

NAB

Newsletter of African Studies at the University of Bayreuth



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**“Research in Africa but with Africa”
Helmut Ruppert revisits
the 25 years of IAS!**

Interview

Helmut Ruppert

Former President and one of the founding fathers of African Studies at the University of Bayreuth, revisits the 25 years of IAS!

Bayreuth Academy

Visions arising from War!

Africa–Bayreuth // 1914–2014

African and African Diasporas’ visions arising from World War I.

Future as Commodity and In(ter)vention: Narration, Knowledge and Technology

A fascinating summer at the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies

BIGSAS

» It is time to eliminate the clichés about Africa. «

Round table with Rita Süßmuth, former president of the German Parliament

Africa is THE partner continent of Europe

Federal Minister Gerd Müller advocates a differentiated view on Africa

Iwalewahaus

Future Africa Visions in Time

FAVT – An exhibition by the Bayreuth Academy at the Iwalewahaus



INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN STUDIES

Vol. XV 2015

The IAS

The Institute of African Studies (IAS) has several main functions: it coordinates Africa-related research and teaching at the University of Bayreuth and promotes cooperation with African universities and research institutions, as well as with national and international institutes of African studies.

African studies is one of the cross-discipline research priorities of the University of Bayreuth, as set out in the Mission Statement and the University Development Plan. The IAS thus seeks to promote and coordinate the research and teaching activities of approximately 100 researchers on a cross-faculty and interdisciplinary basis, as well as training for young researchers in Africa-related disciplines. There are currently about 50 professors and about 50 other researchers who are engaged in research in Africa and who teach Africa-related courses, in Faculties II (Biology, Chemistry and Earth Sciences), III (Law, Business Administration and Economics), IV (Languages and Literatures) and V (Cultural Studies).

The IAS initiates cross-disciplinary research projects and supports common Africa-related applications for external funding. The IAS budget is administered and supervised by the executive board.

Editorial



Like in the past, the current volume of NAB XV 2015, *Newsletter of African Studies at the University of Bayreuth*, highlights the major research and outreach activities of the Institute of African Studies (IAS) and its Africa focus. The year 2015 was a memorable one not only in the history of the IAS but also of the University. The University of Bayreuth celebrated its 40th Anniversary this year while the IAS celebrated its 25th Anniversary. This volume is, therefore, dedicated to this anniversary and carries an interview with Prof. Helmut Ruppert, former president of the University, who was instrumental in the creation of the Institute.

I would like to thank all who were involved in the realisation of this new volume of NAB. The IAS, through its academic coordinator, Franz Kogelmann, offered the much needed logistical and financial support. The contributors, as always, were supportive all through the editing and production process. Yannick Tylle took care of the typesetting while Gilbert Ndi Shang assisted with copy-editing at various stages in the production process.

Contributions to NAB are expected in October of every year. We, therefore, call on our regular contributors to respect this deadline as well as the guidelines for preparing the different types of contributions.

We wish you all the best for 2016!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric A. Anchimbe'.

Eric A. Anchimbe *Editor-in-chief*
On behalf of the editorial team

Welcome



With a lot of pleasure, I present to you volume XV (2015) of *NAB: Newsletter of African Studies at the University of Bayreuth*. *NAB* is an annual report on the activities, research projects, conferences, publications, guests, etc. of the Institute of African Studies (IAS). This volume is special because it celebrates, on the one hand, the 25th Anniversary of the Institute of African Studies and, on the other, the 40th Anniversary of the University of Bayreuth. Founded in 1985, the IAS has over the past 25 years registered enormous success both at the level of institutional development and academic training. In my capacity as the current director of the IAS, I wish to extend heartfelt thanks to all those who over the past 25 years have contributed to the success of the Institute. I, at the same time, continue to rely fully and graciously on the excellent contribution of all those currently working with, and affiliated to, the Institute for its future success. To give you an idea of how the IAS was born, this volume of *NAB* carries an interview with one of the founding fathers and major proponents of the Africa focus of the University of Bayreuth, Prof. Dr. Helmut Ruppert. In his administrative career in Bayreuth, he held various top-ranking positions, among them, Director of the IAS, Coordinator of Collaborative Research Centers (Sonderforschungsbereich), Vice-President and later President of the University of Bayreuth.

Like the previous volumes, *NAB XV* has reports about the affiliate institutions of IAS, especially, Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies (BA), Bayreuth International Graduate School

of African Studies (BIGSAS) and the Iwalewahaus. A major highlight of this volume is the Annual Conference of the African Literature Association (ALA) which took place here in Bayreuth in June 2015. It was a pleasure for Bayreuth to host the event and to welcome the renowned writer Ama Ata Aidoo.

Overall, I wish to thank all colleagues, collaborators, guests, friends and students of the IAS and its affiliate institutions for the great work done in 2015 and to wish you all a wonderful year 2016. We are grateful for the feedback we received from you, the readers, in 2015 and we assure you *NAB* will continue to serve you as always.

I wish you a happy reading!

Dieter Neubert
Institute of African Studies

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14/26 – The annual conference of the African Literature Association (ALA) was the term’s highlight in discussing “Future Africa. Visions in Time”.



20 – BIGSAS organised a round table discussion with Rita Süßmuth on Education on Africa in Germany.





21 – BIGSAS had the honour to welcome the German Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development, Gerd Müller, at the Iwalewahaus.



22 – BIGSAS Junior Fellows interviewed Alexandra Rojkov after she had been awarded the 2015 BIGSAS Journalist Award



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Between 2-6 June 2015, Bayreuth was host to two huge annual literature events, The Annual Convention of the African Literature Association (ALA) and the BIGSAS Festival of African and African-Diasporic Literatures, under the theme: “African Futures and Beyond, Visions in Transition”.
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The Institute of African Studies (IAS) turns 25!

TEXT **FRANZ KOGELMANN**
PHOTOS **DEVA**

In 2015, as the University of Bayreuth celebrated its 40th Anniversary, the Institute of African Studies also celebrated its 25th Anniversary! This volume of NAB is dedicated to this milestone in the existence of the Institute. The achievements in the last 25 years have been enormous – a few of them are revisited here.

The IAS was founded on 18 May 1990 by the Bavarian State Ministry of Science and Arts as a central academic institution of the University of Bayreuth. It coordinates not only Africa-related research and teaching at the University but also supports and intensifies cooperation with academic institutions in Africa. The foundation of the Institute was the result of an enduring development in the field of African Studies. When the University of Bayreuth was founded in 1975, Africa, as region or area of study, was written into both its Constitution and Mission Statement. African Studies was identified as one of the cross-disciplinary research priorities of the University. The special focus on African Studies has been progressively expanded upon and developed in all six faculties since the founding of the University.

The cornerstone of this development was the Collaborative Research Centre “Identity in Africa” (1984-1997) funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Interdisciplinary Africa-related research, teaching and support for junior researchers have continued since then in many different ways. First there was the graduate research group “Intercultural Relations in Africa” which ran from 1991-1999. In the period 1992-2004, the African



Law Society was managed and organised from Bayreuth. The Swahili Colloquium, organised by our linguists in African Languages, has taken place in Bayreuth every year since 1993. The graduate research group “Rural Regional Development in Maghreb”, under the auspices of the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), was also very successful: it was run jointly by the Universities of Rabat (Morocco) and Bayreuth from 1995-2004.

Thanks to the efforts of the Institute of African Studies, the University Development Plan 2000-2004 confirmed the high synergy effects achieved by the African Studies research priority. Another great success was a second Collaborative Research Centre “Local Action in Africa in the Context of Global Influences” (2000-2007). BA degree programmes in “Applied African Studies” have also been offered since the winter semester 2001-02, and shortly afterwards

the corresponding MA programmes were also introduced. The University of Bayreuth’s successful application in the Initiative for Excellence of the Federal Government saw the creation of the “Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies” (BIGSAS) in 2007, which today is a success story with almost 100 alumni in less than 10 years. After a highly competitive evaluation process BIGSAS was extended for another five years in 2012. In the same year the “Bayreuth Academy of Advanced Studies” – funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research – was founded and began working on its project “Future Africa”. After four years it was extended for another two years. These successes are indicators of the extensive work the Institute has been involved in. We are all proud to have been part of it and look to an even more successful 50th Anniversary in 25 years.



“Research *in* Africa but *with* Africa”

Helmut Ruppert revisits the 25 years of IAS!

As the University of Bayreuth celebrated its 40th Anniversary in 2015, the Institute of African Studies also took stock of its 25 years of existence. One of the founding fathers and most important proponents of the Africa focus was indisputably the former President of the University of Bayreuth (1997-2009) Helmut Ruppert, Professor of Educational Geography. In an interview with Eric Anchimbe (NAB editor-in-chief) and Franz Kogelmann (IAS Coordinator), Helmut Ruppert retraced the life history of the Institute from its early beginnings.

Earlier in your career, your research area was the Middle East. But after taking up a position in Bayreuth, you began to focus intensively on Africa. Can you tell us how this happened?

Helmut Ruppert: As you rightly say, in my early career my research was essentially based on the Middle East. But before the official creation of the University of Bayreuth in 1975 I was a member of the planning committee whose task was to establish a regional research focus for this new university. The background to this idea was the decision of the German Research

Council to follow the example of the Anglo-Saxon (USA and UK) approach known as “Area Studies”. Whereas African Studies was only represented by independent disciplines before this time, it became imperative for the University of Bayreuth to create an interdisciplinary approach to its research foci. In this regard, the University began inviting researchers working in and on Africa to Bayreuth. This was the groundwork for the strong Africa focus of the University of Bayreuth especially in the humanities.

Today all the six faculties are commit-



Gäste aus Lomé: Rektor Professor Dr. Ampah Johnson (rechts) und der Germanist Professor Dr. Amegan (vierter von rechts)

This photo was published in *Spektrum* 3/1983 when vice-chancellor of the University of Lomé, Togo Ampah Johnson (right) visited the IAS and met Helmut Ruppert (middle) at the Iwalewahaus.

Africa are considered equal partners.

In what ways did you contribute to making research with Africa possible, in your various capacities as director of the collaborative research centre, vice-president and later on president of this University?

As vice-president of the University (1979-1981), I had considerable influence on the recruitment of staff in Africa-related disciplines. I was particularly concerned with collaboration

with African researchers and African universities. For me, a very decisive milestone in the history of African studies in Bayreuth was the founding of the Iwalewahaus. This constituted a strong and rare research connection with Africa in the whole of Europe at the time.

Uli Beier, the first and long serving Director of the Iwalewahaus, had just returned from Nigeria with a wealth of knowledge on Africa and experience on working with Africans. This was a rather unusual idea at the time, given that colonialism had just ended giving rise to a wave of independence. The promotion of Africans' self-consciousness and self-esteem in every domain of culture and societal life was an outstanding achievement of the Director of the Iwalewahaus. Thanks to him, the Iwalewahaus became a space for showcasing non-European and

ted to the Africa focus in various ways and at different levels. "Area Studies" is approached from an interdisciplinary perspective. What is the strength of this interdisciplinarity?

I would say its main advantage comes from the fact that the constituent disciplines are compelled to look above the parapet. Through corporation and joint research with other disciplines, new research questions emerge. This approach has proven quite fruitful in the case of Bayreuth. At the very beginning of the project, there was intensive interdisciplinary study of ethnic identities in Africa. This led to the creation of a collaborative research centre (SFB), "Identity in Africa", which was eventually funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) from 1984-1997

– proof of the outstanding research output of this collaborative research centre.

"Area Studies" has recently been severely criticised in the UK and US. In your opinion, what future awaits it?

Essentially, the criticism is rather superficial, and the matter is not approached factually. My opinion of Area Studies with regard to African Studies in Bayreuth is different. The interdisciplinary and collaborative approach adopted in Bayreuth made it possible for the different disciplines to engage more deeply and innovatively with new research questions. The trademark of African Studies in Bayreuth, i. e. research *in Africa with Africa*, emerged out of this interdisciplinary approach. This is only possible if researchers from

SPRINGER 3/83



Ulli Beier, founder of Iwalewaha, discussing current African Art with Klaus-Dieter Wolff, first vice-chancellor of the University of Bayreuth, and Suruchi Chand, artist from India.

specifically African arts and culture. This was enhanced by a structural framework that made it possible for African artists to visit Bayreuth “as artists-in-residence”.

The Africa focus also had as part of its agenda the training of young researchers from Africa. Many of our alumni returned to their home countries and are successfully committed in diverse sectors ranging from scientific research to politics, culture, etc. This explains why, after a relatively short period, Bayreuth gained such an outstanding reputation in Africa.

Besides your administrative duties at the University, you also carried out research. After changing your focus from the Arab world of the near East, what

Helmut Ruppert

Former President (vice-chancellor) and one of the founding fathers of African Studies at the University of Bayreuth

- Born 1941 in Marktredwitz, Upper Franconia
- 1964 teaching degree for secondary schools in Economics and Geography, Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg
- 1968 PhD in Geography, topic: “Beirut an oriental city formed by the Occident”. Republished and translated into French in 1999 “Beyrouth, une ville d’Orient marquée par l’Occident”
- 1968-1974 Assistant Professor at the Institute of Geography, Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg
- 1971-1977 Member of Structure Advisory Board of the future University of Bayreuth, founded 1975, African Studies became regional studies focus in the constitution of the University
- 1974-1997 Professor of Didactics of Geography, University of Bayreuth
- 1979-1982 Deputy Vice-President (Research and Student Affairs) of the University of Bayreuth
- 1984-1997 Spokesperson (alternating with János Riesz) of the collaborative research centre SFB 214 “Identity in Africa – Processes of Its Development and Change”. This successful SFB was funded by the DFG for the maximum period of 13 years
- 1994-1997 Chairperson of Bavarian Research and Teaching Association for Area Studies, FORAREA
- 1997-2009 President of the University of Bayreuth, under his direction the University of Bayreuth applied successfully for the Initiative of Excellence of the Federal Government and the Länder in 2007. Eventually the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS) was founded in October 2007

After being deeply engaged with the Middle East (Lebanon, Egypt and Israel) Helmut Ruppert’s research focus shifted to the Republic of Sudan in the 1980s. He was particularly interested in questions of identity and migration. He conducted fieldwork in the eastern part of Sudan and in the Darfur region of western Sudan. Since his retirement in 2009, he is still very active in all issues related to higher education on the national and European level. In the field of African Studies his activities include, inter alia, acting as chairperson of the biannual BIGSAS Journalism Award in excellent print-media products related to Africa in German.



Hans Zehetmair, the Bavarian Minister of State for Education and Cultural Affairs, on an official visit to the University of Bayreuth in the late 1980s. Aside from discussing general questions concerning the future development of our university, the minister showed a keen interest in African Studies. His active support was crucial in the founding process of the Institute of African Studies. From its very beginning the University of Bayreuth developed a very strong research focus on interdisciplinary African Studies. Thus, African Studies in Bayreuth became, in a very short period of time, a unique feature in Germany's academic landscape.



did your later research concentrate on?

From the 1980s I was very active researching in Sudan for the following reason: Having done research in Egypt, I already had knowledge of the Arab part of Africa. So, it was easy for me to proceed upstream to Sudan in order to develop my research interest. I was particularly interested in

questions of identity, and the Sudanese Republic remains a paragon of the overlapping nature of Arab/African identities. The high number of immigrants and refugees from various regions is particularly visible in the Khartoum/Omdurman conglomeration.

At that time there was civil war in Sudan.

Yes and that entailed difficulties, firstly in having the research project approved and, secondly in carrying out the fieldwork proper. My research was mainly on immigration movements. At the beginning, I focused on the eastern part of the country, on the border with Eritrea and Ethio-



of the longstanding collaboration needed to be strengthened further in the future. This could only be possible within the framework of an institute. This was as far back as the mid-1980s. However, it took the creation of the Institute for African Studies in 1990 for this to materialise. This was a long-drawn process given that the creation of such a central research structure required the approval of the Ministry of Scientific Research in Munich. We were clearly made to understand that neither financial support nor the creation of additional posts was possible. A decisive support – thanks to the ex-

the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS) after a successful bid for the Excellence Initiative launched by the German Federal and State governments (since 2007). These were very positive developments.

In the coming 25 years the IAS needs to add new impetus to African studies in Bayreuth. In my opinion, it is important that the IAS should remain at the centre of African studies in Bayreuth. If I were not 75 years, I would have loved to be the next director given that the person who has several capabilities always gets what s/

» The Africa focus also had as part of its agenda the training of young researchers from Africa. Many of our alumni returned to their home countries and are successfully committed in diverse sectors. «

pia. Later on, I also did research for a considerable period of time in the Darfur region of western Sudan. My specific interest was on how migration worked in the cities, the role of various networks in the integration of immigrants, and how different groups delimited and built their own networks. My research findings led to the development of a particular approach for a new policy in development aid, “from help to self-help”.

What would you propose as the way forward for the Institute of African Studies and the Africa focus in Bayreuth in the next 25 years?

In order to address this question, I think it is necessary to take a look back. In the 1980s, even before the collaborative research centre, “Identity in Africa”, became well established, we were already brainstorming on what should follow when its term runs out. We came to the conclusion that the competences and outcomes

perience gained from the approval of the application for the collaborative research centre – came from the German Research Foundation.

That is how the Institute of African Studies (IAS) was created as a sequel to the first collaborative research centre. The University made available two research (initially part-time) assistants as well as a standing budget for the sponsorship of guest researchers from Africa. This financial support was essential for our collaboration with Africa. Although the resources were far from sufficient, the Institute achieved quite a lot through its graduate programme “Intercultural Relations in Africa” (1991-1999) as well as a further collaborative research centre (SFB) known as “Local Trade in a Context of Global Influences” (2000-2007). Lastly, the activities of the IAS led to the creation of

he wants if s/he does it well. It should be a very genuinely communicative person who entertains good contacts with the University of Bayreuth and the University Council. He should be able to promote the African presence and to discuss with African researchers, being there for our African guests – researchers and students alike. This is a serious requirement which I think would even become more crucial in the next 25 years. When you consider the fact that the research significance of African studies in Bayreuth has grown in strength, you would agree with me that corporation at the level of scientific research policy with African researchers and academic institutions is going to play an even greater role in the future.

Thank you very much for this conversation.



Visions arising from War! Africa–Bayreuth // 1914–2014

Two exhibitions on Africa and Bayreuth connections 100 years ago

TEXT **ACHIM VON OPPEN &
FLORENCE ECKERT**
PHOTOS **ACHIM VON OPPEN**

“Catastrophe or Catalyst?” – This was the theme of the Bayreuth Academy conference in 2014 that commemorated the centenary of the beginning of the First World War, from the perspective of Africa and the African Diaspora, and focusing on those visions of theirs that arose from the war (see NAB XIV: 18-19) – a significant departure from mainstream Western approaches to the war.

In 2015, the question was taken up again but from a perspective that was locally and biographically more concrete, and that addressed a much wider audience. Two exhibitions visualised the harsh and novel experiences of both Africans and Europeans during the First World War, not only on the battlefields, but also in the hinterlands of their respective continents, including remote places in Mozambique as well as Bayreuth. Both

exhibitions pointed out the differences, but also some unexpected similarities, between those experiences in Africa and in Europe. The exhibitions also drew attention to changes of perspective and the emergence of new ideas about the future that arose from these hard times.

The first of these exhibitions started from the little known fact that a corner of today’s main campus of the University of Bayreuth was the site of a prisoner-of-war (POW) camp during WWI in which some African combatants were also held, along with captured French soldiers, with whom they had been fighting on the Western Front. The exhibition identified surprising connections and parallels between Africa and Bayreuth during WWI from a variety of angles. From the involvement of the Bayreuth Cavalry in what was then the colony of “German Southwest Africa” (today’s Namibia) to the sufferings of civilians on both continents and from monuments and ceremonies commemorating the war to revolts and new hopes

arising from it on both sides, the exhibition tried to show that various parts of Africa and Bayreuth, their pasts and their views of the future, have been entangled for more than 100 years.

This exhibition was part of the celebrations of the University of Bayreuth’s 40th Anniversary, *Campus Erleben!*, on 18 July 2015, and was organised by the Chair of African History of the university.

The second exhibition, *Faint Testimonies: Remembering the Future through World War I* (co-curated by Rui Assubuji and Achim von Oppen), addressed the connections between Africa and Bayreuth 100 years ago by digging deeper into the experiences of captivity during WWI, again on both sides. Its twin starting points were a North-African soldier held as POW in Bayreuth (Germany), on the one hand, and a group of German civilians and military personnel interned in Mozambique, then a Portuguese colony, on the other. By raising questions about their biographical and histori-



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Fig. 1: German internees in the Portuguese “concentration camp” of Macequece, Western Mozambique, 1916 (found by Rui Assubuji in the Achívio de Historia Militar, Lisbon)

Fig. 2: Exhibition “The War under the Campus: Africa and Bayreuth in World War I” on 18 July 2015, University of Bayreuth

Fig. 3: Ali Ben Ahmed Loutis from Aït Aïssa village in Kabylia, Algeria, Sergeant of the Tirailleurs Algériens (Algerian Rifles), as a POW in Bayreuth in 1915 (Sammlung Bernd Mayer, Historisches Museum Bayreuth)

cal contexts, the exhibition sought to understand how these two groups may have looked at their past and futures with their own eyes.

The two entangled histories present two very different kinds of imprisonments in that war that have almost been forgotten today both in Mozambique and in Bayreuth. When Germany declared war on Portugal in 1916, all Germans who were in Mozambique at that time were captured and interned by the Portuguese (see photo). These included German traders, diplomats, prospectors, farmers or crew members of German ships. Conversely, Africans who had agreed, more or less voluntarily, to fight with the French against the invading German armies in Northern France from 1914 onwards were captured and became POW in Germany. Both the Germans and the Africans were, in a way, victims of the war, but under different conditions. Although both groups’ outlook on the world was shattered by their experiences in the war, they still gradually developed new visions

for what was to come after it. Some of them subsequently became actively involved in the making of that future, be it – on the African side – through movements for independence from colonial rule or, on the German side, as propagators of a German recovery of its colonies lost in the war (an objective that was later adopted by the Nazis).

