Institut für Ethnologie und Afrikastudien
Department of Anthropology and African Studies

Jahresbericht 2019
Annual Report 2019
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http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de / http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/eng/index.php

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STUDENT REPRESENTATION (FACHSCHAFTSRAT)
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2019 was an eventful year for all of us, marked by exciting activities. Without doubt, the most memorable moments were the retirement of Thomas Bierschenk and Carola Lentz by end of March and end of September, respectively. During the past two decades, both have contributed tremendously to the intellectual exchange, international reputation and social life of our department. In February, Thomas Bierschenk was honored by colleagues and academic friends who took the chance to revisit and discuss some of his key concepts during an international symposium organized in his name. In July, Carola Lentz received a fest-schrift presented by her students, colleagues and academic fellow travelers during a departmental ceremony. As “elders”, our two colleagues will continue enriching the department’s academic and social life. Thomas Bierschenk became a team member of the research project “Police translations”, directed by Jan Beek, and has accepted invitations for short-term fellowships in France and Portugal. Carola Lentz has been awarded a senior research professorship by the state of Rhineland-Palatinate. She is the first member of the Faculty of History and Cultural Sciences and the first woman at JGU to receive this award. On top of that, in September, she was elected President of the Goethe Institute and will assume this office in November 2020.

In terms of research activities, we are proud to announce four new third party-funded projects. Nico Nassenstein and his collaborator Axel Fleisch from GU Frankfurt a. M. began researching the linguistic integration of African migrants in the Rhine-Main area. Jan Beek started a project on language use and the construction of cultural difference in everyday police work. Ute Röschenthaler, in collaboration with Birgit Bräuchler from Monash University in Melbourne, began researching brokers and their practices of intermediation in a globalising world, and Carola Lentz started a project assessing early-career sponsoring within the field of German-African scientific cooperation.

Three major international conferences took place at the department in 2019. “Acoustemology” was the theme explored by the second edition of “The Anthropology of Music Lecture Series and Master Class” which took place in June. Together with Steven Feld, professor of anthropology and music at the University of New Mexico, Markus Verne, several colleagues and a group of 20 international doctoral students and postdocs discussed ethnomusicological topics for about a week. In July, Simone Pfeifer and her collaborator Lene Faust from University of Bern convened the conference “Dark Ethnography: Encountering the Uncomfortable Other in Ethnographic Research”. In November, Nico Nassenstein and Daisuke Shinagawa from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies organized a conference on “Sociolinguistic Perspectives on Variation in Swahili”.

The Working Papers series offers further insights into our current research activities. In 2019 eight new working papers came out, covering topics as diverse as Markus Verne’s inauguration lecture on culture and aesthetics (No. 182) and Christopher Hohl’s reading of two images of Africans with albinism as representations of stigma and charisma (No. 188).

Our new research-oriented Master program “Anthropology of the Global” took off in October and has attracted a new cohort of students who are currently developing their own projects that will eventually lead them to carry out fieldwork in Africa, Europe, or Latin America. In September, Nico Nassenstein and Axel Fleisch (GU Frankfurt a. M.) organized a guided excursion to Mombasa, Kenya, where seven students from both universities were able to conduct fieldwork in the broader frame of sociolinguistics and tourism, funded by the RMU Initiativfonds Lehre.

The curators of the departmental special collections have been as active as ever. The African Music Archives (AMA) and the Ethnographic Collection took part in JGU’s “Tag der Sammlungen”. The Jahn Library for African Literatures has been made accessible through “Biblio-Speed-Dating”, an innovative format successfully employed by Anja Oed to foster interest in the library’s fascinating holdings. Hauke Dorsch and
Tom Simmert collaborated with Engagement Global in organizing a public panel debate on “Fairtrade Music”. Anne Brandstetter took part in several media and networking activities aiming at decolonizing ethno-graphic museums and collections in Germany. Carola Lentz and Marie-Christin Gabriel launched the Online Archive “African Independence Days,” which counts more than 28,000 images (photographs, newspaper articles, documents, and objects) from twelve African countries and which is accessible through our website.

The exhibition “Ataya – Chinesischer Grüntee in Mali: Ein Genuss, ein Gedicht, ein Business”, curated by Ute Röschenthaler and a group of BA students, offered fascinating perspectives on Mali’s glocalized tea culture. It ran from February to April at JGU’s on-campus exhibition hall, “Schule des Sehens”.

We feel honored that three Humboldt fellows chose our department as hub for their studies. Ibrahima Wane from Université Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal, spent three months at the AMA continuing his research on Senegalese music. Izuu Nwankwo from Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam, Nigeria, arrived in July and will stay for two years conducting research on Stand-up comedy in Africa and its diaspora. André Motingea Mangulu from the National Pedagogical University of Kinshasa, DR Congo, who is undertaking a comparative study of the languages of the Middle Congo River, spent six months with us.

Heike Drotbohm served as vice-dean of the Faculty of History and Cultural Sciences, Matthias Krings has been elected co-director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies (ZIS). Theresa Mentrup joined the faculty, whereas five former colleagues – Kathrin Denny, Marie-Christin Gabriel, Godwin Kornes, Eva Riedke, and Yamara Wessling – have left the department.

Matthias Krings
Head of Department
January 2020
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) (until March 2019)
- **Heike Drotbohm** (Anthropology of African Diaspora and Transnationalism)
- **Matthias Krings** (Anthropology and African Popular Culture)
- **Carola Lentz** (Anthropology) (until September 2019, currently senior research professor)
- **Nico Nassenstein** (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 (“Anthropology of the Global”), 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”).

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 des Globalen” (Anthropology of the Global)**

[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. 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/1713.php) / [http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/eng/294.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 re-
search. 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


In 2019, two volumes were published:


Andrea Noll, Verwandtschaft und Mittelklasse. Bildung, soziale Differenzierung und Integration in südghanaischen Familien. (Mainzer Beiträge zur Afrikaforschung, 43).
Furthermore, the department publishes an online series of working papers, *Arbeitspapiere 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 ([http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/92.php](http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/92.php)). Managing editors: Konstanze N’Guessan (until Working Paper 184), Maike Meurer (from Working Paper 185 on) and Yamara-Monika Wessling (April 2019 – September 2019).

In 2019, eight new working papers were published:


Marie-Christin Gabriel, Christopher Hohl und Carola Lentz (Hg.), Eventforschung. Theoretische und methodische Herausforderungen. *Working Papers of the Department of Anthropology and African Studies of the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz* 183.


Yamara-Monika Wessling, ”Même s’il y a le gender il y a des valeurs d’une femme qu’on ne peut jamais laisser”. Rwandan middle-class women on feminism and gender equality. *Working Papers of the Department of Anthropology and African Studies of the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz* 187.

Christopher Hohl, Ausgrenzung und Ästhetisierung: Geschichte und Deutung zweier Fotografien von Menschen mit Albinismus. *Working Papers of the Department of Anthropology and African Studies of the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz* 188.

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](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/](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](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.
Jahn Library for African Literatures

The Jahn Library (http://www.jahn-bibliothek.ifeas.uni-mainz.de) represents one of the earliest and most comprehensive collections of African literatures worldwide. Following his encounter with L.S. Senghor in 1951, on the occasion of a lecture on francophone black poetry in Frankfurt a. M., Janheinz Jahn – after whom the library is named – began to collect works by writers from Africa. His understanding of African literature as a tradition in its own right, independent of the language it was written in, was certainly shaped by the fact that Senghor, in his lecture, recited poetry not only in French but also in Wolof and Serer. Consequently, at a time when works by African writers written in one of the (former) colonial languages were still largely regarded as offshoots of the respective European national literatures, Jahn’s collection of African literature highlighted their relatedness across language boundaries. Today, the Jahn Library for African Literatures comprises works in more than ninety languages, as well as translations, film adaptations of literary works, audiobooks, critical sources, and academic journals. The Jahn Library is headed by Anja Oed.

Student activities in the library included a new format called biblio-speed-dating as well as a book slam. Following the exhibition “Comic-Helden in und aus Afrika” in 2018, we have been able to further enlarge our collection of comic albums and graphic novels, apart from other additions to the library’s holdings. In recognition of the fact that many of the books in the library are frequently used, which we welcome, we have begun to provide them with protective covers, which is time-consuming but also an important measure to preserve them for the future. Guests included Nikitta Dede Adjirakor from the University of Bayreuth, who came to Mainz to present her PhD research on “Constructing the African city in hip-hop”.

Literary works written in Yorùbá, Swahili and Gĩkũyũ along with their English translations. Photo: Thomas Hartmann.
African Music Archives (AMA)

The AMA collects records of modern music from Africa, these include shellacs, acetate discs, reel-to-reel tapes, vinyl singles, vinyl LPs, music cassettes, CDs, VHS, video-CDs and DVDs. Since 2010, when Hauke Dorsch joined as the 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. Established in 1991, the collection continues to be extended.

This year, again, the collection grew immensely, thanks to donations from the Saarländischer Rundfunk, and through acquisitions of Nigerian vinyl records, of numerous CDs, and of vinyl records sold by a Hamburg-based journalist. These purchases were made possible by Markus Verne.


The AMA’s director and staff were active in presenting African music at numerous events. On 11 May, Hauke Dorsch and Clémentine Nkongolo presented on “Bolingo, Bolingo – Transcriptions et Traductions des Textes Lingala de la Collection des 45 Tours de l’Archive de la Musique Africaine (AMA)” at the Workshop: Current debates and topics in the study of Lingala: Varieties and variation, language contact and sociolinguistic change at the IfEAS in Mainz. In February, the AMA’s director supported the “Schule des Sehens” exhibition on Ataya with some tips on music videos. In September, he represented the AMA and the IfEAS at the Wissenschaftsmarkt Mainz. Johanna Kürner, Hauke Dorsch and Markus Coester organized a concert of Gyedu Blay-Ambolley at the Dorett Bar Mainz, on 13 November. On 17 December, Hauke Dorsch presented at the Institutskolloquium of the IfE, University of Hamburg on “‘Afrikanische Musik’ und das AMA – Wie wird ein Ethnologe Archivar und was macht er da?” and served as a DJ for the department’s Christmas party following the presentation.

