



ZIAF Annual report 2022



Centre for interdisciplinary African Studies Annual report 2022



Centre for interdisciplinary African Studies
Contact: Dr Stefan Schmid · +49 (0)69/798-32097
Norbert-Wollheim-Platz 1
60323 Frankfurt am Main · Germany
www.ziaf.de · s.schmid@em.uni-frankfurt.de





**Centre for
interdisciplinary
African Studies
Annual report 2022**



Content

Foreword	4
Centre for interdisciplinary African Studies	6
Main research focus:	
Climate change and sustainable resource management	10
Research projects by ZIAF members:	
I. Research field: transregional studies	
Cultural entrepreneurship and digital transformation in Africa and Asia	16
II. Research field: cultural history and ecological change	
Past worlds, bygone times – documenting rock art in Namibia	24
Cultivated landscapes in north-hemispheric African savannas	28
Connecting the middle Niger through borrowed words and shared objects ..	29
The Lake Chad region as a crossroads	30
The Tumuli zone of central West Senegal	32
Plant environment and resource exploitation in SW Ethiopia	34
III. Research field: language, discourses, communication	
Potentials of a collection – tracking, perceiving relationships and sharing	38
Addressing development challenges in linguistics in Ethiopia	40
Berber speakers in the Rhine-Main region	41
Language use in multilingual urban groups, Ngaoundéré, Cameroon II	42
IMAGEUN – in the mirror of the European neighbourhood (policy)	43
On the saf(v)e side, informal economic associations, Ethiopian diaspora	44
Archival study of vernacular building traditions in Ethiopia	45
IV. Research field: sustainable resource management	
Diversity and uses of fungi in tropical Africa: edible mushrooms in Benin	48
Quartz islands – island biogeography and ecology	50
Symposium on the state-of-the-art of tomato research in West Africa	51

Network programmes:

innovative approaches and promotion of young researchers	52
MIASA: a now well-established institute in Africa	54
DFG programme and network Point Sud	55
Volkswagen Foundation fellowship programme: a worthy conclusion	56
Pilote African graduate academy (PAPA): making great strides forward	58

Teaching	60
Bachelor of Arts in “African Languages, Media and Communication”	62
Fula trainer – Mainz Frankfurt	64
Development of hybrid and digital teaching and learning environments	65
Archival studies master programme Jos, Nigeria	66
International field school programme, Lake Malawi	68

Further ZIAF activities

Object groups from Africa in the Goethe University Collections	72
GIZ virtual summer school for the Central African Forestry Commission	74
Congo Basin Forest Partnership – 19 th Meeting Of the Parties (MOP19)	75
Back in Malawi	76
ZIAF Lecture	78
Phenomenal women empowerment stage	79
Africa-related projects of the Goethe University Library	80

ZIAF information

Advisory board of the ZIAF	84
Members of the ZIAF directorate	86
Members of the ZIAF	87
Publications by ZIAF members	92
Photo credit	94





Foreword

After two years of the pandemic, normality gradually returned to the ZIAF and science operations in 2022. Many of the projects were able to resume their travel activities and hold irreplaceable face-to-face events in Africa. In the BMBF project MIASA, an annual writing workshop for African PhD students was held as a normal attendance event for the first time, and an international hybrid conference on “African Cities: Climate Change and the Search for Resilience” took place in Maputo. In the transregional RMU research project “Cultural Entrepreneurship and Digital Transformation in Africa and Asia” (CEDITRAA) numerous activities were also realized abroad and other projects were able to work closely together with their African partners.

The year 2022 was also marked by intense debates on restitution and decolonisation. The examination of these topics was deepened by a highly acclaimed edition of “Forschung Frankfurt” entitled “Perspectives on Africa”, which was written predominantly by members of the ZIAF together with the editors and academic journalists of the Marketing and Communication Department at Goethe University. In an intensive debate, a new positioning of the ZIAF’s self-image was developed. The new mission statement of the ZIAF can be found in this annual report. In this context, it was decided to publish the annual report in English from now on, so that more of our African partners can benefit from it.

In addition, it was decided to support several projects dealing with the core topic of knowledge transfer and handling research results and collections. For example, the holdings of Goethe University’s collections relevant to Africa are being recorded for the first time in order to make them more accessible digitally. In African Studies, activities will continue with the representatives of the Khwe community of origin in Namibia to develop a long-term concept

for the partnership-based use of the Oswald Köhler Archive. In the field of Archaeology, two exhibition projects will be funded in 2023 to present research results and objects in the national museums of Dakar and N’Djamena to a broad audience. In addition, the topic of restitution will also play an important role in the MIASA context in the future.

The teaching activities comprising fieldwork within the framework of the new RMU cooperation degree programme BA “African Languages, Media and Communication” (ASMeK) also continued successfully in 2022. Similarly, an international field school funded by the Volkswagen Foundation took place again, this time on the topic of aquatic ecology in Malawi. The Malawi sponsorship trip was also resumed, the donations from which are an important contribution to financing the activities around the Karonga Cultural and Museum Centre.

Sustainability and cross-generational development are also key social challenges for the ZIAF. The BMZ/DAAD has just approved a new project between Togo and Nigeria (“TONI”) that will provide sustainable education for African master students. In the

countries of the Global South, rapid population growth is putting increasing pressure on sensitive socio-ecological systems. In African regions, rural and urban areas are considered increasingly vulnerable in the wake of climate and land use change. Biosciences and geosciences research at ZIAF addresses plant resources and their ecology, degradation of landscape ecosystems, infrastructure, and the short- to long-term environmental impacts of mining and resource exploitation. Questions about the future availability of raw materials, actor analysis, political transparency and good governance illustrate the transdisciplinary complexity of this scientific context.

Thanks to all ZIAF members for your commitment and engagement in the Global South. I wish you all an interesting and stimulating reading of the ZIAF Annual Report 2022.

Prof. Jürgen Runge
ZIAF Managing Director





Centre for interdisciplinary African Studies

Since 2003, ZIAF has concentrated and coordinated the diverse Africa-related research activities of Goethe University and its partner institutions in a competence network. This also includes research with and on diasporic individuals and groups. Currently, around 100 academics from nine faculties and institutes are involved in ZIAF, with a broad disciplinary spectrum: African Studies, English Studies, Archaeobotany, Archaeology, Biology, Economics, Earth Sciences, Film and Media Studies, Human Geography, Linguistics, Medicine, Palaeobiology, Physical Geography, Political Science, Romance Studies and Social and Cultural Anthropology. Partner institutions include Frobenius Institute, Senckenberg

Research Institute and Natural History Museum Frankfurt, Hessian Foundation for Peace and Conflict Research (HSFK), and Institute for Social Ecological Research (ISOE).

ZIAF coordinates the networking of Africa-related research within the framework of the Rhine-Main Alliance of the universities in Frankfurt, Darmstadt and Mainz. Promoting cooperation between the natural sciences, humanities and social sciences is an outstanding feature of ZIAF in the Africa-related research landscape in Germany.

ZIAF promotes the exchange of knowledge between Africa, Europe and the countries of the Global South, acts collaboratively with its African partners, initiates innovative new research projects and fosters a network of national and international institutions from research, business, development cooperation and culture. It also strengthens the interdisciplinary, transregional and cross-national promotion of young researchers.



Circulation of knowledge

ZIAF sees itself as a forum that promotes the circulation of knowledge between Africa, Europe and the countries of the Global South. Knowledge generated in Europe about the countries and regions of Africa is to be made accessible to African scholars and the public in the same way as the knowledge production of African researchers in Germany. This is done, for example, by inviting African colleagues to Goethe University, where the focus is not only on joint research work but also on presenting the results at public events.

A new focus of ZIAF is to deal with Africa-related collection holdings at Goethe University. In addition, both collection objects and the jointly generated knowledge will be made increasingly accessible to the African public, e.g. through exhibitions, lectures, conferences and media products.

ZIAF is committed to the FAIR and CARE principles in dealing with research data.

Collaborative action

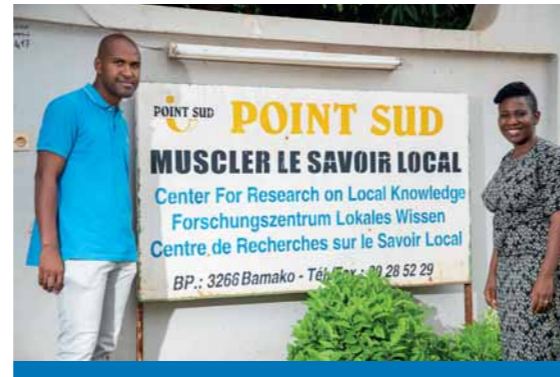
ZIAF follows the principle of collaborative action with African partners at all levels. This begins with the development of the project idea and ideally also extends to the administration of funds. To improve conditions on all levels ZIAF is actively involved in dialogue with important national research funding organisations such as DAAD, BMBF, DFG and several foundations, also within the framework of national and international associations (VAD, CrossArea, AEGIS).

Of particular importance are the long-established network programmes of ZIAF with various partner institutions in Anglo-, Francophone and Lusophone Africa for the promotion of graduate and doctoral researchers in Africa. They deal, among other things, with fundamental questions of the humanities and social sciences from an African perspective. This also includes transregional research approaches addressing Africa's global interconnectedness, for

example with Asian countries. Another focus of ZIAF is the implementation of academic events in Africa, which are carried out in partnership from conception to realisation.

Grown partnerships

ZIAF also sees its task in maintaining and stabilising partnerships and networks beyond the duration of projects. The Centre believes that long-term structures based on concrete joint projects are the best basis for a sustainable partnership at eye level. ZIAF's cooperation partners in Africa include renowned universities such as the University of Addis Ababa or the University of Ghana as well as regional institutions such as the Point Sud Research Centre in Bamako, non-governmental research organisations and networks in Anglo-, Francophone and Lusophone Africa. It is of great importance for the reliability of partnerships to maintain and uphold



them even in times of political crisis, as in the case of the partner organisations in the Sahel.

Support of innovative projects

ZIAF sees itself as a think tank for new ideas and approaches. With its funds, it promotes the collaborative development of interdisciplinary research ideas and projects together with African partners, also for the dissemination of knowledge in Africa. At present, the members of ZIAF are organised into four research foci. These focal points are permeable in terms of content and are continually adapted to project-specific developments.

I. Transregional studies

This research focus deals with interactions between Africa, Europe and Asia. The aim is to systematically explore, conceptualise and theoretically locate trans-regional "in-between spaces" that question previous spatial categorisations.

II. Cultural history and ecological change

The focus is on settlement history, economy and the formation of political structures, as well as prehistoric art in its social, cultural and ecological context. Research is conducted on the development of the cultural landscape under the influence of man as well as on climate and vegetation history in interaction with cultural development.

III. Language, discourses, communication

This area is devoted to linguistic analysis and sociolinguistics and focuses on questions of language and cultural change, such as the role of media and the change in communicative practices in migration processes. In addition, complex discursive processes in the context of political power relations, social institutions, economic action and religious beliefs are also studied.

IV. Sustainable resource management

Bio- and geoscientific research on sustainability deals with plant resources, the degradation of landscape ecosystems in times of climate change, and the environmental impacts of mining and infrastructure projects. Questions on the future availability of raw materials, political transparency and good governance are also addressed.

Courses with a connection to Africa

In line with Goethe University's mission statement, ZIAF promotes research-based learning in internationally oriented teaching. The interdisciplinary field and summer schools that have been held for many years are ideal instruments for cooperation between African and German teachers and students. ZIAF is striving to expand its Africa-related courses even further, especially concerning the inclusion of African partners.



CONTACT

Dr Stefan Schmid
Dr Karen Hahn
s.schmid@em.uni-frankfurt.de
karen.hahn@bio.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTION

ZIAF

WEB PAGES

www.ziaf.de
<http://afrikaforschung-rheinmain.de/>



Main research focus: Climate change and sustainable resource management

Africa with its 54 countries is the world's second-largest and second-most-populous continent after Asia. At about 30.3 million km² including adjacent islands, it covers 20% of its land area. With about 1.4 billion people, it accounts for almost 20% of the world's human population, and Africa's population is the youngest among all the continents.

ZIAF's main objectives in sustainability

Sustainability and cross-generational development are key social and ecological challenges that ZIAF addresses. In the countries of the Global South, rapid population growth is putting increasing pressure

on sensitive socio-ecological systems. Rural and urban areas are considered increasingly vulnerable in the framework of climate and land use change. Bio-scientific and geoscientific research at ZIAF is concerned with plant resources and their ecology, the paleoenvironment and degradation of landscape ecosystems, the challenges in infrastructure construction (dams and roads) and the shortage of water as well as sustainable food supply. The short- to long-term environmental impacts of mining and questions on the future availability of raw materials, actor analyses, political transparency and good governance illustrate the inter- and transdisciplinary complexity of the scientific context.

When it comes to climate and environmental change, Africa is extremely vulnerable. Located mainly in the tropics and subtropics, the continent is exposed to damaging climate risks including extreme droughts, flooding, and storms. This is because of human factors such as overpopulation, and the continent's climate and linked vegetation cover. All these interlinked challenges are complex, partly



poorly understood, and many of which have global dimensions. Many countries in Africa also have a low adaptive capacity making it particularly vulnerable and exposed because of high rates of poverty, financial and technological constraints as well as a heavy reliance on rain-fed and traditional agriculture.

Climate change

It is certain that the rising temperatures will exacerbate existing problems and vulnerabilities. The global focus is now on getting an agreement to halt the rise in the world's temperature. The outcome of the Paris Climate Summit in 2015 is particularly important for Africa because of the changes that may accompany climate change. With climate change and climate variability occurring, the poorest communities are set to suffer the most!

ZIAF projects with funding from numerous donors, such as EU, VW, DFG, and BMBF try to better understand the relationship between human, economic and natural factors in the past, at present and in the

future. The element of living cooperation with all African partners is a fact of everyday life.

Research on paleoecology

The paleoenvironment of the last ten thousand years in the African tropics can be evidenced by river sediments that act as "proxy data" for former environments. It shows when and how the low latitudes climate changed in the past. Pollen grains, which can be preserved in fluvial organic sediment deposits can be assigned to different plant species. My research group (Geoecology and Physical Geography) led a DFG and VW project that studied the "First Millennium Crisis" in Togo, Nigeria, and Cameroon, together with geomorphologists, archaeologists and archaeobotanists. It can be seen from the alluvial layers that the climate of equatorial Africa became far drier within a relatively short period of time. My team found out in the fluvial sediments that the vegetation changed around 3000 B.P. and the rainforest disappeared in many places. This could have an impact on the former migratory





movements of the people living there because the impenetrable rainforest had become a sparse savanna, across which they could advance southwards more easily. This can still be seen today in the way the Bantu language has spread throughout large parts of central and western Africa. For ZIAF's research approaches this gives an idea of the sensitivity of tropical ecosystems against natural modifications in climate and the environment.

Consequences for vegetation dynamics by the increase in carbon dioxide

Another example, EMSAfrica (*Ecological Management Support for Climate Change in Southern Africa*), is a German South African research project, exploring such interdisciplinary questions. In addition to the consequences of climate change, it is also looking at the effects of land use. The aim is to deliver sound scientific data that will help in the future to make the right decisions concerning adaptation to climate change and the sustainable management of ecosystems.



Thomas Hickler, a ZIAF member and Professor for Quantitative Biogeography and work group leader at the Senckenberg Research Institute, is responsible for "Vegetation and Ecosystem Modelling for Climate Impact Assessment". Together with his team, he is studying how plants and animals are recently distributed on Earth. The group is working on so-called CO₂ fertilisation. How intensive it is, depends on how plants conduct photosynthesis. Bushes and trees are C3 plants. C3 because the first product of their photosynthesis has three carbon atoms. C3 plants must close their stomata, through which they release water vapour when it is very hot and dry. This protects them from drying out, but at the same time, CO₂ can no longer enter their leaves, which they need for photosynthesis. The grasses of the savanna do not have this problem. They are among the rarer C4 plants, as during photosynthesis they first store CO₂ temporarily in a molecule

with four carbon atoms. Their advantage over C3 plants: it makes them independent of how much CO₂ diffuses passively through the stomata and they can manage well even with little CO₂ in the leaves. If extreme drought and high temperatures prevail, they keep their stomata closed to prevent water loss. However, this more efficient CO₂ storage is now proving to be a disadvantage because the C3 trees and bushes of the savanna are benefiting more from the rising CO₂ content in the atmosphere than the C4 grasses, with the result that the former is displacing the grass more and more. Such bush encroachment can already be observed in many places and is hardly explainable by anything other than the rise in CO₂.

The world of fungi in Africa

A basic research project on tropical fungi, as well as development cooperation between Goethe University (Meike Piepenbring, Professor of Mycology) and the *Université de Parakou* in Benin (Dr Nourou S. Yorou), is the BMBF project on "Diversity and Uses of

Fungi in Tropical Africa" which started in 2020 (see page 48). This sustainability project mainly focuses on education and research. Local Africans have a sophisticated knowledge of cultivation and preservation methods for their crops which do not require electricity or fossil energy sources. That's why reporting on Meike Piepenbring's experiences, continuing to take young people from Frankfurt and the ZIAF to Benin and showing them a different picture of Africa are also of great importance. Additionally, the project provides the partner in West Africa with equipment and methodological knowledge in such a way that Dr Yourou will conduct excellent research independently in the long term, and better train the Parakou young academic team in African mycology. All these selected examples show the diversity and sustainability of ZIAF activities and collaborative research and partnership with many individuals and institutions in Africa.



CONTACT
Prof. Jürgen Runge
jrunge@
em.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTION
Institute of Physical
Geography and ZIAF

WEB PAGE
<https://www.uni-frankfurt.de/45217452/Arbeitsgruppen>



I. Research field: transregional studies

Transregional research deals with the new interactions between Africa and other world regions. Transregional research is concerned with the systematic exploration, conceptualisation and theoretical location of transregional ‘in-between spaces’, i.e. for example corridors of transnational migration, zones of transnational social encounters, spaces of transnational social and political action or spaces of transnational imaginaries. How such spaces are filled with life, i.e. are stabilised institutionally and infrastructurally, for example, and how they transform conventional spatial orders are concrete questions that research on current processes of transregionalisation addresses.

CEDITRAA – cultural entrepreneurship and digital transformation in Africa and Asia 16



CEDITRAA – cultural entrepreneurship and digital transformation in Africa and Asia

In the wake of the *cultural turn* and the *mobility turn* in area studies and with a decidedly transregional focus CEDITRAA studies the digital transformation of cultural production in Africa and Asia with a focus on music and film, and West Africa and East Asia. The focus is on Nigeria and South Korea in particular, two countries with film and music industries with a global reach and two poles of what Fatima Bhutto has proposed to call the “new world order of cultural production”, in which megacities like Mumbai, Istanbul, Lagos and Seoul emerge as centres of production and primary markets to rival

the old cultural hubs of Paris, London, New York and Los Angeles. Film and music stand in for other forms of cultural expression, but they are of particular interest because the practices of film and music production and distribution have been particularly impacted by digitization. Digital technologies and new platforms for distribution transform not just our cultural maps and challenge the boundaries and limits of the established nation state order. They change the very practices of creation and cultural production, as well as our notion of the arts as an expression of a given culture. Increasingly, we observe distributed networks of production, in which cultural entrepreneurs collaborate across national boundaries and across continents, thus calling into question conceptions of culture as the expression of a spatially limited polity. The widespread popularity of music and film and the rapid distribution effects across digital networks make these two art forms, particularly appropriate points of entry for the study of broader transformations of spatial organizations,

cognitive maps and cultural practices. Studying music and film offers a focus on the dynamics of the appropriation and recombination of cultural forms, formats and contents in a transregional perspective. Digitization is a particularly productive point of entry as it concerns all levels of cultural production, distribution and reception: infrastructures, legal framework, archival practices and knowledge networks. At the same time, the emergence of a global digital sphere of circulation and exchange projects the possible transformations of established political and spatial frameworks. In order to tackle this challenge CEDITRAA brings together a team of experienced specialists who cover both Asia and West Africa.

