

Profile

Eva Riedke is post-doc researcher (*wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin*) at the Department of Anthropology and African Studies (ifeas). Her research and teaching draws inspiration from political anthropology, anthropology of the state, infrastructure studies, feminist and gender studies and Science and Technology Studies (STS). She conducted thirteen months of ethnographic fieldwork in Durban, South Africa. She was awarded her PhD from the Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz in 2017 and is currently beginning a new project on micro-solar products and so called "off-grid life" in Uganda.

Current Positions

Since 4/2017 **Post-doc researcher**, *Department of Anthropology and African Studies (ifeas)*

Since 4/2016 **Copy Editor**, *To the point*

Copy editing, review and translations of academic texts, reports, articles and policy publications. Recent commissions were received by: Käte Hamburger Kolleg Duisburg, Seminar für Ethnologie (Martin-Luther-Universität Halle- Wittenberg), Welthungerhilfe, Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung. (see: www.to-the-point.org)

Since 6/2016 **Associate Researcher**, *LOST Group*

A research group based at the Seminar für Ethnologie (Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg), working at the intersection of anthropology, organization studies and Science and Technology Studies (STS), emphasizing the legal and ethical dimensions of fact-making in the contemporary. (see: <https://lost-research-group.org>)

Previous Positions

12/2016 – 6/2017 **Post-Doc Fellow**, *Universität Leipzig*

Six-months DFG post-doc start-up funding grant, granted through the SPP 1448 Priority Programme. The objective of the grant was to enable the development of a post-doc research proposal – attending to and elaborating further the issue-centred framework laid out in the PhD thesis.

10/2011 – 11/2013 **PhD candidate/Research fellow**, *Institut für Soziologie Universität Siegen*

Member of the subproject "Africa Political Cultures: a comparative study in Guinea-Bissau, Libya, South Africa and Zambia", which formed part of the the DFG Priority Programme "SPP 1448 Creativity and Adaptation in Africa". Head of Project & PhD supervisor: Prof Trutz von Trotha.

Trutz von Trotha died in May 2013. The thesis was subsequently pursued at the Institute of Anthropology and African Studies, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, under Prof Thomas Bierschenk with funding from the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes (12/2013- 11/2016).

5/2011 – 4/2016 **Freelance Translator/Copy Editor**

This has included projects for: Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Welthungerhilfe, Stiftung Entwicklung und Frieden (SEF), Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit (BMZ), Institut für Entwicklung und Frieden (INEF), Universität Duisburg- Essen. Similar commissions are now being pursued through *'To the point'*.

10/2011 – 11/2013 **Project Assistant**, *Global Water System Project (GWSP), Zentrum für Entwicklungsforschung (ZEF), Bonn*

Development and implementation of subprojects; evaluation and monitoring; organisation of conferences and workshops; contribution to funding applications; editing and layout of GWSP publications. Editing and text contribution to GWSPs publication "River Basins and Change" published together with UNESCO-IHE.

1/2009 – 10/2009 **Project Assistant**, *Stiftung Entwicklung und Frieden (SEF), Bonn.*

Assistance in the planning and management of subprojects; planning and organisation of conferences and workshops; thematic contributions to SEF publications.

Education

12/2013 – 11/2016 **PhD candidate**, *Institut für Ethnologie und Afrikastudien, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz*

Dissertation Title: 'Concerning issues: Making things political in Durban',
Supervised by Prof Thomas Bierschenk.

The focus in this work is on 'issues' that concern people and processes of 'issueification' – the articulation of 'issues' as problematic entanglements that actors and groups of actors are implicated in, and how these, to borrow a formulation from the sociologist Noortje Marres (2005), "spark a public into being". The objective is to prompt a reconsideration of what we readily come to recognise as the settings of 'the political'. To direct attention to the alternative *sites*, *subjects* and *forms* that define publics and their politics at a given moment in time.

The PhD was funded through a scholarship from the *Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes*.

8/2011 - 10/2009 **MA in Culture and Environment Africa (CEA)**, *Universität zu Köln*

Grade: 1,0 with Honours

Thesis Title: 'A 19th Century documentary-based climate reconstruction for Kuruman and Thaba Nchu (South Africa)'.

Archival research was conducted in London in November 2010 and in Cape Town in February – March 2011. Funded through a DAAD research stipend.

10/2005 – 6/2008 **BSc in Applied Social Sciences (Anthropology)**, *University of Southampton, UK*

Grade: 1st Class with Honours

Thesis Title: 'Peace vs. justice, international vs. traditional justice: deconstructing dichotomies in the case of Northern Uganda'.

