

Newsletter of African Studies at the University of Bayreuth



Bayreuth Academy

Learning for the Future

Transdisciplinary Perspectives on Education(s) and Future(s) in Africa and beyond

Exhibition: Longing for the Future

A successful collaboration between the Bayreuth Academy, the Centre for African Studies in Basel and the Iwalewahaus

BIGSAS

10th Anniversary

Members of BIGSAS on what it means to be excellent and shaping the graduate school together

Ways forward in BIGSAS partnerships

BIGSAS welcomes its African Partner Universities coordinators and other guests from Algeria

Iwalewahaus

FAVT - Future Africa Visions in Time

Indeed a process! The Bayreuth Academy signature exhibition two years after its inception

Summer exhibitions 2017

Ndidi Dike, Ruth Weiss, EXODUS STATIONS #2, SPACES, "Floating Bodies", Lieblingsstücke

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 crossdiscipline 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



2007-2017 is a memorable decade in the lives of over 109 young scholars who obtained their PhDs in the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS). It is also a remarkable period for Bayreuth researchers who have spent years researching Africa. This volume, *NAB XVII 2017, Newsletter of African Studies at the University of Bayreuth,* commemorates the 10th Anniversary of BIGSAS. By doing so, *NAB* acknowledges the extensive influence BIGSAS has had on junior fellows from around the world, its contribution to the internationalisation plan of the University of Bayreuth and the visibility it has given African Studies not only in Germany but in Europe and beyond. The highly multicultural and multinational composition of BIGSAS is proof of its reach to all parts of the world, from Austria to Zimbabwe. The interviews with Dymitr Ibriszimow and Christine Scherer offer a glimpse into the successes and challenges of BIGSAS in these 10 years.

As in the past, this volume also highlights some of the major research and outreach activities of the Institute of African Studies (IAS) and its affiliate institutions, especially the Bayreuth Academy, TGCL and the Iwalewahaus. International conferences, research projects, guests and exhibitions in the year 2017 are compiled here in a bit to showcase the viability of the African studies focus of the University of Bayreuth.

We would like to thank everyone who took part in the production of this volume of *NAB*. Franz Kogelmann, the academic coordinator of the IAS, as always, provided the much needed logistical support. The IAS funded a student assistant, Lionel Sango, who compiled the submissions and facilitated the production process. To the regular contributors, we say thank you for your reliable and supportive collaboration all through the editing and production process.

As a reminder to our contributors, contributions to NAB are expected in November of every year. This deadline as well as the guidelines for preparing NAB contributions if followed closely makes the production process much lighter – thanks for your cooperation.

We wish you all the best for 2018!

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

Welcome



With some delay though, *NAB XVII* is finally out! This volume is dedicated to the 10th Anniversary of our signature graduate school, The Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS). Founded in 2007 as part of the Excellence Initiative, BIGSAS has in the ten-year period, 2007-2017 graduated 109 PhDs – a highly commendable achievement that has not only granted more national and international visibility to the University of Bayreuth but has also projected African Studies to new heights globally. As Director of the Institute of African Studies, I wish to congratulate the Junior and Senior Fellows, the Administrative staff, Postdoc fellows, student assistants and IT managers of BIGSAS – current and past – for the great achievements commemorated in this volume. We are proud of you and of what you have done!

While BIGSAS is the focus here, this volume also presents the activities, research projects, conferences, publications, guests, etc. of the Institute of African Studies (IAS) and its affiliate institutions, namely the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies (BA), the Iwalewahaus and the Tanzanian-German Centre for Eastern African Legal Studies (TGCL). The success of the activities in 2017 reported on in this volume attest to the consistent efforts members of the Institute have put in. For this, I wish to thank all of them for their contributions in giving the Institute and the Africa focus of the University of Bayreuth the status it has today.

By way of foretaste, the next level of the Excellence Initiative, now called the Excellence Strategy, is also here. I am proud to announce that Bayreuth's application for a Cluster of Excellence was successful and that the Cluster "Africa Multiple: Reconfiguring African Studies" will go operational in January 2019. It will be the main focus of *NAB XVIII 2018*. Stay tuned!

Finally, let me take this chance to thank all colleagues, collaborators, guests, friends and students of the IAS and its affiliate institutions for the great work and achievements in 2017. Your feedback has spurred us even more, and for that we are grateful.

Happy reading!

Rüdiger Seesemann

Director, Institute of African Studies

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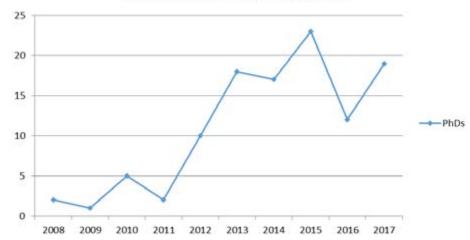
10th Anniversary! 2007-2017

BIGSAS celebrates a decade of excellence

TEXT & PHOTOS BIGSAS

In 2007 when the German Research Foundation (DFG) announced the PhD graduate training schools selected on a competitive basis for the Excellence Initiative of the State and Federal Governments of Germany, the University of Bayreuth was among them with its now renowned, Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS). It was a dream come true for researchers at Bayreuth who, since the inception of the University, have continually expanded the focus on Africa. The Institute of African Studies was therefore, proud to add a new structure to its fold, alongside others like the Iwalewahaus. Over the vears, BIGSAS has developed into an outstanding institution both in the German and international higher education landscape. It is the first School of Excellence for African Studies in Germany. Its strength and breadth can be seen in the number of junior and senior researchers it has brought together from all parts of the world,





and the number of PhDs it has graduated in this 10-year period, i.e. 109 in December 2017. This is an enormous success for a graduate school that does not offer scholarships.

Research in BIGSAS is unique because of its deep yet broad focus on Africa. It revolves around the surging dynamics of social processes situated at the nexus of culture, language, politics, technology and economics.

The Research Areas, tailored to these challenging topics and innovative fields of their time, are the central structural framework for the academic programme. Initially funded for five years (2007-2012), like all other DFG graduate schools, BIGSAS successfully applied for renewal for another five-year period in 2012. The 1st Phase had four Research Areas and the 2nd three:

1st phase: 2007-2012

- Research Area A: Uncertainty, Innovation and the Ouest for Order in Africa
- Research Area B: Culture, Concepts and Communication in Africa: Approaches through Language, Literature and Media
- Research Area C: Concepts and Conflicts in Development Cooperation with Africa
- Research Area D: Coping with Environmental Criticality and Disasters in Africa

2nd phase: 2012-2018

- Research Area A: Uncertainty, Innovation, and Competing Orders in Africa
- Research Area B: Knowledge, Communication, and Communities in Motion
- Research Area C: Negotiating Change: Discourses, Politics and Practices of Development

BIGSAS has succeeded thanks to the relentless efforts of its members. Besides the Junior Fellows (JF), i.e. PhD candidates, there are also Senior Fellows (SF), who fall into three membership

categories: Senior Fellows, Affiliated Senior Fellows and Associated Senior Fellows. The table below recaps the SFs in the two funding phases of BIGSAS.

The Senior Fellows, also called,

Principal Investigators (during the time of their involvement) act as supervisors, mentors, teachers, advisers and evaluators for the Junior Fellows. They take decisions in the respective com-

| Senior Fellow | Discipline | 1st Phase | 2 nd Phase |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------|-----------------------|
| Erdmute ALBER | Social Anthropology | 2008- | |
| Eric A. Anchimbe | English Linguistics | | 2012- |
| Susan ARNDT | English & Anglophone Literatures | 2010- | х |
| Kocra Assoua | Development Studies and African Politics | 2009- | 2013 |
| Viviane Azarian | Francophone Literatures in Africa | | 2012- |
| Kurt BECK | Anthropology | х | х |
| Ulrike BEISEL | Culture and Technology in Africa | | 2014- |
| Ulrich Berner | Religious Studies | х | -2013 |
| Martin Doevenspeck | Social Geography | | 2012- |
| Hilary Dannenberg | English & Anglophone literatures, cultures and media | -2009 | |
| Martina Drescher | Romance and General Linguistics | х | х |
| Ute Fendler | Francophone Literatures, Cultures and Media in Africa | х | х |
| Joël Glasman | History of Africa | | 2018- |
| Dymitr IBRISZIMOW | African Linguistics | х | х |
| Said Khamıs | Literatures in African Languages | х | |
| Georg KLUTE | Anthropology of Africa | х | х |
| Franz Kogelmann | Islamic studies | х | х |
| Beate LOHNERT | Development Studies in Geography | х | х |
| Elísio Macamo | Development sociology | -2009 | |
| Susanne MÜHLEISEN | English Linguistics | х | х |
| Detlef Müller-Mahn | Human and Social Geography | х | -2013 |
| Dieter Neubert | Development Sociology | х | х |
| Achim von Oppen | History of Africa | х | х |
| Jonathan OWENS | Arabic Linguistics | х | -2016 |
| Herbert POPP | Human Geography of Northern Africa | х | -2012 |
| Ivo Ritzer | Media in Africa | | 2014- |
| Manfred von RONCADOR | African Linguistics | х | -2012 |
| Eberhard ROTHFUSS | Social Geography | | 2014- |
| Katharina Scнrамм | Anthropology | | 2017- |
| Rüdiger Seesemann | Islamic Studies | 2011- | х |
| Valentina SERRELI | Arabic Linguistics | | 2017- |
| Monika Sokol | Romance with focus on iberoromance linguistics | -2008 | |
| Gabriele SOMMER | African Linguistics | 2009- | х |
| Eva Spies | Religious Studies | | 2014- |
| Alexander STROH-STECKELBERG | African Politics and Development Policy | | 2015- |
| Clarissa VIERKE | Literatures in African Languages | | 2014- |
| Ulf Vierke | African Arts | 2010- | х |
| Ulrike Wanitzek | Law with Focus on Comparative Law | х | х |
| Tobias WENDL | African Arts and Media | -2010 | |

mittees and elect the deans, vice deans and other representatives.

The Affiliated Senior Fellows are subdivided into three groups:

- 1. Emeriti, i.e. retired colleagues who previously took part in research and teaching activities of the African focus at the University of Bayreuth,
- 2. Colleagues at the University of Bayreuth who are interested in African studies but who have no experience in Africa yet. These colleagues usually

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represent disciplines that are not covered by the disciplines of the PIs, e.g. disciplines in the field of ecological and engineering sciences, and

3. Representatives of the Partner Universities who spend part of the year in Bayreuth and actively participate in the decision-making process at BIGSAS. Currently, BIGSAS has 13 Affiliated Senior Fellows.

The Associated Senior Fellows are colleagues from other German universities or from universities outside Germany, usually renowned specialists in African studies. They are members of BIGSAS for the period of a doctoral project in which they are involved as mentors or supervisors. Currently, BIGSAS has 69 Associated Senior Fellows. 89 others had been formerly associated for PhD projects that have now been completed.

The internal structure of BIGSAS comprises four groups: the General Assembly as the platform for all members, the Management Board, the Academic Committee and the Advisory Board.

The Management Board is the executive body of BIGSAS. Over the years, the following colleagues were part of it:

The members of the Management Board, representatives of the Research Areas, Gender and Diversity representatives and the coordinators of the graduate school form the Academic Committee, which is the legislative body of BIGSAS. This body takes decisions regarding all fundamental matters that concern the development of the school.

The Advisory Board provides concise feedback and advice and consists of:

- Wole Soyinka,
- Iean Comaroff,
- The Director of the Institute of African Studies and
- The Vice President for Research and Junior Scholars of the University of Bayreuth.

BIGSAS thrived on its signature slogan and motto that "Research on Africa is only possible with Africa." In the ten years of its existence, BIGSAS collaborated intensively with six partner universities in Africa. From the admission of new PhD candidates to joint research projects, these partnerships took internationalisation across the two continents to new levels.

The six partner universities in Africa are:

- Université Mohammed V de Rabat, Morocco
- Université d'Abomey-Calavi,

- Cotonou, Benin
- Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya
- Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo, Mozambique
- University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa
- Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

BIGSAS organised many events throughout the years. Detailed information on these events, especially conferences, award ceremonies, festivals and meetings can be found in past volumes of NAB: Newsletter of African Studies, in the various publications of BIGSAS (The BIGSAS World I and II, BIGSASworks!, the WHO-Brochure, the IF and Alumni Brochures, the publications of the BIGSAS Literature Festival, the publications in the framework of the BIGSAS Journalist Awards, the BIGSAS@school Brochure etc.) as well as in the newsletters of the University of Bayreuth (UBT Aktuell and Spektrum).

For these years of intensive work, BIGSAS thanks all its members, collaborators, partners and the administration of the University of Bayreuth for the consistent support, the trust and confidence bestowed on it. To the alumni, BIGSAS wishes you all the best in your future careers, and calls on you to keep the spirit of the BIGSAS family alive everywhere you go.

| Deans | Vice Deans | Gender Representatives | Period |
|------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Fendler | Beck | Alber, Mühleisen | 2007-2009 |
| Ibriszimow | Alber, Popp | Sommer, Arndt | 2010-2011 |
| Ibriszimow | Doevenspeck, Seesemann | Arndt, Anchimbe | 2012-2013 |
| Ibriszimow | Doevenspeck, Drescher | U. Vierke, Anchimbe | 2014-2015 |
| Ibriszimow | Doevenspeck, Drescher | Anchimbe, U. Vierke | 2016-2017 |
| Ibriszimow | Doevenspeck, Drescher | Mühleisen, Serreli | until October 2018 |
| Drescher | Doevenspeck | Mühleisen, Serreli | since October 2018 |

Memories of BIGSAS



Emmanuel Sackey (2013-2018)

As a place for academic excellence, the memories of BIGSAS will forever remain on my mind. Not only because of the PhD opportunity offered me but also for the warm hospitality of its management and staff, and colleagues I met in Bayreuth. For this I remain very grateful. Ich bin sehr Dankbar!



Magdaline Nakhumicha Wafula (2009-2013)

During my time in BIGSAS, I was able to write my doctoral thesis, publish articles, present papers at international conferences and interacted with renowned African literary creators and critics. It was an experience that fuels my current motivation as a lecturer in the Department of Kiswahili and Other African Languages at Moi University, Eldoret-Kenya.



Weeraya Donsomsakulkij (2013-2016)

Most inspiring, warmest hospitality and beloved family – that's what BIGSAS means to me. I am most grateful for the opportunities BIGSAS provided for me in terms of not only PhD training but also endless knowledge connections. Many heartfelt thanks!



Blaise Muhire (2013-2017)

My four years with BIGSAS deserve a storybook to tell everything. I remember, once in Bayreuth in 2013, everything was about my research project, nothing else. After months and years, it became about more than just my project, more than a degree: an entire life experience. BIGSAS was and is a remarkable window to diverse cultures, languages, places. Through BIGSAS I learned, I grew and I changed.



Chikas Danfulani (2009-2012)

BIGSAS was a family to me. The intellectually stimulating colloquiums, workshops and of course other social activities gave me the opportunity of meeting and engaging with academics from different parts of the world. I cannot forget "BIGSAS@ school" and its impact on young German pupils in Bayreuth.

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Memories of BIGSAS







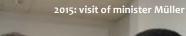






















Interview with Christine Scherer

BIGSAS turned 10 in 2017. NAB talked with the Academic Coordinator, Christine Scherer, who, with an amazing team of truly dedicated persons, has run the daily business of the Graduate School since its inception.

INTERVIEW ERIC ANCHIMBE & LIONEL SANGO
PHOTOS THORSTEN OCHS

Happy 10th Anniversary! In three words, describe the atmosphere in BIGSAS in the past decade.

Christine Scherer: Extraordinary – Generous – Memorable.

In the administration of BIGSAS, you are the only one who has been there all the time, how do you evaluate the achievements made this far?

The most important achievement of BIGSAS is certainly the diversity of young researchers from A to Z, from Austria to Zimbabwe, who accomplished their aim successfully by obtaining their doctorates. All of them can tell success stories about their careers afterwards. Another achievement is the excellent promotion and impact that BIGSAS as an institution in the African studies focus at the University of Bayreuth has had over the years. The graduate school has become a trade mark and a best-practice example not only in Germany and not just because of the generous funding that came with the Excellence Initiative ten years ago. It is a specific spirit of how established academics work together in order to foster the academic careers of young talents; how they open doors and networks for Junior Fellows and an early integration into international academic communities. Another achievement is the collaboration between six partner universities in Africa and the University of Bayreuth in different respects. And also



very important: the Junior Fellows' contribution to research on Africa at the University of Bayreuth is commendable. These young academics applied for admission to BIGSAS with their original research projects. The successful candidates were selected in a highly competitive process and over the last ten years, Junior Fellows, guided in mentoring groups, have contributed extensively to the development and diversity of research directions in African Studies in Bayreuth. A look at the dissertations published so far supports this. And last but not least, BIGSAS became the cradle for the conviction that academic communication, knowledge transfer into the society and outreach engagement are immensely important both strategically and idealistically for higher education training. I personally hope that programmes like BIGSAS@school will be continued by highly motivated Junior Fellows also in the future. The regular inquiries of journalists about when the next BIGSAS Journalist Award will be announced, is a further sign that BIGSAS has come of age and now needs to be developed further.

You have dealt with junior fellows, senior fellows and guests from all over the world. How easy has that been?

If one does not like to be professionally immersed in an international academic arena, BIGSAS is certainly not the right place to work at. For me and certainly the entire team, it is absolutely the right place to work. To implement and coordinate early career support in an organisational unit from the application process for a



doctorate up to the defence was quite new in Germany when BIGSAS started in 2007. It is like accompanying the full cycle of a young academic, dealing with their earlier academic training, cultural background and social disposition. It has always been rewarding to congratulate happy fellows after their defence. Since I had the chance to contribute my share to the concept of BIGSAS directly after accomplishing my own doctorate, I had a slight idea of what it means if one says 'the devil lies in the detail'. During the years we also experienced difficulties. But by and large, the dedication of many Senior Fellows, the input of our Junior Fellows as much as the advice from our colleagues of the BIGSAS partner universities in Africa was invaluable. After ten years I would clearly say that the enthusiastic collaboration as well as the constructive criticisms made BIGSAS the institution it is today.

What is the secret behind this?

No secret. Just dedication! This is certainly valid for the Deans, the Senior and Junior Fellows, absolutely for the administrative team and our cooperation partners in and beyond Bayreuth. From my point of view, it has always been a pleasure to implement a concept coming out of fruitful ideas, when people enjoy to collaborate. The particularly interesting thing about it was the innovative character of the endeavour and procedures from the scratch. It was fun to jointly create stimulating internationalisation and outreach strategies and fill all of these facets with life and professionalism.

BIGSAS often describes itself as "the BIGSAS family." What keeps this family together?

Yes, especially Dymitr (the Dean) likes this metaphor. I believe, he means the shared perception and spirit that one is part of a special community and unique institution, one that is as closely-knit

together as a family is. But, to remain in the metaphor, maintaining a family and working through conflicts as much as through joy is constant work for all members. An institutional affiliation alone will not be enough to keep the family together for the coming years. As much as in other respects, it needs people who feel dedicated and committed to the community and institution. This became more than clear during the first Alumni meeting on African soil recently in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia when the colleagues discussed how they could proceed from here as a multidisciplinary group of young academics. However, I trust that the potential of the alumni of BIGSAS as a group and as individual researchers are an ingredient for the institutional development of African studies at the University of Bayreuth and the newly-awarded Cluster of Excellence.

Now that the Excellence Initiative is officially ending, what message do you have for members of the BIGSAS family?

Take the spirit of innovation in academia another step further!

If you were to do it again, what would you change?

Nothing!

And you personally, what's the next step?

Firstly, a lot of work will flow into the sustainability of BIGSAS. Now that the Cluster of Excellence, "Africa Multiple", has been approved for funding, my expertise will flow into the unit 'Early Career and Equal Opportunities'. And, given that there is still some time and space for a new project or a research idea, I will not hesitate...

Thank you Christine and we wish you the best in the next stage.

Interview with Dymitr Ibriszimow

On the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (2007-2017), NAB sat down with the Dean, Dymitr Ibriszimow, to take a look back at the achievements.



INTERVIEW ERIC ANCHIMBE &
LIONEL SANGO
PHOTOS JULIANE FENDER

In 2012, you sat down with NAB to celebrate the successful renewal of BIGSAS with the Excellence Initiative. Today, we are sitting down to take stock of BIGSAS' ten years of existence: 2007-2017. Congratulations!

Dymitr Ibriszimow: Thank you for having me again after these years.

What have been the major achievements in these years?

BIGSAS was founded in November 2007. We thought of, created and developed BIGSAS from the very beginning as a permanent structure within our university. That vision continues to live especially now that, even after the Excellence Initiative, BIGSAS will continue to exist. Today, BIGSAS has

graduated 127 alumni. A total of 80 doctoral students are currently enrolled in BIGSAS and should defend in the next few years. Our focus is on quality of academic research, which is why only 12-15% of all applicants are admitted to BIGSAS. This tells you how coveted BIGSAS has become. To have such a large alumni in 10 years is really impressive.