Research question and approach

Cultural industries with transregional reach are a key factor of economic development in the regions of origin, and they strengthen the “soft power” of the regions of origin. In the 20th century, the main

beneficiary of soft power through music and film was the United States (and to a lesser extent, through cinema and fashion, France and Italy). In the 21st century, new players in the Global South compete with the US. Using Netflix as a platform and emulating the release strategies and production values of Hollywood blockbuster films, Indian cinema now regularly launches global hit films like *RRR*, a Telugu historical drama-cum-action thriller from 2021, and *Pathaan*, the latest action thriller featuring Hindi film industry superstar icon of the Global South Shah Rukh Khan, which has been setting box office records in India and abroad in January 2023. East Asia and West Africa are similarly important competitors in this field. Countries like Nigeria and South Korea are reshaping the world map of cultural production and move from regional actors to dominant players with global reach. The widespread popularity of Korean and Nigerian films demonstrates that political and cultural spaces no longer coincide. The key factors in this development are



urbanization and digitization in combination with a “dramatic process of re-spatialization”: Megacities like Lagos, Kinshasa, Seoul or Taipei are now global production centres and primary markets; digital technologies lower thresholds of access for producers, distributors and users; and digital formats and their development are increasingly driven by platforms and data-base business models. They resonate with audiences across the world but particularly in the new conurbations in the Global South because they reflect and shape the experience of urban migration and modernization in “arrival cities” in a way which is beyond the reach of Western cultural industries.

Cultural production evolves in a novelty spiral. Films and music are considered relevant to the extent that they are novel, and they tend to be more successful if they offer innovative variations of pre-existing and well-known material. Appropriation and re-



combination in a local, regional and transregional perspective is a key driver of the new cultural industries: Elements of the cultural heritage of a given region are appropriated alongside global templates like soap operas, Bollywood songs and dance numbers, reggae and rap. This also provides a new perspective on the debate about restitution. Heritage is always a source and a gauge of novelty. The fact that large parts of the musical and cinematic heritage of West Africa linger in archives of the Global North threatens this connection. Digitization offers new perspectives for archiving and virtual restitution which can also feed into cultural production in new ways. The cooperation between Goethe University and the Nigerian film Corporation with a view to training a new generation of heritage specialists, the Frobenius Institute’s digitization efforts or the digitization of hundreds of historical films by the Korean National Film Archive are cases in point.

Between local audience preferences and regional and global interaction, the sphere of cultural production and distribution constitutes a paradigmatic case of a transregional *re-spatialization*. Art forms like film are indicators of spatial transformations and divergent temporalities. Studying cultural production is thus both a key concern of and a laboratory for the further development of area studies. CEDITRAA research questions are: *How does digitization transform the production of music and film in Sub-Saharan Africa and in East Asia? And how does the emergence of transregional digital spheres of cultural exchange change our conceptual frameworks for the analysis of the political, economic and social dynamics of a given area?*

Structure

In Frankfurt, CEDITRAA builds on the successful cooperation of ZIAF and IZO in the framework of the



BMBF-funded area studies project AFRASO. At the same time CEDITRAA is the first cooperative research initiative with a focus on Africa involving both the universities of Frankfurt and Mainz. In Mainz, CEDITRAA involves African Studies, Cultural Anthropology, the African Music Archives and the Centre for Intercultural Studies.

Activities in 2023

Dr Egbert Amoncio has been working on the distinctiveness of South Korean films and the derivative cultural products, such as film trailers and posters. This with the view on how their distinctiveness participates in the international success of Korean films. He has been conducting field research and interviews in South Korea, with one methodological focus being the access to and the use of Korean cultural and film industry’s trade tools and platforms.

Cassandra Chistinean, whose research focuses on women in Korean cinema, conducted in the second half of the year a six-week field research in South Korea, attending workshops and events at the Busan Film Festival and interviewing a significant number of Korean film and television industry professionals. It was also an occasion to attend the Situations International Conference at the Yonsei University, thematically centred around the Korean film and TV industry in the digital age. Lastly, it included research at the Korean Film Archive in order to gain access to sources not available outside Korea. Out of this research would be developed a paper on the success of South Korean content on digital platforms.

Dr Mirjam Tröster, after a hiatus caused by the pandemic, carried out research trips to South Korea and Taiwan, attending Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival in July and Kaohsiung and Taipei Film Festivals in the fall. Another part of the research included work at the Taiwan Film and Audiovisual Institute and at the Kaohsiung Film Archive. Tröster's research partly focuses on the international network built around Kaohsiung Film Festival and Archive and the cooperation between Taiwan and Korea through transmedia and immersive media projects, including VR.

Professor Hyginus Ekwuazi and **Usaku Wammanda**, whose research focuses on virtual reality and digital

transformation, are exploring in two forthcoming research papers the visibility of the documentary film in Nigeria, which has been marginalized in comparison to feature films, and the conjunction of documentary filmmaking and the VR.

Professor Yonson Ahn, along with her research focus on the representation of women in Korean cinema as well as the phenomenon of K-pop fandom in Africa, has been working on Korean webtoons and digital comics in Germany, with several publications in the works. Her research in Korea included the participation in two workshops at the Busan Film Festival and the attendance of the 11th World Congress of Korean Studies.

Tom Simmert carried out a lengthy field research in Lagos in August and September. This was the occasion to establish contacts with and interview Nigerian music industry professionals, exploring the effects of TikTok on the Nigerian music industry and

how global platforms popularize Nigerian music. In an additional research track, he explored the production and the local and global distribution of Afrobeat sound packs and the role of podcasts in the Nigerian media landscape.

Junior Professor Sonia Campanini explores in her research Nollywood remakes, which was the basis for several conference participations, including at the Eye International Conference in Amsterdam, and publications. As part of the guest professorship at the Konrad Wolf Film University of Babelsberg, the focus on gender in Nigerian cinema and its industry has come to form an additional research track, with particular attention paid to the role of Nigerian female filmmakers and the use of media platforms in their entrepreneurial strategy.

Dr Izuu Nwankwo research focuses on the use of Nigerian cultural products by non-Nigerian individuals as part of their social media content. He con-

ducted interviews both in and outside Nigeria to find out how these individuals have come in contact with Nigerian culture.

Professor Ute Röschenthaler is active in different parts of the CEDITRAA project, with one focus on the dissemination of cultural practices and cultural mobility. Along that line of enquiry, she organized two workshops, in July and in September, one on how different countries have developed their distinct copyright laws, covering cases on five continents. The second workshop discussed the possibilities of making the collections of the African Music Archives at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz accessible to the larger public without running afoul of copyright laws. In addition to that, she carried out field research in South Korea in August, interviewing African musicians and exploring the particular dynamics that bring African music to the South Korean cultural context.

CONTACT

Prof. Vinzenz Hediger
hediger@
tfm.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTIONS

Goethe University Frankfurt;
Johannes Gutenberg
University Mainz

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

Pan-Atlantic University
Lagos; African Music
Archives (AMA) and
Centre of Intercultural
Studies (ZIS), University
Mainz; IZO; ZIAF

DURATION

4/2021 – 3/2024
(1. Project Phase)

FUNDING

Federal Ministry of
Education and
Research (BMBF, DLR)

WEB PAGE

<https://www.ceditraa.net>





II. Research field: cultural history and ecological change

Because of the rarity of written sources, Africa has often been called a “history-less continent”. The opposite is the case. The material legacies of Africa’s past cultures brought to light and interpreted using archaeological methods, reveal the continent’s diverse and fascinating past. The focus is on settlement history, economy and the formation of political structures, as well as prehistoric art in its social, cultural and ecological context. Palaeoecology investigates the formation of cultural landscapes under the influence of humans, as well as climate and vegetation changes in the interplay with cultural development. Geographical foci are West and Central Africa, Ethiopia and Namibia.

Past worlds, bygone times – documenting rock art in Namibia	24
Cultivated landscapes – land-use and cultural landscape development in north-hemispheric African savannas	28
Connecting the middle Niger through borrowed words and shared objects: archaeo-linguistic network analysis and modelling of cultural entanglements between the Sahara and the forest zone (AD 700–1500)	29
The Lake Chad region as a crossroads	30
The Tumuli zone of central West Senegal: geophysical and archaeological investigations into a buried cultural landscape	32
Plant environment and resource exploitation in SW Ethiopia >50 ka to the present	34



Past worlds, bygone times – documenting rock art in Namibia

Rock art research in Namibia has a long German tradition – from the discovery of the “White Lady” in the Brandberg 1918 by R. Maack through the groundbreaking documentation works by E. R. Scherz and H. Pager to the discovery of Africa’s oldest mobile art in the Apollo 11 cave by W. E. Wendt and excavations by W. E. Wendt and other archaeologists from Cologne University.

Mik Mountains research project

Since 2015, Africanist archaeologists from Goethe University in Frankfurt have continued this tradition in northwestern Namibia, in and west of the UNESCO World Heritage site of Twyfelfontein. Here,

11,760 rock engravings and 1635 rock paintings were recorded in 222 rock art sites in an area called “Mik Mountains” encompassing 1600 km² in the Namib desert. Considering that 16,000 engravings were known before in all of Namibia, this project has contributed significantly to the fund of prehistoric Namibian rock art. In the arid landscape of the Namib desert, engravings occur in large numbers in the vicinity of water sources, essential for survival for both people and animals and an ideal spot for hunters. Paintings, on the contrary, play a subordinate role in the Mik Mountains and are found mostly in hidden rock shelters. Yet, the common occurrence of both engravings and paintings is a special feature of Namibia. In other regions of southern Africa, both traditions occur in geographically separated areas.

Extending research across Namibia

The Mik project has been accompanied by initiatives to transfer the experiences and concepts to images in other areas of Namibia. The aim has been to test the hypothesis of a connection between water and rock engravings, to record stylistic similarities or differences, and to explore the co-occurrence of rock engravings and rock paintings. The applied digital methods allow a quick and efficient documentation, which has been described in detail in prior ZIAF annual reports. Besides aerial photos of the sites and wider landscapes, series of high-reso-

lution photos of the rock art are taken on-site. Later, 3D models and orthogonal projections of the image walls are created from the photo series using the special Structure from Motion software. The next steps include digital contrast enhancements of the images with the DStretch software, a description of all motifs and their redrawing with a graphic programme.

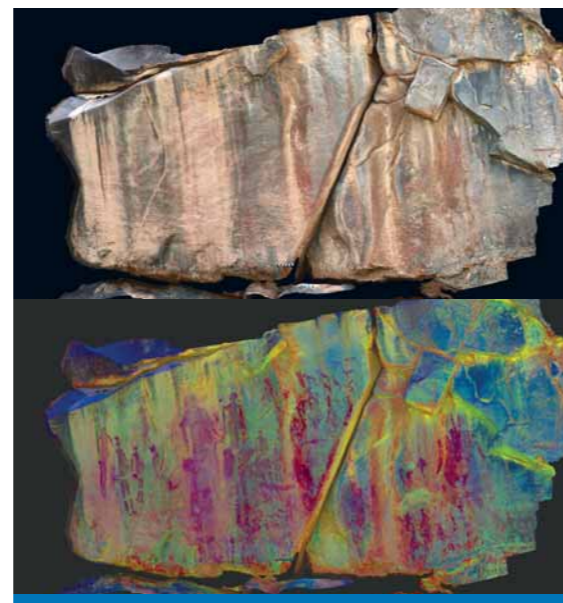
In 2019, the Erongo Mountains were one such rock art area explored besides the Mik Mountains. At Anibib farm, this resulted in the documentation of 208 sites with more than 4500 individual rock paintings. Again, this amount is significantly larger than the 80 sites with 5300 images that had been known from the Erongo Mountains in total before. Due to corona, fieldwork was interrupted but resumed in spring 2022 with visits to more areas in Namibia where rock art sites have been known since their recording by E. R. Scherz and to new sites reported by farm owners.

East, south, northwest – rock art almost everywhere. Fieldwork in 2022 started east of Windhoek, on the western fringes of the Kalahari. Rock engravings have been known to occur along the banks of mostly dry rivers (or “riviers”). In spots where the red quartzite crops out and water is stored in bedrock depressions or potholes, engravings are never far. Contrary to the Mik Mountains, where engravings are found on large sandstone boulders and often stand out brightly against the rock surface, they occur here on flat quartzite bedrock and are barely visible and heavily patinated. We visited the farms Margaretental and Klein-Witvlei and documented so far unknown rock art sites along the White Nosob rivier. This proves that the connection between water and rock engravings is a clear feature of rock art in eastern Namibia as well.

The same is true for rock art found in southern Namibia, recorded by E. R. Scherz. It concentrates along the riviers in the region south of an axis



Lüderitz and Keetmanshop. On the blue-black dolomite bedrock, engravings stand out in white, more or less brightly depending on their age and state of patination. One of the largest occurrences is found on the farm Aar. In March 2022, the Aar rivier carried water in some deeper areas of the riverbed, after heavy rainfalls in the weeks before. On the high banks of this rivier and its tributaries, engravings are found in large numbers on flat bedrock. The oldest and most patinated images are naturalistic animal and sometimes human depictions, combined with some geometric circle forms. But these are by far outnumbered by a variety of abstract, often amorphous images of different degrees of patination. Contrary to the Mik Mountains where abstract designs are thought to represent the oldest phase, followed by naturalistic and later stylised depictions, the sequence seems to be different in southern Namibia. Rock shelters in the high walls of the riverbanks contain numerous stone artefacts



and feature rock paintings – similar to the Mik region more hidden than the engravings and much less in number.

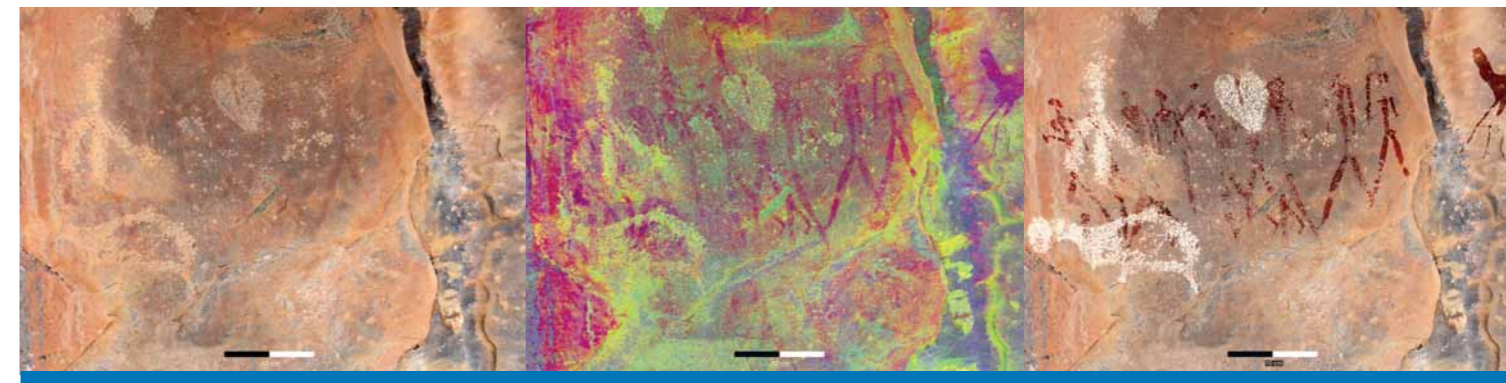
Most Namibian rock art is found in the northwestern part of the country, of which the Mik Mountains with their large concentration of engravings are one major spot. The Brandberg and the Erongo Mountains, on the other side, feature the highest concentrations of rock paintings in the country. Rock paintings and rock engravings are so different from each other in their techniques of production, the depicted motifs and styles that one must assume that different groups of people with different traditions were responsible for their making. Just as paintings are rare in regions where engravings dominate, en-

gravings are rare in regions with painting concentrations. There is only one gorge in the Brandberg where engravings occur alongside paintings, and there are only few spots in the Erongo with engravings that we have documented.

Painters versus engravers

The 2022 fieldwork has proven that there is a connection between water and engravings in other parts of Namibia as well, though there are differences in environment and in style and motifs of the images. Many more rock art sites are known in all parts of Namibia, and it would be a worthwhile, though challenging task to document them with our modern digital methods and to create a digital archive preserving the sites for the future.

Another question, however, which we plan to address in the future, deals with the connections between painters and engravers. Did the groups have home territories that they marked with rock art?



Did one group at certain times enter the territory of the other group, leaving behind their markings? Did they exist at the same time or are there generations between them? There are sites in the Mik Mountains, the Brandberg and elsewhere, where paintings and engravings occur in the same spot, sometimes respecting each other, sometimes superimposing and destroying the respective other.

Analyses of the spatial relations between engravings and paintings, as well as stylistic analyses of superimposed images, may provide answers to some of these questions and possibly establish a relative chronology of engravings and paintings.

PUBLICATIONS

Peter Breunig, Gabriele Franke 2022. Neuigkeiten aus der Steinzeit. Frankfurter Archäologie erforscht Felsbilder in der Namib-Wüste, *Forschung Frankfurt* 1.2022: 70–75

Peter Breunig 2022. Painted Stories. *A Guide to the Rock Art of AiAiba (Anibib Farm), Erongo Mountains, Namibia*. Kuiseb Publishers, Windhoek.

CONTACT

Prof. Peter Breunig
Dr Gabriele Franke
breunig@em.uni-frankfurt.de
g.franke@em.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTIONS

African Archaeology and Archaeobotany; Institute for Archaeological Sciences

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

Cologne University; National Heritage Council, Namibia

DURATION

7/2017 – 2/2023

FUNDING

German Research Foundation (DFG)



Cultivated landscapes – land-use and cultural landscape development in north-hemispheric African savannas

CONTACT

Dr Alexa Höhn

a.hoehn@em.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTION

Institute for Archaeological Sciences, Department of Prehistory and Early History

DURATION

3/2019 – 2/2025

FUNDING

German Research Foundation (DFG)

WEB PAGE

<https://www.dainst.blog/en/tangled-africa/en/p05-cultivated-landscapes-en/>



Human agents have shaped vast regions of African savannas during the Late Holocene through intentional fires, pastoralism and eventually plant food-production. Especially farming has had a major impact on landscapes in Africa, visible in landforms as well as in the vegetation composition itself. The reality that much of sub-Saharan Africa has been transformed by farmers stands in stark contrast to the way many people in the global north imagine Africa – these “farmscapes” often seem natural at first glance, since trees form an integral part of many of them. Selected useful trees grow in the middle of fields and stumps of cleared trees are not removed. During fallow periods, shrub thickets grow and tree stumps develop back into small trees. Human selection thus shapes the woody vegetation composition and has created various types of farmscapes reflecting different types of land-use.

In order to understand better the history, past dynamics and sustainability of these systems, the project takes a supra-regional perspective on the past interrelations of land-use practices and the woody vegetation. To this end, we are examining wood charcoals from key regions of archaeological research from Senegal to Sudan, dating to the last 3000 years. The created database also incorporates previously published anthracological results and forms the base of further investigations on distribution and spread of different farmscapes in relation to land use and environmental factors.

The project is embedded into collaborations within the priority programme “Entangled Africa” and makes extensive use of the digital infrastructure provided by “iDAI”. Aspects of this include publishing images and descriptions of charcoal types in “iDAI.objects” to promote and facilitate anthracological investigations in Africa, and mapping and publishing evidence of important useful trees synchronously and diachronously on “iDAI.geoserver”.