Gyedu-Blay Ambolley at the Dorett Bar, Mainz. 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 Bola 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 2019, Anna-Maria Brandstetter offered guided tours in the Ethnographic Collection, e.g. on the occasion of the University Collections Open Day, which took place on 23 May. Visitors were invited to join one of several themed tours: “Waschblau, Kannebäcker-Krüge und Globalisierung in Afrika,” “Tassen, Wimpel und T-Shirts: Unabhängigkeitsfeiern in Afrika” or “Alles Raubkunst?”. She also signed the Heidelberg Statement “Decolonising requires dialogue, expertise and support” (https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/files/2019/07/20190505-Heidelberger-Stellungnahme.pdf), approved on the occasion of the 2019 Annual Conference of the Directors of Ethnographic Museums and Collections in German Speaking Countries in Heidelberg (18/19 March).

Cap with red feathers. Photo: Monika Gräwe, JGU Mainz.

Cap (crocheted?) with red feathers, unknown maker from the region of Yaoundé (Cameroon), around 1900, fibres (raffia?) and trimmed red tail feathers of the African grey parrot (Psittacus erithacus erithacus), height (incl. feathers) 19.5 cm, acquired in 1906 by Karl Haberer (1864–1941), donated to the Linden-Museum Stuttgart in 1906 and given through exchange to the ethnographic collections in Mainz in 1971, inventory number: 2519.

Karl Haberer served between 1906 and 1916 as a government doctor for the German colonial administration in Cameroon. The cap is probably the first object Haberer acquired after his arrival in Cameroon. The cap’s description in the access list of the Linden-Museum reads as follows: “1 Kriegsmütze aus Bast e Federn, W.Af., Kamerun, Jaunde” (war cap made of bast and feathers). Haberer accompanied the military expeditions of the German officers Hans Dominik and Schlosser against the Makaa (also known as Maka) in Southern Cameroon from September 1906 until the beginning of 1907. Among the cultural artefacts he sent to Stuttgart in 1909 was a drum which Haberer described as “war booty” from the Makaa in Nguelemendouka. I think that there is no doubt that Haberer acquired the cap as well as other artefacts within the violent context of the military expeditions between 1906 and 1910/11. This assumption is supported by the fact that Haberer prepared and sent human remains to the anthropological collections in Freiburg and Berlin.

The red tail feathers of the African grey parrot were widely used for hats and headdresses throughout Cameroon. This cap can be turned outside in to protect the feathers by the inverted cap.
RESEARCH PROJECTS BY FACULTY MEMBERS

Early-career funding in German African academic co-operation: an overview

Project coordination: Carola Lentz
Project member: Andrea Noll
Duration: December 2019 – November 2020

Funded by BMBF (Federal Ministry of Education and Research).
https://www.blogs.uni-mainz.de/fb07-ifeas-eng/early-career-funding/

The project aims at composing a comprehensive overview of current and planned programs of co-operation between Germany and Africa in the field of early-career funding. Universities involved in the German Universities Excellence Initiative as well as many other research institutions regularly declare their intention to intensify the international cooperation of German scholars. Regarding Africa, there is a wide range of programs that support German African research projects and promote exchange with African scientists. Such programs range from well-established formats of long-term individual scholarships to the active recruitment of African fellows for Institutes of Advanced Studies in Germany and the establishment of such institutions in the Global South to support for international networks of young academics. However, a systematic evaluation of past experiences and reflections on how to improve connections and synergies between the numerous individual programs are still missing. The project aims at filling this gap.

Early career is commonly defined as the first work years in research and teaching after completing a doctoral thesis. For Africa, this definition needs to remain flexible: African university lecturers and researchers sometimes teach for years before they can complete a doctorate. The project will therefore also consider funding programs for African scholars before and after their early-career phase. It will examine programs of co-operation in the MINT-subjects as well as in the social sciences and the humanities. The major focus will be on the perspectives of the German funding organisations, but the project will also explore the experiences of African cooperation partners. It will conduct case studies of German funding programmes in Ghana, South Africa, Kenya and Senegal, analysing the German initiatives in the context of other early-career support schemes, mainly from other European countries.

The project hopes to produce data that donors may use to interconnect current and future initiatives more effectively, and that are useful for young researchers looking for the best funding programme for their projects and career plans.

A meeting, with some participants also from ifeas, of the collaborative research project “States at Work”, in the Volkswagen Foundation program “Knowledge for tomorrow”, Accra 2008. This program included a number of measures of early career support for young African as well as German scholars.
Photo: Carola Lentz.
Police-translations: multilingualism and the everyday production of cultural difference

Team members: Jan Beek (project coordination), Thomas Bierschenk, Annalena Kol-locch, Bernd Meyer, Marcel Müller (associated PhD student), Theresa Radermacher (associated PhD student)

Duration: March 2019 – March 2021

Funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/polizei-translationen-mehrsprachigkeit-und-die-konstruktion-kultureller-differenz-im-polizeilichen-alltag/

The recent increase in the numbers of refugees and asylum seekers has made it obvious that Europe is changing rapidly, accelerating its ongoing but highly contested transformation into linguistically and ethnically more heterogeneous societies. The police are arguably one of the most crucial – and most discussed – state organisations that interact with an increasingly diverse clientele often simply labelled “migrants”. German media and the public mainly look at encounters between police officers and people categorised as migrants occasioned by extraordinary events, emphasising cultural difference as an explanatory concept for the way interactions unfold.

When looking at these encounters as everyday, often mundane interactions, however, it becomes apparent that the crucial underlying condition is first and foremost a difference in language. The interdisciplinary project studies how police officers and (non)citizens translate between different languages and, beyond that, between different normative ideas in everyday interactions. By the act of translation, actors verbalise, negotiate, validate and question such ideas and beliefs. The perception of cultural difference of the other as a migrant is not a condition of the interaction but a potential, dynamic outcome of it.

During the first phase of the research project, the team members conducted exploratory fieldwork in police departments, police training colleges, language mediator organisations and a reception centre for asylum seekers. As part of collaborative and interdisciplinary research, the team arranged role-playing scenarios in the context of police operational training. At the conference of the German Society for Social and Cultural Anthropology (DGSKA) in Konstanz, project members convened the workshop “Denied translations”. We kept on questioning and developing our concepts and ideas: culture as an emic category, “migrant” as a highly situational ascription that is also used to categorise certain police officers, interpreters’ understandings of translation and role-playing scenarios as a method of anthropological research.

Police equipment provided for a scenario.
Photo: Thomas Bierschenk.
Afrikaner*innen im Rhein-Main-Gebiet: Ein afrikalinguistisches Forschungsprojekt zu sprachlicher Integration (Africans in the Rhine-Main Area: A Pilot Project on Linguistic Integration and Strategies of Language Acquisition)

Team members: Klaudia Dombrowsky-Hahn, Axel Fleisch, Sabine Littig and Nico Nassenstein

Duration: January 2019 – January 2021

Funded by the RMU-Initiativfonds Forschung.

https://www.uni-frankfurt.de/75803132/Ein_afrikalinguistisches_Forschungsprojekt_zu_sprachlicher_Integration

“Afrikaner*innen im Rhein-Main-Gebiet: Ein afrikalinguistisches Forschungsprojekt zu sprachlicher Integration” is the first project in which two universities out of the RMU alliance (JGU Mainz and Goethe University Frankfurt a. M.) collaborated and one of the few projects in humanities funded by the “RMU-Initiativfonds Forschung”. It is a multidisciplinary project with a mixture of anthropological and sociolinguistic methods. Namely it combines qualitative interviews, participant observation and language portraits. Within fieldwork here in the Rhine-Main region the panel of the four Africa linguists Klaudia Dombrowsky-Hahn, Axel Fleisch, Sabine Littig and Nico Nassenstein surveys language use and acquisition of German and other languages of people of African descent living in the region. The researcher concentrates on how one person speaks when, to whom, and in which situation. One aim of the project is to improve the German language courses and integrational courses with the help of the collected data.

Links:
http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/3730.php
https://www.uni-mainz.de/presse/aktuell/7050_ENG_HTML.php
https://www.facebook.com/AfrikanistikKoop/
http://www.magazin.uni-mainz.de/10116_DEU_HTML.php

Fieldwork with bus driver in Offenbach am Main. Photo: Joshua Hirschauer.
African trajectories across Central America: displacements, transitory emplacements, and ambivalent migration nodes

Project Director: Heike Drotbohm
Researchers: Nanneke Winters and Elena Reichl
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 insight 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.

In 2019, the research included fieldwork at migrant reception shelters and border zones in Panama and Costa Rica. In both countries, we explored the volatilities of recent migration policies and practices, and the ways in which migrants negotiate these both inside and outside shelters with local border populations. We welcomed Elena Reichl on the project team, who researched at a migrant reception shelter in southern Costa Rica for her MA thesis. Her study enables us to further identify and problematize the migrant journey, in particular, the ways in which formal and informal policies of transit interact. Other important topics currently under exploration include: the politics of care and control; migrant differentiation; and changing perceptions of race along the way.

Research findings have been presented at the DGSKA in Konstanz (“(E)merging categories: the production of forced mobility and immobility in Brazil and Central America”) and at the AAA in Vancouver (“Places of im/mobility: infrastructures and node-like shelters in African migrant trajectories through Central America”). Research findings have also been published in Comparative Migration Review (with Costa Rican colleague Cynthia Mora Izaguirre) and in the Revista Interdisciplinar da Mobilidade Humana (REMUH). Nanneke and Elena are also writing a blog post for Border Criminologies, as a follow-up to last year’s post on migrant caravans.
Liturgical music as a place of emancipation for African nuns?

Focus of the 2nd funding phase: Kora and emancipation in secular and liturgical music

Team members: Katrin Langewiesche, Hauke Dorsch, Isabelle Jonveaux

Duration: November 2018 – August 2020

Funded by Mariann Steegmann Foundation.