How does this admission reflect the composition of BIGSAS?

If you look at our organigram and the role of our partner universities (PU), then it becomes clearer. One of the most prominent aspects of BIGSAS is the cooperation with its six partner universities in Africa. However, I want to underline that the research proposals with which the candidates apply to BIGSAS have to be their own ideas. There are no quotas in regard e.g. topics, discipline, origin or gender of the applicants. Our statistics show that

70% of the doctoral students, Junior Fellows (JF) as we call them, (including the alumni) are non-Germans, 62% come from African countries, and 44% are female. BIGSAS is a place of multi- and interdisciplinary research. 116 colleagues (Senior Fellows (SF) including the Principal Investigators) representing 18 different disciplines that deal with Africa supervise and advise the JFs. We strongly support bottom-up activities of the JF who in these 10 years have created 39 interdisciplinary Work Groups.

That's an impressive list of achievements, especially in the academia. Has BIGSAS reached out beyond the academia?

Of course, in many different ways. Our gender and diversity programme points to that. Beside the strict academic work, IFs and SFs have also developed a number of public outreach programmes, for instance, the annual BIGSAS Literature Festival, the biennial BIGSAS Journalist Award, the BIGSAS Forum for Thought and BIGSAS@school. Furthermore, and vou know this better as its coordinator than I do, we have a football team, BIGSAS FC. However, I am particularly happy that our reputation in the meantime reached also the political level. In February 2013, the Bayarian Parliament invited BIGSAS and the African focus of our university to present our activities and achievements in front of members of the State Parliament. As a result of this visit and following our proposal, the Bavarian Ministry of Higher Education created a new unique structure: The Bavarian Research Institute of African Studies (BRIAS) which is a collaboration between four Bavarian higher education institutions: The University of Bay-

reuth, The University of Würzburg, The Technical University Ingolstadt and The University of Applied Sciences Neu-Ulm.

So many achievements in various directions. Tell me, what has been the secret of this great success?

Professionalism in expertise, friend-ship in relation, reliability in decision-making, equality of chances under consideration of individual needs. All SFs participate in BIGSAS activities voluntarily. We cannot and should not forget the environment in which BIGSAS is operating, the friendship and sympathy of all colleagues and staff responsible for the university structures outside BIGSAS.

What, in your opinion, is left unfinished?

I cannot say that there are "unfinished" aspects; there are always new ideas on how to make what we have achieved even better. For example, BIGSAS developed a sandwich programme for the co-supervision of JFs with our partner universities. Currently, there are seven participants in this programme. We have to keep discussing with our PU the common strategies in order to increase the number and the variety of disciplines involved in this programme.

In 2012, you said: "we hope that our efforts in the domain of internationalisation will reach the next level of cooperation with our partner universities and beyond." Has this been the achieved?

Yes, let me give you two examples. At the end of September 2016 the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Union selected and is currently funding our project entitled "Academic Mobility for African Sustainable Development (AMAS)" in the framework of the Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme (see *NAB XVI*: 22). With "our" project, I refer to five of our PU and the University of Bayreuth. The second example is coming in 2018: the



first BIGSAS alumni conference in Africa. It will take place on 31 October to 2 November 2018 at our PU in Addis Ababa. We expect more than 80 alumni from all over the world.

Has the BIGSAS slogan "Research in Africa only with Africa" been a major hallmark of these 10 years?

Of course! I hope we shall reach this approach in all domains of our lives one day. That it will be unthinkable and unimaginable to deal with Africa without sharing efforts and reaching results with and learning from our colleagues, friends and thinkers from African countries.

BIGSAS has many alumni today. What is BIGSAS' relationship to them?

Our alumni are our pride and our reward. We are so proud of their work and their careers. Their success is the reward for all of us for the work we have been doing as supervisors, mentors and administrators. By the way, BIGSAS has, in my opinion, the best administration team one can imagine. There are no problems whatsoever for which the team would not find a viable solution.

Another good news broke a few days

ago. The University of Bayreuth has been awarded "The Cluster of Excellence: Africa Multiple – Reconfiguring African Studies". Congratulations!

Thank you very much, I am so happy! It is now my turn to congratulate my younger colleagues and friends, i.e. you personally as a PI of the new cluster and all our colleagues from the African focus of our university who participated intensively in the preparation of the successful application. BIGSAS has now been integrated into the Cluster of Excellence. For the next seven years the BIGSAS experience will continue with even more successes and achievements.

The Africa focus of the University of Bayreuth is reaching new heights. What is next?

Now it is time to build up the remaining envisaged innovative cluster structures. This is a very challenging and time-consuming period, but believe me, it is full of positive experiences.

Thanks for talking to the NAB. We look forward to report on the new achievement of the Africa focus in NAB 2018, the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence.

Learning for the Future

Transdisciplinary Perspectives on Education(s) and Future(s) in Africa and beyond



TEXT SABRINA MAURUS & LENA KROEKER
PHOTO LENA KROEKER

Education is often perceived as an imagined future due to its ability to equip learners with skills, know-how, theoretical knowledge and to serve as a valuable resource in shaping the future. In the 2017-2018 winter semester, junior staff and doctoral students in General Pedagogy, Social Anthropology, School Pedagogy and Psychology, organised joint working sessions revolving around imagined future(s) connected with educational programmes. They were funded by the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies. The working group

"Learning for the Future – Transdisciplinary Perspectives on Knowledge Transmission in Africa and beyond", facilitated seven working group sessions, a lecture series, an exhibition and a photo project on concepts, practices and images of learning for the future.

The group which consists of twelve doctoral and post-doctoral scholars discussed interesting ideas on specific visions of the future that not only display concepts of learning but are also informed by concepts of the future.

In the early discussions, it became clear that only one dominant model of education currently exists and is disseminated globally. More so, empirical findings from different research projects gave strikingly similar accounts. Across the African continent as well as the Indian subcontinent, we found replicas of western-type schooling in remarkable similarity. This model of education follows a paradigm of modernisation, progress and unilineal development.

To approach the thematic field of education, we agreed on a very broad definition of knowledge and its transmission, transgressing the boundaries of schooling. The working group noted that knowledge can be textual, manual, exemplary, oral, or embodied and is transmitted through different imagery. Three themes deserved further scrutiny during the seven working sessions held at the Bayreuth Academy:

Concepts of Knowledge, Education and Learning

The first theme, heralded by Anna Madeleine Ayeh, Lena Kroeker and Theresa Vollmer, focused on the concepts of knowledge, education and learning. The working group discussed their transnational flows. Multiplicity and parallelism of epistemological orders, modes of knowledge transmission, and systems of learning, characterise most societies. However, the discussions of the working group concluded that globally disseminated models of 'development' and schooling, i.e. those promoted by the United Nations Millennium / Sustainable Development Goals, overshadow the multiplicity of learning approaches. The hegemonic model of schooling plays with the promises of 'development' and access to industrialised and administrative job markets. This narrative produces



almost uniform visions of the future worldwide in which students aspire to become economically valuable members of the society. Consequently, schooling is seen as the only means to a successful future, while other life trajectories and educational contexts receive inadequate attention. The examples discussed revealed a mismatch between an anticipated future based on schooling and the possibilities of the job market.

Practices of Knowledge, Education and Learning

Tanushree Biswas, Tabea Häberlein, Daniel Kyereko, Sabrina Maurus and Maike Voigt organised discussions on the second theme: Practices of knowledge, education and learning. By educational practices, we mean processes of knowledge transmission and creation. This theme addressed the correlation between educational practices and visions of the future. Educational practices stimulate certain visions of the future and, in turn, visions of the future stimulate educational practices. Hence, the working group explored this correlation through empirical examples from Africa, Europe, and India. Different institutions of formal and informal education, religious education, vocational training, life-long learning, initiation schools and many others, were the subject of debate. The collaborative inquiry took a close look at individual and collective visions of the future expressed in terms like, goals, hopes, dreams, aspirations and development, expected to be achieved through education. It became obvious that there exist no educational practices that do not refer to a concept of future.

Images and Representations of/in Knowledge, Education and Learning

The third group with Jennifer Scheffler, Julia Thibaut and Astrid Utler took on the theme, images and representations of/in knowledge, education and learning. Images, as 'pictures' (e.g. in social media, books, movies, news, etc.) or in the figurative sense as 'representations', play an important role in social life and daily interactions as well as in knowledge production and transmission. In the latter sense, these include both self-representation and representations of the other. Images of the other are in many cases biased and stereotypical. The key concern of this subtopic was the representation of the other in education and its related materials. European or German perceptions of Africa or Africans were compared to and contrasted with discourses and (self-)images in different African contexts. This was also linked with migrants' vision of Europe as a place for a better future. The working group went beyond describing and bewailing biases to addressing mutual representations and images between, for example, Africa and Europe as well as finding new and visionary ways of triggering them. Hence, a photo project with photographer Johannes Kramer was set up with teacher training students regarding their images of Africa. An exhibition is scheduled for autumn 2018.

The working group on this theme invited Tatek Abebe (Norwegian University of Science and Technology Trondheim) for a three-month stay in Bayreuth. Being such a renowned scholar in the field of childhood studies, the working group profited tremendously from his expertise. Aside giving the group insights into his profound knowledge of literature on education in Africa, Tatek Abebe gave a talk on the future visions of youth protestors in Ethiopia.

A further highlight of the working group's engagement with education and the future were presentations on the topic as part of the weekly Anthropological Colloquium. Geraldine Schmitz presented a talk on children's work at a marketplace in northern Ghana. Susanne Ress talked about south-south cooperation in higher education between Brazil and Lusophone African countries. Iris Clemens discussed the transfer of approaches from cultural studies to the study of education. Faisal Garba presented on hopes and aspirations in the process of decolonising South African Universities.

Meanwhile, the exhibition "Was werden wird" (Longing for the Future) curated by Noemi Steuer, Clemens Bechtel and Till Kuhnert, moved from Basel to the Iwalewahaus in Bayreuth. It shows how young people in Burkina Faso and Switzerland both walk along similar paths in creating a better future, searching for employment and building a family.

An international conference on Education & Visions of Future(s) in Africa and beyond will be held in Bayreuth in April 2018 to further discuss the concepts above.

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Exhibition: Longing for the Future

What the Future Holds – Growing up in Zurich, Bamako and Ouagadougou. A successful collaboration between the Bayreuth Academy, the Centre for African Studies in Basel and the Iwalewahaus.

TEXT **DORIS LÖHR**PHOTOS **SABINE LINN**

How do young people, who are commonly seen as the future of the society, shape their own, personal future? What are their future aspirations? Where do they put their trust? The exhibition 'What the Future Holds – Growing up in Zurich, Bamako and Ouagadougou' set the objective to find answers to these questions by connecting the voices and imageries of adolescents in Burkina Faso, Mali and Switzerland into a scenic installation.

The research project 'Longing for the Future or What the future holds - Was Werden Wird - Construire son avenir' by the Center for African Studies at the University of Basel investigates how young West African university graduates manage this multifaceted process. The starting point was an ethnological research project that accompanied young men and women from West Africa for several years. Students from Bamako and Zurich used several of the biographies as inspirations and turned them into artworks. These artworks are combined with original quotations, authentic audio files and texts that have been theatrically formed to create two audio walks. They tell of the realities of the lives of young people, as well as of their utopias, chances and decisions. The project does not emphasize these differences. Instead, it highlights similarities among young people around the world as they shape their future.

The exhibition is based on works created during the communication project in Benin, Mali and Basel researched by Maike Birzle and Susann Ludwig. It takes readers, viewers and listeners on a moving journey into the lives of two young women through various photographs, texts and biographies in multi-dimensional textual-audio-visual scenic installations. In the exhibition, images and sounds work together to create an all-encompassing experience.

The presentation of the project in Germany took place between Nov. 2017 and March 2018 at the Iwalewahaus Bayreuth, starting with a well-





attended opening on 9 Nov. 2017. The exhibition was organised together with the Swiss curation team headed by Noemi Steuer, Clemens Bechtel and Till Kuhnert in coordination with Doris Löhr and Katharina Schiekofer, and supported by the technicians Torsten Hartmann and Sefer Polat.

The exhibition encapsulates the research topic of an ethnological subproject of the Bayreuth Academy entitled "Middle Classes on the Rise: Concepts of the Future among freedom, consumption, tradition, and moral" under the direction of Erdmute Alber. Parallel to the exhibition a workshop was organised by the postdoctoral Working Group "Education" in winter 2017-2018 on "Transdisciplinary Perspectives on Knowledge Transmission in Africa and beyond."



"After Socialism: Forgotten Legacies, Possible Futures in Africa and Beyond"

An international workshop of the Bayreuth Academay

TEXT CONSTANTIN KATSAKIORIS
PHOTOS NADINE SIEGERT

On 13-14 October 2017, the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies hosted the international workshop, "After Socialism: Forgotten Legacies, Possible Futures in Africa and Beyond." The workshop was convened within the framework of the Academy's Working Group 1, led by Nadine Siegert and Constantin Katsakioris, which studies the history of African socialisms and concentrates, in particular, on the period of crisis of the socialist projects and of the demise of the socialist camp (1989). One hundred years after the Russian Revolution, the workshop sought to examine how African radical parties, political actors, intellectuals, Eastern Bloc-educated students, writers and artists, who earlier had used the aesthetics of socialist realism, reacted to the crisis of socialism, to the collapse of the Eastern Bloc and to the dismantlement of the Soviet Union, Moreover. it sought to explore how these actors reinvented themselves, which ideologies, worldviews or visions of the future replaced the once powerful socialist visions, what the legacies of the African left have been, and how actors today recall their experience under socialist regimes or relate to socialism.

As director of the Bayreuth Academy, Achim von Oppen, asked in his opening address, if the state-centred visions of the future of the era of African socialisms have attracted much scholarly attention; the crisis of these visions that came by the end of the 1970s and during the 1980s – although at different moments in dif-

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ferent contexts – and the responses to this crisis; have largely remained unexplored.

Tanja Müller (University of Manchester) and Constantin Katsakioris (Bayreuth Academy) examined the trajectories of Eastern Bloc-educated students. Katsakioris provided data on returning African students from the Soviet Union and took issue with the well-known adage, sometimes attributed to former Senegalese President Léopold Sédar Senghor and to former Ivorian President Félix Houphouët-Boigny: "If you want to produce a Communist, send him to Paris; if a

Burkina Faso respectively. Bianchini examined Senegalese leftism and the Parti africain de l'indépendance after the high ebb of May 1968 to show that, for all the setbacks and recurrent splits, the movement played a very important role in the process of democratisation and in the struggle for civil rights and social justice in Senegal. Stroh also stressed the importance of Thomas Sankara as a symbol that still inspires the civil society movement in Burkina Faso, as evidenced by the "Balai citoyen." However, after he carefully reconstituted the picture of electoral results during the last two

"If you want to produce a Communist, send him to Paris; if a Capitalist, send him to Moscow."

Capitalist, send him to Moscow." He argued that returning students were not as disillusioned as the Western press often depicted them. On the contrary, many of them remained "believers." while others created alumni unions and societies of friendship with the USSR. Tanja Müller focused on the Mozambican students educated at the School of Friendship (Schule der Freundschaft) in Stassfurt, East Germany. She argued that, against the metanarrative that portrays the GDR as a police-state and socialism as a failed project, Mozambican graduates have very positive memories of their formative years in the GDR even today and most of them still consider themselves as socialists.

Pascal Bianchini (University of Paris 7) and Alexander Stroh (University of Bayreuth) put their spotlight on leftist movements in Senegal and decades, he demonstrated that radical Sankarist parties failed to elicit the support of Burkina Faso citizens, who voted for other parties, and attributed this failure to the citizens' option for liberal institutions instead of radical politics. Didier Monciaud (Cahiers d'histoire) concentrated on the Egyptian student movement and argued the students supported and at the same time criticised the shortcomings of Gamal Abdel Nasser's regime after the Egyptian defeat in the war of 1967.

The reinvention of radical politics by the Kurdistan's Workers Party (PKK), was the subject of the paper by Joost Jongerden (Wageningen University). This was the only paper beyond Africa, but one that clearly showed how this former Marxist-Leninist party reinvented itself and opted for the political project of democratic confederalism. Sa'eed Husaini (Oxford









University) talked about the current state of the Nigerian left and argued that Marxism and radical socialism still hold currency among trade unionists, youths and activists.

Several participants put their spotlight on writers and artists. Adam Mayer (University of Hewler, Iraqi Kurdistan) analysed the writings of the celebrated Nigerian writer Ifeoma Okoye and in particular her novel The Fourth World. Elara Bertho (CNRS France) surveyed the cultural policies of the socialist regime of Sékou Touré in Guinea Conakry. Using a vast array of published and unpublished sources, Bertho analysed the critical or even satirical reactions of writers when the Guinean dictator passed away. Christopher Lee (Lafavette University) gave a paper on the South African communist activist and writer, Alex La Guma, whose novel, A Soviet Journey, is a tribute to the USSR. For all the novel's serious omissions, Lee argued that La Guma's writings are an integral part of the La

Guma family's longer trajectory in the SACP and in the fight against the regime of apartheid. Ksenia Robbe (Leiden University) retraced and mapped the critiques that have been voiced in South African cultural production since 2012, including literature, theatre, visual art, documentaries, curatorial projects and educational initiatives. She stressed that most of these critiques find symbolic resources in remembering practices of socialist activism from different periods since the early 20th century. Nadine Siegert linked the socialist realist aesthetics of the period of the national liberation struggle in Angola to the contemporary cultural production and demonstrated the fascinating transfigurations of socialism in contemporary Angolan art. Dores Cruz (Internationales Kolleg Morphomata) presented a paper on the socialist-era street names of Maputo. She argued that Maputo street names are part of a public iconographic landscape consistent with the socialist ideology that defined national identity in the aftermath of independence. Finally, David Ratner (University of Tel Aviv) presented the preliminary findings of his oral history project with protagonists of the Ethiopian student movement and with both proponents and opponents of the DERG regime.

The workshop participants used various case studies and provided different insights and multiple perspectives. Throughout the debates it became clear how different the reactions to the crisis and demise of socialism have been between actors who experienced socialist regimes and others who militated against Western-oriented ones. To include the second "group" into the discussion, it appeared more useful to use the lens of "African left" instead of "post-socialism." Despite the different perspectives, most participants stressed the crucial historical input of the African left in the struggle for democratisation, social development and human rights.

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Middle Classes, Protest, and Social Change in Africa and Beyond

A Bayreuth Academy international conference

TEXT ANTJE DANIEL & FLORIAN STOLL PHOTO MICHAEL STEFFEN

Since 2000, millions of people in African countries have been able to improve their socio-economic situation. In reaction, a debate on middle classes in Africa has emerged in academic circles. One of the most important but nevertheless understudied aspects in this debate is the complex relationship that exists between middle-income strata, protests and social change. To address this nexus, Antje Daniel and Florian Stoll (both Bayreuth), Hennie Koetze (Stellenbosch University) and Henning Melber (Nordic Africa Institute) organised a conference funded by the Point Sud programme in Stellenbosch, South Africa on 17-21 March 2017. The conference brought together scholars from several disciplines and continents as well as activists. South Africa was the main focus of the event even though other countries in Africa and elsewhere were used as comparative reference points. Neither in South Africa nor in other cases is it clear how stratification - and the position of the middle class in particular - relates to protest and political goals for social change. A new perspective taken up at the conference was to combine social movement studies and middle-class approaches.

On Friday 17 March, speakers focused on theories and their application in the global South, particularly in Africa. This included debates about how to conceptualise middle classes in the global South differently from their perception in the North.

On Saturday 18 March, activists and scholars jointly considered the relationship between middle classes, protests and social change in South Africa. The recent student protests, the



differences between protests at South African universities and their relation to class and race were the main issues of discussion. The participants examined the composition of specific movements and the question whether the involvement of middle classes regards it as a middle-class movement. Furthermore, it was discussed how a collaboration of researchers and activists might determine which activists are more than just a source of information.

Sunday 19 March was dedicated to the relationship between inequality and change in South Africa. One crucial question was the connection between social groups, inequality and change. Another important topic was, under which conditions do middle classes become political actors.

On Monday 20 March, junior scholars had the opportunity to present

and discuss their ongoing research. Some papers discussed the relation between hegemony and middle classes in South Africa while others added comparative perspectives on middle classes and activism in Zimbabwe, Namibia, Angola and Nigeria.

One of the main takeaways from the conference was that cultural sociologists, researchers in the field of stratification, Marxist scholars, Gramscian scholars, political scientists, social movement scholars, anthropologists and activists, differ in their perspectives on protests and middle classes. It became evident that the assumed agents of change differ depending on the theoretical premises and empirical findings of the different schools of thought. Furthermore, the conference showed analytical contradictions between the concepts of middle class and social movements.