Despite some detailed insights into the living conditions of these prisoners of war, not much is known of their biographies and visions of the future, except through mere conjecture. The installation, therefore, illustrated how faint and fragmented our knowledge of the situation, background and perceptions of historical actors like these really is. Testimonies or “sources”, as historians call them, on these POW are scarce and far apart. Remembrance of the possibilities and ‘futures’ of the past, as much as its sufferings, responsibilities and

disappointments, is a struggle against forgetting. There is a danger that such tensions and openness of the past are smoothened in hindsight along the lines of “what actually came out of it” and of who actually prevailed.

In this way, the exhibition, *Faint Testimonies*, does not only point out the openness of the future from a historical and personal perspective but it also raises awareness of the difficulties of historical work. In both respects, it aims to create tangible insights into research work at the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies. Along with 18 other fascinating exhibitions, it makes up the FAVT exhibition on the Bayreuth Academy’s current research project *Future Africa – Visions in Time* (FAVT), jointly developed by artists and researchers. The exhibition was displayed at the Iwalewahaushaus from October 2015 until February 2016, and may hopefully be displayed elsewhere afterwards.

More details at: www.bayreuthacademyexhibition.wordpress.com

Future as Commodity and In(ter)vention: Narration, Knowledge and Technology

A fascinating summer at the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies

TEXT SUSAN ARNDT, HENRI GUNKEL,
PEGGY PIESCHE & MARIAM POPAL
PHOTO BAYREUTH ACADEMY

In summer 2015, the Working Group of the Bayreuth Academy was organised by members of Sub-project 4: "Concepts of Future in Mediaspaces of Africa and its Diasporas": Susan Arndt, Henriette Gunkel, Peggy Piesche and Mariam Popal. It was dedicated to fictional conceptualisations of 'future' in the intersecting trans-spaces of the internet, fiction, and Africa/n diasporas. In doing so, literary studies is mobilised as a (postcolonial) transcultural "poétique de la relation", as theorised by Édouard Glissant and Gayatri Spivak. A post-disciplinary perspective informs our studies in literary, film and visual studies. The various projects rely on an expertise in African and African-diasporic literatures, English and anglophone literatures, as well as German and romance literatures. Yet conventional pigeonholes such as national literatures and one-language-one-nation-only frames of literary studies are likewise transgressed. As a result, the project performs transcultural literary studies, relying on postcolonial theory and critical whiteness studies, diaspora studies, gender and sexuality studies, and queer studies. Thus framed, we pursue FutureS as imagination, fact, commodity and narration in the realm of Afrofuturism, ethics and diasporic technologies. Working with "Future" as a critical category enables us to read 'future' as an in(ter)vention into memory, on the one hand, and contemporary matters on the other.

As such, it is about resistance and about the FutureS that will never happen or are not meant to happen and yet happen nevertheless.

The Working Group was organised under the title "Future as Commodity and In(ter)vention: Narration, Knowledge and Technology", and had as fellows Anne Adams (Cornell University), Aleida Assmann (University of Konstanz), Kien Nghi Ha (Berlin), Abdi Osman (Toronto), and Rinaldo Walcott (University of Toronto) with the collaboration of the associates Shirin Assa, Nabil Barham, Weeraya Donsomsakulkij and Anouar Messada.

The working group delved into the idea of future as commodity in regard to narration as guided by the question: *What* is narrated *when* about the future by *whom*, *how* and *why* and how do these narrations commodify futures? In doing so, we developed an understanding of conceptualising "FutureS" in the plural and approached future as a critical category of analysis.

Narrations are trans-spaces that entangle the world throughout time and space. Being societal textures, narrations shape different forms of texts (be it fictional texts, ethnographic texts, sounds, visual languages, sets of images, codes and/or numbers) that rely on and feed into epistemologies. In fact, any narration relies on the interaction of 'discourse' (content) and 'story' (structure) and hence the entanglement of 'who', 'what' and 'how?' In other words, the discourse (i.e. 'what') is communicated via chains of events, narrative texts, images, or cultural artefacts (i.e. the 'how')? When complementing the 'what' and

the 'how' with time ('when'), reason ('why') and subjectivity/agency ('who'), narration turns out to be a commodifying performance.

In this Working Group, different narrations about the future have been approached, whereby the focus was on power and/of knowledge as related to time and space, ownership and belonging, articulation and silence. Paradigms of producing or silencing futures have been explored, based on core notions and categories of narratives about/on future, such as memory, hope, vision, and acceleration. One focal point of our perspective under scrutiny and a prominent pillar of the subsequent discussions was to constitute technology and its effects on narrations on/about future. Of special interest was the technology of the world wide web as an *other* space that has given new (philosophical, conceptual) dimensions to space-time, duration, distance and narrativity. Another core interest was to address academia as shaped by and positioned within the interaction of future, narration and commodity: how do academic structures predetermine the 'findings' about future and how do they foster and silence epistemologies and related visions, in(ter)ventions and resources?

Entangled with the Future Africa Lecture Series, Aleida Assmann opened the term with an intriguing talk about the power of memory as interpretation of the past. Thus framed, we delved into the power of interpretation in shaping societal structures and related discourses. We expanded our discussion forum also to the 6th European Conference on African Stud-

ies held in Paris, 8-10 July 2015, where we convened in a joined proposal titled, *Visions of Future/s: Towards Radical Collective Imaginations*. The panel challenged the notion of future as an uncontested category in the analysis of political movements, revolutions and rebellions and proposed beyond this understanding 'future' as an analytical category, as a possibility and potentiality to think radical collectivities through imagination. 'Future' is herein not a linear consequence of an assumed today, but a speculative tool and space of potentiality and anticipation, a possible intervention into the present. This leads to the collapse of conventional normative temporal orders of nation state, kinship, bodies and senses of hope and 'belonging' and unleashes energy for speculative imagining, i.e. as utopias, dystopias, radical socialities and being with and for others. "What if?" here serves as a catalyst for radical collectivities and can also function as a prism of various positionalities, wherein 'future' consequently shatters into multiple futures for and from diverse perspectives. Looking at 'future/s' in this way enables us to understand temporary or enduring collectivities, their formation and fluidity. It also enables the focus on practices of the radical imagining other-wise, beyond terms such as 'inversion' and 'subversion' and dichotomies ('rural-urban', 'local-global', 'western-non-western'). Participants from the *Bayreuth Academy*: Peggy Piesche "Radicalising the Present and Implementing the Future of Digital Collectives between the Diaspora and the Continent", Nadine Siegert and Katharina Fink "Collective imaginations of militant femininity: The anticipatory force of images before, during and after the revolution", as well as Henriette Gunkel, co-project leader SP4 and Hameed Ayesha "A Lexicon of Afterlives".

The annual conference of the African Literature Association (ALA) with more than 500 participants from all around the world was the term's highlight in discussing "Future Africa. Vi-



Anthony Joseph performing

sions in Time" with a focus on fictional imagination, the power of interpretation and the future of literary studies.

From 3-5 July 2015, the Royal African Society held its annual Africa Writes festival at the British Library in London. The Academy prominently participated in its symposium titled, "Africa in Translation: What's Love Got to Do with It?" a multiple panel event on translation curated by Wangui wa Goro and Mbuguah Bekisizwe Goro, which brought together writers, artists, publishers, translators, readers and scholars with Henriette Gunkel and Peggy Piesche as panelists. This symposium was set out to explore the

limits and possibilities of translating creative narratives and cultures across time and space, including virtual space, orature, music, film and multimedia, reading and writing.

The Working Group concluded its work on 3-4 July 2015 with the international workshop "Stuart Hall's Legacy for Thinking Tomorrows Planarily: Representation, Language and Postcoloniality in (Post-) Humanism and Beyond" in honour of Stuart Hall and his critical texts and concepts such as representation, ideology, identify and diaspora also in relation to (post-) hum*animal approaches, ethics and visions for the future.

Status Quo

A record-breaking 23 new alumni, 15 New Junior Fellows, 3 New Postdocs, 17 published dissertations in 2015



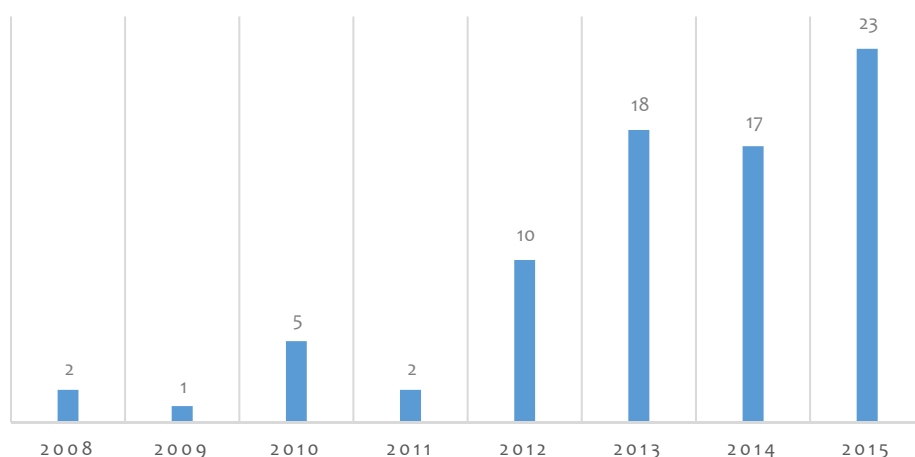
Since its creation in 2007, the year 2015 was the most productive in terms of PhD defences for the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies. In all, 23 dissertations were successfully defended. The number of Alumni now stands at 78 – already way higher than the goal set in 2007 and reaffirmed in the renewal application in 2012. The 23 new Alumni come from eleven countries: Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Germany, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Nigeria, Sudan, The Netherlands and Togo.

In 2015, BIGSAS also saw an increasing number of applications for admission. 192 candidates from 20 countries in Africa, seven countries in Europe, two countries in the Americas and eight countries in Asia took the chance to apply.

BIGSAS admitted 15 new students in 2015, nine of them began their doctoral studies in the summer semester and six began in the winter semester 2015. The new Junior Fellows come from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Germany. At the end of 2015 BIGSAS has a total number of 94 Junior Fellows from 28 countries: 18 African, five European, three Asian and two American countries. The ratio of women (44%) to men (56%) is nearly balanced.

In terms of published dissertations, 17 BIGSAS Alumni published their works between November 2014 and December 2015, among them six

ALUMNI OF BIGSAS (AT THE END OF 2015)

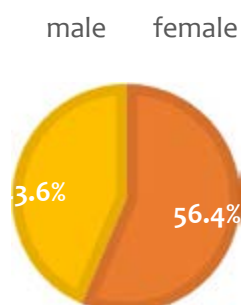


online, four in the Institute of African Studies series *Beiträge zur Afrikaforschung* at LIT Verlag, three with Cuvillier Verlag and the rest with other publishers.

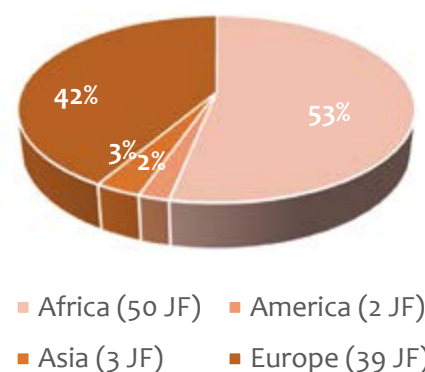
Three new postdocs joined BIGSAS

in 2015 and have since actively taken over organisation of the doctoral colloquium and other tasks. We welcome them heartily into the BIGSAS family: Benedetta Lanfranchi, Benedikt Pontzen and Emnet Woldegiorgis.

GENDER RATIO JUNIOR FELLOWS



REGION OF ORIGIN JUNIOR FELLOWS



Defences in 2015

Name	Country of origin	Title of dissertation	Supervisor
Abdalla, Salma	Sudan	Charity Drops. Water Provision and the Politics of the Zakat Chamber in Khartoum, Sudan	Detlef Müller-Mahn
Bakhit, Mohamed	Sudan	Identity and Lifestyles Construction in Multi-ethnic Shantytowns: A case study of Al-Baraka community in Khartoum, Sudan	Kurt Beck
Bonkat, Lohna	Nigeria	Surviving in a Conflict Environment: Market Women and Changing Socioeconomic Relations in Jos, Nigeria - 2001–2010	Alexander Stroh
Brinkmann, Felix	Germany	Kleinhandel unter schwierigen institutionellen Voraussetzungen - Reaktionen, Strategien und Lösungen der Händler auf dem Chisokone-Markt in Kitwe/Sambia	Dieter Neubert
Chepngetich, Pamela	Kenya	Spectacles of Displacement, Institutional and Vernacular Photography on Refugees in Dadaab, North-Eastern Kenya	Ulf Vierke
Coulibaly, Marie Paule	Côte d'Ivoire	Logiques sociales de la solidarité envers les personnes vivant avec le VIH: Etude de cas menée dans les zones transfrontalières de la Côte d'Ivoire avec le Ghana et du Ghana avec le Togo	Dieter Neubert
Dahlmanns, Erika	Germany	Die Einheit der Kinder Gihangas. Kulturelle Dynamiken und politische Fiktionen der Neugestaltung von Gemeinschaft in Ruanda.	Georg Klute
Daniel, Antje	Germany	Organisation - Vernetzung - Bewegung. Frauenbewegungen in Kenia und Brasilien	Dieter Neubert
Debele, Serawit	Ethiopia	Managing Irreecha Ritual: Religion and Politics in Post 1991 Ethiopia	Ulrich Berner
Firsching, Henrike	Germany	"Apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken at the right time" - The translation of biblical metaphors in Hausa and Swahili	Dymitr Ibrizimow
Kamdem, Hector	Cameroon	The Basic Narrative of National Unity and Peace in Cameroonian Political Speeches: A Discourse Analytical Perspective	Susanne Mühleisen
Koto, Yawo	Togo	L'environnementalisme en Afrique francophone. La représentation de l'environnement dans la littérature et le cinéma africains francophones au sud du Sahara.	Ute Fendler
Lar, Jimam	Nigeria	Vigilantism, State, and Society in Plateau State, Nigeria: A History of Plural Policing (1950 to the present)	Achim von Oppen
Mané, Fodé	Guinea-Bissau	A Mediação na resolução de conflitos. O caso de Bambadinca.	Georg Klute
Mendes, Paulina	Guinea-Bissau	Entre os "saberes locais" e o "saber universal": A modernização das comunidades Manjaco e MANDJIZAÇÃO do estado na Guiné-Bissau	Georg Klute
Nrenzah, Genevieve	Ghana	Modernizing Indigenous Priesthood and Revitalizing Old Shrines: Current Developments on Ghana's Religious Landscape	Ulrich Berner
Otundo, Billian	Kenya	Exploring Ethnically-Marked Varieties of Kenyan English: Intonation and Associated Attitudes	Susanne Mühleisen
Owino, Robert	Kenya	International Environmental Law and Trans-boundary Resource Co-operation Frameworks in the Lake Victoria Basin: An Assessment of Effectiveness	Jörg Gundel
Rudic, Christiane	Germany	Housing finance strategies of informal settlement dwellers. Factors of influence and the impacts of planned interventions in Dar es Salaam.	Beate Lohnert
Scheffler, Jennifer	Germany	Ethnotourismus in der Kalahari	Herbert Popp
Ungruhe, Christian	Germany	Lasten tragen, Moderne befördern. Wanderarbeit, Jugend, Erwachsenwerden und ihre geschlechtsspezifischen Differenzierungen in Ghana	Erdmute Alber
Wijngaarden, Vanessa	The Netherlands	Persistent images of "the other" in cultural tourism - The interplay between Maasai's and tourists' imaginations and their face-to-face interactions	Georg Klute
Woldegiorgis, Emnet	Ethiopia	Regionalization of Higher Education in Africa and the Operationalization of the African Union Higher Education Harmonization Strategy	Alexander Stroh



BIGSAS welcomes its nine new Junior Fellows starting in summer 2015

PhD dissertations of BIGSAS Alumni published in 2015

Author	Title of publication	Publisher
Bello, Baba Mai	The Perception of HIV/AIDS among Students in Northeastern Nigeria	LIT Verlag, Münster
Bello, Sakinatou	La traite des enfants en Afrique: L'application des conventions internationales relatives aux droits de l'enfant en République du Bénin	L'Harmattan, Paris
Bloemertz, Lena	Society and Nature in the Lower River Nyando Basin, Kenya	https://epub.uni-bayreuth.de/1856/
Boger, Julia	The job hunt: Return migration and labour market entries of Ghanaian and Cameroonian graduates from German universities	World University Service, Wien
Brinkmann, Felix	Kleinhandel unter schwierigen institutionellen Voraussetzungen – Reaktionen, Strategien und Lösungen der Händler auf dem Chisokone-Markt in Kitwe/Sambia	https://epub.uni-bayreuth.de/2163/
Coulibaly, Nonlourou Marie Paule Natogama	Logiques sociales de la solidarité envers les personnes vivant avec le VIH	Cuvillier Verlag, Göttingen
Eresso, Meron Zeleke	Faith at the Crossroads: Religious Syncretism and dispute settlement in Northern Ethiopia	Harrassowitz Verlag, Wiesbaden
Fink, Katharina	Un/doing Sophiatown: Contemporary Reverberations of a Myth and in a Suburb	himmelgrün, Bayreuth
Flosbach, Johannes	Financial Performance of Microfinance Institutions in Ghana and Uganda: Development and Application of the Achievement Stages Model	LIT Verlag, Münster
Geda, Gemechu J.	Pilgrimages and Syncretism: Religious Transformation Among The Arsi Oromo of Ethiopia	https://epub.uni-bayreuth.de/2059/
Kagoro, Jude	Militarization in Post-1986 Uganda: Politics, Military and Society Interpretation	LIT Verlag, Münster
Kroeker, Lena	In between Life and Death: Decision-making of HIV+ Mothers in Lesotho	LIT Verlag, Münster
Marowa, Ivan	Forced Removal and Social Memories in North-western Zimbabwe, 1900-2000	https://epub.uni-bayreuth.de/2090/
Narh, Peter	Institutional interaction in environmental governance: A study on teak farming and sand winning in Dormaa, Ghana	Cuvillier Verlag, Göttingen
Nrenzah, Genevieve	Modernizing Indigenous Priesthood and Revitalizing Old Shrines: Current Developments on Ghana's Religious Landscape	https://epub.uni-bayreuth.de/2178/
Traoré, Daouda	Le senar (lange senufo du Burkina Faso): éléments de description et d'influence du jula véhiculaire dans un contexte de contact de langues	Cuvillier Verlag, Göttingen
Wafula, Magdaline Nakhumicha	Narrative Voice and Focalization in the Narration of Generational Conflicts in Selected Kiswahili Novels	https://epub.uni-bayreuth.de/1773/



Top: Exploring the city and its connections to Africa during “Bayreuth meets Africa – An exceptional city tour”
Below: The BIGSAS stand at the Afro-Karibik-Festival on Saturday, 18 July

BIGSAS in Town 2015

A little bit of BIGSAS at the Afrika-Karibik-Festival

TEXT & PHOTOS **BIGSAS**

On Saturday, 18 July 2015, BIGSAS again participated in the annual *Afrika-Karibik-Festival* which took place on *Maximilianstraße*, right in the heart of Bayreuth. BIGSAS’ presence was conspicuous through its colourful information stand manned by Junior Fellows, Senior Fellows and members of the BIGSAS Administration Team who readily presented detailed information about BIGSAS, its academic activities and its outreach activities. At the Graduate School information stand in the heart of the pedestrian area, visitors could ask questions about BIGSAS, its research

on, and collaboration with, Africa, its Alumni and its regular outreach events and projects like BIGSAS@school, the BIGSAS Journalist Award, BIGSAS Football Club, and the “Bayreuth meets Africa – An exceptional city tour”. BIGSAS also brought some of its signature orange-coloured giveaways. Soon, the pedestrian area was filled with the orange balloons of BIGSAS. It was a full day spiced with interesting encounters between BIGSAS and guests from all over Germany who asked very engaging questions.

A highlight of this festival period was the now popular city tour “Bayreuth meets Africa”, offered not by professional guides but by BIGSAS JFs and Alumni, especially from Africa. This

tour takes visitors to historical sites in Bayreuth that are reminiscent of contact with Africa. So, in the afternoon of Friday, 17 July 2015, BIGSAS alumna Katharina Fink (Germany) and BIGSAS Junior Fellows Jean-Pierre Boutché and Hector Kamdem, both from Cameroon, guided several groups of visitors through the city in what is now generally called: “Bayreuth meets Africa – An exceptional city tour”. BIGSAS Junior Fellows have been organising this tour for several years now. The interested festival visitors took the chance to explore the city and its amazing connections to Africa. For example, the New Palace and the Margravial Opera House are places where traces of connected “histories” can be found.



TEXT & PHOTO BIGSAS

It is not every day that a Graduate School is honoured by such internationally renowned and politically influential persons like Rita Süßmuth,

» It is time to eliminate the clichés about Africa. «

Round table with Rita Süßmuth: Former president of the German Parliament

teemed guest on the topic “Bildung über Afrika in Deutschland” (Education on Africa in Germany). The audience was comprised mostly of BIGSAS Junior Fellows, Alumni and Senior Fellows as well as other guests of the award ceremony. The participants introduced themselves and briefly presented their PhD projects. Rita Süßmuth, herself an academic by training, showed great interest in the projects and listened carefully to everyone’s presentation, interrupting now and then only for clarification. Following the introductions, she had various

African Studies focus as well as its intercultural atmosphere. “I am glad to be in Bayreuth and at BIGSAS,” she explained. “It is time to eliminate the clichés about Africa. [...] I congratulate you for being recognised as a graduate school of the Excellence Initiative. [...] Your institute stands out for its cultural diversity which is not common in Germany – not in universities, not in schools, not in adult education.” Rita Süßmuth also addressed xenophobia in Germany and criticised the society for its thinking about Africa. Regarding these conditions, the Afri-



Participants of the round table

former president of the German Parliament. BIGSAS was particularly proud to welcome her to Bayreuth on 29 April 2015, where she presented a keynote address at the 2015 BIGSAS Journalist Award ceremony. BIGSAS took this opportunity to organise a round table discussion with the es-

questions about BIGSAS in general, the structure and the specifics of the PhD programme.