The founders of the Keur Moussa monastery in Senegal came from Solesmes monastery in France, which since its new foundation by Dom Guéranger has distinguished itself which 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 2nd research phase we would like to go further in our questioning as well as explore the process of feminisation thoroughly: To what extent has the opening of the 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?
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 Jihadist media as well as on their rejection within (net-)subcultural communities. The media ethnographies look into uses and interpretations of Jihadist 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 two events in 2019: in July the international workshop “Dark Ethnography? Encountering ‘the Uncomfortable Other’ in Ethnographic Research”, organized by Simone Pfeifer (JGU Mainz) and Lene Faust (University of Bern), and in September the conference “Jihadismus online – Ideologische Hintergründe und neue Erscheinungsformen”, organized by the group together with the State Criminal Police Office Rhineland-Palatinate (LKA RP).
Contemplation and social commitment: West African monasteries, transnational networks and alternative economies

Project director: Katrin Langewiesche

Duration: June 2016 – August 2020

Funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

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

The anthropological research carried out on Christianity in Africa so far has 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 to the understanding of the processes of social change and to the debates on globalization in African societies.

At the center of the research project lies 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 on monastic networks, the monastic economy, and social change in precise 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 alternative economic systems based on religious values are experimented. 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 – February 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.
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.
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 Denny, Christopher Hohl
Cooperation partners in Africa: Tanzania Albinism Society: Josepat Torner
Duration: June 2013 – July 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 shifts 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 analysed, 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 2019, the project team focused on finalizing their data analysis and worked on publications to present the results. Kathrin Denny submitted her PhD thesis about the regional study in Tanzania. Christopher Hohl published some of his findings in an ifeas Working Paper titled “Ausgrenzung und Ästhetisierung: Geschichte und Deutung zweier Fotografien von Menschen mit Albinismus“ (188/2019), an English version of which will be published as part of a special issue of the Journal of African Cultural Studies in 2020. Matthias Krings presented a paper on the dialectics of stigma and charisma underlying the processes of aestheticization of albinism within the fashion world (conference “Die Handlungsmacht ästhetischer Objekte”, JGU, April 2019), and submitted an article on the charismatization of albinotic models through Instagram, which will appear in 2020 as a contribution to an edited volume titled “Revisionen des Porträts” (ed. Thierry Greub, Fink Verlag).

Thando Hopa on the cover of Vogue Portugal, April 2019 issue (cover photo by Rhys Frampton, publication by Condé Nast International and Light House).
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

As a follow-up project of several research projects on African Independence Days directed by Carola Lentz, the project has explored the performance of the nation in national-day celebrations in Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana. It has examined how the state-directed 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.

While in past years, the project members conducted fieldwork and jointly analysed the data from both individual and collective research, the final months of the project in 2019 were dedicated mainly to writing. Marie-Christin Gabriel concentrated on finishing her PhD thesis on “The making of the nation/state: organizing national-day celebrations in Burkina Faso”. Much time was also spent on organizing the “Archive on African Independence Days,” to which the project members and a group of PhD and Master students contributed numerous photographs, newspaper articles and documents on African Independence Days that had been collected during more than a decade.

Since 2007, more than twenty graduate and doctoral students at ifeas have conducted fieldwork on national-day celebrations in twelve African countries – Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, and Tanzania. During their fieldwork, they gathered vast materials on the celebrations, including photos taken at various events during the festive programs, newspaper articles on the festivities, as well as documents and objects such as posters, brochures, and paraphernalia. The task of archiving these materials was colossal and has been carried out over the past five years with the help of several BA and MA students. In 2019, we aimed at finishing the work on the archive and optimizing it for prospective users. Currently, the archive holds more than 28,000 images, sorted into four categories: photographs, newspaper articles, documents, and objects. It primarily consists of an online photo archive (https://bildarchiv.uni-mainz.de/AUJ), while some of the material is also stored physically in the Department of Anthropology and African Studies’ ethnographic collection. Detailed lists of both online and analogue archival holdings are available online at the ifeas website.
Current Ph.D. research projects

Anthropology

Denny geb. Hoff, Susanne Kathrin:
   menschen mit albinismus: Die etablierung einer neuen Personenkategorie in Tansania. (Krings)

Dümmler, Karla:
   Alten im Paradies? Sorgepraxen von und für migrantische Ruheständler_innen in der Dominikanischen Republik. (Drotbohm)

Fricke, Christine:
   politische kultur in Gabun. (Bierschenk)

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

Gabriel, Marie-Christin:
   The making of the nation/state: organising 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 in India. (Lentz)

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

Jákli, Daniel:
   Der Klang der Freiheit: Natur und Konservatismus in den USA. (Verne)

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

Kolloch, Annalena:
   Faire la magistrature au Bénin. Karrierewege, Selbstbilder und die Aushandlung von Unabhängigkeit der beninischen Richter- und Staatsanwaltschaft (1894–2016). (Bierschenk)

Kornes, Godwin:
   Heroes, Martyrs, Comrades: Liberation Memory and the Politics of National Commemoration in Namibia. (Lentz)

Matschke, Maximilian:
   Youth employment scenarios for South Africa in 2035. An interdisciplinary approach combining anthropology, economics, and systems theory. (Asche)

Mentrup, Theresa:
   Quem cuida? Über- und Umsetzung staatlicher Fürsorge im Nachgang des Dammbruchs von Brumadinho, Minas Gerais / Brasilien. (Drotbohm)

Meurer, Maike:
   Dichtkunst in Madagaskar. Zur Bedeutung sprachästhetischer Praxis im Kontext sozio-politischer Umbrüche. (Verne)
Molter, Céline:
   Religious Entrepreneurship in Theme Parks and Passion Plays. (Bierschenk)
Müller, Marcel:
   Ethnologie der Polizei. (Bierschenk)
Neubauer, Inès:
   Kommodifizierung von Elektroschrott in Agbogbloshie, Ghana – Informelle Akteure im Transit. (Röschenthaler)
Pater, Birthe:
   Cultural heritage for development. (Röschenthaler)
Petersen, Lara:
   Unternehmertum in Ostafrika – interdisziplinäre Betrachtung von Unternehmeridentitäten, -netzwerken und Strategien. (Asche)
Pieck, Bettina:
   Krankenversicherung, Armut und Staat in Ruanda. (Asche)
Radermacher, Theresa:
   Holistic Translations. Policing and Care in Reception Centres for Asylum Seekers. (Drotbohm)
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)
Wolter, Nele:
   Transient Ageing: Making a Living Among Older Cameroonians in Times of Crisis. (Drotbohm)

African Languages and Linguistics

Markgraf, Holger W.:
   Das Verbalsystem des Mbum. (Kastenholz)
Simbikangwa, Modeste:
   Deutsch und Kinyarwanda – ein typologischer Vergleich auf phonologischer, morphologischer und syntaktischer Ebene. (Nassenstein)
Vigeland, Friederike:
   A grammar of the Longuda noun (Adamawa, Nordostnigeria). (Kastenholz)
Wockelmann, Deborah:
   Sociolinguistics of Migration: Creative Language Practices in Kinyarwanda. (Nassenstein)
PH.D. RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

Kolloch, Annalena (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes, doctoral scholarship)

Vigeland, Friederike (Sulzmann-Stiftung, research grant)

Reiffen, Franziska (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes, doctoral scholarship; Gutenberg Council for Young Researchers, travel grant; Gutenberg Academy, travel grant)

ACTIVITIES

Conferences organized by faculty members

17 – 19 January 2019, Amsterdam
“Localizing the Study of the State and Bureaucracy”

Workshop organized by Thomas Bierschenk, Heike Drotbohm (both JGU Mainz), Heath Cabot (University of Pittsburgh) and Barak Kalir (University of Amsterdam) at the University of Amsterdam.

The workshop examined how anthropologists and other social scientists are located vis-à-vis the states and the bureaucracies they study; which, in turn, influences how they carve out a niche to conduct their research and serves to “localize” the knowledge they produce. While Fardon (1990) and his contributors were interested in how the sociological context of particular field sites suggests particular theoretical frames, the workshop extended this idea and asked about multiple “localizing” contexts: not only of the field site, but also the socio-historical context of researchers, at the intersection of positionality and normativity.

14 – 16 February 2019, Mainz
“Bureaucracies: Blueprints in Practice”

Symposium organized by Heike Drotbohm, Eva Riedke and Celine Molter (all JGU Mainz) at the JGU Mainz.

The aim of the one-day symposium titled “Bureaucracies: Blueprints in Practice” was to revisit, re-consider and elaborate existing debates concerning the actual “workings” of states and bureaucracies in the so-called Global South and beyond, which were initiated as part of the research project “States at Work: Dynamics of African Bureaucracies”. The objective of the symposium was to bring these networks together, and thereby not only to “turn the gaze back” to a research endeavour that “once was” but rather to also jointly define “prospective futures”. Further, the symposium marked the retirement of our highly reputed colleague, Thomas Bierschenk. He was a Professor at the Institute for Anthropology and African Studies (ifeas) in Mainz since 1997 and has served as Dean of the Faculty (07 – History and Cultural Studies) since 2014. The topic of the symposium, „bureaucracies“ was, is, continues to be one of Thomas Bierschenk’s chosen ethnographic topics.
5 – 6 April, Mainz
Conference of the working group „Agency of Aesthetic Objects”

The conference, organized by Markus Verne and Gregor Wedekind (Art History, JGU), was held in the context of a working group which is part of the JGU’s “Research Center of Social and Cultural Studies Mainz” (SOCUM) and explores the agency of aesthetic objects. Scholars from a whole range of disciplines were invited to discuss ways in which objects of various kinds – pictures, performances, sounds, sculptures, but also “natural” objects like, for example, trees – trigger aesthetic experiences, ask for the nature of these experience and explore the ways in which they translate into action.

