topics related to Africa. The jury choosing the prize-winner is comprised mainly of BIGSAS Alumni and is lead by Helmut Ruppert, former Vice Chancellor of Bayreuth University. More information on <http://www.bigsas.uni-bayreuth.de/jp/index.html>

Excursion to Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

In February 2010, Ute Fendler, Chair of Romance Literatures and Comparative Studies, together with seven students, travelled to Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The group attended a “Théâtre forum”-session and assisted with the preparations for the “Festival International du Théâtre pour le Développement”.

Methodology in Social Sciences Workshop in Mwanza, Tanzania

The relationship between parts of Bayreuth University and St. Augustine University in Tanzania (SAUT), Mwanza, has been in existence since 2006 when the present Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics) Bernardin Mfumbusa became a member of the project “Sharia Debates and Their Perception by Christians and Muslims in Selected African Countries”, funded by Volkswagen Foundation. As well as being a guest at Bayreuth on a regular basis, he was the driving force behind a workshop on methodology in social sciences at his university. The first workshop of this kind took place in Mwanza, on the shores of Lake Victoria, in September 2010. Franz Kogelmann and Asonzeh Ukah, senior research fellow at the Chair of Religious Studies I, accepted the invitation to the workshop and for three weeks trained the teaching staff of SAUT in current methodology in social sciences.

31st German Congress of Oriental Studies

The German Congress of Oriental Studies is organised by the German Oriental Studies Society every three years. This year’s conference took place in Marburg from 20th to 24th September 2010. Speakers from the chairs Afrikanistik I (Dr. Clarissa Vierke) and Afrikanistik II (Prof. Dymitr Ibrizimow, Dr. Eva Rothmaler,) and BIGSAS (Henrike Firsching, MA) represented the University of Bayreuth on this occasion.



◀ *Afe Adogame*



◀ *Taoufik Agoumy*



◀ *John Chesworth*



◀ *James Cox*



◀ *Kennedy Gastorn*

Guests

Afe Adogame was invited by Franz Kogelmann as part of the DAAD Summer Academy “Religion and Order in Africa”. He is an alumnus of Bayreuth University and holds a PhD in Religious Studies supervised by Ulrich Berner, Chair of Religious Studies I. Since 2005 he has been a lecturer in World Christianity at the School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh. His research interests include: interrogating new dynamics of religious experience(s) and expression(s) in Africa and the African Diaspora, with a particular focus on African Christianity and New Indigenous Religious Movements; and, the interconnection between religion and migration, globalization, politics, economy, media and the civil society. He has published extensively in these and other related topics. His lectures at the Summer Academy were “The Politics of Religion, Violence and Conflict in Africa” and “Ritual, Order and Disorder within African Immigrant Religious Communities in Europe”.

Taoufik Agoumy from the Department of Geography at the University Mohammed V – Agdal, Rabat, was a guest of the IAS from May 3rd – July 24th, 2010. Agoumy received his PhD at the Near Eastern Studies Department at Princeton University (N.J., USA) with a monograph about “Housing the Urban Poor of Taza, Morocco, and the Impact of the Relocation Process”. He became professor of Urban Geography at Mohammed V-Agdal University in Rabat in 1998. From 1994 to 1996

he fulfilled the function of head of the department, and since 1999 he has been vice-president of the “National Association of Moroccan Geographers”. He has obtained several grants (Fulbright Fellowships) and visiting professorships at Tours, France; Wisconsin; TU München and Bayreuth (2003). His main fields of research are: aspects of urban geography of Moroccan towns, especially transport organization in the old town (medina) of Fès; development trends of the post-colonial cities in Northern Africa; the impact of migration on urban development in Morocco; architecture as a visual component for the quality of life, and heritage classification in Moroccan towns. During his stay at Bayreuth he gave two seminars on “Processes of urbanization in Northern Africa” and “Urbanization and urban development in Africa” (jointly with Regina Fein) and he delivered a guest lecture on “International migration and its impact on urban development in Morocco”.

John Chesworth participated in the DAAD Summer Academy “Religion and Order in Africa”. He is Honorary Research Fellow at St. Stephen’s House, University of Oxford, and Lecturer and Researcher at the Centre for Muslim-Christian Studies, Oxford. He is also an Associate of the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS). His research interests are focused on holy scripture in popular evangelistic and da’wa literature and preaching, Christian-Muslim relations in Africa and Europe, and Islam in

Africa. He enriched the Summer Academy with a series of lectures: “Muslim-Christian Relations in Africa – An Overview”, “The Modern Scramble for Africa: Muslim Da’wa and Christian Evangelism” and “The Qur’an and the Bible: How Scripture is Used in Outreach”.

David Coplan is Professor and Chair of Social Anthropology at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. He has also held many visiting appointments at institutions as diverse as University of Basel, École des Hautes Études Sciences Sociales (Paris), Rice University, NYU, DePauw University, and the University of Cape Town. He has received many awards and grants – too many to mention in detail. He is the author of *In Township Tonight!*, a seminal ethnomusicological work and the first comprehensive study of South African black performance, which was published in 1985. Due to the efforts of the department of Anthropology, David Coplan has accepted the invitation to be the second Heinrich-Bart professor, the most prestigious award BIGSAS has to offer. His tremendous input into the academic life of Bayreuth University and BIGSAS during his stay between May and July 2010 manifested itself in a seminar on popular culture in South Africa. His superb public lecture on “Land from the Ancestors: Popular Religious Re-Appropriation Along the Lesotho-South African Border” was definitely one of the highlights of the summer term 2010. Undoubtedly he also en-

joyed many facets of Bayreuth’s popular culture.

James Cox was invited by the Chair of Religious Studies I in the scope of the ERASMUS exchange programme between Bayreuth University and the University of Edinburgh. James Cox is professor of Religious Studies at the School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh. His academic interests are focused on indigenous religions with emphasis on Africa, the Arctic and Australia, and methodologies in the study of religions. He has published extensively on the phenomenology of religion and indigenous religions. During his stay in Bayreuth (11th-16th July) he participated in the international workshop “Continuity and Change in the Religious Field: Perspectives from Africa” (12th-16th July) and the DAAD Summer Academy “Religion and Order in Africa”. His stay in Bayreuth was completed by two public lectures on “African Indigenous Religions as a World Religion” and “Religion and Politics: A Case Study of Religion in the Land Reform in Zimbabwe”.

In September 2010 **Kennedy Gastorn**, the coordinator of the Tanzanian-German Centre for Postgraduate Studies in Law (TGCL) at the University of Dar es Salaam, visited the Bayreuth office of the TGCL. He was hosted by TGCL project leader Ulrike Wanitzek and TGCL manager Harald Sippel. Kennedy Gastorn is the coordinator of the TGCL located at the University of Dar es Salaam School of Law (Formerly Faculty of Law) where he is also

Associate Dean (Administration and Public Affairs). Between 2004 and 2007, he did his doctorate in law at the University of Bayreuth under the supervision of Ulrich Spellenberg and Ulrike Wanitzek. Kennedy Gastorn is an expert in land law, among other fields. He accompanied a group of TGCL students to Bayreuth where they attended the Summer University for Intercultural German Studies.