Impressed by the broad diversity of BIGSAS students and the programme’s interdisciplinary character, she praised the University of Bayreuth for its uniqueness regarding the

can Studies in Bayreuth had another mission, Rita Süßmuth stated, namely to provide skills and knowledge for all people. Concluding her speech, she emphasised the importance of think-tanks like BIGSAS for politics and proposed ways to extend the visibility of BIGSAS.

Africa is THE partner continent of Europe

Federal Minister Gerd Müller advocates a differentiated view on Africa



means and instruments of cultural studies and anthropology. "We must not approach Africa with the background of German thinking", he stated. "We rather have to develop country-specific approaches." The aims of the Ministry are to strengthen collaboration with research institutes and universities in Africa, to support the exchange of students between the two continents, to further common projects, and to offer more scholarships to African students together with the German Academic Exchange

Left: Group photo with Minister Gerd Müller.
Below: Minister Müller with BIGSAS Junior Fellows

TEXT & PHOTOS BIGSAS

On 30 April 2015, BIGSAS had the honour to welcome the German Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development, Gerd Müller, at the Iwalewahaush. Invited by the Dean of BIGSAS Dymitr Ibrizimow and Hartmut Koschyk, Member of the German Parliament, the Federal Minister visited the University of Bayreuth and the Iwalewahaush for the first time. After a welcome note by the president of the University of Bayreuth, Stefan Leible, and an introductory speech by Dieter Neubert, Director of the Institute of African Studies (IAS), Minister Gerd Müller congratulated BIGSAS on its successful applications in the Federal and State Excellence Initiative and its achievements in Africa-centred research in Bayreuth. "Africa is THE partner continent of Europe", he emphasised, adding that "Africa is



and will be the focus of politics as long as we live." He himself refers to his position as "Africa Minister". About fifty percent of the Ministry's general budget is regularly reserved for Africa-related programmes and exchanges. He identified three domains in future cooperation with Africa: sustainable supply of food; research, education, economic cooperation; and health. These domains have to be approached, among others, by the



Service (DAAD). Clearly, Minister Müller was deeply impressed with BIGSAS in particular and the African Studies focus at the University of Bayreuth in general.

After his speech BIGSAS Junior Fellows, alumni and other guests had the chance to talk to the Minister in person. In addition, a tour through the "new" Iwalewahaush was offered him by its Director and BIGSAS Senior Fellow, Ulf Vierke.



Alexandra Rojko, winner of the BIGSAS Journalist Award 2015

Meet Alexandra Rojko

Winner of the BIGSAS Journalist Award 2015

TEXT & PHOTOS **BIGSAS**

Early morning on 30 April 2015 at Hotel Rheingold, Bayreuth, Alexandra Rojko strides through the elevator door looking a bit tired but visibly happy. The evening before, she had been awarded the 2015 BIGSAS Journalist Award. That morning she sat down with BIGSAS Junior Fellows, Serawit Debele Bekele and Uchenna Oyali, editors of "The BIGSAS World" Issue 2, for an interview.

Her article "Chris' Reise zu den Sternen" (Chris' journey to the stars) won the BIGSAS Journalist Award 2015 for its objective message and its report on an innovative and visionary facet of Africa. In his laudation during the award ceremony, Rémi Tchokothe praised the young journalist for the thorough research and the responsible way she treats the subject of her

article. To this praise, Alexandra Rojko humbly replied: "It was never my goal to win prizes. I just want to be a good journalist and to write articles which people can relate to."

Alexandra Rojko was born in 1988 in St Petersburg, Russia. She grew up in Germany where she began studying Economics, Arabic and French before being admitted to the prestigious school of journalism, *Henri-Nannen-Schule*. After working as a freelance journalist for *Die Zeit*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung* and *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, among others, she is currently a correspondent for *Deutsche Presseagentur* (dpa) based in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Chris' story which is about the first African space flight programme headed by the young Ugandan engineer, Chris, is Alexandra Rojko's first article about Africa. Her initial interest was not on Chris but astron-

omy for a student magazine. But after reading a colleague's article about this unique project five years ago, she became interested and got in contact with Chris, the leading engineer of the space rocket. She went to Uganda, met Chris and his colleagues at the rocket's construction site in the back garden of his mother's house, and transferred her fascination for their belief and effort into an article. It was published in *F.A.Z. Hochschulanzeiger* of 15 April 2014 (Germany) as well as in *NZZ Campus* of 15 May 2014 (Switzerland).

To the question, "Why did you apply for the BIGSAS Journalist Award?", Alexandra Rojko smiled and answered: "You know, it has a special feature to it. Whereas the jury of other Journalist Awards consists of fellow journalists, the jury of the BIGSAS Journalist award is made up of experts."

BIGSAS Journalist Award 2015

“Chris’ journey to the stars” – “Chris’ Reise zu den Sternen”

TEXT BIGSAS

PHOTOS KAROLINA PAROT

The year 2015 marked the third award ceremony of the “BIGSAS Journalist Award” which was founded in 2011 to recognise outstanding journalistic articles on Africa published in the German language. The biennial award, unique in its mission and its jury composition, encourages a more objective representation in the media of the African continent and its diversity and potentials, void of stereotypes and clichés. The ceremony took



place at the conference centre of the Studentenwerk Oberfranken, the University of Bayreuth on 29 April 2015.

This year’s winner, Alexandra Rojkov, convinced the jury with her article “Chris’ Reise zu den Sternen” (Chris’ journey to the stars) published in *F.A.Z. Hochschulanzeiger* of 15 April 2014 (Germany) as well as in *NZZ Campus* of 15 May 2014 (Switzerland). It recounts the story of a young

correspondent for *Deutsche Presseagentur* (dpa) in Tel Aviv, Israel, shows us a little known but highly innovative and visionary face of Africa which departs significantly from the usual reporting.

BIGSAS also honoured another article for its illuminating report on Africa. The article, “Wie das Virus in die Welt kam” (How the virus entered the world), co-authored by Amrai Coen

Ugandan visionary building a space rocket and dreaming about “reaching the stars” someday. The article describes the drive and spirit of the young engineer who invests his ambition, money and time in a project which will most likely not be successful. Nevertheless, Alexandra Rojkov, who currently works as a

and Malte Henk and published in *DIE ZEIT* No. 44 of 23 October 2014 trails the recent Ebola epidemic from its outbreak in a small village in Guinea to its rapid spread in much of West Africa and beyond. The depth of research in this article impressed the jury who lauded it as a distinguished and excellent piece of research journalism.

The jury, chaired for the third time by Helmut Ruppert, former president of the University of Bayreuth, and composed of BIGSAS Alumni, had to select from a total of 70 submissions. Two jurors, Rémi Tchokothe and Tsevi Dodounou, held laudations for the work of the three winners.

For the keynote address, BIGSAS invited Rita Süßmuth, former president of the German Parliament, who spoke on “Integration durch Wissenschaft – Kulturaustausch durch Wissenstransfer” (Integration through science – Cultural exchange through knowledge transfer). She also congratulated BIGSAS on its unique diversity in disciplines and the African Studies Programme in Bayreuth for their interdisciplinary collaboration.



Interpreters wanted! Visit to Klinikum Bayreuth

Getting to know the emergency rooms, helicopter pad and the isolation unit – not as patients, but as potential interpreters

TEXT & PHOTO **SARAH BÖLLINGER & JOHANNA SARRE**

On 4 March 2015, five BIGSAS Junior Fellows, Rami Mohammed Ali, Sarah Böllinger, Musa Ibrahim, Georg Materna and Johanna Sarre and Vice-Dean Martina Drescher met at the entrance of Klinikum Bayreuth not as patients but as potential doctor-patient interpreters. In January 2015, BIGSAS had received a request from Ilse Wittal, Director of Care, to support their medical personnel in situations where language skills beyond German, Franconian, English, French or Spanish were needed. After circu-

lating the request among the Junior Fellows, BIGSAS was able to present a list of Arabic, Hausa, Swahili, Maa, Portuguese, Yoruba, Yemba, Guiembon, Fula, Bambara, Mandinka, Farsi and Wolof speakers to the Klinikum. After a friendly welcome, Ilse Wittal handed over the BIGSAS team to Martin Horn, shift supervisor of the emergency ward, who explained the challenges of his daily work: admission of patients, emergency supply, training facilities, etc. He also took us to see “Christoph 20”, the emergency helicopter serving the region. As the pilot Georg Vogel explained, it is the helicopter with the fourth-most missions in Germany.

From there, we followed Martin Horn to the carport where ambulances arrive, through the triage section, on to the emergency rooms filled with machines for diagnosis and resuscitation. Despite all the technology, for the staff at this ward, it is particularly important to communicate with the patient or next of kin to establish the patient history, level of pain and the urgency of treatment. Luckily, there is a little booklet with pictures which has helped communication in situations where the patient and staff of the emergency room could not find a common language. Still, it only covers a small amount of languages. In cases of emergency, it would be wonderful

to comfort patients with an assistant who speaks the same language. We also visited the bereavement room, where family and friends can privately bid farewell to a deceased.

Concluding the tour, we passed by the newly established isolation unit, which would be used in the unlikely

event of a patient with any highly infectious disease. The patient can be treated in this room that has a toilet, sink and sealed windows and is under close video surveillance without the medical staff risking infection.

Afterwards, Ilse Wittal invited us for lunch in the hospital cafeteria. Over

Schäufele, Knödel and pancakes, we discussed among other things the difficulties in finding interpreters for less-known languages. It was exciting and interesting to get to know the hospital "behind the scenes". Hopefully, we can return the favour by interpreting for patients who come there for treatment.

If you would like to be an interpreter, you do not have to be fluent in German or English, nor do you have to be a BIGSAS member. If interested, please contact bigsas.reps@gmail.com

BIGSAS meets editors of the *Nordbayerischer Kurier*

What brings a graduate school and a local newspaper together?

TEXT & PHOTOS BIGSAS

On 17 November 2015, a group of BIGSAS Junior Fellows and BIGSAS administrative team members had the chance to meet with Joachim Braun, editor in chief of the local daily newspaper *Nordbayerischer Kurier*, and Christina Knorz, chief of the section "Lokales" (local news). Initiated by the BIGSAS Alumna Jennifer Scheffler, BIGSAS was invited to a meet-and-talk session in the editorial office in Bayreuth. Joachim Braun and Christina Knorz introduced the small but popular newspaper to their BIGSAS guests. The print version has a total number of 33.000 subscribers per day and an additional 20.000-30.000 readers of the online version – great figures for an area of approximately 200.000 inhabitants. Despite being awarded a European Newspaper Award for the eighth time in 2015, the editor in chief deplored the general decline in readers, a downside trend with which every newspaper has to cope nowadays.

The discussion focused on ways in



which BIGSAS and the editors of the *Nordbayerischer Kurier* could collaborate in the future in order to improve the representation of Africa-related subjects in the local media. With the expertise of nearly 100 BIGSAS Junior Fellows, the *Nordbayerischer Kurier* could benefit a lot from background information and expert opinion on Africa and Africa-related issues for its news reports and articles. Members of BIGSAS could also actively contribute (news) stories and editorials to the newspaper or act as editors in chief for one day. Another idea was

to prepare a column in which BIGSAS Junior Fellows could transfer their academic research to the public. "It would also be interesting to write about how BIGSAS Junior Fellows experience Bayreuth after their first months here," Joachim Braun added. At the end of the meeting Dymitr Ibrizimow, Dean of BIGSAS, invited a team of the *Nordbayerischer Kurier* to visit BIGSAS and to meet its members. BIGSAS Junior Fellows were also offered short-term internships at the editorial offices to learn about the daily business of this local newspaper.



The Fokn Bois: A Ghanaian Pidgin-rap duo

First time in Europe: ALA meets LitFest

Between 2-6 June 2015, Bayreuth was host to two huge annual literature events, The Annual Convention of the African Literature Association (ALA) and the BIGSAS Festival of African and African-Diasporic Literatures, under the theme: “African Futures and Beyond, Visions in Transition”.

TEXT SUSAN ARNDT &
NADJA OFUATEY-ALAZARD &
PEGGY PIESCHE
PHOTO DANIELA INCORONATO

In June 2015, the African Literature Association held its first annual convention on European ground, at the University of Bayreuth. Under the auspices of the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies and convened by Susan Arndt, Ute Fendler and Nadja Ofuatey-Alazard as well as Anne Adams as ALA advisor and Peggy Piesche as team coordinator, the international conference welcomed the global community of African Literary

and Cultural Studies. With more than 500 participants from all around the world this was an excellent occasion to talk about African <-> European <-> American (fictional) encounters. The ALA annual conference was complemented by the 5th edition of the BIGSAS Festival of African and African-Diasporic Literatures.

Under the theme, “African Futures and Beyond, Visions in Transition”, the conference and festival were dedicated to explorations of given (fictional) conceptualisations of the future in Africa/n diasporas and their impact on global encounters. Visions are in transition, as agents in space and time that keep the world in motion. It

was the realm of the imaginary – its fictions, aesthetics and ethics – that were at the fore during the four days. Both the conference and the festival delved into the polyphony of genres and aesthetics, criss-crossing languages, cultures and nations in Africa and beyond. History matters and the FUTURE does as well. We are what we remember and our memories mold our future. Analogously, the future rewrites memory with a severe impact on both present and past. As suggested by Sankofa, we delved into conceptualisations of the future, whilst at the same time contemplating and evaluating the past and moulding the present.

The dual event had two distin-

guished guests of Honour Wole Soyinka (ALA) and Ama Ata Aidoo (BIGSAS Literature Festival). Soyinka, who holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Bayreuth, insisted on being a “fundamentalist of freedom” while Ama Ata Aidoo,

and artists who attended the conference and festival were, in alphabetical order, Nii Ayikwei Parkes (Ghanaian poet), Yaba Badoe (Ghanaian-British director and producer), TJ Dema (Botswanian poet and arts administrator), Shadreck Chikoti (Malawian

writer, Emeritus Professor of English at Cornell University and Professor of African and African American Studies at Harvard University), Olalekan Jeyifous (Nigerian-American artist), Lema Sikod (Cameroonian curator), Youssef Wahboun (Moroccan writer



whose novel *Our Sister Killjoy* is set in Bavaria, addressed memory as the road to freedom, understood as a shared global privilege.

The ALA 2015 keynote speakers were Teju Cole (American-Nigerian novelist, art historian, photographer and distinguished Writer in Residence at Bard College), Bernardine Evaristo (award-winning Black British writer), Noah Sow (Afro-German writer and conceptual artist), Françoise Vergès (Black French scholar, Chair “Global South(s)” at the Collège d’Études Mondiales, Paris) and Binyavanga Wainaina (Kenyan author, publisher and cultural worker).

The other distinguished writers

and publisher), Mansour Ciss Kanakassy (Senegalese artist), the Fokn Bois (Ghanaian Pidgin-rap duo), Anthony Joseph & Kumaka (Poet, performer and composer from Trinidad and Tobago with his Caribbean ensemble Kumaka), Nnedi Okorafor (Nigerian-American novelist, winner of the World Fantasy Award for Best Novel and Le Prix Imaginales for Best Translated Novel), Qudus Onikeku (Nigerian dancer-choreographer) Femi Osofisan (Nigerian dramatist), Njoki Ngumi (Kenyan screenwriter and LGBTIQ-activist), Nicholas Premier (photographer, director and co-founder of ‘Africa is the Future’ (AITF), Paris), Biodun Jeyifo (Nigerian

and art historian), Senouvo Agbota Zinsou (Togolese writer, dramatist and director of the Atelier Theatre, Bayreuth)

A range of special events were also organised as part of the conference programme. One of the key events was the *Roundtable in memoriam Eckhard Breiting* (5 June 2015), one of the founding scholars of African Literary Studies at the University of Bayreuth and a cherished member of the ALA family. Within the context of the ALA conference, we thus had the opportunity of celebrating and remembering this great personality for what he did and stood for. The Humboldt Foundation also collaborated with ALA in



Teju Cole



Anne Adams



Qudus Onikeku

hosting a panel discussion on future collaborations between German and African universities.

Another feature event was the *Evening in Honor of Ama Ata Aidoo* on 3 June 2015, with laudations by Susan Arndt and Nadja Ofuatey-Alazard (BIGSAS Literature Festival Directors), Dymitir Ibrizimow (Dean of the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies, BIGSAS) as well as Nino Klingler (Federal Foreign Office of Germany). The evening comprised a film screening, *The Art of Ama Ata Aidoo* directed by Ghanaian-British Director Yaba Badoe, who was recently nominated for a Distinguished Woman of African Cinema Award. Finally, the session ended with a round table in honour Ama Ata Aidoo, with as speakers, Yaba Badoe,

Abena Busia and Vincent Odamtten.

The conference and festival hosted a total of three art exhibits: Mansour Ciss Kanakassy's *Les 100 Papiers*, Nicolas Premier's *Africa is the Future* and Noh Nee and Olalekan Jeyifo's and Ikiré Jones's *FASHIONing Futures*.

As for the academic dialogues, the conference had 12 thematic sections: 1. African/diasporic Conceptualizations of the Future: Imaginations/Visions/In(ter)visions, 2. African Entanglements and/or the Future, 3. The Future of Gender/Gendered Futures in Africa and its Diasporas, 4. Literary Studies and/in the Future: Theories and Methodologies, 5. Literary Studies: Genres and New Media, 6. Technologies and New Media, 7. Revolutions and Social Change, 8. Environmentalism, 9. Remembering

Eckhard Breiting: African Literary Studies in Germany, 10. The Poetics of Translation, 11. African Languages as Languages of the Future: Afrophone verbal Art between Tradition and Innovation, 12. Writers and Texts. Peggy Piesche curated a film series with a total of 13 movies.

ALA 2015 convened four caucus luncheons with invited speakers: FRACALA (Papa Samba Diop), LHALA (Zézé Gamboa), TRACALA (Anne Adams) and WOCALA (Fahamisha Patrica Brown) as well as various readings, one children's workshop and a co-operation with Bayreuth-based refugees derived from a demonstration.

The main aim of hosting this conference in conjunction with the BIGSAS-Festival of African and African-diasporic literatures was to develop solid connections between German scholars and universities and those on the African continent and the rest of the world. Since we had the unique opportunity of hosting the ALA in Europe for the very first time, we wanted to use the conference as a catalyst in kick-starting and deepening longstanding collaborations and relationships between academic, political and artistic institutions and individuals across national and generic borders. In doing so, the way in which Africa/n diasporic futures have been practised, performed, invented, silenced, empowered, etc. were at the fore – looking at given global entanglements and responsibilities for futures ahead that need to be shared more equally – because we CAN.



Ama Ata Aidoo

BIGSAS Diversity Lectures 2015

A journey through gender, religious, disability, institutional, etc. diversity

TEXT CARSTEN MILDNER

PHOTOS BECKS



Florian Stoll giving his lecture.

The year 2015 was a busy one for the BIGSAS Diversity Lectures. Through our interests and personal contacts, we managed to create a diverse programme of presentations that attracted an interested, small but continuously growing audience. Already, in late 2014, Martin Gössl, Diversity Representative at the University of Applied Sciences in Graz, Austria, and journalist, Kevin Mwachiro, from Nairobi, Kenya, presented their work on being queer in Austria and Nairobi respectively. In January 2015, Monika Windisch, social work researcher at PH Tirol, Austria, picked up some of these topics, merging them with gender and disability, explaining how intersectionality interrelates with European anti-discrimination policies.

The 2015 summer term saw schol-

ars from the African continent carving out different spheres of diversity in their countries. Zephyrinus Ghong Ndum, alias Ras-I, a philosopher and reggae musician from Yaounde presented the recent history and advances of disability rights in Cameroon. He reflected on ways of being in the world, closing his lecture with a live musical performance. Chikas Danfulani, a former BIGSAS Junior Fellow, now at the University of Jos, Nigeria, talked about Nigerian Muslim women's access to education in Sharia states. Alexander Oppen from the University of Johannesburg, South Africa, presented his work and the work of his students in inclusive design and architecture. Inclusion, here, goes beyond the often misunderstanding simplification of it as finding a place for minorities in society. Rather, he focused

on how inclusion is a constant social process which merges society into a diverse and organic whole. Thomas Scott Hughes, University of Copenhagen, sought an understanding of the lives of ethnic minorities with disabilities in the Danish Welfare state. The question, whether their situation can be properly described as intersectionality or rather what he terms 'hyper-marginality', can be enlightening for other fields and regions of diversity research as well.

The winter term started off with a BIGSAS Junior Fellow, Emmanuel Sackey, who presented his work on the disability rights movement in Ghana, reflected in terms of good governance and civil society. Rüdiger Seesemann, Heisenberg Professor for Islamic Studies in Bayreuth compared BIGSAS' gender and diversity politics to his experience from North Western University in the US and wondered, how religion might relate to other issues of diversity management. Closing the expert pool from Bayreuth, Florian Stoll presented his and Dieter Neubert's research on the diversity in the middle class of Nairobi, Kenya. Building on the variation within what might be considered middle class in Nairobi, they are currently developing new concepts and vocabulary to grasp those phenomena.

The semester was closed by Christiane Link, a journalist and activist from London, who shared her experience in working with refugees with disabilities in Vienna, Hamburg and London.