Workshop- and Conference Papers

- 9/2016 'Statues and Sculptures: Destabilising a few Esoteric Ideas', presented at the SPP 1448 Final Results Conference in Potsdam, Germany. Topic of the panel 'Technologies and Imaginaries in and of Africa: Arts and Inventive Methodology'.
- 8/2016 'There is a township growing in your backyard': exploring a chief's entanglements in processes of 'issue making', presented at the 4S/East conference in Barcelona, Spain. Topic of the panel 'The Event of the Public: Convolutions of Aesthetic and Epistemic'.
- 9/2014 'Limited Power through Land' – Reproducing, Altering and Co-opting Different Sources of Legitimacy in the Face of Growing Land Disputes', presented at the North-Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa (NEWSA) in Burlington, USA. Topic of the panel: 'Making (Legitimate) Chiefs: Politics, Religion, and Tradition in KwaZulu-Natal'.
- 8/2014 'Antagonising 'past times' — A King Shaka statue in Durban', presented at the SPP 1448 Second Biennial Results Conference in Dakar, Senegal. Topic of the Panel: 'Vignettes from the field: narratives and significations'.
- 7/2014 'Exploring politics of history in KwaZulu-Natal South'. Presentation at the Institute of Anthropology, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany.
- 6/2014 'The King's Cure: Exploring local struggles for political legitimacy in the context of the HIV/AIDS epidemic', presented at the conference of the Vereinigung für Afrikanwissenschaften in Deutschland (VAD E.V.) on Future Africa at the University of Bayreuth, Germany. Topic of the Panel: 'Navigating Futures: The making of (in)security in practices of anticipation and responsibility in African context'
- 11/2013 'The institutionalisation of a national basic narrative in KwaZulu-Natal South, Africa', presented at the Department of Anthropology and African Studies (IFEAS), Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz.
- 3/2013 'Limited power through land – strengthening different bases of legitimacy and authority in the face of growing land disputes', presented at the conference 'Land Divided: Land and South African Society in 2013, at the University of Cape Town, South Africa.
- 10/2012 'Significations' within a study of Political Culture(s) – Durban, KwaZulu-Natal', presented at the SPP 1448 Biennial Conference in Maputo, Mozambique.

3/2012 'Political cultures, local leadership and contested public spaces in the politics of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa', presented at the workshop 'South African Political Cultures: Institutional Pluralism, Contested Public Spaces, and Legitimacy' held in Durban, South Africa

Workshops and Panels (co-)organised

5/2018 Workshop on the topic of 'The State, Anthropology and the South' (Co-organised with Thomas Bierschenk, Heike Drotbohm and Heath Cabot), held at the Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz

11/2017 First Editorial Workshop in Berlin, Germany for the Edited Volume 'Life-worlds, and Technologies' to be published with Richard Rottenburg, Uli Beisel and Rene Umlauf (co-editors).

9/2016 Panel on 'Publishing and Writing Africa' as part of the SPP 1448 Final Results Conference in Potsdam, Germany (Co-organised with Franziska Zanker).

4/2015 SPP 1448 Junior Researchers Writing Camp in Cologne, Germany. Topic: 'Making things political'. Co-organised with Sara de Wit and Florian Weisser.

9/2014 SPP 1448 Junior Researchers Writing Camp in Allersberg, Germany. Topic: 'Peer coaching and the engagement with sensitising concepts' (Co-organised with Claudia Gebauer and Norman Schräpel).

7/2014 Workshop on 'Conceptualising Brokers engaged in Translation', held at the University of Halle, Germany.

4/2014 SPP 1448 Junior Researchers Workshop in Wermelskirchen, Germany. Topic of the Workshop: 'Narrating Narratives: exploring theories of signification and methodological approaches' (Co-organised with Jannik Schritt, Claudia Gebauer, Julia Willers and Sara de Wit).

3/2012 Workshop on 'South African Political Cultures: Institutional Pluralism, Contested Public Spaces, and Legitimacy' held by the SPP 1448 Subproject African Political Cultures, in Durban, South Africa.

Publications

RIEDKE, E. (2015). 'You shouldn't be seen talking to them!' – Accidental frontlines, building trust and coping with danger'. Special issue of Civilisations. Field Research in Difficult Contexts: Hostile Settings Sensitive Topics, Taboos. Vol. 64.

RIEDKE, E. & ROTTENBURG, R. (2016) 'Introduction'. IN: Riedke, E. (Ed) The ordering power of narratives, Working Paper of the DFG Priority Programme 1448, Nr. 21, PP: 5-16.

RIEDKE, E. (2016) 'Antagonising 'past times' – A King Shaka statue in Durban'. IN: Riedke, E. (Ed.) The ordering power of narratives, Working Paper of the DFG Priority Programme 1448, Nr. 21, PP: 5-16.

ROTTENBURG, R.; BEISEL, U; RIEDKE, E. & UMLAUF, R. (Eds.) (*forthcoming*) 'Lifeworlds and Technicisation'.

RIEDKE, E. (*forthcoming*) 'Virginity Testing: A ceremony that cures – doing 'one's share' in times of HIV/AIDS'.