Impressum

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Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz

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Cover: Photo by Heike Drotbohm, July 2018. The picture shows a graffiti in São Paulo, Brazil, painted by Brazilian street artist Eduardo Kobra. It plays with the contrast between the pessimistic statement “sad the man who abandons himself”, that reflects a demeaning social attitude towards older people, and the particularly expressive and cheerful presentation of an old man in the painting itself.

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INTRODUCTION

During the last year, the Department of Anthropology and African Studies has been as active as ever, if not more so. When we look back over the year 2018, many events, news and changes can be mentioned, as you will see when you look through the following pages. In June, Markus Verne, newly appointed Professor of Anthropology, gave his inaugural lecture and we are now looking forward to many years of inspiration and cooperation. This year, the number of international conferences (six), workshops (eight), panels (six) and student symposia (one) was impressively high. In February, the department hosted a conference on “Care in Crisis. Ethnographic Perspectives on Humanitarianism” organized by myself together with Hannah Brown from the University of Durham. In June, the first edition of the Anthropology of Music Master Class – a new format combining a lecture series and a student seminar – was held. After the summer break, in September, Matthias Krings, Kathrin Hoff and Christopher Hohl organized a conference on “Different Shades of White: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Albinotic Body”. In October, the first international conference of the Junior Research Group “Jihadism on the Internet” on the topic of “Jihadi Audio-visualities” took place. The initiated discussions, networks and publications will all constitute milestones in our collective thinking and in the development of new research areas.

As a farewell event for Raimund Kastenholz, who retired after having held the department’s professorship for African Languages and Linguistics for more than twenty years, Holger Tröbs organized a conference in March on current trends in West African linguistics. We thank our retired colleague warmly for his great commitment. There were additional developments at the staff level this year: After serving four years as Dean of the Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies at JGU, Thomas Bierschenk returned to the department, remaining, however, Vice-Dean until his retirement in March 2019. Until July, Carola Lentz was a fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (Institute of Advanced Studies) where she directed a focus group on “Family history and social change in West Africa”. In June, she was elected Vice-President of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities. During this year, she was substituted by Ute Röschenthaler, who, once again supported our department with full force. Matthias Krings spent the summer term as a fellow at the “Morphomata” Centre of Advanced Studies at the University of Cologne, and was replaced by Ehler Voss, from the University of Siegen, who enriched our institute during this period with his specialization on science and technology studies and medical anthropology.

In 2018, the department also continued to be successful in the pursuit of research grants. The German Research Foundation (DFG) approved the funding of the project “African trajectories across Central America” as well as the project “Police-translations – multilingualism and the everyday production of cultural difference”, which will take up its work in March 2019. Moreover, funding for the joint research project “Afrikaner*innen im Rhein-Main-Gebiet: ein afrikalinguistisches Forschungsprojekt zu sprachlicher Integration”, based at the two Rhine-Main-Universities of Mainz and Frankfurt a. M., was granted and will start in the course of 2019. Several more research proposals are currently in the pipeline.

There was a steady stream of foreign and domestic guests to our department in 2018, who contributed stimulating insights from their particular research fields. Heath Cabot, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh, joined the department in the summer term and contributed to several events on the intersection between political anthropology and migration studies. Other guests were Edison Cassadore (Arizona, USA) and Ibrahima Wane (Dakar, Senegal) who visited the African Music Archives (AMA) as a Humboldt Fellow. Heike Becker, Professor of Anthropology from the University of the Western Cape (UWC) and Sikelelwa Mashiyi, master’s student in Anthropology at UWC, were hosted by Anne Brandstetter and Yamara Wessling. Anne and Yamara also represented the JGU, together with Professor Georg Krausch, President of the JGU, as members of the delegation of Malu Dreyer, Premier of the German state of Rhineland-Palatinate, on her official visit to Rwanda.
Last but not least, anthropology students were also particularly committed this year. The student council (Fachschaftsrat) at our department organized an impressive range of exciting activities, including the launch of a student blog and the relocation of Cargo – a anthropology student magazine of long standing – from Bayreuth to Mainz. Two of our students won the annual prize for outstanding theses and semester papers awarded by our faculty.

Heike Drotbohm
Head of Department
January 2019
ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND AFRICAN STUDIES

The Department of Anthropology and African Studies (ifeas) at the JGU Mainz is an interdisciplinary institution, which covers a broad spectrum of both research and teaching activities. These include social, political, religious and economic anthropology, transnational and humanitarian studies, the politics and sociology of development, media and visual anthropology, modern popular culture, aesthetics as well as African literatures, African music, theatre and film and the languages of Africa.

The department’s faculty includes the following professorships:

- **Thomas Bierschenk** (Anthropology and Modern African Studies)
- **Heike Drotbohm** (Anthropology of African Diaspora and Transnationalism)
- **Raimund Kastenholz** (African Languages and Linguistics) - until March 2018
- **Matthias Krings** (Anthropology and African Popular Culture)
- **Carola Lentz** (Anthropology)
- **Nico Nassenstein** (Junior professor of African Languages and Linguistics)
- **Markus Verne** (Anthropology with a Focus on Aesthetics)

In addition, Ute Röschenthaler is Extranumerary Professor (apl. Prof.) and Helmut Asche is Honorary Professor at the department.

Degree programmes offered at the department

The department currently offers a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Anthropology (“Ethnologie”), a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Anthropology (“Ethnologie”), and a Ph.D. (Promotion) in Anthropology (“Ethnologie”) as well as in African Languages and Linguistics (“Afrikanistik”). We are going to launch a new MA programme in Anthropology of the Global in 2019. This new masters’ programme will offer a research-oriented training in anthropology with a special focus on local-global entanglements.

The focus of the curriculum and research programme is on contemporary Africa and its entanglements with other world regions. Teaching and research go hand in hand, and advanced students are actively involved in research projects. Cooperation with African universities and collaboration with African colleagues play a central role in all these endeavours.

**M.A. “Ethnologie” (Anthropology)**

[http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/293.php](http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/293.php) / [http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/eng/293.php](http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/eng/293.php)

The two-year programme offers research-oriented training in anthropology as a general and comparative discipline in the context of social and cultural studies, which deals with the diversity of human lifestyles, exploring their commonalities and differences. It is closely connected with the department’s main research interests and the department’s exceptional resources with five professorships and numerous academic staff, the Ethnographic Collections, the Jahn Library for African Literatures, and the African Music Archives. The programme combines a broad engagement with the areas, theories and methods of anthropology on an advanced level in the context of a student research project, supervised by members of the department’s academic staff, in which students explore a thematically and regionally specific topic, plan and carry out fieldwork as well as processing, analysing, interpreting and presenting their data. In the course of the student research project, relevant anthropological research methods are acquired and practiced.
B.A. “Ethnologie” (Anthropology)

http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/1713.php / http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/eng/294.php

The three-year programme focuses on the diversity of contemporary cultural and social practices and aims to provide students with a thorough grounding in the methods, theory, and history of anthropological research. While enabling students to explore human practices in all regions of the world, the programme’s regional focus is on Africa (south of the Sahara). It integrates the concerns, approaches and methods of anthropology, sociology, history, literary studies, media studies, cultural studies, and linguistics. Students have plenty of scope to develop and pursue their own thematic interests.

B.A. “Linguistik—Schwerpunkt Afrikanistik” (Linguistics with specialisation in African Languages and Linguistics)

https://www.linguistik.fb05.uni-mainz.de/ba-linguistik/

The B.A. “Linguistik” with specialisation in “Afrikanistik” is a three-year study programme offered by the Department of Linguistics in cooperation with the section of African Languages and Linguistics within the Department of Anthropology and African Studies. The B.A. programme focuses on the reconstruction and analysis of similarities across the four language phyla of Africa. Aiming to offer a broad approach to Africa as a field of linguistic research, students study the different geographical areas and their specific language features. Apart from classificatory systems of African languages and their development, the focus lies on insights into phonological as well as structural phenomena (such as noun class systems, verbal extensions, word order, etc.). The programme offers the whole range of African linguistics, covering the transcription of unwritten languages, their morphosyntactic structures, language contact scenarios as well as processes of linguistic change.
Publications of the department

The department publishes the series **Mainzer Beiträge zur Afrikaforschung** (editors: Thomas Bierschenk, Heike Drotbohm, Raimund Kastenholz, Matthias Krings, Carola Lentz, Anja Oed, Markus Verne. Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe, [http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/251.php](http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/251.php)).

In 2018, one new volume was published:


Furthermore, the department publishes an online series of working papers, **Arbeitshapiere des Instituts für Ethnologie und Afrikastudien der Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz** / Working Papers of the Department of Anthropology and African Studies of the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz. Managing editor is Konstanze N’Guessan ([http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/92.php](http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/92.php)). In 2018, seven new working papers were published:


Research facilities in the department

The department’s research facilities include the following resources, which are available to students, the faculty as well as other researchers:

- a departmental library (Bibliothek Ethnologie und Afrikastudien), which complements the holdings of the university library and comprises approximately 50,000 volumes as well as about 70 journals.

- the Jahn Library for African Literatures (Jahn-Bibliothek für afrikanische Literaturen)

- the African Music Archives (Archiv für die Musik Afrikas)

- the Ethnographic Collections (Ethnografische Studiensammlung)

- a video archive (http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/230.php) comprising ethnographic films, documentaries on African cultures and societies and on current events in the region as well as music clips and African films and film adaptations.

- the Online Archive: African Independence Days (https://bildarchiv.uni-mainz.de/AUJ/), which provides users with full digital access to more than 20,000 images as well as data collected in collaborative research on the Independence Days in twelve African countries.

- the Archive: West African Settlement History (http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/781.php) comprising more than 6,000 pages of notes, transcriptions, and translations relating to almost 800 interviews conducted with village elders, earth priests, and village chiefs in the border regions of Burkina Faso and Ghana, as well as further documents from various regional archives.

A sample of AMA vinyl records.

Photo: Thomas Hartmann.
Jahn Library for African Literatures

The Jahn Library (http://www.jahn-bibliothek.ifeas.uni-mainz.de) is one of the earliest and most comprehensive research facilities for African literatures in Europe and beyond. Its collection comprises creative writing from Africa in more than eighty languages, including classics in African literatures as well as works by less well-known writers and locally produced literary works. The collection also holds translations, film adaptations of literary works and audio-books, as well as a large number of critical sources and academic journals. The Jahn Library is headed by Anja Oed.

The exhibition “Sichtwechsel: Comic-Helden in und aus Afrika” (http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/Dateien/Sichtwechsel.pdf), which was displayed at the Schule des Sehens (JGU Mainz) from 12 June till 23 July, stands out from all other activities of the Jahn Library in 2018 (see also the section about the department’s activities). The exhibition programme included not only guided tours but also several special events. During the opening on 12 June, students presented a scenic reading from Aya de Yopougon, the graphic novel series by Marguerite Abouet and Clément Oubrerie. On 5 July, a student symposium was held with participants from Mainz, Bayreuth, and Frankfurt a. M. Also on 5 July, Rupert Bazambanza, a graphic novel artist from Rwanda, presented a talk on “Comics über den Genozid an den Tutsi als Erinnerungsarbeit”. On 23 July, Bourahima Zongo, a comic book artist born in Côte d’Ivoire, presented a talk on “Comics in Afrika als Bildungsmedium”. Both talks were facilitated by Engagement Global with financial support of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, as well as the Zentrum für Interkulturelle Studien (ZIS, JGU Mainz). Beyond the regular guided tours, there was a guided tour with some of the student curators on the “Tag der Lehre des FB 07” on 20 June, an event called “DenkPause! Führung in der Mittagszeit” on 21 June, and a final guided tour during the closing event on 23 July.

In September, the library once again relocated to a new building, further improving its opening hours – just in time for the conference “Knotenpunkte – Universitätssammlungen und ihre Netzwerke”, which was held at the JGU Mainz from 13 till 15 September. During this conference, student assistant Hannah Wehner facilitated several tours of the library.