We are open to proposals for speakers in the Diversity Lectures. All members of BIGSAS can make suggestions. There are up to four lectures every semester. The BIGSAS Diversity Lectures take place on Thursdays, 7 pm at the Iwalewahaus.

FAVT

Future Africa Visions in Time

An exhibition by the Bayreuth Academy at the Iwalewahaus

The Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies introduced visitors of the exhibition FAVT: Future Africa Visions in Time at the Iwalewahaus to a new discursive space. The 19 artworks exhibited deal with “future”, with Africa as point of reference. “FAVT: Future Africa - Visions in Time” is also the title of the first funding period (2012-2016) of the Bayreuth Academy. The show was opened to the public on 7 November 2015 with the performance “S.E.F.A. / Se Eu Fosse Angolano”, a conceptual audiovisual live piece by the Angolan performance artist Nástio Mosquito.

The exhibition was the result of an unusual cooperation between researchers of the Bayreuth Academy and different artists. The curators, Katharina Fink (Bayreuth Academy), Storm Janse van Rensburg (SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah) and Nadine Siegert (Iwalewahaus), created a new type of platform for the research processes and results of the Bayreuth Academy and to connect the University of Bayreuth with the larger public.

FAVT is structured around cross-cutting themes, which express different conceptualisations of future: longing-desiring, waiting-suspending, optimising, queering, remembering-healing. Expressed as gerundive constructions, they connect the contents of the different exhibition and stress the importance of perceiving future as a doing. These concepts of future disturb temporal linearity and some projects are also oriented towards the past, for example, the investigation of ‘past futures’ by the two historians Rui Assubuji (Maputo, Cape Town) and Achim von Oppen (Bayreuth) who both worked on World War I. Another example is Ruth Sacks’ (Johannesburg) investigation of the historic science fiction novel by Jules Verne *20.000 Leagues under the Sea*. Ingrid LaFleur’s (Detroit) work has the German colonial history as its topic. With the help of teleportation, visitors were first sent to the Namibian desert and then to outer space in order to address and heal colonial trauma.

The conceptions and their artistic realisations also intervene with our present and its hidden and imagined futures. The cooperative video work *Oceans Apart* by Emeka Alams

I SAW

IWALEWAIUS



Nástio Mosquito performs S.E.F.A. at FAVT: Future Africa
Visions in Time opening night (Lara Buchmann)



Philipp Khabo Koepsell & Susan Arndt. "Future Wagner". Exhibition view. (Lara Buchmann)



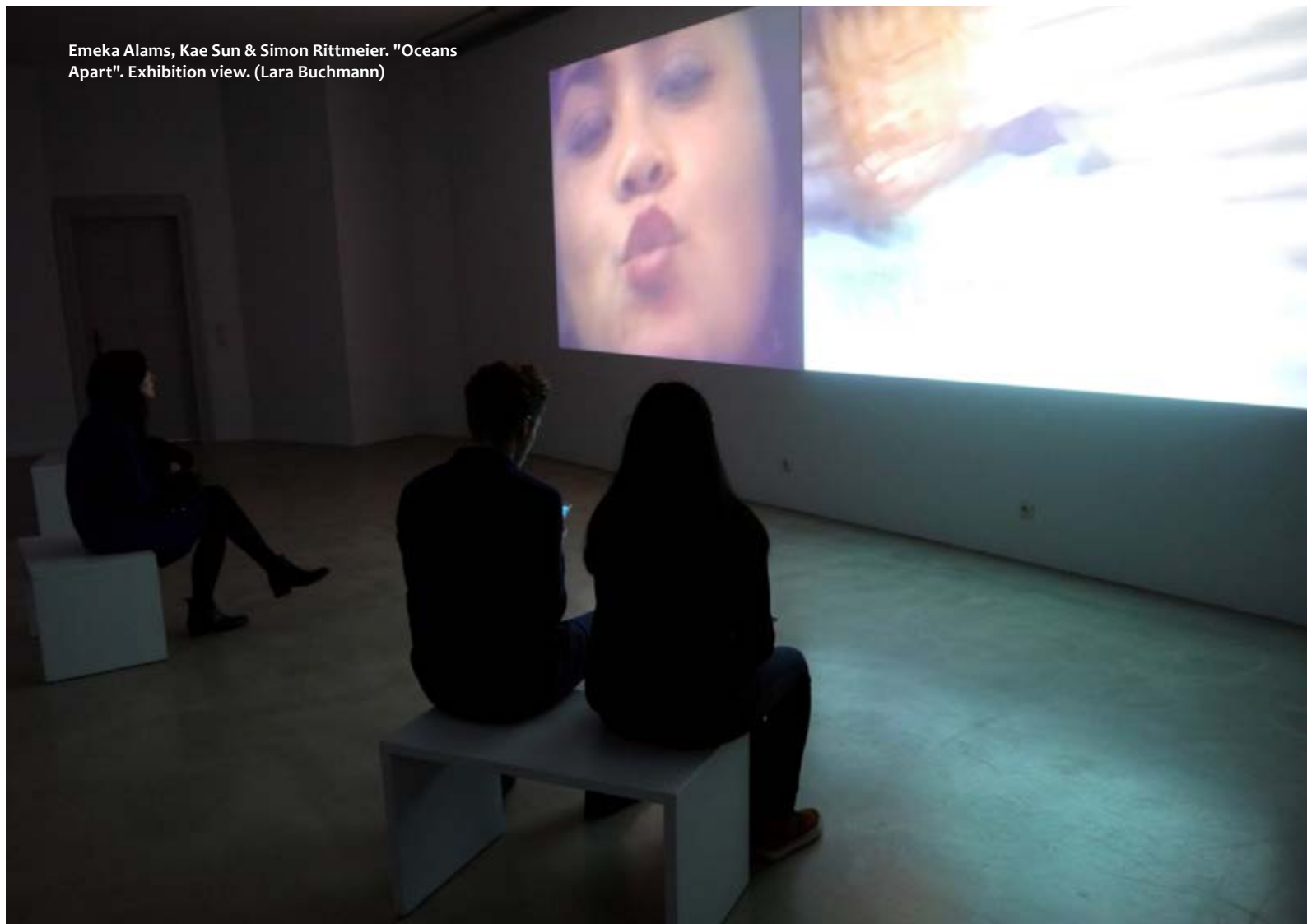
Nástio Mosquito performs S.E.F.A. at opening night. (Lara Buchmann)

A photograph of a performance by Nástio Mosquito. He is standing on a stage, holding a microphone, with his back to the camera. Behind him is a large projection screen displaying a video with a red and orange background. The text on the screen is in orange capital letters. The audience is visible in the foreground, mostly in silhouette.

I SAW A RAPE ONCE. I WAS THERE.
IT WAS A GROUP RAPE... 6 OR 5 PEOPLE... MEN...
BOYS WERE RAPING ONE GIRL OR WOMAN,
OF THAT I CANNOT BE CERTAIN,
I KNOW SHE HAD A LITTLE HAIR.

Nástio Mosquito performs S.E.F.A. at opening night. (Lara Buchmann)

Emeka Alams, Kae Sun & Simon Rittmeier. "Oceans Apart". Exhibition view. (Lara Buchmann)





James Muriuki. "Untitled". Exhibition view. (Lara Buchmann)



(Seattle), Kae Sun (Toronto) and Simon Rittmeier (Paris) works out the daily situation of waiting and suspended hopes, which is particularly powerful in current public discourses on migration and for thousands of people seeking refuge from atrocities not caused by themselves.

The artists Sam Hopkins and John Kamicha (both Nairobi), in cooperation with Florian Stoll (Bayreuth), presented a video work of a new urban subculture in Nairobi: bicycling as an acceleration of future. The works of Syowia Kyambi and James Muriuki (both Nairobi) were also outcomes of intensive conversations with Bayreuth Academy members, particularly Erdmute Alber and Dieter Neubert. They analyse the concept of middle classes as a scientific category. Besides this selection there are other works, such as the co-operation between Philipp Khabo Koepsell (Berlin), Paul D Miller (New York) and Susan Arndt (Bayreuth) that visualise, question, disturb and continue the scientific activity around future conceptions at the Bayreuth Academy.

Until 28 February 2016 the dynamic exhibition at the Iwalewaha Haus was open to the public. The exhibition presented a moment in an ongoing process of research and communication, which was constantly being activated by interventions from researchers and artists alike. These activations have been in the form of performances, lectures or walkabouts. In the frame of thematic-guided tours and activities led by the team of the Bayreuth Academy, the exhibition could be experienced from different perspectives. The show is accompanied by twenty booklets and a blog. A catalogue will be published in 2016. (Lara Buchmann & Nadine Siegert)

<https://bayreuthacademyexhibition.wordpress.com>



George Olusola Ajibade

Olusola Ajibade is Professor and specialist of Yorùbá language, literature and culture. He earned his PhD in 2003 from the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, where he is currently Head of the Department of Linguistics and African Languages. From September to November 2015 he was a Humboldt Research Fellow at the chair of Afrikanistik II of the University of Bayreuth where he has been a regular visiting scholar since 2000. He has been awarded several fellowships among them, Georg Forster Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, the Feodor Lynen Fellowship, and the Research fellowship of the Center of West African Studies at the University of Birmingham. His current research focuses on Yorùbá Verbal Arts, Popular Culture and HIV/AIDS Pandemic. In this vein, he gave a lecture on, “Body no be wood: A literary and socio-cultural analysis of sexuality among the Yorùbá deities” at the Afrikanistik Research Colloquium on 3 November 2015.



Beatrice Wanjiku

Beatrice Wanjiku was artist in residence at the Iwalewahaus in June 2015. She was invited in the context of the new Volkswagen Foundation-funded research project “African Art History and the Formation of a Modern Aesthetic” and the associated exhibition project “Feedback: Art and Africa in the 1980s”, curated by Ugochukwu-Smooth C. Nzewi (Hood Museum, Dartmouth). She presented her work to the public in the context of the “Meet the Artist” series at the Iwalewahaus. Beatrice Wanjiku received her diploma from Nairobi’s Buruburu Institute of Fine Arts in 2000. She is one of Kenya’s most upcoming contemporary artists. Recognised for her emotional paintings, her work is appreciated worldwide. Wanjiku’s paintings play with the processes of revealing and concealing and the contrast between abstraction, text, montage and layering.



Francisco da Silva-Xavier

Francisco da Silva-Xavier holds a PhD in linguistics from the University of São Paulo (USP), Brazil. He is a member of the African Studies Group at USP and his main interest is the phonology and morphosyntax of African languages. Within the framework of the project “The role of African languages in the development of Brazilian Portuguese”, financed by CAPES and COFECUB, he did research training with LLACAN/CNRS in Paris for his graduate studies, conducting a detailed phonological description of Kimbundu, a Bantu language of Angola. His book, *Segmental and Suprasegmental Phonology of Kimbundu: Regiolects of Luanda, Bengo, Cuanza Norte and Malanje* (2012), describes the prosodic structure and phonology of Kimbundu. He has also taught Brazilian studies at the University of Sorbonne IV, Paris, where he currently lives. In 2013, he participated in the “Libolo Project”, doing fieldwork in Libolo, Angola, collecting data on Kimbundu and other Bantu languages. As a visiting researcher at the IAS in 2015, he pursued post-doctorate research on idiosyncratic agreement patterns in Kimbundu.

Mimboabe Bakpa

Mimboabe Bakpa, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Language Sciences at the University of Kara, Togo, was a guest of the Institute of African Studies from 14 November to 14 December 2015. His host, Manfred von Roncador, supervised his dissertation on the Gangam Language (Togo) which he defended in July 2012 at the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African studies and later published as *Etude du ngbem, parler gangam de Koumongou* (Lit Verlag, 2014). The aim of the visit was mainly to work on conversions and transcriptions of Moba data collected by Jürgen Zwernemann between 1969 and 1970 during his field research in Dapaong (North Togo) in order to show the evolution of the Moba language from a comparative perspective. Mimboabe Bakpa also gave a talk entitled “An overview of Togolese languages”. He has published several articles in journals like *Revue Togolaise des Sciences*, *Gur Monographs* and *les Lignes de Bouaké*. His current research focuses, among other things, on sociolinguistics and the description of Gurma languages.



Alena Rettová

Alena Rettová is Senior Lecturer in Swahili Literature and Culture at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London. She was a guest at the University of Bayreuth from 6-17 July 2015 in the context of an Erasmus agreement between London and Bayreuth. Alena Rettová has researched and published widely on various literary genres in a number of African languages. She is particularly well-known for her philosophical approach to literatures in African languages and can thus be considered a pioneer of the field of Afrophone philosophies. During her stay in Bayreuth, she gave eight lectures centred around some of the major themes of her research. The theme of Afrophone philosophy, for instance, was explored by a theoretical discussion of the interconnectedness between epistemology and Afrophone literature. This was followed by pragmatic reflections on the conceptualisations of humanity in Swahili culture and presentations on contemporary poetic genres.



Elsbeth Court

Currently, Elsbeth Court teaches at SOAS, University of London. She has worked on Art Education in Kenya, Tanzania, UK and USA, and has carried out research in Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, Sudan and Zimbabwe. She is editor of *Artists and Art Education in Africa* and area editor for *Grove: Oxford Encyclopedia of African Art*. With her research on the East African artist, Jak Katarikawe, and experience with the exhibition *Dreaming in Pictures* (2001), Elsbeth Court was invited to present her work on modern East African art. Her talk “Looking back with Jak” was part of the lecture series *African Modernism*, curated by Ugochukwu-Smooth C. Nzewi (Hood Museum, Dartmouth) and Nadine Siegert (Iwalewahauss) as part of the new research project “African Art History and the Formation of a Modern Aesthetic” at the Iwalewahauss. With other artists, she reflected on Jak Katarikawe’s work as well as other works in the Iwalewahauss collection, exhibited in the exhibition *Collected*, curated by Siegrun Salmanian (Iwalewahauss).



Atta Kwami

Artist and scholar, Atta Kwami is well-known for his paintings on Ghana's architectural aesthetics and the striped-woven fabrics of Ewe and Asante traditions. He has taught painting and printmaking in Kumasi and the UK. In 2012-2013, he was a visiting fellow at the Africa Collaborative Research Programme *Art and Museums in Africa*, University of Cambridge. He is author of *Kumasi Realism 1951 - 2007: An African Modernism* (2013). He was invited by the Iwalewahaus to give the talk "Making modernism in Kumasi and its aftermath" as part of the lecture series *African Modernism*, curated by Ugochukwu-Smooth C. Nzewi (Hood Museum, Dartmouth) and Nadine Siegert (Iwalewahaus) as part of the new research project "African Art History and the Formation of a Modern Aesthetic" at the Iwalewahaus. Atta Kwami described the development of art education from the 1950s to the postcolonial era and argued for their relevance as a backdrop for contemporary art in Ghana.



Tulia Ackson

Tulia Ackson, Senior Lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam School of Law, Tanzania, visited the Faculty of Law, Business and Economics and the Institute of African Studies of the University of Bayreuth from March to June 2015 as an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow under the Georg Forster Research Programme. She was hosted by Stefan Rixen (Chair for Public Law, Social and Health Law) and Ulrike Wanitzek (Private Law, Comparative Law, Sociology of Law, Law in Africa). During her research stay, she prepared a research project on social security provision to the informal sector workers and its impact on poverty eradication in Tanzania, gave a seminar on the laws regulating academic freedom in Tanzania, and spoke at a Roundtable on German Cooperation with African Universities organised by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. She received her LLB and LLM degrees from the University of Dar es Salaam and her PhD from the University of Cape Town. Her major research interests are in social security law.

After her return to Tanzania, Tulia Ackson was appointed Deputy Attorney General of Tanzania. Soon thereafter, she was released from this office and was elected Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania.



Richard Frimpong Oppong

Richard Frimpong Oppong, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, Thompson Rivers University, Canada, was guest of the Faculty of Law, Business and Economics and the Institute of African Studies of the University of Bayreuth in April 2015. He was hosted by Ulrike Wanitzek. During the visit he discussed and assisted with the planning of a two-day workshop on "Eastern African Common Legal Space in Economic Law: State of the Art and Future Perspectives, with Consideration of the European Experience", and a one-week capacity building seminar on "East African Community Law and the Law of Regional Integration", which were organised in Tanzania in August 2015. He was educated at the University of Ghana, Ghana School of Law, University of Cambridge, Harvard Law School, University of British Columbia, and Dalhousie University. His principal research interests are in private international law, regional economic integration and international dispute settlement with a special focus on Africa.





Benedict T. Mapunda

Benedict Thomas Mapunda, Senior Lecturer and Coordinator of the Tanzanian-German Centre for Eastern African Legal Studies (TGCL) at the University of Dar es Salaam School of Law, Tanzania, visited the Faculty of Law, Business and Economics and the Institute of African Studies of the University of Bayreuth in August-September 2015. He was hosted by TGCL Project Leader Ulrike Wanitzek and TGCL Manager Johannes Döveling. During his six weeks research stay, he worked on publications in the fields of narcotic drugs law and environmental law, and held regular TGCL management meetings with his hosts. He received his LLB and LLM degrees from the University of Dar es Salaam and his PhD from the University of Ghent (Belgium). Before joining the University of Dar es Salaam in 1994, he worked in the Attorney-General's Chambers as a Senior State Attorney. His main research interests are in the fields of procedural law, criminal law and environmental law.



Giorgio Banti

Giorgio Banti, Vice Rector of the University of Naples "L'Orientale" in Italy, and Professor of General and Historical Linguistics as well as Somali Language and Literature paid a visit to the University of Bayreuth in January 2015. During his stay, Giorgio Banti gave a presentation on Somali manuscripts written by Sheikh Awees in southern Somalia. He also helped in working out a new partnership between the University of Naples "L'Orientale" and Bayreuth. In the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), this partnership is aimed at developing guidelines for new types of curricula and joint graduate teaching, research and exchange programmes. It is also meant to frame the already existing cooperation and co-tutelle PhD projects carried out by PhD candidates like Roberto Gaudio, Annachiara Raia, Rosanna Tramutoli (Literatures in African Languages) and Ashraf Hassan (Arabistik).



Kelebogile Ntladi

Kelebogile Ntladi is a Johannesburg-based photographer and visual artist, born in Soweto in 1987. She holds a Diploma in Visual Arts and is a graduate of the Market Photo Workshop. In July 2015, she was artist in residence at the Iwalewaha, where she presented her artistic practice and the project "Tel-eport", a photographic and mixed media project in cooperation with the project "Gender, Violence, and Visual Activism" by the Institute for Queer Theory in Berlin. In her work, she focuses on questions of visibility, visual culture, and art in order to widen perspectives on sexualised and gendered violence. She deals with issues of how cultural activism can function as authorising for queer-people in a South African society, where LGBTI people get threatened and killed despite new gender-neutral laws. In Bayreuth, she worked with Ute Baumann, a local photographer and performance artist, on a photographic project with young refugees from Eritrea and Iraq.



Crispin Maalu-Bungi

Crispin Maalu-Bungi, Professor of African literature at the University of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, was an Alexander von Humboldt Foundation senior research fellow at the University of Bayreuth for three months: May-July 2015. He is a regular guest of Bayreuth. This time he was hosted by Clarissa Vierke (Literatures in African Languages). Crispin Maalu-Bungi is one of the most renowned experts of African literature from Congo. During his stay in Bayreuth, he worked on a new and extended edition of his book on Luba praise poetry *Meen'a Bukole: Poésie d'exaltation lubà*, which was originally published in 1986 and soon turned into a standard reference work in the field of African oral literature.



Pedro Coquenão (DJ Mpula of Batida)

In June 2015, Pedro Coquenão (Lisbon, Portugal), better known as DJ Mpula of Batida, worked as musician in residence at the Iwalewahaus. As artist in residence, he was invited to work with the archival objects stored in the Iwalewahaus Music Archive. During his "room recording sessions" Pedro recorded sounds by drumming and scratching on cassette boxes, tape recorders or musical instruments like the balafon. This special way of working with the archive created new sounds and working perspectives and gave importance to objects within the archive that have not been appropriated by musicians in residence so far. The five musical sketches and beats he produced are inspired by rhythms of the Angolan musician Carlos Lamartines' song "Bassoka" and will be released as the EP "Drum Patterns Volume 1" in 2016, pressed on Vinyl. This EP will be part of the Iwalewahaus Music Archive as archival single copy. The cover artwork was made by designer Emeka Alams.



Délio Jasse

The Angolan-born artist Délio Jasse soon developed a strong interest in photography and different printing techniques and started experimenting with technical possibilities of this medium. Through various residencies and exhibitions he has built a firm connection to the Iwalewahaus. Recently, he was part of the project "Mash up the Archive" leading to the final exhibition "Mashup". His works are part of the "FAVT: Future Africa – Visions in Time" exhibition. In December 2015, he was awarded the first Iwalewa Art Award. As part of the award ceremony, his works were presented in the exhibition "o_afecto_pelo_archivo" at the Campusgalerie. Most of his works shown there, and basically all of his works produced in Bayreuth, are connected to his intense research of the photographic archive of Ulli Beier, the founder of the Iwalewahaus.

Chukwuma Okoye

Chukwuma Okoye is Associate Professor of Theatre Arts at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria where he earned his PhD in 2000. His areas of specialisation include African theatre and performance, costume and makeup design, dance and choreography and postcolonial theory. He has published critical essays on Igbo masquerade theatre, the location of African theatre in current debates on literary and cultural studies, and contemporary dance in Nigeria. Chukwuma Okoye has also written several plays among them *We the Beast* that received the Association of Nigerian Authors Drama Prize in 1991. During his Humboldt Research Fellowship (September to November 2015) at the Chair of Afrikanistik II he worked on marginalised forms of popular theatre and performance that have largely been ignored in conventional theatre scholarship, African popular music and music videos. In this regard, he gave a lecture on “Sensing Nigerian pop music videos” at the Afrikanistik research colloquium on 24 November 2015.