8 April, Mainz
“Erinnern für die Zukunft. Ruanda 25 Jahre nach dem Völkermord”

Anna-Maria Brandstetter and Yamara Wessling organised jointly with the Haus des Erinnerns in Mainz, Michael Nieden of the Partnership Association of Rhineland Palatinate – Rwanda, the Ruanda-Referat of the Ministry of the Interior and the Sports and the Landeszentrale für Politische Bildung (Rhineland Palatinate Center for Political Education) an evening at the Haus des Erinnerns to remember the genocide in Rwanda in 1994 and to discuss how young people in and from Rwanda deal with the legacies of the genocide. The introduction by Anna-Maria Brandstetter on the dynamics of violence in Rwanda in the early 1990s which culminated in the genocide against the Tutsi in 19914 was followed by the screening of the film “Crossing Lines” (2014), directed by Samuel Ishimwe, and a discussion on how to step up against everyday forms of discrimination and exclusion in Rwanda as well as in Germany.

25 April, Mainz
“Betrifft: Sensible Sammlungen. Wie Museen mit Raubgütern umgehen”

Anna-Maria Brandstetter organised jointly with Vera Hierholzer (coordinator of the JGU Mainz collections) a panel discussion at the Landesmuseum Mainz in the context of the exhibition “Betrifft: Erwerb aus jüdischem Besitz. Provenienzforschung am Landesmuseum Mainz” (curated by Dr. Emily Löfler). Inés de Castro (director of the Linden-Museum Stuttgart), Eckhart Köhne (director of the Badisches Landesmuseum Karlsruhe and president of the Deutscher Museumsbund), Emily Löffler (provenance researcher at the Landesmuseum Mainz), Miriam Olivia Merz (provenance researcher at the Zentrale Stelle für Provenienzforschung in Hesse at the Museum Wiesbaden), Elisabeth Oy-Marra (professor at the Institut für Kunstgeschichte und Musikwissenschaft, Abt. Kunstgeschichte, Mainz University) and Friedemann Schrenk (head of the section Palaeoanthropology at the Senckenberg Research Institute and Natural History Museum in Frankfurt a. M.) presented examples of current provenance research and discussed how museums deal with sensitive objects. Which experiences do museums have with the restitution of Nazi looted art, colonial artefacts or antiquities? Which forms of cooperation with societies and countries of origin or former owners did museums develop? How do museums present the results of their provenance research in exhibitions? In how far has the public attention changed the way how museums deal with sensitive collections? http://www.landesmuseum-mainz.de/aktuelles/details/news/podiumsdiskussion-6/
11 May, Mainz
“Current Debates and Topics in the Study of Lingala: Varieties and Variation, Language Contact and Sociolinguistic Change”

International Workshop organized by Nico Nassenstein.

As a first international workshop dedicated to the study of the Bantu language Lingala, the presented papers focused on different varieties of Lingala, its history, language contact scenarios in Eastern and Northern DRC as well as on processes of sociolinguistic change. Colleagues from Kinshasa, Ghent, Tervuren, Cologne and Leiden discussed current matters in the study of Lingala. The interdisciplinary papers that, among many others, also focused on the Lingala music collection of the AMA, are currently turned into a book project and will be edited as a volume in 2020/21. For 2021, a second workshop is planned at Ghent University.

15 – 18 May, Liège, Belgium
“European Summer School for the Anthropology of Development and Social Dynamics”

The bilingual French-English European summer school for the anthropology of development and social dynamics is an intensive seminar for doctoral students, organized and hosted every two years at one of the participating research-institutions and universities by the members of the networks. Thomas Bierschenk was one of the co-organizers, and Theresa Radermacher participated as a doctoral student.

15 – 16 and 23 – 24 May, Melbourne
“Brokerage under Scrutiny: Practices of Intermediation in a Globalizing World”

Workshop series organized at Monash University Melbourne by Birgit Bräuchler (Monash University Melbourne), Kathrin Knodel (Goethe University Frankfurt a. M.) and Ute Röschenthaler (JGU Mainz).

In the framework of a project-related exchange of scholars at German and Australian universities, sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service, a group of scholars – Ute Röschenthaler (JGU Mainz), Kathrin Knodel (GU Frankfurt a. M. and the doctoral student Ricardo Marquez Garcia (JGU Mainz) travelled to Melbourne from 14 to 27 May. They participated in a series of workshops that included sessions on fostering the cooperation between German and Australian universities, the differences in academic work in German and Australian universities, the presentation of the topic in an open workshop, including other Australian scholars, and several internal discussions of the project topic of brokerage and the planning of future activities. One of the objectives of this transregional project is to bring together researchers focusing on different spheres of brokerage in several world regions. It questions existing typologies of brokerage and cuts across established discourses of area studies that tend to focus on examples of one region only.
31 May – 2 June 2019, Bayreuth
“Sociolinguistic Variation and Change: Creative Practices, Playful Language, Translocal Communication”

Panel organized by Nico Nassenstein at the 32nd Swahili Colloquium, University of Bayreuth.

This panel – co-organized with Andrea Hollington (University of Cologne) sought to bring together contributions focusing on social variation and change in Kiswahili beyond the well-discussed dialectology and perceived urban-rural dichotomy. Speakers shared their views on creative and conscious languages practices including youth languages, linguistic play/ludlings (“Kinyume” etc.), encounters and contact in touristic settings (minimal/simplified or creative Kiswahili etc.), translanguaging practices, expressions of language and identity, music and language in the Kiswahili-speaking diaspora and other forms of translocal and transcultural communication. Especially aspects of fluidity and creativity were addressed from different perspectives. The panel was intended as a first step toward a broader and theory-framed discussion of sociolectal variation and change in Kiswahili, in analogy with micro-typological/dialectological achievements in the field of Swahili Studies.

13 June, Edinburgh
“Boomerangs and Roots’ Rumba, Rap and Reggae as African or Afro diasporic musics?”

Panel hosted by Hauke Dorsch and Ibrahima Wane (in absentia) at the ECAS 2019 bi-annual conference in Edinburgh.

Presenters and presentations included: "Salsa comes from here’: Claiming the roots of salsa in Benin” by Elina Djebbari (Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3 University); “The king is back home! A music encounter between Africans along the edges of the Black triangle” by Eugenio Giorgianni (Royal Holloway, University of London); “Beyoncé will dance shaku shaku!’ Renegotiating Africa’s role in contemporary music genres” by Tom Simmert (JGU Mainz); “Brazilian ‘Choro’ Music: An African Hybridization” by Mauritia Murphy Marx (University of Iowa).

14 June, Edinburgh
“Business at Work. New Ethnographies of Private Sector Dynamics in Africa”

Panel convened by Thomas Bierschenk and José María Munoz (Edinburgh), at the ECAS 2019 conference “Africa: Connections and Disruptions”.

Entrepreneurship has long framed approaches to the trajectories of business organizations and business people in Africa. The panel discussed contributions that departed from this analytical framework and explored. The panel was sponsored by the International Africa Institute.
20 – 21 June, Berlin
“Wissenschaftskooperation mit dem Globalen Süden. Erfahrungen und Perspektiven”.
(International academic co-operation with the Global South: experiences and perspectives)

Workshop organized by Carola Lentz (JGU Mainz, Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities) together with Verena Lepper and Sabine Dorpmüller (Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities, AGYA).

The workshop was organized at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW) and discussed the participants’ experiences with programmes of international academic co-operation between Germany and the Global South. The 25 participants represented 19 institutions, among them the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF), the German Research Foundation (DFG), the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the Volkswagen Foundation, the Gerda Henkel Foundation, the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, the Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB), the Forum Transregional Studies, the Humboldt Forum Foundation, the Maria Sibylla Merian Centres for Advanced Studies in South America and Africa as well as the Global Young Academy and AGYA. The participants collectively reflected on the specific requirements, dynamics and challenges of academic co-operation with the Global South. In small groups, they discussed existing asymmetries, the particularities of South-South as well North-South-South co-operation and examined the conditions of productive communication and exchange between co-operation partners. They also considered their visions for future co-operation. A talk by Dr. Stefan Skupien (WZB) about his ongoing research on co-operation between African and European researchers stimulated a lively discussion about best practice models and the broad range of different co-operation programmes in Europe. The concluding discussion suggested that a joint workshop with partners from the Global South would be an important.
26 – 28 June (Mainz)
“Anthropology of Music Lecture Series and Master Class”, 2nd edition

Master class organized by Markus Verne, Hauke Dorsch, Cornelia Günauer, Daniel Jákli, Maike Meurer and Tom Simmert (JGU Mainz)

The Anthropology of Music Master Class and Lecture Series 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 work, this format provides a unique opportunity to discuss ongoing research and reflect on the current state of anthropological engagements with music and sound. The focus of this year’s edition was on “acoustemology”, and we were therefore glad to welcome Steven Feld, Senior Scholar at the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico (USA), as both our guest lecturer and main discussant in the master class.

In a series of three public lectures plus one film screening, Steven Feld presented the current state of his thinking, linking his acoustemological approach to ongoing debates on globalization, neoliberal capitalism, environmental change and human-nonhuman-interrelations. During the accompanying master class, the participants, sixteen international young researchers mostly at PhD and post-doc level, presented their work and discussed it with other anthropologists and ethnomusicologists (Steven Feld among them). Contributors came from Brazil, Indonesia, Mauritius, Czech Republic, Greece, Great Britain, Turkey, the US, and Germany. The event was financially supported by the Volkswagen Foundation and the Rhineland-Palatinate Ministry of Education.

11 – 12 July 2019, Mainz
“Dark Ethnography? Encountering ‘the Uncomfortable Other’ in Ethnographic Research”

International Workshop organized by Simone Pfeifer (University of Mainz) and Lene Faust (University of Bern)

The workshop “Dark Ethnography” brought together international researchers from anthropology and related disciplines working in the fields of neo fascism and militant Islamism – two somehow extreme sides of a political and societal spectrum. The three thematic sections focused on methodological and theoretical implications and challenges of working ethnographically with people that are categorized for example, as “criminals”, “perpetrators”, “militant extremists” or “terrorists”. Thereby the workshop expanded on Sherry Ortner’s notion of “dark anthropology” and related to a trend in in anthropology to pay attention to “people we don’t (necessarily) like” (Sindre Bangstad).