Throughout 2018, the series of showcase displays featuring the literary work of African writers in the 21st Century was continued with displays on Dinaw Mengestu and Taiye Selasi.
African Music Archives (AMA)

The AMA collects records of modern music from Africa – including shellacs, acetate discs, reel-to-reel tapes, vinyl singles, vinyl LPs, music cassettes, CDs, VHS, video-CDS and DVDs. Since 2010, when Hauke Dorsch became AMA’s director, activities have focused on four main fields: conserving the records, cataloguing the collection, acquainting students with archival work through exhibitions, workshops and courses, and reaching out to the scientific community through conferences and workshops and to a wider public via old and new media. Since its establishment in 1991 by Wolfgang Bender the collection continues to grow.

This year, the collection grew considerably through a donation made in November by the Frobenius Institute in Frankfurt a. M. comprising its entire music collection of nearly 500 records (MCs, CDs, shellacs and LPs). The media reported about this donation, including the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. Please find the press release here: http://www.uni-mainz.de/presse/aktuell/7080_DEU_HTML.php

We were also able to continue the digitization project with Roman Steinmetz, preparing an application for the digitization for the entire collection. Dorsch presented the current state of this project at the Deutscher Bibliothekartag in Berlin on 15 June. He also participated on the board meeting of the Fachinformationsdienst Afrika in Frankfurt’s Central Library on 22 February.

AMA’s director and staff were again active in presenting African music at numerous events. On February 2, Hauke Dorsch served as a DJ for an African studies conference in Hamburg and again for the annual German University collections directors’ meeting in Mainz on 13 September. He also presented the AMA at this meeting together with Timo Seimetz. AMA’s director was also involved in organizing a concert by Aziz Kuyateh at the celebration of Janheinz Jahn’s 100th birthday, latter being organized by Anja Oed. He also visited the Zürich Völkerkundemuseum on 26 February, in order to help prepare an exhibition on West African music. In summer, the entire AMA team made a trip to Eppstein.

Visiting Scholar Ibrahima Wane at AMA. Photo: Hauke Dorsch.
Ethnographic Collections

Dr. Erika Sulzmann started the department’s ethnographic collections in 1950 (http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/1007.php). In 1948, she became the first lecturer of anthropology at the newly established Institut für Völkerkunde at the JGU and immediately began building up an ethnographic collection. From 1951 to 1954, she spent more than two years in the Belgian Congo (now Democratic Republic of Congo), carrying out fieldwork among the Ekonda and Bolia in the equatorial rainforest together with Ernst Wilhelm Müller, who was a Ph.D. student in anthropology at the time. They collected more than 500 objects, which formed the original core of the department’s holdings. Erika Sulzmann constantly expanded the collections during subsequent research trips to the Congo between 1956 and 1980.

Today, the collections encompass about 2,900 objects, mainly from Central and West Africa, but also from Australia, Papua New Guinea, and the South Pacific. The collections’ items are used in teaching. Students learn how to handle ethnographic objects according to ethical considerations, how to conserve them, and how to design small exhibitions around them. Since 1992, Anna-Maria Brandstetter has been the collections’ curator.

Throughout the year 2018, Anna-Maria Brandstetter offered guided tours of the ethnographic collections, e.g. for the visitors of the 1st Mainzer Science Week in May 2018 and the participants of the 10th Conference of the University Collections in Germany (13–15 September).

Parrying shield, unknown maker, late 19th century, wood, length 91.5 cm, Victoria/New South Wales (south-eastern Australia), bought around 1900 by Ellen Waldthausen (1885–1938) probably from the Sydney-based colonial curio dealers Tost & Rohu, donated to the Linden-Museum Stuttgart in 1917 and given through exchange to the ethnographic collections in Mainz in 1971, inventory number: 1988.

Narrow parrying shields are unique and highly esteemed cultural artefacts of First Australians from South-East Australia. Their production required great skill and artistry. They were used in close combat to parry blows from wooden clubs. The highly ritualized fights were organized to settle conflicts between families or individuals (on the history of the shield, see Brandstetter 2018: “Ein Parierschild aus Australien. Werkstattbericht aus der ethnologischen Provenienzforschung”).

Photo: Thomas Hartmann, University Library
African trajectories across Central America: displacements, transitory emplacements, and ambivalent migration nodes

Project Director: Heike Drotbohm
Researcher: Nanneke Winters
Duration: October 2018 – September 2021

Funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/3656.php

This research project aims to gain insights into the emerging trajectories of displaced African migrants who traverse severely challenged Central American countries in an attempt to reach North America. On an empirical level, the project responds to the recent increase of African migrants and refugees in Latin America and situates their understudied experiences in a context of globe-spanning yet lopsided migration routes, crises and industries. On a theoretical level, the project builds on and further elaborates critical understandings of the dynamics between migration, displacement and (im)mobilities. In particular, the project asks to what extent novel conceptualizations of the displacement/emplacement dialectic can be applied to the increasingly drawn-out and volatile migrant trajectories across the Global South. To do so, its ethnographic focus lies on migrant journeys as well as on what will be referred to as “migration nodes” of smuggling, surveillance and solidarity throughout largely understudied yet key Central American sites. Offering an ethnographic understanding of migrant trajectories through these interconnected journeys and nodes, this project contributes to the theorization of ambivalent, entangled, and localized displacement dynamics. By showing what happens before migrants reach the expanding borders of the Global North, the project counters simplistic, managerial interpretations and representations of migrants and refugees en route within the Global South.

Initial findings of this research project, that had been presented at a workshop organized by the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), were subsequently published as an ifeas Working Paper entitled “Transnational lives en route: African trajectories of displacement and emplacement across Latin America” (175/2018) and will be republished in a special issue of “Population, Space and Place”.

The project gained further prominence and relevance through the concurrence of African migrant trajectories with the so-called Central American migrant caravan that developed in October 2018 (Winters, 2018). This caravan is part of a ten-year-old tradition of informal migrant organizing that offers relative “safety in numbers” for the dangerous journey towards the United States. Although this particular caravan has become heavily mediatized, it is much less recognized that it is surrounded and intersected by other migrant trajectories and other migration landscapes, such as those extending to Africa that are the focus of our project.

An information leaflet elaborated by a Central American migrant organization. It was developed specifically for so-called extra-continental migrants (such as Africans) in Central America but inspired by similar maps developed for Central American migrants travelling across Mexico. Photo: Nanneke Winters.
Kora and emancipation in secular and liturgical music

Team members: Katrin Langewiesche, Hauke Dorsch, Isabelle Jonveaux

Duration: 2018 – 2019

Funded by Mariann Steegmann Foundation.

The founders of the Keur Moussa monastery in Senegal came from the Solesmes monastery in France, which since its new foundation by Dom Guéranger has distinguished itself by upholding the tradition of Gregorian chant. In the wake of the Second Vatican Council, the Benedictine monks endeavoured to adapt the music to African conditions and introduced the Kora as a liturgical instrument. After many years of experimentation, the West African Griots’ instrument, which was played primarily by men from certain families of musicians, became, in the hands of the monks of Keur Moussa, an instrument played internationally by men and women and used for liturgical music throughout West Africa. The Mandingos’ instrument has been transformed into a chromatic scale instrument, produced in Keur Moussa and sold worldwide.

From the monastery of Keur Moussa in Senegal, we will follow the musical networks, which lead us, among others, to the monasteries of Burkina Faso, Benin and France, to find answers to our research questions: the feminisation of the liturgy as a secondary effect of acculturation, the exercise of the Kora and Gregorian chant by women, as well as the cooperation or competition between monks and nuns concerning the commercialisation of liturgical music.

During the second research phase, we would like to go further in our questioning and explore the process of feminisation thoroughly: To what extent has the opening of Kora playing for women by the Keur Moussa monastery also contributed to making this instrument more accessible to secular women, or conversely has the recent emergence of female Kora players in the Global North influenced nuns in Africa?

Kora workshop in Keur Moussa. Photo: Katrin Langewiesche.

Ways of the Kora. Photo: Katrin Langewiesche.
Contemporary political communication is widely conveyed through visual media. Images such as photography, digitally generated collages, and films play a crucial role in the mediation of political messages. Like other social, religious, and political actors, Jihadi groups and movements also make use of images and videos. In doing so, they seek to reach out to diverse audiences and disseminate their ideology-based interpretations of the world as well as their understanding of religion, authority, and society.

The interdisciplinary junior research group “Jihadism on the Internet” focuses on the communicative propositions of Jihadi movements and explores the extent to which media users interact with those proposals. Researchers from the fields of social and cultural anthropology, media and film studies, and Islamic studies work together to examine what and how Jihadists communicate and to what extent their audiences respond to these media. Ethnographic and new digital methods from the humanities and cultural studies will be combined through a tripartite working process. Initially, the participating researchers analyse Jihadi images and videos according to their political-religious messages, their dramaturgy, and composition. The qualitative research methodology allows them to explore the potential resonance of these media and the intentions of the producers. At the same time, the researchers focus on the incorporation, appropriation, processing, and circulation of the media texts in the form of affirmative or critical comments, images, and videos in social networks. Such user-generated content sheds light on the attractiveness and acceptance of Jihadi media as well as on their rejection within (net-)subcultural communities. The media ethnographies look into uses and interpretations of Jihadi visual media “online” but also “offline”. They ask how these visual media are situated in the everyday lives of various recipients, relating media uses in online and offline contexts.

Findings of the research project will complement research on media and radicalisation. First of all, they will allow insights into the meanings that Jihadist messages unfold in the life worlds of users. Based on this, outcomes of the project will serve to develop communication strategies for countermeasures. In the medium term the observations will feed into a demand oriented online-platform that caters information for political education, awareness-, and prevention work or press offices and political decision makers.

As part of its outreach activities, the research group hosted an international conference on “Jihadi Audiovisualities: Meanings, Aesthetics, Appropriations” that focused on the complex communicative entanglements and interactions that evolve around Jihadi image, sound and video production and attracted more than 100 participants from 14 countries worldwide.
Contemplation and social commitment: West African monasteries, transnational networks and alternative economies

Project director: Katrin Langewiesche
Duration: June 2016 – June 2019

Funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/1393.php

The anthropological research carried out on Christianity in Africa has so far largely neglected monastic life. This project would like to draw attention to the fact that monasticism research not only throws light on little-known aspects of Christianity in Africa, but it can also make an important contribution towards understanding processes of social change and debates concerning globalization in African societies.

Central to the research project is a paradox: The contemplative orders aim to retreat from society; however, in order to be able to survive materially as a community, they successfully develop alternative economic forms, interact with their environment, and build transnational networks or integrate into existing ones. These interactions are at the core of the research project. Based on the analysis of different religious orders in three West-African countries, it is framed as an anthropological study of monastic networks, the monastic economy, and social change in precisely localized areas: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo and Senegal.

Contrary to a popular belief that views monasteries as traditional, conservative institutions, this project will investigate their interaction with modern society. Christian institutions in Africa have long been considered as propagators and symbols of modernity, as the establishment of schools or health facilities epitomize. Until now, monasteries have not been considered as places of a modern, yet not capitalistic, type of economic activity. Contemporary monasteries in West Africa are examined in this project as places where an experimentation with alternative economic systems based on religious values unfolds. Can monasteries be interpreted as pioneers or models for a sustainable development in African societies, or at least in parts of these societies? This question summarizes what this project intends to pursue.
Poetry as aesthetic practice: form, experience and everyday relevance of verbal art in Madagascar and Tanzania

Project directors: Markus Verne, Clarissa Vierke
Researchers: Maike Meurer, Nikitta Adjiraktor
Duration: March 2016 – Februar 2019

Funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/2833.php

Poetry forms a crucial part of everyday communication, both along the Tanzanian Swahili-Coast and in the Malagasy highlands. Orators inspire their audiences at public events with creative metaphors and evocative allegories. Petty traders walk the streets selling poetry collections. Poetry-slams are held on a regular basis at cultural centres. Poems are shared in internet forums, where they are “tagged” and “liked” by others. And, in the form of song lyrics, poetry is disseminated nonstop through countless radio and TV stations. In all these and many more cases, poetic texts not only engage in mimetic reflections of everyday life; they and also contribute to the perception of everyday life and therefore significantly add to the ways in which actual lifeworlds are made.