Ahonagnon Noël Gbaguidi visited Bayreuth University as a guest of Ulrike Wanitzek and the Institute of African Studies. He is the former Director of Studies and Research at the Supreme Court of the Republic of Benin (1996-2003), and also former Director of the National School of Administration and Magistracy at the University of Abomey-Calavi (2003-2010), is an Alumnus of the University of Bayreuth (1991-1994). He did his doctoral thesis in law under the supervision of Ulrich Spellenberg. Since then he has been invited several times as a guest. Together with Ulrich Spellenberg and Ulrike Wanitzek, he has conducted collaborative research in the fields of family and succession law and private international law. He is intensively involved in the cooperation between the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS) and the University of Abomey-Calavi, particularly in the selection process of West African candidates for BIGSAS. Apart from teaching, he is doing research in the above-mentioned fields and supervising numerous research projects and PhD theses both in



◀ *Ahonagnon Noël Gbaguidi*



◀ *Balaibaou Clémentine Kassan*



◀ *Daniel Kojo*



◀ *Pierre Malgoubri*



◀ *André Mangulu Motingea*

Africa and in Europe. In addition, he is preparing a research project with ILO (International Labour Organization). He was a guest of the Institute of African Studies at the University of Bayreuth from February 16th – May 14th, 2010. During his stay he conducted a conjoint seminar on family law in selected African countries with Ulrike Wanitzek.

Balaibaou Clémentine Kassan, head of the department of linguistics of the University of Kara, Togo, stayed as a DAAD research fellow at the Chair of African Linguistics I in September/October 2010. Her research focuses mainly on the Kabiyè language belonging to the Eastern Gurunsi branch of the Gur languages, but also on Bago, Lamba, and Dilo, belonging to the same branch. During her stay, she was able to make use of the extensive documentation of the Gur archive at the Chair of African Linguistics I, as well as of the Africa section of the library of the University of Bayreuth, for a comparative study of noun classes in Kabiyè, Tem und Dilo. Her studies during her stay fit into the Gur research which is still a focal issue at the Chair of African Linguistics I, with research done by Gudrun Miehe, Kerstin Winkelmann and Manfred von Roncador.

Daniel Kojo: Guest at the IAS and Iwalewa-House: June 1 – August 31, 2010. In the summer semester of 2010, the artist Daniel Kojo, Professor of Art at Hampshire College, USA, was Visiting Professor at the IAS and Artist in Residence at Iwalewa House. In cooperation with students at the University of Bayreuth, he curated the exhibition AfroSat I, which was opened on the 15th of July. Daniel Kojo is associate professor of art at Hampshire Col-

lege, USA. He studied in Germany and Spain and received an M.F.A. from the Academy of Fine Arts Munich, Germany. His paintings and installations have been presented internationally including the Museo de Arte Contemporaneo/Oaxaca-Mexico; Alliance Français/Kumasi-Ghana; Haus der Kunst/München and the Mead Art Museum at Amherst College, USA.

He has taught painting at the Kwame Nkrumah University/Kumasi-Ghana and the Academy of Fine Arts Munich. He has received grants and awards from the Cusanuswerk Foundation/Bonn-Germany, the Academy of Fine Arts Munich and from Amherst College-USA. Daniel Kojo creates works in series using motifs originating from various cultural contexts. Combined with purely gestural, non-representational elements, these motifs – fragments of figures, letters, words, texts – are used as ciphers of identity. As each series progresses, the artist repeats and transforms the motifs that have become his personal iconic archive. Among his major cycles are “Afronauts” and “Brother Beethoven”.

During the winter term 2010/11 BIGSAS welcomed its first guest junior fellow, **Juliana Franca Macek** from the Department of Linguistics at the University of Sao Paulo (Brazil). After doing a BA in Portuguese and English and their literatures, in 2007 Juliana Macek obtained a Masters degree in Linguistics at her home university, with an MA thesis on aspects of linguistic politeness. Since 2008 she has been participating in a doctoral programme at Sao Paulo, extending her MA topic into the investigation of youth language(s) and language change in the urban centres

of Tanzania. Juliana Macek is currently working within the framework of the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies and is also affiliated to the Chair of African Linguistics I (Niger Congo), where she participates in courses and research activities concerning the study of the Swahili language and topics in sociolinguistics.

Pierre Malgoubri is head of the Department of Linguistics at the University of Ouagadougou. He stayed as a DAAD research fellow at the Chair Afrikanistik I (Gabriele Sommer), from May to July 2010. His principal research domain is dialectology. He set out by describing and classifying Mooré (the main language in Burkina Faso) dialects; later he turned to Bisa (Mande) dialects and at present he is investigating Nuni (Gur) dialects. Pierre Malgoubri is no newcomer to Bayreuth. In 2006 and 2007 he was working in Bayreuth together with Manfred von Roncador within the project A1 „Effects of globalization processes on the vitality of languages in West African cities“ of the Humanities Collaborative Research Centre SFB SFB/FK 560. During his stay in Bayreuth he prepared a publication on Nuni dialects, from which he presented a paper within the African linguistics research colloquium.

During September/October, **André Mangulu Motingea** was acting as a research fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation at the Chair of African Linguistics I. He is a full professor at the „Université Pédagogique Nationale“ in Kinshasa and is a permanent member of the renowned „Centre Aequatoria“ in Mbandaka (Democratic Republic of Congo).

André Motingea is an excellent scholar on Bantu languages. He is author of several monographs and numerous articles on Bantu languages in the upper reaches of the Congo River and their sociolinguistic relations to the larger *linguae francae*. His special domain is an until-now neglected sub-group of Bantu languages spoken in this region of the Congo River between Bumba and Kissangani. During his stay in Bayreuth he prepared for publication a monograph entitled „Langues mongo du complexe lomame-tshuapa. Elements pour la linguistique aréale d'un groupe de langues bantoues du Congo“. These languages belong to the groups C60 and C70 of Guthrie's classification. André Motingea's studies during his stay fit nicely into the research focus on Bantu languages of the Chair of African Linguistics I where he had fruitful discussions with Gabriele Sommer, Clarissa Vierke and Manfred von Roncador.

Nataniel Ngomane is a member of the University Eduardo Mondlane in Maputo, Mozambique. He was invited by Ute Fendler, Chair of Romance Literatures and Comparative Studies, in May 2010. Ngomane specializes in lusophone literature in Africa and Latin America. During his four-week stay in Bayreuth he worked on the “Bantuization” of lusophone literature of Mozambique. He offered a public lecture on: “Ungulani Ba Ka Khosa's Ualalapi: Dialogues with History”.

Margarida Maria Taddoni Petter was a guest of the IAS from June 1st - July 31st, 2010, invited by Manfred von Roncador. She is a full professor at the Department of Linguistics of the University of São Paulo. She teaches in

the fields of general and African linguistics. She did her M.A. at the Université Nationale de Côte D'Ivoire in 1984. In 1992, she defended her PhD at the University of São Paulo. Her thesis was on “A construção do significado de fâni ‘pano e vestuário’ em diula” (The construction of the meaning of fani ‘cloth and clothing’ in Diula). In 2008 her Habilitation “Variedades linguísticas em contato: português angolano, português brasileiro e português moçambicano” (Linguistic varieties in contact: Angolan Portuguese, Brazilian Portuguese and Mozambican Portuguese) was accepted at the University of São Paulo. Margarida Petter is head of a study group on African linguistics – GELA. Her publications focus mainly on the structure of the lexicon and on contact linguistics (African languages and the varieties of Portuguese spoken in Angola, Brazil and Mozambique). During her stay in Bayreuth, she delivered two guest lectures on “African Languages in Brazil” and on “Portuguese in contact in Angola, Brazil and Mozambique”. The possibilities of further cooperation were discussed with the African Linguists in Bayreuth (Gabriele Sommer, Clarissa Vierke, Dymitr Ibrizimow, Manfred von Roncador); a first step being the integration of a doctoral student from São Paulo, Juliana Macek, as a guest junior fellow at BIGSAS.