Connecting the middle Niger through borrowed words and shared objects: archaeo-linguistic network analysis and modelling of cultural entanglements between the Sahara and the forest zone (AD 700 – 1500)

This research project investigates cultural contact and interaction along the middle reaches of the Niger in the period prior to 1500 from a joint perspective of historical linguistics and archaeology. In our approach, we map entanglement via dynamic networks and analyze historical regional interaction in an interdisciplinary and multimodal network model as well as via the stratification of historical language and cultural contact. In doing so, we draw on recent developments in historical loanword and network research and develop new possibilities for cooperation between historical linguistics and archaeology. In its exploration of the middle Niger as a connected cultural sphere, our approach provides a new perspective on one of the most dynamic and diverse areas of West African history.

Our results so far show that systematic comparison of taxonomies and inventories gives new insights into the history of material culture and highly valuable insight into culture contact and its history. They further show that employing a network approach leads to new insights into the structure of historical connections and leads to new interpretations of the area’s material record.

The second phase, begun in October 2022, extends the area of research to the Lower and Upper Niger. Our focus is on the question of contact between Manding varieties (Bambara- Maninka), and Manding and Northern Mande cultures (e.g. Bambara- Soninke, Soninke-Bozo). New fieldwork in the Kankan area of Guinea was begun in December 2022, to complement our existing datasets from Mali, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Gambia.



CONTACT

Dr Nikolas Gestrich

gestrich@uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTION

Frobenius Institute

PARTNER

INSTITUTIONS

Hamburg University; Université Sciences Sociales et Gestion Bamako; Université Cheick Anta Diop, Dakar; Université Julius Nyerere, Kankan

DURATION

10/2019 – 9/2025

FUNDING

German Research Foundation (DFG)

WEB PAGE

<https://www.dainst.blog/entangled-africa/projekt-9-lehnwoerter-und-tauschobjekte/>



The Lake Chad region as a crossroads

The Kanem-Borno Empire emerged at Lake Chad in the 8th or 9th century AD, in the west of what is now the Republic of Chad. It existed as an independent political power until the 19th c., making it one of the longest-lived states south of the Sahara. Most of what we know about its early development comes from medieval and later written sources. Thanks to them, we're aware of the empire's early economic and diplomatic ties with North Africa, the period of the introduction of Islam as a religion, and the names, reigns, and actions of most of its rulers. Despite these and other details, essential questions on the empire remain unanswered, especially as to the pre-15th c. period. Some of the great riddles concern the circumstances of its formation, its uniden-

tified early capitals, the early political organization and its relations with other African peoples and regions. Due to the lack of usable written sources, few historians have ventured to answer these questions.

Refuse and ruins as evidence

Unlike written sources, there is little lack of archaeological remains from the empire's Golden Age. Remarkable remains are the ruins of settlement sites whose most prominent buildings and structures were made of fired bricks. While a few 15th–19th c. sites in Borno (present-day Nigeria and Niger) have been partially investigated, older settlements in the Kanem region of Chad remained fully unexplored. As part of the DFG Priority Program 2143 "Entangled Africa" established in 2019, the project "The Lake Chad Region as a Crossroads" is committed to the study of archaeological remains from Kanem-Borno's early centuries (8th–14th c.). Based on new discoveries, the main goal is to detect hitherto unknown early connections of the state with other parts of Africa.

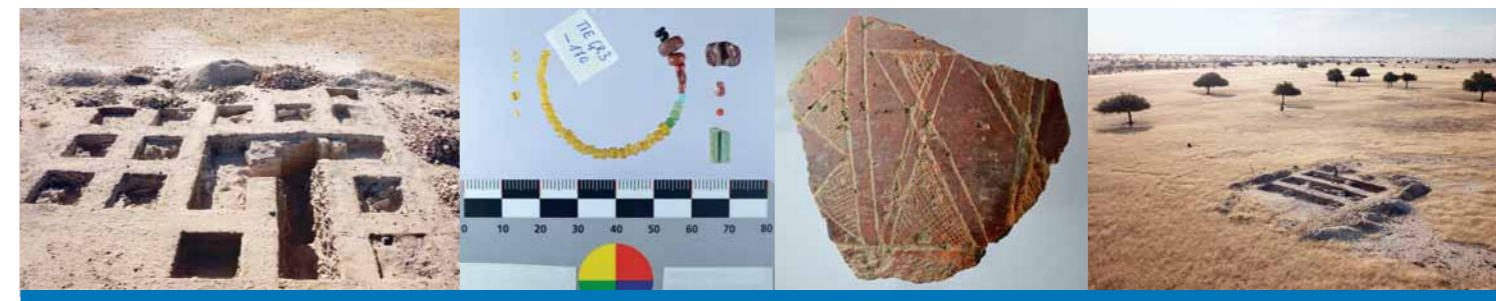
Glass beads: contacts to East and West Africa

In 2019, during the initial excavations at Tié – the largest of over 90 now-known brick sites in central Kanem – we came across numerous glass beads from the 12th to 14th centuries. In appearance, they resemble specimens from the greater Indian Ocean region, but some look like beads produced in the Ile-

lfe area of southern Nigeria. Chemical analyses confirm this impression and indicate previously unknown trans-Sudanic connections between Lake Chad, the East African coast, and the West African rainforest at that time.

Tié: the first Islamic capital Njimi rediscovered

A surprising result of the archaeological work at Tié is the discovery of a 12th c. brick building with unique characteristics. It consists of a rectangular 5m high structure with massive external walls and a series of rooms with white lime-plastered internal walls, built around a rectangular, likewise lime-plastered courtyard. Its significance is that it is not the only known construction of the High Middle Ages south of the Sahara built in North African style. The use of fine white plaster is also extremely rare and south of the Sahara only attested at Gao, the capital of the kingdom of Kawkaw in Mali. Thus, in addition to the site's size, especially that building indicates that Tié is most likely the historically known but long-lost first Islamic capital of Kanem-Borno – Njimi.



Kanem-Borno's imperial pottery

Most of the thousands of artefacts excavated at Tié and other sites are potsherds. These are now being analysed as part of a PhD thesis. In addition to a pottery sequence for Kanem and the entire empire, typical ceramic features will be used to trace migration, and regional and interregional contacts.

Exhibition

To highlight the research that has been underway since 2019, an exhibition funded by ZIAF will be held at the National Museum of Chad in late 2024. The aim is to present to the Chadian people the results of the project and exceptional objects in the context of Kanem-Borno history.

PUBLICATION

Magnavita, S., MacDonald, B., Magnavita, C., Oga, A. (in press). LA-ICP-MS analysis of glass beads from Tié (12th–14th centuries), Kanem, Chad: evidence of trans-Sudanic exchanges. *Archaeometry* 65.



CONTACT

Carlos Magnavita
c.magnavita@em.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTION

Frobenius Institute

PARTNER

INSTITUTIONS
Université de N'Djamena,
Centre National de
Recherche pour le
Développement (CNRD)

DURATION

1/2019 – 12/2025

FUNDING

German Research
Foundation (DFG)

WEB PAGE

<https://frobenius-institut.de/forschung/laufende-projekte>



The Tumuli zone of central West Senegal: geophysical and archaeological investigations into a buried cultural landscape

Introduction

Thousands of burial mounds are known throughout Senegal, but the highest density occurs in the central West of the country. Remarkably, apart from the presence of the prominent monuments, other traces of the human occupation of that region remain archaeologically elusive. Standard reconnaissance surveys conducted within the past 40 years were only able to record the archaeological “emptiness” near the mounds, and at best a few “off-site” artefact scatters. Contrary to the former, the results of a preceding DFG-funded project directed by Son-

ja Magnavita have demonstrated that settlement remains from various pre- and protohistorical periods can be relatively easily located if a suitable methodology is employed. The current landscape-based archaeological project, therefore, seeks to combine state-of-the-art technologies in the field of geophysics and conventional archaeological methodologies.

The research area

The project deals specifically with two large burial mound clusters near the modern localities of Kael and Thiékène south of Mbacké in Senegal. The site of Thiékène is known throughout the country for its numerous and particularly monumental earthen tumuli. Presumably, at the time of the construction of the burial mounds about 800 or 1000 years ago, Kael and other locations with tumuli also looked similar, but nowadays they are much less visible due to erosive processes. For this situation, as well as for the very difficult-to-recognise ancient settlement traces in the region, field archaeological work can be excellently combined with geophysical methodology. Several hundred hectares around the burial mounds have now been prospected for this purpose using geomagnetics (gradiometry) and have indeed revealed a large array of anthropogenic structures in the ground. The project has already been running since 2019, but field research had to be put on hold for a longer period of time due to the Covid19 pan-

demical. Nevertheless, important results have already been achieved: occupation remains can be traced over at least six millennia, with the peaks of human activities in both Thiékène and Kael being in the Iron Age (broadly first millennium CE) and the subsequent Middle Ages. For this period, a pottery sequence could be developed within the framework of a master’s thesis, and we were able to gain a first insight into the environment and use of plants in the region by means of archaeobotanical investigations. There are also numerous traces of iron metallurgy that are still being investigated in more detail.

Monuments at risk

Although the funerary monuments are at least partially known as such by the Senegalese public, little is known about their history, time depth and cultural embedding in the centre of medieval Senegal. By integrating them into a national museum area in Senegal, artefacts and the knowledge gained through archaeological research will be presented to the public for the first time. This can now be re-

alised with financial support from the ZIAF by the end of 2023. Even if the primary aim is to show objects and their history, another goal is to raise public awareness for the preservation of the monuments also known as *mbanar* (in Wolof language) as cultural monuments worthy of protection but acutely threatened.

PUBLICATIONS

Magnavita, S. 2017. First geophysical exploration in the tumuli zone of Central Senegal: A multidimensional approach. *Azania: Archaeological Research in Africa* 52 (1), 100–122.

Magnavita, S. & Mertz-Kraus, R. 2019. XRF and LA-ICP-MS studies of gold and silver artefacts from a 12–13th century CE tumulus in Senegal: implications for the medieval African gold trade. *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 23, 416–425.

CONTACT

Prof. Sonja Magnavita
s.magnavita@em.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTION

Institute for Archaeological Sciences; Department of Prehistory and Early History

PARTNER

INSTITUTIONS

IFAN-UCAD Dakar, Senegal; DAI Berlin, Department of Cultural Property Protection

DURATION

1/2019 – 12/2023

FUNDING

German Research Foundation (DFG)





Plant environment and resource exploitation in SW Ethiopia > 50 ka to the present

The highlands of SW Ethiopia are discussed as a refugium area for humans during arid periods of the Late Quaternary, due to their high rainfall conditions. Recent archaeological excavations with stratigraphies from about 400 to > 50,000 years before today prove the presence of *Homo sapiens*. However, so far comprehensive data on paleovegetation are of human activities, mobility and resource utilization. Our interdisciplinary project aims to reconstruct the paleovegetation using archaeological plant remains as well as modelling approaches, and to assess their utilization potential. In 2022, the first joint project workshop of the project partners of

the Senckenberg Research Institute, Addis Ababa University and Goethe University took place in Frankfurt.

Vegetation reconstruction

To understand how plant ecosystems changed in the region through time, we have modelled past vegetation distributions since the Last Glacial Maximum (22 ka BP) using detailed maps of modern potential vegetation combined with recently produced paleoclimatic data. The modelled distributions show significant changes in the extent of the main vegetation units, validated by regional pollen records. Contrary to long-standing hypotheses, we found that Afromontane forests covered a much larger extent over the Late Glacial than at present, migrating to lower elevations. With the start of the Holocene (~11 ka), the expansion of forests began to reverse. This decline intensified over the second half of the Holocene (5 ka to present) leading to a retreat of the forests to higher elevations where they are restricted today.

Reconstruction of the actual vegetation around the archaeological sites is achieved through analysis of plant remains recovered from the excavations. The rock shelters Mochena Borago (2200 m asl) and Sodiicho (1900 m asl) delivered rich assemblages of charred wood and phytoliths. The charcoal of Sodiicho, dated between 4700 before present and modern times, demonstrates that the site was located

in a transition zone between savanna and Afromontane forest and that humans intensively shaped the vegetation with bushfires. The Late Pleistocene (50–38 ka) charcoal of Mochena Borago points to a more closed forest less influenced by fire, with *Juniperus* and *Olea* as major woody taxa. However, the phytoliths of both sites indicate that the savanna was in close proximity, and fluctuating temperatures shaped the relative position of the sites between savanna and forest. Humans at both sites had always access to both vegetation types, increasing the resource potential.

Plant resources

In order to assess the potential plant food resources in the Afromontane forests and adjacent vegetation types, comprehensive ethnobotanical data from literature and websites are entered into the database PlantBITES. The data comprise information on edibility and other uses, e.g. as firewood or tools. Three master students of Addis Ababa University conduct complementary ethnobotanical field studies. Data analysis aims to estimate how the availability of food resources might have changed in the course of

the distribution changes of Afromontane forests and adjacent vegetation types. First analyses show a diverse plant food spectrum in the Afromontane forests, dominated by fruits, seeds and leaves. How this food spectrum differs from those in savannas and whether an opening of the landscape, e.g. through fire use, could have led to an improved food supply is the subject of further research.

Capacity development / wood anatomy / charcoal

In close cooperation with the Ethiopian partners, we were able to export legally wood samples from trees and shrubs distributed in the Afromontane forest. Microscopic slides of these woods were prepared both for the German and Ethiopian partners. In addition, we produced a teaching collection for Ethiopia. The intensive wood anatomical training of the Ethiopian partners in Frankfurt in summer 2022 provides the base to integrate wood anatomical studies into the curriculum at Addis Ababa University. German and Ethiopian partners intensively cooperate in the analysis of charcoal from archaeological sites.



CONTACT

Prof. Katharina Neumann
Dr Karen Hahn

k.neumann@em.uni-frankfurt.de
karen.hahn@bio.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTIONS

Palaeoanthropology Section/Research Institute Senckenberg; Institute of Ecology, Evolution & Diversity/ZIAF

PARTNER

INSTITUTIONS

Addis Ababa University; University of Cologne; Stony Brook University; University of Florida; University of Cambridge

DURATION

6/2021 – 5/2024

FUNDING

German Research Foundation (DFG)

WEB PAGE

<https://gepris.dfg.de/gepris/projekt/446948552?language=de>



III. Research field: language, discourses, communication

Cultural practices are closely tied to language. Meaningful action is inconceivable without language. At the ZIAF we therefore also work on linguistic topics. This ranges from linguistic analysis and sociolinguistics to questions of language and cultural change, the role of media and the transformation of communicative practices in migration. Comparative approaches to the study of culture tend to view language primarily as a vehicle of traditional knowledge and the transmission of specific techniques. In addition, cultural and social studies examine political power relations, social institutions, economic action and religious beliefs that result from complex discursive processes. The research field “language, discourses, communication” is dedicated to these phenomena.

- Potentials of a collection – tracking, perceiving relationships and sharing **38**

- Addressing development challenges in linguistics in Ethiopia **40**

- Berber speakers in the Rhine-Main region: migration, minority status and masculinity **41**

- Language use and linguistic variation in multilingual urban groups – a micro perspective on professional networks in Ngaoundéré, Cameroon II ... **42**

- IMAGEUN – in the mirror of the European neighbourhood (policy): mapping macro-regional imaginations **43**

- On the saf(v)e side: informal economic associations and future aspirations in the Ethiopian diaspora **44**

- Archival study of vernacular building traditions in Ethiopia **45**



Potentials of a collection – tracking, perceiving relationships and sharing

The Oswin Köhler Archive houses the world’s largest collection of documents (vernacular texts, photos, films, audio recordings, ethnographic objects, plant samples, drawings and dossiers) on the culture and language of the Khwe in Namibia’s Bwabwata National Park. The German Africanist Oswin Köhler compiled it between 1959 and 1992.

The Khwe are one of the former hunter-gatherer groups in southern Africa called “San” or “Bushmen”. Tracking as the origin of science, relational ontologies, and sharing are key cultural achievements of San and other hunter-gatherer communities. The project intends to apply these approaches, principles and values to the Khwe collection in the Oswin



Köhler Archive. Building on previous work, it does so by three interlinked sets of questions or work packages, and in cooperation with Khwe from Namibia.

Tracking

In this work package, we seek to examine the impact of the main protagonists and of the circumstances of Köhler’s research on the documentation. To this end, the traces of working routines and ways of thinking in the cultural testimonies themselves, in archival files, and in memories of contemporary witnesses are analysed and interpreted.

Perceiving relationships

Here we question the categories and terms applied by Oswin Köhler in the structure of the vernacular encyclopaedia “The World of the Khwe Bushmen”. We explore how relationships between human and non-human subjective beings appear when they are released from Köhler’s categorisation system. We also examine how the results fit into recent comparative work on relational ontologies of San more generally.

Sharing

Finally, we investigate how the archive holdings are interpreted when Khwe work with and do research on them and how the presentation of the collection can be redesigned with and for the Khwe in the long term.

Mobile exhibition

In 2019, the ZIAF funded a three-week workshop with two Khwe from Namibia at the Oswin Köhler Archive in Frankfurt. During that workshop, they designed a small exhibition, which they called “Bwabwata Khwen di lléúkàkuxú à” (Things from the Khwe of Bwabwata to show others). A mobile version of the exhibition was taken to Namibia within the scope of the current project in order to present and discuss it with Khwe in different villages. It was well received by elders and young people alike, who engaged in discussions about the past, about original Khwe culture as well as missing objects in the exhibition and the collection. Notably, young people were more concerned with pristine Khwe culture than elders were. For example, they found fault in arrow tips from iron instead of bone, or basket types they identified as copied from the neighbouring Mbukushu, whereas the elder people took such objects as the ones they used to live with. The ZIAF has already agreed to fund a follow-up workshop with four to five Khwe in Frankfurt, which is going to take place in 2023.



Fieldwork in Namibia

Due to the Covid19 pandemic, a first field stay could only take place in 2022. It focussed on the first work package and included archival work at the National Archives of Namibia, interviews with contemporary witnesses among the Khwe, research on the producers of ethnographic objects in the collection with so far rather poor results, and a collaborative analysis of the Khwe correspondence between Oswin Köhler and his field assistant Ndo Tinene. The contents of the letters, to be edited and published in 2023, range from extensive greetings and thanks, the weather, demands for support by Köhler’s workers and their families and Köhler’s responses to them, personal and family matters such as illnesses, births, marriages, deaths and relocations, to rare mentions of political conditions and attitudes. For the Khwe, with whom I discussed the letters, they spoke of the deep trust between Ndo and Köhler in the first place.

CONTACT

Dr Gertrud Boden
boden@em.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTION

Institute of African Studies,
Oswin Köhler Archive

DURATION

5/2021 – 4/2024

FUNDING

German Research
Foundation (DFG)

WEB PAGES

http://www.uni-frankfurt.de/62949191/Oswin_Köhler_Archiv_OKA
<https://elar.soas.ac.uk/Collection/MP1083423>



Addressing development challenges in linguistics in Ethiopia

CONTACT

Dr Ulrike Zoch
Dr Bernhard Köhler
Prof. Axel Fanego Palat
Prof. Rainer Voßen
Prof. Zelealem Leyew
fanego@
em.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTION

Institute for African Studies

PARTNER

INSTITUTION

Dept. of Linguistics, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

DURATION

1/2020 – 12/2023

FUNDING

DAAD – German Academic Exchange Service

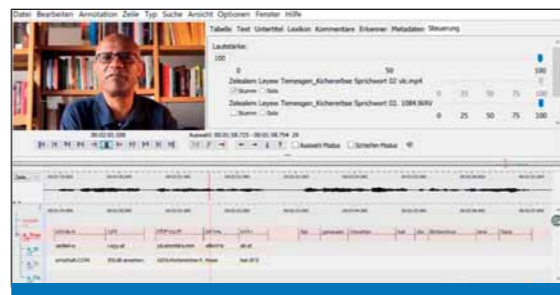
Ethiopia is linguistically diverse. Access to high quality tertiary education varies across the country. Ethiopia has an increasing and young population. This poses certain challenges to language policy and socio-economic development. Teachers at Addis Ababa University's internationally competitive Department of Linguistics face a great challenge: Students' diverse backgrounds mean that their knowledge and skills vary greatly when they join the university.