It is the aim of this project to study, from an empirical point of view, how poetic forms and practices may contribute to the construction of lifeworlds within the urban contexts of the Tanzanian Swahili coast and the Malagasy highlands. We start with the assumption that poetic forms of engaging with the world fundamentally and systematically differ from other more “explicit” forms of communication, due to the special way in which they combine aspects of form with aspects of content. Therefore, we argue, their study requires a specific approach that takes into account the specific form of poetic language. Focusing on the ambiguous relation of poetic artworks and their aesthetic experience, the project will examine how poetic language is actually experienced, and how this experience is then rendered meaningful in relation to everyday life.

Singer-songwriter Kinta rehearsing with Papaye (Iraimbilanja), highland Madagascar.
Photo: Markus Verne.
Linguistic Research in Adamawa(-Gur) Languages of Northeast Nigeria

Project Director: Ulrich Kleinewillinghöfer
Duration: February 2016 – January 2019

Funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

http://www.blogs.uni-mainz.de/fb07-adamawa/adamawa-languages/

The project aims at decisively advancing the state of documentation and knowledge regarding the Adamawa-(Gur) languages of Northeast Nigeria. The project focuses on the languages of the Nungura-Cluster (aka Longuda), the Bana-Mboi (aka Yungur) Group, the Bikwin-Jen Group, the Tula-Waja Group, and Baa (aka Kwa), which, as a whole, are barely documented. They are spoken in a contiguous area north of the middle Benue, bordering on the region where threats from insurgent militants are currently seriously affecting the security situation and obstructing any field research.

The project profits, however, from a sizeable corpus of field notes and recordings which stem from previous field trips of the project director to the area, as well as locally edited literatures. These materials form the basis of the lexical documentations as well as synchronic and diachronic comparative studies of various aspects of the morpho-syntax of the various languages. In order to effectively reach the targeted audiences, the academic community, and the respective linguistic communities in situ, open access publications are being prepared.

In terms of a wider perspective, the project also contributes to the historical-comparative study of the Adamawa-Gur (Benue-Volta) language family. The as yet hypothetical classification of the so-called Adamawa languages seriously requires more robust morphological data.

The project director is an initiator and founding member of the international Adamawa Language Studies Group established in 2016, and he is linked with scholars, language committees and institutions working in Nigerian Adamawa languages within and outside Nigeria. A close co-operation, data contribution and exchange regarding Adamawa languages has been established with the Project “Noun classification systems in Africa between gender and nominal declension” based at the Department of African Studies, Humboldt University Berlin.

Terraced farms and building sites in Tula Wange, NE Nigeria.
Photo: Ulrich Kleinewillinghöfer.
Politics and practices of eligibility in humanitarian bureaucracies in Brazil

Project Director: Heike Drotbohm
Cooperation partner in Brazil: Universidade de Campinas
Duration: March 2015 – March 2019

Funded as part of a Heisenberg Fellowship by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/2552.php

This project explores the situation and experiences of migrants (including labour migrants, non-documented migrants and asylum seekers) who reach a new, unfamiliar place under different social and legal conditions and who receive different types of support and solidarity. More specifically, the project focuses on humanitarian aid and migrant political activism in Brazil (São Paulo), a country whose national history has been shaped by changing trends of immigration and emigration and where identity issues are regularly debated in the context of migration.

Methodologically, the project employs participant observation, following moments of encounters between migrants and members of different organisations and political networks as well as migrants' everyday routines in order to understand how they acquire information and knowledge and how they gain access to political participation. The project pays particular attention to the processes of differentiation that attribute meaning to social categories such as “migrant” or “refugee”, but also to “nationality”, “ethnicity”, “race”, “gender” or “age”. Thus, it not only contributes to the anthropology of migration and the anthropology of law and bureaucracy but also to an understanding of new forms of South-South migration that are currently still under-researched.

In 2018, Heike Drotbohm presented this research project at several conferences and workshops, e.g. at the Fundação para a Ciencia e Tecnologia, Univesidade de Lisboa and at an international workshop on “Conflicts over Cross-Border Migration, Classifications and Belonging: Conceptual, Normative and Epistemological Challenges of Migration Research” at BTU Cottbus and at the Chr. Michelsen Institute in Bergen, Norway.


The question how access to decent living in São Paulo can be organized is discussed among migrants and Brazilian political activists. Photo: Heike Drotbohm.
Un/doing albinism: recodings of a bodily difference through historically shifting frames

Subproject of the research group 1939 “Un/doing differences: practices of human differentiation”,
JGU Mainz

Project director: Matthias Krings
Researchers: Susanne Kathrin Hoff, Christopher Hohl
Cooperation partners in Africa: Tanzania Albino Society: Josephat Torner
Duration: June 2013 – March 2019

Funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/1261.php, http://www.blogs.uni-mainz.de/undoingdifferences

Albinism is the medicalized term for a condition that results in a physical appearance with the prominent feature of hypopigmentation of the skin, hair and retina. This appearance deviates from physical norms throughout the world and results in many places in the stigmatization and discrimination of people with the condition. This project examines the recoding of hypopigmentation through the shift of its interpretative frames -- the race discourse, magic, medicine and art -- which exist partly in historical succession, and partly simultaneously in different social fields. The shifting of framings is understood here on the one hand as a contingent effect of changing societal conditions, and on the other hand as a concrete act of undoing, which emanates from social movements.

In 2018 the project members convened an international conference bearing the title “Different Shades of White: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Albinotic Body”. Participants from inside and outside academia discussed the varying perception, status, representation and treatment of albinism across different times and locales. Krings and Hoff presented research results at the conference and Hohl organized an exhibition with images of several photographers who have explored the aesthetic potential of albinotic bodies. Krings also attended the roundtable on Albinism and Human Rights at the United Nations’ headquarters in Geneva. Hoff finalized her data collection with a short fieldwork trip to Tanzania. There, she attended the annual International Albinism Awareness Day on 13 June, celebrated in Bariadi, a small town in the Lake Zone.

Matthias Krings (right) and Giorgio Brocco (left) at the conference’s photo exhibition. Photo: Christopher Hohl.
Performing the nation and subnational differences in African national days

Subproject of the research group 1939 “Un/doing differences: practices of human differentiation”, JGU Mainz

Project director: Carola Lentz
Researchers: Marie-Christin Gabriel, Konstanze N’Guessan
Duration: April 2013 – March 2019

Funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/1131.php, http://www.blogs.uni-mainz.de/undoingdifferences

Investigating the cases of Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana, the project explores the performance of the nation in national-day celebrations organized by state institutions. The project examines how national-day ceremonies make national belonging visible and palpable by staging its relation to other social affiliations and differences, such as ethnicity, profession, age, gender and political orientation.

National-day celebrations are first and foremost events, in which a number of actors with varying interests and agencies partake and where a lot of things happen simultaneously. This poses a number of challenges. In 2017 we addressed these challenges through joint and comparative fieldwork. In 2018 we reflected upon the theoretical and methodological challenges of research on events in a more general way. Even if events often seem to have rather obvious limits concerning the question of where and when they start and end and who is part of it, these limits get ever more fuzzy as one tries to fix them. In September, Marie-Christin Gabriel, Christopher Hohl and Carola Lentz convened a workshop on the theoretical and methodological challenges of research on events which reflected upon these questions (see also section on “Conferences organized by staff members”).

We also further developed methods of comparative analysis in a close comparative reading of the Burkin-abè national-day parade (published in *Ethnography*) and presented comparative findings at the GAPS (Association for Anglophone Postcolonial Studies) conference in Mainz. Apart from that, 2018 was a year of the often unglamorous but necessary desk work of scholarly analysis and the writing of PhD theses and research papers. As a follow-up of supervised student fieldwork in 2017, a number of BA theses on national-day celebrations in Ghana and Côte d’Ivoire have been submitted.
Current Ph.D. research projects

Anthropology

Dümmler, Karla:
  *Ruhestandsmigration in die Dominikanische Republik – Gestaltungen von Care-Beziehungen.* (Drotbohm)

Fricke, Christine:
  *Nation und Nationalismus in Gabun.* (Bierschenk)

Fuhrmann, Larissa-Diana
  *Islamism and visual resistance: an ethnographic study on artivism online and offline.* (Krings)

Gabriel, Marie-Christin:
  *Making the nation-state: the organisation of national-day celebrations in Burkina Faso.* (Lentz)

Glück, Kim:
  *“Dancing Ethiopia” – Inszenierungen immaterieller Kultur in Addis Abeba.* (Röschenthaler)

Günauer, Cornelia:
  *How to make a difference: election campaigning and the politics of identity in India.* (Lentz)

Hoff, Susanne Kathrin:
  *Menschen mit Albinismus in Tansania: Zur aktivistischen Hervorbringung einer neuen Personenkategorie.* (Krings)

Hohl, Christopher:
  *Modelling (with/out) albinism. Rekodierung einer verkörperten Differenz.* (Krings)

Kluge-Wirz, Jana:
  *Pflege in russlanddeutschen Familien. Eine ethnografische Studie.* (Drotbohm)

Kolloch, Annalena:
  *Die Aushandlung von Unabhängigkeit. Die Richter- und Staatsanwaltschaft in Benin.* (Bierschenk)

Kornes, Godwin:
  *Liberation Memory in the Land of the Brave: the politics of national commemoration in Namibia.* (Lentz)

Matschke, Maximilian:
  *Winter is coming in South Africa?! Youth employment scenarios for South Africa in 2035.* (Asche)

Meurer, Maike:
  *Dichtkunst in Madagaskar. Zur Bedeutung sprachästhetischer Praxis im Kontext sozio-politischer Umbreiche.* (Verne)

Molter, Céline:
  *Religious Entrepreneurship in Theme Parks and Passion Plays.* (Bierschenk)

Neubauer, Inès:
  *Kommodifizierung von Elektroschrott in Agbogbloshie, Ghana – Informelle Akteure im Transit.* (Röschenthaler)
Pater, Birthe:
  Cultural heritage for development. (Rösenthaler)
Petersen, Lara:
  Unternehmertum in Ostafrika – interdisziplinäre Betrachtung von Unternehmeridentitäten, -netzwerken und Strategien. (Asche)
Pieck, Bettina:
  Krankenversicherung, Armut und Staat in Ruanda. (Asche)
Reiffen, Franziska
  South-south migration and experiences of dis(em)placement in Argentina. (Drotbohm)
Schmitz, Afra:
  Between politicking and politricking. Wahlkampfkommunikation in Nord-West Ghana. (Lentz)
Simmert, Tom:
  “Afrobeats”: the economy of digital music in Lagos. (Krings)
Thomas, Silja:
  Frauenheiraten in Afrika in historischer Perspektive. (Lentz)
Wessling, Yamara:
  Lebenswege junger Mittelklasse Frauen in Ruanda. Vorstellungen von Geschlecht, Sexualität und Familie. (Lentz)

African Languages and Linguistics
Markgraf, Holger W.:
  Das Verbalsystem des Mbum. (Kastenholz)
Vigeland, Friederike:
  A grammar of the Longuda noun (Adamawa, Nordostnigeria). (Kastenholz)

PH.D. RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS
Dümmler, Karla (Gutenberg Council for Young Researchers, research grant)
Glück, Kim (DAAD, research grant)
Kolloch, Annalena (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes, doctoral scholarship)
Matschke, Maximilian (Roche Diagnostics Africa, doctoral scholarship)
Pieck, Bettina (Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, doctoral scholarship)
Reiffen, Franziska (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes, doctoral scholarship; Gutenberg Academy, conference travel grant)
Wessling, Yamara (Gutenberg Council for Young Researchers, research grant)
ACTIVITIES

Conferences organized by staff members

22 – 24 February, Mainz
“Care in Crisis: Ethnographic Perspectives on Humanitarianism”

International conference organized by Heike Drotbohm (JGU Mainz) and Hannah Brown (Durham University).