Billy Kahora

Billy Kahora is one of the most prolific Kenyan writers and the managing editor of the Kwani Trust, a dynamic literary NGO. His short fiction and creative non-fiction have appeared in Chimurenga, McSweeney's, Granta Online, Internazionale and Vanity Fair and Kwani. He is author of the non-fiction novella *The True Story of David Munyakei*, the stories “Treadmill Love” (highly commended by the 2007 Caine Prize judges), “Urban Zoning” (shortlisted for Caine Prize in 2012), and “The Gorilla’s Apprentice”. He wrote the screenplay for *Soul Boy* and co-wrote *Nairobi Half Life*. He has edited seven issues of *The Kwani Journal* and other Kwani publications including *Nairobi 24* and *Kenya Burning*. Invited by Clarissa Vierke (Literatures in African languages), Billy Kahora used his stay in Bayreuth to conduct research for a novel he is working on. He gave lectures on the literary scene in Kenya and beyond.



Afe Adogame

Afe Adogame, newly appointed Maxwell M. Upson Professor of Christianity and Society at the Princeton Theological Seminary, was a visiting scholar of BIGSAS from January to March 2015. He is an alumnus of the University of Bayreuth where he obtained his PhD in history of religions. From 2005-2015, he was lecturer in World Christianity and Religious Studies at the School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh. His main areas of research are African Christianities, new indigenous religious movements and the interconnectedness between religion, migration, and globalisation. He has published widely on these topics, and is editor-in-chief of the *Journal for the Study of Religions of Africa and its Diaspora*, and deputy editor of the *Journal of Religion in Africa*. Afe Adogame was invited to Bayreuth by Eva Spies (Department for the Study of Religion). During his three-month stay they jointly organised the workshop “Researching Culture and Society” for BIGSAS Junior Fellows which focused on questions of methodology and methods in empirical research. In addition, he mentored BIGSAS Junior Fellows and gave a public lecture on “Digitising divination: The glocalization of indigenous African spiritualities”.





Dereje Feyissa Dori

Dereje Feyissa Dori, is Professor at the College of Law and Governance at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, a BIGSAS Partner University. He was a BIGSAS guest in June-July 2015. He also works in the development sector as an African Research Director and Senior Advisor at the International Law and Policy Institute (ILPI) since 2013 and conducts political economy training for Water Aid Ethiopia. He is editor of the *Ethiopian Journal of Federal Studies*. Dereje Feyissa Dori's interdisciplinary research focuses on conflict, political economic development, religion and politics. As an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow (Experienced Researcher) and research fellow of the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology at Halle-Wittenberg, Dori has a special relation to Germany and German research institutions. During his time at BIGSAS, he attended Management Board meetings and offered a seminar on "Ethnographic field research methods".



Gregório Firmino

Gregório Firmino teaches Sociolinguistics and Linguistic Anthropology at Universidade Eduardo Mondlane Maputo, Mozambique, a BIGSAS Partner University. BIGSAS invited him in June-July 2015, under the Partner University collaboration and exchange scheme. While in Bayreuth, he took part in BIGSAS academic and board meetings. His stay further strengthened the partnership between BIGSAS and Maputo, Mozambique. His main research interests are language diversity and national development, language policy and the nativisation of former colonial languages, especially Portuguese in Mozambique. After graduating from the Universidade de Coimbra in Portugal, he attended the University of California in Berkeley, USA, where he did his Master Studies and subsequently obtained his PhD in Linguistic Anthropology. Since 2012 he is Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences where he also offers seminars on subjects related to language and society as well as Linguistic Anthropology.



Anne Nangulu

Anne Nangulu is Professor of History at Moi University Eldoret, Kenya. She was a guest of BIGSAS in May-June 2015. She is the BIGSAS Partner University coordinator in Eldoret where she has been teaching for the past 25 years. During her stay, she gave a lecture on "Internationalisation of higher education, quality assurance and benchmarking: The role of universities and the Commission for University Education in Kenya". Since July 2014, Anne Nangulu also works as Deputy Commission Secretary at the Commission for University Education, Kenya. She is in charge of Quality Audit and Standards. In this position, she oversees all universities in Kenya and is responsible for internationalisation and higher education issues. As a researcher, she is interested in a diverse field of subjects from a multi-disciplinary approach: economic and urban history, food security and coping mechanisms, the state, constitution and constitutionalism, quality assurance and internationalisation of higher education and gender studies.

Lindy Stiebel

Lindy Stiebel is Professor of English at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) Durban, South Africa, and was a BIGSAS guest in April-June 2015. She is the BIGSAS Partner University coordinator in UKZN where she has been teaching for 30 years. As BIGSAS coordinator, she spent her visit in Bayreuth giving seminars, mentoring students, attending board meetings and strengthening links to her home university. In May 2015, she co-presented a seminar with Junior Fellow Renzo Baas entitled “Movement through (literary) space and place” and organised the screening of the South African film *Soft Vengeance* at the Iwalewahaus. She also gave a paper during the ALA Conference in June 2015. Her research interests focus on writers and place, especially how writers relate to place, and colonial maps and cartography. She is also highly committed to the project “KZN Literary Tourism” based in the province of KwaZulu-Natal.



Youssef Wahboun

Youssef Wahboun, is Professor of History of Arts and Comparative Aesthetics at Mohammed V University in Rabat, Morocco, which is a Partner University of BIGSAS. During his stay in Bayreuth as a BIGSAS guest, April-June 2015, he gave a presentation on the Kenyan artist Peterson Kamwathi at the Iwalewahaus, coordinated a three-week workshop on Moroccan art for Master's students of *Études Francophones* in cooperation with the Chairs of Romance Studies, and gave a lecture on his novel *Trois Jours et Le Néant* at the ALA conference in June 2015. His research interests concentrate on the relationship between painting and literature and the aesthetics of Moroccan paintings. In 2000, he started teaching at the Université Ibn Tofaïl in Kénitra, Morocco. Five years later he began as a lecturer at Mohammed V University of Rabat. He is also an artist and writer and has been visiting Bayreuth regularly since 2011.



Busolo Wegesa

Busolo Wegesa teaches in the Department of Literature, Theatre and Film Studies at BIGSAS Partner, Moi University Eldoret, Kenya, and was BIGSAS' guest in January-April 2015. His research interests are Comparative and African Literature and theories of literature. He obtained his PhD at Moi University in 2011 where he has also been teaching for the past 26 years. His current research focuses on the black diaspora in African-American and Caribbean Literature and the works of V.S. Naipaul. During his guest stay at BIGSAS, Busolo Wegesa exchanged ideas and knowledge on many aspects including management, student mentorship and supervision, which further strengthened the partnership between Bayreuth and Eldoret. He attended several events like the BIGSAS Doctoral Colloquium, BIGSAS doctoral defences and the workshop “Researching Culture and Society” where he presented the paper “Dealing with research protocols”. After a short visit in 2011 his recent stay gave him the chance to explore the university library with its broad collection of literature on African Studies.





Stephen Ambe Mforteh

Stephen Ambe Mforteh, Associate Professor of English Linguistics and Head of the Department of English at the University of Yaounde I, Cameroon, was a BIGSAS Visiting Professor from October 2015 to January 2016. Hosted by Eric Anchimbe with whom he has collaborated on various projects, Stephen Mforteh gave a talk in the Linguistic Colloquium entitled “Analogy as a persuasive tool in religious discourse” and took active part in the academic life at BIGSAS and the University of Bayreuth: attending BIGSAS PhD defences, participating in the BIGSAS conference “Gender Matters”, and the BIGSAS Annual Meeting. He spent much time working on his forthcoming book *The Language of Leadership in Cameroon* in which he explores various linguistic strategies recurrent in political speeches. Stephen Mforteh obtained his PhD in Sociolinguistics in 2006 from the University of Yaounde 1, a diploma in curriculum design from Northern Illinois, USA, and an MA in Applied Linguistics from Aston University, Birmingham, UK. He is a former fellow of the Fulbright Fellowship, USA.



Eunice Ngongkum

Eunice Ngongkum, Associate Professor of African Literature at the University of Yaounde 1, Cameroon, was an Alexander von Humboldt fellow at the Chair of American Studies from January 2014 to October 2015. Hosted by Sylvia Mayer, Professor of American Studies, Eunice Ngongkum carried out research on the ecocritical premise in Anglophone Cameroon poetry. She took active part in the academic life of BIGSAS and the University of Bayreuth. She was an examiner for a BIGSAS PhD defence and is currently a member of a BIGSAS PhD mentoring group. She is an Associated Senior Fellow of BIGSAS, and was part of the organisation team of the 2015 ALA conference in Bayreuth where she presented a paper entitled “Contemporary Anglophone Cameroon poetry: Nature and the politics of consciousness raising.” Her main areas of research include Anglophone African literatures, ecoculture, religion and culture and literary theory. She has published widely in these areas. Eunice Ngongkum obtained her PhD in African Poetry from the University of Yaounde 1 in 2002.



Tahir Abba

Tahir Abba is a Lecturer and researcher in the Department of Linguistics at Bayero University Kano, Nigeria, since 2009. Formerly, he taught Kanuri Language and Linguistics at Kashim Ibrahim College of Education, Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria. He was a guest of the Institute of African Studies in November 2015. He was invited by Doris Löhr (Bayreuth Academy) to start a cooperation between Bayreuth and Bayero and to process data from a joint linguistic fieldwork undertaken in 2011 in Niger, within the framework of the DFG-project “A comparative study of Old Kanembu in early West African Qur’anic manuscripts and Islamic recitations (Tarjumo) with modern Kanuri-Kanembu dialects spoken around Lake Chad”. Tahir Abbas’ areas of interest are general linguistics, especially morphology, phonology, lexicography, and Hausa and Kanuri Ajami scripts. He is a member of various professional associations such as Linguistic Association of Nigeria (LAN), Nigerian Institution of Translation and Translators (NITI), Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) and Teacher’s Registration Council of Nigeria. Presently he is completing a PhD research on “Textual Analysis of Scholarly Registers among Kanuri *Sangaya* Education in Borno”.

Ruth Sacks

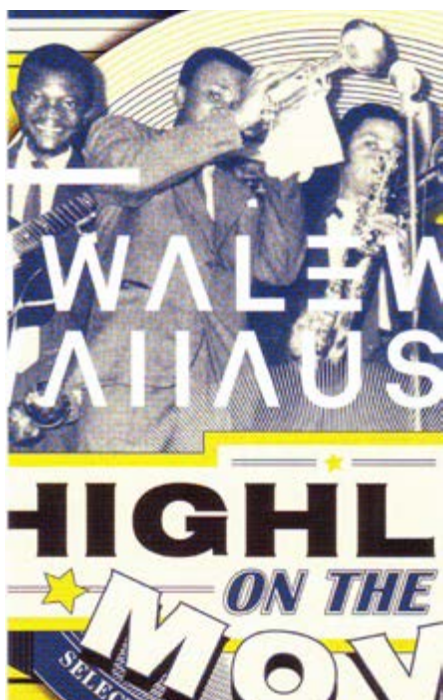
Ruth Sacks is a South African visual artist who lives and works in Johannesburg. Her third artist book, *Twenty Thousand Leagues under Seas*, was produced with the Iwalewaha and launched in 2013. It was part of the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies exhibition *FAVT: Future Africa Visions in Time* in 2015-2016. She was invited by the Bayreuth Academy. Ruth Sacks' Group exhibitions include: *The Global Contemporary: Art Worlds after 1989* at ZKM Centre for Art and Media (Germany, 2011), *Performa 09*, facilitated by the Museum for African Art New York (USA, 2009) and *Luanda_Pop Checklist* at the 52nd Venice Biennale (Italy, 2007). In 2013 and 2014, she was one of the organisers of *Regions A-G*, a programme of artist interventions at the Johannesburg City Library. Recent solo shows have been: *Open Endings* at TTTT in Ghent (Belgium, 2015), *2,000 Meters Above the Sea* at the Center for Historical Reenactments in Johannesburg (SA, 2012) and *Double-sided Accumulated* at Extraspaio in Rome (Italy, 2010). Ruth Sacks is a doctoral fellow at the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research.



REPORTS

African Popular Music Film Series at the Iwalewaha

Film screenings and discussions



TEXT & PHOTO MARKUS COESTER

This African Popular Music Film Series was re-launched in 2015 in the Iwalewaha's new premises. The series, curated by Marcus Coester (Department of Anthropology), is intended to provide a forum for films and discourses on African popular music and culture. Among the films screened in 2015 were: *Finding Fela* (a biography of Nigerian singer, Fela Kuti), *Living the Hiplife* (a documentary on Ghanaian popular music), the rare Blaxploitation cinema film *Superfly TNT*, so far the only major American film with a soundtrack by a band from Africa, Osibisa, and the feature-length documentary film *Poetry in*

Motion: 100 Years of Zanzibar's Nadi Ikhwan Safaa by Taarab researchers and scholars Kelly Askew and Werner Graebner. With support from BIGSAS, and facilitated by the Department of Anthropology, the filmmaker Werner Graebner could be invited to Bayreuth. The lively discussion with the filmmaker benefitted much from his expertise and experience on Swahili coast history and his musical insider knowledge. The next films in the series are: *J.C. Abbey: Ghana's Puppeteer* by renowned American anthropologist, ethnomusicologist, 'acoustemologist', and filmmaker Steven Feld and *Hip Hop Colony*, an award-winning documentary on the rise and "localisation" of Hip Hop music and culture in Kenya.

Mashup

The debut exhibition at the new home of the Iwalewahaus

TEXT **SAM HOPKINS & NADINE SIEGERT**
PHOTOS **CHRISTOPH DOBBITSCH**

On 30 May 2015, the Iwalewahaus celebrated two achievements: its reopening at the new location and the launching of *Mashup*, the debut exhibition in the new home. After being closed for 18 months due to refurbishments, *Mashup* was the final exhibition of the two-year-long research and exhibition project *Mash up the Archive*, the first major project realised in the new premises. The project was financially supported by 'Kulturstiftung des Bundes' and 'Oberfrankenstiftung'.

The opening exhibition *Mashup* was composed of artworks by contemporary artists from Africa generated during the two years of the research project. The concept was developed by the Kenyan curator Sam Hopkins and was realised at the Iwalewahaus in Bayreuth. The core of the process was a series of four artist-in-residencies in which six visual artists were invited to explore the diverse archive of African Art housed at the Iwalewahaus, and to develop new artworks in response to this cultural production. The artworks which have been developed present distinct approaches to the archival material. The artists chose objects which they relate to in their new artworks and also critically examined the aesthetic potential and the value and implications of this

particular collection. The diversity of the resulting artworks is impressive: paintings, drawings, musical remixes as well as performative installations.

Kevo Stero and Otieno Gomba (both Nairobi, Kenya) anchored their research on a specific object, the mask, building an immersive environment of film, installation and painting that re-imagines traditional notions of the mask. Thenjiwe Niki Nkosi and Pamela Sunstrum (both Johannesburg, South Africa) took a form as their starting point, writing and developing an Anti-Opera, "Disrupters, this is Disrupter X", to re-narrate and inscribe a new story on a selection of archival film, objects and artworks. The Angolan-born artist Delio Jasse's point of departure was a technique, using a specific form of analog photomontage to develop unique documents, composed of fragments of information he found in the immense Ulli Beier archive. Uche Uzorka from Lagos (Nigeria) started with a position that the openness of archive is deceptive and that it refuses more than it allows. The artist obsessively shredded archival documents during his residency and created artworks from the shredded material. His graphics make reference to artworks of the Nigerian Nsukka-School, that are part of the collection at Iwalewahaus.

Alongside the visual artist residencies, two musicians were also invited to respond to the music archive of the



Presentation of the digital archive.
Curated by Fabian Lehmann.

Iwalewahaus. DJ Raph from Kenya and the Angolan-born Batida remixed and reworked the traditional dance music of the archives. Their remixes were also played at the opening party alongside a DJ-Set by renowned musician Spoek Mathambo from South Africa with visuals from Vienna-based artist Nita.

Besides the artworks generated during the artist residencies, *Mashup* also presented two major achievements related to the archive at the Iwalewahaus: The book *Letter to Lagat* by curator Sam Hopkins and Simon Rittmeier (Germany) which explores the idea of an empty archive, and the newly developed, intuitive and accessible digital archive interface. The new archive interface has been developed in the context of the *Mash up the Archive* project by the Nairobi-based digital solution company, Circle Digital.



Uche Uzorka „Full and Empty“, 2015. Curated by Siegrun Salmanian.



Stephan Jöris, former associate of the Bayreuth Festival management, shared his memories on the Parsifal production by Christoph Schlingensief

Art of Wagnis – Christoph Schlingensief’s Crossing of Wagner and Africa

An international conference at the Iwalewahaus in December 2015

TEXT **FABIAN LEHMANN**
PHOTOS **NADINE SIEGERT**

Since the end of 2014 the research project at Iwalewahaus “Wagner – Schlingensief – Afrika” has focused on the connection between the three cornerstones listed in the project title. The first highlight of the project was the conference “Art of Wagnis: Christoph Schlingensief’s Crossing of Wagner and Africa” (4-6 December 2015) attended by more than 20 academics, artists and cultural activists. The conference explored Schlingensief’s engagement with Richard Wagner, his focus on Africa as an image and a “dreamed continent”, and the aesthetical link of these two topics: Wagner and Africa. In 1999, the performer Schlingensief travelled to

Namibia (the former German colony Deutsch-Südwestafrika) where he played Wagner’s opera *Siegfried* to a seals colony at Cape Cross. What seems to be only a weird combination of random elements at first glance becomes more reasonable if one considers the historical background of Wagner and (pre)colonial history. In 1848, the year of the German revolution, Richard Wagner gave a speech at the Republican Patriotic Society in Dresden on the question: “How do Republican efforts react towards Royalty?”. The following lines are drawn from this speech:

“Now we want to cross the sea in vessels, find a new Germany here and there, fertilise it with the results of our struggles and efforts, beget and raise the most noble god-like children: We want to make it better than

the *Spanish*, to whom the world became a clerical slaughterhouse, other than the *English*, to whom it became a salesman hut. We want to make it German and glorious.”

With the appeal for the dissemination of German “virtues”, Wagner followed similar endeavours like the colonial enthusiastic mercantilist Adolf Lüderitz, although the latter pursued more profane, economic aims. Indeed in spring 1883, the year in which Richard Wagner died, Lüderitz purchased a coastal area in south-western Africa under deceptive circumstances and thus founded the basis for the first German colony. Participants of the conference discussed the above issues from various disciplinary perspectives including, musicology, art history and anthropology.

“Highlife on the Move”

CD Launch & Concert on 24 June 2015

TEXT & PHOTO NADINE SIEGERT

In collaboration with the Iwalewaha, Markus Coester launched the compilation *Highlife on the Move* released by the British Soundway label on 24 June 2015. The live artist invited to perform was the Northern Ghanaian Kologo player *Guy One* together with *The Polyversal Souls*, a band led by drummer and composer Max Whitefield from Berlin.

Highlife on the Move is a result of over ten years of ethnomusicologi-

cal research on Highlife as a popular music culture in Ghana, Nigeria, and England, and kind of provides the soundtrack to Markus Coester's Habilitation research and thesis at the Department of Anthropology in Bayreuth. He understands Highlife's formation as a modern popular music culture and a result of the movement of musicians and motions of music and culture in a tri-local socio-cultural space, where it connects to the Caribbean but also touches on a wider transnational history by including Afro-Cuban and American Jazz. The



compilation and research involved has won overall acclaim from critics as well as the music world. The historical highlights of the compilation are the first ever recordings by Fela Kuti. They had been kept in hiding for almost 50 years. Reissued in *Highlife on the Move* for the first time, they are now back in the public realm and will help to fill the gap in the early biography of Fela Kuti.

8th World Congress of African Studies (WOCAL), Kyoto, Japan

TEXT RÉMITCHOKOTHE
PHOTOS NICO NASSENSTEIN

After Cologne in 2009 and Buea in 2012, the 8th World Congress of African Linguistics took place from 20-24 August 2015 at the Kyoto University, Japan with Shigeji Kaji (Director of African Areas Studies) as the chair of the local organising committee. Despite the distance, more than a hundred researchers across continents gathered at Kyoto to exchange among others on areal linguistics, language evolution, sign languages, the documentation of endangered African languages, challenges of (re) classification, language teaching and as usual the study of the morphological, syntactic, semantic, etc. aspects of individual languages or language

families. The University of Bayreuth was represented by Jean Pierre Boutché (BIGSAS) who gave a presentation on “The Nominal Phrase in Vehicular Fula (Fulfulde Adamawa)” and Rémi Tchokothe who convened a panel on “From Home to Home: African Urban Youth Languages in the Diaspora” and gave a paper titled: “Camfranglais at the Challenge Camerounais”. A development to be praised during WOCAL8 was the participation of a good number of young scholars. Following the tradition of the WOCAL, the last edition was also the venue to decide about the host of the next congress, which will be the University of Rabat in Morocco. Until then ありがとうございます。 [Arigatou gozaimasu; Thank You] to Shigeji Kaji and his team whose hospitality will for long remain unbeatable.



Rémi Tchokothe at WOCAL8 Kyoto, Japan

Middle classes in Africa – Impulse for change?

“Africa talks in Weingarten” 4-6 December 2015

TEXT JAKOB NEU

PHOTO DIETER NEUBERT

The 2015 edition of the “Africa talks in Weingarten”, organised in cooperation between the Institute for African Studies, University of Bayreuth and the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart, took place in Weingarten from 4-6 December 2015. The focus of the conference was the role of the middle

African middle classes. Between the presentations, the different participants of the conference had the possibility to interact and exchange ideas as well as get to know each other.