This report is a shortened and revised version of: Daniel, Antje & Stoll, Florian (2017), Conference Report: Middle Classes, Protest, and Social Change in Africa and Beyond. *Africa Spectrum* 52 (3): 111–116.

Hauntology

Beyond capitalist realism

TEXT KATHARINA FINK

In the winter semester 2017-2018, a Bayreuth Academy working group organised by Marie-Anne Kohl, Nadine Siegert and Katharina Fink focused on the concept of hauntology in relation to futures. Hauntology departs from Derrida's book *Spectres of Marx* (1993). Developed in cultural studies by authors such as Gordon (1999) and Fisher (2014) it is a pun on the idea of ontology. It denotes, amongst other things, the persistence and lingering of failed, of past, of omitted (often uto-

negative because through the idea of a queer future of failure, it opens up possibilities for alternatives, non-linearity, non-normativity, non-reproductivity (Halberstam 2005).

Hauntology also discusses the presence and absence, visibility and invisibility beyond its classic fields in cinema and visual studies, religious studies or anthropology. It also further develops the modes of futuring initially introduced during the conceptual phase of the FAVT-exhibition by the Bayreuth Academy, for instance, in the discussion of the works of Academy-fellows kara lynch and

the haunting presence of concepts and ideas of past or simultaneous futures.

In a series of transdisciplinary events, the Bayreuth-based researchers invited international scholars and artists to discuss these conceptual outlines. This proved particularly fruitful in the context of migration to Europe, often framed as a crisis and the re-emergence of nationalist parties in Europe.

Art is an integral part of the hauntological discussion. As such, the contributions made by Kitso Lynn Lelliott (Johannesburg), Simon Vincent (London), Silhouette Tapes (Bayreuth/Berlin) and Danilo Barata (Cachoeira), Spoek Mathambo (Johannesburg), Henriette Gunkel (London), Esther Peeren (Amsterdam), Renzo Baas (London), Ute Fendler (Bayreuth), Kathrin Rothemund (Bayreuth), and Lu Zhao (Erlangen) bore remarkable insights into the field of hauntology. The papers presented in this Working Group will be published in 2018.

Hauntological thinking can help us to see, feel and listen to worlds radically different from the capitalist realism of the contemporary world described by Mark Fisher in the following excerpt: "What haunts the digital cul-de-sacs of the twentyfirst century is not so much the past as all the lost futures that the twentieth century taught us to anticipate. [T]he disappearance of the future meant the deterioration of a whole mode of social imagination: the capacity to conceive of a world radically different from the one in which we currently live."



pian) ideas, and also radical futures. It also brings in the ideas of dystopia or no future as productive categories. Failing must not be considered only as

Ingrid LaFleur or in time-crossing myths such as "Drexciya" as in the film by Simon Rittmeier. It relates these modes to the idea of ghosts as

A book about the Working Group will be published in 2019:

Fink, Kohl & Siegert (eds.): *Ghosts, specters, revenants. Hauntology as a means to think and feel future.*Thurnauer Schriften zum Musiktheater, ca. 250 Seiten. Könighausen & Naumann, 2019.

"Under the Baobab Tree" – A BIGSAS International Workshop

The quest for a "Third Space between 'Indigenous Knowledge' and 'Modern Science"



TEXT ABRAHAM BRAHIMA
PHOTO BIGSAS

The two-day international workshop, "Under the Baobab Tree: Reframing Conceptions and Perceptions of Indigenous Knowledge" (10-11 July 2017), funded by BIGSAS brought together over 30 participants from different parts of the world. As part of the BIGSAS seminar "Introduction to the Concept of Indigenous Knowledge", this academic encounter successfully brought together experts in the field from Africa, America and Europe. The main objective was to share ideas and experiences on the delineation of a third space, a room in-between or Zwischenraum to weave together traditional knowledge and 'modern' science.

In their introduction to the workshop, the organisers, Christine Scherer and Abraham Brahima, explained why academics from all over the world have to meet 'under a baobab tree'—be it virtual — in Germany to discuss the issue of local knowledge. In Afri-

can traditional societies, the baobab is a central space where villagers meet to discuss important issues related to their life and wellbeing. As such, the baobab is the central point of the 'palabre' (palaver) considered by the Cameroonian philosopher Jean-Godefroy Bidima as "a productive discussion that leads to a good settlement". A good practice of dialogue aimed at reaching consensus at all costs is attested by Julius Nyerere, former president of Tanzania, who said: "In African society, the traditional method of conducting affairs is by free discussions... The elders sit under the big trees, and talk until they agree".

As if they were strictly following that principle, the talks at this workshop were in the spirit of constructive dialogue and constant interaction with the participants. Dymitr Ibriszimow, Dean of BIGSAS, delivered a captivating presentation on "Who decides what my knowledge is?: Some thoughts on 'indigenous and local/global' knowledge". The tone was set for the discussion about power relations in the field of knowledge – an

issue analysed in-depth by Andreas Velthuizen (Senior Researcher in Dispute Resolution, College of Law, University of South Africa) in his talk on "Indigenous knowledge: A comparison of perspectives from Africa". The first day of the workshop was brought to a close by the presentation by Hassan O. Kaya (Director of the Centre in Indigenous Knowledge Systems, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa) on "The role of African indigenous knowledge systems in decolonisation of higher education in Africa: Prospects and challenges."

Ibrahim El Fasskaoui (Moulay Ismaïl University Meknes, Morocco), opened the second day of the workshop with his fascinating bilingual presentation on "Savoir-faire 'traditionnels' dans les communautés berbères du Sud du Maroc - Indigenous knowledge in the Berber communities in Southern Morocco". After a short coffee break, participants were literally held spellbound by the brilliant talk by Ibrahim Niang, (Cheikh Anta Diop University Dakar, Senegal) on "Understanding local knowledge production through cultural concepts around health and sexuality: The case of Senegal (West-Africa)". By means of images, proverbs and concrete examples taken from his extensive experience as principal investigator for the World Health Organisation in the Ebola epicentres throughout the West-African region, Niang carved out the space for local knowledge in the fight against epidemics. This international workshop was closed by Edwin Salcedo (Afro-Colombian publicist and communications expert) with his talk entitled, "AfroColombian and their civil society movement: A counter narrative against racism and other ways of exclusion".





BIGSAS Career Day

TEXT HANNA LENA REICH PHOTOS BIGSAS

The third BIGSAS Career Day, which took place on 15 September 2017, had as aim to explore options for young academics after the completion of the doctorate, i.e. career opportunities for 'life after the defence'. The Career Day therefore offered insights into various professional fields of occupation, brought participants into contact with experts employed in civil society organisations and businesses that operate in the field of international collaboration in Africa. It was organised by the junior fellow representatives Asaf Augusto, Shilla Memusi and Hanna Lena Reich. The programme started with an introduction from the Dean, Dymitr Ibriszimow, and the Coordinator of BIGSAS, Christine Scherer. Both warmly welcomed the speakers and presented the structure of the doctoral programme as well as other activities that BIGSAS offers in the context of training and mentoring.

An in-depth insight into the world of funding organisations was presented by Britta Utz from the Africa Department of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. She has extensive experience from working in Southern Africa. She talked about the opportunity for young

researchers to work in Research Think Tanks. Andrea Baier explored job opportunities after the PhD in Germany from the point of view of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, located in Nürnberg. Steffen Krüger from the Africa Department of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) described his experience as Country Director of KAS in DR Congo as an example of a possible career in such a context. The KAS, he said, generally encourages young researchers both in Germany and Africa to join the foundation.

Stefan Mann from the ECO Consulting Group, a provider of technical expertise for projects on knowledge transfer and socio-political transformation, gave valuable insights on getting started in consulting, a domain still minimally exploited in most African countries. The biologist, Martin Demlehner, looked at pharmaceutical industries and the current ventures of the B. Braun Company, where he is the sales director for Africa, in various African countries. Sabine Vredeveld of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) presented the engagement of the GIZ in various African countries and its job opportunities for junior fellows in the form of traineeships. Ingo von Ramdohr from the Bayreuth-based Rehau AG, shared practical information about the challenges a German enterprise might face when creating a product in Germany and then transferring and selling it in an African country. What are the tasks of an Honorary Consul? This question formed the basis of the talk by Dietmar Scheiter, Honorary Consul of Sierra Leone in Germany. He introduced the audience to the partnership between Germany and Sierra Leone, told first-hand stories about ongoing projects in the country and the importance of engaging stakeholders on all sides.

Detlef Hanne, Senior Project Manager at KfW Entwicklungsbank, spoke about a career idea many BIGSAS junior fellows could imagine as well: working in the international development sector aside of being an academic. As manager of educational programmes on Africa at KfW, he still keeps a link to higher education by teaching courses at several universities.

"We had fruitful exchanges on potential job opportunities directly from experts in the field. We benefitted from their experiences and hope to build on them to achieve our aspirations in the life after the defence of the PhD", junior fellow Hanna Lena Reich summed up her impressions of the day.

BIGSAS Colloquium in 2017

TEXT **EMNET TADESSE WOLDEGIORGIS** PHOTOS **BIGSAS**

The BIGSAS colloquium for doctoral students was held on 15 December 2017 at BIGSAS. A total of 10 speakers from different disciplines presented their work-in-progress followed by discussions. The colloquium was well attended by professors, junior fellows and five representatives of the BIGSAS partner universities in Africa.

The morning session started with two presentations. Mohammad Ajmal Hanif introduced his research enti-





tled "On feet, necks and 'the Greatest Saint': Debating Sufism in twentiethcentury Africa". Gemechu Adimassu Abeshu followed by presenting his project on "Changing property relations and emerging heterarchical forms of political order in Afar Region in North-eastern Ethiopia". Marta Scaglioni then presented her work on "Black Tunisians awake after 2011: Meanings of blackness and slavery descent." She explored the complex notion of blackness in the Tunisian black community. Still in literature, Ghousmane Mohamed talked about "La perception du milieu naturel à travers la littérature orale Touareg Kel Aïr du Niger". Taking the discussion into religious studies, Adeyemi Sharapha Balogun talked about "Being a 'good muslim': A study in identity and culture".

The afternoon session started with two presentations from political science. Ghadafi Saibu offered a talk on the theoretical part of his work on "Political parties, violent youth, and electoral insecurity", while Fortune Agbele reflected on her first fieldwork trip on the topic "Political party mobilisation strategies in Ghana".

One of the Sandwich Programme

students from Morocco, Abdellah Idhssaine, presented his findings on "Moroccan language policy and the Amazigh Language revitalisation". He is jointly supervised by Valentina Serreli (Bayreuth) and Yamina El Kirat (Morocco). Both supervisors were present at the colloquium and led participants in the engaging discussion that followed.

In the late afternoon session, Shillah Memusi presented her research on "Pursuing gender equality in Kenya: The experiences of the Maasai" while Yvette Ngum described "Character designations, social roles and the politics of women images in Cameroonian cinema".

The junior fellows who presented their research were at different levels of their doctoral studies. So, the focus of their presentations covered a wide range of areas from methodology, theory to data analysis. The colloquium was enriched by the presence of participants from different disciplines, including Political Science, Anthropology, Geography, Media Studies, Linguistics, and Literature. Martin Doevenspeck chaired the morning session of the colloquium while the afternoon session was co-chaired by Emnet Tadesse Woldegiorgis and Abraham Brahima.

BIGSAS Journalist Award 2017



TEXT JULIANE FENDER
PHOTO THORSTEN OCHS

"Afrikas entschlossene Kinder" ("Africa's determined children") is the title of the winning article of the 2017 BIGSAS Journalist Award. The journalist Jan Rübel submitted the excellent contribution to the now wellknown and renowned competition for outstanding journalism on Africa in the German language. The article was originally published in the magazine Berliner Zeitung on 22-23 August 2015. Its author, the Berlin based journalist and partner of the media agency Zeitenspiegel, usually reports about political issues in Germany and the Middle East. His exceptional article on Africa focusses on the future visions of young Ugandans in Kampala who are refusing to be hindered to develop their own future by the country's politics. Its quality and topic convinced the jury, the Alumni of BIGSAS, who traditionally honour high quality journalism in German-speaking print and online media with the BIGSAS Journalist Award.

The biennial BIGSAS Journalist Award, unique in its mission and its jury composition, encourages an objective media representation of the African continent in its immense diversity without neglecting its potentials. Over 90 contributions from print and online media were submitted, a proof of the public's positive perception of this special award among German-speaking journalists. The fourth award ceremony at the University of Bayreuth on 29 May 2017 attracted more than 250 guests. Many of the BIGSAS Alumni who today work in different locations worldwide, precisely on four continents, came together again on this occasion.

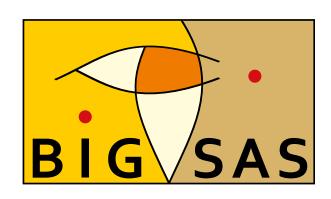
As special guest, the journalist and TV presenter Jana Pareigis focussed, in her keynote address, on the power of words in the context of German media dealing with Africa. She reported from her own experience about the daily life of journalists, the unfortunate but frequent lack of time that results in reproduction of prejudices, clichés and stereotypes, which often affect work. She also pleaded for a more thorough research and a more careful wording in journalism.

The winning article shows how positive young people in Uganda are taking up challenges and are dealing with political situations: they take charge of their own destiny and implement their ideas into creative startups, thus showing examples of real entrepreneurs in the digital sector. Jan Rübel expressed in his response to the audience the important meaning the award carries for him personally: "I have won several awards for my work but this one stands out for its idea and the knowledge which stands behind it."

The jury, composed of 17 BIGSAS Alumni and chaired by Helmut Ruppert, former president of the University of Bayreuth, and two BIGSAS Alumni Gilbert Ndi Shang and Rémi Tchokothe, also honoured a second contribution written by Christian Putsch. The German journalist, currently working in South Africa as a correspondent for the WELT group, submitted the article "Mit Kreide gegen Boko Haram" ("With chalk against Boko Haram"), published in Welt am Sonntag on 28 August 2016. It tells the impressive stories of courageous teachers in Borno State, Northern Nigeria. Living under a constant threat of attacks by Boko Haram the teachers refuse to give up teaching. They return to their classes every day and keep up the daily routine for their pupils. In his acceptance speech, the author emphasised the role of these teachers that cannot be valued high enough.

Status Quo

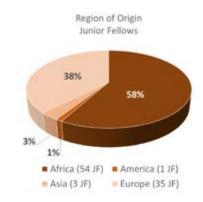
Another year of success: 17 new Junior Fellows, 19 new Alumni, and 14 published dissertations

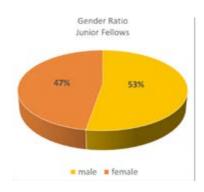




In 2017, BIGSAS received 166 applications for admission: 138 from Africa, 20 from Asia, four from Europe, three from America and one from Australia. Compared to 2016, the applicants' diversity with respect to their nationality increased again.

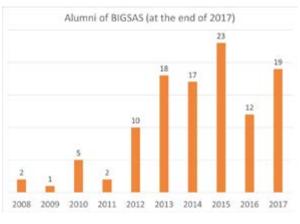
Furthermore, the number of alumni grew to a total of 109, thanks to 19 successful doctoral defences in 2017. 14 of the new alumni were male and five were female. They come from Cameroon, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia and Zimbabwe. In addition, 14 alumni published their dissertations in 2017: four online, five in the Institute of African Studies' se-





In 2017, the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS) welcomed 10 new junior fellows in the summer semester. In the winter semester, seven new junior fellows were admitted under the Sandwich Programme in Bayreuth. These doctoral students are jointly supervised by their supervisors at their home

universities and a senior fellow of BIGSAS. The new doctoral students came from Benin, Cameroon, China, Ethiopia, Germany, Ghana, Iran, Morocco, Sudan and Tanzania. By the end of 2017, BIGSAS had a total number of 93 junior fellows from 28 countries: 54 of them from Africa, 35 from Europe, three from Asia and one from America. The gender ratio is almost balanced: 53% are male and 47% are female.



ries Beiträge zur Afrikaforschung with LIT Verlag, one each with Wilhelm Fink Verlag, Edition assemblage, LawAfrica, Nomos, and transcript.

The editorial team of *The BIGSAS World* proudly announces the publication of a new issue in 2018. This publication offers an overview of the junior fellows' and alumni's experiences and BIGSAS activities during 2016 and 2017. It also gives an idea of their lives in Bayreuth and abroad.



Defences in 2017

| Name | Country of origin | Title of dissertation | Supervisor |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------|
| Alisch, Stefanie | Germany | Angolan Kuduro: Carga, Aesthetic Duelling, and Pleasure Politics performed through Music and Dance | Kordula Knaus |
| Arthur, Justice | Ghana | The Politics of Religious Sound, Religious Diversity and Conflict in Ghana | Ulrich Berner |
| Ayong, Ahmed Khalid | Cameroon | Traditional Islamic Scholarly Culture in Northern Cameroon: 1900 to the Present | Rüdiger Seesemann |
| Baas, Renzo | Namibia | The Production of a Terrortorium, a Terrortory, and the ImagiNation. Fictioning Namibia as a Space of Desire under the Shadows of German Colonialism, South African Apartheid, and the Namibian Liberation Struggle. | Susan Arndt |
| Bock, Stephan | Germany | Translations of Urban Regulation within the Relation of Kigali (Rwanda) and Singapore | Martin Doevenspeck |
| Boutché, Jean Pierre | Cameroon | Fula Spoken in the City of Maroua (Northern Cameroon): A Sociolinguistic Insight into its Use by Non-Ethnic Speakers | Gabriele Sommer |
| Chembea, Suleiman Athuman | Kenya | Competing and Conflicting Power Dynamics in Waqfs in Kenya: 1900-2010 | Franz Kogelmann |
| Dittmann, Julia | Germany | Ent-Täuschung des weißen Blicks: Rassismussensible Strategien für eine ideologiekritische Filmanalyse | Susan Arndt |
| Doumbia, Lamine | Mali | Le Foncier Urbain à Bamako, Mali : Processus dans l'Impasse et Diligence des Acteurs Face à l'Équation | Georg Klute |
| Igwe, Leo | Nigeria | The Witch is not a Witch: The Dynamics and Contestations of Witchcraft Accusations in Northern Ghana | Ulrich Berner |
| Materna, Georg | Germany | Straßenhandel mit Souvenirs im Senegal: Akteure, Arbeit und Organisation | Georg Klute |
| Mbaye, Aminata | France | Les Discours sur l'Homosexualité au Sénégal : L'Analyse d'une Lutte Représentationnelle | Ute Fendler |
| Mekonnen, Mulugeta | Ethiopia | Transnational Migration-Development Nexus: The Engagement of Ethiopian Diaspora Associations Based in Germany | Beate Lohnert |
| Mellie, Didérot Djiala | Cameroon | Sensibilisation contre le VIH/SIDA au Cameroun: Analyse Sémiolinguistique des affiches | Martina Drescher |
| Mtata, Kupakwashe | Zimbabwe | Religion and Nature in Africa: The Case of Matobo National Park and its Vicinity | Ulrich Berner |
| Ngawa Mbaho, Carline Liliane | Cameroon | La Vente des Produits de Santé dans les Cars Interurbains au Cameroun : Une Analyse Interactionnelle | Martina Drescher |
| Riahi, Idris Simon | Germany | The Modernity of Witchcraft in the Ghanaian Online Setting | Ulrich Berner |
| Rieß, Johanna | Germany | Zwischen wirklichen Räumen und digitalen Aneignungsmodi: Nutzerkonstruktionen des Internets in Nairobi, Kenia | Matthias Christen |
| Stasik, Michael | Germany | Station Ventures: Road Transport, Roadside Economies and Urban Hustle in Ghana | Kurt Beck |