The workshop was funded by the Thyssen Foundation and the “Gutenberg Workshops” of the JGU (DFG, Exzellenzstrategie von Bund und Ländern, UP 26/1, Project-ID: 422041080).
9 – 11 September, Mainz
“Adamawa Conference”

International conference organized by Sabine Littig and Friederike Vigeland.

The African linguistics division of the department hosted the „Adamawa Conference“ as the kick-off event for a regular biennial conference taking place at different universities. For the first time 22 linguists from six different countries with research focus on Adamawa languages came together to discuss current research on classification and typology. In the course of the conference the speakers presented their findings ranging from phonology to morpho-syntax and lexicostatistics to sociolinguistics. A recurrent disputed point was the internal classification which showed the need for regular exchange. We look back on a successful conference that brought together many specialists on Adamawa languages and strengthened the network for future research in the field.

The conference was funded by the Sulzmann-Stiftung, Förderlinie 1 of the JGU as well as funds from the RMU-Fonds Lehre.

25 – 30 September, Vlatos, Crete
“Be human: Residency no. 3”

International residency project organized by Nico Nassenstein and Anne Storch (University of Cologne).

Linguistics has been turned into a thing apart, and its texts hardly ever contain words such as “humanity”, “be human”. Yet, it has the capacity to address what it should address in a powerful way: Language as an idea of being human and of being in a relation with others, open and shared. The study and art of language can also be imagined as a wide and prosperous field, accessible for all, and contributing to humanity instead of amassing amorphous data. Or, perhaps, it could remain what it is, and yet try to find a better language for making itself heard beyond its self-erected boundaries. The residency – as an alternative conference format – brought together a group of people for a conversation on how being human is possible in African Linguistics and adjacent disciplines (anthropology, history, English studies etc.). The residency took place in a remote village in the mountains and was organized without any planned schedule. Contributions of the international participants included discussions, shared poems and creative writing lessons, movie screenings and conversations during lengthy walks through the mountains.
11 – 12 September, Mainz
“Jihadismus online – Ideologische Hintergründe und neue Erscheinungsformen”

Conference organized by the Junior Research Group Jihadism on the Internet (JGU Mainz) with the State Criminal Police Office Rhineland-Palatia (LKA RP) in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior and Sports Rhineland-Palatinate and the Network and the Network Terrorism Studies.

The conference addressed the interplay between Islamist imaginations, Jihadism and the digital sphere. Researchers and scholars from the University of Mainz, the State Criminal Police Office Rhineland-Palatinate and the Network Terrorism Studies presented and discussed research findings and developments regarding ideological backgrounds and media cultural manifestations of jihadist actions and (re)presentations.

30 September, Konstanz
“Brokerage between Successful Negotiation and Opportunism”

Panel at the conference of the German Anthropological Association (DGSKA), organized by Birgit Bräuchler (Monash University Melbourne), Kathrin Knodel (Goethe University Frankfurt a. M.) and Ute Röschenthalmaler (JGU Mainz).

The panel examined brokers’ socio-cultural practices of negotiation and shed light on these individuals’ actual work in context, their negotiation and networking strategies, their emergence and life stories, their successes and failures, and at moralities involved such as the struggle for a common good or opportunism. The panel also discussed the cultural background, the legitimations and narratives that are linked to their brokerage activities and the social processes that evolve from their work. Eight scholars presented their work in this double panel that covered case studies from Africa, Asia and Europe and inspired discussion on brokers’ important roles in a wide range of settings, be it the transnational world of trade, development, peacebuilding, activism, people smuggling or other manifestations of the global.
30 September, Konstanz
“Denied Translations”

Panel convened by Jan Beek, Thomas Bierschenk and Bernd Meyer (JGU) at the biannual conference of the German Society for Social and Cultural Anthropology (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozial und Kulturanthropologie) on “The end of negotiation?”, 29 September – 2 October.

The workshop discussed translations not only as an analytical concept, but also as a linguistic and cultural practice, focusing on how actors translate -- or not -- their statements, and their associated ideas, into other languages or other fields of action and knowledge. The ethnographic materials on the non-translatable opened perspectives on epistemological questions, in the field of anthropology as well as linguistics. Discussion focused on the political relations and asymmetrical power relations in which issues are translated -- or not.

30 September, Konstanz
“Der Ton macht die Musik: Die (Un)verhandelbarkeit klanglicher Ereignisse”.

Workshop at DGSKA Workshop at the Conference of the German Anthropological Association (GAA)

Markus Verne (JGU Mainz) and Cornelia Günauer (JGU Mainz) organized the workshop “Der Ton macht die Musik: Die (Un)verhandelbarkeit klanglicher Ereignisse” at the GAA conference 2019 in Konstanz. The workshop dealt with sonic experience and the question of its negotiability. Due to the fleeting nature of sound, its meaning often remains difficult to grasp. Nevertheless, it often has a very tangible effect. In this sense, sound has a power on its own and can be negotiated only to a limited extent. The workshop’s contributors sharpened their “ethnographic ear” and addressed this agency of sound in its everyday manifestations.

2 October, Konstanz (DGSKA-Conference)
Workshop: Ethics and Digital Media in Highly Contested Anthropological Fields

Workshop for the AG Medien at the DGSKA Conference 2019 in Konstanz (29 September – 2 October) organized by Lene Faust (University of Bern) and Simone Pfeifer (University of Mainz)

The workshop centred on ethical implications and challenges of working ethnographically about and with (digital) media in highly contested fields. The keynote speaker Sindre Bangstad focused on his long-standing ethnographic research on Swedish far-right activists online and offline and argued that doing so requires suspending standard and established ethical codes in Anthropology (like the AAA statement on ethics). K. Zeynep Saraslan introduced initial findings of her ongoing research on migrant journalists in a situation of political vulnerability and financial insecurity and discussed anonymity and surveillance as significant methodological challenges in this field. Max Kramer in his presentation compared media-ethics of online communication of the Indian reformist Islamic organization Jamaat-e-Islami Hind with global media ethics. The discussant Cathrien Bublatzky highlighted three themes, that all presentations dealt with: first, the positionality of the researcher (in digital ethnography), second, ethical and moral standards of the protagonists in the respective research and of the location of social media as part of globally networked media, and third, the wish for ethical standards as a safety grid for research.
2 October, Konstanz (DGSKA-Conference)
“Aushandlungen im Kontext globaler Mobilität”

Roundtable organized by Heike Drotbohm (JGU Mainz) and Martin Sökefeld (LMU Munich) at the biennial conference of the German Association of Social and Cultural Anthropology (DGSKA)

Deterrence and control, limits of tolerance, refusal at the border – at least since the so-called “summer of migration”, borders and boundaries have reemerged as central figures of political discourses on mobility and migration. In contrast to the euphoric years of globalization, when we were mainly concerned with the crossing, blurring and intersecting of boundaries, today they are no longer considered as the problem, but rather as the solution. In the context of this roundtable we discussed possible anthropological positions towards these boundary-making practices and differentiating processes. How to deal with boundaries that are presented as unnegotiable? How to behave towards criteria of belonging which are articulated as given or self-evident? How to judge the manifestations of boundaries of actors whose political opinion we share? Last but not least we want to reflect on our own limits, for example in face of populist or radical positions.

30 October, Groningen, Netherlands
“Creating Belonging and Drawing Boundaries through Sacred Songs”

Conference panel organized by Christoph Günther and Alexandra Dick (both JGU Mainz) at the Annual Conference of the Dutch Association for the Study of Religion focusing on “Religion and the Production of Difference”

This panel brought together a broadest possible range of contributions that examine the various ways in which sacred songs in different religious and regional contexts help to establish and reinforce senses of religious and social inclusion and exclusion. The contributors analyzed lyrics, musical composition, and performative practices as part of a symbolic repertoire of religious communities. These elements are vital for the internal cohesion of religious groups. Debates about distinct practices, however, also give indication of internal differentiations. The panel conveners themselves presented how the so-called Islamic State uses certain a cappella hymns, called anāshīd, to categorize people into a collective “We” vs. the “enemy Other”.

29 November – 1 December, Mainz
“Sociolinguistic Perspectives on Variation in Swahili: New Approaches to the Study of Language and its Social Context in East Africa”

International conference co-organized by Nico Nassenstein with Daisuke Shinagawa (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies) and Axel Fleisch (GU Frankfurt a. M.)

The conference focused on the intensification and potential redirection of sociolinguistic perspectives on Swahili, the most widespread language in East Africa. Besides common strands of research such as dialectology, morphosyntactic variation and historical linguistics, the organized workshop addressed discussions on new research agendas and current sociolinguistic debates and topics. “Sociolinguistic variation” here intended to look at how speakers use Swahili in so far neglected settings affected by sociocultural change that are rarely in the focus of Swahili studies. While some contributions were based on empirical research data, others were rather theoretically oriented, again others rather constituted preliminary ideas and discussions. The event was based on an interdisciplinary and international research network between JGU Mainz and TUF S (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies) and also on the RMU cooperation (Rhein-Main-Universitäten) between JGU Mainz and GU Frankfurt a. M. The confer-
Main-Universitäten) between JGU Mainz and GU Frankfurt a. M. The conference also offered students of both universities the opportunity to present the results of their (guided) sociolinguistic research in Mombasa (September 2019). Before the actual conference, a pre-conference workshop “Bantu Day” was organized by Nico Nassenstein with colleagues, from Japan, Cameroon, Congo and beyond (29 November 2019).