For this conference, the organisers invited contributors from different fields of study, ranging from medical anthropology to migration and refugee studies. Their aim was to focus on “care in crisis” in a double sense: on giving care in crisis situations, but also on the notion of care undergoing crisis, in the sense that shared knowledge can be questioned in moments of radical social transformations. Discussing knowledge production, materiality and social relations that emerge through practices of care-giving in humanitarian settings, many conference contributions revealed that responses to crises are not limited to humanitarian institutions and pointed to the importance of taking everyday practices of non-professional care-givers into account. Conference report by Franziska Reiffen & Nanneke Winters: https://www.medizinethnologie.net/author/nanneke-winters/

24 – 25 February, Mainz
“Writing and presentation in academia”

Workshop organized by Sabine Littig.

The 3rd RMU Docs and Post-Docs workshop was held on 24 and 25 February at the Tagungszentrum Erbacher Hof in Mainz. Within the framework of the annual meeting of the young researcher group, part of the RMU Cooperation African Studies, motivated participants from Mainz and Frankfurt a. M. got together in a two-day workshop to contemplate and discuss a series of topics. In addition to perspectives concerning forms of cooperation and the use of the VAD toolbox, issues pertaining to presentation and writing skills were central to this workshop.

22 March 2018, Mainz
“Aktuelle linguistische Forschungsfelder in Westafrika”. Fest-Symposium zur Verabschiedung von Prof. Dr. Raimund Kastenholz

Conference organized by Holger Tröbs.

This conference in March 2018 focused on current trends in West African linguistics. The conference was dedicated to Raimund Kastenholz, an expert in Mande and Adamawa languages, who, having held the department’s professorship for African Languages and Linguistics for more than twenty years, retired in March. The conference brought together dear friends and colleagues of Raimund Kastenholz. The participants discussed a broad range of current linguistic topics in West Africa such as valency, argument structure and serial verb constructions as well as TAM, polarity, and grammaticalization. Other issues discussed included language classification and language geography as well as noun classification and historical syntax.
14 – 15 May, Mainz
“Anthropology, the State and the South: bringing different networks and research traditions into dialogue”

Workshop convened by Thomas Bierschenk (JGU Mainz), Heath Cabot (Pittsburgh), Heike Drotbohm (JGU Mainz), assisted by Eva Riedke (JGU Mainz).

Since the late 1990s, a critical anthropology of the contemporary state has emerged as a distinct subfield within the discipline. Contributions to this area of study have been produced largely within networks distinguished and often divided by regional orientations, thematic choices, theoretical inspirations, and political or moral standpoints. By opening a dialogue across research traditions and areas, we touched upon a wider set of questions: How to research states that are variously characterized as states of the South? What is the “South” said to mean in anthropologies of the state and how does it become manifest? Are research traditions engaging with states of the South implicitly or explicitly in dialogue, and if so, how (for instance, through ideas of Mediterraneanism; Africanism: Third Worldisms; colonialism; development; and other regional or historical frameworks)? And finally, how can we disentangle such tacit or explicit notions of the South from experiential and empirical realities on the ground? Conference report by Konstanze N’Guessan: http://allegralaboratory.net/bringing-anthropologies-of-the-state-to-mainz-a-workshop-report/. The workshop was sponsored by several JGU funding bodies, particularly Förderlinie 1 and the Zentrum für interkulturelle Studien (ZIS).

20 – 23 June, Mainz
“Anthropology of Music Lecture Series and Master Class”

Master class organized by Markus Verne, Cornelia Günauer, Tom Simmert, Moritz Zielinski and Hauke Dorsch (JGU Mainz).

2018 saw the first edition of the “Anthropology of Music Lecture Series and Master Class”. It is part of a new initiative to further strengthen and expand the focus on music at the ifeas. Combining a public lecture series held by one of the field’s most established representatives together with a master class designed for young researchers to present their works, this new format provides a unique opportunity to discuss ongoing research and reflect on the current state of anthropological engagements with music and sound. “Valuing Music” was this year’s theme. In a series of three public lectures held on three subsequent days, Timothy Taylor, professor of ethnomusicology and musicology at the University of Los Angeles (UCLA), explored questions of value with respect to music as a form of cultural production. The master class partici-
pants, thirteen international young researchers mostly at PhD and post-doc levels, presented their work, discussed it with other anthropologists and ethnomusicologists (Timothy Taylor among them) and related it to recent developments and debates. It turned out to be very fruitful for the discussions that all presentations were related to the topic of the lecture series. Contributors came from Brazil, Germany, Israel, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Syria, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. The event was financially supported by the Zentrum für Interkulturelle Studien (ZIS), the Johannes Gutenberg-University, and the Rhineland-Palatinate Ministry of Education. Given the participants’ enthusiastic feedback, we plan further editions for the coming years.

28 June, Leipzig

“Making Connections Through Collections: Namibian Objects in the German-speaking Museum Landscape”

Panel organized by Anna-Maria Brandstetter and Larissa Förster (CARMAH, Humboldt University Berlin) at the biennial conference of the Association of African Studies in Germany (VAD) 2018 held in Leipzig.

The panellists (Silvia Dolz, Jonathan Fine, Gabriel Schimmerroth and Jeremy Silvester) addressed issues ranging from provenance research to future cooperative research with partners in Namibia. How can colonial acquisition contexts be examined without reducing the history of the objects to looted art or investigating them only in relation to the time point of their acquisition? How can the history of objects be told, for instance, along the lines of intertwined history? How can museums’ depositories be reactivated and become points of departure for a new, transnational network of relations in which the contemporary meaning and mobilization of the objects can be discussed? What kinds of joint knowledge production are possible and in what circumstances? How can the work on and with the collections lead to a process of decolonizing museums as institutions and their knowledge system? (https://vad-africanconnections.de/programme/panels/p-13/).

29 June – 1 July, Siegen

“Preparing for Patients. Learning the skills and values of healing encounters”

International conference organized by Ehler Voss (visiting Professor, JGU Mainz) together with Cornelius Schubert (University of Siegen) – the 31st Annual Conference of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Ethnomedizin e.V. (AGEM) in cooperation with the Collaborative Research Center Media of Cooperation at the University of Siegen.

How physicians and other healers conduct their encounters with clients is an integral element of becoming healers. Nevertheless, this knowledge is only partly provided by official channels or courses; rather, it is often learned in a subtle and implicit manner during practical apprenticeship. This conference asked: Which attitudes are transmitted for coping with the tension between standard procedures and individual cases? Which roles do authority, performances of authority, competence, empathy, uncertainty, responsibility, and experience play? What modes of teaching and learning the “hidden curriculum” can be observed?
2 – 6 July, Cape Town, RSA
“Hostility in Language: Other Perspectives on Multilingualism”

Panel at the 20th International Congress of Linguists (ILC), University of Cape Town organized by Nico Nassenstein and Anne Storch, funded by the DFG.

The organized panel at the International Congress of Linguists (ICL) intended to take a closer look at the practices and semiotics that surround multilingualism as something that is enforced upon speakers rather than simply embraced by them. The different talks dealt with marginal workers in the tourism sector to whom language acquisition often represents a painful process, at times bound to sexual exploitation or socioeconomic hardships. Also debated “dark tourism” settings (such as genocide memorials etc.) and the languages that are favoured or rejected in these places were addressed, while other talks focused on gender inequality and multilingual practices, or on practices of exclusion and materiality (such as hostile slogans on t-shirts). Overall, the workshop addressed language as hostile action, as subversive action in contexts of oppression, or multilingual practice that is rather understood as a burden and challenge than as a prosperous advantage.

5 July, Mainz
“Africa in Comics and Comics in Africa”


The symposium, which related to the exhibition “Sichtwechsel: Comic-Helden in und aus Afrika” at the Schule des Sehens (JGU Mainz), included presentations by twenty B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. students from the JGU Mainz as well as from the University of Bayreuth and Goethe University Frankfurt. In the evening, Rupert Bazambanza (Kigali) presented a public lecture on “Comics über den Genozid an den Tutsi als Erinnerungsarbeit”, facilitated by Engagement Global with financial support of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development as well as the Center for Intercultural Studies (JGU Mainz).
9 – 11 July, Cape Town, RSA
“Variation in Swahili: Micro-typology, Sociolinguistic Diversification and Language Contact”
Panel at the conference Sintu7, University of Cape Town, organized by Nico Nassenstein (JGU Mainz) and Daisuke Shinagawa (Tokyo University).

The panel summarized current scholars’ work on variation in Kiswahili, both from a structural (micro-typological) as well as from a sociolinguistic angle. Building upon earlier dialectological studies of Kiswahili, varieties of the periphery have been in the focus of scholarly attention in recent years: Some of the approaches and directions that address the geographical and sociolinguistic diversity of Swahili include rather traditional approaches (descriptive sketches, dialectological analyses), studies of contact situations as well as more recent directions in Bantu studies such as parametric variation. Also, an increasing emphasis on current (socio)linguistic trends - mostly dealing with language diversity and change - was included in some colleagues’ talks. A co-edited publication of several contributions is currently in preparation (Swahili Forum).

19 July, Salamanca
“Experiencias actuales de migrantes y refugiados africanos en América Latina”. Panel at the 56th Congreso Internacional de Americanistas (ICA)
Panel organized by Nanneke Winters and Franziska Reiffen (both JGU Mainz) at the 56th “Congreso Internacional de Americanistas in Salamanca”.

The panel brought together scholars from Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica and Mexico in order to address recent African migration to and through Latin America. It tried to go beyond the usual criminalisation and victimisation of African migrants and refugees in the region by focusing on their livelihood and mobility strategies. Presentations included topics such as religion and employment, transnational connections and circulation. We also discussed issues of identifying and researching this migration.
16 – 20 July, Florianópolis, Brazil
“Migration, displacements and dispossession: ethnographic perspectives into the dynamics of domination, violence and social mobilizations”

Conference panel organized by Heike Drotbohm (JGU Mainz) and Bela Feldman-Bianco (State University of Campinas, Brazil) at the 18th International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) World Congress at the Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil.

The contemporary global scenery conveys new logics of social exclusion, which are producing contingents of displaced and dispossessed. While multicultural ideologies, a “human rights” rhetoric and humanitarianism prevail, there has been the creation of technocratic government policies of securitization, criminalization and dehumanization of poverty. In addition, internal displacements result from the removal of territories or people, considered to be at the margin of the State. This panel stimulated a comparative approach to displacements in the current global conjuncture of capital accumulation, considering transnational migration, political and environmental refugee seekers; human trafficking; the removal of populations or territories due to real estate interests; as well as assassinations and militarization in urban peripheries.

23 July, Mainz
“Schwarzer Orpheus meets Comic-Kunst”

Workshop entitled “Schwarzer Orpheus meets Comic-Kunst”, organized by Anja Oed (JGU Mainz) to mark the 100th anniversary of Janheinz Jahn’s birthday.

The workshop was also related to the exhibition “Sichtwechsel: Comic-Helden in und aus Afrika” at the Schule des Sehens (JGU Mainz). The programme comprised impressions from and on Jahn’s work, including short excerpts from a 1957 recording of an interview with Jahn, from newspaper articles and books by Jahn read to the audience by students, talks by Ibou Diop (Berlin) and Almut Seiler-Dietrich (Bensheim), as well as the launch of a comic poster on the life and work of Janheinz Jahn, which had been produced by artist Bourahima Zongo (Accra) specifically for the occasion. In the evening, Bourahima Zongo presented a public lecture on “Comics als Bildungsmedium in Afrika”, facilitated by Engagement Global with financial support of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development as well as the Center for Intercultural Studies (JGU Mainz).
“The Sociolinguistics of Globalization in Africa: Fluidity, Mobility, Agency”

Panel organized by Nico Nassenstein (JGU Mainz) and Angelika Mietzner (University of Cologne) at the conference WOCAL9 (World Congress of African Linguistics), University of Rabat.