Doctoral dissertations of BIGSAS Alumni published in 2017

| Author | Title of publication | Publisher |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Abdallah, Salma Mohamed Abdalmunim | Charity Drops: Water Provision and the Politics of the Zakat Chamber in Khartoum, Sudan | LIT Verlag, Münster |
| Chembea, Suleiman Athuman | Competing and Conflicting Power Dynamics in Waqfs in Kenya: 1900-2010 | https://epub.uni-bayreuth.de/3373/1/Doc- toral%20Thesis_Chembea.pdf |
| Dahlmanns, Erika | Die Einheit der Kinder Gihangas: Kulturelle Dynamiken und politische Fiktionen der Neugestaltung von Gemeinschaft in Ruanda | Wilhelm Fink, Leiden, Boston |
| Donsomsakulkij, Weeraya | Towards A South African Literary Post-Pastoralism | Edition Assemblage, Münster |
| Firsching, Henrike | Apples of Gold in Settings of Silver is a Word Spoken at the Right Time: The Translation of Biblical Metaphors in Hausa and Swahili | LIT Verlag, Münster |
| Igwe, Leo | The Witch is not a Witch: The Dynamics and Contestations of Witchcraft Accusations in Northern Ghana | https://epub.uni-bayreuth.de/3377/1/THESIS-finaldraft.pdf |
| Mkumbukwa, Abdallah R. | The History of Use and Conservation of Marine Resources in Zanzibar: Nineteenth Century to the Present | https://epub.uni-bayreuth.de/3317/1/Re- vised%20PhD_Abdallah_Publication_10final. pdf |
| Mohammed, Bakheit M. Nur | The Religious Men in Jebel Marra: The Process of Learning and the Performance of Islamic Rituals and Practices | LIT Verlag, Münster |
| Ndi, Gilbert Shang | State/Society. Narrating Transformations in Selected African Novels | LIT Verlag, Münster |
| Owino, Robert Omondi | Trans-Boundary Resource Cooperation in the Lake Victoria Bay : An International Environmental Law Perspective | LawAfrica, Nairobi |
| Riahi, Idris | The Modernity of Witchcraft in the Ghanaian Online Setting | https://epub.uni-bayreuth. de/3403/1/%28Finale%20Vero%CC%88ffentlic hungsversion%29%20Riahi_The%20Moder- nity%20of%20Witchcraft%20in%20the%20Gha- naian%20Online%20Setting%20%28PhD%20 Dissertation%29%20%28003%29.pdf |
| Sabbi, Matthew | Local State Institutional Reforms in Ghana: Actors, Legitimacy and the Unfulfilled Promise of Participatory Development | Nomos, Baden-Baden |
| Umlauf, René | Mobile Labore: Zur Diagnose und Organisation von Malaria in Uganda | Transcript, Bielefeld |
| Woldegiorgis, Emnet Tadesse | Regionalization of Higher Education in Africa: The Operationalization of the African Union Higher Education Harmonization Strategy | LIT Verlag, Münster |

Ways forward in BIGSAS partnerships

BIGSAS welcomes its African Partner Universities coordinators and other guests from Algeria

TEXT JULIANE FENDER
PHOTO CHRISTIAN WISSLER

In December 2017, the coordinators of the BIGSAS partner universities in Africa, BIGSAS management and BIGSAS postdocs met in Bayreuth to discuss possibilities for new collaborative projects beside the existing project "Academic Mobility for African Sustainable Development" (AMAS) funded by the European Union under the "Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme" since 2016 (see report in NAB 2016). Brook Lemma Mamarou, Howlet Ahmed Beshir (both Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia), Dodji Amouzouvi (Université d'Abomey-Calavi, Benin), Anne Nangulu, Omar Egesah (both Moi University, Kenya), Yamina El Kirat (Mohammed V University of Rabat, Morocco), Gregório Firmino (Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, Mozambique), Ruth Teer-Tomaselli and Sooryamoorthy Radhamani (both University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa) spent one intensive week in Bayreuth for this purpose. They also met with BIGSAS senior fellows to exchange on the BIGSAS Sandwich Programme for doctoral students who are jointly supervised by two professors - one in Bayreuth and the other in a BIGSAS partner university. Elif Memis Marsman, project advisor at the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of the European Commission joined the group on 13-14 December 2017 to present further possible cooperation in the



framework of EU programmes like Erasmus+

On 13 December 2018, an Algerian delegation from the Université de Tlemcen, Université de Khemis Miliana, Université de Bouira and Centre de Recherche en Anthropologie Sociale et Culturelle (CRASC) visited BIG-SAS and the University of Bayreuth to learn about our experience with internationalisation strategies and networking in Higher Education. The visitors were introduced by Leonie Schoelen who participated in the BIG-SAS conference "Higher Education Partnership Trends and Policy Issues between African and European Higher Education Institutions" in 2015. Later that day, BIGSAS alumni Valerie Hänsch and Abraham Brahima accompanied the group on a tour of the current exhibitions at the Iwalewahaus while Vera Butz welcomed the delegates to the university library for a brief tour of the impressive book collection in African studies.

In the afternoon of the same day, the coordinators of the partner universities and the Algerian delegation were officially welcomed by the president of the University of Bayreuth, Stefan Leible, the vice president for International Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Thomas Scheible, and the director of the International Office, Arnim Heinemann. The evening of this day was dedicated to a guided tour of the Ecological-Botanical Garden by Marianne Lauerer as well as a get-together for all visitors and BIGSAS members in one of the greenhouses. BIGSAS was very happy to welcome the South African consul general for Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg, George Monyemangene, and the director of International and Public Relations at Samara University, Ethiopia, Abubeker Yassin Gebro, at this event.

Future of Governance in Africa

First workshop of the BIGSAS workgroup 'Governance in Africa'

TEXT **BENEDICT ARKO**PHOTO **BIGSAS**

Let us imagine a trip into the future: What would be the future of governance in Africa? Can we trace the antecedents of the future from the present? What would be the role of the citizen? How participatory would it be? Will the future be the same for all countries on the continent? These and more were the questions discussed and debated at the first workshop of the BIGSAS Workgroup 'Governance in Africa' (GiA) under the title "The Future of Governance in Africa: Limits, Challenges and Opportunities for Participatory Citizenship" on 2-3 November 2017. Besides BIGSAS funding, the workshop also received additional funding from the Universitätsverein Bayreuth e.V.

Organised under the guidance of BIGSAS senior fellow Alexander Stroh, the workshop brought together academics and practitioners from Germany and African countries to discuss the theories and realities of participatory citizenship across different thematic areas and African countries. The Dean of BIGSAS, Dymitr Ibriszimow, praised the junior fellows who had worked hard in organising the conference. The workshop also presented an opportunity for the junior fellows to present aspects of their theses to which they received valuable feedback.

Jeremiah Shola Omotola (Federal University Oye Ekiti, Nigeria) offered the keynote address. He reiterated



that even though the African continent as a whole is making significant progress in the pursuit of a democratic culture, some countries were lagging behind. He, however, challenged young African scholars to return home after their studies to help build the governance infrastructure of the continent.

Papers presented at the conference tackled the issue of governance from different angles. Key among the issues discussed included electoral participation, resource governance, gender and governance, and the use of the media and social media in par-

ticipatory governance. Some presentations focused on the political situation in Rwanda, Libya and Tunisia while others drew on political participation in Europe and the United States. The discussions that ensued after the presentations pointed to the complexity of the issue of governance confronting many African countries. Participants were, however, hopeful of improved governance prospects for the continent in the years to come. In the discussion, they strongly agreed that there was a real need for more empirical studies on issues of governance in Africa.

Workshop on Media, Culture and Society / History and Film

TEXT ROSE NYAKIO KIMANI

History, film, media, culture, society - these five loaded terms were the subject of an intensive five-day forum organised by the BIGSAS Media Workgroup on 24-28 April 2017. Given the complex intertwining of media technology and daily life, the workgroup sought to explore the interlinkages between especially audio-visual media, research and representation. Thus, the idea of the workshop was born. The workshop was divided into two distinct sections, with the first three days dedicated to history and film, including practical aspects of film editing, while the last two days consisted of lectures on aspects of media, culture and society.

The section 'History and Film' was facilitated by Jean-Pierre Bekolo, a Cameroonian film maker. Present with one of his crewmembers, he used a documentary he was working on for practical illustration. The documentary was especially relevant because it traced German colonial history in a village in Cameroon, and focused on significant real-life events that were reconstructed through archival research. The discussion around the documentary focused on the weighty questions of represen-

tation of historical events, archival research for film, script writing, and realistic reconstruction of historical places through digital tools. For maximum effectiveness, the workshop format was designed to foster both theoretical and practical skills. Hence, discussions in the morning sessions were complemented by hands-on film editing sessions in the afternoons. On the third evening of the workshop, Bekolo held a photo exposition and film screening at the Iwalewahaus, again drawing from his work. In this short exhibition 'the duty of memory to the duty of history' was emphasised, bringing into focus the place of film as a valuable tool in the restoration of memory.

The next two days of the workshop focused on the more theoretical aspects of Media, Culture and Society. This section had as its main facilitator Keyan Tomaselli, emeritus Professor, University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa. He was supported by co-conveners from BIGSAS, namely Ivo Ritzer and Ute Fendler. The section encapsulated themes like representation, popular culture, media and social change and gender in media. The background text, 'The in-disciplining of film theory, media studies and the disciplining of practice' by Keyan G. Tomaselli and Damien R. Tomaselli set the stage

for the discussion of methodological questions, especially on the analysis of images and videos, and the ethics of representation and meaning-making in creative analytical practices such as ethnographic film, biographical work and academic engagements in other creative non-fiction or fiction and autoethno-graphy. In addition to the conveners' input, the workshop was enriched by presentations from BIGSAS students' research projects, which were met with constructive feedback and discussion. Ultimately, the workshop offered a forum to link media theory and practice, and more importantly, was an opportunity for self-reflexivity in media research and practice.

The BIGSAS Media Workgroup brings together junior fellows and their mentors, looking at media from the perspective of media studies as a field, also in terms of appreciating and using media-specific theories and approaches in research. The Workgroup provides junior fellows researching about media production, use and content in Africa (be it print media, audio-visual, television or online media) with a space to exchange ideas, provide each other with constructive criticism of their individual projects as well as discuss texts on media theory and methodology.

NAB Call for Papers

NAB: Newsletter of African Studies at the University of Bayreuth is published annually by the Institute of African Studies. The deadline for submission of contributions is 20 October every year.

Reports should have 450-500 words. Short texts (Guests, Personalia, In brief) should have 120-170 words. Main articles should have at least 750 words.

Photos are always very welcome and should be submitted in original size and file format (not resized, not cropped). Minimum file size for report photos is 1,200 px width. One coloumn photos need to have at least 600 px width.

All submissions should be sent in separate files with clear labels to NAB@uni-bayreuth.de.



IWALEWAIIAUS

FAVT

Future Africa Visions in Time: Indeed a process!
The Bayreuth Academy signature exhibition two years after its inception

"An exhibition as process" was the tag-line of the first Bayreuth Academy exhibition, "FAVT: Future Africa Visions in Time," in 2015 at the Iwalewahaus. Over 40 artists and researchers took part in the project, investigating different notions of 'future'. The exhibition served as a space for thoughts about productive entanglements of art and research and in-between modes of thinking and practice. Future emerged not as a noun in the show, but rather in the shape of doings conceptualised as 'modes of futuring' such as desiring, queering and remembering. Nine notions were beautifully translated into symbols by Seattle-based designer Emeka Alams which served as a navigation system throughout the exhibition.

In 2017, the opportunity came for the 2015 FAVT experience to be replicated and expanded since the exhibition had been curated in Africa and Latin America. Thanks to cooperation with Goethe Institutes, FAVT was exhibited in April 2017 in the National Museums Nairobi, Kenya, in August 2017 concurrently in Johannesburg, South Africa and Salvador da Bahia, Brazil, in January 2018 in Windhoek, Namibia and in March 2018 in Harare, Zimbabwe. In each of FAVT exhibitions, Nadine Siegert and Katharina Fink were responsible for the overall concept and enactment. In each of the exhibition locations, the hosts contributed to the development of the FAVT concept by inviting local artists and researchers to contribute. A number of these new additions are now in-

tegrated into the FAVT project, hence further accentuating the open and process-oriented exhibition concept. The local curators in the locations above were Anisha Soff (Nairobi and Johannesburg), Tiago Sant'Ana (Salvador de Bahia), Aino Moongo (Windhoek), Susanne Gerhard (Harare) and Felicia Nitsche (Ouagadougou). The next editions of FAVT will be in Ouagadougou, Bukina Faso (September 2018), Santiago de Cuba (April 2019), Kampala (August 2019) and Kigali (November 2019).

The traveling concept is indeed a fantastic moment to live up to the slogan that knowledge in African studies can be best generated by and with colleagues on the spot: "Research on Africa is only possible with Africa". For instance, the highly acclaimed installation "The Afrofuturist Village" by the Windhoek-based curator Masiyaleti Mbewe showed that the future is here; is an inclusive one; is a space not in space but right among us where the "isms of race, colour, fetish" etc. do not exist. In Harare, Kupakwashe Mtata (Bayreuth Academy) and FAVT contributors Tumi Mogorosi (Johannesburg) and Sam Makuvaza (University of Bulawayo) mused on spirituality and land as part of the exhibition workshop.

For more information, see: FAVT: Future Africa Visions in Time (Contact Zones NRB, 2017). Available in the Iwalewahaus bookshop. Follow the FAVT blog: www.favt.blog.

(Katharina Fink)











Summer exhibitions 2017 // Iwalewahaus

Ndidi Dike: Constellations -Floating Space, Motion and Remembrance

As part of the summer exhibitions in 2017, the Iwalewahaus invited Ndidi Dike, one of the major contemporary Nigerian artists, for an artist residency in Bayreuth which culminated in the opening of the exhibitions "Constellations" curated by Lena Naumann and assisted by Felicia Nitsche. Part of this project was already exhibited at the Landesgartenschau in Bayreuth in 2016 when Dike was invited by the Kunstverein Bayreuth to exhibit in their pavilion. At the Iwalewahaus, Dike's four-room multimedia installation described constellations and spaces. These show hierarchies, relations and arrangements between human beings and material objects connected to current political events and specific moments in history. In this case, the politics of migration, transnationalism and the globalised consumer culture were in focus. This led to the production of a multi-disciplinary dialogue in a new body of installations and video featuring some of the complexities and dynamics of forced migration.

Migration or the movement of people in space is not a new phenomenon. On the contrary, although the conditions, reasons and consequences of these movements vary, migration is indeed an essential part of human history. Dike illustrated that the transatlantic slave trade was one of the most glaring examples of forced, brutal and violent 'migration' in history, while linking it to the political, social and economic realities that cause migration, displacement and flight today. "Constellations" displayed different moments of transit and fragmented perspectives on the journeys of migrants, along with their causes and repercussions. Three rooms at the Iwalewahaus reflected Dike's artistic involvement with the topic, while the corridor with its hovering unseaworthy boats served both as a starting point and entrance. All the works referenced Michel Foucault's concept of 'heterotopia', a space that "has the power of juxtaposing in a single real place different spaces and locations that are incompatible with each other." At the same time, they function as spaces of remembrance thus conveying the complex contexts of migration and narrating moments of tragedy and lived experiences.

(Lena Naumann)



Ruth Weiss – "Die Macht der Worte" or "My very first question to you!"

The exhibition was displayed from 19 May to 17 September 2017 at the Iwalewahaus. It was the third episode of the traveling exhibition that was created by the Basler Afrika Bibliographien (BAB) in Switzerland. Before its presentation at the Iwalewahaus, the acoustic portrait of journalist Ruth Weiss and southern African liberation politics was also shown at the South African Jewish Museum in Capetown, South Africa.

The exhibition portraits the life and work of Ruth Weiss, who worked as a journalist during Apartheid and was part of the Anti-Apartheid Movement. She was born in 1924 as Ruth Löwenthal in Fürth (Germany) into a Jewish family. Emigrating from Nazi Germany in 1936, she and her family moved to Johannesburg (South Africa). Weiss grew up under Apartheid and the growing resistance in the 1950s by the black majority led to her increasing political awareness and commitment to anti-racism, anti-colonialism, African liberation and nationalism. Since the 1960s, Ruth Weiss worked as a newspaper and radio journalist in Johannesburg. Six years later she became the bureau chief of the *Financial Mail* in Salisbury (Harare) in neighbouring Rhodesia (today Zimbabwe).

Due to her work, writing critical reports and articles against the regime, Weiss had to leave the country and be-

came a journalist for the *Guardian* and the *Investors Chronicle* in London. Later she moved to Lusaka, Zambia's capital city in 1977. During that time, she worked for the *Times of Zambia* as well as for the London *Financial Times*. Lusaka became head-quarter for many southern African liberation movements and Ruth Weiss got the chance to meet and interview many important political leaders. At that time, she established many friendships with African politicians and their families. After 1980, when Zimbabwe became independent, Weiss moved back to Harare where she co-founded the *South African Economist* and trained journalists from the region.

Specific about her work is the fact that she rarely used a camera for interviews. She archived many of her taped interviews which was special because tapes where normally often used several times after another. She, however, kept some 180 tapes with interviews, press conferences and music recordings. This unique audio archive, apart from her vast paper and manuscript collection, is stored and archived at the Basler Afrika Bibliographien. The exhibition was curated by Dag Henrichsen, Susanne Hubler Baier, Jürg Kissling and Anna Vögeli Litelu for the Basler Afrika Bibliographien. At the Iwalewahaus the exhibition was co-curated by Alexandra Kuhnke who works for the digital archive DEVA.

(Alexandra Kuhnke)



EXODUS STATIONS #2

This exhibition in the winter semester 2017 was part of the larger research and exhibition project Exodus Stations by Paris-based researcher and curator Marta Jecu. Exodus Stations #2 was curated by Marta Jecu, Felicia Nitsche and Nadine Siegert. For the overall exhibition concept, she invites contemporary artists to work with museum collections. This project housed at the Iwalewahaus inscribed itself into the general focus of Exodus Stations following founding histories of museum institutions, their founding figures, the representation of their collections in documentary materials and historic display forms. The project brings to attention case studies of museums that blend artistic, ethnographical and archival materials and questions these collections. After a residency period in the archives of selected European museums, the artists elaborated a critical and interpretative view on the history of the objects and the meanings they bear in relation to differing collection strategies and institutional ideologies.

For Exodus Stations #2, the artists Tatiana Macedo (Portugal) and Raphaël Denis (France) were invited as artists-in-residence at the Iwalewahaus. Each of them stayed for almost two weeks in summer 2017. A corpus of items from

the Iwalewahaus collection was sent to the artists as a point of departure for their engagement with the archive. It constituted a selection of archival images by Ulli Beier – the founder and first director of the Iwalewahaus. The archival images were taken during Beier's stay in Nigeria along with the artists Susanne Wenger and Georgina Beier (1950–1966 and 1971–1974). From such material, Beier's role and self-presentation in Nigeria was well-received.

During their stay at the Iwalewahaus, Tatiana Macedo and Raphaël Denis carried out in-depth research on the person Ulli Beier, and from a more conceptual point of view, on how the Iwalewahaus archive is structured. Individually, they developed their own way of approaching the archive, after finding different points of reference to it. The video installations they created from their engagement and the material gathered showed new conceptual framings of the archival material.

During the exhibition opening, a public colloquium took place in which artists, curators and academics were invited to discuss their own perspectives on working with the archives and collections at the Iwalewahaus in particular.



SPACES – Perception. Reflection. In^{ter}ventio

Focusing on artistic perspectives on physical, imagined and virtual spaces and (free) urban spaces, the traveling exhibition SPACES – Perception. Reflection. Intervention displayed works by the artists Ammar Abo Bakr, Engy



Aly, Medhat Amin, Andeel, Amr El Alamy, Ganzeer, Yara Mekawei, Monti, Ahmad Nady, Islam Shabana and Shennawy. After shows in Cologne and Delmenhorst, the process-oriented project initiated and curated by Heidrun Mezger and Fabian Heerbaart was enriched and continued through the artist residencies of Ahmad Nady, Islam Shabana and Yara Mekawei at the Iwalewahaus, Bayreuth.

In June 2017, the artists engaged with spaces in Bayreuth in various ways and using different media and perspectives: Ahmad Nady dedicated his residency to the working women in the city centre regardless of their age, class and profession. Breaking cultural borders, for example by inviting them to visit his studio for a portrait session, once he encountered an interesting personality at their workspace, he finally interviewed a dozen women. He asked them about their careers, difficulties of being a woman (and a mother) and most importantly their dreams. Simultaneously, he drafted digital sketches which he later developed into socio-critical portraits pointing out an essential part of what matters to them in their real and dream spaces. Yara Mekawei created an installation based on the Jewish-American author Elly Wiesel's credo 'No one is illegal'. She built an auratic architectural construction, the skeleton of a religious, inaccessible grave illuminated by black light and completed it with a video installation of images and sounds shot and recorded in places of Jewish and migration history.



Included in the installation as well was her temporary artist flat in town and previous collected materials. Audio-visually overlapping and distorting notions of war, displacement, remembrance and home, she revealed the complexities of human rights, identity and values shaped by spaces. Islam Shabana continued his engagement following Palestinian writer, Hussein Barghoutis' text Architecture of Memory by visualising spaces in literature. After reading the forgotten poems of German-Jewish Hilde Marx who escaped the Nazi regime to the US, the artist developed a virtual reality space including the most common places mentioned in her writings connected to a part of nowadays city image, including the iconic bronze sculpture of Richard Wagner. Besides the virtual space available only through the VR "glasses", Islam Shabana's installation drew on the metaphor of the sea, screening waves with one of her quotes essentialising the experience of exile.

The exhibition, 19 May–17 September 2017, highlighted the perceptions, deconstructions and visions of spaces as countered and imagined by the artists and further discussed, exchanged, performed and presented during the programme of the 49° Grenzüberschreitungen Festival – SPACES. (Siegrun Salmanian)



n



Talya Lubinsky: Floating Bodies

by mining content and maternality Lubinsky opens and breast up the valuest, shooting past of history and publis it in a new person control. As a starting point it askess the natural power of the flood to smeath hairy durined bodies. The sense bugs show the human importation to conside barriers, bonders and walls an orderation from the design. There is a powerful introde between the second disaster, its incontainable discipled with the lower same disaster, its incontainable and contain, but are other operations by the overflowing waster.