Alain Ricard, awardee of the Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation, visited the University of Bayreuth as guest of the IAS from 1st March to 31st May, invited by Ute Fendler. Alain Ricard is professor and director of the Centre National de Recherches Scientifiques, Institut d'Etudes Politiques. As a scholar



◀ *Margarida
Maria Taadoni
Petter*



◀ *Alain Ricard*



◀ *Paromita
Sanyal*



◀ *James
Spickard and
Hala Siddig*



◀ *Asonzeh
Ukah*

in the field of African literature, he has produced substantial and seminal research, unique in its wide range, on African literature in English, French and Swahili from West-, South- and East-Africa. His research also covers a wide range of genres - from the writings of European travellers and missionaries up to modern forms of popular culture and theatre. The project he and Janos Riesz are working on together concerns the question of the borders and the topography of African literatures. During his stay in Bayreuth, he gave a guest lecture on "Translation and Apartheid" and presented a film screening about "Le Principe d'Asihu - The Taxi Principle".

Paromita Sanyal, from the Department of Sociology of the Wesleyan University, United States was a guest at the IAS from May 15th to August 12th, 2010, invited by Dieter Neubert. She did her Ph.D. in sociology in 2008 at Harvard and is assistant professor at the Department of Sociology of the Wesleyan University in Connecticut, U.S.A. Her fields of research lie in the sociology of development and economic sociology. Her specific interests are culture and economy, political participation, gender, and the role of non-governmental organizations. Her research focuses on India, where she has done extensive fieldwork, and is based on the use of qualitative methods, including observations and interviews. She is currently pursuing active research on two sets of themes. The first theme is Microfinance and questions of whether and how it improves women's agency, social capital, and normative influence; determinants of its success and failure, including the ways in which household and family structures

influence loan-use patterns and women's participation; how social cleavages based on religion and caste affect group survival and collective mobilization. The second theme is Deliberative Democracy: exploring how factors like caste, gender, poverty, and literacy affect public participation and manners of articulation in the gram sabha, or public village meetings, which have been instituted to facilitate deliberative equality targeted at development.

James Spickard, currently professor of sociology at the University of Redlands, California, was invited by Franz Kogelmann as part of the DAAD Summer Academy "Religion and Order in Africa". James Spickard specializes in social theory, research methods, cross-cultural sociology and the sociology of religion. He has published on the ethnography of religion, quantitative sociology and many other issues related to recent developments in the field of religions. Together with Afe Adogame he is currently co-editing a book on transnational religious and social dynamics in Africa and the new African Diaspora. As part of the DAAD Summer Academy between 18th and 21st July he offered an intensive workshop on research methodology in social sciences.

Asonzeh Ukah stayed as a guest at the IAS from June 1st - August 31st, 2010, invited by Ulrich Berner. He studied Comparative Religions at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria (1990-94). There he also earned an MA in Sociology of Religion (1995-97) as well as a M.Sc. in Sociology (1997-99). In 2000, he joined the University of Bayreuth within the interdisciplinary research group SFB/FK 560 "Local Action in Africa in the context of Global Influences".

He did his PhD in 2004 at the Department for History of Religions at Bayreuth. After spending some time as a Leventis Fellow at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, Asonzeh Ukah returned to the University of Bayreuth as a guest lecturer of IAS in June 2005. He rejoined the SFB/FK560 from September 2005 to June 2007. He was a member of the research team on the DFG funded project: "Tradition and Innovation: Old and New Churches in the Religious Market of South Africa". During his stay in Bayreuth he took part in the Bourdieu Workshop with a lecture on "Re-imagining the religious field: the rhetorics of Nigerian Pentecostal pastors in South Africa", further he gave a seminar on research methods to BIGSAS junior fellows and he participated in the Summer Academy "Religion and Order in Africa".

Balarabe Zulyadaini, from the Department of Languages & Linguistics at the University of Maiduguri, was a guest at the IAS from February 9th – March

31st, 2010, invited by Dymitr Ibrizimow. He is acting Head of the Department of Languages and Linguistics at the University of Maiduguri; he is also the editor of Maiduguri Journal of Linguistics and Literary Studies (MAJOLLS). Balarabe Zulyadaini was DAAD Intensive Hausa Programme Lecturer in 2000 and 2002, and later Hausa Lecturer at the University of Bayreuth from 2005-2007. He took part in the Project "Contrastive Cognitive Semantics – Conceptual structures of everyday lexemes in regional Nigerian Languages and Nigerian English" within the framework of the Humanities Collaborative Research Centre SFB/FK 560, as a collaborative research partner of the Chair of African Linguistics II. He gave a block seminar for BA and MA students of Hausa and took part in the application for an international joint research project between Bayreuth; Aix-en-Provence, France; Maiduguri, Nigeria; Moscow, Russia; Tizi-Ouzou, Algeria; Rabat, Morocco and N'Djamena, Chad on "Afroasiatic Kinship Terms and Systems".

*Balarabe
Zulyadaini* ▶



Personalia

Since spring 2010 Aishatu Iya Ahmed has been teaching Hausa to Bayreuth students. She is the first female Hausa lecturer in Germany. Her career started at the University of Maiduguri (Nigeria) with a diploma in language education. She continued studying and

achieved her MA in general linguistics in 1994. In 2007 she completed her PhD at the University of Jos (Nigeria) before becoming senior lecturer at the University of Maiduguri where she is working in the Department of Languages and Linguistics.

*Aishatu Iya
Ahmed* ▶



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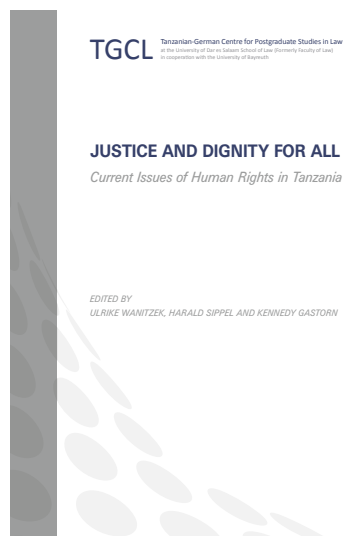
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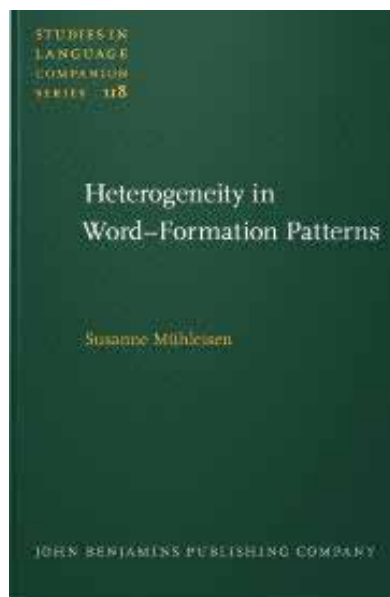
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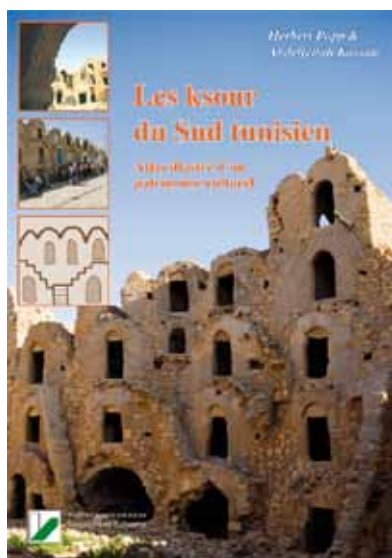
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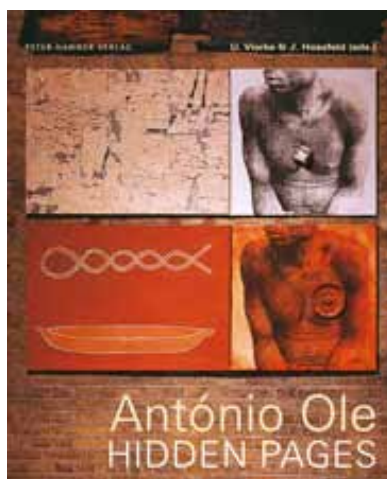
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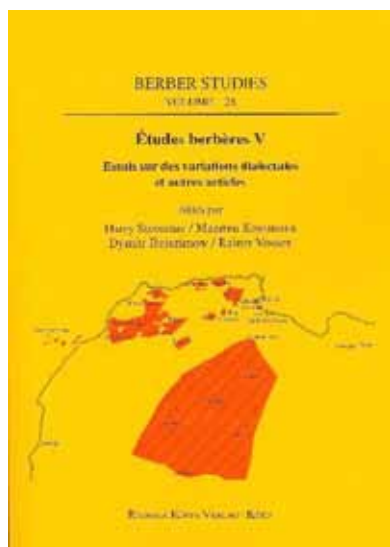
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Regional Workshops as a form of “subverted nomadism”