The DAAD-funded partnership between AAU and African Studies at Goethe University intends to mitigate the situation by developing hybrid teaching and learning tools targeting the current discrepancies among students. This is particularly relevant in Ethiopia where linguists need to be trained to work in many recently founded universities throughout the country. They are often located in regions of particular linguistic diversity which accentuates the

need for the development of teaching materials by local linguists.

Teaching modules concern three crucial areas in descriptive linguistics: phonology (including tone systems), morphology and (lexical) semantics. In terms of language typology, these areas are of particular interest due to specific phenomena characterising Ethiopian languages. Given that they are specific to northeast African languages, these matters need to be taken into account accurately when developing teaching and learning materials in a country with a marked linguistic diversity.

Our partnership between African Studies at Goethe University and the Dept. of Linguistics at Addis Ababa University combines various formats of international mobility in research and teaching with longer interim stages when we work together in the virtual space to create the planned teaching modules. Students have the opportunity to enrol in jointly organized summer schools in Germany and Ethiopia, as well as long-term stays for in-depth studies or internships in Addis Ababa and Frankfurt.



Berber speakers in the Rhine-Main region: migration, minority status and masculinity

The project investigates communicative practices of young Berber-speaking men who relocated from North Africa to Germany. How do they navigate the unfamiliar linguistic environment? As speakers of Berber varieties, these men (whose preferred self-chosen designation is Imazighen, sg. Amazigh), belong to a minority in their countries of origin. They are multilingual, being usually proficient users of several varieties of Berber and Arabic, as well as French and often Spanish and English.

It is easy to imagine two rather contrary outcomes in terms of the language learning dynamics that apply when Berber speakers move to Germany. On the one hand, their experience as multilingual members of a minority could prove helpful in adapting to the new linguistic environment. On the other hand, contexts of migration might accentuate their minority status, perpetuating ostracism and exclusion. For most of the Berber-speaking young men, lan-

guage learning is largely un-monitored. So far, the mechanisms at work in such cases have not been investigated systematically. What makes un-monitored language learning often, though not always, successful? Does it hinge on variables such as age, gender, prior schooling and education, or length of stay in a new environment? These criteria perform poorly in predicting success. In search of a richer understanding, we rely mostly on high-resolution language portraits, visualizing personal language biographies that invite in-depth conversations. Through these ethnographic interviews, we learn about personal experiences, language ideologies and attitudes, all relevant to individual language learning trajectories.

Our research project is part of a research cluster on minority studies, language and identity. The cluster looks at how identity is ascribed – through self or other – to members of minority groups from the Middle East and North Africa.



CONTACT

Prof. Axel Fanego Palat
Hamza Boutemin
fanego@
em.uni-frankfurt.de
boutemin@
em.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTION

Institute for African Studies

DURATION

1/2020 – 12/2023

FUNDING

LOEWE research funding programme, Federal State of Hesse

WEB PAGE

<https://sprache-identitaet.uni-frankfurt.de/>



Language use and linguistic variation in multilingual urban groups – a micro perspective on professional networks in Ngaoundéré, Cameroon II

CONTACT

PD Dr Klaus Beyer
k.beyer@em.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTION

Institute for African Studies

PARTNER

INSTITUTION

University of Ngaoundéré,
Cameroon

DURATION

8/2021 – 7/2024

FUNDING

German Research
Foundation (DFG)

Phase II of the project focuses on the autochthonous Adamawa language Mbum. In 2022 we evaluated the existing colonial material on linguistic and anthropological issues. A comparison with other language data from the 1970s and current field data results in a long-term cut through the language that reveals processes of language change.

We see, e.g., how pronunciation of a group of labial onsets changed over time under specific conditions. In the case of labiovelars, the conditions are social in nature and relate to the political relations that exist between Mbum-speakers in different areas and Fulfulde groups, which have dominated the Adamawa-Plateau for about 200 years. The use of labiovelars is understood by certain groups as an identity marker directed against the (cultural) dominance of the Fulfulde (Beyer & Kunzmann 2022).

After two years without field research we were able to visit Ngaoundéré again in October 2022 and also spent time in the village of Ngan’ha, home of the traditional Belaka (ruler) of the Mbum. The aim of the trip was to collect comparative language material to analyze language use in urban and rural contexts, as well as in different age groups and social networks. The analysis of these data is currently ongoing.

Another goal was to consolidate our remote infrastructure to enable data collection and contact via the internet. We have now a structure in place that allows us to contact language informants at any time in a protected environment via image and sound connection and to transmit audio and video data in sufficient volume and quality.

PUBLICATION

Beyer Klaus, Janika Kunzmann (2022). Retracing labial-velar consonants in Mbum (Adamawa): Between genetic transmission and language contact. *Afrika und Übersee* 95, pp. 25–48.



IMAGEUN – in the mirror of the European neighbourhood (policy): mapping macro-regional imaginations

The project IMAGEUN explores macro-regional orders, i.e. feelings of identification and belonging to a certain world region amongst different population groups in different countries. As regards the African dimension of the project, our research focuses on a case study in Tunisia and examines Tunisia’s role as an interface of macro-regional orders between Africa, the Arab world and Europe.

The figures show impressions of a project workshop that was held in Tunis in October 2022 in cooperation with Tunisian colleagues and public figures. Amongst the topics discussed at the workshop were preliminary results of a cartographic and terminological survey among Tunisian students. The students were asked to draw and name their primary macro-regional area of identification and belonging. We can thereby observe how (macro)regional affiliations are strongly correlated to geographical

proximity: the closer the more intense, sometimes even starting on the level of the city. The primary frame of reference, however, is the nationstate – in this case, Tunisia. On a second layer of reference, the results illustrate the importance of relations with the neighbouring countries, in particular Algeria but also the western parts of Libya. Thirdly, areas such as “Maghreb”, “North Africa” or “Mediterranean” also become apparent. Larger regionalities, e.g. pan-African, pan-Arab or pan-European, hardly play a role in the given responses and cartographies.

PUBLICATIONS

Veit Bachmann, Kmar Bendana, Betty Rouland (2022): Ein Land zwischen Hoffnung und Ungewissheit. Demokratie, Mobilität und Biotechnologie in Tunesien nach 2011. In: *Forschung Frankfurt* (1) 2022: Perspektive Afrika. https://www.uni-frankfurt.de/122818572/FF_2022_01_Perspektive_AFRIKA_web_pdf.pdf

Kmar Bendana (2022): Entretien avec Emmanuel Riondé: Le français dans un Maghreb plurilingue. <https://hctc.hypotheses.org/3419>

Betty Rouland (2022): Se soigner en Tunisie : du Maghreb à la rive sud du Sahara. <https://tn.boell.org/fr/2022/01/25/se-soigner-en-tunisie-du-maghreb-la-rive-sud-du-sahara>

Betty Rouland & Taleb Marouen (2022): COVID-19 in Tunisia: Mapping and Documenting the impacts on those on the margins. In Stanley D. Brunn & D. Gilbreath (eds), *COVID-19 and an Emerging World of Ad Hoc Geographies*, Springer.

Regular blog on contemporary Tunisian history and culture by Kmar Bendana: <https://hctc.hypotheses.org/>

CONTACT

Dr Veit Bachmann
bachmann@em.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTION

Department of Human
Geography

PARTNER

INSTITUTIONS

Institut de Recherche sur le Maghreb Contemporain/Tunis; Université de Manouba/Tunis, Kadir Has University/Istanbul; Université de Paris; Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne; ENS Lyon; Université de Rouen; Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg; University College Dublin

DURATION

1/2021 – 6/2024

FUNDING

German Research
Foundation (DFG);
Agence Nationale
de la Recherche (ANR)

WEB PAGE

<https://imageun.eu/>



CONTACT

Sophia Thubauville
 Kim Glück
 Kelemework Tafere
 thubauville@
 em.uni-frankfurt.de
 k.glueck@
 em.uni-frankfurt.de
 kelem40@gmail.com

INSTITUTION

Frobenius Institute

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

Hawassa University, Ethiopia; University of California at Riverside, USA; Ono Academic College, Israel; University of Applied Science, Frankfurt am Main

DURATION

4/2021 – 3/2024

FUNDING

German Research Foundation (DFG); Gerda Henkel Foundation

WEB PAGE

<https://www.frobenius-institut.de/forschung/laufende-projekte/901-on-the-safe-side.html>

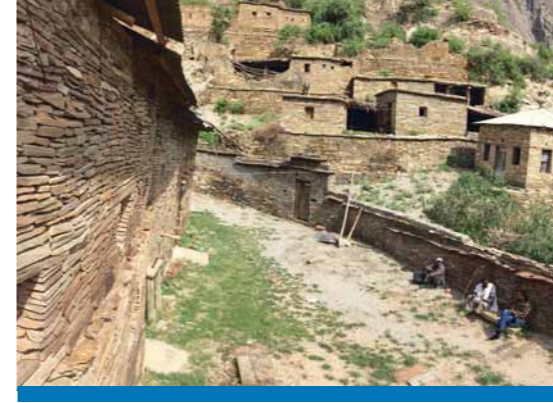


On the saf(v)e side: informal economic associations and future aspirations in the Ethiopian diaspora

As a worldwide phenomenon, informal savings and insurance associations are an important aspect of society in Ethiopia. Members belong to all levels of society, from shoe shiners to successful businessmen. The introduction of formal alternatives has not affected their popularity. Moreover, the same associations are practised in the Ethiopian diaspora in countries with diversified formal financial institutions. The research project is divided into six sub-projects covering Ethiopia and its largest diaspora populations (USA, Israel, South Africa, Middle East and Europe). While in Ethiopia the focus of the research is on enabling emigration through informal savings and insurance associations, the projects in the Ethiopian diaspora concentrate on the changes and continuities of informal savings and insurance associations of people who have left their homeland. Saving and insurance are closely linked to per-



sonal and collective visions of the future and a 'good life'. In Ethiopia, many young people envision a 'good life' and a better future outside their own country and therefore invest in informal savings groups to save the money needed for emigration. Ethiopians living in the diaspora have different ideas of a 'good life' and future, shaped by their home country, their experience of migration and the norms of their host country. The research project aims to 1) document the differences and parallels between informal savings and insurance associations in the communities studied, 2) understand the different aspirations and ideas of a future behind the practices of saving and insuring in such associations, and 3) contribute to the anthropology of the 'good life' and the future in the context of migration and transnationalism.



Archival study of vernacular building traditions in Ethiopia

The building traditions in Ethiopia have accumulated generational wisdom threatened by urbanization, climate change, agricultural expansion, armed conflict, and decay. Weaker laws of protection of cultural properties, registration mechanisms, and research add to the challenge. Although keeping an entire heritage is an unachievable task, with the help of coordinated study of archival, documentation, and recent technological tools, the values of the heritage can be conserved for future generations before their disappearance or fragmentation. The building traditions include activities of building vernacular houses, religious institutions, agricultural channels, and terraces. While large monuments are the focus of research and exploration, the smaller buildings are overlooked.

In face of these challenges, this research aims to conduct an archival study within the scientific collections of the Frobenius Institute at the Goethe

University of Frankfurt and its collaborative institutions. The research topic will be approached from building typologies, building materials, tools, skills, and human interactions in the traditional building process. Specifically, the project aims to develop a glossary of conceptual spatial terms, building elements, tools and materials of construction and techniques; identify and salvage potential building traditions that will need further documentation on the ground and a 3D model reconstruction of a traditional building and tools from image archives.

The archival materials were collected mainly by cultural researchers during the 19th and 20th-century expeditions. The research activity started with mapping out the history of German cultural research in Ethiopia to use it as a springboard to go deeper into the collection of pictures, maps, publications, and diary notes.

**CONTACT**

Dr Alula Tesfay Asfha
 asfha@uni-frankfurt.de
 alulatesfay@mu.edu.et

INSTITUTIONS

Post-Doctoral Fellow at Frobenius Institute/GU; lecturer at Mekelle University, Ethiopia

DURATION

8/2022 – 7/2024

FUNDING

Gerda Henkel Foundation

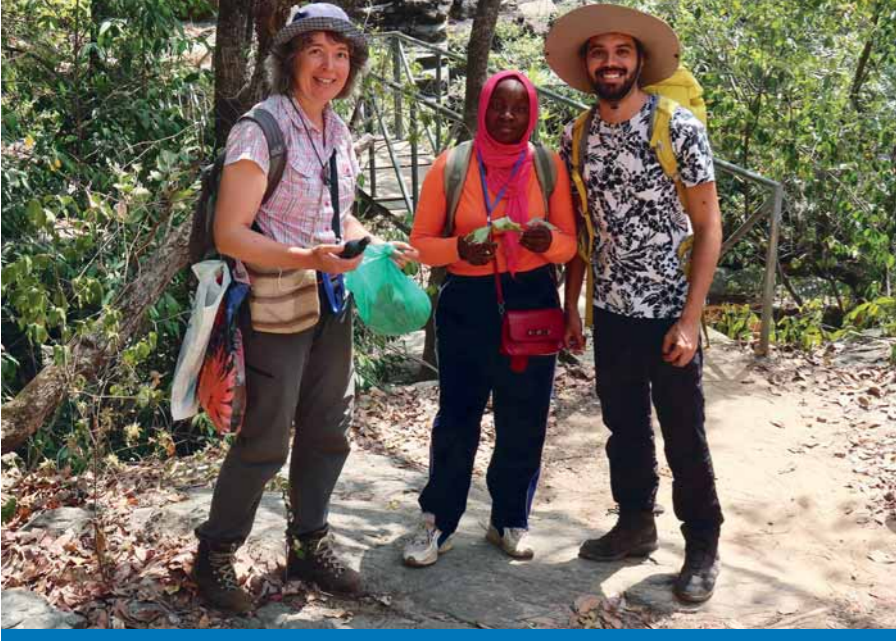


IV. Research field: sustainable resource management

Sustainability and cross-generational development are central social challenges for the ZIAF. In the countries of the Global South, rapid population growth is putting increasing pressure on sensitive socio-ecological systems.

In Africa, rural and urban areas are considered increasingly vulnerable in the course of climate and land use change. Biological and geoscientific research at ZIAF deals with plant resources and their ecology, the degradation of landscape ecosystems, supply infrastructure and the short- to long-term environmental impacts of mining. Questions on the future availability of raw materials, actor analyses, political transparency and good governance illustrate the complexity of the scientific context.

Diversity and uses of fungi in tropical Africa: edible mushrooms in Benin (FunTrAf)	48
Quartz islands – island biogeography and ecology of distinct terrestrial habitats	50
First interdisciplinary symposium on the state-of-the-art of tomato research in West Africa	51



Diversity and uses of fungi in tropical Africa: edible mushrooms in Benin (FunTrAf)

Our knowledge about the biodiversity of fungi is still very limited compared to other groups of organisms. To date, only about 140,000 species are known, whereas the actual number of existing species of fungi is estimated to be between 1.5 and 3.8 million. Especially in tropical regions, there is a high number of fungal species waiting for discovery and for being used in applied contexts. The “FunTrAf” project, which started in October 2020, aims to improve our knowledge of the diversity and traditional uses of mushrooms in the tropical West African country of Benin. Mutual expertise exchange, knowledge transfer, analysis of the toxicity

of mushrooms and the establishment of methods for cultivating native fungal species are central components of the project.

Establishment of a strong working group for mycological research

Cooperation with Professor Nourou S. Yorou and his team exists since 2015. Professor Yorou is a DAAD alumnus, earned his doctorate at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich and worked there for several years as a postdoc. After returning to his home country, he accepted a professorship at the University of Parakou, where he leads the research group on tropical mycology. With the help of funding from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), we were able to considerably improve the equipment and knowledge for the research group on-site. A container loaded with modern laboratory equipment was shipped from Germany to Benin. A stronger power line was installed



at the university building to enable the technical equipment to be put into operation. An emergency generator was purchased to guarantee the supply even in case of failures. With the help of the equipment, molecular genetic studies of fungi and experiments on fungal cultivation will be carried out in the future. The first experiments are in progress.

Travelling strengthens partnership

In the past year, thanks to the more relaxed pandemic situation, several travelling activities could take place. Professor Yorou as well as two postdocs and a PhD student from Benin visited Goethe University at the end of 2022 and thus, for the first time during the project period, a joint symposium could take place in physical presence with project-related lecture topics. Project results were also presented to an international scientific audience at a conference in Spain. This year, three GU team members travelled to Benin at different times of the year in order

to record a wide range of fungal diversity. Besides Professor Piepenbring, three PhD students and two Master students visited Benin for joint fieldwork. Additionally, a hands-on workshop on fungal cultivation techniques took place in Benin under the professional direction of Dr Chee Jen Chen, who is an internationally renowned trainer for industrial mushroom cultivation from Taiwan currently living in South Africa.

PUBLICATIONS

Tabé A, Aime MC, Yorou NS, Piepenbring M (2022) New records and data on rust fungi (Pucciniales, Basidiomycota) in Benin. *Phytotaxa* 548(2):127–145.

CONTACT

Prof. Meike Piepenbring
piepenbring@
bio.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTION

Institute of Ecology,
Evolution and Diversity

PARTNER

INSTITUTION
University of Parakou,
Benin

DURATION

10/2020 – 9/2023

FUNDING

Federal Ministry of
Education and Research

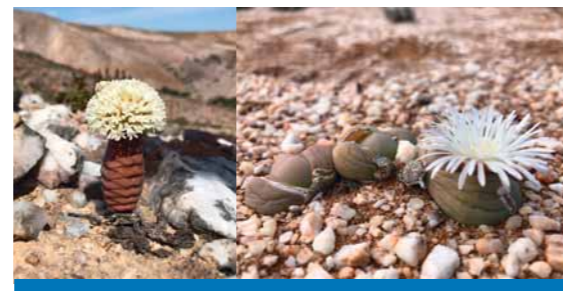


tween ‘true’ oceanic islands and habitat fragments. A follow-up project has been submitted to the DFG to continue our research on quartz island diversity and to extend the successful and productive collaborations from the first project. Quartz Islands II will up-scale our research from the Knersvlakte to all quartz island habitats in southern Africa, ranging from southern Namibia to Overberg at the southern tip of Africa. Our aim is to identify the drivers of diversity at different scales – from the species and community level to the island and archipelago scale crossing a large bioclimatic gradient.

PUBLICATIONS

Pia M. Eibes, Frances Schaffrath, Jens Oldeland, Wanda Thor-mählen, Ute Schmiedel & Severin DH Irl (2022). Testing the concept of edaphism for the quartz island flora of the Knersvlakte, South Africa. *South African Journal of Botany*, 151, 555–564. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sajb.2022.10.015>

Pia M. Eibes, Jens Oldeland, Severin D.H. Irl, Alina Twerski, Nicole Kühne, Ute Schmiedel (2021). Partitioned beta diversity patterns of plants across sharp and distinct boundaries of quartz habitat islands. *Journal of Vegetation Science*, 32, e13036, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/jvs.13036>



Quartz islands – island biogeography and ecology of distinct terrestrial habitats

Quartz islands are unique habitats of angular, whitish quartz debris surrounded by a “matrix” of sandy substrate. Our archipelago-like study system contains high numbers of succulent dwarf shrub species, of which many are local endemics, highly adapted to the specific soil chemistry of quartz islands. Our study area is located in the Succulent Karoo (Knersvlakte, South Africa), a global biodiversity hotspot with outstanding numbers of vascular plant species.