Floating Entires in based on personal experience by the artist's based there but also deals with the history of also merganes from Nazi-Germany to South Africa: a the 100s, lates thomasy disourch the albest forcedully separated natisties of the persocution of European Jawas and life advises of those who excepted, who exould go on to related offerent and other contradictory contents. The intelligence also allowed to the floating of develop and the physical crossing of the seed by other and boots.

use Allowing Budge the also creates links, by showing that the current said landed to the past, but is connected to corner global energy.



Durch die Vermischung von Inhait und Materialität offnet Lubinsky die gewaitvolle, undurchsichtige Vergangerheit der Geschichte, bricht sie auf und fügt als in einen neuen, poetischen Kontext ein. Als Auspangspunkt für diese Ausstellung wählte sie die Urgewalt der Flut: Die Macht des Wassers, Lang Vergrabenes ans Licht zu fordern – auch lang begrabene Körper. Die Sandsäcke verweisen auf der Drang des Menschen Barnieren und Ürennen zu schaffen und Wälle zu beuen, als Schutz gegen die Flut. Es entsteht eine starke Spannung zwischen der Urbeiherrschüpskeit des Wassers und den schweren Sandsäcken, die zurückheiten und einsammen sollen – und doch oft dem steigenden Wasser nicht standhalten können.

Flooting Bodies – Treibende Kürper – basiert auf der persolelichen Erfahrung des Größvaters der Künstlerin, beschäftigt sich jedoch auch mit der Geschichte der Flücht, von Juden und Jüdinnen aus Europa nach Südafrika in den 1930er Jahren. Talya Lübinsky hinterfragt die gewaltsanten Trennung der Erzählungen von der Verfolgung europäischer Jüden und Jüdinnen einerseits und der Lebensgeschichten jener Menschen, die fliehen und sich in ihrer neuen Heimat auf völlig andere und oft wedersprechtliche Korbeste anpassen mussten. Die Installation spielt auch auf die Flüfötat von Identität und die physieche Überquenung der Meere in Schiffen und Boten hin.

Mit Flooting Bodies stellt Talya Lubinsky Verbindungen in Raum und Zeit her – sie zeigt, daas der Kentext nicht auf der Vergangenheit beschränkt ist, sondem mit pegennärtigen Ereignissen auf der ganzen Wolt verbunden ist.

"Floating Bodies"

An installation by Talya Lubinsky

Johannesburg-based artist Talya Lubinsky developed the idea for the installation "Floating Bodies" (2017) during her artist-in-residence in 2016 at the Iwalewahaus. During this time, she did some research in the Ulli Beier Photographic Estate at the Iwalewahaus in cooperation with the Centre for Black Culture and International Understanding (CBCIU) in Oshogbo, Nigeria. The biography of her grandfather, especially his personal background as a German Jew, who had to flee from Nazi Germany to Nigeria, inspired the artist for this project. Her father left Duisburg, Germany in 1936 and fled to South Africa. Ulli Beier's story reminded Talya Lubinsky of her own family history. What happened to survivors of the Holocaust in African countries? Lubinsky's grandfather became part of the colonial middle class and part of the Apartheid system in South Africa. Due to their skin colour as white, her displaced grandfather gained a completely new and powerful position in the colonial society.

In describing his childhood in an interview, Lubinsky's grandfather remembered a flood of the River Rhine which washed up bodies that had been buried. Lubinsky metaphorically addressed these themes in her installation creating



links between the stories of flight and pain of Holocaust survivors in Germany and their emergence as powerful actors in colonialism in Africa. She disrupts the often forcefully separated narratives of the persecution of European Jews and the life stories of those who escaped the atrocities of the Third Reich.

For the installation, she used about 600 sandbags, which were arranged in the shape of a waterfall. By mixing content and materiality, Lubinsky opens and breaks up the violent, obscure past of history and puts it into a new poetic context. Her starting point for the exhibition was the natural power of flood water to unearth long-buried bodies. Sandbags are used consciously by people to draw boundaries and to protect against floods. The water or the flood, however, has such power to break through and transform these man-made boundaries. In the installation, water represents metaphorically fluidity, migration (movement) and limitless power. She also showed that the context is not limited to the past but is also connected to current global events. The installation was exhibited at the Iwalewahaus as part of the summer exhibitions in April to September 2017.

(Christina Heydenreich)



Lieblingsstücke

how to make art collections accessible

In today's postcolonial museum discourse - and not only since the debates about the Humboldt Forum in Berlin gained momentum – the question about the position of collections and their relation to the audience is crucial. While provenance studies might help ethnographers to legitimise the existence of collections, modern day and contemporary art from the Global South also begs for legitimisation. Initially, these collections might not so suggest colonial historical contamination, but still do so when placed in political contexts that are framed by postcolonial power imbalances and the tensed relationship between arts and politics. The Iwalewahaus, the art jewel of the University of Bayreuth, relays to the city of Bayreuth and the international art world the complex and intertwined messages of the art collection by its founding director, Ulli Beier.

On the above premise, the core group of the research project African Art History and the

Formation of a Modern Aesthetic based at the Iwalewahaus teamed up with the Bayerische Forschungs- und Informationsstelle Inklusive Hochschulen und Kultureinrichtungen (Bay-Fink) group in realising the exhibition titled Lieblingsstücke – 36 Objekte des Monats with the aim of developing different narratives that criss-cross the coagulated story of the origin of the Iwalewahaus collection. A variety of entry points were adopted, for instance, art historical, poetic and ethnographic perspectives which were then subjected to different curatorial strategies.

Instead of repeating the relationship with the collector, we instead took the *Object of the Month* series as a starting point. These objects and not the collector or the artists are in focus and were selected over the last three years by a diverse group of people including the lwalewahaus technical, administrative and curatorial team and international guest researchers. The selection of these pieces is based on



their affective relationship with the artworks: the reason they are called *Lieblingsstücke*, i.e. the all-time favourite objects of the collection. One of the most popular pieces of the collection is Twins Seven-Seven's *Devil's Dog* that attained a 'Mona Lisa'-like status at the Iwalewahaus due to its popularity within the canon of African Art history.

Beyond this engagement with the history and structure of the Iwalewahaus collections, *Lieblingsstücke* also embarked on a curatorial process that focussed on the multi-sensory accessibility of the aesthetic dimensions of the art works. The exhibition offered videos in the German Sign Language, tactile copies of the artworks and braille texts for visually impaired visitors. An audio-guide added to the multi-layered art experience. The Iwalewahaus, with the help of BayFinK, emerged as an inclusive museum and art space.

(Katharina Fink & Nadine Siegert)





TEXT **SIEGRUN SALMANIAN** PHOTOS **SABINE LINN**

Spaces – following different perspectives and definitions not limited to one meaning – was the overall theme of the 2017 edition of the revived annual 49° *Grenzüberschreitungen Festival* at the Iwalewahaus which took place on 22–24 June 2017. With a regional focus on the "African Middle East" and specifically Egypt, the art and music festival was connected to the process-oriented exhibition *Spaces – Perception. Reflection. Intervention.*

Aiming to break further borders, set structures and conventions, the festival invaded public spaces in Bayreuth. Besides the Iwalewahaus foyer

and backyard, it had exhibitions in neglected spaces such as the underground connection between the pedestrian zone and a parking in the city and a short pedestrian tunnel around the university.

Following Ulli Beier's philosophy of crossing borders while also considering contemporary global political developments, visionary artists and researchers were invited to present ideas, perform, rethink and create a critical discourse about spaces. Thus, on different levels, borders were left behind in an intercultural, interdisciplinary and interactive ambience capturing utopic visions of a contemporary space while encountering and curating the dense and overlapping web of the programme. The young

filmmakers Youssef Alimam and Abdelrahman Abdellatif presented the German premiere of their short documentary fiction film Libido (2012), which deals with questions of sexuality, education and taboo in private and public spaces. The iconographies of spaces of revolution were examined in an icon lab session and a workshop based on the graffiti and murals by Abdelrahman Abo Bakr in the Mohammed Mahmoud Street in Cairo during the Egyptian Revolution. In the lecture series (Re)Visions of Spaces, Randa Abo Bakr. Atef Botros and Nesreen Hussein discussed their recent research on visualities of the virtual, the prison and the performative spaces examining creative space through different theoretical approaches. The screen-



49° Grenzüberschreitungen Festival – SPACES



ing of Jihan El Tahri's Egypt's Modern Pharaohs highlighted the complexities of spaces and times of power through the regimes of Nasser, el Sadat and Mubarak. Work and gender were at the heart of the residency projects by Ahmad Nady, Islam Shabana and Yara Mekawei who developed site-specific and locally-limited multidisciplinary research-based artworks. Space as a tool to empower the community, to change the face of the city and to define identity was one of the major points emerging from the presentation by Assil Diab aka Sudalove which was also about her work as a female artist challenging the public spaces of the Muslim society in Sudan and Qatar.

The musical part of the 49° Grenzüberschreitungen Festival was intro-

duced by a jam session uniting Youssef Alimam and Mohab El Sherbini's group with practitioners from Palestine, Syria and Nairobi's DJ and drummer Khoisan Hassan from Abakasimba, who opened the stage with smooth, traditional rhythms from the Swahili coast. Later, the concert space was filled with ambient, experimental, punk-pop-electro songs by Youssef Alimam, accompanied by Mohab El Sherbini. More folky, oriental vibes characterised DJane Yara Mekawei's set including VJing by Islam Shabana. DJ Zhao navigated out of the festival by merging and transgressing old gold and its changing sound geographies of Africa, Europe and Asia.

By opening and intertwining different space bubbles, the festival drew

on its historical legacy, i.e. affirming a space where character is beauty – as the Iwalewahaus is dedicated to, and brushing aside the realties and imaginations of spaces by redefining, transforming and reclaiming them in conceptual, abstract, poetic and direct ways.

The festival was supported by Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (IFA), Moving Mena, Goethe-Institute Cairo, Institute of African Studies, Studentenwerk University of Bayreuth and the City of Bayreuth in partnerships with the Orientalisches Seminar University of Cologne, Subproject Revolution 5.0 of the Bayreuth Academy, VR Lab University of Bayreuth, Graffitiforum, Kültürklüb e.V., Das Zentrum and Spielmobil Bayreuth.



Tatek Abebe

Tatek Abebe is an Associate Professor and coordinator of the MPhil programme in Childhood Studies at the Norwegian University of Sciences and Technology Trondheim, where he also teaches courses such as Children and Development in the Global South and Methods and Ethics in Childhood Studies. He doubles as the Director of the Council for Development of Social Science Research in Africa's (CODESRIA) 2017 Child and Youth Institute and also coordinates the Nordic Network of African Children and Youth Research. He is an Editorial Board Member of Childhood, Children's Geographies and Fennia: International Journal of Geography. Abebe was invited to Bayreuth by Erdmute Alber as part of the Bayreuth Academy Working Group "Learning for the Future - Transdisciplinary Perspectives on Knowledge Transmission in Africa and beyond". During his stay, October 2017 to January 2018, he worked on deepening theoretical and conceptual insights into his research on the generational implications of development on young people's lives, and fostering collaborative research and publication on children's learning and labouring for the future in Africa. Abebe is the author of two books, co-author of 14 others and over 20 articles in international journals.



Dores Cruz

Dores Cruz holds an MA from the University of Porto, Portugal and a PhD from Binghamton University, UK. She currently doubles as a researcher at the Interdisciplinary Centre for Evolution of Human Behaviour, University of Algarve, and as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Denver. She was formerly a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Pretoria. Dores Cruz was a guest of the Bayreuth Institute of Advanced African Studies in October 2017, and was a member of the Bayreuth Academy Postdoc Working Group "After Socialism". She was a recipient of the DU Internationalisation Grants, the Colorado State Historical Fund Research Grants and the Fulbright Fellowship, amongst others. Her research foci are Historical Anthropology, African Studies, Landscape Anthropology, Social construction of Memory, Heritage, Portuguese colonialism, Mozambique and Ethnoarchaeology.



Paulo Gaibazzi

Paulo Gaibazzi is a trained social anthropologist with a PhD from the University of Milano-Bicocca. He worked as a Lecturer in Social Anthropology at the University of Latvia. Since February 2012, he is a Research Fellow at the Centre for the Modern Orient (ZMO) in Berlin. His research focus is on West Africa, and in particular, on The Gambia and Soninke-speaking milieus. His current research is an extension to his research on migration and mobility theory. Paulo Gaibazzi uses (im)mobility as a prism to look at a number of themes such as the production of subjectivities (especially about youths), ethics (agrarian and Islamic), bio-political regimes (especially borders), the reproduction of social inequalities (slave descendants in West Africa), and visuality (especially photography). Gaibazzi was a guest of the Bayreuth Academy in May 2017. He was a member of the Postdoc Working Group "Waiting for Futures".

Henriette Gunkel

Henriette Gunkel (PhD) lectures at the Department of Visual Cultures, Gold-smiths College, University of London. Between 2008 and 2013, she worked in various teaching and research positions at the Tisch School of the Arts, New York University, Anglophone Literatures, University of Bayreuth, the University of Fort Hare, South Africa, and the School of Social Sciences, Media and Cultural Studies, University of East London. In 2017, she was a guest scholar at the Bayreuth Academy where she worked with Subproject 4, "Concepts of Future in Media Spaces" and the Hauntology Work Group. She presented a lecture on "Hauntology and Afrofuturism – Ghosts and Zombies – the formless matters". She also carried out research on a book project tentatively titled *The Chronopolitical Implications of the Africanist Science Fictional Interventions*. Henriette Gunkel has published widely on art and visual cultures in internationally-renowned publications. She is currently working on a monograph that focuses on African science fictional interventions, and also co-authoring a book titled *Visual Cultures as Time Travel* with Ayesha Hameed.



Pascal Bianchini

Pascal Bianchini holds a PhD in African Studies form Bordeaux I CEAN, France. He has been a CNRS researcher, an associate researcher at CEAN and an associate researcher at SEDET which became CESSMA in 2008. He was also a member of the Observatory of Student Policy and Higher Education Research in Africa (OSPHERA) Network. His research themes include Crises and School Reforms, Educational adjustment, Intelligentsia and politics, and Schooling and Social Mobility. Pascal Bianchini was a guest of the Bayreuth Institute of Advanced African Studies in October 2017, and was a member of the Bayreuth Academy Postdoc Working Group "After Socialism". He is currently working on student movements in Sub-Saharan Africa and militant careers around the period May 1968 in Senegal. His area of study is Sub-Saharan Africa, precisely, Senegal, Burkina Faso and Rwanda.



Brook Lemma Mamaru

Brook Lemma Mamaru is Professor of Biology at the College of Natural Science at the BIGSAS Partner University, Addis Ababa University (AAU) in Ethiopia. As the BIGSAS Partner University Representative of AAU he took part in BIGSAS management board meetings, and he also gave a lecture on "The experience of Addis Ababa University in solving the puzzles of expectations and challenges in post-graduate expansion on Ethiopia". Furthermore, he contributed to projects in the context of Higher Education research and the project of the BIGSAS Partner Universities called 'Academic Mobility for African Sustainable Development' (http://amasproject.org). Lemma Mamaru did his PhD on Freshwater Ecology with regard to lake management at Technische Universität Dresden. His research foci are Fish and Freshwater Ecology and Watershed Management of Freshwater Systems, now at the Lake Zway, in collaboration with other disciplines e.g. social sciences.



Christoper J. Lee

Christopher J. Lee is a Lecturer at CISA and in the Department of International Relations at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. He previously taught in the United States and Canada, precisely at Stanford, Harvard, Dalhousie Universities as well as at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. During his visit in October 2017 as a guest of the Bayreuth Academy, Christopher J. Lee researched under the framework of the Postdoc Working Group "After Socialism". He was a member of Working Group G "Future(s) as societal Project(s): Actors and their visions in Africa and beyond" and Guest Fellow at the Bayreuth Academy in June 2016. In 2017, he was part of the organisational team of the workgroup "After Socialism: Forgotten Legacies and Possible Futures in Africa and Beyond" of the Bayreuth Academy. He also organised a workshop together with Constantin Katsakioris (Bayreuth Academy) and Nadine Siegert (Iwalewahaus). He received his PhD in African history from Stanford University. Trained as a socio-cultural historian, his teaching and research interests concern the social, political, and intellectual histories of southern Africa.



Jeremiah Shola Omotola

Jeremiah Shola Omotola teaches Political Science at the Federal University in Oye Ekiti, Nigeria, where he has been associate professor since 2016. He is also the Director of Research and Development and Head of the Department of Political Science. Previously, Omotola served as a Consulate at the National Institute for Legislative Studies in Abuja and worked at Redeemer's University in the Institute for Security Studies in South Africa. Omotola's research interests are comparative policies and elections, especially the rising number of 'incumbent losers' and the topic of failing re-election. He worked on two case studies in Nigeria and Ghana. During his guest visit at BIGSAS he worked closely with Alexander Stroh from African Politics and Development Policy. "Coming to Bayreuth is another step forward," he described his experience at the university. Omotola also supported the BIGSAS work group 'Governance in Africa' by sharing his experience about citizenship in Ghana and Nigeria.



Shawn Constant

In 2017, **Shawn Constant** was the guest of BayFink. He held a lecture on inclusion and urban space at the Iwalewahaus. Shawn Constant is an experienced Community Liaison Officer within the architecture field overseeing and managing community development processes of several public projects in Johannesburg over the past six years. Coming from a previously disadvantaged background, he has used architecture and how the discipline can be used as a tool to create cohesive and inclusive environments within previously disadvantage communities within Johannesburg namely Westbury. He is the founder of the Reid Foundation, which works with children that have special needs and disabilities – something that is very dear to him. The aim of the Foundation is to create cohesive and inclusive environments for children with special needs and disabilities driven by architecture. Shawn's corporate background is as a trade unionist working for the Massmart group.





Brahim El Fasskaoui

Brahim El Fasskaoui is Professor of Geography at the University Moulay Ismaïl in Meknes, Morocco. He visited BIGSAS from 28 June to 28 July 2017 in the framework of research on indigenous knowledge. He took part and presented a paper in the seminar "Under the Baobab Tree: Reframing Perceptions and Conceptions of Indigenous Knowledge". El Fasskaoui also collaborated with Herbert Popp (emeritus professor, Bayreuth) on two book projects: the first on the *Agadir* or collective granaries in Southern Morocco, and the second on the earthen architecture of the Amazigh (the so-called "Berber") entitled *The Road of the Kasbahs*. During his stay he also met with other colleagues from Germany, e.g. Andreas Kagermeier (University of Trier), with whom he collaborates on some projects: "Altogether, these joint research projects helped me to deepen my knowledge about the know-how of the Amazigh, their socio-political institutions, their skills in the management of natural resources, especially water, pastures and forest," El Fasskaoui confided. Besides, he had many fruitful exchanges with BIGSAS junior fellows and other students and colleagues at the University of Bayreuth.



Albert Kasanda

Albert Kasanda was a BIGSAS visiting professor in June-August 2017. During his stay in Bayreuth, he participated in the conference "The Future of Governance in Africa: Limits, Challenges and Opportunities for Participatory Citizenship", organised by the BIGSAS work group 'Governance in Africa', and gave two lectures. The first paper focused on African Activism and social protests by young people and the second on the African Intercultural Philosophy, e.g. the relationship between cultures in the context of the African experience. Kasanda praised the library of the University of Bayreuth where he spent a lot of time. He also finished a manuscript about witchcraft in Africa. Currently, he works at the Centre for Global Studies, Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague, Czech Republic. He studied Political and General Philosophy at the University of Louvain in Belgium and did his PhD on the American philosopher John Rawls and his Theory of Justice. Kasanda also spent two years in Mexico where he worked as a teacher and a translator from Spanish to French, e.g. for the works of Enrique Dussel.



Mark Nash

Mark Nash is an independent curator and writer. His formation was in film theory and culture, editing screen between 1977 and 1981. He has worked with artist Isaac Julien on several projects such as the film *Frantz Fanon: Black Skin White Mask* and the exhibition *Re-imaging October* at the Calvert 22 Foundation in 2009. He collaborated with Okwui Enwezor on *The Short Century* exhibition and *Documenta XI*. Most recently he curated *Things Fall Apart* at Calvert 22 Foundation. He also curated *Things Fall Apart / Red Africa: Affective Communities and the Cold War* in 2015-17. In Bayreuth, he organised the workshop *Socialist Friendship* in October 2017 with funding from the Bayreuth University Graduate School together with Nadine Siegert (Iwalewahaus). The workshop brought together international researchers that form a network around the topics of socialism in African Art studies.