DAAD funded three Alumni workshops for African scholars, hosted by partners in Buéa, Eldoret and Bayreuth

In November 2009 and July 2010, two workshops brought together scholars from a dozen African countries and from Germany. With generous funds from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), two regional workshops for African “alumni” were hosted at the University of Buéa (Cameroon) and at Moi University Eldoret (Kenya) (c.f. also NAB Vol. IX/2010, p. 32). The workshop titles opened broad, but nevertheless focused, scopes: “Career Opportunities in Education, Culture and Media: Alumni Employability and German-African Academic Networks” (University of Buéa) and “Transfer of Africa-related Alumni Knowledge: Regional Integration and Trans-regional Co-operation” (Moi University Eldoret).

The overall aim of these events was to strengthen the ties between the Institute of African Studies in Bayreuth and its former guests from institutions of Higher Education all over the African continent, and thereby to trigger trans-regional network building, both within and across disciplinary boundaries. The academic questions raised are the subject of a forthcoming publication and therefore will not be summarized here, but equally notable are the outcomes of these two workshops with reference to emerging network-building activities. The necessity of investing in both South-North and South-South networks has been voiced unanimously by workshop participants. In an evaluation of previous Alumni Summer Schools that were initiated by Eckhard Breitingner in 1999, workshop participant Chris Odhi-



▲ *Participants of the DAAD-Alumni Workshop assemble on the Moi University Campus, July 2010 (Photo: Sammy Olumola)*

ambo (Moi University) pointed out that these earlier events transcended notions of hierarchical relations, of unilateral processes (e.g. of knowledge transfer), and of domination by “the North”. Following this pattern, the two Alumni Workshops brought together scholars from francophone and anglophone countries, from West, East and Central African countries, and from different academic disciplines, and thereby created a new experience for all participants. The “North”, i.e. the organizing team from Bayreuth around Dieter Neubert, consequently fulfilled their role by merely catalyzing the workshop process.

Another unique experience for workshop participants was expressed by the metaphor “subverted nomadism”. In a clear contrast to nomadic lifestyles, where livestock is fed on pastures and then herded on whenever resources run short, the workshop hosts and participants together

benefited from the knowledge and experience shared, and were enriched in the process. Beyond such individual effects, Africa-related alumni activities must be sustainable, and therefore require some form of institutionalization. Since 2009, steps have been taken within the Institute of African Studies to build up a sustainable basis for an international, German-African Alumni network. At the core stands a new virtual platform for information and communication, the Alumni Network University of Bayreuth (ANUB). It will be launched shortly (www.africa-network-ubt.org), and all African “alumni”, i.e. scholars with African Studies backgrounds from African countries and from Germany and with a record of studies, research and/or professional employment at the University of Bayreuth, are warmly invited to register and to join this network.

U. Bauer

23rd Swahili Colloquium, 14th to 16th May 2010



▲ Participants of the 23rd Swahili Colloquium in front of Iwalewa-Haus (Photo: C. Vierke)

Introducing Africa Network University of Bayreuth (ANUB)

It started as a students' initiative, and has been restructured for a larger circle of users from African and Africa-related Studies: a new web-based service was recently launched and is highly recommended to former and present "Bayreuthians" who wish to reconnect with colleagues and friends; to advertise (or seek) calls for paper, job positions, recent publications, and research proposals; to form a working groups or forum for academic exchange; etc. Please feel invited to register at:

www.africa-network-ubt.org

Although now in its 23rd year, the Swahili Colloquium still attracts members of the community of Swahili experts from all over the world. Around fifty scholars and researchers from different disciplines, and working on different aspects of the language and the surrounding culture(s), came not only from all parts of Germany, but also from Kenya, Tanzania, Brazil, the US, Poland, Austria, Great Britain, France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Sweden. While a number of authorities in the field of Swahili language and literature attended the conference at Bayreuth, there were also young scholars and students, for example a group of students from London, as well as a group of Polish students who had come all the way from Warsaw by car.

With a full programme, the three days of the conference passed quickly, in particular be-

cause this year's special thematic focus on popular culture inspired a large number of presentations. There were video, music, popular literature, web blogs and other forms of new mass media which sparked a lot of interesting discussions on the nature and style of popular culture. Interesting alternative modes of expression in a number of varieties of Swahili were explored, to an unusual degree. Presentations of video films illustrated points of discussion.

In addition to the presentations, the Alena Rettová and renowned Swahili poet Abdilatif Abdalla and the lecturer Alena Rettová, from the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, presented the filmed version of *Uzinduzi*, a play by Valcalav Havel, that they had recently translated into Swahili and which was subsequently performed in Nairobi.

Clarissa Vierke

Bourdieu in Africa

At a workshop in Bayreuth in July, members of the chair for the Study of Religion I and BIGSAS discussed how Bourdieu's concept of the field can be applied to the study of religions in Africa. They presented their findings at the congress of the International Association for the History of Religion (IAHR) in Toronto in August 2010.



▲ Wario, Ben Amara, Ukah, Danfulani, Kogelmann, Echtler and Geda at the IAHR congress in Toronto, August 2010 (Photo: Chikas Danfulani)

The workshop *Continuity and Change in the Religious Field: Perspectives from Africa*, funded by BIGSAS, took place from July 12-16. It originated in the long-standing cooperation between the chair for the Study of Religion I (Ulrich Berner) and colleagues from the University of KwaZulu Natal (UKZN) in South Africa, within the framework of the DFG research project *Tradition and Innovation. Old and New Churches in the Religious Market of South Africa*, as well as in the seminar *Bourdieu's theory of practice* (Berner/Echtler), which formed part of the winter term program of BIGSAS.

After introductory considerations regarding the heuristic value of the metaphor of 'field' (Ulrich Berner), the first part of the workshop focussed on Southern Africa. Individual papers discussed the role of the holy spirit and of spatial practices in African Initiated

Churches (Jonathan Draper and Kenneth Mtata, both UKZN), the blurred borders between academic and religious fields (Magnus Echtler, Bayreuth), the relations between Nigerian and South African actors in the religious field (Asonzeh Ukah, Bayreuth), and the strategies of traditional healers and neo-pagans in relation to (anti-)witchcraft laws in post-apartheid South Africa (Dale Wallace, UKZN). Gabriele Sommer (Bayreuth), who analyzed the religious significance of avoidance language in Southern and Eastern Africa, provided the bridge to the second regional focus of the workshop, where Gemechu Jemal Geda (BIGSAS) considered the position of a pilgrimage centre between Islam and Christianity in Ethiopia, and Salma Mohamed Abdalla (BIGSAS) examined the role of religious actors in the struggles over water distribution in Sudan. The papers of the third, West Af-

rican focus of the workshop discussed the role of a reform movement and of women's education in the implementation of Sharia in Northern Nigeria (Ramzi Ben Amara and Chikas Danfulani, both BIGSAS), and the successful career of a Nigerian actor between the religious, political and economic fields (Franz Kogelmann, Bayreuth). The workshop ended with Gabriele Cappai (Bayreuth) providing a sociological comparison of Sharia interpretation and implementation.