Our project identified habitat island structure, heterogeneity and diversity as well as environmental and geographic isolation based on satellite image classification and a subsequent ground truth vegetation survey. We quantified the processes and drivers at different scales (community, island, landscape) and on different levels of organization (species and functional), leading to exciting insights into how quartz islands take an intermediate position be-

CONTACT

Prof. Severin Irl

irl@geo.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTION

Institute of Physical Geography, Geosciences

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

University of Hamburg, Germany; University of Cape Town, South Africa; Cape Nature, South Africa

DURATION

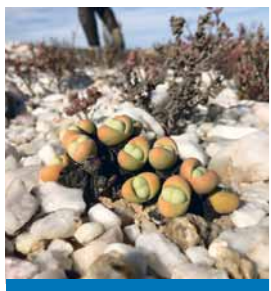
1/2018 – 7/2022

FUNDING

German Research Foundation (DFG)

WEB PAGE

https://www.uni-frankfurt.de/86114704/Quartz_Island_Project



First interdisciplinary symposium on the state-of-the-art of tomato research in West Africa

From July 27th to 29th, 2022 at the Abomey-Calavi University (UAC) in Benin, 220 junior and senior scientists, politicians, entrepreneurs and farmers from 12 countries gathered for the first time in West Africa around one table to reflect on sustainable tomato cultivation. The overarching topic is “*Scientific research facing the challenges of sustainable tomato production and valorisation in a context of climate change in West Africa*”. The symposium is the result of a prospecting trip funded by ZIAF in December 2021 to initiate the cooperation with the Lab GBioS (*Laboratory of Genetics, Biotechnology and Seed Science*) and CEVADEL (*Centre de Valorisation des Denrées Locales*) in Benin. The main goal was to get an overview of the tomato research progress in West Africa and to exchange applied concepts about future measures. The findings of the symposium should serve as the basis for a DFG proposal. Six keynotes set the framework for 34 lectures over

five sessions (*cropping systems, pest management and agronomic practices; genetic diversity, varietal improvement, and seed systems; postharvest practices and nutritional quality; climate change and production; socio-economic and gender aspects*) followed by three panel discussions. Fourteen artisanal enterprises also presented innovations in the tomato sector at a mini-fair. Five video reports and an “abstract book” were produced. Conference proceedings as self-publishing with ISBN is still in progress.

In the context of the new DFG programme “*African-German Scientific Exchange: Sustainable Intensification of Agriculture*”. The team will submit in a first step a proposal for funding by February 28th, 2023, to organize exploratory visits to Côte d'Ivoire and Benin to deepen the topic and the partnership. During a guest visit in Germany, they will take part in the DFG-Status Workshop (8–12 April 2024) in Bonn and write in a second step the final joint proposal on sustainable tomato production in the context of climate change in Benin and Côte d'Ivoire.



CONTACT

Dr Nadia Anoumou

anoumou@em.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTION

Institute of Physical Geography

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

GBioS / Abomey-Calavi University; CEVADEL; INRAB (National Institute of Agricultural Research of Benin); WorldVeg (World Vegetable Center) in Benin

DURATION

12/2021 – 12/2022

FUNDING

ZIAF; GRADE Sustain; RIJK ZWAAN; APIEX-PACOFIDE; PADMAR/ProCaR; FNPS; ACED; Accueil Paysan

WEB PAGE

https://www.uni-frankfurt.de/119627464/Tomato_Symposium_2022



Network programmes: innovative approaches and promotion of young researchers

ZIAF manages and supports interdisciplinary programmes to promote networking with African and European partners and to generate innovative research perspectives (DFG programme Point Sud). A central component of this is the promotion of young researchers across disciplines and countries (e.g. fellowship programme in the humanities and social sciences, Volkswagen Foundation and PAPA, Gerda Henke Foundation). Another focus is the collaboration in the Maria Sibylla Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA), which, in addition to the classical tasks of supporting fellows, does also have an Africa-wide programme of events organised by ZIAF.

MIASA: a now well-established institute in Africa	54
DFG programme and network Point Sud	55
Volkswagen Foundation fellowship programme: a worthy conclusion	56
Pilote African graduate academy (PAPA): making great strides forward	58



CONTACT

Prof. Mamadou Diawara
Dr Stefan Schmid
Dr Marko Scholze

diawara@em.uni-frankfurt.de
s.schmid@em.uni-frankfurt.de
scholze@em.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTIONS

Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology; ZIAF

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

University of Ghana; University of Freiburg; GIGA Hamburg; German Historical Institute Paris; Network Point Sud

DURATION

9/2020 – 9/2026

FUNDING

Federal Ministry of Education and Research

WEB PAGE

www.ug.edu.gh/mias-africa



MIASA: a now well-established institute in Africa

The Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA) at the University of Ghana in Accra was able to further establish itself in 2022 as an important platform for innovative exchange and research in and about Africa through a variety of activities. The aim of MIASA is to increase the global visibility of research in the humanities and social sciences from sub-Saharan Africa and to reduce global asymmetries in knowledge production on the topic of sustainable governance. In this regard, ZIAF is responsible for designing and organizing the majority of MIASA's events in Accra and at the sites of the Point Sud network, which collaborates with MIASA.

Scientific writing made easy

From 25 until 29 April 2022, the second writing workshop for young African scholars took place in Accra, organized by MIASA and ZIAF. 18 post-doctoral scholars in the humanities and social sciences from seven African countries were supported by a team

of mentors from Ghana and Nigeria in planning their first scientific publication and designing a publication strategy. The writing workshop was characterized by a high level of practical relevance. With the help of breakout sessions, the post-docs worked concretely on their article manuscripts.

Maputo calling

From 24 until 26 October 2022, the MIASA international conference on “African Cities: Climate Change and the Search for Resilience” was held in Maputo (Mozambique), jointly organized by MIASA, the University Eduardo Mondlane in Maputo and Goethe University. 44 scholars from all over Africa, Europe and the US discussed the consequences of climate change with a focus on African perspectives. Moreover, MIASA was able to successfully establish new scientific collaborations with Lusophone Africa.



DFG programme and network Point Sud

The Point Sud programme promotes Africa-related events in the humanities and social sciences. These are selected by a steering committee through an annual call for proposals. The programme's main goal is the exchange and networking of scholars from Germany, Africa and other parts of the world. In addition, the promotion of early career scientists plays a central role. The programme is organized in a network that includes the Goethe University and the Point Sud research centre in Bamako (Mali) as well as other institutes in Burkina Faso, Gabon, Ghana, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, South Africa and France.

In 2022, seven workshops were held at different locations of the network. One of the main topics of the conference series was the critical examination of archives and their digitization. The theoretical discussion was linked to the highly important debates on the decolonization of knowledge production in and about Africa. The latter also played a cen-

tral role in other workshops, e.g. on social inequalities in science, or in the discussion of educational utopias in post-independence Africa. Thus, the programme once again proved to be at the forefront of innovative topics. In addition, the programme was able to gain a new institutional partnership with the University of Winneba (Ghana). This was a deliberate choice to promote and support smaller universities in Africa which often have high scientific potential but lack contacts on the international stage to establish collaborations.

All events were organized in a hybrid format and were live-streamed. This enabled a larger number of scientists to be involved and increased the visibility of the programme. The project thus makes an important contribution to the digitization of science in Africa.



CONTACT

Prof. Mamadou Diawara
Dr Marko Scholze
scholze@em.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTION

Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

Point Sud, Bamako; CARTE, Dakar; CEA, Maputo; CGD & INSS, Ouagadougou; IAS Accra; University of Winneba; LASDEL, Niamey; IEA Nantes; STIAS, Stellenbosch; University Omar-Bongo, Libreville

DURATION

1/2021 – 12/2025

FUNDING

German Research Foundation (DFG)

WEB PAGE

www.pointsud.org



Volkswagen Foundation fellowship programme: a worthy conclusion

ZIAF has been organising and managing the Volkswagen Foundation’s postdoctoral fellowship programme in the social sciences within the framework of their large Africa Programme since 2013. This has been done primarily through the individual support of promising young researchers who commit to working at an African university for the duration of their funding. ZIAF administers the fellowships and organises an annual week-long meeting that focuses on various training topics. After two years without a personal meeting, the time had finally come: the third and final phase of the programme was concluded with a workshop on “Lead-

ership for tomorrow: conflict management, negotiation and supervision”, conducted by Nils Reschke. He already knew the group from two previous workshops in Tanzania and South Africa and was thus able to assess well how the fellows’ needs and areas of responsibility have changed over the years. Three of the fellows have since been appointed to professorships and some have been entrusted with deanery or institute management tasks. Others have acquired large international projects. In all cases, however, the supervision of doctoral students was named as the main focus of the work, including all the problems associated with it: how do I react correctly if the agreed work packages are not completed because the economic situation of the student does not allow for continuous work? How do I react when the co-supervisor has a different opinion or even plots against my recommendations? Related to this, interpersonal problems in the college were identified as a major problem area.

Listening, negotiating, solving problems

In Stone Town, Zanzibar, the fellows of the programme met for the last time at the end of July 2022 to work on these problem areas. First, Nils Reschke gave a detailed introduction to the cycle of a typical PhD project and discussed role-playing games where exactly each person sees his/her responsibility. Afterwards, guidelines were discussed on how to im-

plement the distribution of tasks based on trust, but also control, in practice. It was important for Nils Reschke to emphasise that both sides have rights and duties, which should best be set out in writing in a kind of care contract. With the help of a comprehensive collection of materials and sample texts, the fellows were enabled to adapt the framework conditions to suit their context. The topic of conflict resolution among colleagues was exciting and of high relevance. The topic of active listening and negotiation was discussed and practised in a game situation. A particular problem here is the very strong and rigid hierarchies in African institutions, which, according to some fellows, often make it impossible to consistently pursue a solution-based approach, as tacit subordination is often expected.

A success story

The academic freedom and material resources of the highly remunerated three-year fellowship have

led to remarkable career developments in almost all cases. For example, Dr Danel Sakyi was promoted to Associate Professor in 2021 at the University of Kumasi, Ghana, as was Dr Roland Azibo Balgah at the University of Bamenda in Cameroon. Professor Godfrey Maringira was appointed Dean of the school of humanities at the University of Kimberley in South Africa and is a participant in the Southern African policy dialogue. Dr Lizabé Lambrechts successfully applied with a Swedish colleague for a project “Decay without mourning: Future-thinking heritage practices”, starting in 2022. The other fellows also made remarkable career progress.

The group split in Stone Town not knowing that the Volkswagen Foundation had another big surprise in store for them in October 2022: an invitation to all grantees from 2018 and all coordinators to a final grantees meeting in April 2023 at Lake Naivasha in Kenya. At this meeting, the group will organize a panel discussion on the topic of mentorship as collaborative research.



CONTACT

Prof. Mamadou Diawara
Dr Stefan Schmid
Dr Marko Scholze
s.schmid@em.uni-frankfurt.de
em.uni-frankfurt.de
scholze@em.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTIONS

Department for Social and Cultural Anthropology; ZIAF

DURATION

9/2018 – 9/2022

FUNDING

Volkswagen Foundation

WEB PAGE

<http://www.uni-frankfurt.de/47345112/Fellowship-Programm>



Pilote African graduate academy (PAPA): making great strides forward

The pilote African postgraduate academy (PAPA) programme is already entering its third year. The aim of the academy, which is funded by the Gerda Henkel Foundation, was to promote basic research in the humanities and social sciences in Africa. PAPA creates a free space in which fundamental methodological problems of basic research are to be rethought and discussed from an African perspective. Fifteen fellows from different disciplines and francophone African countries meet for two fortnightly meetings per year in Bamako. In addition to the meetings, concrete work assignments are also given and numerous other activities of the fellows are promoted.

A successful team

PAPA is encouraging its fellows to apply for international fellowships as the programme itself cannot provide full fellowships but only limited financial contributions to conduct field research. The PAPA fellows are very successful in making use of the programme's opportunities. For example, Emmanuel Béché received a short-term postdoctoral fellowship from the Jacobs Foundation, Mahamadou Bassirou Tangara received one from the African Peacebuilding Network and Issouf Binaté received a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Florida. Several fellows were involved in the organisation of a workshop within the framework of the DFG programme Point Sud, which took place in March 2022 at the University of Joseph Ki-Zerbo in Burkina Faso on the topic of "Armed Conflict". At the VAD 2022, a total of eight of the fifteen fellows were represented with presentations, and two panels were organised by them.



Work on the joint book

The goal of the first phase is a large joint book publication on the topic of "Translating Concepts in Science". All fellows and the mentors worked on their contributions in 2022.

As in 2021, the PAPA academy organised a single workshop, which took place in August/September 2022. Due to the political situation in Mali, the March 2022 workshop could not take place in Bamako as planned and had to be replaced by a one-day virtual meeting. To compensate, the next meeting was extended to four weeks in August and September 2022.

The workshop focused on concept translation exercises, which led to several basic scientific questions. The task was first to translate a scientific concept from the respective field into a local language and to reflect on the problems encountered. In this way, all the lessons learnt in the previous PAPA workshops could be implemented.

The results were then discussed by Professors Elisio Macamo, Mamadou Diawara, Tiéman Diarra, Augustin Emame, Justin Bisanswa and Abdoulaye Niang. Professor Elisio Macamo and Professor Justin Bisanswa gave further lectures on the topic of translation. Afterwards, the fellows worked individually and in small groups on the articles for the planned book, with all drafts being critically commented on by several of the mentors present. By the next meeting in Bamako in March 2023, the articles should be available in their final version and the book published before the end of 2023. Planning is already underway for a possible second phase of the project after 2024. During the meeting, the fellows were also able to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Point Sud research centre in Bamako. The German Ambassador to Mali, a representative of the Ministry of Education and Mamadou Diawara gave welcoming speeches in a festive setting, which was also broadcast on Malian television.



CONTACT

Prof. Mamadou Diawara
Dr Stefan Schmid
Melanie Sampayo Vidal
s.schmid@em.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTIONS

Department for Social and Cultural Anthropology;
ZIAF; Centre for African Studies Basel

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

University Basel;
Centre Point Sud

DURATION

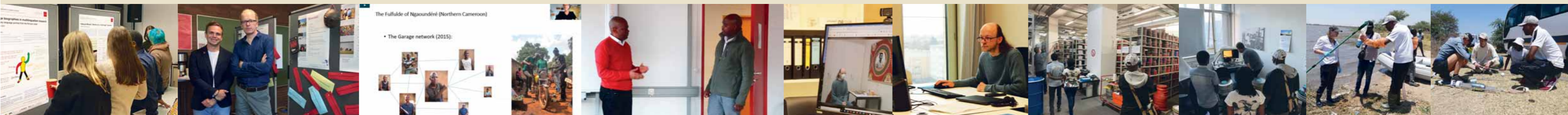
7/2019 – 12/2023

FUNDING

Gerda Henkel Foundation

WEB PAGE

<http://pointsud.org/pilot-african-postgraduate-academy-papa/?lang=en>



Teaching

In line with Goethe University's mission statement on teaching, we emphasise research-based learning accompanied by internationality. This means a development that – starting from the teaching of topics relevant to Africa – is increasingly oriented towards teaching and learning with African partners. In practical implementation, this is expressed in a broad spectrum of activities and measures. Joint curriculum development, teaching research, study excursions and bilateral international mobility between Africa and Europe are just a few examples.

Digital possibilities have changed didactic concepts and now make teaching more flexible in terms of time and space. This not only benefits our students but also facilitates international cooperation. We are thus increasingly successful in making scientific cooperation with Africa part of everyday life, not only in research but also in academic teaching.

Bachelor of Arts in “African Languages, Media and Communication”	62
Fula trainer – Mainz Frankfurt	64
Development of hybrid and digital teaching and learning environments for African Studies	65
Archival studies master programme Jos, Nigeria	66
International field school programme “Environmental change, human health and ecosystem services of Lake Malawi”	68



Bachelor of Arts in “African Languages, Media and Communication”

In the academic year 2021/22, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz and Goethe University Frankfurt took in the first students in a newly designed BA programme with the title “African Languages, Media and Communication”. Apart from learning two African languages, students are trained to become critical analysts of language, narratives and discourses concerning Africa including those produced earlier in the history of the discipline of Africanistics. The BA programme can be studied as a major or minor. In both cases, studies in an additional discipline – for instance, Social and Cultural Anthropology, Music and Media Studies, Romance studies, etc. –

complement the academic training of the students. The BA programme is the result of a long-term commitment in the framework of the Rhine-Main University Alliance (RMU). Students, academics, professionals working outside academia, university management and administrative staff put their efforts together across the borders of the states of Rhineland-Palatinate and Hesse to make this happen. After a successful launch in October 2021, a second cohort enrolled in October 2022. Things are picking up speed and we are faced with the new challenge of sustainably supporting our students so that they make the most of the diverse range of courses we can offer at both locations.

Teaching offered in Mainz and Frankfurt

In the Rhine-Main region, African Linguistics and African Studies in general traditionally have a strong focus on West Africa. This is reflected in the range of languages offered at both departments. They include Hausa, Bambara and Fula. A second focus lies on Bantu languages. Swahili is firmly rooted in the

curriculum of both universities. At times, this is complemented by additional language courses such as Kinyarwanda in view of the long-standing partnership between Rwanda and the State of Rhineland-Palatinate.

Africanistics is a lesser taught subject, but its thematic range is vast. This corresponds to the broad range of potential professional fields that our students venture into. Paramount to an adequate academic preparation is the diversification of teaching and learning formats that we rely on. One example concerns research-based learning. Already in 2019, during the design stage of the study programme, students had the opportunity to participate in (mainly) sociolinguistic research during a two-week excursion to Kenya funded by the RMU. Similar events are loosely planned for the future in close cooperation with African partner institutions, putting academic knowledge into practice. In addition to research, this concerns also third-mission work, which is an equally important field to explore for our students.

Approaches to digital communication: Practices and methods

Several of the modules that constitute the study programme are organized digitally or in hybrid format. A (“blended learning”) course on youth languages and mobile communication in Africa is but one example. Based on substantial electronic teaching resources the course combines self-study periods with some synchronous teaching events and an individual project. In a similar vein, an electronic platform supporting the teaching of Fula during the first year has been implemented in early 2022. Both projects have received funding from the RMU. Pedagogical considerations of adaptive and problem-centred learning were the main drivers behind this. The logistic opportunities of self-paced learning and tailor-made time management are significant additional benefits of these new formats. And finally, communication in the digital sphere is also one of our central research subjects – a significant reason for it to be taken into consideration in our teaching formats.

CONTACT

Prof. Axel Fanego Palat
Jun.-Prof. Nico Nassenstein
fanego@em.uni-frankfurt.de
nnassens@uni-mainz.de

INSTITUTIONS

Institute for African Studies, GU; Dept. of Anthropology and African Studies, JGU Mainz

DURATION

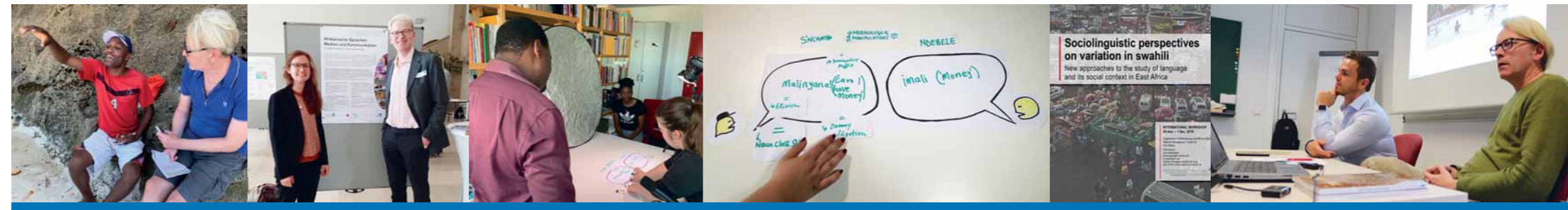
since 10/2021

FUNDING

RMU Teaching Initiative Fund, various short-term projects

WEB PAGES

<https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/afrikanische-sprachen-medien-und-kommunikation-ba/>
https://www.uni-frankfurt.de/99250713/Afrikanische_Sprachen_Medien_und_Kommunikation__br_Bachelor_of_Arts_Hauptfach





Fula trainer – Mainz Frankfurt

CONTACT

Prof. Axel Fanego Palat
 Jun.-Prof. Nico Nassenstein
 fanego@em.uni-frankfurt.de
 nnassens@uni-mainz.de

INSTITUTIONS

Institute for African Studies, GU; Dept. of Anthropology and African Studies, JGU Mainz

DURATION

1/2021 – 3/2022

FUNDING

RMU Teaching Initiative Fund

Fula is an important and widespread lingua franca in large parts of West Africa, spoken by millions of people. Still, the Goethe University in Frankfurt is the only German-speaking university where Fula is taught. It is part of the curriculum of the B.A. and M.A. programs at the Institute for African Studies and is taught with four lessons a week for two years – an admittedly narrow scope given the goal of acquiring communication skills at beginner’s level. In addition, few materials such as grammars, textbooks and lexicons are available for students of the language. One noticeable exception is the practical learner’s grammar that was developed and published by the lecturer of the course, Abdourahmane Diallo, and tested throughout years of teaching. But to immerse into the language at such a distance remains difficult. The Fula trainer intends to fill that gap by providing practice material for independent studying. In particular, it contains videos about the language and certain grammatical topics,



a vocabulary trainer that can be altered individually to achieve the best possible results and numerous exercises on typologically and grammatically challenging topics. Especially the latter relies on an audio-visual approach to keep a special focus on speaking competence and listening comprehension.