Graziella Moraes Da Silva

Graziella Moraes da Silva holds an MA and a PhD in Sociology from Harvard University. She is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Sociology of Development at the Graduate Institute, Geneva. Between 2011 and 2016 Graziella worked at the Department of Sociology, the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil where she is still affiliated to the Graduate Programme in Sociology and Anthropology and the Interdisciplinary Network for the Study of Inequality. In March 2017, she was a guest of the Bayreuth Academy, where she held the lecture, "Re-making class, race and nation: Black middle class and new elites in Brazil and South Africa." Her research is at the intersection between inequality studies and cultural sociology. Her current research projects focus on comparative race relations and elite's perceptions of poverty and inequality. She is one of the authors of *Getting Respect: Dealing with Stigmatization and Discrimination in the United States, Brazil and Israel* (Princeton University Press 2016), among other works. Moraes Da Silva's areas of expertise include Poverty and Inequality, Cultural Sociology, and Developing countries.



Ammar Abo Bakr

Ammar Abo Bakr graduated in painting from the Luxor Institute of Fine Arts and is one of the most famous street art producers in Cairo. His sociopolitical work was especially important during the Egyptian revolution. A focus in his internationally spread work in particular is on the martyrs of the revolution as well as historical, popular, Coptic and Islamic icons and themes. He was invited to the Iwalewahaus to present and discuss his work in Mohammed Mahmoud street during a workshop and icon lab session as part of a cooperation with the Bayreuth Academy and the research project "Kairener Graffiti als Spiegel politischer und gesellschaftlicher Umbrüche: Eine Untersuchung ikonographischer Dynamiken und Selbstverortungen junger Künstler" at the University of Cologne. He also participated in the 49° Grenzüberschreitungen Festival in the artistic exchange with Sudalove as part of the live graffiti collaboration with the local artists from 865er crew. His work, fragmenting and repeating the head and face of an old man, might refer to the witnessing and wise eye facing the violent conflicts of an Egypt in change.



Ruth Weiss

Born in 1924 as Ruth Löwenthal in Fürth, Germany, into a Jewish family, **Ruth Weiss** emigrated with her family from Nazi Germany in 1936 and settled in Johannesburg, South Africa. She grew up in a society with entrenched racism named apartheid. Growing resistance in the 1950s by the black majority in South Africa led to her increasing political awareness and commitment towards antiracism, anti-colonialism, African liberation and nationalism. Since the 1960s, Ruth Weiss worked as a newspaper and radio journalist in Johannesburg. In May 2017, Ruth Weiss visited the Iwalewahaus. In a roundtable discussion on "Aesthetic & Activism – In conversation with Ndidi Dike, Ruth Weiss and Talya Lubinsky", Weiss talked about her work, her books and her live in relation to activism.

Ahmad Nady

Ahmad Nady is an illustrator, graphic animator and as a caricaturist well known in the Arabic-speaking world. He holds a BA in painting from Helwan University Cairo. He is a teacher and an art director in numerous animation studios, several newspapers and magazines such as *Aladdin* and *Sabah Elkheer*. For his graphic novel *Apartment Bab El Louk* he was awarded the Mahmoud Khalil Award. For his political work, which reached a peak during the Egyptian revolution, he mainly used the digital space to avoid censorship, but also spread images in public space such as on Tahrir place. Being concerned not only with political developments but also social evils such as sexual harassment in Cairo's metros, he engaged with a similar sociocritical perspective in Bayreuth. For his residency at the Iwalewahaus in June 2017 during the 49° *Grenzüberschreitungen Festival SPACES* and the connected exhibition *SPACES – Perception. Reflection. Intervention*, he created a homage of a dozen digital drawings depicting portraits of working women in the city centre, with a focus on their aspirations and difficulties.



Youssef Alimam



Kitso Lynn Lelliott

Kitso Lynn Lelliott visited Bayreuth in 2017 where she was awarded the prestigious Iwalewahaus Art Award for her work on the memory of the transatlantic slave trade. She was also one of the scholars contributing to the Bayreuth Academy Working Group on "Hauntology". Kitso Lynn Lelliot obtained a PhD at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg in Art and Film Studies. Her work has been shown at film-festivals, art galleries and museums around the world. She is preoccupied with articulations from spaces beyond epistemic power and the crisis such epistemically disobedient articulations cause to hegemony. Her current work and doctorate engage socio-cultural formations that took shape over the Atlantic during the African slave trade, a project initiated during her residency with the Sacatar Foundation in Brazil. Her work is an enactment of elision between historically subjugated subjectivities while privileging South-South relations imaginatively and epistemologically unmediated by the Global North.



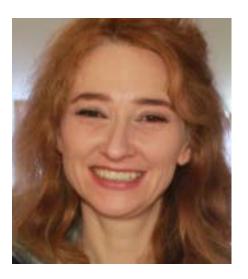
Esther Peeren

Esther Peeren is Professor of Cultural Analysis at the Faculty of Humanities, University of Amsterdam. She is also vice-director of the Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis (ASCA) and vice-director of the Amsterdam Centre for Globalisations Studies. With Jeroen de Kloet, she is series editor of Palgrave Studies in Globalisation, Culture and Society. In 2017, she visited the Bayreuth Academy to be part of the Working Group "Hauntology". She gave a lecture that will be part of the upcoming publication *Ghosts, Specters, Revenants: Hauntology as a Means to Think and Feel Future* (Thurnauer Schriften zum Musiktheater) and also participated in the workshop held at fimt, Thurnau. Esther Peeren's research focuses on processes of marginalisation and questions of agency, the under-illuminated impact of globalisation on rural areas, and the changing relationship between centres and peripheries. Other interests are popular culture, modern literary, cultural theory and 20th and 21st century English and American literature, film and television.



Marta Jecu

Marta Jecu is currently a researcher at Collège d'Études Mondiales, Paris. Previously, she was enrolled as a researcher at CICANT – The Centre for Research in Applied Communication, Culture, and New Technologies, Universidade Lusófona, Lisbon. She is both a freelance curator and a researcher, having been trained in History and Theory of Art (BA), Anthropology (MA) and an interdisciplinary PhD at Freie Universität Berlin. With and at the Iwalewahaus, Marta Jecu developed the second show of her research and exhibition project *Exodus Stations* that invited contemporary artists to work with museum collections and to elaborate a critical and interpretative view on the history of the objects. Her research projects generally materialise in curated exhibitions and/or edited publications, where artists and scientists are invited to work together. She stayed in Bayreuth in November 2017.



Islam Shabana

Islam Shabana is a multidisciplinary artist and founder of Alchem Studio, a collective focusing on digital art practices as well as interactive design. In collaboration with musicians and sound artists, he creates audiovisual live performances and installations, often exploring the relations between realities. At the Iwalewahaus in June 2017, his work was part of the travelling exhibition SPACES - Perception. Reflection. Intervention, and he was also Artist in Residence for the 49° Grenzüberschreitungen Festival - SPACES in June 2017. He engaged with the poetic spaces of the German-Jewish author Hilde Marx that he transformed into a virtual reality and a video-sound installation capturing displacement and exile. Furthermore, he presented the audio-visual performance *Delta* 3. Besides his participation in the festival in Bayreuth, he was involved in the Berlin Art Week, Cairotronica, Cairo Digital Art Week, Osthoora Music & Arts Festival and in exhibitions in Egypt and Germany. He holds a BA in Visual Arts from the American University in Cairo and is currently completing his MA in Digital Media Design at the Hochschule für Künste in Bremen with a scholarship from the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation.





Nesreen Hussein

Nesreen Hussein is a performance artist and academic. She is a graduate of Helwan University Cairo, and holds a PhD from Royal Holloway University of London. Since then, she works as a lecturer in contemporary theatre theory and practice at Middlesex University London. Her research interest spans the role of creativity in the Egyptian revolution to contemporary discourses on performativity and performance. At the Iwalewahaus in June 2017, she was part of the 49° *Grenzüberschreitungen Festival – SPACES* lecture series "(Re)Visions of Spaces" where she presented her contribution to contemporary, performative and artistic interventions in public space. Her thoughts also enriched the festivals' workshop, icon lab session and discussions in cooperation with the Bayreuth Academy and the research project "Kairener Graffiti als Spiegel politischer und gesellschaftlicher Umbrüche: Eine Untersuchung ikonographischer Dynamiken und Selbstverortungen junger Künstler" at the University of Cologne.



Jihan El Tahri

Paris-based filmmaker **Jihan El Tahri** holds a diploma in political science from the American University Cairo. She is the author of *Les sept vies de Yasser Arafat* and *Israel and the Arabs: The 50 Years War*. She is also a journalist for news agencies worldwide. Since the 1990s she is active in the field of cinema and has produced several documentaries, such as "Requiem for Revolution: Cuba's African Odyssey" and "Behind the Rainbow", which won an award at the FESPACO. Jihan El Tahir was invited to the Iwalewahaus's *49° Grenzüberschreitungen Festival – SPACES* to present her trilogy *Egypt's Modern Pharaos* which explores the political regimes of Gamal Abdel Nasser, Anuar el-Sadat and Hosni Mubarak from the early 1950s until 2011 from years of research and numerous interviews unfolding the complexities of history through different perspectives. Besides the screening, she contributed to the academic knowledge exchange at a two-day workshop and discussion round about the iconographies of spaces and graffiti in Egypt.



Raphaël Denis

Raphaël Denis is a conceptual artist living and working in Paris and Brussels. A 2006 graduate of the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts-Décoratifs, Raphaël Denis invents processes from which he develops series. Art history in the larger sense of an aesthetic and formal history, but also in the sense of the history of its milieu, with its mechanisms and its agents, becomes the object of an interrogation that aims at revealing its complexity and subterfuges. The works of Raphaël Denis provide the viewer with reflection apparatuses in which often simple and radical productions invite to meditate on grey areas and on what is hidden from view. Within the context of the exhibition project *Exodus Stations #2*, the Iwalewahaus invited him for a two-week artist residency in September 2017, during which he worked mainly with personal photographs from the estate of Ulli Beier. On this basis, Raphaël Denis developed his installation work "Random Memories" for the exhibition *Exodus Stations #2*.



Yara Mekawei

Yara Mekawei holds a BA in Art Education from Helwan University Cairo and teaches in the Media Art and Design Department of the Modern Sciences and Arts University in Giza. She was invited for an artist residency for the 49° Grenzüberschreitungen Festival – SPACES in June 2017 and the travelling exhibition SPACES – Perception. Reflection. Intervention. At the Iwalewahaus, she continued her artistic engagement following Elly Wiesel's statement "No one is illegal" and realised a conceptual two-room-installation. Composed by an architectural construction of an inaccessible grave and a video with images shot in places of remembrance and history in Bayreuth, Berlin and Frankfurt as well as recent conflicted spaces of Aleppo, her newly developed work questions global perceptions and spaces of immigration, war and human rights as well as identity and displacement. Besides her very active participation in exhibitions (recently at Dak'Art 2018) and festivals, Yara Mekawei also performs at music events, such as she did at our festival, and is part of the Egyptian Females Experimental Music Session.



Tatiana Macedo

Tatiana Macedo lives and works in Lisbon. She holds a BA in Fine Arts from the Central St. Martins College of Art & Design (London, 2004), and an MA in Visual Anthropology, FCSH New University of Lisbon (2012). Tatiana works mainly with photography, film and sound and their expanded forms. In 2015 she won the first Sonae Media Art Award, a major visual arts award in Portugal. Within the context of the exhibition project *Exodus Stations #2*, Tatiana Macedo spent two weeks in August 2017 in the collections and archive of the Iwalewahaus. Her way to personally approach and video-map the archive during her residency included the extension of the circle of signification from the singular document (the archival images) to the building they are housed in and further to the relation of this building to its neighbouring structures. From the video and archival material she gathered, Tatiana conceptualised her video installation "MIXED FEELINGS – A composition for Chamber Orchestra" for the exhibition *Exodus Stations #2*.



George Kyeyune

George Kyeyune is Director of Makerere Institute of Heritage Conservation and Restoration (IHCR) at Makerere University. Makerere Institute is part of the tripartite collaboration with Weltkulturen Museum Frankfurt and the Iwalewahaus, University of Bayreuth. George Kyeyune is an artist, lecturer and a core researcher on a research project "African Art History and the Formation of a Modern Aesthetic". In 2017, Kyeyune stayed for a one month in Bayreuth doing research and working on the manuscript for his upcoming publication on modern and contemporary art in Uganda – the first extensive study of this period. In this context, he also delivered a lecture on "Trends in Contemporary Art in Uganda since 2000" at the Iwalewahaus and participated in the programme of the research group that included a visit to the ACASA Triennial Conference in Accra, Ghana.

Atef Botros Al Attar

Atef Botros Al Attar holds a PhD in Comparative Literature, Arabic and Culture Studies from the University of Leipzig. He works as a translator. His academic work focuses on the reception of Kafka in the Arabic-speaking world and the role of space. As guest of the Iwalewahaus in June 2017, he talked about his recent research on the Egyptian prison as a space of cultural resistance within the lecture series' "(Re)Visions of Spaces" at the 49° Grenzüberschreitungen Festival – SPACES. In addition, he was part of the workshop and discussions in cooperation with the Bayreuth Academy and the research project "Kairener Graffiti als Spiegel politischer und gesellschaftlicher Umbrüche: Eine Untersuchung ikonographischer Dynamiken und Selbstverortungen junger Künstler" at the University of Cologne. He was an assistant professor at the Arabic Studies Department at the Philipps University of Marburg and a visiting scholar at the University of Michigan and at Cairo University. He is now based at the Doha Institute as assistant professor. He is also permanent member of the selection committee of the Heinrich Böll Foundation.



Ndidi Dike

Ndidi Dike is a major contemporary Nigerian artist and one of the leading artists of her generation with numerous exhibitions held both locally and internationally. She is one of the few contemporary Nigerian artists with significant experience as a sculptor from the Nsukka School where she studied Fine and Applied Arts. Over the decades, she has successfully worked across diverse fields of art. This artistic involvement has evolved into multidimensional and multi-media structures and meanings that have defined her engagement with materials and ideas in conventional and unconventional as well as experimental processes. Her core area of interest and long-standing inquiry and engagement are with slavery, forced migration, displacement, memory gender inequality, remembrance, marginalisation, natural resource extraction industries, post-colonial history and legacies and contemporary politics. Her four-room installation "Constellations - Floating Space, Motion and Remembrance" was shown at the Iwalewahaus in May-September 2017.



Ozioma Onuzulike

Ozioma Onuzulike is a Senior Guest Researcher on the "African Art History and the Formation of a Modern Aesthetic" project. During his 14-day stay in June 2017, he looked through the art collections, library and digital archives of the Iwalewahaus, especially those connected with the work of Ulli Beier in Nigeria. Due to his interest in the history of popular art in South-Eastern Nigeria, he focused on materials related to the life and work of Augustine Okoye, *Middle Art*. He sought to understand how the Onitsha Market Literature intersects with the beginnings of Okoye's practice in the 1960s and beyond, and how the form and content of Okoye's paintings shed light on the emergence and style of popular cartoon-posters that flourished in Onitsha and other parts of Nigeria later in the 1990s and 2000s. Following his research visit, Ozioma has contributed short texts (addressing two works by Augustin Okoye) for the Object of the Month programme of the Iwalewahaus.



Randa Aboubakr

Randa Aboubakr was a guest for the 49° Grenzüberschreitungen Festival – SPACES in June 2017 where she gave a presentation entitled "Use of visuality and intervisuality in parodic imitations in the Egyptian blogosphere". Besides her participation in the festivals' lecture series "(Re)Visions of Spaces", she was also involved in the workshop, icon lab session and discussions in cooperation with the Bayreuth Academy and the research project "Kairener Graffiti als Spiegel politischer und gesellschaftlicher Umbrüche: Eine Untersuchung ikonographischer Dynamiken und Selbstverortungen junger Künstler" at the University of Cologne. Randa Aboubakr is professor for English and Comparative Literature at the University of Cairo with a main interest in visuality, media and the virtual world. In addition to being a recent research fellow at the Humboldt foundation, she is the founder and director of the Forum for the Study of Popular Culture (FSPC) at Cairo University where significant political events in the Arab-speaking regions and beyond are examined through the dynamic, social and cultural changes in public space.



Danillo Barata

Danillo Barata holds a PhD in Communication and Semiotics from the Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo. He is an artist, healer and teacher. His work articulates performance and image, and has as its centre the relations between the body, camera, system of art and the world. In November 2016, Danillo Barata visited the Institute of African Studies of the University of Bayreuth. He was one of the first fellows of the International Fellowship Programme of the University of Bayreuth. His visit fostered not only the growing partnership between the Institute of African Studies and the Universidade Federal de Reconcavo de Bahia but also the Agora-network with universities in Brasil, Colombia and Mozambique – established by Ute Fendler and Eberhard Rothfuß. In this context, Danillo Barata presented a paper at the international workshop "Encounters: Crossing perspectives – Crossing disciplinaries", organised by BIGSAS and the Doctoral School of Social Sciences, Universidad del Valle, Cali (Colombia).



Hasifa Mukyala

Hasifa Mukyala had a three-month fellowship in January-March 207 at the Iwalewahaus which involved a broad array of activities. She was introduced to the Iwalewahaus collection and trained in conservation, documentation, acquisition, loaning of art works, exhibition preparation, database management and object biography writing. She also attended other programmes at the Iwalewahaus and wrote object biographies on artworks from both the Iwalewahaus collection and the Makerere Art Collection. During her stay, she visited the Weltkulturen Museum in Frankfurt where she spent time at the museum's offsite storage of the collection looking at artworks from Uganda. The stay was part of the research project "African Art History and the Formation of a Modernist Aesthetic" that brought together researchers from Uganda, Nigeria, the USA, Germany and the UK to work on the history of collections of modern African art.





Assil Diab

Sudanese, Doha-based artist Assil Diab, known as Sudalove, was part of the artistic programme at the 49° Grenzüberschreitungen Festival – SPACES. During her short residency at the Iwalewahaus in June 2017 she also presented the recent documentary about her becoming a graffiti artist, "From Paper to Bricks", and offered a workshop in style writing. Her engagement with the public space in Bayreuth developed out of cooperation with Egyptian artist Ammar Abobakr and the local graffiti collective 865er crew and resulted in spraying and painting a wall in Bayreuth. Sudalove's colourwise outstanding graffiti depicting a woman looking beyond the edge of the hijab and labelling tags in Arabic script raises questions of identity, gender and furthermore shows the empowerment and the breaking of conventions which is characteristic of her work. The freelance artist and graphic designer holds a BA from the VCU Richmond, Virgina and has also worked as a creative designer for Aljazeera. Since her participation at the calligraffiti project of French-Tunisian artist eL Seed, she intervenes into public spaces. Thus, besides her mixed media works, her graffiti can be found in the streets and on the walls of Khartoum, Cairo and Doha.



Spoek Mathambo

In 2017, **Spoek Mathambo** was a guest of the Bayreuth Academy's Hauntology-Working Group. He is a South African producer, songwriter and filmmaker with two critically-revered solo albums under his belt: *Mshini Wam* (BBE, 2010) and *Father Creeper* (Sub Pop, 2012). *Fantasma* and *Batuk*, and a documentary on South African electronic music (*Future Sound of Mzansi*) are his collaborative projects. In 2010, his debut album *Mshini Wam* was released on BBE Records. The album includes an award-winning cover of Joy Division's '*She's Lost Control*'. The track received the Young Director Award at the 2011 Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity. Meanwhile Mathambo was nominated in the Best African Act category at the 2011 Mobo Awards. In 2012, Mathambo released his second album *Father Creeper* on Sub Pop, gaining him a second nomination for Best African Act. In Bayreuth, he performed a special DJ set dedicated to the theme of hauntology together with visual specially designed for the workgroup's event on the 30 November 2017.



Chuma Himonga

Chuma Himonga held the Chair of Customary Law, Indigenous Values and Human Rights at the University of Cape Town, managed by the National Research Foundation of South Africa under the Department of Science and Technology's 'South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI)' until she retired in December 2017. Her expertise in African customary law, a subject she has extensively studied and lectured on, proved invaluable at a research colloquium held by Himonga and her host, Ulrike Wanitzek, on 7-8 Nov. 2017 at the University of Bayreuth. At the colloquium, Himonga gave a presentation on 'The Conceptualisation of Customary Law and Its Implications for Research in Africa' (based on her paper in J. Fenrich *et al.* (eds), *The Future of African Customary Law*, Cambridge 2011, 31-57). She also shared her experience of investigating customary law in Africa based on a research project she headed at her department. The results of this research have been published in the book *Reform of Customary Marriage*, *Divorce and Succession in South Africa* (by Chuma Himonga and Eleanor Moore, Cape Town 2015).