These reflections on the uses and limitations of Bourdieu's theory for the analysis of religions in Africa were presented to an international audience at the congress of the IAHR in Toronto (August 15-21). In the panel *Bourdieu in Africa: Exploring the Dynamics of the Religious Field*, Cappai, Echtler, Kogelmann, Ukah, Amara and Danfulani read their papers.

Magnus Echtler

African Research in Bayreuth as a model

Guests from the Southwestern region of Aquitaine in France learn about the African focus of Bayreuth University

Bayreuth's excellent research and teaching on African studies is attracting increasing international interest. In August 2010, a high-ranking delegation from the region of Aquitaine, comprising five departments in southwest France, visited the city of Bayreuth and its university. This visit was prompted by the fact that currently, in southwest France, the academic landscape is being restructured. Special attention is being paid to African studies, which is to be restructured at the University of Bordeaux. Both universities have co-operated well for some time now. Alain Rousset, president of the Aquitaine regional council, therefore wanted to make a personal assessment of the way African studies are researched and taught in Bayreuth. He was joined by his colleagues Thibault Richebois, Head of the Department for Research and Higher Education, and Caroline Marie, Adviser for European and International Affairs.

No other university in Germany offers such a variety of subjects, all dedicated to the research of the African continent. The Bayreuth International Graduate School, BIGSAS, is exemplary when it comes to co-operating with Africa in the education of PhD students: reason enough for the French guests to experience the developments in Bayreuth first-hand. A lot of questions were targeted at understanding the structure and organisation of the Institute for African Studies (IAS). To the University of Bordeaux, it became clear during the talks that on both academic and organisational levels, the IAS is a beacon lighting a



▲ From left to right: Herbert Popp, Vice Dean of the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS); Alain Rousset, President of the Aquitaine Regional Council; Thibault Richebois, Head of the Department for Research and Higher Education; Caroline Marie, Adviser for European and International Affairs; Ulf Vierke, Director of Iwalewa House; René Otayek, Director of the Centre for African Studies (CEAN) of the University of Bordeaux; Dymitr Ibrizimow, Dean of BIGSAS; Alain Ricard, Chair of African Literature at the University of Bordeaux; Achim von Oppen, Director of the Institute of African Studies at the University of Bayreuth.

path for the development of its own structures.

René Otayek, Director of the Centre for African Studies (CEAN) of the University of Bordeaux, and Alain Ricard, Chair of African Literature, were also members of the delegation. Both experts in African studies were impressed by the innovative approaches of the Bayreuth-based African research. In particular the intensive co-operative partnership with African universities generated great interest.

A busy schedule in Bayreuth awaited the Aquitaine guests. Bernhard Herz, Vice President of Bayreuth University, welcomed the delegation before it was greeted in the town-hall by Petra Platzgummer-Martin, Vice President of Upper Franconia in the District Government of Up-

per Franconia, and Mayor Michael Hohl. A visit to the Iwalewa House, followed by a dinner, provided the opportunity for personal conversation with representatives of Bayreuth African research.

Achim von Oppen, Director of the IAS, his deputy, Ute Fendler, Dymitr Ibrizimow, spokesman of BIGSAS, and Ulf Vierke, Director of the Iwalewa House, informed the participants about new projects relating to research and teaching. While talking to African postgraduate students, the guests were able to inform themselves first-hand about the doctoral studies at BIGSAS.

Both parties agreed to maintain the promising contacts between Bayreuth University and the region of Aquitaine. Co-operation with the University of Bordeaux, in particular, will be increased.

Adaptation to Climate Change



▲ Around forty participants from six African countries, 13 African universities and a number of development organisations attended the symposium hosted by Moi University (Photo: L. Musebe)

The conference on 'Adaptation to Climate Change in East Africa: Challenges and Opportunities for Social Sciences Research' was organized by the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS), the Centre for Natural Risk and Development (ZENEB), the University of Bayreuth and Moi University. It was held in Eldoret, Kenya from November 17 – 19, 2010.

The scientific objective of the symposium was to identify shortcomings in the current adaptation debate and to explore the contributions of the social sciences to adaptation research. In addition, the conference invigorated the partnership between Bayreuth University and Moi University and helped to locate Moi University at the centre of adaptation research in the region.

The conference attracted around forty participants from six African countries, 13 African universities and a number

of development organisations. The papers discussed a number of cross-cutting themes including the conceptualization of adaptation in terms of negotiating societal changes, the contextualization of adaptation, methodological refinements and the search for integrative perspectives that link theoretical debates to experience from local case studies and action research.

The papers and discussion at the conference presented a number of new, original insights into adaptation research including actor-centred approaches, the role of culture and religion in giving meaning to climate change adaptation, and the conceptualisation of adaptation as a 'traveling idea'. A multitude of case studies and experiences from development projects substantiated the conceptual debates. On the third day of the symposium a field trip was conducted to get some hands-on impressions of

climate change impacts in the region and to discuss with local farmers how they were affected by environmental change.

The symposium was generously hosted and facilitated by Moi University. The local organizing team consisted of Gilbert M. Nduru, Naomi L. Shitemi and Eunice Kamaara and was headed by Bob Wishitemi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Extension of Moi University. On the Bayreuth side the organising team comprised of Müller-Mahn (Social Geography) and Serah Kiragu.

A brochure of the findings will be available shortly on the website of Moi University. The Conference Proceedings are in preparation. A follow-up conference in Nairobi is planned within the context of a project financed by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

Girum Getachew, Detlef Müller-Mahn und Florian Weisser

14th Mega-Chad Colloquium in Bayreuth



▲ Participants of the 'Colloque Mega-Tchad' in front of Iwalewa-Haus. (Photo: Remi Tchokothe)

'Man and Health in the Lake Chad Basin' was the heading of the 14th Mega-Chad Colloquium which took place from 15th to 17th April 2010 at the University of Bayreuth. The triannual conference was organized by Dymitr Ibriszimow (IAS), Eckhard Nagel (Institute for Medical Management and Health Care Sciences), Eva Rothmaler (Afrikanistik II), Remi Tchokothe, MA (BIGSAS) and Gundula Essig (Institute for Medical Management). The invitation to participants from African countries was made possible by means of financial support from the DFG,

for which we express our gratitude. Researchers from different disciplines and from different countries, among them many from Lake Chad riparian states in West-Africa, met in the Iwalewa-House to share their knowledge, to take part in discussions and to enjoy the international community of scholars working on the Lake Chad area.

The topics of the papers given covered a wide spectrum of health-related issues, ranging from matters of health management, dietetics and traditional medicine to country-specific problems and developments, as

well as presentations focusing on HIV /AIDS in the countries and how to speak about diseases and remedies.

Films and a guided tour through the Iwalewa-House were enjoyed. In addition, the opportunity to purchase books from leading publishers with a focus on African Studies was greatly welcomed and taken advantage of. Manifold opportunities were taken for informal discussions and the exchange of knowledge, not only during breaks in the proceedings but also at a dinner party.

East African Law Students Attend Bayreuth Summer University

The Tanzanian-German Centre for Postgraduate Studies in Law (TGCL) sent its first group of students to Bayreuth to take part in the programme of the Bayreuth Summer University for Intercultural German Studies in September 2010. This was complemented by a legal and interdisciplinary programme offered by members of the Bayreuth Faculty of Law, Business Administration and Economics.