As part of the World Congress of African Linguistics, the organized panel focused on language in contexts of mobility and migration. Language practices and their entanglement in processes of globalization, global networks of speakers and their mobile trajectories played a key role, as well as trans- and polylanguaging strategies and an increasing significance of translocal and “glocal” patterns of language use. Especially the key role that African actors play in these globalized encounters was highlighted in the various contributions. Business interactions in the world’s megacities, tourist-host encounters and for instance new urban identifications among youths on the African continent constitute fleeting relationships that include a high degree of linguistic dynamicity, fluidity and to some extent also commodification of linguistic resources. The panel also addressed the darker side of language and migration, such as linguistic repertoires of asylum seekers, linguistic profiling and racialization/marginalization, shedding light on the language of global inequalities and restricted mobility at border posts.

“Different Shades of White: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Albinotic Body”

International conference entitled “Different Shades of White: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Albinotic Body” convened in Mainz by Matthias Krings, Kathrin Hoff and Christopher Hohl (all JGU Mainz).

The conference addressed the various ways in which albinotic bodies have been interpreted, described and treated through history and around the world. In recent years, violent attacks on persons with albinism in East Africa made headlines and local as well as global organizations began campaigning against such human rights violations. At the same time, several models with albinism became famous faces in fashion industries around the globe. Starting from this multiplicity of perceptions and treatments of albinotic bodies, the conference participants from inside and outside of academia discussed practical, political, artistic and scholarly issues at stake. Complementing the conference, an exhibition displayed works by photographers who explore the aesthetics of albinism. See the conference report for more insights: https://www.medizinethnologie.net/shades-of-white-albinotic-body-conference-report/.

Conference participants. Photo: Christopher Hohl.
14 September, Mainz
“Sammlungen ohne Grenzen. Vernetzt forschen – international kooperieren“

Workshop organized by Anna-Maria Brandstetter (JGU Mainz), Christine Hertler (Heidelberg Academy of Sciences/Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung, Frankfurt a. M.) and Beatrix Hoffmann-Ihde (Abteilung Amerikanistik, University of Bonn).

A workshop held as part of the 10th Conference of the University Collections “Knotenpunkte” at the JGU Mainz. The workshop entitled “Collections without borders”, addressed various issues and challenges with which university collections are confronted in national and international research networks, e.g. questions of participation in research alliances and joint collecting practices and management of collections (objects and databases), standardization and common guidelines and last but not least provenance research, restitution and repatriation (http://www.sammlungen.uni-mainz.de/2236.php).

20 – 21 September, Mainz
“Eventforschung. Theoretische und methodische Herausforderungen“

Workshop organized by Christopher Hohl, Marie-Christin Gabriel and Carola Lentz (all JGU Mainz).

The workshop concentrated on the theoretical and methodological challenges of ethnographic research on events. Funded by the DFG Research Group 1939 “Un/doing Differences: Practices in Human Differentiation”, the workshop brought together members from the Department of Anthropology and African Studies as well as from other departments of the JGU Mainz, social anthropologists and scholars from related disciplines from the Free University of Berlin, Goethe University Frankfurt, and the anthropological museum of Hamburg (Museum am Rothenbaum. Kulturen und Künste der Welt). Based on their experiences of studying a particular event – ranging from wedding ceremonies, activist conferences, or national-day celebrations – the workshop participants discussed challenges that come up in defining, researching, analysing, and writing about events. The discussions benefitted from both the heterogeneity of the events under study and the shared challenges experienced in their study.

Poster discussion at the workshop “Eventforschung”. Photo: Marie-Christin Gabriel.
The conference brought more than 100 participants from 14 countries across the globe to Mainz who joined us to follow three thematic panels, three workshops, a public keynote and a public roundtable. Jihadi Audiovisualities is understood as a communicative circle that comprises the mediated articulations of Jihadi ideologues, groups, and movements as well as the complex communicative entanglements and interactions that evolve around them in online and offline contexts.

Conference participants jointly decoded the meanings of sounds, images and videos; examined aesthetic means employed in video production; reflected on the various ways in which people engage with the communicative propositions of Jihadi groups and movements; discussed ethical concerns in research on the phenomenon; and gained new insights into the multifarious linkages and interdigitations that evolve in the surroundings of Jihadi image, sound and video production.

The conference was kindly supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research; Fritz Thyssen Foundation, Centre for Intercultural Studies (JGU), Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Rheinland-Pfalz and Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz.

5 October, Mainz

“Ethics and Strategies of Online Research on Jihadism“

Workshop held as part of the conference “Jihadi Audiovisualities: Meanings, Aesthetics, Appropriations” (4–5 October) organized by Simone Pfeifer (JGU) and Martijn de Koning (University of Amsterdam).

Claudia Carvalho and Martijn de Koning’s interventions opened the workshop with a focus on ethics and security. Carvalho talked about legal security, the security of the researchers and their interlocutors from the perspective of her research on Spanish-Moroccan women in jihadist online networks. De Koning payed attention to (digital) visibility and activism of researchers through considering how categories of his research on Salafism was used in court cases to prosecute his interlocutors. In the second part of the workshop, Annelies Moors and Simone Pfeifer discussed the themes of transparency and anonymity in the research process. In her intervention, Moors presented the “right to anonymity” and the tension between the liability of researchers to their interlocutors and their obligations to university institutions. Pfeifer’s contribution considered anonymity and “double identity” of researchers in digital research contexts and reflected on the positionality of anthropological research in an interdisciplinary research team.
13 – 15 October 2018, El Arenal, Palma de Mallorca, Spain
“Language and Intimacy. Discourses and Narratives”

International workshop organized by Nico Nassenstein (JGU Mainz), Anne Storch and Angelika Mietzner (both University of Cologne).

An international workshop organized at the touristic site of the “Ballermann” with numerous international and interdisciplinary participants, the overall aim of the event focused on exploring globalized language practices and intimacy in touristic contexts. The workshop pursued the question: how communication among tourists and their hosts reveals discursive ways in which people construct each other in contexts of social inequality. It also involved a closer look at how the exotic other is constructed locally. The different papers explored how people speak about exotic and exoticized bodies, practices, places and express desire or contempt, as well as sexuality and gender concepts that are being used for the exotification of languages and their speakers. Besides “linguistic data” in the narrow sense of the word, the workshop was specifically interested in the analysis of images and imagination, language in its materialized form (printed on shop signs, t-shirts, souvenirs etc.) - as art and as creative practice. The workshop was funded by the DFG and organized in the context of a joint research project “Tourism, Language and Migration in Mallorca: Artefacts from Various Souths and Norths” (JGU Mainz, University of Cologne) initiated in 2016.

13 – 19 November, San Jose
“The State of the South: Bringing Different Networks and Research Traditions into Dialogue”

Roundtable at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association/AAA, organized by Thomas Bierschenk and Heath Cabot (Pittsburgh) and with participation by Kregg Hetherington (Montreal), Michael Herzfeld (Harvard), Thomas Blom Hansen (Stanford), Elif M. Babul (Mount Holyoke), Nayanika Mathur (Oxford) and Matthew Hull (Michigan).

This roundtable sought to engage the concept of the South in the anthropological study of the state within a comparative regional perspective. The panel has two key objectives: First, to initiate a dialogue between scholars grounded in diverse theoretical, regional and literature-based formations, in order to identify existing overlaps and variations in approaches to the anthropology of the state. Second, to bring into dialogue scholars doing research on state ideas and practices in the Global South with those working on the margins of the Global North to further interrogate what the “South” means when it comes to anthropology’s role in researching the state.
13 – 14 December 2018, Cologne
“Skill and Scale in Transnational Mediumship II”

International workshop organized by Ehler Voss (visiting Professor, JGU Mainz) together with Marcello Muscari (University of São Paulo) and Martin Zillinger (University of Cologne) at the University of Cologne, in collaboration with a.r.t.e.s. Graduate School for the Humanities Cologne, Global South Studies Center Cologne, and the Association for Anthropology and Medicine (AGEM).

The workshop set out to discuss new communities of practice and enskilment that evolve around techniques of mediumship in an interconnected world. The increased mobility of people and organizations, things, signs and symbols that take part in or reformulate trance practices and spiritual experiences has significantly widened the scope and outreach of adepts of trance, spirit possession and spiritual body arts. The various body techniques, symbols and artefacts play a major role in the re-organization of spirituality on site and contribute to the emergence of transnational spirited publics across time and space. This workshop, and the volume that is due to be published as a result of the workshop, explores how the “local” and the “global” of religious and spiritual practice is co-produced.

Other events organized by staff members

On 17 March, Anna-Maria Brandstetter hosted the conference “Women from Rwanda – together we are strong in Germany and for Rwanda” at the JGU Mainz. The conference was organized by the Rwandan Diaspora in Germany e.V. to mark the International Women’s Day 2018 and was attended by more than 200 guests including Rwandan diaspora, friends of Rwanda and Rwanda’s Ambassador to Germany Igor César.

In 2018, the African Music Archives (AMA) got its own podcast, the AMA.CAST. Being part of the new initiative to further strengthen the focus on music at the ifeas, this new audio podcast aims at raising the AMA’s profile by exploring the collection of the AMA. To conceptualize the podcast and to include podcasting into the curriculum, Cornelia Günauer organized and conducted the course “Musik, Ethnologie und Podcasts – Übung zur medialen Vermittlung wissenschaftlicher Inhalte” which was awarded by the Gutenberg Lehrkolleg (GLK) as an innovative teaching project. Students from both social anthropology and musicology developed the AMA.CAST and produced episodes. In the first part of the seminar, various podcasting professionals provided input on various aspect of podcasting: Nele Heise, podcaster and researcher at the Hans-Bredow-Institute, shared her insights into the world of academic podcasts; Marthe Lisson, who podcasts for the Schirn, talked about how to conceptualize a podcast; and the journalists Roland Welling (SWR) and Nora Hespers shared their insights about how to write for an audio podcast and into how to launch a podcast. In addition, the students received speech training and an introduction to audio recording and editing. In the second part of the course, the students conceptualized and produced individual episodes, amongst others on Heavy Metal in Botswana.

On 25 May, Hauke Dorsch together with Edison Cassadore visited the Karl May Museum in Radebeul, in order to prepare Cassadore’s research project on the representation on Native Americans in German popular culture.
Between 12 June and 23 July, an exhibition entitled “Sichtwechsel: Comic-Helden in und aus Afrika” was on display at the Schule des Sehens (JGU Mainz). The exhibition was curated by Anja Oed, together with students of Anthropology as well as World Literature. Inviting visitors to encounter a great number of comic book heroes in and from Africa, the exhibition offered multiple perspectives on a wide variety of topics (http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/Dateien/Sichtwechsel.pdf). Some contemporary artists’ comic books were, for instance, strategically produced to counteract colonial and stereotypical views of Africa by featuring young urban female characters or super heroes. African comic book heroes in – or bound for – Europe afford different perspectives on migration. Many African comic book heroes are employed in the service of education and development. Furthermore, African comic book heroes comprise characters from fairy tales and crime fiction, heroes of the everyday, as well as heroes – and anti-heroes – inspired by world history, national history, and postcolonial history. The exhibition programme included regular guided tours as well as several special events. For a report on the exhibition in the university’s online magazine see http://www.magazin.uni-mainz.de/9308_DEU_HTML.php.

Lectures, media appearances and other activities by individual staff members

Yorck Beese


Thomas Bierschenk

01/2018  “The ethnographic study of bureaucracy”. Lecture at the University of Roskilde (17 January).


04/2018  “The anthropology of global social engineering”. Lecture at University of Lisbon/ISCTE (10 April).

04/2018  “Police and state”. Lecture at University of Lisbon/ISCTE (12 April).