African Studies – Multiple and Relational

An international four-day workshop of the IAS

TEXT KOLADE IGBASAN & DORIS LÖHR
PHOTOS MAIRA NABA & NARCISSE WANDJI

In December 2017, the Institute of African Studies (IAS) held a four-day workshop on the theme "African Studies - Multiple and Relational," organised by Ute Fendler and Doris Löhr. Eminent scholars from five continents represented their various institutions, discussed the challenges they face with the aim of tracing the future of African Studies across the globe. The Director of IAS, Rüdiger Seesemann, set the ball rolling with words of welcome to the 57 guests, and thanked the University of Bayreuth for its support in making the event possible. His speech was followed by that of the representative of the university administration, Vice President Martin Huber, who pointed out that the IAS embodies the "beacon of internationalisation" in Germany. He reiterated that African Studies played a crucial role in the Humanities in Germany and in the world. He was therefore very proud to always welcome guests from all over the world here in Bayreuth. Ute Fendler, one of the conveners, gave insights on the purpose of the workshop, which was principally to gather distinguished colleagues in African Studies to discuss theoretical issues on the subject.

The opening programme was rounded off by a presentation, "Overview of the IAS, Bayreuth" by its Coordinator, Franz Kogelmann, and a note of thanks to the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), the University of Bayreuth, the workshop's organising team and all participants by Doris Löhr.

The first session was on African Studies Centres in Europe. Céline Thiriot (Université de Bordeaux, France) asked the pertinent question: "Is there a French way for African studies?" She gave an overview of Af-





rican Studies in France from the end of "Colonial Africanism" in the 1950s and 1960s to the present. She noted with regret the decrease of funding in France for research in African Studies and called for more funding in the domain. Petr Skalník (University of Hradec Králové, Czech) in his lecture "African studies at Hradec Králové, the Czech Republic, and East-Central Europe" highlighted the advantages and limitations of studying Africa from a non-colonial perspective embodied in the statement: "we kind of objectify Africa." He lamented on the lack of research about Europe by Africans. His words were followed by encouragement for the mutual study of Africa-Europe/Europe-Africa. He also decried the lack of funding for the Institute of African Studies in Prague which is now defunct as a result.

In their talks, Giorgio Banti (University of Naples "L'Orientale", Italy) and Livio Sansone (Salvador de Bahia, Brazil) called for a repositioning of African scholars as major contributors in knowledge production in Africa.

The second day of the workshop focused on African Studies Centres in

Asia, Australia and Africa. The need for more representation of an African perspective was echoed in all of the presentations: Hui Jiang (Beijing Foreign Studies University, China), Aparajita Biswas (Jawaharlal Nehru University Mumbai, India), Yongkyu Chang (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies Seoul, South Korea) and David Doepel (Murdoch University Perth, Australia).

As far as Africa is concerned, the following speakers presented their various institutes of African studies, the challenges facing them and their areas of research: Akosua Adomako Ampofo (University of Ghana Legon, Ghana), Carlos Fernandes (Universidade Eduardo Mondlane Maputo, Mozambique), Yahia Abou El Farah (Université de Rabat, Morocco), Lungisile Ntsebeza (University of Cape Town, South Africa) and Godwin Murunga (CODESRIA Dakar, Senegal). Each called for greater co-operation between African researchers in order to foster knowledge production on the continent.

A Panel Discussion entitled "Where is the Africa in African Stud-







ies" revisited the object of study in the discipline. Discussants agreed that a holistic view was better than neglecting any aspect of African studies. Similar calls were made by Akíntúndé Akínyemí (University of Florida, Gainesville, USA) who called for collaboration between the Global North and the Global South, Lungisile Ntsebeza (CAS, South Africa) and Godwin Murunga (CODESRIA, Senegal) who called for a "deproblematisation" of African Studies.

Day 3 was reserved for the Afri-

can Studies Centres in the Americas and Europe. John H. Hanson (Bloomington, Indiana, USA) offered an overview of African Studies in America since 1965 after the Cold War and the "corporisation of Education." Jan-Bart Gewald (Universiteit Leiden, Netherlands), Marta Cordiés Jackson (Universidad del Oriente, Santiago de Cuba, Cuba) and Rina Cáceres Gómez (Universidad de Costa Rica, San José, Costa Rica) among other things talked about the impact of slavery, race and migration in Central America on Af-

rican studies as a discipline. Angelica Baschiera (SOAS London, Great Britain) presented SOAS and the decline of funds for African studies due to the "commercialisation of education", further compounded by BREXIT.

The IAS 2017 International Workshop ended with a lively roundtable discussion on "African Studies in the World – Multiple and relational?" and a final session on the "The way forward" chaired by Ute Fendler and Doris Löhr, with closing words by Rüdiger Seesemann.

TGCL Study Trip to Nairobi

The annual study trip of the Tanzanian-German Centre for Eastern African Legal Studies (TGCL), a cooperation project of the Universities of Bayreuth and Dar es Salaam, led us to Nairobi this year.



TEXT LOUIS A. GITINYWA
PHOTO TGCL

The main motivation for this study trip from 24 to 28 April 2017 was for us to attain a clear and practical perspective to complement our theoretical understanding of regional integration. In particular, our aim was to learn from different actors about the challenges and achievements of the regional integration process.

Early in the morning of 24 April 2017, we started our journey to Nairobi. We boarded a Kenya Airways flight from Julius Nyerere International Airport to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport where we were transported by coach to Mvuli Hotel, located on Lang'ata Road in West Nairobi. The hotel is well built and located in a safe and secure area of the city. We were immediately ushered to the conference room where Carolin Herzog

briefed us on the pre-circulated timetable, with an emphasis on updates and amendments.

In the afternoon, we had the pleasure of visiting the Nairobi National Museum, particularly the exhibition called "FAVT: Future Africa Visions in Time" which was organised in partnership with the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies, the Iwalewahaus Bayreuth and the Goethe Institute of Kenya, with a focus on contemporary and abstract art. The exhibited art was the result of a joint effort between academics and artists on the history of the German colonial period in East Africa and other German colonies in Africa, contrasted with artistic impressions of Africa's perceived future. We were then hosted by TGCL at a welcome dinner in the warm environment of the museum café.

We had the honour of visiting the Kenya National Assembly and the Sen-

ate where the Kenyan constitutional framework and the functionality of the bicameral parliamentary system was explained to us in detail. This was followed by an interactive session focusing on the presentation and the wider implications of East African integration from the perspective of the Kenyan legislature. Following this, we headed to the top of Kenyatta International Conference Center (KICC) for a panoramic view of the city of Nairobi. During a courtesy visit to the German Embassy in Nairobi, we had a very fruitful discussion with the Head of Culture and Education, Uwe Köppel, and his team. We used this rare opportunity to thank the German Federal Foreign Office for giving us the opportunity to conduct further studies through TGCL scholarships.

When we visited the Nairobi Animal Orphanage of the Kenya Wildlife Service, located in Nairobi National Park on Lang'ata Road, our guide, Kevin Omondi, explained to us the mission and role of the orphanage, which is essentially to rescue animals from poachers or smugglers, treat them, and either reintroduce them into the wild, or adopt them for life where their potential for survival in the wilderness is very low. The animals are also used for educational purposes. He gave us a lecture about the big five and talked extensively about the challenges they face in their operations. We were able to see the variety of wildlife which live in the orphanage.

At the premises of the Catholic Church which houses the Archdiocese of Nairobi, we were hosted to lunch by Sister Teresiah Muthoni, a TGCL Alumna, who also took us on a brief tour of the office of the Archdiocese

and presented us to some of her colleagues.

After this visit, we made our way to our next appointment at the State Department of East African Community Integration in the Co-operative Bank building on Haile Selassie Avenue. Barack Ndengwa and M. Susan Lutta, research, work hard and focus on whatever we set our minds on.

After this meeting, we went for an afternoon lecture at the Madison Insurance building where the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is located. We received a warm welcome from Helmut Blumbach and Margaret

benefits and challenges of regional integration for Kenya, with a focus on how Kenya can benefit from the East African Common Market in terms of investment, labour, development and economic growth. A question and answer session followed which was moderated by DAAD staff member Anja Bengelstorff. After this session, we had a networking session with some DAAD Alumni and scholarship holders.

Later that evening, we were pleased to meet and interact with some of the TGCL Alumni who live and work in Kenya at a dinner hosted by the TGCL at the Sarova Stanley Hotel in Nairobi's central business district. The dinner provided a good setting for current students and alumni to network and socialise.

The last day of our study trip provided the perfect climax as we got the opportunity to visit the Supreme Court of Kenya and interact with a highly acclaimed judge of the Supreme Court – His Lordship Hon. Justice Isaac Lenaola – who has also



spectively the Deputy Principal Secretary and State Counsel in the Ministry, warmly and cordially welcomed us. We interacted on different aspects of East African integration, particularly from the Kenyan perspective, including the Standard Gauge Railway, tourism, community organs and institutions, as well as legal aspects in the domestic setting.

At Kenyatta University Parklands Campus, we were received by Emily Osiemo, who is a TGCL Alumna and a lecturer at the university, and paid a courtesy visit to Nzuki Mwinzi, the Dean of the School of Law. We had the opportunity to talk with the Dean and the academic staff on diverse aspects of academic life, including a future partnership between our two institutions. We also had the chance to interact with Tomasz Milej who previously served as a Professor at the University of Dar es Salaam. He encouraged us to always aim for excellence in our re-



Kirai, the Director and Deputy Director of the DAAD Regional Office for East Africa. We were given a presentation by Johannes Döveling on the

served for close to seven years as a judge of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ). His Lordship shared with us his experience during his tenure



as judge at the EACJ and during his career as a judge in Kenya in respect of different issues, including good governance, human rights, the rule of law, and democracy. He advised us on the significance of a broad analysis of legal issues based on the context, particularly the unique political and social aspects of each country, in judicial decision making.

After this meeting we proceeded to Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Karen Campus, for a meeting with the Dean and the staff of the Faculty of Law, including TGCL Alumnus Omondi Robert Owino. We talked about the peculiarity of the different legal regimes of the EAC Partner States, including the civil and common law systems, the structure and jurisdiction of the different courts, the proceedings in criminal and civil cases, the Bar Associations, and qualification routes for lawyers, among others.

This trip was a good opportunity to learn more from the actors and to see what really happens on the ground in relation to this exciting project of East African regional integration. In addition, we were able to see for our-



selves the passion, commitment and level of dedication of all the different stakeholders working to achieve the fruits of regional integration. This trip gave me the optimistic impression that despite the challenges faced on the journey to regional integration, this process will no doubt be successful. On behalf of my fellow students,

I would like to thank Carolin Herzog and Johannes Döveling who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of this tour, and the members of the University of Dar es Salaam who accompanied us during the study trip – Evaristo Longopa and Baraka Kanyabuhinya – for their professional guidance and intellectual stimulation during the trip.



Mahusiano! Languages and literatures in interface

30th Swahili Colloquium

TEXT **NIKITTA DEDE ADJIRAKOR** PHOTO **DUNCAN TARRANT**

The 30th anniversary of the Annual Swahili Colloquium at the University of Bayreuth was held on 26-28 May 2017 with about a hundred participants. Funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and organised by Clarissa Vierke, the colloquium took on the theme "Mahusiano! Languages and literatures in interface". This conference aspired for a more integrated conception of linguistic and literary plurality by engaging with the interconnectedness of Swahili and non-Swahili linguistic and literary worlds. It was attended by senior scholars, PhD and MA students from over 23 countries, among them Tanzania, Kenya, DR Congo, Uganda, Norway, Austria, USA, Italy, France, South Africa and Poland. Several contributions from disciplines such as linguistics, history, literary studies, anthropology and Islamic studies, looked at the entangled ways through which knowledge with and within Swahili

worlds is disseminated, appropriated and reinterpreted. Some topics discussed include the construction of identities through popular culture, orality and writing in Swahili poetry, the influence and use of social media on and in Swahili-speaking worlds and challenges and resources for first and second language teaching of Swahili.

The conference also hosted a number of extra events, such as a reading from the novel Ua la Faraja by the Tanzanian writer, William Mkufva, as well as its German translation Blume des Trostes by the German translator, Barbara Schmid-Heidendein. There was also a series of book launches and memorials for late Swahili scholars. The 30th anniversary in itself was celebrated with a reception, which featured addresses from representatives of the University of Bayreuth and its partner universities, including the Shanghai International Studies University. The conception of the Swahili Colloquium and its sustenance was reflected upon by the founder of the Swahili Colloquium, Gudrun Miehe, and key persons in its continuous existence such as Said Khamis and Gabriele Sommer (University of Bayreuth). Two of the invited conference guests, Nash Mc (a hip-hop artist) and Idd Mwimbe (a poet) from Tanzania, provided entertainment for the conference participants during the reception. In partnership with BIGSAS, the renowned writer, poet and philosopher, Euphrase Kezilahabi, who was a participant at the conference, gave a presentation on the interconnectedness of Swahili literature and African philosophy within the framework of the "BIGSAS Forum for Thought". There was also a panel discussion between junior fellows of BIGSAS and some Swahili scholars in which they reflected on the interrelationship between language and knowledge production from various disciplines such as anthropology, literature and translation studies in and on Africa. The publishing house Rüdiger Köppe was represented with bookstalls. The Swahili Department of Deutsche Welle Radio and a representative of the Nation Media Group, Nairobi reported directly from the conference.

A Research Trip to Cape Town, South Africa

TEXT MAIKE SELKE PHOTO DINA FALTEN

Research trips have been an important element at the Faculty of Cultural Studies, especially for the MA programme Culture and Society of Africa and Culture and Society, for many years. Since 2017, with the establishment of the new MA programme Development Studies, selected students have benefit from this teaching method designed to equip students with field work experience, especially finding access to the field, collecting data, analysing findings and turning them into valid academic results. Under the supervision of experienced professors, students learn to face and overcome the obstacles of a research process.

For most of the eight participants, the research trip in the 2017 summer term under the supervision of Antje Daniel (Development Sociology) took place in Cape Town, South Africa. The overall research topic was "Social Movements". Three of the Bayreuth students examined the #FeesMustFall student movement. Claudia Depka examined the use of music and songs during the protests at George University. Michael Steffen explored the impact of protest photography while Dina Falten analysed the connection between online and offline activism. Two other students picked up topics related to protest: Katarina Gorzynski investigated the field of white poverty within the homeless community and its relation to protest while Maike Selke studied the relationship



between non-governmental organisations and social movements. Oumaima Laaraki's research also focuses on protest but rather in Morocco where she did her fieldwork research on the Amazigh uprisings in the northern Morocco. Two of the research trips took place at other geographical locations. Rebekka Krauss conducted research on informal learning processes and child labour in Bolivia while Korbinian Baumer spent some weeks in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania doing fieldwork with people dealing with drug addiction.

All students described their aca-

demic and personal results as highly satisfactory. The data collected and the challenges encountered were the subject of two courses offered in 2017-2018 winter semester in the Faculty of Cultural Studies. The research conducted during these fieldtrips will be the basis for master theses in the summer term of 2018 which will be accompanied by two further seminars. Some will be presented at the upcoming Anthropology Research Colloquium in June 2018 at the Iwalewahaus Bayreuth. The research trip was partly sponsored by the Universitätsverein Bayreuth e.V.

For further questions contact Antje Daniel (antje.daniel@uni-bayreuth) or Maike Selke (maike.selke@uni-bayreuth.de).

BIGSAS FC! Another season of outreach through football

A little bit of play after work!

TEXT **LIONEL SANGO** PHOTO **BIGSAS**

The 2017 football season in Bayreuth was marked by spectacular competitive fixtures. As always, BIGSAS was part of the Wilge Liga season, the Akwaaba tournament in Nuremberg and many spontaneous friendly matches organised with other teams in Bayreuth and beyond.

Taking part once again in the 4th Liga B of the Wilge Liga, with stiff competition from nine solid opponents, BIGSAS FC went into every game with great courage and determination. Although not winning every game, catching fun and trying to build confidence has always been our key objective. At the end of the season, BIGSAS finished 8th on the league table with three wins, five losses and two draws. However, a total of 40 goals ranked us as the 3rd team with the highest number of goals. Such zeal for goals demonstrates the killer instincts we possess.

We would like to give a huge thank you to all the players and to each and every volunteer for helping BIGSAS FC to achieve its outreach objectives and to have a little fun after work in 2017. Playing together with fellow students, refugees, colleagues and friends, shows the role football plays as a platform for integration and the open door policy of BIGSAS.

It has been a pleasure and we hope to keep such warm team spirit and determination next year with another show of strength. Hope to see you all back again next season!





Future perspectives of economic communities in Africa

A new project at the TGCL

TEXT **JOHANNES DÖVELING**PHOTO **TGCL**

A new interdisciplinary research project at the Tanzanian-German Centre for Eastern African Legal Studies (TGCL) will investigate how economic and social development in Africa can be promoted by cross-border cooperation and

Africa, can only edge forward step by step since there are no proven success formulae. In this new research project, lawyers, economists and political scientists from Africa and Europe will work closely together, in order to gain a better understanding of how cross-border cooperation works. The results of the research will throw light on how social and economic progress in Africa can be encouraged and sustained by means of regional integration.





regional integration. The German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development has approved a grant of €500,000 to fund the project from 2017-2018. Johannes Döveling (University of Bayreuth) leads the project, and Daniel Shayo (University of Dar es Salaam School of Law) is the project coordinator. They are supported by Petro Protas as assistant coordinator in Dar es Salaam and Sabine Geisenberger, who is the project assistant in Bayreuth. In total, 30 researchers from all over Africa and beyond are conducting research to identify driving forces of regional integration in Africa.

While in Europe the structures and aims of the EU are being examined critically, in Africa new forms of cooperation between neighbouring countries are being developed. An outstanding example of regional integration is the East African Community (EAC) where there is already a common market and the long-term goals are a monetary union and the founding of a federal state. However, it is unclear how it will be possible to achieve such far-reaching integration. Those political leaders who support the development of transnational structures in the EAC, or in other parts of

From academic research to practical recommendations for policy-makers

Common agreements on regional cooperation on the African continent, and corresponding public declarations of intention, have been inadequately implemented in the member states. Critics of such regional organisations say that the plans for joint decision-making agreed on by the national governments have rarely been put into practice. The TGCL research project will examine the institutional and legal norms of African economic communities to see whether they unintentionally promote this discrepancy, or contain incentives for more intensive cooperation. On the basis of their results, the researchers will be able to make concrete practical recommendations for policy-makers and legislators in African countries. The research results will also be of benefit to international development workers who increasingly cooperate with African regional organisations.





The First Research Workshop

The team of researchers met for the first Research Workshop in Dar es Salaam in October 2017. At this event, the research project was officially launched by the Minister for Legal and Constitutional Affairs of the United Republic of Tanzania, Palamagamba Kabudi. The Vice Chancellor of the University of Dar es Salaam, Rwekaza Mukandala and the Dean of the University of Dar es Salaam School of Law, Hamudi Majamba, welcomed the participants on behalf of the host institution. In addition, words of welcome were given by research project leader Johannes Döveling as well as by research project coordinator Daniel Shayo.

At the beginning of the workshop, the project leadership team presented an overview on the research agenda and its goals. Together with introductory overviews from the legal, political sciences and economic perspectives, participants were able to develop a common understanding on the topic. Furthermore, the researchers presented outlines of their individual subprojects including their research questions and the field research design. All these presentations were discussed in detail, and the presenters received valuable comments which they will be able to implement in the course of their further research activities. Overall, the first research workshop provided a great and unique opportunity of sharing and discussing research proposals at a quite early stage.

Outlook: Field Research and Second Research Workshop

Following the first research workshop, the field research activities started. Logistically supported by the project offices in Bayreuth and Dar es Salaam, researchers have started travelling to destinations all over Africa in order to collect research data especially through interviews and discussions with relevant actors and observers of the different African integration processes. The field research experiences have been very positive so far. Together with the researchers, the leadership team of the project is thus looking forward to the second research workshop, taking place in Dar es Salaam in early June 2018. This event will once again facilitate exchange on the individual research subprojects, now at a different stage, before final conclusions are drawn and published.

Fixed policy competence, no fixed incentives

Everyday life of councillors in Ghanaian municipalities

TEXT & PHOTO MATTHEW SABBI

Local democracy and decentralisation programmes are promoted to deal with corruption and build responsive local institutions that help reduce poverty. However, the local context remains missing in these debates. In particular, the crucial role of municipal councillors is acknowledged but their condition of work is rarely mentioned. Extant studies overly focus on other political actors such as parliamentarians and strategies that link them to local voters. The research project of Matthew Sabbi (Development Sociology) funded by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation since 2017 seeks to overcome this lacuna. By focusing on the everyday life of councillors beyond their formal duties, the research analyses councillors' logic of action and their motivation for running for office. First, it examines how economic capacities and incentive systems mediate the daily activities of councillors. Second, the specific motivations that excite councillors' interest to run for municipal office, in spite of obvious challenges, are explored. Hidden inducements that compensate for the lack of fixed incentives for councillors to adjust to demands of their office are probed.

The research links the World Polity approach with practical governance perspectives and contributes to debates on the role of development actors inside local bureaucracies in Africa. The approach helps articulate how councillors brave the weak state bureaucracy to enact local public authority. The study explains how local democracy ideas diffuse into local contexts where they are often decoupled from everyday functions. Local actors would autonomously enact compromises that at once complement and divert explicit norms. The practice is well illustrated by the everyday life of councillors in Ghana, where decentralisation projects are active.