11 – 13 and 16 – 19 December, Mainz and Frankfurt a. M.
“Inside Brokerage: Networking, Life Stories, Social Hierarchies”

Workshop series organized at JGU Mainz and GU Frankfurt by Ute Röschen-thaler and Kathrin Knodel

In the framework of a project-related exchange of scholars at German and Australian universities, sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service, the Australian delegation of Monash University, Birgit Bräuchler, Antje Misbach and the doctoral student Nadeeka Arambewela-Colley, visited JGU Mainz and Goethe University Frankfurt a. M. to participate in a series of workshops. On 13 December a one-day open workshop was organized at the African Music Archive (AMA) with eight paper presenters from Mainz, Frankfurt a. M. and Melbourne and a discussant, Thomas Bierschenk, from Mainz. The other internal workshops were reserved for the preparation of a special issue on brokerage and the planning of future projects.
Other events organized by faculty members


The exhibition was curated by Ute Röschenthaler in collaboration with five students from the department of Anthropology and African Studies. The exhibition presented Malian tea packages and objects used in the Malian tea ritual from the department’s ethnographic collection and the private collection of Ute Röschenthaler that resulted from her work in the project “Africa’s Asian Options” (AFRASO) at Goethe University Frankfurt a. M. from 2013–2019 (supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research). The exhibition presented more than 200 packages of Chinese green tea found on Malian markets, its historical journey from China via Britain, Morocco and the Sahara to the Sahel, the present-day tea trade of Malian importers, tea package piracy and the Malian tea ritual that brings people together to discuss issues of daily relevance. An online museum puts the tea packages and some aspects of the exhibition more permanently on display: www.virtualgreenteamuseum.de.
In cooperation with Weltladen Mainz, Godwin Kornes presented Rachid Bouchareb’s feature film “Indigènes (Tage des Ruhms)” in the film series AlleWeltKino at local cinema Palatin (7 October). The film portrays the contribution of North African soldiers to the Free French Forces in liberating France during World War 2, and the soldiers’ simultaneous struggle against racial discrimination. After the film, the floor was open to discuss the movie and the manifold legacies of European colonialism, as well as the history of colonial soldiers in Mainz with an interested audience.

On 30 November, Hauke Dorsch and Tom Simmert together with Engagement Global Mainz, organized a Round Table on “Fair Trade Music – African Music in the Rhine-Main Region” at the “Baron”, on campus. Participants included: Janeck Altshuler, DJ, musician, event manager; Clinton Heneke, musician, music educator; Pedo Knopp, curator, DJ, record label executive; Elodie Tegaboué, event and concert manager. The round table was followed first by an intense discussion, then by a listening session and party with the present DJs.
Lectures, media appearances and other activities by individual faculty members

Jan Beek


Yorck Beese


12/2019  “The Islamic State’s Video Propaganda – A Live Analysis”. Presented as part of the lecture series “Under Construction” at JGU Mainz ([https://www.kami.uni-mainz.de/young-humanities-at-work/](https://www.kami.uni-mainz.de/young-humanities-at-work/)), this lecture granted insight into the Islamic State’s historic and current media work with particular focus on audiovisual rhetoric, the persuasive potential of IS videos, as well as the production practices behind capital punishment videos. Also, the lecture provided insight into the legal, personal, and psychological risks that persist in this field of research (3 December).

Thomas Bierschenk

02/2019  Masterclass, participation in a round table and lecture around the topic “How to study bureaucracies ethnographically”, at the Department of Anthropology of the University of Warsaw/Poland and the Warsaw NGO Pracownia Etnograficzna ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrexOrgdh2A&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrexOrgdh2A&feature=youtu.be)) (19–24 February).
03/2019  "Anthropology of the state" in the Global Studies programme of ISCTE-Instituto Universitário of Lisbon (20 March).

06/2019  Discussion comments at the panel “Governing migration through paper work. Illegible communication and exchanges within public administration” at the 2019 annual Conference of the Research Center in the Sociology of Law/RCSL at the International Institute for the Sociology of Law/IISL, Oñati/Spain (20 June).


Anna-Maria Brandstetter

03/2019  Three interviews with SWR1 (Lucretia Gather), SWR2 (Astrid Tauch) and SWR (Dagmar Albrecht) on the colonial collections and the commemorative head of a king of the Edo (Benin) kingdom in Nigeria in the Ethnographic Collection in Mainz (e.g. https://www.swr.de/swraktuell/rheinland-pfalz/mainz/Kulturminister-beschaeftigen-sich-mit-Raubkunst-Mainzer-Gedenkkopf-soll-zurueck-nach-Afrika.raubkunst-aus-afrika-mainz-100.html) (13 March).

04/2019  Participation in the public workshop “Vom ‘Bronzehahn’ bis zum Ekeko. Impulse für eine ethnologische Provenienzforschung in universitären Sammlungen und Museen”, organised by the BASA-Museum Bonner Altamerikas Sammlung, University of Bonn. The workshop was part of the newly established “1. Tag der Provenienzforschung” in Germany. In her talk Anna-Maria Brandstetter presented her research on “Eine Federmütze aus Kamerun” (see the photo on p. 9) (https://www.basa.uni-bonn.de/nachrichten/diskussionsveranstaltung-zum-1.-tag-der-provenienzforschung-10.-april-2019/?searchterm=Ekeko) (10 April).


Hauke Dorsch

05/2019  (with Tom Simmert) “Sammlungen und Daten an JGU, IFEAS und AMA” on the Workshop “Forschungsdatenmanagement in der Musikethnologie” at the CWM Hildesheim. (31 May).

06/2019  Participation in the final plenary session at the Akademientag der Union der Deutschen Akademien der Wissenschaften “Der Klang Europas” at the Akademie der Wissenschaften und Literatur in Mainz. (17 June).


10/2019  Presentation of a very personal and subjective choice of songs and musical pieces from the AMA’s collection at the art event “3xklingeln”, Mainz. (19 October).


Heike Drotbohm

01/2019  “Friend and foe alike. Studying the ambivalences of the ‘o jeitinho’ in Brazil’s humanitarian bureaucracies”. Paper presented at the workshop “Localizing the Study of the State and Bureaucracy”.


04/2019  “Abandoned Futures: Exploring Contradictory Perceptions and Politics of Displacement in Sao Paulo’s Squats”. Lunch lecture at the University of California, Los Angeles.


10/2019  (with Nanneke Winters) “(E)merging categories: the production of forced mobility and immobility in Brazil and Central America”. Paper presented at the biennal conference of the German Association of Social and Cultural Anthropology (DGSKA), University of Konstanz.

Karla Dümmler

09/2019  “Retirement mobilities in the Dominican Republic – comparing desires, needs and care practices“. Paper presented at the conference “Caring for elderly and dependent people: Promoting gender equality and social justice” held at the Univeristat Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona (13 September).

Christoph Günther

02/2019  “Salafism”. Guest lecture at Gülen Chair for Intercultural Studies, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (28 February).

Cassis Kilian


Annalena Kolloch

05/2019  “Karriere machen in der Richter- und Staatsanwaltschaft Benins, Department of Anthropology and African Studies”. Paper presented in the seminar “Einführung in die Ethnologie des Rechts” (Leitung: Thomas Bierschenk), JGU Mainz (22 May).


Godwin Kornes


Matthias Krings


Katrin Langewiesche


Carola Lentz


02/2019  “Imagining futures: memory and belonging in an African family”. Paper presented in the Anthropology and Sociology Seminar Series at the University of Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa (27 February).


Sabine Littig


“Doing fieldwork on African languages in Germany: First approaches and reflections.” Paper presented to the intersessional workshop of the DGSKA-workgroup “Cognitive and Linguistic Anthropology: Methodological approaches for investigating the relationship between culture, cognition and/or language” (28–29 September) at the University of Konstanz.

“Adpositions in Adamawa languages with Focus on Samba-Duru languages”. Paper presented to the Adamawa Conference (9–11 September) at the JGU Mainz.


Interview in JGU Magazin: “Pilotprojekt zu sprachlicher Integration und Strategien des Spracherwerbs” (http://www.magazin.uni-mainz.de/10116_DEU_HTML.php).

Nico Nassenstein


Konstanze N’Guessan


03/2019  Course on ethnographic writing with Professor João de Pina-Cabral at the School of Anthropology and Conservation, University of Kent, Canterbury in the context of the Erasmus staff mobility program. Furthermore, talk as part of the School’s Social Anthropology seminar series entitled “Doing being parent – ethnographic research on parenting in Côte d’Ivoire”.


Anja Oed


Simone Pfeifer


Laudatio at the 65th anniversary of Mamadou Diawara, Darmstadt (4 May).


“From China to West Africa: Mediations and Translations along the Tea Trail”. Lecture at Internationales Forschungszentrum Kulturwissenschaften, Kunstuniversität Linz, Wien (6 November).


(with Hauke Dorsch) “Sammlungen und Daten an JGU, IFEAS und AMA” at the Workshop “Forschungsdatenmanagement in der Musikethnologie” at the CWM Hildesheim (31 May).


Friederike Vigeland


05/2019  “TAM in Longuda/Nungurama – A First Analysis”. Paper presented at the Ph.D. Student Workshop “TAM Systems in Adamawa Languages” at the University Hamburg (13 May).

Yamara Wessling

02/2019  “Frauen in die Parlamente?! Das Beispiel Ruanda”. Keynote and panel discussion “Frauen verändern die Welt. 100 Jahre Frauenwahlrecht”, Landeszentrale für politische Bildung RLP, Mainz (Februar 21).

04/2019  “Sexualisierte Gewalt im Genozid und die Folgen für Frauen im heutigen Ruanda”. Interview with ZDF for 3Sat Kulturzeit (April 5).


10/2019  “Interpretations of Gender Equality and Feminism Among Middle-class Women in Rwanda”. Keynote at the Symposium: “East Africa’s Rising Middle Class: Challenges and Opportunities”, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda in cooperation with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and Goethe-Zentrum Kampala (October 16).