The first segment entitled “Conceptual perspectives on social change and middle class” focused on the contribution of three speakers. Angela Graf (TU Munich) described the historic aspects and traced the emergence and evolution of social-analyt-

rent similarities between members of the middle classes in the Global South, and the statistical perspectives on such broad phenomena. In the last talk of this section, Henning Melber (Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation Uppsala) engaged with the often euphoric depiction of African middle classes in the media. As long as secure and adequately well-paid jobs will remain an exception in Sub-Saharan Africa, the middle classes won't be able to emerge as the driving force they are supposed to be, he explained.

The conference's second section dealt with the “Protagonists of social change” and the presentation of Robert Kappel (GIGA Hamburg) focused on the differentiations within the emerging middle classes on the African continent. Boniface Mabanza (KASA) concentrated in his paper on social and economic transformation processes in post-apartheid South Africa while Ivessa Luebben (University of Marburg) showed the complex interactions and overlapping of middle classes and Islamic conservative movements in Egypt and Tunisia during the Arab Spring riots in 2011.

The third conference block was dedicated to “the lifestyles of middle classes in Africa”. Andrea Noll (University of Mainz) and Jan Budniok (University of Hamburg) presented their research on the processes of genesis, evolution and demarcation of Ghanaian middle classes from colonial time to today. The last presentation was held by Florian Stoll (University of Bayreuth) and offered a descriptive angle to Kenyan middle class members in urban areas. Stoll insisted on the importance to conceptualise the stratification of socio-cultural diversity among middle class members.

The final discussion was a recapitulation of the topics and the consensus of all the conference participants to investigate further in order to improve the models of social stratification in regard to the African continent.



Ads in Nairobi, Kenya target the growing middle class.

classes in Africa and their impact on development, economic growth and political stability.

The conference was divided into three segments dealing with different aspects of the phenomenon involving

ical concepts in Europe from the 19th century up to contemporary times. In his presentation, Dieter Neubert (University of Bayreuth) reflected on the habitus and lifestyles of members of the African middle classes, recur-



Bayreuth-Mayotte cooperation: Tracing new academic routes

Visiting lectureship, Media appearance and conference participation in Mayotte

TEXT RÉMITCHOKOTHE
PHOTO BUATA MALELA

In March 2015, Rémi Tchokothe of the Chair of African Languages II was invited to the Centre Universitaire de Formation et de Recherche de Mayotte, a French Island territory in the Indian Ocean, by Buata Malela, Associate Professor of Francophone Literature and Head of the Department of Letters and Social Sciences. He introduced BA students to Swahili literary studies, Swahili sociolinguistics, literature and cultural development and language diversity in Cameroon, Nigeria, South Africa and Tanzania. Since Shimaore, the language of primary socialisation in Mayotte is related to Swahili, Rémi Tchokothe was

invited to Mayotte Première (Radio) und Kwezi (Television) to talk about the place of Swahili in academia in Tanzania, Kenya and Germany. These media appearances were also used to advertise the first wide-reaching conference on “La Littérature francophone de Mayotte, des Comores et du sud-ouest de l’océan indien: Production et réception” that took place at Dembéli on 19-20 March 2015.

Conference papers were divided into five thematic sections: Literary models and literary aesthetics, Literary historiography, orality and musicology, Focus on the Mauritius Island, and Pathways towards literary independence from France since Mayotte is a so-called overseas territory of France. A key moment of the conference was the involvement of BA stu-

dents who enthusiastically read excerpts from texts from five writers of whom three were present. This performative reading and the exchange that followed were a true testimony to the importance of reception studies. Rémi Tchokothe who held a presentation on “La Réception et la question de la chaîne du livre” had carried out research on reception studies in Nairobi, Eldoret and Dar es Salaam, which explains his appointment as the chairman of the conference academic committee.

This conference was the first of its kind in this university centre that was founded in 2011. For this reason it was attended by researchers, hundreds of students, official authorities, cultural actors and media representatives.

New cooperation between Bayreuth and Sousse

The DAAD supports the creation of African Studies in Tunisia

TEXT CLEMENS ROMANKIEWICZ

PHOTO CHRISTIAN WISSLER

In order to establish collaborative relations and to promote the internationalisation of higher education, a memorandum of understanding between the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences (FLSH) at the University of Sousse in Tunisia and the University of Bayreuth was already signed in October 2014. The mutual agreement intends to pave the way for developing academic and cultural exchange in teaching and research beneficial to both institutions. Education and international university partnerships play a key role in times of social and political change in the course of the transition process in Northern Africa, which the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) supports within the German-Arab Transformation Partnership Programme "Change by Exchange".

Since January 2015 the commitment of Moncef Ben Abdeljelil, professor of Arabic Literature and dean of the FLSH, University of Sousse, and Franz Kogelmann, scientific coordinator of the Institute of African Studies (IAS) at the University of Bayreuth, started bearing first fruits with the successful approval and start of the DAAD funded project "Inception of a Professional Master Programme in African Studies". The three-years project's overall goal is to introduce Tunisia's first academic degree programme in African Studies at the FLSH in Sousse to be launched in September 2017. "The new Master Programme will be based on the BA Programme in Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Sousse initiated in 2014 and the comprehensive multi-disciplinary



experience in African Studies gained over decades at the University of Bayreuth" explains BIGSAS alumnus and lecturer at the FLSH Ramzi Ben Amara, who coordinates the project activities in Sousse. The future interdisciplinary Master Programme in African Studies shall be linked to multiple scientific facets such as the study of literature, linguistics and arts, history, religious studies, geography, and sociology, and will have a focus on developmental issues. Thus, the vision of the programme is to transcend limits of scientific disciplines and to invite MA candidates with various academic backgrounds. In the long run this MA programme should get positive impetus from interdisciplinary research projects and will become the core of an impactful internationalization of African Studies in Tunisia via own contacts and long established partners of the Institute of African Studies in Bayreuth.

Establishing the new study programme in Sousse demands formal and content-related requirements and

relevant expertise in study course development. In order to meet these requirements, throughout the three years the project team organizes various trainings, workshops, and meetings for a selection of Tunisian students and lecturers to promote competences, the acquaintance of Africa-related institutions and study courses at the University of Bayreuth, and finally to develop the study course curriculum. Apart from carrying out several workshops in Sousse in 2015, a Tunisian delegation participated in a summer academy at the University of Bayreuth during the month of July. The university library of Bayreuth supports the project and generously donated numerous books in the field of African Studies for the library in Sousse. Further important activities in the first project year comprised the preparation of a collaboration with the University of Mohammed V of Rabat in Morocco to build up and connect valuable competencies in African Studies, as well as the exchange of teaching staff for short term stays.

Summer Academy in Bayreuth with Tunisian delegation

The IAS Summer Academy from 6 - 30 July 2015 in the context of the DAAD project “Inception of a Professional Master in African Studies”



Group of Tunisian students at Bayreuth International Summer School



Tunisian students at excursion to Munich. Public art as part of the guided city tour

TEXT CLEMENS ROMANKIEWICZ
PHOTOS SAIDA SAAD &
CLEMENS ROMANKIEWICZ

Nine Tunisian students with various academic backgrounds interested in African Studies, the dean of the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences (FLSH), Moncef Ben Abdeljelil, and DAAD project coordinator Ramzi Ben Amara (both University of Sousse) attended a Summer Academy from 6 - 30 July 2015 organized by the Institute of African Studies at the University of Bayreuth in the context of the DAAD project “Inception of a Professional Master in African Studies”. The participants from different Tunisian universities and at different stages of their studies successfully passed selection interviews during a kick-off workshop in May 2015 in Sousse. Apart from preparing a road map with regard to the development of a Master course curriculum in African Studies, attending academic seminars and to get to know African

Studies at the University of Bayreuth were the main objectives of this Summer Academy.

The first two weeks were dedicated to “Research methods in social sciences” (James V. Spickard, professor of Sociology at the University of the Redlands) and “The study of Islam in West Africa” (Andrea Brigaglia, senior lecturer in Religious Studies at the University of Cape Town). The latter seminar was kindly offered by the Bayreuth International Summer School (BISS). Moreover, Africa-related study courses, departments, and research projects present at the University of Bayreuth were presented to the Tunisian students. This exchange and the contacts established prepared the ground for first seminars offered in Sousse by visiting professors from the University of Bayreuth.

The program of the Summer Academy additionally comprised a visit of the Bavarian parliament in Munich, and the group discussed questions concerning the role and German sup-

port of higher education in African Studies in Tunisia with the parliament’s Vice President Ulrike Gote. A guided tour was also part of the same excursion and gave the group an overview about the history of migration to Munich from the so-called guest workers until today. The subsequent visit of the Bavarian Refugee Council and discussion about the current situation of refugees in Germany was very stimulating because international migration is one highly topical issue in African Studies that concerns both African and European countries.

All participants regarded the experiences made during the Summer Academy in Bayreuth as inspiring and a valuable enrichment for their personal life and professional career.

The project team is confident that the continuing “Change by Exchange” (DAAD’s German-Arab Transformation partnership program) between Bayreuth and Sousse will result in the successful inception of a Professional Master in African Studies at the University of Sousse in 2017.

“Kampala Here We Come!”

TGCL Students Visit Uganda

In July 2015, the Uganda Chapter of the TGCL Alumni Association organised a visit by TGCL students to the Ugandan capital in cooperation with the TGCL management.

TEXT & PHOTOS TGCL

It is a longstanding tradition at the Tanzanian-German Centre for Eastern African Legal Studies (TGCL), a cooperation project of the Universities of Bayreuth and Dar es Salaam, that within their one-year LLM study programme at the University of Dar es Salaam, TGCL students go on a study trip within East Africa. After Arusha (Tanzania) in 2010 and 2011, Kigali

South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, it was their first visit to Uganda, and it gave them an opportunity to compare Ugandan institutions with those in their own home countries. Moreover, they were able to learn about the connections between Ugandan institutions and those of the EAC.

During their visit to the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, the students learned about law-making processes in Uganda, including the domestication of EAC law in Ugandan national

to the NGO Kituo cha Katiba (Eastern Africa Centre for Constitutional Development), a research institution which has observer status in the EAC. The group further visited the School of Law of Uganda's oldest university, Makerere University in Kampala, which was founded as a “Department of Law” in 1968, and the Faculty of Law of Uganda's first private university, Uganda Christian University in Mukono, opened in 1998, one year after the foundation of this university.



Dean Anthony Kakooza explaining to the TGCL study group the artefacts on display at the Hamu Mukasa Library, Uganda Christian University, Mukono.

(Rwanda) in 2012 and 2013, and Nairobi (Kenya) in 2014, the 2015 study trip led to Kampala (Uganda).

The idea of the TGCL study trips is to acquaint the students with the practical functioning of state institutions in the Partner States of the East African Community (EAC), and of the EAC itself, whose seat is in Arusha. For most of the students, who originate from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda,

law. They also visited the Ministry of East African Community Affairs of the Republic of Uganda whose main function is to supervise the implementation of Community Law in Uganda. At the Supreme Court, the highest court in the country, and the Court of Appeal, discussions centred on the relationship between Ugandan national law and EAC law.

Another visit took the students

At the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Uganda, the group learned about Germany's policy of development cooperation, and at the Goethe-Zentrum Kampala they were invited to a lecture on the EAC integration process seen from a European lawyer's perspective.

The programme also included visits to Port Bell at Lake Victoria and to the source of the River Nile.



Accra's new transport terminal:
a scene for the study of social creativity

Technologies of Control and the Limits of Social Creativity

A workshop on creativity and technology in Africa

TEXT **MICHAEL STASIK**
PHOTO **F. KOFI OLYMPIO**

What is the relationship between creativity and technology in Africa? Does technological change enable or foreclose creative practices? How do infrastructures play into this? And how can we attend to these questions empirically through ethnological investigation? These and related questions were discussed by a group of anthropologists from 18-20 June 2015 at the Kloster Banz.

The workshop was organised by the research project "Roads and Road-sides: Towards an Understanding of Appropriation and Creativity as Seen

from the African Long-Distance Road" based at the University of Bayreuth. The members of this research project are Michael Stasik (Bayreuth), Gabriel Klaeger (Frankfurt), Kurt Beck (Bayreuth), and Rami Wadelnour (Bayreuth). The workshop took place within the frame of the SPP 1448 "Adaptation and Creativity in Africa: Significations and Technologies in the Production of Order and Disorder", which also provided the funding. Invited participants came from two other projects: "Constraint and Creativity on African State Boundaries" and "Significations of Oil and Social Change in Niger and Chad". The main thread of the workshop followed from the (STS-informed) observation that

technologies are open for interpretation and are shaped through human actions, hence the "social construction of technology". This kind of interpretive flexibility of technologies is eventually shrouded by social consensus and routine. The periods before routine are main windows for studying creativity, and they involve particular social 'scenes'. These accessible scenes can be observed by social scientists and they thus serve as main fields for research. The workshop comprised eleven sessions and eight presentations. The main 'scenes' adduced for studying (the limits of) social creativity in the appropriation of technology included roads, state borders and new oil-production sites.

Linganisha! Compare!

The 28th Swahili Colloquium

TEXT **SERENA TALENTO**
 PHOTO **CLARISSA VIERKE**

Under the motto, *Linganisha! Compare!*, the 28th edition of the Swahili Colloquium was held at the University of Bayreuth from 31 May to 2 June 2015. Organised by Clarissa Vierke (Professor of Literatures in African Languages), and funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), the colloquium took place at

made up of senior scholars, PhD and MA students, discussed the topic: *Linganisha! Comparative Perspectives on Swahili Linguistic, Literary and Cultural Practices*. Several contributions from linguistics, literary studies, anthropology and history triggered discussions about reconsidering language, literature and culture as social practices rather than as systems and discrete entities. Swahili practices, therefore, could in the same vein be treated essentially as grounded in

media in the multilingual East African context.

All in all, the colloquium offered a complex picture of linguistic and literary practices in East Africa and the diaspora. It was particularly also rich in events. The first day saw a book launch, while the second evening offered a multilingual reading from different translated works of the renowned Tanzanian author Euphrase Kezilahabi. Some of his poems and excerpts from the novel *Nagona* were



the new location of the Iwalewahauss, the Centre of African Studies of the University of Bayreuth. The Swahili Colloquium is now a well-established annual international forum gathering scholars and researchers from different disciplines who work on various aspects of the Swahili language and culture(s).

In 2015, the conference was attended by participants from 15 countries including Tanzania, Kenya, Mozambique, Ghana, Rwanda, USA, Poland, Italy, France, Switzerland, UK and Germany, with 80% of the participants from abroad. The participants,

multilingual and multicultural realities in Eastern Africa. They also looked at Swahili linguistic, literary and cultural practices in terms of more global comparisons beyond the East African context in order to identify similarities and differences. Some of the topics discussed included the influence of Indian Ocean linkages on the Swahili manuscript cultures, interconnections between Swahili linguistic and literary practices in the contexts of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Somalia and South Africa, popular and vernacular language practices and the role of the

read in Swahili and followed by translations in Italian, French, German and English, made and read by the well-known Swahili scholars and translators Elena Bertoncini-Zubková, Lutz Diegner, Annemarie S. Drury, Roberto Gaudio, and Xavier Garnier. During the colloquium, both the prestigious French publisher Karthala and the German specialised publishing house Rüdiger Köppe were represented with bookstalls. Furthermore, the Swahili Department of Deutsche Welle Radio as well as a representative of the Nation Media Group Nairobi reported directly from the conference.

Cooperation between Bayreuth and Fort Hare, South Africa

A DAAD exchange programme with the University of Fort Hare

TEXT & PHOTOS IRINA TURNER

In February 2015, African Linguistics and Literatures in Bayreuth and Fort Hare University, South Africa started an exchange programme for students and staff funded, in its first phase until October 2017, by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Each year, three BA and/or MA students from each university can spend time and attend classes at the other.

Fort Hare is historically very important in South Africa because of its long list of famous alumni, which includes African leaders like Nelson Mandela, Oliver Tambo, Desmond Tutu, Julius Nyerere, and Robert Mugabe. Today, it is home to the largest archive of the African National Congress (ANC) and other resistance movements.

Irina Turner, research assistant in the Department of Afrikanistik I at the University of Bayreuth, was a DAAD guest lecturer in February-



March 2015 in Fort Hare, where she taught courses in sociolinguistics and general linguistics at the BA and

MA levels. She was hosted by the Department of English and Comparative Studies and the Department of African Languages.

Colleagues from Fort Hare University also visited the Chairs of African Linguistics and Literatures in Bayreuth in order to establish a partnership which was recently formalised by the ISAP-Exchange programme. During the winter semester 2015-2016, the University of Bayreuth welcomed Rudolph Botha from the Department of African Languages at Fort Hare. While in Bayreuth Rudolph Botha taught an isiXhosa introductory language course. Together with other colleagues from Fort Hare, Abraham Olivier (Philosophy) and Dianne Shober (English and Comparative Literature), they assisted in setting up the ISAP-Exchange programme in November 2015.



Bwana Zahidi Mngumi's poetry

Workshop on 18th century Swahili manuscripts brings international experts on Swahili to Bayreuth

TEXT ANNACHIARA RAIA

On 16 March 2015, a four-week workshop on the 18th century Lamu poet and politician Bwana Zahidi Mngumi was launched by Clarissa Vierke (Literatures in African Languages) at the University of Bayreuth. The poetry of Bwana Zahidi Mngumi (1760–1832) is deeply rooted in the history of Lamu Island and the coast of Kenya, where he played a leading role in the early struggles for liberation from colonial dominance (1807–1873). The international workshop aimed at establishing a first text edition of unpublished poems preserved in manuscripts in Arabic script.

The body of texts from different

archives in Berlin, Hamburg, London and Mombasa mainly consists of *gungu* dance songs characterised by archaic linguistic constructions and a rich poetic repertoire full of metaphors shaped by the historical and cultural background. The manuscripts are invaluable testimonies of Swahili cultural and literary history. The translation and transcription of the manuscripts were carried out jointly by a group of Swahili experts and doctoral students, including Gudrun Miehe and Gerlind Scheckenbach (Bayreuth), Farouk Topan (SOAS, London), Abdilatif Abdalla, Ahmed Mvita Parkar (Hamburg), Jasmin Mahazi (Humboldt University Berlin) and Annachiara Raia (BIGSAS, University of Naples "L'Orientale"). A

special guest from Kenya, the local intellectual, Islamic scholar and poet, Ustadh Mahmoud Ahmad Abdulkadir, played an important role in the plenary sessions of the group, since he enlightened the group on variants in reading and meaning. The group discussed every poem line-by-line and was so enthusiastic about the rich texts, that a second workshop has been scheduled for March 2016 at the University of Bayreuth. Besides the previously established group which will come to Bayreuth again, the renowned literary scholars, Ann Biersteker (Michigan State University), Annmarie Drury (Queens College New York) and Ridder Samsom (University of Hamburg), will also contribute.

The tongue is sharper than the sword!

A workshop on the works of the poet and scholar, Ustadh Mau

TEXT ANNACHIARA RAIA

Ustadh Mamoud Abdulkadir, commonly called Ustadh Mau, paid a six-week visit to the University of Bayreuth in February-March 2015. Clarissa Vierke (Literatures in African languages) invited the poet, preacher and teacher Ustadh Mau from Lamu Island in Northern Kenya to take part in the workshop on Bwana Zahidi Mngumi's poetry, but also to discuss his own poetic contributions in a small workshop directly following the Bwana one. Earlier on, Ustadh Mau, a reputed scholar, imam in Lamu's oldest mosque and poet in his community, had provided

Clarissa Vierke with copies of his poetry which he started to compose in the early 1970s, but which have not yet been published. Born into a family of poets in the late 1940s, Mahmoud Mau acquired his education at the local *madrasa* and soon earned a name in local scholarship. He travelled widely in the Arab world. In the early 1980s, he was appointed imam at Lamu's oldest mosque, where he became a pioneer in delivering the Friday sermon in Swahili against quite some resistance. His equally outspoken poems like *Wasiya ya mabanati* ("Advice for our daughters") and *Kimondo* ("The hurricane") became widely popular and are sold on cassettes, CDs and publicised on

the internet and in printed form. Contributing to discussions on topics like the HIV epidemic, politics and religion, the poems provide unique entry points into local intellectual discourses and practices and literary and cultural dynamics on the northern Swahili coast. During the workshop, Clarissa Vierke, Annachiara Raia and Jasmin Mahazi (Humboldt University Berlin) engaged in a lively discussion with the poet and translated a number of his works. On 8 March 2015, the small group presented their work to a wider public: Ustadh Mau read from his poetry in the Iwalewaha and the audience were provided with the English translations.

Cultural Tourism and Indigenous Groups in Africa: Questions Raised and Lessons Learned

A BIGSAS international workshop on cultural tourism in Africa

TEXT JENNIFER SCHEFFLER

PHOTO BIGSAS

In summer 2015, over 20 experts from Europe and Africa came to Bayreuth for the international workshop on “Cultural tourism and indigenous groups in Africa” organised by BIGSAS Junior Fellows and alumni of the workgroup “Tourism in Africa”. Bringing together scholars from various disciplines such as geography, anthropology and economics, as well as journalists and NGO-representatives, the workshop discussed the consequences of cultural tourism on indigenous groups in Africa. Keynote speeches were given by Wouter van Beek (University of Leiden, Netherlands), David Picard (Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal) and Tamás Régi (Kodolányi János University of Applied Sciences, Hungary). In his address, Wouter van Beek spoke, among other things, about the idea and different conceptualisations of the so-called tourism bubble while David Picard presented different case studies and commented on opportunities and challenges that local indigenous groups are confronted with, when they engage in tourism. Tamás Régi’s keynote reflected on the state of the art of the sub-discipline, anthropology of tourism.

In addition to these keynotes, there were a number of presentations by BIGSAS Junior Fellows and BIGSAS alumni, as well as by representatives of BIGSAS Partner Universities in Kenya and South Africa, who presented



case studies about indigenous groups from different parts of Africa. For example, Georg Manono (Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya), talked about the economic opportunities that arise from a growing market of inner-Kenyan tourism. Local groups from the Luo ethnicity are setting up traditional villages, which target Kenyan nationals as potential visitors or tourists. Lauren Dyll-Myklebust (University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa), gave a presentation on the experiences of public-private-part-

nership projects within communities in the Northern Cape region of South Africa.