As initial insight, the position of a local councillor in Ghana goes beyond mere political representation. But fixed remuneration is not a key incentive for this office. In the absence of fixed incentives, councillors make several considerations and practical sacrifices in order to stay motivated to deliver their duties on a daily basis. Unlike usual explanations, turnover among councillors is not based *per se* on performance, age, lack of fixed remuneration, and time spent on municipal councils. In fact, most councillors retire only after losing re-election contests. Some ex-councillors still have ambitions to run again for office. Intriguingly, councillors have the ability to consolidate their political capital and even convert that into economic capital under



certain conditions. Serving on local boards for public institutions, most councillors enhance their political capital needed for future political advancement. Again, municipal facilities such as markets and toilets are usually managed by elite councillors and those well-connected to the municipal executive. Expectedly without fixed incentives for councillors, societal pressure for accountability for such facilities seems almost absent.

But councillors differ significantly. Rural councillors lack access to municipal facilities that enhance their political and economic capital. On the contrary, rural councillors may find their status even more costly. They must constantly commit personal resources (e.g. money and farm produce) into strategies of 'getting the attention' of powerful municipal executives (see photo). The tactics might potentially substitute local representative democracy for the pursuit of individual goals. One ambivalence is the specific entity to which councillors' motivation is oriented towards, whether to themselves or towards society. Ordinarily, we could get some clues from the political programmes offered by councillors. However, councillors in Ghana do not run for office based on political parties so a programmatic ideology is unsurprisingly missing. Thus, all councillors seem to pursue a 'development' agenda. Incumbents and aspirants often offer the same political programme, 'better service delivery' than their competitors. Not only does this situation restrict the space for critique of their political projects, but also makes the projects a weak indicator of councillors' motivation.

African Art History and the Formation of a Modern Aesthetic

Update on the project on African Modernism at the Iwalewahaus

TEXT KATRIN PETERS-KLAPHAKE PHOTO NADINE SIEGERT

In 2017, researchers on the project African Art History and the Formation of a Modern Aesthetic had another successful year of collaborative research. Since 2016, they have engaged with three collections of African modernism: the Makerere Art Gallery / IHCR, Makerere University in Kampala, the Weltkulturenmuseum in Frankfurt a.M. and the Iwalewahaus, University of Bayreuth. The different research topics are very diverse and span from an in-depth engagement with singular artworks to broader questions about collecting art for public collections. The team is composed of experienced and young professionals in art history, visual studies, curatorial studies, museology, archival studies and anthropology as well as artists. Hailing from Germany, Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, Sudan, Great Britain and the US, they came together to examine notions and configurations of African modernism and modernity in a transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary frame, starting from three art collections. Marked by the collectors Ulli Beier and Jochen Schneider, the main focus of the collections at the Iwalewahaus and the Weltkulturen Museum is on artworks from Nigeria and Uganda respectively. Schneider acquired the bigger part of his collection directly from the Makerere art school and gallery environment. Beier started to collect modern Nigerian art while living in Nigeria in the 1960s. His collection forms the core of today's Iwalewahaus Collection. The individual (hi)stories and contents of the three collections are suitable as objects of research in order to understand collectors' motivations and strategies but also the role of institutions in the formation of the modern canon. In addition, their complex connection has to be part of the revisiting. Here, the focus lies also on the artworks themselves and the collections understood as structures and networks.

The research processes were accompanied by an extended programme of internal and public workshops like the public symposium "(Hi)Stories of Exhibition Making / 1960-1990" at the National Museum in Kampala during the Kampala Art Biennale 2016 (see report in NAB XVI 2016, p. 62) for example. Also in 2017, the researchers presented their work at national and international conferences. Several members of the research team participated in the 17th Triennal Symposium on African Art in Accra, Ghana. This 2017 edition of the prestigious ACASA conference was a



historic event held for the first time on African soil. Before the conference, the researchers met in Kumasi for an internal workshop and a meeting with karī kacha Seid'ou, George Ampratwum, and Kwaku Boafo Kissiedu from the Faculty of Art at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology Kumasi. The lecturers have successfully introduced a very innovative approach to teaching at the school. An impressive proof of the artistic and curatorial practices of faculty and students was presented in the final year exhibition "Orderly/Disorderly" at the Museum of Science and Technology in Accra.

The ongoing lecture series "African Modernisms" organised by the BIGSAS workgroup "Aesthetics" at the Iwalewahaus has had inspiring lectures by renowned experts like Salah Hassan (Cornell University, Ithaca), Atta Kwami (Kumasi, Ghana), Smooth Nwezi-Ugochukwu (Cleveland Museum, Ohio), Elsbeth Court (SOAS London) and Muwonge Kyazze Mathias (Uganda). Upcoming lectures in this programme include a presentation by John Peffer (Ramapo College, New Jersey) on "When a photograph is family: Thoughts on audience and image in Africa"; the overview "Mapping the Zimbabwean Modern Art Development" by Raphael Chikukwa (National Gallery of Zimbabwe); Peter Probst (Tufts University, Massachusetts) speaking about "Acknowledging the contemporary: African Art Studies in the short 1960s" and reflections on "The eye of the crocodile: A new look at Malangatana Valente Ngwenya" by Richard Gray (SOAS, London). Another highlight is the exhibi-

tion "Feedback – Art, Africa and the Eighties" curated by Smooth Nwezi-Ugochukwu that is currently on display at the Iwalewahaus. The research will eventually be disseminated in a number of publications in books and peer-reviewed journals as well as doctoral dissertations. In June 2018, a final public symposium titled *Mining Collections - Some configurations of African Modernisms in institutional collections* will bring together the international researchers of the project *African Art History and the Formation*

of a Modern Aesthetic. The public symposium will give an insight into the variety of research activities and discuss possible future themes and fields of interest.

The research project is hosted by the Iwalewahaus, University of Bayreuth and sponsored within the programme "Forschung in Museen" (Research in Museums) by the VolkswagenStiftung. The 2017 conference was generously financed by BIGSAS and the Institute of African Studies.

Women on Aeroplanes

TEXT WOMEN ON AEROPLANES CURATORIAL TEAM

Looking closely at the long history of transatlantic networks and the struggles for liberation pre-dating the independence of African countries, women were always important and played all kinds of roles. But their stories are hardly told and their faces remain widely unseen. Their various contributions and practices, politically and artistically, ask to be acknowledged and at the same time their stories claim new parameters and premises. To recall the notion of independence today can only mean to address the gap between formal independence and a process of decolonisation that was simultaneously national and intranational, transnational and international and remains, in many ways, incomplete.

The research-based project Women on Aeroplanes aims to get an idea of a more comprehensive notion of independence that allows us to see and understand a women-informed view on a shattered presence of complicated dependencies. In this regard, unorthodox perspectives and a focus on entangled working and gender relations, need to be raised. These exceed a project of replacing the heroes of independence with the heroines of liberation. To make her contribution in history and the moments of her disappearance visible, also asks for a different valorisation of her work and a picture that frames relations and communities rather than individuals. The project adopts different formats of exhibition, workshop, film programming, lecture series and residencies envisioned for five iterations in Africa and Europe with institutional and independent partners. It will touch down in ifa-Galerie (Berlin), Centre for Contemporary Art (Lagos), the Iwalewahaus (Bayreuth), The Showroom (London) and Museum of Modern Art (Warsaw).



#1. FILTER

The first iteration of *Women on Aeroplanes* took place at ifa-Galerie Berlin on 30 November to 3 December 2017. Titled FILTER, it comprised a series of lectures dedicated to play with different critical, theoretical and optical filters as a preliminary work for the making of tools (a grammar) to speak to her representation and history making from a different imagery, and thus to filter the cinematic presence of women out of a representation of history. Editors, artists, archival researchers and producers, historians and curators discussed processes in decision-making and criteria that lead to the next cut, the duration of a take, its rhythm.

Participants: Fatoumata Diabaté (Montpellier) artist, Ndidi Dike (Lagos) artist and cultural activist, Jihan El Tahri (Paris) filmmaker and writer, Kodwo Eshun (London) artist and writer, Shahira Issa (Berlin) artist and editor, Brigitta Kuster (Berlin) artist and theoretician, Uche Okpa-Iroha (Lagos) artist, Iheanyichukwu Onwuegbucha (Lagos) researcher, Emily Pethick (London) curator and



director of The Showroom, Lisl Ponger (Vienna) artist, Nadine Siegert (Bayreuth) curator and researcher, Cara Snyman (Johannesburg) arts and culture manager, Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa (London) artist and curator.

#2. SEARCH RESEARCH

The second edition of *Women on Aeroplanes* at CCA Lagos, 23-26 May 2018, entitled SEARCH RESEARCH: Looking for Colette Omogbai will comprise of a series of lectures dedicated to unfolding and mobilising different ways of theoretical and artistic, academic and non-academic strategies of investigation and thus to centre the presence of women out of their non-representation in the history writing process. The art and life of the pioneering Modern Nigerian woman artists such as Clara Etso Ugbodaga-Ngu, Afi Ekong, Colette Omogbai, Theresa Luck-Akinwale and Ladi Kwali, remain unknown or incomplete, and unpublished even though their work is crucial for the understanding of modernist art in Nigeria. Not only are they absent in the wider narrative around their contemporaries such as Ben Enwonwu, Uche Okeke, J.D. Okhai Ojeikere, Demas Nwoko, Bruce Onobrakpeya, this invisibility is being repeated in the lineage and reference to today's art practice and histories.

How do we address the void? How do we look for them? What new art historical methodologies can be developed in a context where story is determined by absence? In finding them what could change in the narrative? Artists and art historians, archival researchers and writers, philosophers and curators, will speak about the processes of research in their specific locale and the transnational outreach of their 'detective' work.

Participants: Garnette Cadogan (New York/Cambridge)

writer, Rahima Gambo (Abuja) artist and writer, Gladys Kalichini (Grahamstown) researcher, Maryam Kazeem (Lagos) researcher and writer, Jihan El-Tahri (Paris) filmmaker, Lungiswa Gqunta (Johannesburg) artist, Fabiana Lopes (New York) researcher, Seloua Luste Boulbina (Paris) philosopher, Temitayo Ogunbiyi (Lagos) artist, Wura-Natasha Ogunji (Lagos) artist, Nadine Siegert (Bayreuth) curator and researcher. This iteration is co-ordinated by Bisi Silva, Director CCA, Lagos and Iheanyi Onwuegbucha, Associate Curator, CCA, Lagos

#3. OVERVIEW

Between more iterations, *Women on Aeroplanes* will open a relais at the Iwalewahaus Bayreuth 16 June to 10 September 2018, a resonating cavity in which moments of the project will be touching base with questions addressed to the archive and the politics of collecting. A selection of live-recordings from previous lectures and discussions in Berlin and Lagos will be audible, and a choice of materials displayed (books, cards, posters, *Inflight Magazines* etc.) to show *en miniature* what already happened in the course of the project and what is hopefully going to happen in the future, that is about: Filtering and editing methods (ifa-Galerie, Berlin), Search and research methods (CCA, Lagos), Lungiswa Gqunta and her residency (Gasworks, London), Exhibitions at The Showroom (London) and Museum for Modern Art (Warsaw).

Women on Aeroplanes is a project curated by Annett Busch, Marie-Hélène Gutberlet and Magda Lipska and co-produced by the Iwalewahaus. It is funded by the TURN Fund of the German Federal Cultural Foundation, and made in collaboration with Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos, ifa-Galerie Berlin, Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, The Showroom, London.

Personalia



From left to right: Thomas Scheibel, Vice President for International Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the University of Bayreuth, Rose Nyakio Kimani, and Stefan Leible, President of the University of Bayreuth. (Photo: Peter Kolb)

Dr Rose Nyakio Kimani wins the DAAD Award 2017

BIGSAS Alumna, then Junior Fellow, Rose Nyakio Kimani received the DAAD Prize for Outstanding Achievements of a Foreign Student studying at the University of Bayreuth in November 2017. She was awarded during the President's Dinner. Kimani holds a bachelor's degree in Communication and Media Technology and a master's degree in Communication Studies. Since 2013, she had been a Junior Fellow at BIGSAS and defended her thesis in January 2018. Her doctoral project was on 'Research on Players, Participation and Processes in Kenyan Community Radio'. Kimani received the award in recognition of her previous

research achievements, her social commitment and intercultural skills. In addition to her scientific knowledge, she showed great social commitment. She was elected as Junior Fellows' Representative at BIGSAS and she was a co-founder of the Model African Union Bayreuth e.V.

An award for Dr. Antonia Valerie Hänsch for the Best Dissertation in Cultural Anthropology



From left to right: Mamadou Diawara (Deputy Director of the Frobenius Institute), Valerie Hänsch, Roland Hardenberg (Director of the Frobenius Institute), and Kurt Beck (University of Bayreuth), supervisor of the award-winning dissertation. (Photo: Antje Daniel.)

BIGSAS Alumna Dr. Valerie Hänsch was awarded for the best dissertation in the area of Cultural Anthropology at a German university by the Frobenius-Institute for Cultural Anthropology Studies at the Goethe University Frankfurt. She received the award, which included prize money of €3.000, during a ceremony at the Frankfurter Buchmesse (Frankfurt Book Fair). Dr. Hänsch holds a bachelor's degree in Anthropology from Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich and did her master's degree at the University of Bayreuth with a special focus on visual Anthropology, Anthropology of Islam and Anthropology of the senses. She had been a doctoral researcher at BIGSAS from 2008 until 2016 and finished her doctoral studies with the excellent grade of summa cum laude. She did research on dam construction in Sudan and focused on social and cultural impacts. During a 14-months' field research and subsequent research stays in Sudan, Dr Hänsch examined how the ethnic group of the Manasir experienced a radical and violent upheaval of their usual living conditions. After her defence, she worked as a research associate at the Chair of Social Anthropology at the University of Bayreuth until the end of 2017.

Michael Stasik receives the Preis der Stadt Bayreuth

BIGSAS Alumnus Michael Stasik received the *Preis der Stadt Bayreuth* (the Prize of the City of Bayreuth), which included prize money of €500, during the President's Dinner in November 2017. The city honoured him for his dissertation with the title 'Station Ventures: Road Transport, Roadside Economies and Urban Hustle in Ghana' in which he explored one of the largest and busiest bus stations in West Africa. The work was evaluated with the excellent grade of summa cum laude. Stasik had been a doctoral researcher at BIGSAS from 2012 until 2017. Previous to that, he studied Philosophy, History and African studies in Berlin, Cracow and Leiden. In 2010, he received his master's degree in African Studies. Since September 2017, Stasik is working as a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Göttingen, Germany. His current research project focuses on the lifeworlds of francophone West African migrants in urban Ghana.



Michael Stasik with the mayor of Bayreuth, Brigitte Merk-Erbe (Photo: Peter Kolb)



From left to right: Ulf Vierke, Kitso Lynn Lelliott and Stefan Leible (Photo: Sabine Linn)

Kitso Lynn Lelliott wins the Iwalewa Art Award

On 10 November 2017, the University of Bayreuth granted the Iwalewa Art Award for the second time. The award is dedicated to young, aspiring artists for their outstanding artistic achievements. This year, the Johannesburg-based artist Kitso Lynn Lelliott was selected for the award for her project, Alzire of Bayreuth. The video installation Alzire of Bayreuth was created in 2015 as a part of the exhibition FAVT: Future Africa Visions in Time. In her work, Kitso Lynn Lelliott deals with the transatlantic slave trade and brings back to mind forgotten persons and stories. Research on this subject led her to the court of Wilhelmine in Bayreuth, where the

Surinam-born woman called Alzire worked in the 18th century. The award ceremony was connected with an artist-in-residence at the Iwalewahaus and an exhibition sponsored by the International Office and the University of Bayreuth. The new exhibition titled *Abénaa / Alzire / Dandara / Tsholofelo* was curated by Emilie Köhler together with the artists and was shown in the Iwalewahaus in November 2017. In 2019, a book on Kitso Lynn Lelliots works will be published by iwalewabooks.

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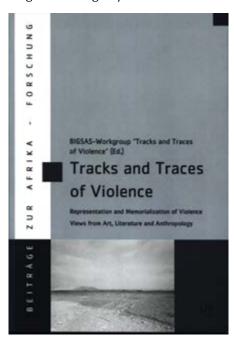
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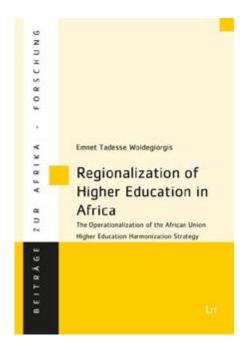
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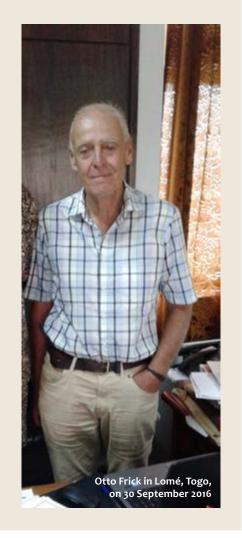
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1950-2016

Otto Frick

TEXT **SIGRID HORSCH-ALBERT** PHOTO **OTTO FRICK**

Otto Frick (1950-2016) - an excellent expert on history and art-scenes of West Africa - died unexpectedly on 3 October 2016 in an accident in Lomé, Togo. He lived and worked for many years in Togo as staff member of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), formerly known as the Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst (DED). Otto Frick was the head of a studio for visual communication and the author of many publications on the issue of culture and art in Togo and Benin. He also acted as a manager for cross-cultural communication. Parts of Otto Frick's estate now reside in Bayreuth since February 2017. Here, the estate will be digitised as part of DEVA - Archive and Database System for African Studies at the University of Bayreuth and also as part of the Iwalewahaus. For the first time, the collection of diverse materials collected by him were inspected and assembled. Besides artworks like paintings and sculptures, the estate also contains various newspaper articles and a large quantity of notes and documents about his projects. One of these was the exhibition "Afrikanische Reklamekunst" (October 2002-January 2003) at the Iwalewahaus Bayreuth. There are also over 200 posters including ones like The Second Confrence of Negro Writers and Artists from 1959 and No Condom No Sex from 1998. Approximately 180 music CDs complement the estate. After the itemisation and the indexing of the estate, it will be made available for research and teaching just like the collection of the Iwalewahaus.



2ND CHINUA ACHEBE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

WOLE SOYINKA
AND THE LITERATURE OF COMMITMENT



May 22 - 25, 2018

Institute of African Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka



By May 22, 2018 it will be five years since the interment of Professor Chinua Achebe. As part of the commemoration of the life and creativity of this Colossus, the Institute of African Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka is organizing an International Conference in memory of Chinua Achebe. This world-class author was a Senior Research Fellow in the Institute of African Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. This year we are celebrating the Nobel Laureate and distinguished Nigerian writer, Wole Soyinka.

ISSN: 2006 - 4241 ISSN: 0046 - 859 -2

This International Conference will bring eminent scholars to Nsukka for an intellectual celebration. Highlights of the conference include:

- An International Conference which will feature the opening ceremony, round table and presentation of academic papers featuring Wole Soyinka in new realities. Selected papers will be published in the Institute's main journals, Ikenga: Journal of African Studies, and Ikoro: Journal of Contemporary African Studies, as well as a major book.
- Stage performance of Wole Soyinka's Death and the King's Horseman.
- Round table by selected authors and scholars during the conference
- Opening of the Chinua Achebe Centre for Creative Writing
- Presentation of Awards of Excellence to Prof. Wole Soyinka and other eminent personalities

Paper presentation will feature the matter and manner of Soyinka's works in diverse and comprehensive dimensions, including the use of language and clarity of expression.

SUB-THEMES

- Soyinka and the Poetics of Social Revolution
- The Fourth Wall: Theorising a new Nigerian Theatre
- New Trends in Soyinkan Criticism
- Soyinka and the Nobel Prize
- Soyinka and the Discourse of Commitment: Critical
 Perspectives
- Deconstructing Leadership in Africa: Wole Soyinka's Paradigms
- Adaptation of Sovinka's Works
- The Creative Writer as a Cultural Watchdog: Language and Yoruba Mythology in Soyinka's Works
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- Critical Analysis of Soyinka's Poems
- Speaking Truth to Power: Soyinka's Essays in Review
- Sovinka and the Polemics of Nationalism
- Soyinka and the Reader Response Theory
- Soyinka and the Complexities of Interpretation/Criticism

PARTICIPATION

To participate, submit an abstract of not more than 200 words to emeka.nwabueze@unn.edu.ng OR emeka.nwabueze@yahoo.com before April 20, 2018. Abstracts should indicate the keywords and the author's institutional affiliations. Authors of selected abstracts will be notified by April 25, 2018. The most suitable papers from the conference will be collated and peer-reviewed for journal and book publication.



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