Nanneke Winters


Bernd Zywietz


Departmental seminar and lecture series

Departmental seminar series, summer semester of 2019

Coordinator: Heike Drotbohm

23.04.2019  Paolo Gaibazzi (Berlin)
Stalling and Speculating: West African Traders in the Angolan Crisis

30.04.2019  Julia Pauli (Hamburg)
Mehr als eine Klasse. Mittelklassen und Migration in Namibia

07.05.2019  Blair Rutherford (Ottawa)
The Moral Politics of Gendered Labour in Artisanal Mining in Sierra Leone: On Women’s Empowerment, Family Workers, and the Anthropology of Labour

14.05.2019  Tabea Scharrer (Halle)
“The worst is to go from up to down”. Räumliche und soziale Mobilität somalischer MigrantInnen in Ostafrika und Europa

21.05.2019  Cathrine Bublatzky (Heidelberg)
Photo-Documentation and Post-Truth?! The Role of Press Photo Awards and Transnational Representation Politics in Iranian Photo-Documentation

28.05.2019  Sarah Lempp (Bayreuth)
With the Eyes of Society? Doing Race in Affirmative Action Practices in Brazil

04.06.2019  Miriam Badoux (Basel)
“Land Is Gold”: Property Disputes, Claim-Making, and Urbanity in Eldoret, Kenya

18.06.2019  Olaf Zenker (Halle)
Land Restitution, the Riven State, and the Quest for Redistributive Justice in Contemporary South Africa

25.06.2019  Franziska Reiffen (Mainz)
Placemaking und prekäre Zukünfte. Migrantische und argentinische AkteurInnen in einem argentinischen Einkaufszentrum

02.07.2019  Raúl Acosta Garcia (München)
Aspirations in Movement: A Phenomenological Ethnography of Cyclo-Activism in Mexico
Departmental seminar series, winter semester of 2019/2020

Coordinator: Matthias Krings

22.10.2019 Jan Beek and projekt team (Mainz)
Polizei-Translationen – Ein Forschungsprojekt zu Mehrsprachigkeit und Konstruktion kultureller Differenz im polizeilichen Alltag

29.10.2019 Steffen Köhn (Berlin)
“El Paquete Semanal” – Kubas offline Datenaustausch-Netzwerk als informelle Infrastruktur

05.11.2019 Patrick Eisenlohr (Göttingen)
Twelver Shi’i Muslims’ right to the city: Public performance, media practices, and urban atmospheres in Mumbai

12.11.2019 Carola Lentz (Mainz)
Familiengeschichte und Familienerinnerung in Westafrika. Ein kollaboratives Buchprojekt

26.11.2019 Hauke Dorsch & Katrin Langewiesche (Mainz)
Koraspielerinnen im Kloster und in der Welt – Die Kora als Vektor religiöser und weltlicher Ideen

03.12.2019 Ehler Voss (Bremen)
“We got a lot of evidence tonight” – Unter Ghost Huntern in den USA

10.12.2019 Sahana Udupa (München)
Nationalism as politics-as-usual? Digital disinformation “services” and renewable ingenuity of online abusers

07.01.2020 Larissa Fuhrmann, Simone Pfeifer & Patricia Wevers (Mainz)
Das Reenactment von Gewalt. Memetische IS Exekutionen und die Auseinandersetzung in digitalen Öffentlichkeiten

14.01.2020 Mirco Göpfert (Frankfurt a. M.)
Heuristik der Dissonanz in Karikatur und Ethnologie – Ein Versuch über die Kunst und Wissenschaft der Erfahrung des Widersprüchlichen

28.01.2020 Andrea Scholz (Berlin)
Gabe und Gegengabe – Methodische, ethische und strukturelle Herausforderungen der Zusammenarbeit zwischen Museen und “Herkunftsgesellschaften”
Excursions and student field research

On 13 July as part of the seminar “Introduction to the Anthropology of Art”, Cassis Kilian took a group of students to Wiesbaden where they visited the exhibition “Mit fremden Federn” (Borrowed Feathers) running at the museum of art and natural history. The exhibition permitted the group to wonder at the variety of a natural phenomenon, the feather, that evoked a no less astonishing variety of human creativity and allowed students to reflect on the exhibition of artefacts by so-called indigenous people.
The joint excursion to the Kenyan coast was co-organized by Nico Nassenstein and Axel Fleisch (GU Frankfurt a. M.) and further accompanied by Franziska Fay (GU Frankfurt a. M.) as a joint RMU project. For two weeks, a group of seven BA students (African Linguistics, Anthropology) were able to collect first research experiences and conduct their own fieldwork on freely chosen topics in the broader frame of sociolinguistics and tourism in Diani/Mombasa. The excursion was made possible by funds of the RMU “Initiativfonds Lehre”, while first results were presented at the international Swahili conference organized in early December 2019. Additionally, a joint “Arbeitspapier” of the department is in preparation. In the context of the RMU activities between JGU and GU, further collaborative student excursions are planned.

On 14 November, Franziska Reiffen and Maike Wiechert took participants of Heike Drotbohm’s seminar “Verwandtschaft, Migration und Praxen der Sorge” (Kinship, Migration and Practices of Care) as well as other ifeas members to the Weltkulturen Museum in Frankfurt a. M. to visit the exhibition "WORLDS IN MOTION. Narrating Migration". The exhibition combined objects from the museum’s collection with contemporary art to discuss historical and current migration. In a guided tour with Africa curator Julia Friedel, the participants gained insights into the exchange of lifestyles, techniques and languages across the globe and critically discussed questions of representation, gender and the colonial legacy of ethnographic museums.
PUBLICATIONS AND EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES OF FACULTY MEMBERS

Monographs and edited books

**Beek, Jan**

**Langewiesche, Katri n**

**Nassenstein, Nico**
(with Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, Andrea Hollington and Anne Storch (eds.): *Creativity in Language*. Special issue of *International Journal of Language and Culture* 6,1.

**N’Guessan, Konstanze**

**Pfeifer, Simone**
*Social Media im transnationalen Alltag. Zur medialen Ausgestaltung sozialer Beziehungen zwischen Deutschland und Senegal*. Bielefeld: Transcript Verlag.

**Röschenthaler, Ute**
Articles, working papers, etc.

Beek, Jan


(With Cassis Kilian and Matthias Krings) The Anthropology of Defrauding and Faking. Special section of *Social Anthropology / Anthropologie Sociale* 27, 3.


Beese, Yorck


Bierschenk, Thomas


Brandstetter, Anna-Maria


**Dick, Al exandra**


**Dor sch, Hauke**


**Dro tbo hm, Heike**


**Gabriel , Marie -Chris ti n**


**Günauer , Corne li a**


**Hohl, Chr isto pher**


Jákli, Daniel

Kilian, Cassis
(with Jan Beek and Matthias Krings) The Anthropology of Defrauding and Faking. Special section of Social Anthropology / Anthropologie Sociale 27, 3.


Kornes, Godwin


Kring, Mattias

(with Jan Beek and Cassis Kilian) (eds.): An Anthropology of Defrauding and Faking. Social Anthropology 27,3 (Special section).


Langewiesche, Katrin

(with Ludovic Kibora) Qu’est-ce que la “tradition”? Qu’appelle-t-on religion traditionnelle? Ibid., 17–38.

(with Issa Cissé) L’Association Islamique Ahmadiyya au Burkina Faso. Ibid., 90–107.

(with Martial Halpougdou) L’église catholique au Burkina Faso. Diversité et changements. Ibid., 111–130.


Lentz, Carola


Nassenstein, Nico


N’Guessan, Konstanze
Ein Jahrzehnt Nationalfeiertagsforschung am ifeas: Geschichte und Geschichten eines Forschungsprojekts. Ibid., 49–61.

Oed, Anja

Pfeifer, Simone

Röschenthaler, Ute

Simmert, Tom
Verne, Markus


Wessling, Yamar a


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/).

Dr otb ohm, Heike

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

Langewiesche, Kath r in

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

Lent z, Car ola

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).

Nassenstei n, 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, Konst anze


Oed, Anj a

Managing editor of the department’s book series Mainzer Beiträge zur Afrikaforschung (http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/251.php).

Zywietz , Bernd


Wessl ing, Yamar a

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 (TUFS) in the context of studying language variation and change in Kiswahili. Nico Nassenstein (JGU) and Daisuke Shinagawa (TUFS) 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 faculty members 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 from 2013 until 2019. 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 2019, one doctoral student from Mainz carried out research in Rwanda: Yamara Wessling, who works on middle-class women. Moreover, Katharina Zonker, 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) (2019/20).

Delegation of the Rwandan Minister of the Interior, Prof. Anastase Shyaka (to the left of Professor Krausch), with participants of the meeting on academic exchange and cooperation. Photo: Peter Pulkowski
On the occasion of the meeting of the Joint Commission between Rhineland Palatinate and Rwanda in Mainz in February 2019, the Rwandan Minister of the Interior, Professor Anastase Shyaka visited the Johannes Gutenberg University where he was welcomed by Professor Georg Krausch, President of the university. The Rwandan delegation including Rwanda’s ambassador to Germany Igor César, representatives of the Ministry of the Interior and the Sports, members of the Partnership Association Rhineland Palatinate – Rwanda and of six universities in Rhineland-Palatinate had a productive exchange about the manifold academic activities and exchange programmes between Rwanda and Rhineland-Palatinate. As coordinators of the university partnership, Anna-Maria Brandstetter and Yamara Wessling participated in this meeting. They were joined by Nico Nassenstein from the department of anthropology and African studies.

In December 2017, an agreement of scientific cooperation between the University of the Western Cape (UWC) and the JGU Mainz was signed. The cooperation focusses 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).

Since the conclusion of the memorandum of understanding between UWC and JGU, the department has been renewing its cooperation with the University of Namibia (UNAM).

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.ifneas.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 (https://www.ifneas.uni-mainz.de/studium/studieren-im-ausland-erasmus/):

**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 Lumière Lyon; 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
The department cooperated with the University of Zurich through the Swiss-European Mobility Programme. For the exchange term in 2019/2020, eight students of the department were nominated to study at the following partner universities: University of Aarhus, University of Kent at Canterbury, Université de Provence, Aix-Marseille, Université Lumière Lyon, Université Paul Valéry of Montpellier, Universidad de Granada.

RMU – Rhine-Main-Universities

In the framework of the Rhine-Main-Universities alliance (RMU) of the Goethe University Frankfurt a. M., 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 a. M. 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 the first conjunct research project of the JGU and GU in the field of African linguistics “Afrikaner*innen im Rhein-Main-Gebiet” funded by the “RMU-Initiativfonds Forschung”.