During the entire workshop, the pros and cons of cultural tourism were discussed vividly from different research approaches. The workshop participants also gained some insight into the practice of cultural tourism in Bayreuth through a city walking tour and a long and intense discussion with Manuel Becher, the head of the Bayreuth Marketing and Tourism Company.

In search of Africa-centered perspectives on knowledge

International workshop on knowledge research in, on, and with Africa

TEXT ANNA MADELEINE AYEH

PHOTOS FRANZ KOGELMANN

On 26-27 June 2015, researchers mostly from Africa and its diasporas convened at the Iwalewahaus to give directions for future multi-disciplinary research on knowledge at the University of Bayreuth. Titled "Focus on Knowledge: Africa-Centered Perspectives", the two-day workshop organised by the Institute of Afri-

they sparked a peak in social science research on the topic of knowledge. Meanwhile, African societies played only a marginal role in the debates on knowledge societies which were mostly located in the Global North. In 2005, the UNESCO published a World Report titled "Toward Knowledge Societies", attempting to frame the societal formation of knowledge society as a global goal and including societies of the Global South in its vision. This approach is rather problematic,

as such a perspective tends to posit Africa and Africans as objects and recipients, rather than subjects and producers, of knowledge.

Parallely, knowledge is a key topic for manifold researchers from various disciplines from social to natural sciences as well as the humanities at the University of Bayreuth. It is a

ers as well as the participants were: Is there an African epistemology (as opposed to a Western one)? What characterises Africa-centred perspectives of research on knowledge? How could collaborative research with Africa(ns) on the topic be designed? How could an Africanisation of knowledge look like?

To the African and Afro-American presenters alike, the dismantling of eurocentrism is one of the key topics in knowledge research. UK-based historian Hakim Adi (University of Chichester) exemplified the need for a decolonisation of knowledge on the basis of African politics, which are mostly based on Western models and institutions. The burning issue in this case is, according to Adi, to facilitate the self-determined production and application of African political theory in order to recentre African political thinking (and decentre Western/European one).

Aldin Mutembei, Professor of Kiswahili Studies at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, demonstrated the undermining of African languages and orality during colonialism. The dismissal of Swahili as language of instruction in schools during colonial times cemented English as medium of knowledge transmission. With its "New Education Policy", the Tanzanian government reversed this step in 2014 by recentring Swahili as language of instruction in public schools. Interestingly, whereas this measure was met by enthusiasm and admiration by African discussants of diverse backgrounds, the majority of European participants remained skeptical in view of a possible hegemony of Swahili vis-à-vis other Tanzanian languages.



can Studies strived for theoretically, methodologically and empirically innovative research formats on the broad topic of knowledge.

In the late 1960s, sociologists like Robert E. Lane and Daniel Bell coined the term "knowledge society" to refer to the contemporary (post-industrial) form of society, based essentially on the production, accumulation, and dissemination of knowledge. In doing so,

common feature of this research, as of Bayreuth African Studies in general, to aim at being participatory, post-colonial, and on a level playing field with the researched societies. In order to foster this kind of Africa-centered research, the Institute of African Studies invited umpteen experts in the field to discuss future paths and perspectives. Central questions guiding the workshop as identified by the organis-



Hassan Omari Kaya, director of the South African Research Foundation Centre on Indigenous Knowledge Systems (University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban), affirmed the need for the application of African languages in the production and dissemination of knowledge. Presenting his Indigenous Knowledge System approach, he underlined the need for community-based and accessible knowledges based on and communicated in local languages. An import of technology should, as per Kaya, only take place if it is rooted in local knowledge. He is also in line with his African colleagues when he argues that knowledge systems should be judged by their capacity to solve practical problems on the ground: Instead of theorising about knowledge on an epistemological level, it has to be productively put to action to help improve the living conditions of socially marginalised groups. The topic of knowledge-related social inequality also played a central role in the presentation of Joseph Tonda (University of Libreville). The Congolese-Gabonese sociologist and anthropologist spoke of the violence of knowledge in Central Africa to refer to the tension between precolonial body-knowledge and (post-)colonial book-knowledge, the latter being forced on people through means of violence (as in the physical disciplin-

ing of students in public schools). Violence, in this case, has become the medium of knowledge transmission. Joseph Tonda's presentation offered thus a refreshingly different perspective on the topic of knowledge, which is in the conventional discourse framed as a strictly positive phenomenon and tool of empowerment.

The practical application of knowledge in the field of medicine was the topic of Yacouba Banhoro (University of Ouagadougou) and Paul Richards (Wageningen University). Historian Yacouba Banhoro traced the interplay of Western and Burkinabé medical knowledge in the fight against sexually transmittable diseases in his country. He powerfully showed that the relationship between different epistemologies is better framed in terms of confluences rather than simple binaries. Paul Richards' presentation dealt with these very confluences of different bodies of knowledge in the fight against Ebola virus disease in Sierra Leone in 2014.

In the ongoing process of decolonising and accurately conceptualising knowledge, the academia plays a key role both on the African continent and in African Studies practised in Europe. Dodji Amouzouvi (University of Abomey-Calavi) reminded us that challenges in this respect are manifold: To deconstruct the impe-

rialism of knowledge is a task on the conceptual, theoretical, methodological, definitional and relational level and is attended by the development of new as well as the (re-)adaptation of old concepts and models, forms of cooperation and practices of knowledge transmission. The centring of Africa in African Studies is thus, as summarised by Akosua Adomako Ampofo (University of Ghana), always a form of activism, aiming to bring about social change. A few questions to reflect upon our own modes of knowledge production on Africa could be: Who decides on the distribution of posts? How is diversity anchored in the supply of courses, and the content of teaching? Are African writers part of the curriculum?

Speakers: Joseph Adandé and Dodji Amouzouvi (University of Abomey-Calavi), Hakim Adi (University of Chichester), Akosua Adomako Ampofo (University of Ghana), Yacouba Banhoro (University of Ouagadougou), Hassan Omari Kaya (University of KwaZulu-Natal), Aldin Mutembei (University of Dar es Salaam), Paul Richards (Wageningen University), Joseph Tonda (University Omar Bonjo), Rinaldo Walcott (University of Toronto), Eric Anchimbe, Rüdiger Seesemann and Clarissa Vierke (University of Bayreuth).



BIGSAS FC! A Football Feast to Close the Season

A little bit of play after work!

TEXT **ERIC ANCHIMBE**
PHOTOS **BIGSAS**

of the *Wilde Liga*, BIGSAS FC had a powerful show, qualifying unbeaten for the knock-out stage. We however finished 4th out of 16 teams. Remarkable in the team was Georg Klute, a BIGSAS Senior Fellow and Professor of Anthropology, who thrilled the spectators with his football antics.

To close the season, BIGSAS FC organised, thanks to funding from BIGSAS, a Football Feast at the Post-SV grounds on 15 August 2015. It was attended by BIGSAS JFs and friends of the team. The match of the day was between two BIGSAS-constituted teams led by Blaise Muhire and Emnet Woldegiorgis. The fun was crowned with barbecue and music. We wish to thank BIGSAS for support. We invite anyone who loves football to join us.

Like in the previous years, BIGSAS FC continued its exploits, as part of the BIGSAS outreach programme, in 2015 by participating in the non-professional league, *Wilde Liga*, and the Unchained Football Tournament. Drawn in Pool A of the Third League, BIGSAS FC faced the most powerful teams of the league, and finished 4th. As always, it was a pleasure playing against teams made up of students, non-students, workers and people from different walks of life. The experience continues in the *Wilde Liga* 2016.

In the two-day Unchained Tournament (20-21 June 2015) which brought together the top best teams



“Théâtre du futur, Futur du théâtre”

Theatre of the Future, the Future of theatre: ALA 2015 roundtable

TEXT **MAROUA EL NAGGARE &
AMINATA MBAYE**

The roundtable, “Théâtre du futur, Futur du théâtre”, was organised by Maroua El Naggare (BIGSAS alumna) and Aminata Mbaye (BIGSAS Junior Fellow) in the frame of the 2015 Annual Conference of the African Literature Association (ALA) in Bayreuth, 3-6 June 2015.

The roundtable brought together scholars and artists to reflect on theatre practices, aesthetics and im-

aginary in Africa and the diaspora. Alain Ricard and Maëline Lelay (LAM-Bordeaux Montaigne University) discussed the rise and decline of a socially engaged theatre in particularly complex and changing cultural and political contexts such as Togo and Congo while Youssef Ouahboun (University Mohamed V-Rabat, Morocco) gave an overview of the situation in Morocco where theatre in its official form is going through a period of stagnation whereas underground forms of theatre are merging and creating new dynamics. Living in Bayreuth

since almost 20 years, Togolese-born dramaturge, theatre director and critic, S  nouvo Agbota Zinsou, shared his experience on theatre in the diaspora, the challenges and the positive impact of drama in educational and community settings. In addition to this theoretically-oriented discussion about theatre, some artists went on stage. Youssef Ouahboun performed a poem accompanied by the paintings of Guggenheim's Moroccan artist Mahi Binebine while S  nouvo Agbota Zinsou read some excerpts from his last play.

Cinema Africa Network: Bayreuth – Maputo – Saarbrücken

TEXT UTE FENDLER

In April 2015, the Cinema Africa programme moved to Maputo, Mozambique for the 3rd edition. In addition to recent films, classics of African cinema and a series of talks and encounters in collaboration with the Partner University Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo, this year's programme offered a platform for studying and discussing African Cinema in its divergent forms. The Angolan film director Zézé Gamboa, who presented his most recent feature *O grande Kilapy* in Bayreuth, met the public in Maputo.

In November 2015, the 8th edition of *Cinema Africa!* took place in

Bayreuth. Parallel to the screenings at the Cineplex, there was a series of discussions on the theme "Beyond Cinema" with the filmmakers Miguel Llanso (Spain, Ethiopia), Sékou Traoré (Burkina Faso), Hassan Kamoga (Uganda) and Filipe Henriques (Portugal, Guinea-Bissau) at the Iwalewahaus.

Discussions continued during the international conference "Cultural Dynamics in the African Cinema of the 21st Century: Actors, Formats, Networks" organised by Ute Fendler (Bayreuth) and Christoph Vatter (Saarbrücken) at the University of Saarbrücken to celebrate the 15th edition of the African Film Week in cooperation with Kino 8½.





Regional Legal Integration in East Africa and in Europe

International Research Workshop in Tanzania
funded by the Volkswagen Foundation

TEXT JOHANNES DÖVELING & ULRIKE WANITZEK
PHOTOS TGCL

The East African states of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda are interested in cooperating more closely with each other under the umbrella of the East African Community (EAC). A Common Market has already been established; a currency union is at the planning stage, and the longterm goal of the EAC Partner States is a political federation. Obviously, it is of much interest to draw comparisons with other regional economic communities, including the European Union (EU).

From this backdrop, the University of Bayreuth and the University of Dar es Salaam held a two-day legal research workshop in the School of Law of the University of Dar es Salaam in August 2015. The thematic focus was integration processes and harmonisation of laws in regional economic communities, especially in the EAC and the EU. The

workshop was organised by the Tanzanian-German Centre for Eastern African Legal Studies (TGCL), a joint project of these two universities, under the leadership of Ulrike Wanitzek from Bayreuth and Hamudi I. Majamba from Dar es Salaam, and was funded by the Volkswagen Foundation.

To what extent can regulations and instruments of the EU that are aimed at harmonising European commercial law serve as a model for the Partner States of the EAC in developing their own Common Market? Can the law of the EU provide inspiration and useful ideas for regional integration in East Africa? At the workshop these important issues were examined especially with regard to the fields of private international law, labour law, commercial law, competition law and intellectual property law. The papers, which reflected both East African and European perspectives, were presented by researchers from Africa and Europe, including several members of the Faculty of Law, Business and Economics at the University of Bayreuth. Their critical analyses were followed by discussions comparing the reg-



Previous page: Olivier Dubos spoke on the role of the EU Member States in the harmonisation process;

Left top: Junior scholars Edson Rwechungura and Naomi Gichuki presenting their research findings.

Other photos: Junior and senior scholars engaged in lively discussion during the workshop, Abdallah Possi (left) and Khoti C. Kamanga (right top)



ulations of the EAC and the EU. The workshop also served to encourage young researchers: PhD students and post-docs had an opportunity to discuss their research work with experienced experts.

The economic and social development of East Africa depends substantially on whether the EAC Partner States can be successfully integrated – both from an economic point of view and through harmonisation of their laws. The success of a regional economic community such as the EAC depends above all on a well functioning internal market which allows the free movement of goods, people, services and capital. In order to ensure that the flow of these production factors across borders is not impeded by differences in national regulations, it is important to create common legal standards.

All concepts and measures aimed at the harmonisation of legal systems must take into account the political, social and economic circumstances of each Partner State. The different legal traditions of the Partner States must

also be considered. For this reason, regulations which have proved effective in the EU, for instance, cannot simply be transferred to the EAC. At the same time, the lessons learned in established economic communities can be a valuable source of inspiration when seeking solutions adapted to the concrete circumstances within the EAC.

The governments and state institutions of the EAC Partner States have very limited financial and human resources available for the development of the EAC. During the workshop, the issue of how civil society, universities, research institutions and private companies can contribute to a successful integration process was therefore repeatedly mentioned. On the intellectual level, academic research plays a leading role here. Researchers must actively help to develop and implement practicable concepts for the harmonisation of laws in East Africa. The workshop in Dar es Salaam has shown how the TGCL can support these processes by encouraging research and debate.

The workshop participants were of the opinion that in the future, even more so than in the past, the TGCL should act as a think-tank to actively drive academic debate on the law of the EAC. To this end, they agreed to cooperate in the formation of a working group dedicated to the examination of concrete harmonisation issues going beyond the scope of this workshop.



Ads in Nairobi, Kenya target the growing middle class.

Securing the Future of the Kenyan Middle Class

TEXT LENA KROEKER & MAIKE VOIGT

PHOTO LENA KROEKER

The research project “Middle Classes on the Rise”, a sub-project of the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies, is interested in the future visions of the middle class in Kenya and other African countries. It has an anthropological and a sociological perspective. The improvement in the socio-economic situation in parts of Africa has led to a significant growth of the middle class. So far, social science studies have only analysed how the middle class emerged but not what it takes to secure its standard of living. This is the aim of the two sub-projects of the anthropological section of “Middle Classes on the Rise” project. The aim is to analyse how personal progress is conceptualised within economic and social ties. Lena Kroeker, in her sub-project, investigates factors that prevent social downward mobility and secure the livelihood of middle class people. Maike Voigt’s doctoral thesis sheds light on entrepreneurs, many of whom desire to take their future into their own hands. Both Lena Kroeker and Maike Voigt conducted ethnographic fieldwork research in Kisumu, a Kenyan middle-sized town, in summer 2015. Both projects are on-going and affiliated to the chair of social anthropology held by Erdmute Alber.

The research has shown that every middle class member has gone through both upward and downward social mobility to a certain extent even though arrangements are made to maintain a higher social status and standard of living that prevents falling into poverty. Some of these arrangements are made by governmental social welfare, such as pensions, health care schemes or provident funds. Notwithstanding, in Kenya many of these statutory institutions of social welfare are only available to tax payers and not to the larger part of the population. Middle class people who are employed on contract basis or as civil servants, can hope to benefit from social welfare if adversity strikes. The rest of the population which is either unemployed or informally employed has no access to social welfare and, so only rely on solidarity networks based on kinship, ethnic ties or church affiliation. For the middle class, although state welfare is usually accessible, the study found out that, they still make additional private arrangements for securing their future and to maintain social networks.

Modernisation theorists have argued that urbanisation, industrialisation, wage labour, lead to an erosion of family-based solidarity systems which are then replaced by institutionalised social welfare. However, the Kenyan middle class only partly relies on support from state welfare, and the family-based solidarity systems are unaffected by state welfare. In this sense, the middle class carries a triple burden: having to cater for themselves, paying into the statutory welfare, and supporting family relatives from the lower class.

Employment can also not be considered a sole source of stability. A classical assumption about the middle class is that they work in relatively well-paid and secure jobs. However, in Kenya, comparatively, jobs are neither well-paid, especially in the absence of required qualifications, nor secure, since most people are employed on contract basis. Hence, many people venture into self-employment since it brings independence, compared to the often harsh employment conditions. The risks of opening one’s own business might not appear very high but nonetheless, entrepreneurs naturally take measures to minimise risks and maximise planning security. This is mostly done through diversifying business either in the same or in different sectors. For middle class entrepreneurs, risks can also be averted by starting the business while still holding another job. Sometimes the business may become more profitable than the job, making the decision for a transition into full-time self-employment fairly easy. Self-employment is thus a way to reach and maintain middle class status. It offers better opportunities for those who did not do tertiary education. With respect to social security and entrepreneurship, diversification is key to secure the future.



DJ Raph performs remixes from the archive at Mashup exhibition opening. (Sabine Linn)

The Iwalewahaus launches Music Artist Residency programme

TEXT ALEXANDRA KUHNKE & LENA NAUMANN

PHOTO SABINE LINN

Since the Iwalewahaus was founded in 1981, it has functioned according to the concept of open and free access to the archives for artists in residence. From the 1980s until today, Nigerian artists like Olu Oguibe and Wole Ogundele, renowned Nigerian musician and composer Akin Euba, and Nairobi-based hip hop artist Abbas Kubaff worked temporarily at the Iwalewahaus. In 2013, a new era of artists in residence was launched specially for musicians. The music archive includes literature on music in Africa, notes and scores, instruments and different types of physical sound storage media like LPs, CDs and cassettes. Furthermore, the archive is based on African music and composers since the mid-20th century. Founded by Ulli Beier and Wolfgang Bender, it collects and documents modern and contemporary music, Christian, Islamic, traditional and popular music, from all over the world with a strong focus on the African continent.

In 2013 and 2015, the musician Raphael Kariuki aka DJ Raph (Kenya), who was a part of the project “Mashup the Archive”, sampled traditional music from Burkina Faso and Chad as well as rhythms from the Dan and Senufo people, all stored in the Iwalewahaus music archive. DJ Raph’s work is influenced by contemporary music like hip hop, dub and electronic beats.

In June 2015, Pedro Coquenão aka DJ Mpula of Batida

from Lisbon was musician in residence. His music is influenced by the popular Angolan dance music Kuduro and traditional rhythms from southwestern Africa. The musical sketches and beats are generated by playing instruments out of the archive and using archived objects as instrument and will be released in 2016.

The Music Artist in Residence programme is a combination of the resident artist’s work and archival objects. The artists are free to choose their starting point and could work either conceptually or practically. This programme keeps the Iwalewahaus Music Archive vivid through generating new knowledge and audio archival objects. The source of inspiration and the way of working with archival material is documented and serves as a source for further research. The results will be presented as live concerts or as part of the Iwalewahaus “Music Archive Listening Session”. This event series was founded in October 2014 by Lena Naumann and Alexandra Kuhnke (both Iwalewahaus) and provides an insight into the archival material that is thematically carefully arranged.

In 2015, well-known local artists from Bayreuth worked on the archive: Bayreuth-based beat producers and DJs Clerk, Superphad and Nasher sampled and cut different styles of music from several parts of Africa to create new music with a specific contemporary sound. Their musical inspiration ranges from bass, drum’n’bass, hip hop to jazz and soul. The results of this residency were presented as part of the Music Archive Listening Session in December 2015.

Sociocultural Differentiation among Middle Classes in Urban Kenya

TEXT & PHOTO FLORIAN STOLL

This report lays out the first results of our empirical research in the sociological part of the project “Middle Classes on the Rise”, which deals with socioculturally differentiated groups or milieus in urban Kenya. This sub-project of



the Bayreuth Academy describes the future visions of the middle class in Kenya and other African countries. It contains an anthropological and a sociological part. While the anthropological part is researched by Lena Kroeker, Maike Voigt and Erdmute Alber, the sociological part is handled by us, Florian Stoll and Dieter Neubert.

The debate on African middle classes suggests that “the” African middle class consists of people who share similar characteristics, such as political attitudes, norms and values or imaginations of the future. Many contributions to the debate refer to the growth of a certain income stratum in Africa, and add that characteristics such as “education, professions, aspirations and lifestyle” (African Development Bank 2011: 5) are typical. Furthermore, the middle class is “more likely to have values aligned with greater market competition and better governance, greater gender equality, more investment in higher education, science and technology” (ibid.).

However, a more detailed look at the African middle class shows sociocultural diversity that goes beyond ethnicity and religion. The mapping of this sociocultural diversity and its relation to imaginations of the future are the topic of our research. This research is based mainly on a case study of middle classes in urban Kenya that started in 2012. Our data shows that this middle class is composed of different sociocultural milieus. Social milieus are defined as “subcultural units within a society which group together people with a similar view of life and way of life” (Flaig et al. 1993: 55).

For Nairobi we have been able to distinguish a neo-

traditional milieu, a committed Christian milieu, young professionals, social climbers, religious milieus (Muslim, Hindu), liberal cosmopolitan milieu, and an apolitical stability-oriented pragmatic milieu. Members of these milieus have different values, lifestyles (e.g. leisure activities) and imaginations of the future. For each milieu, we examined aspects like demography and social position, space and places, aims in life, work and performance, image of society, family partnership and gender roles, leisure and communication, everyday aesthetics, ideals and role models.