▲ Twelve of the 13 participants of the Bayreuth Summer University and TGCL coordinator Kennedy Gastorn (standing, right), together with Torsten Kühlmann of the University of Bayreuth (standing, centre) after his course on Intercultural Perspectives on Leadership. (Photo: Wanitzek)

For three weeks a group of 13 lawyers from Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya attended a summer school on the Bayreuth university campus. This was a significant event, not only for the participants, most of whom were in Europe for the first time in their lives, but also for the universities of Dar es Salaam and Bayreuth, the two cooperating partners in the operation of the Tanzanian-German Centre for Postgraduate Studies in Law (TGCL). The programme for the TGCL summer school was conceptualised by the TGCL project leader Ulrike Wanitzek, TGCL manager Harald Sippel and TGCL coordinator Kennedy Gastorn together with the IIK Bayreuth (Institute for International Communication and Foreign Cultural Exchange). The idea was to combine language courses with a legal and interdisciplinary programme as well as cultural trips.

Every morning the TGCL students attended intensive German language classes and mixed with other international students: “We blended in very well in the intercultural mosaic comprising students from all over the world,” say TGCL students Annet Ttendo from Uganda and Robert Omondi Owino from Kenya. The afternoons were dedicated mainly to the law of the European Union (EU). Professors and assistant lecturers of the Faculty of Law, Business Administration and Economics provided insights into structures, institutions and processes of legal integration within the European Community. This was of significant comparative interest for the participants, considering the fact that their home countries, Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya (together with Burundi and Rwanda), are all partner states of the East African Community (EAC): “The lecture on integration through harmonisation in the European Union indeed struck a chord in the hearts of most of us, given similar efforts at integration within the East African Community where the TGCL students come from,” remark Annet Ttendo and Robert Omondi Owino. Although both regional organisations – the EU and the EAC – arose in different historical and cultural contexts and pursue different economic and political goals, it is rewarding to look at the legal structures of both in comparison. An interdisciplinary component was added to the programme by lectures

dealing with intercultural perspectives on leadership, taking into account the future leadership roles of TGCL graduates.

As Annet Ttendo and Robert Omondi Owino recount, “these intellectual engagements were interspersed by excursions to places of renown in Bayreuth. It was also a rewarding experience for us to visit Nürnberg, the seat of the famous post-Nazi Germany criminal trials, where we learned much about the historical events that inform modern day International Criminal Law.”

The final part of the group’s stay in Germany consisted of a four-day visit to Berlin. Annet Ttendo and Robert Omondi Owino describe their experiences thus: “... we had a guided city tour and saw the most amazing work of Norman Foster’s architecture in the German Parliament, known as the Bundestag, complete with a narration of the separation and union of East and West Germany. During this stay in Berlin, we were also greatly honoured to be able to visit the German Foreign Office, as well as the DAAD office, together with a rare but wonderful opportunity for intellectual exchange of ideas with students at the Humboldt University”.

The visit of the young East African lawyers to Bayreuth was considered a success both by the participants and the organisers. It is therefore planned to invite the next group of TGCL students to Bayreuth in 2011.

Ulrike Wanitzek

The First Graduates of the TGCL

Nine young lawyers have achieved a significant step forward in their legal careers: they have acquired an LLM degree from the University of Dar es Salaam within the by now renowned postgraduate study programmes in law offered by the Tanzanian-German Centre for Postgraduate Studies in Law (TGCL), a joint project of the universities of Dar es Salaam and Bayreuth within the 'Aktion Afrika' programme of the German Foreign Office and the DAAD.

Two years after the inauguration of the Tanzanian-German Centre for Postgraduate Studies in Law (TGCL), the first group of LLM students graduated on 27 November 2010 at the University of Dar es Salaam. The focus of the postgraduate study programmes of the TGCL (LLM and PhD) is on constitutional law, human rights law and comparative law, with special consideration of the laws of the EAC and its partner states.

While the first group of TGCL students consisted exclusively of Tanzanians, from the second group onwards the policy of the TGCL has been to admit internationally mixed student groups whenever possible, consisting of lawyers from all the five partner states of the East African Community. Out of a current total of 40 TGCL alumni and students, two are from Burundi, two from Rwanda, four from Uganda and five from Kenya while the rest are from Tanzania. Through this composition, interaction between the students cuts across national boundaries. The knowledge of the laws and legal realities in the neighbouring countries contributes to qualifying the students for an increasingly internationally oriented legal profession within the rapidly developing East African Community.

Besides the international composition of the 40 TGCL students and alumni, there is also diversity in their professional backgrounds. One student worked with the government, one with Parliament and one with a pri-



▲ *Seven of the nine TGCL students who graduated in November 2010 (from left to right): Tasco Luambano, Angela Lushagara, George Bakari, Goodluck Kiwory, Kalekwa Kasanga, Hamza Ismaili and Mustapher Siyani. (Photo: TGCL)*

ivate company. Two students came from the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau, two from the Law Reform Commission and two from the Attorney-General's Chambers; three students were in the judiciary and five in legal practice; six were law lecturers at universities or other legal training institutions; eight were working with NGOs, in fields such as human rights and legal aid; and nine came straight from other study and training programmes such as LLB and LLM programmes and the law school. Students are able to share the experiences gained in all these multifarious fields.

The balance of gender among the students is a point of interest, too, and was one of the relevant criteria in the selection process. Out of the current total of 40 TGCL students and alumni, 21 are female and 19 are male.

With regard to the development of the numbers of applications,

these have increased from 60 applications in 2008 to 158 applications in 2010. So far, a total of 356 persons have applied for the 40 places available. This means that on the average, one out of nine applicants was successful. It is still too early to interpret these numbers. But a first, cautious interpretation might be that the TGCL is getting increasingly known and respected within the region.

The first nine TGCL graduates have resumed their work with the perspective of obtaining more demanding and responsible positions in the future due to the postgraduate qualifications they obtained at TGCL. All of them attended a German language course in Dar es Salaam, and five of the nine graduates participated in the Bayreuth Summer University in September 2010. The TGCL alumni are keen to maintain a close relationship with Germany and Bayreuth.

Ulrike Wanitzek

19th Afrikanistentag

The biennial conference of African language specialist German-speaking linguists 'Afrikanistentag' took place in Mainz at the Johannes Gutenberg University from 8th to 10th of April 2010. It was held conjointly with the conference of the African Studies Association in Germany (VAD). The two conferences were opened by Georg Krausch, President of Mainz University; a keynote address by Carlos Lopes (UNITAR, Geneva) followed, entitled New Fractures, old Wounds: The Renewal of South Agency.

The conjoint opening continued with the Young Scholars' award ceremony at which three recently graduated scholars were awarded the 'Young Talent Award' of the VAD. A PhD thesis in Geography (Mainz University), a magister thesis of a social anthropologist (Mainz University) and the magister thesis of Henrike Firsching from the University of Bayreuth on 'Temperature terms in African languages' were considered to be so excellent that they were chosen for this award.

The Afrikanistentag proceeded with papers focusing on African languages, dealing with various aspects of their manifestation and representation. In addition to the award-winning graduate Henrike Firsching, Gabriele Sommer (Afrikanistik I), Manfred von Roncador (Institute of African Studies) and Eva Rothmaler (Afrikanistik II) of the University of Bayreuth also

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presented the results of their research activities. The conference ended on Saturday, 10th April with a reading of Patrice Nganang, a writer from Cameroon and - mirroring the motto of the VAD-conference "Continuities, Dislocations and Transformations: Reflections on 50

Years of African Independence" - with an „Independence Chacha“ Party.