Further cooperation plans in teaching and study programmes such as a new joint BA program of African languages and linguistics are taking form. The responsibilities in Frankfurt a. M. and Mainz held two strategy workshops in January and October 2019. The start of the conjoint BA African languages, media and communication is scheduled for Wintersemester 2021/22.

FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

Incoming fellowships: visiting scholars at the department

Visiting scholar (funded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation)

July 2019 – June 2021

Izuu Nwankwo

Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam, Nigeria

Izuu Nwankwo is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Theatre Arts, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam Nigeria. He is being hosted by Matthias Krings, and his project is titled, “Taboo, Censorship and the Limits of Humour in African (Diaspora) Stand-up Comedy”. The project is aimed at critically engaging with stand-up practice in Africa and its diaspora, with a view to catalyzing interest in this art form which has become one of the most popular entertainment genres on the continent. The point of emphasis on this project is to examine how location, audience constitution and the dynamics of their responses, as well as other social-cultural attributes of the performance milieu constrain comedians to remain within the bounds of allowed humour through self-censorship. The project thus examines specifically how individual comedians strike their balance between amusement and abuse.

Visiting griot/musician/narrator

July 2019

Dembo Jobarteh

Dembo Jobarteh presented 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.

Visiting scholar (funded by the Alexander von Humboldt foundation)

August 2019 – October 2019

Ibrahima Wane

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

Ibrahima Wane finalised his research project on Senegalese music of the 1960s to 90s at the African Music Archives as part of his Alexander von Humboldt fellowship.

Wane studied Modern Languages at and received his Doctorate from the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Senegal. Since 2006, he is Maître-Assistant for oral African literatures at the Department of Modern Languages.
Alexander von Humboldt Fellow

August 2019 – January 2020

André Motingea Mangulu

National Pedagogical University, DR Congo

André Motingea Mangulu is Professeur Ordinaire at the Department of African Languages and Civilisations, Faculty of Letters and Humanities at the National Pedagogical University of Kinshasa (DC Congo). He has received his PhD from Leiden University in 1996. He is an Alexander von Humboldt fellow in the frame of a Special Alumni Sponsorship offered in the occasion of the celebration of the anniversary years of Alexander von Humboldt and Georg Forster. He is being hosted at IFEAS by Jun.-Prof. Nico Nassenstein Studies from 01 August 2019 to 31 January 2020. His research project is titled “A comparative study of the languages of the Middle Congo River (Part of the Heine’s Branch VIII of the Bantu languages): A contribution to the establishment of intermediate Proto-Bantu ancestors”.

Visiting scholar

September 2019

Fleming Harrev

Danish scholar and author on numerous publications on the early years of popular African music visited the AMA and researched its collection of shellacs.

Visiting researcher (funded by the Ministry of Science, Continuing Education and Culture of Rhineland-Palatina)

September 2019

Gitanjali Pyndiah

Dr. Gitanjali Pyndiah is a London-based Mauritian writer and researcher in Cultural Studies. Her research looks at creative practices (music, dance, art and poetry in mother tongues) from the Indian Ocean and Caribbean regions. She currently prepares a research project on the sonic historiography of the Mascarene islands.

Visiting scholar / producer

November 2019

George Odhiambo

The independent scholar, producer and record collector George Odhiambo gave a talk about the history and geographic variations of Kenyan Benga music. Having inherited his record collection of and his enthusiasm for Benga music from his father, George Odhiambo presented a wide variety of Benga songs, contextualizing their lyrics and musical features.
Outgoing fellowships of faculty members

From mid-February to mid-April 2019, Carola Lentz was a fellow at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study, working on her project “Multi-class families, regional disparities and the emergence of middle classes in Africa”. She was part of a focus groups led by Deborah James on “The new middle class in Africa in comparative perspective”.

Funded by the Marianne Steegmann Foundation, Hauke Dorsch spent three weeks in March in The Gambia and Senegal. His research focused on the recent phenomenon of women and girls playing the kora. Based at the Jobarteh griot compound in Brikama, The Gambia, Dorsch visited griots and schools teaching traditional instruments to women and girls in both countries.

Concert by Tata Dindin Jobarteh in Kembujeh, The Gambia, with a projection of a music video clip by Sona Jobarteh. Photo: Hauke Dorsch
M.A. AND B.A. THESSES

M.A. theses submitted in 2019

Danso, Helen Luisa
  Remigration als Rite de Passage? Zur Rückkehr ghanaischer MigrantInnen in ihr Herkunftsland. (Drotbohm)
Gabel, Sabrina
  Nationale und lokale Stimmen. Reden zum sechzigjährigen Unabhängigkeitsjubiläum in Ghana. (Lentz)
Koliopoulos, Marieke Sophie
  Mehrsprachige Musik- und Theaterprojekte in Kindertagesstätten – Eine Analyse auf der Grundlage pädagogischer und ethnologischer Konzepte. (Dorsch)
Stenner, Sarah
  “Warum an der Nation sparen?” Das sechzigjährige Unabhängigkeitsjubiläum in einem nordghanaischen Distrikt. (Lentz)
Staut, Jonathan
  Die Konstruktion eines Begriffs von “Volk” im Diskurs der AfD-Landtagsfraktion Rheinland/Pfalz. (Bierschenk)
Tauer, Anne-Kathrin
  Slang, Sprache oder doch mehr? Eine soziolinguistische Untersuchung zu Einstellungen und Identitäten im urbanen Sprachgebrauch in Nairobi und Goma. (Nassenstein)
Weber, Teresa
  “Unity in Diversity” Kulturaufführungen beim ghanaischen Unabhängigkeitsjubiläum 2017. (Lentz)
Welsch, Stefanie Maria
  Immobilisierung und Zukunftsplanungen nach der Einführung des Visa Balladur auf den Komoren. (Drotbohm)

B.A. theses submitted in 2019

Christ, Michaela
  Tattoos und ihre Geschichten. Warum sich Menschen tätowieren lassen. (Kilian)
Crone-Martinenko, Tatjana
  Ein Überblick über die afrikanische Präsenz in der Sowjetunion und die daraus resultierende afrikanische Diaspora im heutigen Russland. (Dorsch)
Diaw, Maimouna
  Pluralismus in der Medizin. Eine Forschung mit Heilern im Senegal. (Kilian)
Göbel, Anne
  Der Hopfengarten als contested space. Eine Forschung zur Gestaltung und Aneignung eines Platzes in Mainz. (Kilian)
Grosch, Vera
  Inszenierung von Raum im Museum – vom (historischen) Diorama zur Szenografie. (Brandstetter)
Kabakci, Isa
  Ethnologie und Journalismus. Eine Reflektion meiner journalistischen Arbeit aus ethnologischer Perspektive. (Kilian)
Kapllani, Angie

Plastikfrei Leben – Ein Selbstexperiment. (Bierschenk)

Keller, Merve

Die Macht des Geheimen – Über Geheim- und Jugendsprache in Afrika und die Möglichkeiten und Grenzen der Forschung. (Nassenstein)

Kunzmann, Janika

Vergleich derivativer Prozesse am Verb der afrikanischen Jugendsprache Yanké und ihrer Basissprache Lingála. (Nassenstein)

Ludenia, Jessica

Kosmische Artefakte und stellare Verbindungen – Zur Generierung und Tradierung astronomischen Wissens. (Dorsch)

McLaughlin, Mary Ann

Implementing language policies in Rwanda. (Nassenstein)

Meier, Nicole

Die Gallaudet Universität. Eine Hochschule für Gehörlose. (Kilian)

Nguyen Thuy, Linh

Museen im Digital Age. Chancen und Herausforderungen für ethnologische Museen. (Brandstetter)

Pejsek, Anna-Maria

Queer Arts in Südafrika. Zanele Muholis Porträtserie Faces and Phases. (Kilian)

Pereira Gnassingbe, Dehom Melissa

Aufarbeitung längst geschehen? Postkoloniale Perspektiven auf die Ethnologie und ihre Methoden. (Dorsch)

Reitter, Tobias

Malice at The Palace – Un/doing Blackness im US-Basketball seit dem NBA-Brawl 2004. (Dorsch)

Roos, Elias

Leben am Sömmeringplatz. Eine empirische Untersuchung zur Wahrnehmung von Gentrifizierungsprozessen. (Kilian)

Sachse, Catharina

“Volk” als rechtswissenschaftliche Kategorie. Ethnologische Perspektiven auf die Auslegungspraxis zum Selbstbestimmungsrecht der Völker. (Bierschenk)

Salzwedel, Tina

Handlungsspielräume von Frauen nach dem Genozid. (Brandstetter)

Schäfer, Linda

Die Rolle des Traumabegriffs in der Beratungsarbeit mit Geflüchteten. (Drotbohm)

Schmitt, Carlotta

“Not about us without us”. Die öffentliche Wahrnehmung der kolonialen Vergangenheit Deutschlands in Namibia. (Brandstetter)

Seel, Laura-Veronika

Das Sprachporträt als soziolinguistische Methode. Zur Sprachintegration multilingualer Migrant*innen aus Afrika im Rhein-Main-Gebiet. (Nassenstein)
STUDENT STATISTICS

In the winter semester of 2019/2020, the Department of Anthropology and African Studies had 459 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 2019/2020, 420 students were enrolled for the B.A. in Anthropology (“Ethnologie”). Of these, 152 were studying it as their major subject (“Kernfach”) while 268 were studying it as their minor subject (“Beifach”).

In the summer semester of 2019, 62 B.A. students were enrolled in their first semester (28 with Anthropology as their major and 34 with Anthropology as a minor).

In the winter semester of 2019/20, 67 B.A. students were enrolled in their first semester (18 with Anthropology as their major and 49 with Anthropology as a minor).

36 students finished their B.A. in 2019.

M.A. programme

In the winter semester of 2019/20, 31 students were enrolled in the M.A. programme in Anthropology (“Ethnologie”).

8 students finished their M.A. in 2019.

Ph.D. programme

In 2019, 32 Ph.D. students were studying for a Ph.D. at the department. For a full list of the Ph.D. projects completed in 2019 and students currently studying for a Ph.D. at the department, see pp. 21–22.