

Personal Profile

Birthe Annkathrijn Pater is writing her doctoral thesis on political culture in Malawi. She works on New Museums in Southern Africa and focuses in her thesis on the Cultural Museum Centre Karonga (CMCK) in Malawi to illustrate how a cultural institution becomes a forum for negotiations beyond discussions on material culture.

From 2008 to 2012 she worked as a research and teaching associate at the Department of Political Science for the Chair of Development and Gender Studies Goethe University Frankfurt (Germany). She is an associated member of the Centre of Interdisciplinary African Studies (ZIAF).

Since August 2013, Birthe Annkathrijn Pater is an approved doctoral candidate at the Department of Anthropology and African Studies after her formal change of subject. In 2007 she completed her Magister Artium (M.A.) in Political Science, Sociology and Law at Goethe University Frankfurt and studied Political Science and Community and Family Studies at Otago University Dunedin (New Zealand) in 2004.

Papers

- 2015 Unofficial Histories, International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam 05-06 June 2015: Living Legends in Malawi. An exhibition with filmed testimonies on the political history.
- 2014 AFRASO lecture on 'More than cheap talk? Japan's foreign aid approach in Zambia?' in cooperation with Simone Claar. Goethe University, 15.05.2014.
- International Conference of Africa-Asia Development University Network – Africa's Asian Options (AADUN-AFRASO) 2014: Japanese philosophy in development co-operation: the Zambian case. Kuala Lumpur, 12 March 2014 in cooperation with and represented by Simone Claar.
- 2013 European Conference on African Studies (ECAS 2013): Envisioning Culture, Development and Power in Africa. Lisbon, 27.06.2013.
- Department for Social Anthropology Goethe-University colloquium organized by Prof. Mamadou Diawara: Cultural Heritage for Development. Frankfurt, 04.07.2013.
- Völkerkundemuseum Zürich (UZH): Fossilien, Kultur und Gemeinwesen im südlichen Afrika. Zürich, 13.06.2013.
- 2012 Bauhaus-Universität: Museen, Ausstellungen, Afrika: Herausforderungen kodierter Repräsentationen. Weimar, 08.06.2012.
- 2011 ZIAF-Panel Discussion: Conducting research in Africa. Frankfurt a.M., 02.12.2011.
- 2011 Cultural Promotion for development? Bad Homburg, 02.02.2011.

Committees

March 2011 - October 2012 Elected Member of the Social-Sciences Department Council, as a representative for the mid-level academic employees, Goethe University Frankfurt (Germany).

April 2010 - October 2012 Elected Member of the Executive Board of the Centre for Interdisciplinary African Studies (ZIAF), Goethe-University Frankfurt (Germany).

Field Research

Long-term and short-term research stays in Malawi since 2003 funded by several grants and scholarships such as The Cultural Preservation Programme of the German Federal Foreign Office 2014 (5 months); State of Hessen 2013 (1 month); German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) 2010 (8 months); Associations of Friends and Patrons Goethe University 2009 (3 months); Centre for Interdisciplinary African Studies (ZIAF) 2007 (1 month); Capacity Building International (InWEnt) 2003 (4 months) and further several travels to Malawi.

March and October 2013 research stay in Lusaka/Zambia on 'African Ownership more than cheap talk? Japan's foreign aid approach in Zambia' in an interdisciplinary team funded by Africa's Asian Options: New Interactions between Africa and Asia (AFRASO).

March 2012 Fact Finding Mission to Juba University South Sudan to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding with an interdisciplinary group of academic representatives from Goethe University Frankfurt funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

October 2010 research stay in Tanzania on Museums in Southern Africa.

Conferences

June 2012 *'Transfer and reception – The role of museums in and for Africa'* with experts from South Africa and Kenya under the auspices of the JGU Endowed Professorship Prof. Dr. Friedemann Schrenk (Report online: www.uni-mainz.de/magazin/700_ENG_HTML.php).

July 2012 Conference on 'Sustainable Development in Africa' at Goethe University Frankfurt *Grant for an Alumni-Network conference by German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)/Federal Ministry of Education (BMBF)* in cooperation with ANSA e.V.

May 2012 'South Sudan – what is next?' talk by the president of the University of Juba Prof. Abate and filmmaker Oliver Becker in Frankfurt am Main (DE) financed by the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies (ZIAF) in cooperation with Dany Jaimovich and Aleksí Ylönen.

Exhibition

Since November 2014 'Living Legends – Malawians tell their stories since Independence' permanent exhibition in 'From Dinosaurs to Democracy' CMCK in Karonga/Malawi. The key part is a video installation, which displays contemporary eyewitness interviews (conducted in 2014) on political history since the nations' independence, financed by the *The Cultural Preservation Programme of the German Federal Foreign Office*.

Teaching

UNIVERSITÄT ZÜRICH – ISEK/VÖLKERKUNDE MUSEUM Zürich/Switzerland

02/15 – 05/15 Master course: 'National and regional museum in Southern Africa – new cooperations between Africa and Europe?', spring term 2015 at the University of Zurich.

JOHANNES GUTENBERG- UNIVERSITY Mainz/Germany

04/15 – 07/15 Bachelor course: 'Introductory to Memory Studies', summer term 2015 at the Department of Anthropology and African Studies.

11/14 – 02/15 Bachelor Course: 'Regionalseminar: Politische Kultur in Malawi', winter term 2014/2015 at the Department of Anthropology and African Studies.

04/14 – 07/14 Bachelor course: 'Regionalseminar: Südsudan' (Anthropological research on South Sudan), summer term 2014 at the Department of Anthropology and African Studies.

04/13 – 07/13 Bachelor course: 'The meaning of museums in Sub-Sahara-Africa: A travelling concept', summer term 2014 at the Department of Anthropology and African Studies.

04/12 – 07/12 Master course in cooperation with Prof. Bierschenk and Prof. Schrenk on 'Homo Sapiens in research history', summer term 2012 at the Department of Anthropology and African Studies.

GOETHE-UNIVERSITY Frankfurt/Germany

10/12 – 02/13 'Pitfalls of external aid and reconstruction in post-conflict countries: Challenges to state consolidation and development in South Sudan' in cooperation with the Peace Research Institute (PRIF/HSFK) represented by Dr. Aleksi Yloenen.

04/12 – 07/12 Master course: 'Kultur und Entwicklung in Afrika' (Culture and Development in Africa), summer term 2012 Goethe-University, Frankfurt/Main.

04/11 – 07/11 Master course: 'African Perspectives: Political Participation and Social Frameworks', summer term 2011 Goethe-University, Frankfurt/Main.

10/09 – 02/10 Bachelor course: 'Culture and Development', winter term 2009/2010 Goethe-University, Frankfurt/Main.

10/08 – 07/09 Master course in Qualitative Studies in cooperation with Prof. U. Ruppert and Beatrix Schwarzer, two terms course in winter term 2008/2009 and summer term 2009 including a student field trip on empirical research to Malawi (MW) in August 2009 financed by DAAD.