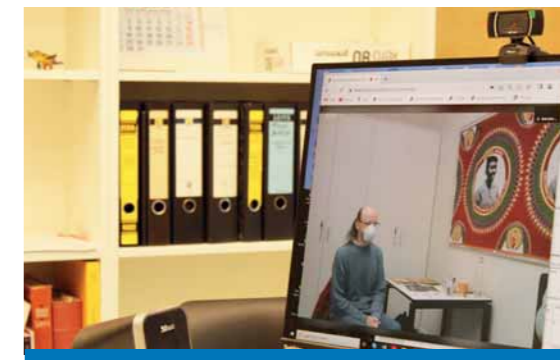
The Fula trainer is designed as a digital training platform on Moodle available for students in Mainz and Frankfurt. It aims at motivating students to build up basic grammatical knowledge, vocabulary and communicative competencies outside of the limited time available in the classroom. Available since the winter semester 2021/2022, it was developed by a team of both universities in Mainz and Frankfurt, including Friederike Vigeland, Christine Zuber and Nico Nassenstein (JGU Mainz), and Abdourahmane Diallo, Klaus Beyer, Ulrike Zoch and Axel Fanego Palat (Goethe University Frankfurt).



Development of hybrid and digital teaching and learning environments for African Studies

As part of a larger research program at Goethe University, ELLVIS (“Erfolgreich Lehren und Lernen – Vielfalt und Internationales im Studium”), our project aims at improving teaching and learning conditions in the face of increasing social and cultural diversity among students. We develop and test online materials for four African Studies courses: “The languages of Africa”, “Linguistic anthropology”, “Mechanisms of language acquisition” and “Basic academic skills”. The materials are primarily designed as supplements for university courses. However, they can also be used as independent study tools and serve the diverse needs of students in any place and at any time. This opens up the possibility to make some of the materials available to African partners, which requires their translation from German into English and possibly their localization in terms of content.

During the first months, a Moodle course on “Linguistic anthropology” was prepared and immediately implemented in class. Students engaged in lively discussions and their feedback is an important component in evaluating and monitoring project progress. In the academic year 2022/23, the introductory course “The languages of Africa” is being enhanced relying on material from the online teaching experience during the Covid pandemic. This lecture will be redesigned to comply with the inclusion requirements of genuine hybrid or distance teaching, bearing in mind the diversity of our student body. The year 2023 will bring the opportunity to develop materials for further courses and to re-evaluate the extant materials in class again. Our open science strategy involves educational resources. In view of a current Memorandum of Understanding with Addis Ababa University, we consult with our Ethiopian colleagues how the digital learning environments can be re-used if adapted to their needs.



CONTACT

Dr Bernhard Köhler
 b.koehler@lingua.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTION

Institute for African Studies

DURATION

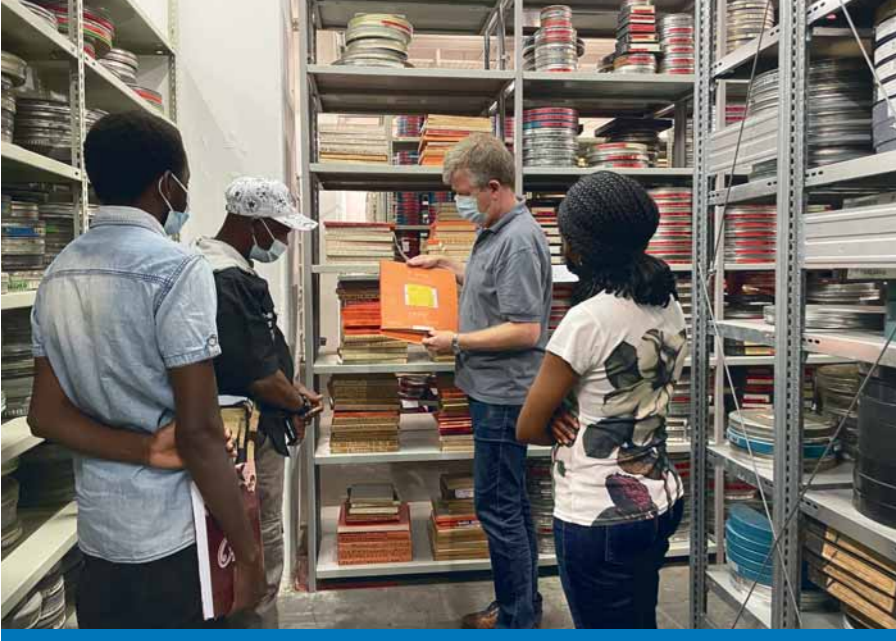
4/2022 – 9/2025

FUNDING

Government of Hesse

WEB PAGE

<https://www.uni-frankfurt.de/121307726/ELLVIS>



Archival studies master programme Jos, Nigeria

Since the fall 2019, the University of Jos and the National Film Institute jointly offer the first master's programme in film culture and film archiving in Africa. As part of a DAAD grant within the Transnational Education (TNB) initiative, the development of the degree programme is supported by a consortium consisting of the Goethe University Frankfurt (Institute for Theatre, Film and Media Studies), the German Film Institute and Film Museum (DFF) and the Arsenal – Institute for Film and Video Art in Berlin.

Teaching exchanges and scholarships

As part of the funding, archive specialists from the

Nigerian Film Corporation are trained both in Germany and in Jos, with an objective of them becoming teachers to future generations of students in Nigeria. Thanks to additional funding from the DAAD, the programme has also been able to offer scholarships since 2021: six per semester for African students enrolling at the University of Jos and three per semester for exchange students from the master's programme in Jos, each of whom can spend six months in Frankfurt. By the end of 2022, the third cohort of students was receiving their scholarships in Jos and in Frankfurt. The pandemic forced the programme to rethink some of its teaching modalities. While the face-to-face classes resumed, since 2021 the programme has offered students in Jos online courses taught by German specialists in film archiving and preservation, and in film culture. The DAAD confirmed at the end of 2021 that the Transnational Education grant has been extended for two years and that the cooperation would run until September 2024. The scholarship programmes, which must be renewed annually, were also extended until the end of 2024.

Expanding local and international cooperation

The project has sought to actively promote the involvement of project participants in various local and international events to support continuing education and collaboration.

In May 2022, students from the master's programme in Jos and staff from the National Film Corporation attended the Zuma Film Festival in Lagos. The TNB project also supported Lagos Film Society director Didi Cheeka's workshop entitled "Beyond Aesthetics: The Politics and Economics of Colonial Cinema" during the film festival. Also in May, the Eye International Conference, under this year's title "Global Audiovisual Archiving: Exchange of Knowledge and Practices," was held in Amsterdam, organized by EYE, the National Film Museum of the Netherlands. During the conference, which has become one of the foremost yearly venues for the meeting of film scholars specializing on the matters film preservation, the TNB project, in collaboration with the CEDITRAA project, organized an international roundtable. Entitled "Transnational Exchanges and the Circulation of Video Film Cultures in Sub-Saharan Africa," it brought together film scholars from Nigeria, Ghana, Italy, and Germany: Sonia Campanini, Nancy King, Rebecca Ohene-Asah, Stefanie Schulte Strathaus, and Simone Venturini.

Finally, in July, the coordinators on the Nigerian side, Nancy King and Astone Danjuma, visited Frankfurt and held meetings at Goethe University and the German Film Museum. A visit to Omnimago, one of the leading film post-production companies, resulted in a proposal to organize a two-week workshop for the three summer semester exchange students, which took place at the end of August. Along with directly supporting the master's programme in Jos, the project aims to build a multifaceted collaborative network across Europe and Africa and has several international workshops and events planned for 2023. In particular, the project partners are in talks about the possibility of setting up a PhD programme building on the existing master's programme, with a focus on digital archiving, a requirement in a country with a film industry which has been producing mostly digital native films for some time now but has no infrastructures, facilities or personnel in place to guarantee the long-term preservation of such work.

CONTACT

Prof. Vinzenz Hediger
Alo Paistik
hediger@
tfm.uni-frankfurt.de
paistik@
tfm.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTION

Institute for Theatre,
Film and Media Studies

PARTNER

INSTITUTIONS
University of Jos,
Nigerian Film Corporation
(National Film Institute,
Jos; National Film Video
and Sound Archive, Jos)

DURATION

10/2018 – 9/2024

FUNDING

DAAD

WEB PAGES

<https://www.unijos.edu.ng/AdmissionintoUnijosPGProgrammeinFilmCulture>
<http://www.nfi.edu.ng/>
<https://master-filmkultur.de/>





International field school programme “Environmental change, human health and ecosystem services of Lake Malawi”

Aquatic sciences field schools

African universities lack experts for protecting hotspots of aquatic biodiversity. These ecosystems are of global significance and provide resources on which the livelihoods of millions of people depend in sub-Saharan Africa.

International field schools provide a way of building the necessary capacities among young scientists. The Volkswagen Foundation programme “International Field Schools” funds two field schools in Malawi of which the first took part in the largely neglected northern part of Malawi in 2022.

The current field school programme in Malawi is based on a sustainable network of African and German partnerships initiated during previous aquatic field schools conducted all over Africa. In October 2022, after 10 years field schools returned to Lake Malawi. For the first time, this field school was initiated and conceptualized by former African participants who have decided to take their academic career path in “aquatic sciences” and related fields.

An integrated training programme

The teaching programme included theoretical introductions on climate change and environmental reconstructions and an intense practical training. Fifteen participants with various backgrounds in geological and aquatic sciences from Malawi, Uganda, DR Congo, Zambia, Kenya, and Germany studied past environmental and climatic change and anthropogenic impact reconstructions on lake systems and the catchment area. The field school was conducted at two study sites, the Chilumba Key Biodiversity Area and Lake Chiwondo, a satellite lagoonal lake of Lake Malawi. Six lecturers from Nairobi

(Kenya), Kisangani (DR Congo), and Mbarara (Uganda) as well as Tübingen, Gießen, and Frankfurt (Germany) led the training.

Given the nature of a field school and the scarcity of practical education in many curricula at African universities, the focus was on practical modules. Students worked and learned in small groups alternating among a total of four modules, namely sediment coring, micro-paleontological proxies, catchment characterization, and water and habitat parameters.

Sustainable learning and capacity building

The ultimate goal of the ongoing field schools is the establishment of a permanent network of interdisciplinary collaboration in paleo-environmental and aquatic sciences between African and German universities led by previous and the current field school organizers. This involves the initiation of long-term collaboration and joint research and teaching projects.

A special focus is on gender aspects, particularly African women in science. It has become clear that

academic careers for women are extraordinarily rare in most African countries. The capacity built during the field school can trigger research projects for these at the masters and PhD levels and beyond. Scientific writing and publishing have also been integral in the learning programme. In this context, baseline data for long-term monitoring at the field station Chilumba-Luromo were collected. The extent and quality of data obtained even allow for joint publications of all participants on anthropogenic impacts on key biodiversity areas of Lake Malawi and decades of environmental change of the basin recorded in sediments of a satellite lake.

The next field school, scheduled for 2023, will determine ecosystem services of Lake Malawi and its role in public health due to water-borne diseases. It will further develop sustainable management and conservation strategies in a transdisciplinary framework. Moreover, by applying a citizen science approach, it will provide the scientific basis for a Lake Malawi Center for Conservation and Sustainability in Chilumba.

CONTACT

Dr Annett Junginger
Prof. apl. Christian Albrecht
Prof. Friedemann Schrenk
annett.junginger@uni-tuebingen.de
christian.albrecht@allzoolbio.uni-giessen.de
schrenk@bio.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTIONS

University of Tübingen;
University of Giessen;
Goethe University

PARTNER

INSTITUTIONS

Mbarara University of Science & Technology, Uganda; University of Kisangani, DR of Congo; University of Zomba, Malawi

DURATION

2022 – 2024

FUNDING

Volkswagen Foundation





Further ZIAF activities

Object groups from Africa in the Goethe University Collections: a pilot project towards transparency	72
GIZ virtual summer school for the Central African Forestry Commission (COMIFAC)	74
Congo Basin Forest Partnership – 19 th Meeting Of the Parties (MOP19), Libreville (Gabon) 5–8 July 2022	75
Back in Malawi	76
ZIAF Lecture	78
Phenomenal women empowerment stage	79
Africa-related projects of the Goethe University Library	80



Object groups from Africa in the Goethe University Collections: a pilot project towards transparency

Premise and goals

In recent years, awareness has increased of the advantages of shared curatorship, as well as of the need to respond to demands for decolonisation and object restitution. Engaging with these challenges, diverse initiatives have highlighted that the transparency of collection contents is an important prerequisite to enable the participation and decision-making of source communities in questions of conservation, curation and ownership.

The responsibility to initiate these processes lies with the institutions in possession of relevant objects. Though several individual collections in Frank-

furt have approached these issues and reached out to source communities, there is no comprehensive overview of the objects in question at the Goethe University to date. Made possible thanks to funding from ZIAF, this project aims to establish a baseline of transparency for university collections in Frankfurt by making information about object groups with provenance deriving from the African continent publicly accessible online.

Methodology & procedure

We plan to achieve this through three steps: (1) the creation of a database with searchable metadata, (2) the development of a web page that provides an overview of the project and relevant collections, and (3) the formation of a commitment across the collections that provides guidance on how to deal with these topics in the future.

This approach was shaped by two important considerations. Firstly, we decided to concentrate on groups of objects instead of single objects. Secondly, we chose to expand our focus beyond objects from colonial contexts to encompass a broader notion of transparency, by including in the database all and any objects from the collections that originate from the African continent including photographs, film and audio recordings.

The first step of the project required us to gather existing knowledge about relevant groups of objects. Thus, we conducted an online survey that provided

an initial summary of known object groups in the university's collections and afterwards reached out to custodians individually to acquire further information. As a result of a "round table" with several custodians, we drafted a data structure and refined the information according to this structure, including both metadata as well as a written summary discussing the acquisition history of each object group. In addition, we also created written presentations about the collections themselves to be published on the websites of the ZIAF and the African Studies Rhine-Main, which will also contain the link to the database.

As soon as the webpage is online, we plan to communicate the project to relevant networks and researchers, as well as to reach out to members of source communities.

Perspective and follow-up projects

One issue that has become apparent through our efforts is a general insufficiency of object information, especially concerning provenance. Yet, emphasising missing information is also a significant step

towards transparency. It becomes obvious that the possibility to (digitally) maintain data plays a crucial role for collections to be able to address the challenges mentioned in the beginning.

While it is impossible to engage in detail with complex issues within the brief timespan of this project, we hope that our work and the infrastructure we established lay a foundation for future undertakings. Drawing on the newly available database hosted by the University Library, future initiatives might seek to further investigate the provenance of the object groups or to use the new accessibility of the collections to initiate exchanges with source communities, or even to discuss questions provoked by the database with students in seminars. We hope that this will enable us to initiate third-party-funded follow-up projects that engage with these possibilities in greater depth and in close cooperation with respective stakeholders and source communities.

CONTACT

Dr Judith Blume
Sebastian Burger
j.blume@ub.uni-frankfurt.de
s.burger@ub.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTION
University Library,
Coordination of the
University Collections

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS
Several collections
from the University

DURATION
9/2022 – 2/2023

FUNDING
ZIAF

WEB PAGE
<http://sammlungen.uni-frankfurt.de/>





CONTACT

Prof. Jürgen Runge
Dr Marion Neumer
j.runge@em.uni-frankfurt.de
neumer@ambero.de

INSTITUTIONS

Institute of Physical Geography;
AMBERO Consulting Gesellschaft mbH

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ);
Commission des Forêts de l'Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC/RIFFEAC)

DURATION

5/2016 – 3/2022

FUNDING

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

WEB PAGE

www.ambero.de



GIZ virtual summer school for the Central African Forestry Commission (COMIFAC)

Due to the CORONA pandemic, the former summer school format in presence, which has been organized since 2016 by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in cooperation with AMBERO GmbH, Deutsche Forst Service GmbH and the ZIAF, had again to switch to a virtual format in March 2022. The continuing education for 20 participants from numerous countries in Central Africa (Burundi, Gabon, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, DR Congo, Rwanda, Chad, Central African Republic) dealt with the topics of sustainability in the tropics. Shortened, three-day online modules on the topics of sustainability in tropical forests, protected area management, marketing, and Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS). A new addition was the module *Une Seule Santé*, which focused on zoonoses, bushmeat and health in light of the current pandemic. However, the advantage of the online format – with all the technical challenges such as stable power

and internet connection – was the possibility to record all contents and to make them permanently available on the server of the educational network RIFFEAC (*Réseau des Institutions de Formation Forestière et Environnementale de l'Afrique Centrale*). Since the participants were sitting alone in front of their computers in March 2022, there was a lack of direct exchange and social interaction. Nevertheless, the group work in the digital rooms went well. The scientific study trip to research institutions in Europe had to be abandoned due to the CORONA pandemic and because of the training taking place in the RIFFEAC institutions in Africa.

The summer schools have now been evaluated and no decision has yet been made on further events of this kind in 2023.



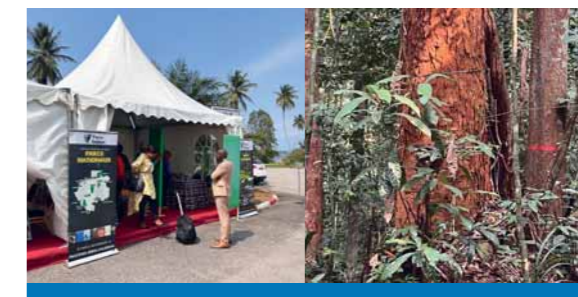
Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) – 19th Meeting Of the Parties (MOP19), Libreville (Gabon) 5 – 8 July 2022

As the second large ecological lung of the planet after the Amazon region, the forests of the Congo Basin represent an important heritage of biodiversity. Today, its canopy and CO₂ storage capacity of up to 25% of global forests are shrinking. Through the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), the recently 122 members, including the ZIAF, is made up of 13 African member countries and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), NGOs, financial backers and members of civil society united in Gabon's capital Libreville to support the need for financing the sustainable management of forest in the Congo Basin. More than 500 participants were present at this meeting.

The exchanges mainly focused on international, regional, and national issues related to the protection of biodiversity and sustainable management of

forests, the fight against climate change and the sustainable development of the Congo Basin. The Congo Basin's preservation is crucial in fighting global warming. This vast region is a huge carbon bank, containing 70 billion tons of carbon stored in wood and soils. If this carbon gets released into the atmosphere through deforestation and land degradation, the global temperature could climb 3° or 4° C warmer, which would extremely have consequences for humanity and for our planet.