A comparison of two conservative milieus, neo-traditionals and religious Christians, illustrates certain interesting sociocultural trends. For members of the neo-traditional milieu, their ethnic identity (Kikuyu, Luo, Luhja, Kalenjin, etc), including specific customs and affiliation to places of origin, is crucial. Correspondingly, the community in the rural home and the extended family are important points of reference for the future plans of its members. In addition, there may be ethno-political attitudes like legitimization of land rights by ethnicity. Reference to traditions legitimises social actions, but old customs can be intermingled with Western practices, such as a white wedding. Entitlements within the extended family and the local community can be a way of getting support to finance one’s education – or can become a burden when the community wants to participate in an individual’s rise. In spite of certain restrictive traditional values, it is common in many communities – especially for men – to drink alcohol or to have premarital sex.

Members of the Christian milieu not only share the same values, but they spend a large part of their leisure time together at church-related meetings every week. While there are ethnically homogeneous and heterogeneous church communities of different sizes, the reference to religious values and not tradition legitimises actions. Consequently, the ideals prevalent are a life according to Christian values as well as individual career success. For instance, typical moral values can be seen in restrictions with respect to drinking alcohol and premarital sex.

The two examples show how a study of characteristics can help to differentiate milieus and may therefore be an alternative to studying social classes, because the study of milieus incorporates both sociocultural aspects and socioeconomic positions. Additionally, the question arises, how milieus are constituted. Taking new approaches from cultural sociology into account, we assume that the constitution of milieus is based on a specific set of meanings, symbolic boundaries and the connection of situational small life-worlds.

African Art History and the Formation of a Modernist Aesthetic

A new research project on African Modernism at the Iwalewahaus

TEXT NADINE SIEGERT & KATHARINA GREVEN

PHOTO KLAUS BENZ

The growing presence of modern and contemporary African art in Germany calls for a detailed research of African Modernisms in German collections. In 2015, the Iwalewahaus started a new research project together with Weltkulturen Museum in Frankfurt and Makerere Art Gallery, Institute of Heritage Conservation and Restoration in Kampala that investigates African Modernisms in a trans- and interdisciplinary framework based on collections of these three institutions. The project is funded by the Volkswagen Foundation with 500.000 Euro for about four years. The three institutions host particularly rich collections of paintings, sculptures and graphic art from the early 1940s to the late 1980s that are reflective of African Modernism.

The history of modern art in Africa is an entangled history that can only be understood by considering different encounters from a transcultural perspective. African Modernism has been defined by Western as well as African scholars as a distinct period in African art history, ranging roughly from 1940 to the 1980s. Exploring and writing the history of these collections will relate different moments in time to the individual motivations of the collectors and the acquisition policies of the institutions and, in a broader context, enrich debates on contemporary notions of African Modernism.

The research project seeks to examine not only the individual, in parts privately founded, collections that are housed today in museum and university collections but also to look at past and new links between them. This will be done by reconstructing these collections as networks and by exploring the object biographies of selected works. Specific attention is given to the distributed nature of agency linked to these collections, from the multitude of individuals involved to the objects themselves. Consequently, the writing of collection histories is one main pillar of the research project. The second aim is to take a closer look at a number of artworks from the perspective of art history and visual studies. During the research process, key works of the three collections will be selected by international experts in the field of African Art Studies. The purpose is to re-think aesthetics in *African Modernism* from the viewpoint of today and fill the gaps of art historical research on this period through the collections. This second research



field will not only enrich the study of aesthetics of artistic practice on the African continent but may also provide insights into their reception on the German side.

In a series of exchanges and workshops, this project brings together international scholars and museum professionals and art practitioners from Germany, Uganda, Kenya, Ghana, UK and USA, who work collaboratively across their respective areas of specialisation that include art history, art studies, curatorial work, museum and archive studies and anthropology. This combination will allow for the cross-pollination of concepts and research agendas in an international and transdisciplinary setting and enable the development of an original research design for the examination of African modern art in the collections of the Global North and their interconnection with collections in the Global South.

The project is directed by Nadine Siegert, the Deputy Director of the Iwalewahaus. Beside senior experts, the research project also supports the following junior researchers especially PhD and master students from both Uganda and Germany: Katharina Greven (Bayreuth), George Kyeyune (Kampala), Kathrin Peters-Klaphake (Kampala), Yvette Mutumba (Frankfurt), Lara Buchmann (Bayreuth), Hasifah Mukyala (Kampala), Lena Naumann (Bayreuth), Siegrun Salmanian (Bayreuth). Smooth Nwezi-Ugochukwu from the Hood Museum (Dartmouth College, USA) is an associated Core Team Senior Researcher and will also curate the exhibition "Feedback: Art, Africa and the Eighties" in the context of the research project.



Antje Daniel (5th from left) at the award ceremony.

Personalia

Antje Daniel wins the “Bavarian Culture Prize” 2015

Antje Daniel, a BIGSAS alumna, was awarded the prestigious “Bavarian Culture Prize” in the category “Science (University)” for her PhD dissertation in sociology, *Organization–Networking–Movement: Women’s Movements in Kenya and Brazil*. The award, worth 2,000€, was made at a ceremony in Essenbach on 18 November 2015. Antje Daniel’s thesis provides an extraordinary and empirically very rich comparison between women’s movements in Brazil and Kenya underlining their similarities and differences since they belong to different parts of the Global South. The influence of transnational, national, and local contexts on these social movements is described. Antje Daniel develops a holistic analytical framework that integrates different approaches in the theory of social movements such as collective identity, resource mobilisation, political opportunity and framing. This path-breaking study builds a bridge between the theoretical debates based in the Global North and the empirical findings and debates from the Global South.



Matthew Sabbi wins the DAAD Award 2015

Matthey Sabbi, Junior Fellow of the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS), was awarded the DAAD Prize for Outstanding Achievement of a Foreign Student in 2015. Mathew Sabbi holds a BA in Economics and Sociology and an MA in Sociology both from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. He is currently working on a PhD dissertation in Sociology entitled *Public Sector Reforms and the Problem of Legitimacy: The Case of Ghana’s Civil Service* under the supervision of Dieter Neubert. He analyses his rich empirical data with an innovative combination of John Meyer’s concept of “world society” and the notion of actor-centered institutionalism. With this approach he adds considerable conceptual and theoretical insight to the debate on public administration in Africa and offers a new perspective on the implementation and monitoring of ongoing reform of the public sector. He has published over eight articles in international renowned journals and edited volumes.

Erdmute Alber appointed head of the research group “Kinship and Politics: Rethinking a Conceptual Split and its Epistemic Implications in the Social Sciences”



Together with three colleagues, Tatjana Thelen (University of Vienna), David Sabeau (University college of Los Angeles), and Simon Teuscher (University of Zürich), Erdmute Alber has successfully applied for funding of an “interdisciplinary research group” at the center of interdisciplinary research, University of Bielefeld. Historians and Anthropologists will jointly work together aiming to revisit one of the central tenets of Western self-understanding: the conceptual split between kinship and politics. The research group intends to rethink the epistemological foundations of “family” and “kinship” in the social sciences and in policy-making institutions, and examine the historical and contemporary developments which have led to the separation of the public-governmental-political from the private-familial-kin-structured spheres. This research group will give Erdmute Alber an excellent environment to intensify her long-standing theoretical work on re-conceptualizing the anthropology of kinship. As Erdmute Alber will lead the research group, she will reside in Bielefeld for 10 months, from October 2016 to July 2017. A number of international fellows, mainly anthropologists and historians, will join the group for short-term and long-term fellowships in Bielefeld.

Serena Talento



Serena Talento took up the position of Research Assitant (wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin) at the Chair of Literatures in African Languages in October 2015. She is pursuing her PhD, entitled *Conceptualising Literary Translation and its Discourses within the Swahili Experience*, in Swahili literature and the sociology of translation at the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS). Serena Talento completed a Master's degree in Languages and Cultures of Africa at the University of Naples “L'Orientale” (Italy) where she specialised in Swahili language and literature. She furthered her academic training in Belgium and Zambia. Her research interests include Swahili literature, Swahili literary translations, sociology of translation, translation history, translation and discourse analysis. She has also a special interest in cognitive linguistics, sociolinguistics, and corpus linguistics. She also teaches Swahili at the University of Bayreuth.

Benedikt Pontzen



Benedikt Pontzen took up the position of Postdoctoral Fellow at the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS) in October 2015. He is an anthropologist and a writer. He works on West Africa, particularly Ghana and Asante. His main areas of research are the ethnography and historiography of Asante, the anthropology of Islam, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, and the anthropology of Religion. In 2014, he completed his PhD in Anthropology at Freie Universität Berlin within the framework of the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies. His thesis, *Islam in the Zongo*, is an ethnography of lived Islam in its diversity as encountered among Muslims in Asante. He has conducted long-term fieldwork on Muslim minorities and their lived religion and carried out some preliminary fieldwork on “African Traditional Religion” in Asante. His current research project revolves around the various conceptualisations and practices of knowledge within the context of “African Traditional Religion” in Asante.

Serawit Bekele Debele

Serawit B. Debele, a BIGSAS alumna, is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at BIGSAS. She obtained her PhD, entitled *Managing Irreecha Ritual: Religion and Politics in Post 1991 Ethiopia*, in August 2015. She holds an MA in Indigenous Cultural Studies from the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University in 2009. Prior to her doctoral studies, she was a lecturer at the Department of History and Heritage Management, Axum University, Ethiopia. Her current research focuses on the interplay of religion and politics and the manifestations thereof in contemporary Ethiopia. Using the annual thanksgiving ritual known as Irreecha, predominantly celebrated by the Oromo ethnic group, she shows that religion, ethnicity and politics are closely intertwined and the understanding of one begs for a closer scrutiny of the other. Religion and nationalism, religion and space, religion and media as well as religion and gender are her other areas of research interest



Emnet Tadesse Woldegiorgis

Emnet Tadesse Woldegiorgis, an alumnus of BIGSAS, took up the position of Postdoctoral Fellow at BIGSAS in November 2015. His PhD in Political Science was on the topic *Regionalisation of Higher Education in Africa and the Operationalisation of the African Union Higher Education Harmonisation Strategy*. Currently, his research focuses on higher education partnership trends in Africa particularly, on South-South partnership schemes. Emnet Woldegiorgis obtained an MA in Higher Education Studies from the University of Oslo, Norway in 2006. He worked as Head of Quality Assurance, Department Head and team leader at Mekelle University, Ethiopia for four years. Moreover, he was part of the training team on Leadership Skills for Higher Education Managing Staff at the Center for Institutional Cooperation (ICIS) Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam. He underwent training on Leadership and Management of Higher Education Institutions in the Maastricht School of Management.



Benedetta Lanfranchi

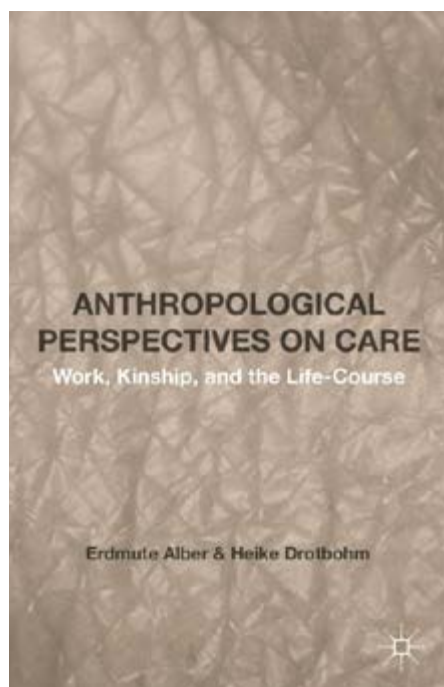
Since December 2015, Benedetta Lanfranchi is a postdoctoral fellow at BIGSAS, University of Bayreuth in the field of 'Knowledge and Africa'. She completed her PhD in African Philosophy at SOAS, University of London in 2015 with a thesis entitled: *Judging Crimes against Humanity in Acholi: A Philosophical Interpretation of the Use of Acholi Traditional Justice Mechanisms in the Aftermath of the War in Northern Uganda*. Her previous background is in European philosophy, and specifically in the continental tradition. She obtained a BA and MA at the University of Rome 'La Sapienza' where she specialised on the philosophy of Hannah Arendt. Her research interests are in moral philosophy, justice, aesthetics, and epistemology with a focus on African traditions of thought. She is also particularly interested in the emerging field of World Philosophies.



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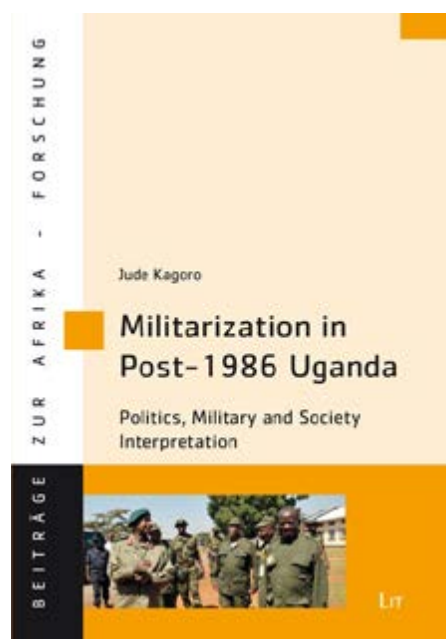
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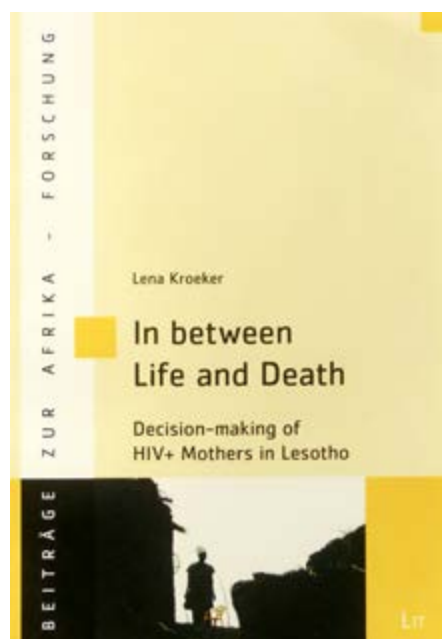
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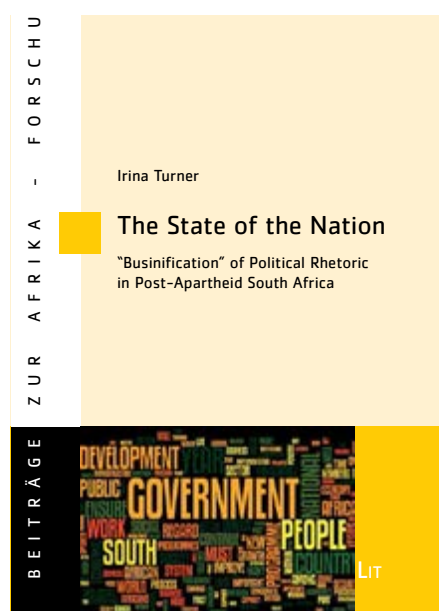
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Bayreuth Academy Working Group Summer 2016

Future(s) as Societal Project(s)

In the summer semester 2016, the Bayreuth Academy will run a Working Group on "Future(s) as Societal Project(s): Actors and their Imaginations in Africa and Beyond" to be hosted by the sub-project 3 "Middle Classes on the Rise". For its seventh international Working Group, May-July 2016, the Bayreuth Academy will invite fellows interested in social actors who produce visions of the future. We will look at the relations between future visions, their protagonists and their societal contexts. This shall be combined with a close rethinking of current research in the five Sub-projects of the Bayreuth Academy. Visions of "future" as "projected futures" will be described from four premises:

1. Futures are always projections of imagined situations based on (individual or collective) past and present experiences.
2. These future projections are always imagined by particular persons or groups.
3. These futures are not just abstract considerations but are based on normative preferences.
4. Future visions include a particular individual or societal project to be realised in future.

Scholars from multidisciplinary backgrounds will discuss these issues in the Summer 2016 Working Group.

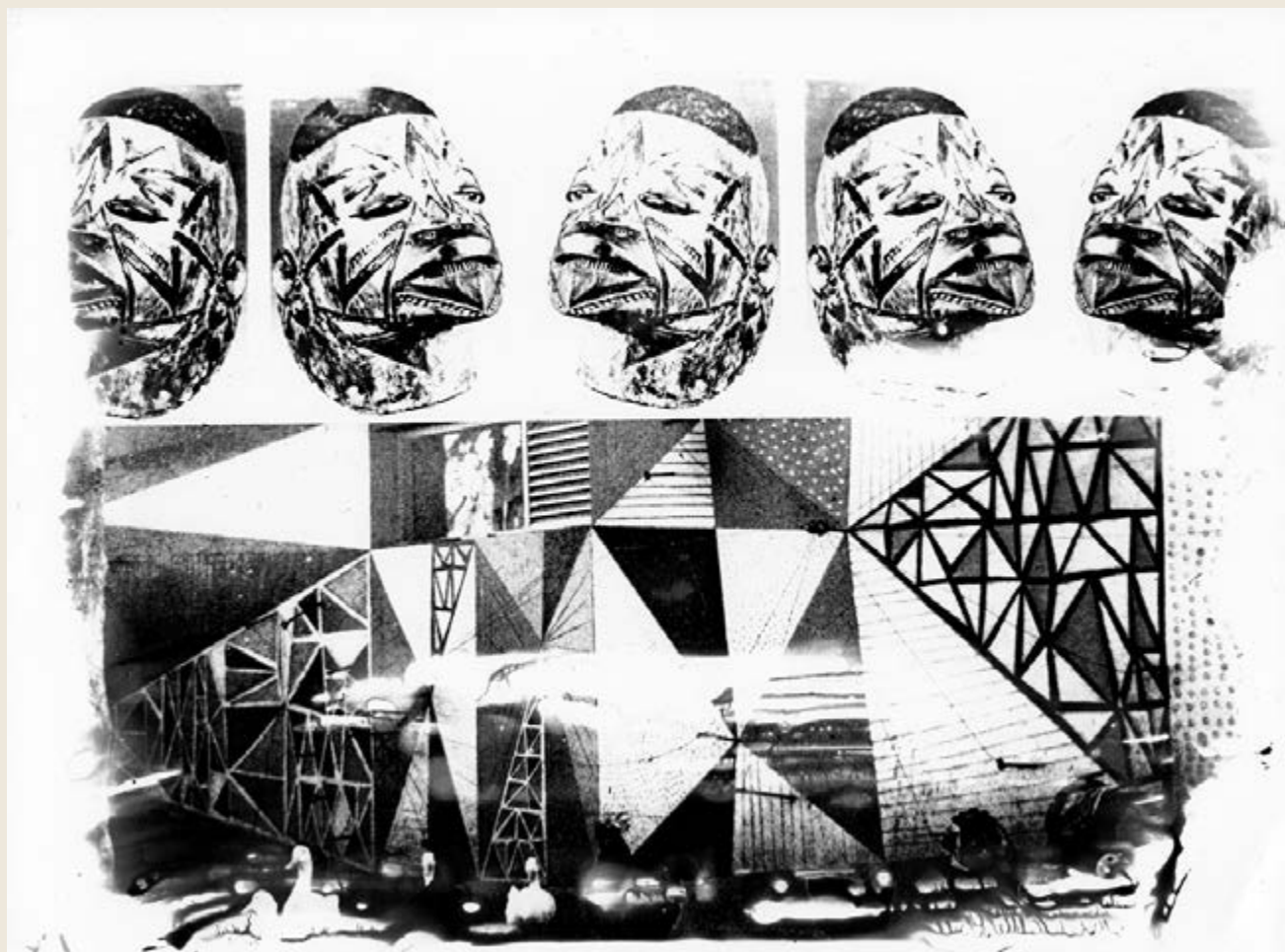
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Interdisciplinary Research Group: Bayreuth on board

Kinship and Politics: Rethinking a Conceptual Split and its Epistemic Implications in the Social Sciences

Together with three colleagues, Tatjana Thelen (University of Vienna), David Sabeau (University college, Los Angeles), and Simon Teuscher (University of Zürich), Erdmute Alber (University of Bayreuth) successfully applied for funding of an "interdisciplinary research group" at the Center of Interdisciplinary Research, University of Bielefeld. Historians and anthropologists will jointly work on one of the central tenets of Western self-understanding: the conceptual split between kinship and politics. The research group intends to rethink the epistemological foundations of "family" and "kinship" in the social sciences and in policy-making institutions by examining the historical and contemporary developments which have led to the separation of the public-governmental-political from the private-familial-kin-structured spheres. This research group will give Erdmute Alber, group leader, an excellent environment to intensify her longstanding theoretical work on re-conceptualising the anthropology of kinship.

(erdmute.alber@uni-bayreuth.de)



Délio Jasse. Top: Test print from the Iwalewaha archives (2015).
Below: From the series "Contacto" (2013)



The Iwalewa Art Award

On the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the University of Bayreuth in July 2015, the Iwalewa Art Award was founded and awarded for the first time. The award is given to young and emerging artists from Africa and includes a residency at the Iwalewahaus, an exhibition at the university campus in the context of the Annual Academic Day of the University, an edition of artworks of high quality and a book publication. The award is sponsored by the Iwalewahaus and the International Office of the University of Bayreuth. In particular, the award honours an artist's engagement with the archive and the collection of the Iwalewahaus.

The first laureate of the Iwalewa Art Award 2015 was the Angolan-born artist Délio Jasse. Since 2012, he has produced a number of works closely related to the founder of the Iwalewahaus' estate, the Ulli Beier archive. Délio Jasse's works were part of the exhibitions "Mashup" (2015) and "FAVT: Future Africa Visions in Time" (2015-2016), both at the Iwalewahaus. The exhibition "o_afecto_pelo_archivo" presented his works in the context of the Iwalewa Art Award at the gallery at Audimax on the university campus. It was curated by Lara Buchmann and Lukas Heger, both students of the master's programme "Culture and Society in Africa".



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Cover photos

Pictures from the early years of close cooperation of the University of Bayreuth with African Universities. An official visit of the vice-chancellor of the University of Lomé Ampah Johnson at the University of Bayreuth in 1983. Iwalewaha and its founding father Ulli Beier in conversation with African artists. (DEVA)

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