

# 31.10.

18:15–19:45 Uhr  
HS 13  
(Forum 7)

# ifeas

Institut für  
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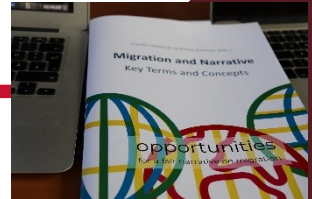
Department of English and American  
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## Migration from Africa to Germany: Narrative Dynamics and the debate about *Fluchtursachenbekämpfung*

The term *Fluchtursachenbekämpfung* (which can be loosely translated in English as: addressing the root causes of irregular migration) has become a buzzword for development policies in Germany that are geared at curbing migration from Africa by attempting to “solve” the root causes of irregular migration in home countries. Using the concept of narrative dynamics suggested by Roy Sommer,<sup>1</sup> this presentation aims at showing that such a one-sided, Euro-centered perspective on migration from Africa to Europe side-steps the potential for other perspectives about (irregular) migration that focus on possible contributions of (long-standing) African diasporic communities to economic growth in host and home countries. Secondly, pointing out the blind spots of a Euro-centered perspective on migration opens the possibility of transforming the debate on migration in Germany's public sphere from narratives that merely talk about migrants to narratives that engage with migrants of and long-standing diasporic communities in Germany from their perspective. This presentation discusses some explorative results of the on-going EU Horizon 2020 project “OPPORTUNITIES” which aims at creating a more balanced view of migration in the European public sphere.

**Mariam Muwanga** is a postdoctoral scholar at the Department of English and American Studies. She has previously worked with the *EU Horizon 2020 Project: OPPORTUNITIES* as a postdoctoral researcher. Mariam Muwanga completed her undergraduate and postgraduate studies at the Universities of Makerere (Kampala) and Wuppertal, respectively. She is currently working on the publication of her first monograph on the narrative representations of diasporic Blackness in Black British literature.

<sup>1</sup>Sommer, Roy (2023): “Migration and Narrative Dynamics.” In: Paul Dawson / Maria Mäkelä (eds.), *The Routledge Companion to Narrative Theory*, London / New York, NY, pp. 498–511.



Glossary of key  
terms on the  
subject of  
migration, created  
within the  
framework of the  
EU project:  
OPPORTUNITIES.  
Mariam Muwanga,  
12 November 2010.