In the course of the Afrikanistentag the Professional Association of Africanists held its general meeting and opted for Cologne as the venue for the 20th 'Afrikanistentag' in 2012.

Workshop on social aspects of HIV/AIDS

In October 2010 a workshop on social aspects of HIV/AIDS was organized by the Chairs of German and African linguistics at Bayreuth University, in collaboration with the Linguistic Colloquium at the Faculty of Language and Literature. Funded by the International Graduate School of African Studies, the workshop was rounded off by a contribution from Akin Odeunmi from Nigeria, currently research fellow at the Freiburg Institute of Advanced Studies (FRIAS). During the first part of the workshop Ariel King gave an overview of the worldwide research network of S.A.H.A.R.A. (Social Aspects of HIV/ AIDS Research Alliance), while Alexandra Groß and Ivan Vlassenko talked about their corpus-based PhD projects on communicative aspects of HIV/AIDS. During the second part, three junior fellows from BIGSAS presented their PhD projects on: prevention of mother to child transmission in Lesotho (Lena Kroeker); a cognitive semantic approach to the perception of HIV/ AIDS among bilingual Hausa and English speakers in Nigeria (Baba Mai Bello); and the translation of written prevention material from French into the Cameroonian language Basaa.

Laure Peem

Akin Odeunmi during his lecture ►



▲ *Participants of the Workshop on social aspects of HIV/AIDS*

Conflict regulation and post-conflict processes in Ghana and Uganda

On the emergence of new socio-political arrangements

Conflict management has become one of the main areas of African studies. The research usually highlights conflict resolution and peace building and most of the studies focus on the end of warfare. However, conflict regulation is a long-term process and post-conflict development has to be considered, too. The research project of Artur Bogner and Dieter Neubert (Development Sociology) is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and tries to overcome this limitation. By focusing on non-state actors and variant socio-political arrangements beyond formal state organizational structures it analyzes the local processes of conflict regulation and their socio-political consequences. The task is firstly to examine how it is possible for conflict parties in the context of “decentralized” armed conflicts to become reconciled or to come closer to each other following armed fighting (on a local or provincial scale). We attempt to identify the actors, institutions and factors that play a significant role in this process. Secondly we analyze the new situation that results, particularly at local levels of socio-political structure.

Our work is intended as an empirical contribution to research on the development of new forms of conflict regulation and the control of violence (which are probably different from the classic model of the ‘Weberian’ state), and the changes this involves in forms of social and political power, governance, cooperation and legitimacy. Our interest is focused in particular on

the emergence of new socio-political arrangements, especially at the local levels of politics and conflict management. Important actors in these areas are state agencies, traditionally legitimated authorities, civil society actors such as NGOs or religious leaders, and internationally active organizations.

From a methodological point of view, our research is based on historical reconstruction and a comparison of local de-escalation processes in peripheral regions where the state struggled until recently to establish its monopoly of violence and is confronted with other actors challenging the supremacy of the state. We find these conditions in Northern Uganda and Northern Ghana, where the local political arrangements are still in the making. Therefore the influence of local conflicts and their regulation on the development of socio-political structures can be directly observed. At the same time the historical political conditions are different (e.g. long-term civil war in Uganda, relatively peaceful development in Ghana).

Our investigation focuses on “peace processes” at the micro and meso levels in connection with the genesis of new forms of “cosmopolitan governance”. One example may be cited: in the context of the currently most important chieftaincy conflict in Ghana (concerning the succession to the throne of the Dagombas after the murder of their king) the government has entrusted a team of ‘traditional’ rulers, the “Committee of Eminent Kings”, with the task of brokering a solution

to the succession dispute. The costs of this (long-term) mediation project are largely paid by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). At the same time UNDP, as well as national agencies such as DFID, are among the important funding partners supporting international and local NGOs involved in conflict prevention, conflict transformation and peace-building in Ghana and Uganda. Thus a more important role of ‘traditional’ actors and methods of conflict management is combined with the increasing influence of internationally active organizations and civil society actors in this realm, a role which is usually claimed by the state.

Another interesting finding concerns the role of ex-combatants and their organizations. Public discourses on the post-violence process in the central part of North Uganda strongly focus on the problems and suffering of victims. In striking contrast, in neighboring West Nile, discourses concerning this region, including the discourses of humanitarian organizations and development agencies, have a strong focus on the problems of ex-rebel fighters, their conversion into civilians, and the ‘development’ of the region. The suffering of the numerous victims of violent acts committed by both rebel fighters and government soldiers is almost completely absent in the public discourses. One possible explanation is the degree to which the organizations and networks of ex-combatants have successfully transformed themselves into vociferous civil-



society organizations, and, in contrast, the degree to which the civilian victims of collective violence have been unable to organize themselves in a similar manner.

Instead of posing the simple question as to whether or not the

state in Africa is able to establish its supremacy, we analyze the complex interaction of the state with the other socio-political actors that constitute the new socio-political arrangements at the local level.

Artur Bogner and Dieter Neubert

▲ *Purification / pacification ritual performed by Kusasi elders near the town Bawku (North Ghana) in September 2010. This ritual was performed as part of a series of rituals arranged by the Bawku Inter-Ethnic Peace Committee in order to defuse the inter-ethnic chieftaincy conflict in Bawku. (Photo: Artur Bogner and Dieter Neubert)*

Making stars and making nations?

Migration of football talents and the contribution of fans to national identities



▲ *Ghanaian supporters during the World Cup in Pretoria, South Africa (Photo: Christian Ungruhe)*

The phenomenon of the migration of African football players to Europe, and the contribution to a national identity of Ghanaian supporters at the World Cup, are the two main questions of

“Footballmigration – A Dream of Europe”, a research project of Erdmute Alber, Professor of Social Anthropology, and her assistant Christian Ungruhe. Their research takes place within the framework of the Bavarian research network “Migration and Knowledge” (ForMig) funded by the Bavarian State Ministry of Sciences, Research and the Arts (2009-2012).

Their project aims to contribute to debates on the practices of

the movement of young African players to Europe. These debates merely portray this phenomenon as an exploitation of talents and thus tend to treat the players as if they are victims without taking their agency into account. Since the liberation of the European labour market in professional football during the mid-nineties, playing football has provided young Africans with the increasing possibility of going to Europe in order to achieve a better standard of living. Although only a few actually make it to the top, the dream of Europe is ubiquitous among all young talents. Whereas players at lower levels often face racist insults and are perceived as alleged victims of human trafficking, professional footballers are stars and icons of their clubs. However, preliminary results of biographical

interviews with players in German professional and amateur leagues and expert interviews with soccer agents, coaches and football functionaries, as well as participant observation among young talents in Ghanaian soccer academies, indicate that players have to be seen as agents in the process of migration and transfer to a European club whether they achieve a professional or amateur level. A star/victim dichotomy does not picture the reality of strategies but locks migrants into categories of stereotypes according to their level of benefit to the host society.

A side project led the anthropologists to the World Cup in South Africa in order to evaluate the contribution of states and football fans to the construction of a national identity. They met some members of a group of approximately 1,400 Ghanaian supporters who were sponsored by their government to cheer for their national team. The Ghanaian government wanted to make sure that a sufficient number of fans would support the team and be worthy representatives of Ghana. Whereas the supporters did a good job in the stadiums and presented themselves to the world as “celebrating Africans”, the background to this story is one of contradictory interests, corruption, rumors and even violence. Behind the colourful curtain of waving flags, fans and the state were at work to fulfill the task of creating a good image of Ghana to present to the world as well as demonstrating self-assurance as a nation.