Anna-Maria Brandstetter


Hauke Dorsch


11/2018  “Griots of the Black Atlantic – African Music in Concert Halls, on Festivals and in the Archives” and “What’s in a Name? The re-naming of the German Anthropological Association” Presentation as an Erasmus+ exchange professor at the Université Lumière Lyon 2 (28–29 November).

Heike Drotbohm


Larissa-Diana Fuhrmann


Marie-Christin Gabriel

Christoph Günther


Kathrin Hoff


Christopher Hohl


Ulrich Kleinewillinghöfer


Matthias Krings


05/2018  “‘Even whiter than the Germans’: different modes of de/constructing the albinotic body”. Presentation held at the research colloquium of Prof. Beer, Institut für Ethnologie, University Luzern (9 May).


Katrin Langewiesche

09/2018 “60 ans de recherches sur le religieux au Burkina Faso”. Lecture held in Ouagadougou (27 September).

Carola Lentz

01/2018–12/2018 From January until December, Carola Lentz served as Secretary of the Social Science Class of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities. Since October, she is also Vice President of the Academy.
01/2018–07/2018 From January until July, Carola Lentz was a fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. She served as convenor of the focus group “Family history and social change in West Africa”, organising regular group meetings as well as several smaller workshops with outside guests from various disciplines on family history, theories of remembering, changing marriage and old-age care practices, and family associations.
03/2018 “Imagining futures: memory and belonging in an African family”. Paper presented jointly with Isidore Lobnibe at the Tuesday colloquium of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (13 March) and also at the Africanist colloquium of the Institute of Asian and African Studies, Humboldt University Berlin (30 May).

Sabine Littig

03/2018 “Spatiale Strukturen im Samba-Duru”. Paper presented at the colloquium of Prof. Dr. Raimund Kastenholz, JGU Mainz (2 March).

Nico Nassenstein

02/2018 “Silence in and about (Kinya)rwanda”. Paper presented at the conference “Talk and Silence” at the American University Cairo (28 February–1 March).
03/2018 “Sound is a border: On social inequality and language-as-burden”. Paper written with Anne Storch and presented at the conference “Language and Borders: Rethinking Migration, Mobility and Space” at Bristol University (26–27 March).
06/2018 “Metasexting: The linguistics of dickpics”. Paper written with Anne Storch and presented at the 22nd Sociolinguistic Symposium held at the University of Auckland (27–30 June).
Anja Oed

06/2018  “Sichtwechsel: Comic-Helden in und aus Afrika”. Talk held at the opening of the exhibition at the Schule des Sehens at the JGU Mainz (12 June).


06/2018  Interview by a team from Campus TV for a film project on so-called “Kleine Fächer” (small subjects). The shoot took place at the Schule des Sehens against the backdrop of the exhibition “Sichtwechsel: Comic-Helden in und aus Afrika” (28 June).

07/2018  “Schwarzer Orpheus meets Comic-Kunst: 100 Jahre Janheinz Jahn”. Introduction to a workshop held at the JGU Mainz to mark the 100th anniversary of Janheinz Jahn’s birthday (23 July).


Simone Pfeifer


02/2018  (with Christoph Günther and Bernd Zywietz) “Ästhetische Attraktion: Zur gestalterischen und inhaltlichen Anziehungskraft dschihadistischer Videos”. Paper presented at the Conference “Mutidisciplinary Perspectives of Radicalization, New Media and Education” held in Cologne (22–23 February).


Franziska Reiffen

Ute Röschenthaler


08/2018  “Checking out ‘dream places’: young Africans as culture brokers in Malaysia”. Paper presented on the panel “Migration and the imaginaries of good life” held at the EASA in Stockholm (15 August).


Tom Simmert

02/2018  “Dance music across the Atlantic”. Talk held as part of the series “Robert Johnson Theory” in Offenbach (3 February).

06/2018  “Labels, pirates & blogs: (de-)commodifying music in Lagos (Nigeria)”. Presentation at the “Anthropology of music” Master Class at the JGU Mainz (28 June).


Holger Tröbs


Markus Verne


“Ist Kultur ästhetisch?”, Inaugural lecture (Öffentliche Antrittsvorlesung zur Berufung) held at the JGU Mainz (14 June).


**Ehler Voss**


**Yamara Wessling**


10/2018 Member of the Delegation of the Premier of the German state of Rhineland Palatinate, Malu Dreyer, to Rwanda. Interview with Frederick Merx, radio station SWR4, on the prohibition of plastic bags on Rwanda’s local markets (1 October). Interview with Marie-Christine Werner, radio station SWR2 on the fight against gender based violence by women’s NGOs in Rwanda (2 October).

**Nanneke Winters**


Bernd Zywietz


05/2018  “Wie Propaganda-Videos analysieren? Zu Ansatz und Methoden formalästhetisch-rhetorischer Untersuchung dschihadistischer Filme”. Presentation held at the conference “Digitaler Djihad: Vom Attentäter zum Medienagenten” at the University of Tübingen (14 May).

Departmental seminar and lecture series

Departmental seminar series, summer semester of 2018

Coordinator: Markus Verne

24.04.2018 Dominik Schieder (Siegen)
The Potential of Fiji Islander Sociality: A Comparison of Inter-Ethnic Relations in Three Ethnographic Settings

08.05.2018 Tom Simmert (Mainz)
Labels, Blogs, Piraten und die Dekommodifizierung von Musik in Nigeria

15.05.2018 Ehler Voss (Siegen)
Fighting the Fakers. Die Skeptikerbewegung in den USA

22.05.2018 Nicolas Argenti (Uxbridge)
Memory, Historicity, Temporality: Hunger and Oneiric Revelation in Island Greece

29.05.2018 Heath Cabot (Pittsburgh)
Ethnographic Reflections on the Study of Displacement in Times of “Crisis”

05.06.2018 Axel Fleisch (Frankfurt a. M.)
FESTAC 77 (Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture, Nigeria) and the critique of racial capita

12.06.2018 Anja Oed mit Studierenden (Mainz)
Ausstellung “Sichtwechsel: Comic-Helden in und aus Afrika”

19.06.2018 Rita Kesselring (Basel)
Capital Investment and the Local State at an Extractive Frontier, Zambia’s Northwestern Province

26.06.2018 Veronika Cummings (Mainz)
“Tribal Modern”: Nationale Identität und Zugehörigkeit im Sultanat Oman

03.07.2018 Mirco Uhlig (Mainz)
Schamanismus auf Probe
Departmental seminar series, winter semester of 2018/2019

Coordinator: Heike Drotbohm

23.10.2018 Jonas Bens (Berlin)
Wer ist das Publikum von Transnational Justice? Affektive Atmosphären und das Problem der Mehrfachadressierung in Verfahren des Internationalen Strafgerichtshofs in Den Haag und Norduganda

30.10.2018 Anna-Maria Brandstetter und Vera Hierholzer (Mainz)
Nicht nur Raubkunst! Sensible Dinge in universitären Sammlungen und Museen

06.11.2018 Helmut Asche (Mainz)
Nachhaltiger Kakao aus Ghana? Ethnologische und entwicklungsökonomische Grundsatzfragen

13.11.2018 Mario Krämer (Siegen)
Zur Ethnologie der “konservativen Anderen”. Vergleichende Perspektiven auf lokale Zugehörigkeit und Identitätspolitik

20.11.2018 Roland Hardenberg (Frankfurt a. M.)
Die Geschichte der Hirse: soziokulturelle Dynamiken im Umgang mit einer „subalternen“ Ressource

27.11.2018 Jon Schubert (London)
Disaggregating the Commodity Crisis: Towards an Ethnography of the Port of Lobito (Angola)

04.12.2018 Deniz Yonucu (München)
Violent Interpellation, Sectarian Imaginary and the Politics of Fear in Urban Turkey

11.12.2018 Echi Gabbert (Göttingen)
Das Unübersetzbare. Welchen Beitrag kann die Ethnologie zur Forschung über Pastoralismus und Landraub leisten?

08.01.2019 Sarah Scholl-Schneider (Mainz)
Verschwundenes sichtbar machen. Migrantische Praktiken temporärer Rückkehr im östlichen Europa

15.01.2019 Sandra Calkins (Halle)
„Shelflives“. Stagnation, Wachstum und Verlust in einem ugandischen Forschungslabor

22.01.2019 Thomas Stodulka (Berlin)
Fieldwork and Emotional Economies on the Streets of Java

29.01.2019 Marion Fresia (Neuchâtel)
Asylum Bureaucracies at Work: Ethnographic Insights within Three UNHCR Offices

05.02.2019 Katelyn Best (Tallahassee / Rapperswil)
Deaf Identity, Culture, and Musical Expression in Deaf Hip Hop
Excursions and student field research

As part of his seminar “Einführung in die Erinnerungsforschung” [Introduction to Memory Studies], Godwin Kornes conducted two excursions with students. First, a visit to the exhibition “Klassen-Kämpfe. Schülerproteste 1968–1972” at the Museum of Communication in Frankfurt a. M. on 24 June, to learn about memory-related museum practice. Second, a field trip to the Central Cemetery in Mainz on 17 July, to the graves of French colonial soldiers who had been stationed in Mainz during the First World War – the objective being to learn about the entanglements of regional and colonial history.

As part of her seminar “Einführung in die Musikethnologie” (Introduction to Ethnomusicology), Cornelia Günauer conducted a trip with students to the “MusikWelten” (Musical Worlds) exhibition at the Bassermannhaus Museum of Music and Fine Arts in Mannheim. The exhibition documents the importance of music as a human phenomenon throughout the world and throughout history. The students explored the exhibition through an audiovisual tour and subsequently critically reflected on how the different aspects of the exhibition connect to what was discussed in the context of the seminar, e.g. the idea of musical universalism or questions of how to exhibit something so intangible as music.

In early October 2018, Anna-Maria Brandstetter and Yamara Wessling represented the JGU together with Professor Georg Krausch, President of the JGU, as members of the delegation of Malu Dreyer, the Premier of the German state of Rhineland-Palatinate, to Rwanda (https://www.rlp.de/de/aktuelles/einzelansicht/news/detail/News/bildung-ist-der-schluessel-fuer-die-entwicklung-in-afrika/). The programme included a visit to the Huye Campus of the University of Rwanda where the delegation had the opportunity to talk with students of the College of Arts and Social Sciences personally and in small groups. During the visit in Huye, Professor Krausch emphasized that one of the aims of the academic cooperation between UR and JGU is to support Rwandan scholars to develop an independent African anthropology which responds to contemporary issues in Rwanda and in Africa in general (https://www.facebook.com/uni.mainz/posts/2017762058282008).
Kathrin Langewiesche met on 5 October and 12 November in Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso with the participants of the “Contemplation and social commitment” project. During these days, the participants discussed their articles, which emerged from their field research, workshops and preliminary conceptual work, in order to prepare a journal volume on the topic of “monasteries and development”. This thematic issue will bring together two interrelated themes but belonging to two distinct areas of the social sciences: research on contemporary Catholic monasticism and development studies. The final publication is scheduled for late 2019 or early 2020. As part of this project, the entire range of ethnological work from field research to publication was explored in practice with a group of students.

On 14 and 15 December, as part of the seminar “Critical Race Studies”, Matthias Krings and Tom Simmert took a group of students to Dresden where they visited the exhibition “Rassismus. Die Erfindung von Menschenrassen” (Racism. The invention of human races) running at the Deutsches Hygiene-Museum. The exhibition enabled the group to cast a critical eye on the historical construction of “race” as a scientific category with particular emphasis on aspects of epistemic violence this history entails. It also facilitated revisiting sinister moments in the history of anthropology and their implications for past and present forms of everyday racism.

Participants of the excursion to Dresden in front of the Deutsches Hygiene Museum. Photo: Matthias Krings.
PUBLICATIONS AND EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF STAFF MEMBERS

Monographs and edited books

**Lentz, Carlo**

**Zywietz, Bernd**

Articles, working papers, etc.