Also, several technical excursions took place. A visit to the Raponda Walker Arboretum, 25 km north of Libreville, showed a near-natural tree population dominated by Okumé (*Aucoumea klaineana*), an economically important tropical species. Measurements on carbon sequestration, natural regeneration, and growth of the tree, which is classified as endangered according to the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), have been carried out for several years. Climate change and the resulting modifications in this tropical ecosystem were subject of ongoing research.



CONTACT

Prof. Jürgen Runge
j.runge@em.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTION

Institute of Physical Geography

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC), Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

DURATION

2/2020 – ongoing

FUNDING

COMIFAC, BMZ, FAO and others

WEB PAGE

https://pfbc-cbfp.org/home.html



Back in Malawi

After a two-year pandemic break and a total of three postponements, the time had finally come again: from 14 May to 1 June 2022 twelve people interested in Africa went on a Malawi trip together with Friedemann Schrenk and Stefan Schmid – the seventh trip that ZIAF has organised since 2015. The trips aim to give interested citizens a realistic picture of Africa beyond the romance of safaris, through direct encounters with the citizens of Malawi and lectures on the natural and cultural history of the country. Included in the price of the trip is a donation of 700 € per person, which is used to pay for staff costs at the Cultural and Museum Centre in Karonga, a public-private partnership (PPP) that is unique in Africa and closely linked to the

Senckenberg Research Institute and the ZIAF. The money generated by the trip covers the museum's staff costs for a full year. Through additional donations from travellers, many projects have already been implemented directly on-site. In total, around 76,000 € in donations were raised through the seven trips.

Virology on board

Each of the trips is unique. This time it was especially the participation of Prof Wolfgang Preiser, a chief virologist at Stellenbosch University, that made this trip unique. On two evenings, Wolfgang Preiser introduced the basic topic of viruses and then specifically the Corona problem using South Africa as an example. Together with the four lecture evenings by Prof Friedemann Schrenk, this was a full educational programme.

Due to the unforeseeable development of the pandemic at the time of planning the trip, a border crossing to Zambia was not planned this time. Instead, the group started in Liwonde National Park,

where the massive April rains had left clear traces. Another highlight was a village visit with a cultural demonstration in the Gwirize Cultural Village. As before Karonga was always at the centre of the tour because this is where Friedemann Schrenk has been living and working for more than 35 years. Karonga is not represented in any other tour programme. But this is exactly what makes this tour so charming: discovering things that are off the beaten track, getting to know ordinary people and making surprising discoveries, such as a local schnapps distillery, a music school for young jazz musicians run by a Korean opera diva with Frankfurt roots or a discussion with a catholic bishop. Care is taken to ensure that young people from Karonga are at the table at every dinner. Such encounters are only possible if you have a tour guide who is rooted in the place – like Friedemann Schrenk. The highlight of the stay in Karonga, however, is the visit to the excavation site and the independent search for fossils in the difficult terrain near Malema. After the sweaty action in the field, the group took part in a festival

in the village of Malema, where four different dances were performed, such as the healer's dance Limbusa.

Relaxation on the island

After the intensive time in Karonga, the group went the long way back to Lilongwe via Mzuzu, and from there to southern Lake Malawi and the uninhabited Nankoma Island. In this natural paradise with its rich bird and fish life, everyone was able to relax. This was also bitterly necessary because Corona unfortunately not only appeared in Wolfgang Preiser's lectures but also in real life. Fortunately, however, all courses were mild as all participants had triple or even quadruple vaccinations. The illnesses could not dampen the enthusiasm for this trip. The outlook for the future has dimmed somewhat as the very weak Euro, inflation of all costs and global uncertainties are currently dampening the willingness to make plans. It is to be hoped that this is only temporary because the CMCK and also Malawi need groups like this more urgently than ever.

CONTACT

Prof. Friedemann Schrenk
Dr Stefan Schmid
schrenk@
bio.uni-frankfurt.de
s.schmid@
em.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTIONS

Senckenberg
Research Institute;
Division of
Palaeoanthropology;
ZIAF

WEB PAGE

www.ziaf.de





ZIAF Lecture

This year, for the first time, the ZIAF Lecture was given by a political scientist. Lori-Anne Thérroux-Bénoni is Director of the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) Regional Office for West Africa, the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin. She leads a team of researchers based in Dakar, Bamako, Abidjan, Abuja and N’Djamena. The office works on key policy issues in the region such as violent extremism and terrorism, political instability, local conflicts, peace operations and political processes. Prior to joining the ISS in 2012, she worked as a researcher with the Network on Peace Operations at the University of Montreal, Canada, Radio-Canada and the Carter Centre in Côte d’Ivoire.

In her talk “Understanding violent extremism in the Sahel and West Africa” she presented the current state of insecurity, shared life stories of people involved in violent extremism networks and discussed policy implications. She presented research by the Institute for Security Studies in the Sahel that has revealed that violent extremist groups are heavily

segmented. Soldiers, middle managers and leaders don’t necessarily have the same interests. She also argued against the misconception that the majority of these groups act by religious motivation. Nothing could be more wrong than to attribute the actual crisis only to radical Islamism. Very often young men only join these groups for purely economic reasons.

Lori-Anne Thérroux-Bénoni sees no easy solution to stop the spread of terrorism in the Sahel and West Africa which is in effect spreading to the coastal countries. To break violent extremists’ supply chains, communities must be involved on an ongoing basis. This is key to avoiding unintended consequences, particularly the disruption of livelihoods, which push resentful people into the arms of terrorists. After a lively and intense discussion the evening was closed with a reception offered by ZIAF.



Phenomenal women empowerment stage

On 25 June 2022, after a two-year break due to the Covid health crisis, the 5th edition of the phenomenal women empowerment stage under the theme “The Power of Resilience” was held at the Campus Westend. This edition was organised by “Women for Knowledge (W4k)” in collaboration with ZIAF and sponsored by Immo Finanzwelt and by the Office for Multicultural Affairs (Amt für multikulturelle Angelegenheiten) of the city of Frankfurt. German, English and French were the languages used at the phenomenal women empowerment stage. The conference was divided into four sessions: workshops, an empowerment stage, an entrepreneurs’ fair and evening entertainment. The day started with three workshops: financial literacy as a differentiation tool for economic stability, real estate and taxation in Germany as well as digital marketing. The attendance of these workshops, the testimonies and the positive evaluation of the participants show the great interest of the participants in this practical

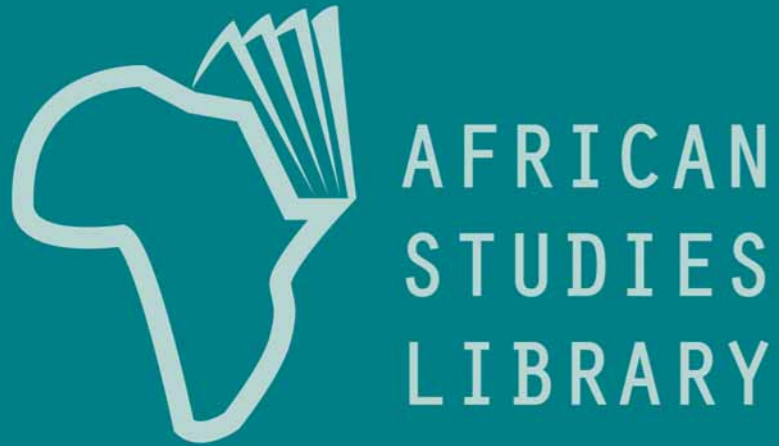
activity with a solution-oriented approach. Dr Stefan Schmid from ZIAF officially opened the 5th edition of the phenomenal women empowerment stage in the afternoon. After the ceremony, five speakers successively presented their success stories, emphasising the power and importance of resilience in the face of obstacles encountered on the road to success. In the following elevator pitches, IFW Immo Finanzwelt and the company Café Kom were presented by their founders. The question of “Business Reinvention in Challenging Environments” was discussed at the business talk. The community talk discussed the theme “Values of cultural heritage. Integration rather than assimilation”. Parallel to the empowerment stage there was an exhibition of young entrepreneurs. The day ended on a recreational note with the fashion show of the designer Florah Z’ followed by the musical performance of the band DME and Tamara Sidorova. About 180 participants were registered. 75% of the participants were women and the average age was between 25 and 40 years. The next phenomenal women empowerment stage will be held on 16 September 2023 at the Westend Campus of Goethe University.



CONTACT
Dr Stefan Schmid
s.schmid@em.uni-frankfurt.de
INSTITUTION
ZIAF
WEB PAGE
www.ziaf.de



CONTACT
Corinne Yonké
Dr Stefan Schmid
ycikeller@hotmail.com
s.schmid@em.uni-frankfurt.de
INSTITUTIONS
Women for Knowledge;
ZIAF
FUNDING
Amt für multikulturelle
Angelegenheiten;
Immo Finanzwelt;
ZIAF



Africa-related projects of the Goethe University Library

Book acquisition trip to the Ghana International Book Fair

In 2022, we were finally able to take up book acquisition trips again for the Specialised Information Service (SIS) African Studies. The acquisition of literature by publishers from the African continent and the African diaspora is one of our central objectives. The SIS works with a number of specialist distributors for print publications. We have recently licenced an eBook package from the African Books Collective and provide access to eJournals via the South African provider Sabinet. Book acquisition trips now complement these activities.

Accordingly, we organised three special book deliveries in 2022: one from Côte d'Ivoire specialising on the publishers Editions Eburnie and the Editions CERAP (Centre de Recherche et d'Action pour la Paix). In August 2022, we carried out a book acquisition trip to the Ghana International Book Fair (GIBF) and were able to acquire, among others, publications in Ghanaian languages from the Bureau of Ghana Languages as well as many titles from small and micro-publishers. This was completed by an order through the Ghanaian online shop Booknook.

New portal of the Specialised Information Service (SIS) African Studies

The portal African Studies Library is now online at www.africanstudieslibrary.org. This new research portal makes it possible to simultaneously search library collections of important African Studies centres in Germany and internationally (such as the

Nordic Africa Institute or the Bibliothèque nationale de France). In addition, over 110 repositories of African universities have been integrated via BASE (the Bielefeld Academic Search Engine). Thus, the African Studies Library has become a one-stop place for searching and locating literature for Africa-related research. The portal offers a log-in for personalised services such as watch lists. This does not require a new user account, but you can simply log in using your ORCID ID.

In addition to the catalogue search, the portal also offers new services and functionalities, such as the African Studies Toolbox blog which offers information on open access, archives and library holdings, and online resources for African Studies. Information and access options to our licensed databases is also included in the portal; all interested researchers working at an institution in Germany can register for these resources free of charge.

The SIS team consists of: Dr Aisha Othman (project lead), Dr Anne Schumann-Douosson (project staff), Christina Sokol (librarian) and Adrian Ziemer (retro-conversion).

Opening of the new BSKW (Languages and Cultures) Library

In September 2022, the new Library for Languages and Cultures (Bibliothek Sprach- und Kulturwissenschaften BSKW) opened on Campus Westend. Aisha Othman, Head of the Africa Collections at the Central Library, was instrumental in the relocation of the Institute of African Languages and Linguistics Library to this new departmental library, which she now leads. The new library integrates 12 libraries of institutes from the Faculty of Languages and Cultures, among them e.g., Japanese and Korean Studies. The BSKW holds up to 385.000 items (most of them in open stacks) and offers 350 study spaces.



CONTACT

Dr Aisha Othman
fid-afrikastudien@
ub.uni-frankfurt.de

INSTITUTION

Goethe University Library

DURATION

1/2020 – 12/2024

FUNDING

German Research
Foundation (DFG);
Specialised
Information Service

WEB PAGE

<http://www.africanstudieslibrary.org>



ZIAF information

- Advisory board of the ZIAF **84**
- Members of the ZIAF directorate **86**
- Members of the ZIAF **87**
- Publications by ZIAF members **92**
- Photo credit **94**

Advisory board of the ZIAF



Prof. Rose Marie Beck
University of Leipzig,
Chair of the
ZIAF advisory board

Professor Rose Marie Beck studied African Studies, German Studies, Education and History at the University of Cologne. In 2000 she received her doctorate from the University of Cologne with a thesis in communication studies on the popular culture of East Africa. From 1998 to 2009 she worked at Goethe University. Since 2010 Rose Marie Beck is a professor for African Languages and Literature and is currently executive director of the Institute for African Studies in Leipzig. Her regional foci are East and South-west Africa.



Dr Detlef Hanne
KfW Development Bank

Dr Detlef Hanne is a geoscientist and worked for several years in an international context in science, industry and development cooperation. From 2003 to 2011 he was responsible at Volkswagen Foundation for the implementation of initiatives in developing countries, especially the Africa Initiative "Knowledge for Tomorrow". Since then, he has been working in the field of financial cooperation at KfW Development Bank. One of his thematic foci is higher education in developing countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.



**Christian Hiller
von Gaertringen**
Journalist and author

Christian Hiller von Gaertringen was an economics editor of the "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung" and is a book author. He has been concerned with Africa's economic development since studying economics at Lumière Lyon 2 University in France. He travels to the continent regularly and reports on the economic upswing that the continent has been experiencing for several years.



Dr Daniela Kneißl
Alexander von
Humboldt Foundation

Dr Daniela Kneißl is head of the Africa, Middle East division in the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's sponsorship and network department. She is responsible, amongst other things, for implementing the Georg Forster Research Fellowship programme for researchers from emerging and developing countries as well as for maintaining and expanding the Humboldt network, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, she is the Humboldt Foundation's representative for fundamental issues relating to scientific cooperation.



Thomas Kraneis
Africa Association of the
German Economy e.V.

Graduate engineer Thomas Kraneis is influenced by the diversity of African cultures and the enormous opportunities for the economies of Africa and Europe. His main topics are energy-related issues on both continents. As a consulting engineer, Mr Kraneis advocates the sustainable use of renewable and fossil primary energies.



Prof. Dieter Neubert
University of Bayreuth

Professor Dieter Neubert studied Sociology, Cultural and Social Anthropology, and Education at Mainz University and habilitated in Sociology at the FU Berlin in 1995. He was a professor of Development Sociology at the University of Bayreuth from 2000 to 2018. His research topics include the Sociology of Africa, the Sociology of violent conflicts, theories of development, and development policy.



Norbert Noisser
Hessian Ministry of
Economics, Transport and
Regional Development,
Vice-chairman of
the ZIAF advisory board

Norbert Noisser was head of the Hessian Ministry of Economics, Transport and Regional Development (HMWVL), until September 2022. In this function, he was responsible for the markets Asia/Pacific, Middle East/North Africa (MENA), and Africa as well as for foreign trade cooperation with developing countries and international organizations. He is the president of the Society for International Development (SID), Frankfurt chapter and a member of the international Governing Council.



Members of the ZIAF directorate

Executive director

Prof. Jürgen Runge
Institute of Physical Geography

Deputy executive director

Prof. Hans Peter Hahn
Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology

Professors

Prof. Mamadou Diawara
Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology

Prof. Axel Fanego Palat
Institute of African Studies

Prof. Vinzenz Hediger
Institute of Theatre, Film and Media Studies

Prof. Katharina Neumann
Institute of Archaeological Sciences / Senckenberg
Research Institute, Palaeoanthropology Section

Prof. Frank Schulze-Engler
Institute of English and American Studies

Research associates

Dr Gertrud Boden
Institute of African Studies

Dr Alexa Höhn
Institute of Archaeological Sciences

Dr Nikolas Gestrich
Frobenius Institute/
Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology

Dr Aïsha Othman
Specialised Information Service
African Studies Library



Members of the ZIAF

Professors

Prof. apl. Rose-Juliet Anyanwu
Institute of African Studies

Prof. Marc Boeckler
Institute of Human Geography

Prof. Peter Breunig
Institute of Archaeological Sciences

Prof. Wolfgang Brüggemann
Institute of Ecology, Evolution & Diversity

Prof. apl. Abdourahmane Diallo
Institute of African Studies

Prof. Mamadou Diawara
Department for Social and Cultural Anthropology

Prof. Astrid Erll
Institute of English and American Studies

Prof. Axel Fanego Palat
Institute of African Studies

Prof. Mirco Göpfert
Department for Social and Cultural Anthropology

Prof. apl. Volker Gottowik
Department for Social and Cultural Anthropology

Prof. Hans Peter Hahn
Department for Social and Cultural Anthropology

Prof. Roland Hardenberg
Frobenius Institute / Department for
Social and Cultural Anthropology

Prof. Vinzenz Hediger
Institute for Theatre, Film and Media Studies

Prof. Susanne Heeg
Institute of Human Geography

Prof. Thomas Hickler
Institute of Physical Geography and Senckenberg
Biodiversity and Climate research Center (SBIK-F)

Prof. Severin Irl
Institute of Physical Geography

Prof. apl. Christa Kilian-Hatz
Institute of African Studies

Prof. Sven Klimpel
Institute of Ecology, Evolution & Diversity

Prof. Frank Kügler
Institute for Linguistics

Prof. Sonja Magnavita
Institute of Archaeological Sciences

Prof. Darrel Moellendorf
Institute for Political Science

Prof. apl. Katharina Neumann
Institute of Archaeological Sciences / Senckenberg
Research Institute, Palaeoanthropology Section

Prof. Meike Piepenbring
Institute of Ecology, Evolution & Diversity

Prof. Georg Rumpker
Institute for Earth Sciences

Prof. Jürgen Runge
Institute of Physical Geography

Prof. Uta Ruppert
Institute for Political Science

Prof. Thomas Schreijäck
Intercultural Theology, Department of Catholic Theology





Prof. Friedemann Schrenk
Institute of Ecology, Evolution & Diversity and
Senckenberg Research Institute, Palaeoanthropology Section

Prof. Frank Schulze-Engler
Institute of English and American Studies

Prof. Matthias Schündeln
Department EI: Applied Econometrics and
International Economic Policy

Prof. Roland Spiller
Institute for Romance Languages and Literatures

Prof. Rainer Vossen
Institute of African Studies and Oswin Köhler Archive

Prof. Jürgen Wunderlich
Institute of Physical Geography

Docs/Post Docs

Dr Ruth Achenbach
Interdisciplinary Centre for East Asian Studies

Dr Nadja Anoumou
Institute of Physical Geography

Dr Veit Bachmann
Institute of Human Geography

Dr Jan Beek
Institute of English and American Studies

PD Dr Klaus Beyer
Institute of African Studies

Dr Judith Blume
Goethe University Collections

Dr Gertrud Boden
Institute of African Studies and Oswin Köhler Archive

Dr Sabine Dinslage
Frobenius Institute

Dr Franziska Fay
Excellence Cluster Normative Orders

Dr Gabriele Franke
Institute of Archaeological Sciences

Dr Nikolas Gestrich
Frobenius Institute

Dr Kim Glück
Frobenius Institute

Doris Hardt
Institute of English and American Studies

Dr Alexa Höhn
Institute of Archaeological Sciences

Dr Yanti Höltzchen
Frobenius Institute

Dr Gabriel Klaeger
Department for Social and Cultural Anthropology

Daniel Kaiser
Institute for Political Science

Dr Melina Kalfelis
Department for Social and Cultural Anthropology

Joe Kaluba
Institute for Political Science

Dr Bernhard Köhler
Institute of African Studies

Konan Ange Sylvestre Kouakou
Department for Social and Cultural Anthropology

Stephane Kouassi
Institute of Sociology

Dr Richard Kuba
Frobenius Institute

Dr Ulrich Kuch
Department of Tropical Medicine and Global Health

Dr Carlos Magnavita
Frobenius Institute

Dr Ralph Mangelsdorff
Institute of Ecology, Evolution & Diversity

Cathrin Manz
Institute of Ecology, Evolution & Diversity

Dr Irene Marzloff
Institute of Physical Geography

Franziska Ohde
Institute for Sociology

Dr Aïsha Othman
Specialised Information Service (SIS)
African Studies Library

Magdalena Pfalzgraf
Institute of English and American Studies

Dr Astrid Röpke
Institute of Archaeological Sciences

Samantha Ruppel
Institute for Political Science

Susanna Schmidt-Groh
Institute of Ecology, Evolution & Diversity

Dr Marko Scholze
Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology

Dr Anne Schumann Douosson
Specialised Information Service (SIS)
African Studies Library