Christian Ungruhe

SEED

New Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Strategies at Moi (Kenya) and Bayreuth Universities



In 2011, the collaborative research project of Bayreuth University and Moi University (Eldoret, Kenya), SEED, will start with funding from DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service). The project was recently accepted in the DIES Partnerships of DAAD programme.

The idea of SEED (New ICT Strategies for the Enhancement of Higher Education Management) is to enhance the fruitful collaboration of both universities in the domain of ICT strategic planning at the management level in order to ensure the continuation of excellent teaching and learning conditions. Without the dedication at management level, ICT is in danger of being just “techniques” – with management support, it becomes a strategic topic for a university.

The focus of the project is on planning and enactment strategies and their validation through the configuration of a joint digi-

tal information platform with two key technologies in e-learning and archiving applications.

The aims of the project are:

- to upgrade ICT strategies and structures;
- to make Higher Education Management more efficient by the central development and configuration of new technology and services. In particular, the collaboration of both universities with BIGSAS and DEVA will benefit.
- In addition, the availability and acceptance of e-functionality in teaching, learning, research and Higher Education Management will be enhanced.

The project managers of SEED are Stefan Jablonski, Deputy

▲ *First meeting of the core team of SEED at Iwalewa-Haus (from left to right): Ulf Vierke, Stefan Jablonski, Margrit Prussat, Robin Hecht, Eunice Kamaara, Naomi Shitemi, Florence Indede (as guest). (Photo: Sophia Bauer)*

Vice-President Teaching and Students and Chair of Applied Computer Science, Bayreuth, and Bob Wishitemi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Extension, Eldoret. On the faculty level, the Institute of African Studies, Bayreuth, and the School of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS) of Moi are coordinators of the project. On the Bayreuth side, DEVA (Digital Archive for African Studies) and BIGSAS are mostly in charge. In addition, the ICT directorates and the University Libraries of both institutions are collaborating in the project. *Margrit Prussat*

For more information:
<http://www.deva.uni-bayreuth.de> and
<http://www.ai4.uni-bayreuth.de/de/>

Adaptation and Creativity in Africa

Great success for African Studies in Bayreuth: German Research Foundation (DFG) funds three new research projects within a Priority Programme

The German Research Foundation is funding three new Bayreuth-based interdisciplinary research projects, together with ten doctoral and post-doctoral positions, in its new Priority Programme "Adaptation and Creativity in Africa - Technologies and Significations in the Production of Order and Disorder". The programme starts in January 2011 and addresses the key question of how actors in post-colonial Africa deal with the multiple challenges they are facing by mobilising and transforming their institutional capacities of adaptation and creativity. From a transdisciplinary perspective, the Priority Programme intends to enhance existing theories explaining the role of adaptation and creativity in the transfer or translation of ideas, of models for doing things, and of artefacts, not only between neighbouring communities, within transnational communities and between regions, countries, and continents, but also between various social fields and discourses. From a comparative and historical perspective, the programme aims to understand how these factors contribute to the production of order and disorder in Africa. The structural aims of the Priority Programme are: to promote cooperation between academics from different disciplines in African Studies in Germany, and across different institutions of teaching and/or research in the humanities and social sciences; to create an enabling framework for the development of a common



vocabulary among representatives of different disciplines in African Studies in Germany, and to increase the visibility of Germany-based African Studies. The three Bayreuth-based projects are presented in the following brief summaries:

"Power, Legitimacy, and Violence. A Comparative Study of Political Cultures in South-Africa, Zambia, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Libya"

Georg Klute (Cultural Anthropology, Bayreuth), Elisio Macamo (Basel), Trutz von Trotha, (Siegen) and Dereje Dori Feyissa (Humboldt-fellow, Bayreuth, associated)

Over recent decades, Africa has seen fundamental changes, which have led to the fragmentation of state structures and heterogeneity in politics. In heterarchical settings, as which the project conceptualises these complex political structures,

non-state power groups gain relevance on the political stage. The concept of heterarchy underlines the mutable and unstable intertwining of state and non-state orders and the plurality of competing power groups. The emergence of these groups may hint at a particular vitality of power at the local level and at political cultures in which quite different notions about power, dominance, legitimacy, and the role of violence prevail. The project will study those notions from a comparative perspective by looking at political cultures in various African countries.

"Roadside and travel communities. Towards an understanding of the African long-distance road (Sudan, Ghana)"

Kurt Beck (Anthropology, Bayreuth) and Gabriel Klaeger (London)

The project departs from the insight that motor roads, togeth-



er with the rules and conventions for using them, are quite literally cultural constructions. In this sense, the road regime in large parts of the African continent is still under construction. Road-making and road use draw from North Atlantic models but observation of the African road and preliminary research make clear that beyond the surface of adaptation to the North Atlantic model lie large spaces of creative reinterpretations and modifications. The project proposes an inquiry into the emerging socio-technological orders of the African road by examining quotidian users' practices. Roadside and travel communities as well as their interactions are studied by opening four windows of inquiry on Ghana's and Sudan's long-distance roads: 1) the urban "lorry park", 2) the busy and well de-

veloped inter-regional highway, 3) the unsurfaced back-country road and 4) the rest-stop on over-land roads.

"Translations of the 'adaptation to climate change' paradigm in Eastern Africa"

Martin Doevenspeck, Detlef Müller-Mahn (Social Geography, Bayreuth) and Michael Bollig (Cologne)

The project starts from the observation that society-environment relations in Africa are currently facing an intense reshaping through a multitude of climate related programmes. These have been conceptually developed at an international level, translated into projects and programmes at the national level and negotiated and appropriated ideologically, socially and economically at the local

level. The project takes the global concept of 'Adaptation to Climate Change' as a travelling idea that undergoes reinterpretation, modification and appropriation so that it matches experiences, needs and interests of stakeholders at multiple levels in Africa. The key question is twofold and asks on the one hand how actors in different translation regimes in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Rwanda are able to unfold their capacities of adaptation and creativity in the process of translation of the 'adaptation to climate change' idea and, on the other hand, how the mobilisation and transformation of these capacities shape environmental governance and thus a re-ordering of state-society-environment relations in these countries.

*Kurt Beck, Martin Doevenspeck
and Georg Klute*

Editorial

The Bayreuth African Studies Newsletter is published by the Institute of African Studies. Therefore, staff changes and other news from the publisher's side as well as on the editor's side are reported jointly here.

In early 2010, the Directorate of the IAS has been taken over by Achim von Oppen (History of Africa) and Ute Fendler (Romance Literature).

The IAS Office itself has gone through an important period of transition. In 2007, the IAS was granted the two much-needed positions of a coordinator and a secretary and thus had, for the first time, a permanent office team. Subsequently, Christina Ahr, assisted by Kathrin Burger as the secretary and by several committed student assistants, has done an admirable job in building up the necessary routines and keeping together all the many threads that pass through the office. This was followed, in late 2010, by a short period of vacancy. Fortunately, in negotiation with the University leadership, a solution has been found for the continuation of the two positions. Since November, Manuela Pape is the new IAS secretary, to be followed very soon by a new coordinator. Already in October, Caroline Brown was employed as the new Webmaster (to succeed Andrija Feher and Sven Hüßner). The new office team will be presented in more detail in the next issue of this newsletter.

As for NAB, due to the appointment of Ulf Vierke as director of the Iwalewa-House, the editing of Iwalewa-related activities has been taken over by Anna Schrade. Magnus Echtler, who is actually on paternal leave, will hopefully rejoin the NAB team for the next issue.

Finally, we wish to extend our best wishes for a gratifying and happy new year 2011 to all IAS members, partners and friends, to researchers, teachers and students of Africa at Bayreuth and beyond.

For more information we draw your attention to our web sites:
www.ias.uni-bayreuth.de/en and
www.bigsas.uni-bayreuth.de



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