**Bierschenk, Thomas**


Brand ste tt er, Anna-Maria


Dor sch, Hauke


Dro tbo hm, Heike


(with Annika Lems) Introduction: Displacement and New Sociabilities. Allegra Lab (Blog), 20 August (http://allegralaboratory.net/introduction-displacement-and-new-sociabilities/).


Dümmler, Kar la

Gabriel, Marie -Christin

Günauer, Cornelia

Günther, Christoph

Hohl, Christoph

Kilian, Cassis
I would prefer not to: Dilemmas in Collaboration. *Collaborative Anthropologies* 10, 1–2, 95–123.

Kolloch, Annalena
**Korn es, Godwin**


**Kring s, Matt hias**


**Lent z, Car ola**


(with Isidore Lobnibe and Stanislas Meda) From history to memory: A Wissenschaftskolleg focus group’s views of a West African family – after six months work. *TRAFO – Blog for Transregional Research* (Blog), 14 August (https://trafo.hypotheses.org/11377).


Lit t ig, Sabine

Nassenstei n, Nico

N’Guessan, Konstanze

Reiffen, Franziska

Röschenthaler, Ute

Trö bs, Holger
Voss, Ehler

Winter s, Nanneke

Zywietz, Bernd
Editorial responsibilities

**Bier schenk, Thomas**

Member of the advisory board of *Africa Spectrum* (https://journals.sub.uni-hamburg.de/giga/afsp/about/editorialTeam).

Member of the editorial committee of the journal *Anthropologie et Développement* (https://journals.openedition.org/anthropodev/).

**Dro tbo hm, Heike**

Member of the editorial board of the *Zeitschrift für Ethnologie* (ZFE, Berlin).

**Langewiesche, Kathrin**

Member of the editorial board of *Social Sciences and Mission* (Brill).

**Lentz, Carolina**

Member of the editorial board of *Africa* (http://www.internationalafricaninstitute.org/journal.html).

Member of the advisory board of *Paideuma* (http://www.frobenius-institut.de/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=57&Itemid=118).

**Nassenstein, Nico**

Co-editor of the peer-reviewed journal *The Mouth* (https://themouthjournal.com).

Co-editor of the peer-reviewed journal *Afrikanistik & Ägyptologie Online* (AAeO) (https://www.afrikanistik-aegyptologie-online.de).

Co-editor of the peer-reviewed journal *Swahili Forum* (http://afrikanistik.qko.uni-leipzig.de/swafo/).

**N’Guessan, Konstanze**


**Oed, Anja**


**Zywietz, Bernd**

TEACHING AND RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

The department cooperates with the Department of Linguistics of the University of Buea, Cameroon, in carrying out research on Cameroonian languages. Coordination: Raimund Kastenholz.

The department cooperates with the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA) at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUF5) in the context of studying language variation and change in Kiswahili. Nico Nassenstein (JGU) and Daisuke Shinagawa (TUF5) are currently establishing a close cooperation that may potentially lead to an official agreement in 2019. (http://www.aa.tufs.ac.jp/en/projects/jrp/jrp240).

The department maintains close contacts with anthropologists and sociologists at the Laboratoire d’Études et de Recherches sur les Dynamiques Sociales et le Développement Local (LASDEL, Niamey/Niger and Parakou/Benin, see http://www.lasdel.net), the Université Nationale de Bénin (UNB) in Cotonou and the Université de Parakou (Benin), with whom researchers from our own department have been collaborating on a number of research projects. Many of these joint research projects also involve students from Benin. Coordination: Thomas Bierschenk.

The department and the School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, South Africa are linked by a cooperation agreement facilitating the exchange of students and staff as well as the planning and execution of joint research projects.

The University of Rwanda (UR) in Huye and the JGU Mainz have cooperated closely since 1982. In June 2011, Anna-Maria Brandstetter was appointed the coordinator of the university partnership, and Yamara Wessling has been assisting her since 2013. In June 2014, the agreement of scientific cooperation between the University of Rwanda and the JGU Mainz was renewed. Ever since, the partnerships have facilitated exchange in research and teaching.

In April 2018, Professor Rainer Schmidt, DAAD long-term lecturer at UR, visited the JGU Mainz. He had a meeting with colleagues interested and involved in academic cooperation with Rwanda at JGU and the University of Applied Sciences Mainz – and gave a presentation about the various opportunities for cooperation with the University of Rwanda and Institutions of Higher Education in Rwanda in general.

Two doctoral students from Mainz also carried out research in Rwanda in 2018: Yamara Wessling, who works on middle-class women, and Bettina Pieck, who investigated the Rwandan health insurance system: Moreover, Christoph Kühne, a Bachelor student in anthropology at JGU Mainz, has been successfully enrolled for a semester abroad at the College of Arts and Social Sciences (UR).

In December 2017, a new agreement of scientific cooperation between the University of the Western Cape (UWC) and the JGU Mainz was signed. The cooperation will focus on the Department of Anthropology and African Studies and the Faculty of History and Cultural Studies (JGU Mainz) and the Department of Anthropology and Sociology and the Faculty of Arts (UWC).

In connection with the newly concluded memorandum of understanding between UWC and JGU, the department started to renew the cooperation with the University of Namibia (UNAM). As part of this project, Dr. Rosa Persendt, anthropologist and lecturer in Contemporary Social Issues at UNAM, visited the JGU and our department in late July 2018. Anna-Maria Brandstetter, Yamara Wessling and Anne Werner from the JGU International Office discussed with Rosa how to proceed further with that process.
The department is a member of the Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies (AEGIS, http://www.aegis-eu.org).

The department maintains close links with the Euro-African Association for the Anthropology of Social Change and Development (APAD, http://www.association-apad.org). APAD is a network promoting dialogue between African and European researchers in the social sciences as well as with development agents. APAD's approach has evolved towards research regarding social change and social engineering on the African continent in comparative perspective. Coordination: Thomas Bierschenk.

The department coordinates the “European summer school for the anthropology of development and social dynamics” which is an intensive seminar for doctoral students, organized and hosted every two years by a network of European universities: Ecole des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales/EHESS Marseille as well as the universities of Aix-en-Provence and Bordeaux in France, the Free University of Brussels, the University of Liège as well as the Catholic Universities of Leuven and Louvain-la-Neuve in Belgium, and the Universities of Kopenhagen, Denmark and Uppsala, Sweden. This network organises the biennial European doctoral school for the anthropology of development and social dynamics (http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/EDS/01.html). Coordination: Thomas Bierschenk and Heike Drotbohm.

The department also participates in the European exchange programme ERASMUS and has established bilateral agreements with the following universities throughout Europe (http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/88.php):

**African Languages and Linguistics** (Coordinator: Friederike Vigeland)

- Austria: University of Vienna
- Italy: Università degli Studi di Napoli

**Anthropology** (Coordinator: Cassis Kilian; Learning Agreement: Elke Rössler)

- Denmark: University of Aarhus
- France: Université de Provence, Aix-Marseille; Université Victor Ségalen, Bordeaux ; Université Paul Valéry, Montpellier; Université Paris X, Nanterre; École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales EHESS, Marseille
- Greece: Democritus University of Thrace, Komotini
- Italy: Università degli Studi di Siena
- Portugal: Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Lisbon; Centro de Estudos Africanos CEA/ISCTE, Lisbon
- Spain: Universidad Complutense de Madrid; Universidad de Granada
- Turkey: Isik Üniversitesi, Istanbul
- United Kingdom: University of Kent at Canterbury

The department cooperated with the University of Zurich through the Swiss-European Mobility Programme.

For the exchange term in 2018/2019, eight students of the department were nominated to study at the following partner universities: University of Aarhus, University of Kent at Canterbury, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Centro de Estudos Africanos CEA/ISCTE at Lisbon, Université Paul Valéry of Montpellier, Université Paris X of Nanterre, Universidad de Granada.
RMU – Rhine-Main-Universities

In the framework of the Rhine-Main-Universities alliance (RMU) of the Goethe University Frankfurt, the JGU Mainz, and Technical University Darmstadt in December 2015 created a new network, called Afrikaforschung Rhein-Main (Africa Research Rhine-Main), which exchanges information on ongoing activities and encourages the development of new collaborative research initiatives with regard to Africa. Altogether, two departments of the Technical University Darmstadt, nine departments and institutions of the JGU Mainz, and thirteen departments and institutions of the Goethe University Frankfurt form part of this network. At ifeas, Sabine Littig has agreed to represent the department in this initiative and coordinate the flow of information.

Outstanding is a young researchers’ network of doctoral students and post-doctoral researchers from a broad range of disciplines at all three universities with frequent meetings and workshops. The last workshop took place in February 2018 in Mainz during which around 10 young researchers worked on alternative presentation strategies with the poetry slammer Ken Yamamoto.

Further cooperation plans in teaching and study programmes such as a new joint BA program of African languages and linguistics are taking form. The representatives in Frankfurt a. M. and Mainz held two strategy workshops in October and November 2018 in which the participants formulated a first proposal for the BA program. The start of the conjoint BA African languages, media and communication is scheduled for the winter term 2020.

The African Studies Rhine-Main initiative of Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (JGU) and Goethe University Frankfurt (GU) is launching its first joint research project on “Africans in the Rhine-Main region: An African linguistic research project on language and integration”. The project is funded by the RMU “Initiativfonds Forschung” and starts in January 2019. Sabine Littig (Mainz) and Klaudia Dombrowsky-Hahn (Frankfurt a. M.) will be conducting fieldwork in the Rhine-Main region.

For further information on the initiative see http://www.rhein-main-universitaeten.uni-mainz.de/eng/index.php or http://afrika.forschung-rheinmain.de/ or subscribe to the mailing list https://lists.uni-mainz.de/sympa/info/afrikaforschung_rmu.

Within the JGU Mainz, the department cooperates with colleagues in other departments and faculties in the context of

- the DFG Research Group 1939 “Un/doing Differences. Practices in Human Differentiation” (http://www.blogs.uni-mainz.de/undoingdifferences-e/)
- the Research Centre of Social and Cultural Studies (SOCUM, http://www.SOCUM.uni-mainz.de)
- the Center for Intercultural Studies (ZIS, http://www.zis.uni-mainz.de)
FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

Incoming fellowships: visiting scholars at the department

Visiting Professor (funded by the Zentrum für Interkulturelle Studien, ZIS)

May 2018 – July 2018

Heath Cabot

University of Pittsburgh, USA

Heath Cabot is an assistant Professor at the Department of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh. Her research stay at ifeas was hosted as a visiting professor by Heike Drotbohm. As a political and legal anthropologist, Heath Cabot’s research examines citizenship, ethics, and rights in Europe, with a particular focus on Greece. She is the author of the book “On the Doorstep of Europe: Asylum and Citizenship in Greece” (published by UPenn Press, 2014) and is currently working on her second book on the precaritization of human and social rights in austerity-ridden Greece through the prism of community-based healthcare. Working at the interface of migration and bureaucracy studies, Heath Cabot’s stay contributed towards establishing significant links between different fields of research currently being pursued at ifeas. Together with Thomas Bierschenk and Heike Drotbohm, she co-organized the international workshop “The State, Anthropology, and the Global South” (18-19 May 2018), gave a lecture on and co-hosted a student symposium on “How to combine migration studies and the anthropology of bureaucracies?”.

Visiting Professor (funded by the Zentrum für Interkulturelle Studien)

May 2018

Edison Cassadore

Professor for Literature and Cultural Studies, Tohono O'odham Community College, Arizona, USA

Edison Cassadore gave a talk and participated at a round table about the representation of Native Americans in Hollywood cinema and in Native American films. Edison Cassadore studied at and received his PhD from the University of Arizona. Currently, he works as a professor at the Faculty of Literature and Humanities at Tohono O'odham Community College. He prepares a research project on Representations of Native Americans in German popular culture.