Dr Julia Schwarz
Institute of African Studies

Julian Stenmanns
Institute of Human Geography

Dr Doreen Strauss
Institute of English and American Studies

Dr Sophia Thubauville
Frobenius Institute

Dr Julia Verne
Institute of Human Geography

Dr Ulrike Zoch
Institute of African Studies

Associated members

Dr Christian Albrecht
Department of Animal Ecology & Systematics,
University of Giessen

Dr Hartmut Bergenthum
University Library Marburg

Prof. Thomas Bierschenk
formerly Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology
and Africa Studies, University Mainz

Dr André Burmann
formerly Institute of Archaeological Sciences

Dr Simone Claar
University of Kassel

Frauke Katharina Eckl
TU Darmstadt

Dr Joachim Eisenberg
formerly Institute of Physical Geography





Lena Hartmann

formerly Institute of Physical Geography

Dr Beatrix Heintze

Frobenius Institute

Dr Christine Hertler

Senckenberg Research Institute Frankfurt, ROCEEH

Dr Katja Heubach

Palmengarten Frankfurt

PD Dr Diana Hummel

Institute for Social Ecological Research (ISOE)

Dr Thomas Jahn

Institute for Social Ecological Research (ISOE)

PD Dr Werner Kahl

Mission Academy, University of Hamburg

Anne-Marie Kasper

formerly Specialised Information Service (SIS)
African Studies Library

Dr Kathrin Knodel

International Affairs,
German Research Foundation (DFG)

Prof. Matthias von Kriegstein

formerly Practical Theology and Religious Education

Prof Matthias Krings

Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology
and Africa Studies, University of Mainz

Dr Julia Krohmer

Senckenberg Society for Nature Research

PD Dr Ottmar Kullmer

Senckenberg Research Institute and
Natural History Museum Frankfurt

Anke Kuper

Senckenberg Research Institute and
Natural History Museum Frankfurt

PD Dr Rudolf Leger

formerly Institute of African Studies

Dr Anna Lessmeister

Quality management and committees,
RMU, TU Darmstadt

Dr Stefan Liehr

Institute for Social Ecological Research (ISOE)

Dr Doris Löhr

Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies

Carmen Ludwig

Institute for Political Science,
University of Giessen

Dr Rirhandu Mageza-Barthel

University of Kassel

Dr Christine Matzke

Department of English Literature,
University of Bayreuth

Yalemwork Meswaet

formerly Institute of Ecology, Evolution & Diversity

Nina Müller

Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (HSFK)

Dr Marion Neumer

Consulting Company AMBERO GmbH

Dr Emana Nsikan-George

formerly Institute of Physical Geography

Dr Gerhard Plodowski

Senckenberg Research Institute and
Natural History Museum Frankfurt

Prof Wolfgang Preiser

Institute for med. Virology and Division
of Medical Virology, Stellenbosch University
and NHLStygerberg

PD Dr Andrea Reikat

Université de Joseph Ki-Zerbo, Burkina Faso

Dr Julia Röhrig

Institute for Social Ecological Research (ISOE)

Prof. apl. Ute Röschenthaler

Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology
and Africa Studies, University of Mainz

Prof. emer. Eike W. Schamp

formerly Institute for Economic and Social Geography

Dr Simon Scheiter

Senckenberg Biodiversity and
Climate Research Institute (SBIK-F)

Dr Eberhard Schindler

Senckenberg Research Institute and
Natural History Museum Frankfurt

Dr Marco Schmidt

Palmengarten Frankfurt

Simone Schnabel

Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (HSFK)

Prof. Klaus Schneider

formerly Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum, Köln

Prof. Henning Schreiber

Asian African Institute, University of Hamburg

Dr Katharina Schumann

Ministry for the Environment, Climate and
Energy Management Baden-Württemberg

Christian Schütz

formerly Institute for Political Science

Dr Julia Schwarz

Institute of African Studies, University of Leipzig

Dr Mareike Späth

Museum am Rothenbaum, Hamburg

Prof. Anne Storch

Institute of African Studies, University of Cologne

Prof. Heinrich Thiemeyer

formerly Institute of Physical Geography

Prof. Katja Werthmann

Institute of African Studies, University of Leipzig

Dr Antonia Witt

Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (HSFK)

Prof. emer. Rüdiger Wittig

formerly Institute of Ecology, Evolution & Diversity

Laura Woltersdorf

Institute for Social Ecological Research (ISOE)

Prof. Georg Zizka

formerly Institute of Ecology, Evolution & Diversity and
SFI Senckenberg RI, Section Botany/Palaeobotany





Publications by ZIAF members

AFRICAN STUDIES

Boden, Gertrud. 2022. Whose Information? What Knowledge? Collaborative Work and a Plea for Referenced Collection Databases. *Collections. A Journal for Museum and Archives Professionals* 18(4): 479–505. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1550190622130534>

Vossen, Rainer. 2022. †Haba – Notes on an endangered Kala-hari Khoé language. In: Ulrike Zoch (ed.), *Issues in African Linguistics*. (Frankfurter Afrikanistische Blätter, 29.) Köln: Rüdiger Köppe, 111–131.

Vossen, Rainer, Kerstin Winkelmann, Dymitr Ibriszimow & Harry Stroomer (éd.). 2022. Études berbères IX. Essais sur la linguistique et la documentation écrite en berbère et autres articles. Actes du « 9. Bayreuth-Frankfurt-Leidener Kolloquium zur Berberologie », Francfort-sur-le-Main, 20–23 juillet 2016. (Berber Studies, 58.) Köln: Rüdiger Köppe.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND ARCHAEOBOTANY

Behringer, J., P. Breunig & J. Walter, 2022: Rock Art. In: M. Mendelsohn & J. Mendelsohn (Eds.), *Atlas of Namibia*, 288–289. Windhoek, Namibia Nature Foundation.

Breunig, P. 2022. Prehistoric Developments in Nigeria. In: T. Falola & M. M. Heaton (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Nigerian History*, 109–135. Oxford, Oxford University Press.

Breunig, P. 2022. The Significance of Nok Culture Sculptures in Nigerian Prehistory. *Scientia* May 20, 2022, Social Sciences and Humanities (<https://www.scientia.global/professor-peter-breunig-the-significance-of-nok-culture-sculptures-in-nigerian-prehistory/>).

Champion, L., Höhn, A., Neumann, K. et al. 2022. A question of rite – pearl millet consumption at Nok culture sites, Nigeria (second/first millennium BC). *Veget Hist Archaeobot* (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00334-022-00902-0>

Dunne, J., Höhn, A., Neumann, K. et al. 2022. Making the invisible visible: tracing the origins of plants in West African cuisine through archaeobotanical and organic residue analysis. *Archaeol Anthropol Sci* 14, 30 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12520-021-01476-0>

Hensel, E.A., Kehl, M., Wöstehoff, L., Neumann, K., Vogelsang, R. & Bubbenzer, O. 2022. A multi-method approach for deciphering rockshelter microstratigraphies – the role of the Sodicho Rockshelter (SW Ethiopia) as a geoarchaeological archive. *Geosciences* 2022, 12, 92. <https://doi.org/10.3390/geosciences12020092>

Höhn, A. 2022. Malebogo Mvimi: Past Environments and Plant Use in Holocene Southern Africa. A Study of Charcoal and Seed Remains from the Late Stone Age Sites of Toteng (Botswana), Leopard Cave and Geduld (Namibia). *Afr Archaeol Rev* 39, 365–367 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10437-022-09485-7>

Neumann, K., Eichhorn, B. & Wotzka, H.-P. 2022. Iron Age plant subsistence in the Inner Congo Basin (DR Congo). *Vegetation History and Archaeobotany* (2022) 31:481–509. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00334-021-00865-8>

BIOLOGY

Bermúdez-Cova MA, Cruz-Laufer AJ, Piepenbring M (2022) Hyperparasitic fungi on black mildews (Meliolales, Ascomycota): hidden fungal diversity in the tropics. *Frontiers in Fungal Biology* 3: 885279.

Tabé A, Aime MC, Yorou NS, Piepenbring M (2022) New records and data on rust fungi (Pucciniales, Basidiomycota) in Benin. *Phytotaxa* 548: 127–145.

Eibes, Pia M., Frances Schaffrath, Jens Oldeland, Wanda Thor-mählen, Ute Schmiedel & Severin DH Irl (2022) Testing the concept of edaphism for the quartz island flora of the Knersvlakte, South Africa. *South African Journal of Botany*, 151, 555–564. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sajb.2022.10.015>

Eibes, Pia M., Jens Oldeland, Severin D.H. Irl, Alina Twerski, Nicole Kühne, Ute Schmiedel (2021) Partitioned beta diversity patterns of plants across sharp and distinct boundaries of quartz habitat islands. *Journal of Vegetation Science*, 32, e13036, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/jvs.13036>

ECONOMICS

Naeher, Dominik and Matthias Schündel (2022) The Demand for Advice: Theory and Empirical Evidence from Farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa. *World Bank Economic Review* 36(1), 91–113. <https://academic.oup.com/wber/article/36/1/91/6141256?guestAccessKey=75da794d-b98f-4fb6-b5ea-c309553329a1&login=true>

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Bachmann, Veit, Kmar Bendana, Betty Rouland (2022): Ein Land zwischen Hoffnung und Ungewissheit. *Demokratie, Mobilität und Biotechnologie in Tunesien nach 2011*. In: *Forschung Frankfurt* (1) 2022: Perspektive Afrika. https://www.uni-frankfurt.de/122818572/FF_2022_01_Perspektive_AFRIKA_web_pdf.pdf

LINGUISTICS

Kügler, Frank. (2022) Phrase-Level ATR Vowel Harmony in Anum — A Case of Recursive Prosodic Phrasing. *Languages* 7: 308. <https://doi.org/10.3390/languages7040308>

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Cunliffe, A. M., Anderson, K., Boschetti, F., Brazier, R. E., Graham, H. A., Myers-Smith, I. H., Astor, T., Boer, M. M., Calvo, L., Clark, P. E., Cramer, M. D., Encinas-Lara, M. S., Escarzagala, S. M., Fernández-Guisuraga, J. M., Fisher, A. G., Gdulová, K., Gillespie, B. M., Griebel, A., Hanan, N. P., Hanggito, M. S., Haselberger, S., Havrilla, C. A., Heilman, P., Ji, W., Karl, J. W., Kirchhoff, M., Kraushaar, S., Lyons, M. B., Marzloff, I., Mauritz, M. E., McIntire, C. D., Metzzen, D., Méndez-Barroso, L. A., Power, S. C., Profiek, J., Sanz-Ab-lanado, E., Sauer, K. J., Schulze-Brüninghoff, D., Šimová, P., Sitch, S., Smit, J. L., Steele, C. M., Suárez-Seoane, S., Vargas, S. A., Villarreal, M. L., Visser, F., Wachendorf, M., Wirnsberger, H. & Wojcikiewicz, R. (2022): Global application of an unoccupied aerial vehicle photogrammetry protocol for predicting aboveground biomass in non-forest ecosystems. *Remote Sensing in Ecology and Conservation* 8(1): 57–71. DOI:10.1002/rse2.228

Kirchhoff, M., Marzloff, I., Stephan, R., Seeger, M., Aït Hssaine, A. & Ries, J. B. (2022): Monitoring dryland trees with remote sensing. Part B: Combining tree cover and plant architecture data to assess degradation and recovery of argan woodlands of South Morocco. *Frontiers in Environmental Science* 19 (896703): 1–19. DOI:10.3389/fenvs.2022.896703

Martens, C., Scheiter, S., Midgley, G. F. and Hickler, T. 'Combined impacts of future climate-driven vegetation changes and socioeconomic pressures on protected areas in Africa', *Conservation Biology*, 36(n/a), pp. e13968.

Marzloff, I., Kirchhoff, M., Stephan, R., Seeger, M., Aït Hssaine, A. & Ries, J. B. (2022): Monitoring dryland trees with remote sensing. Part A: Beyond CORONA – Historical HEXAGON satellite imagery as a new data source for mapping open-canopy woodlands on the tree level. *Frontiers in Environmental Science* 10(896702): 1–21. DOI:10.3389/fenvs.2022.896702





SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Diawara, Mamadou, Mamadou Diouf and Jean-Bernard Ouédraogo (eds.) 2022: *Afrika N'ko*. La Bibliothèque coloniale en débat. Paris: Présence Africaine.

Diawara, Mamadou, 2022: "Afrikas Blick auf Europa", in: Michael Hohmann and Pierre Monnet (eds.): *Café Europa*. Band 2. Göttingen: Wallstein Verlag, pp. 161–172.

Diawara, Mamadou, 2022: "The Colonial Library', Intellectual Property, and the Romance of Development in Africa", in: Mamadou Diawara, Mamadou Diouf and Jean-Bernard Ouédraogo (eds.) *Afrika N'ko*. La Bibliothèque coloniale en débat. Paris: Présence Africaine, pp. 589–622.

Diawara, Mamadou, Mamadou Diouf and Jean-Bernard Ouédraogo 2022: "Introduction. Le colon, sa bibliothèque et son indigène: retour sur l'Afrique comme construction sociale d'un objet de savoir", in: Mamadou Diawara, Mamadou Diouf and Jean-Bernard Ouédraogo (eds.): *Afrika N'ko*. La Bibliothèque coloniale en débat. Paris: Présence Africaine, pp. 11–26.

Diawara, Mamadou, Mamadou Diouf and Jean-Bernard Ouédraogo: "The Colonist, His Library, and his Native: Reassessing Africa as a Socially Constructed Subject of Knowledge", in: Mamadou Diawara, Mamadou Diouf and Jean-Bernard Ouédraogo (eds.): *Afrika N'ko*. La Bibliothèque coloniale en débat. Paris: Présence Africaine, pp. 27–44.

Thubauville Sophia and Anbessa Tefera, 2021 (eds.): *Ad. E. Jensen: The Sidaama*. Southern Ethiopian Studies at the Frobenius Institute, Vol. 2. Zürich: Lit.

Photo credit

African Archaeology, Goethe University: cover back from above 4, p 22 from le 1–2, p 24–27
Agence Alkatraz, Bamako: cover front from above 1 and 3, p 1 from ri 1, p 3, p 4 top, p 8 top, p 53 from le 1–4, p 58–59
Christian Albrecht: cover front from above 4, p 5 from ri 3, p 9 from ri 1, p 61 from le 5–6, p 68–69
Banger Films: Film Still "K-Pop Evolution": p 15 from le 4, p 16 bottom
Judith Blume: p 73 from left 1
Gertrud Boden: p 4 bottom ri, p 36 from le 2–3, p 38 bottom, p 39
Stéphanie Bodin: p 35 from ri 1
Ebenzer Bosomprah: p 1 from le 1, p 52 from le 4
Azize Boukary: p 48 bottom ri
Hamza Boutemin: p 9 from ri 3–4, p 36 from ri 1, p 41 top le and bottom
Sidiki Camara: p 29 bottom
CEVADEL: p 47 from ri 1, p 51 bottom ri
Daouda Dongnima: cover front from above 2, p 46 from le 1, p 48 top, p 49 from le 2
Axel Fanego-Palat: p 36 from ri 2, p 41 top ri, p 60 from le 4, p 61 from le 1–2, p 62 top, p 64–65
Søren Feldborg Pedersen: p 22 from le 5, p 29 top le
Denison Fernandes: p 6 bottom, p 52 from le 1–2, p 54 top, bottom le and middle
Jimmy Fotso: p 6 top, p 71 from le 4, p 79
Nikolas Gestrich: p 22 from le 4, p 29 top ri
Georg Glasze: p 37 from ri 4, p 43 bottom
Kim Glück: p 44 bottom le
Oulimata Gueye: p 52 from le 3
Karen Hahn: p 1 from ri 2, p 7 from ri 3, p 12 top ri and bottom, p 23 from ri 2, p 35 from le 1 and 4–6
Felix Hampe: p 13 from ri 1
Gerald Heusing: p 36 from le 4–5, p 40 top and bottom le
Marina Hiemann: p 13 from ri 3–4
Joshua Hirschauer: p 60 from le 2
Alexa Höhn: p 22 from le 3, p 28
Mireille Hounga: p 5 from ri 2, p 47 from ri 2–3, p 51 top and bottom le
Basile Hounwanou: p 49 from le 4

Severin Irl: p 46 from ri 1, p 47 from ri 4–5, p 50
Thomas Krings: p 14 from le 1, p 18, p 19 top
Janika Kunzmann: p 37 from ri 5, p 42
Bertram Lang: p 14 from le 3, p 17 from le 3
Carlos Magnavita: p 9 from ri 2, p 23 from le 1–2, p 30, p 31 top and bottom from ri 1, 2 and 4
Sonja Magnavita: p 23 from le 3–4, p 32–33
Cathrin Manz: p 46 from le 2–3, p 49 from re 2
N.N.: cover back from above 1, p 2, p 5 from ri 1 and 5, p 7 from ri 1, p 14 from le 4, p 23 from ri 1, p 34, p 40 bottom ri, p 43 top, p 46 from le 4, p 48 bottom l, p 49 from le 1
Nico Nassenstein: cover back from above 2, p 60 from le 1, p 62 bottom le, p 63
Katharina Neumann: p 35 from le 2
Alo Paistik: p 61 from le 3–4, p 66, p 67 from le 3–4
Christoff Pauw: p 8 bottom
Meike Piepenbring: p 13 from ri 2
Jürgen Runge: cover back from above 3, p 10, p 11 bottom, p 12 top le, p 70 from le 3–4, p 74–75, p 82 from le 2 and 4, p 83 from le 1 and 3, p 86 bottom, p 88–89, p 92–93

Stefan Schmid: p 1 from ri 3–4, p 4 bottom le, p 52 from le 5–6, p 53 from le 1, p 56–57, p 70 from le 5, p 71 from le 1–3, p 76–78, p 82 from le 1, 3 and 5, p 83 from le 2 and 4, p 86 top, p 87, p 90–91, p 94–96
Marko Scholze: p 54 bottom ri
Anne Schumann-Douosson: p 71 from le 5, p 80, p 81 bottom from ri 2–3
Tom Simmert: p 14 from le 5, p 15 from le 1, 3 and 4, p 16 top, p 17 from le 1–2, p 18, p 19 bottom, p 20, p 21 from le 1, p 21 from le 4
Tom Stern, copyright Goethe University: p 7 from ri 2, p 70 from le 1–2, p 72, p 73 from left 2–5
Cezary Szymanski: p 31 bottom from ri 3
Alula Tesfay Asfha: p 37 from ri 1, p 45
Sophia Thubauville: p 37 from ri 1–2, p 44 top and bottom ri
Friederike Vigeland: p 5 from ri 4, p 62 bottom ri
Friederike Vigeland and Klaus Beyer: p 60 from le 3
Fabienne Wolf: p 15 from le 2, p 21 from le 3, p 67 from le 1–2
Moritz Zielinski: p 14 from le 2, p 21 from le 2
Adrian Ziemer: p 81 bottom from ri 1





Imprint

PUBLISHED BY

ZIAF – Centre for interdisciplinary African Studies

EDITORIAL BOARD

Dr Karen Hahn & Dr Stefan Schmid

DESIGN & LITHOGRAPHY

Ines von Ketelhodt · k und m design

PRINTING & BINDING

CPI books GmbH, Leck



COPYRIGHT

Any kind of duplication, in particular the electronic processing of texts or the entirety of this publication, requires the prior written consent by the authors.

© 2023 ZIAF – Centre for interdisciplinary African Studies

Contact:

Dr Stefan Schmid · Phone + 49 69 79832097

Dr Karen Hahn · Phone +49 69 79842247

Norbert-Wollheim-Platz 1 · 60323 Frankfurt am Main

Germany

www.ziaf.de