Visiting Professor (funded by the JGU Mainz and the Sulzmann Foundation Mainz)

June 2018

Heike Becker

University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa

Heike Becker is Professor of Anthropology at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) in South Africa. Her research and writing explores the intersection of politics, culture and aesthetics with a focus on memory cultures, popular culture, digital media and social movements, mainly in southern Africa (South
Africa and Namibia). She was hosted by Anna-Maria Brandstetter and Yamara Wessling to deepen the ongoing cooperation between the UWC and the JGU. The research fellowship was made possible by the Foundation for the Promotion of Cooperation in Teaching and Research with Partner Institutions (JGU Mainz) and the Sulzmann Foundation (JGU Mainz). Heike’s recent work investigates the aesthetics and politics of popular culture and digital media in movements of popular protest, such as the #FeesMustFall movements in South Africa, and protest movements led by young people in Namibia and Burkina Faso.

**Visiting Professor (funded by the Alexander von Humboldt foundation)**

*September 2018 – November 2018*

**Ibrahima Wane**

Professor for Literature, Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal

Ibrahima Wane continued his research project on Senegalese music of the 1960s to 90s at the African Music Archives. A further research stay at the African Music Archives and co-operative projects with Hauke Dorsch as part of his Alexander von Humboldt Scholarship will follow in 2019. Wane studied Modern Languages at and received his Doctorate from the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Senegal. Since 2006, he has been Maître-Assistant for oral African literatures at the Department of Modern Languages.

**Visiting Scholar (funded by the JGU International Office)**

*November 2018*

**Sikelelwa Mashiyi**

Sikelelwa Mashiyi is masters student in Anthropology at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa. She visited the JGU in November to conduct research in the African Music Archives (AMA) on the underground hip hop of Cape Town’s townships. Her stay in Mainz was made possible with a scholarship from the JGU International Office ([http://www.magazin.uni-mainz.de/9750_ENG_HTML.php](http://www.magazin.uni-mainz.de/9750_ENG_HTML.php)).

**Visiting Narrator/oral Traditionalist/Musician (funded by the Zentrum für Interkulturelle Studien)**

*December 2018 – January 2019*

**Dembo Jobarteh**

Dembo Jobarteh used his stay to talk about the professional role of the jali as narrator, entertainer, diplomat, musician, praise-singer, etc. in the Mande societies of West Africa. He belongs to one of the most-respected families of Mandinka-musicians and he is representative of the famous Brikama school of kora players and jali or griots from The Gambia.
Outgoing fellowships of staff members

1/2018 – 7/2018 In the first half of 2018, Carola Lentz was a fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. She served as convenor of the focus group “Family history and social change in West Africa”, organising regular group meetings as well as several smaller workshops with outside guests from various disciplines on family history, theories of remembering, changing marriage and old-age care practices, and family associations.

4/2018 – 9/2018 Matthias Krings spent six months as a fellow at the Morphomata Centre of Advanced Studies at the University of Cologne. During his stay, he further developed his project “Peculiar portraits: un/doing albinism in art and fashion photography” and presented his recent findings in a lecture of the “Morphomata Lecture series” and on the occasion of the Centre’s annual conference held from 9–11 July (https://www.morphomata.uni-koeln.de/en/fellows/all-fellows/matthias-krings/).

02/2018 Ute Röschenthaler was a fellow at Jinan University, Guangzhou, China. During her ten-day stay, she gave two lectures, discussed her research with staff and students and pursued her project on the history of Chinese green tea in Africa.

Guest speakers who held talks in seminars

Salvatore Mele
Ministerium des Innern und für Sport Rheinland Pfalz, Referat für die Entwicklungszusammenarbeit mit dem Partnerland Ruanda

Dr Ibrahima Wane
Universite Cheick Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal

Dembo Jobarteh
Griot, kora player, specialist for oral history

Sina Marx
FEMNET e.V., Bonn

Participants of the seminar with Dembo Jobarteh. Photo: Hauke Dorsch.
M.A. AND B.A. THESES

M.A. theses submitted in 2018

Helbing, Danika
Architektur und Ankommen. Unterbringung und Wohnen nach der Flucht. (Kilian)

Neunteufel, Maria
Reden über Sexualität bei jugendlichen Hamar in Süd-Äthiopien. (Drotbohm)

Soeder, Esther
Von der unilinearen Migration zum transnationalen Feld? Deutsche Auswanderer in den USA von 1920-2017. (Dorsch)

Tatz, Rajner
"Don't Use Breast Milk as Eye Drop" – Eine Analyse der Darstellungen von Menschen mit Sehbehinderungen in Ghanaischen Printmedien. (Dorsch)

Warfaly, Catherine
Superhelden im Auftrag Allahs. Muslimische Heldenfiguren in Comics. (Krings)

B.A. theses submitted in 2018

Aladar, Vanessa:
Die "Wurzeln" des Blues – Eine diskursanalytische Untersuchung. (Dorsch)

Binkowski, Jan Leon
Die Zombiefigur als exotisierter Teil des haitianischen Vodou im Zombiefilm des 21. Jahrhunderts. (Drotbohm)

Bonus, Alexander
Migrationshintergrund – Wie werden Deutsche ausländischer Herkunft durch die Erwähnung ihres Migrationshintergrundes in der öffentlichen Wahrnehmung zu „Anderen“. (N'Guessan)

Brennemann, Kira-Marie
Die Auswanderung deutscher Frauen in die Kolonien. (Kilian)

Brust, David
Integration und Identität von (Spät-)Aussiedlern in Deutschland – Ein Einblick in die Entwicklung russlanddeutscher Remigration in Deutschland und dem Hunsrück. (Dorsch)

Dellen, Leonie
(Post-)koloniale Erinnerungskultur in Belgien. Eine Analyse anhand von Umbenennungspraktiken in Brüssel. (Drotbohm)

Ditscher, Alexandra
Nur das Nötigste. Staatliche Gesundheitsversorgung im Rahmen des Asylbewerberleistungsgesetzes. (Drotbohm)

Dürr, Maren
Gut gemeint. Probleme mit der partizipativen Entwicklungspolitik aus ethnologischer Sicht. (Kilian)

Gajc, Martin
Transformer des Kinos. Wie US-amerikanische Filme für den chinesischen Markt adaptiert werden. (Kilian)
Gleisner, Annett
_Fremd- und Selbstrepräsentation von People of Color im deutschsprachigen Raum._ (Dorsch)

Gottfried, Denise
_Afrika ist anders. Die Präsenz stereotyper Afrikabilder in Deutschland an ausgewählten Beispielen der Werbung._ (Kilian)

Grimm, Eva
_Ethnologie und interkulturelle Trainings._ (N’Guessan)

Hahl, Barbara Magdalena
_Zur Aneignung und Neukonzeption des “Schamanen” durch Wissenschaft, Counterculture und New Age seit den 1960er Jahren._ (Dorsch)

Holdmann, Jennifer
_Im Spannungsfeld von Dislokation und Integration: Dinaw Mengestus The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears und How to Read the Air._ (Oed)

Huff, Nele
_Die performative Aushandlung von Religion während der Nationalfeier in Bongouanou, Côte d’Ivoire 2017._ (N’Guessan)

Ilhan, Nazife
_Die “NSU-Monologe”. Eine ethnologische Untersuchung des postmigrantischen Theaters._ (Kilian)

Kaiser, Charlotte Dorothee Marie
_“Und was zockst du so?” Eine ethnosoziologische Perspektive auf Gamer als eine Subkultur (N’Guessan)

Klasen, Nicolai
_Die islamistische Radikalisierung der “Sauerland-Gruppe”._ (Günther)

Kolling, Valerie
_Transitional Justice am Beispiel der Elfenbeinküste._ (N’Guessan)

König, Mina
_“Das Leiden anderer betrachten” – Ethische Herausforderungen in der humanitären Fotografie._ (Brandstetter)

Krach, Anna Maria
_Armut aus Sicht der Weltbank. Konzeptionelle Textanalyse der Weltentwicklungsberichte von 1980, 1990 und 2000/01._ (Bierschenk)

Lauser, Marvin
_Sind Grime-MCs Ethnographen? Identität(en) und Persönlichkeiten eines Londoner Musikgenres._ (Dorsch)

Luft, Caroline
_Afrikabilder in deutschen Massenmedien._ (Brandstetter)

Matta, Puja
_Die afghanische Sikh-Gemeinschaft in Stuttgart: Eine geschlechtsspezifische Analyse._ (Dorsch)

Meiertoberend, Lena
_Straßenmusik – Motivation, Wahrnehmung, Wertschätzung._ (Dorsch)
Mika, Enya

"Zwischen Beruf und Berufung. Eine Feldstudie zum Arbeitsfeld von Tätowierern und Tätowiererinnen im Rhein-Main-Gebiet." (Kilian)

Mölich, Melissa

"Interkulturelle Kompetenz in der Polizeiarbeit." (N'Guessan)

Moeschke, Jana

"Kulturbegriff des Alltags und Umgang mit kultureller Differenz im Kontext von Unternehmen, Geflüchteten und Vermittlern." (N'Guessan)

Mohr, Larissa

"Comics als „Erinnerungsort“: Rupert Bazamanzas Smile Through the Tears: The Story of the Rwandan Genocide." (Oed)

Müller, Annika

"Tag der Deutschen Einheit 2017: Analyse der Organisationsstrukturen am Beispiel des Einladungsmanagements und des Placements." (N'Guessan)

Nierste, Kira Shohana

"Auroville, Tamara und Findhorn. Intentionale Gemeinschaften und alternative Lebensentwürfe." (Kilian)

Papendorf, Christoph

"Als ob man schwebt. Eine Ethnologie der Sinne zur Wahrnehmung von 360°-Videos." (Kilian)

Paul, Judith

"We tell the story. Die Rolle der Guides in den ruandischen Gedenkstätten." (Brandstetter)

Rauch, Leyla Maria

"Geschlechterbilder und Migration: Frauen zwischen Fremd- und Selbstdarstellung." (Brandstetter)

Reichardt, Kartini

"Wir kommen in Frieden. Wir haben sogar Geschenke dabei. Stereotype in Kinderbüchern aus ethnologischer Perspektive." (Kilian)

Reichart, Janna Helga Irene

"Nationale Identitätsbildung bei der Schülerparade am ghansischen Nationalfeiertag." (Lentz)

Reichl, Elena

"Les agriculteurs eux-mêmes" – Die monde agricole bei der Unabhängigkeitfeier 2017 in Bongouanou." (N'Guessan)

Romstedt, Hannah

"Umrisse ethnologischer Provenienzforschung." (Brandstetter)

Scherer, Barbara

"Identitätsstiftung durch Musik und Tanz bei den Cajun-People in Louisiana." (Dorsch)

Schütz, Aileen

"Zur Reproduktion von Ungleichheit im Kontext von Freiwilligenarbeit in Tansania: Die Rolle(n) der lokalen sozialen Einrichtungen." (Drotbohm)

Schweizer, Julia

"Ungewollt kinderlose Frauen in sozialen Netzwerken – der “Kinderwunsch“ und neue Handlungsoptionen." (Drotbohm)
StUDENT STATISTICS

In the winter semester of 2018/2019, the Department of Anthropology and African Studies had 534 students in total, including students enrolled in one of the B.A. or M.A. programmes as well as numerous Ph.D. students.

B.A. programmes

In the winter semester of 2018/2019, 494 students were enrolled for the B.A. in Anthropology (“Ethnologie”). Of these, 192 were studying it as their major subject (“Kernfach”) while 302 were studying it as their minor subject (“Beifach”).

In the summer semester of 2018, 83 B.A. students were enrolled in their first semester (36 with Anthropology as their major and 47 with Anthropology as a minor).

In the winter semester of 2018/19, 78 B.A. students were enrolled in their first semester (30 with Anthropology as their major and 48 with Anthropology as a minor).

41 students finished their B.A. in 2018.

M.A. programme

In the winter semester of 2018/19, 31 students were enrolled in the M.A. programme in Anthropology (“Ethnologie”), a slight increase from the preceding year.

Ph.D. programme

In 2018, 26 Ph.D. projects were studying for a Ph.D. at the department. For a full list of the Ph.D. projects completed in 2018 and students currently studying for a Ph.D. at the department, see pp. 19–20.