

Institut für Ethnologie und Afrikastudien
Department of Anthropology and African Studies



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Employees of the municipal environmental agency take water samples of the Rio
Paraopeba in Brumadinho.

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<http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de> / <http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/eng/index.php>

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INTRODUCTION

For the first time, after three years marked by the Corona pandemic and its global repercussions, the members of the Department of Anthropology and African Studies were able to continue their teaching and research projects without interruption or major challenges during the course of 2023. More than ever, colleagues have been able to resume international collaborations and to return from online modes of communication to a department life with full presence and plenty of “offline” activities.

Our research activities showed the continuation of many innovative projects, as well as new initiatives that were started and intensified during the year. As always, colleagues in the department were successful in attracting third-party funding from a variety of sources: Katrin Langewiesche continued a project funded by Welthungerhilfe, Ute Röschenhaler, Katrin Langewiesche, Heike Drotbohm and colleagues continued several third-party projects funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), Nico Nassenstein continued a project funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) with British partners, Konstanze N'Guessan and Jan Beek continued their work on a project funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), and Matthias Krings and Claudia Böhme continued a research project funded by the Thyssen Foundation. The collaborative project “CEDITRAA – Cultural entrepreneurship and digital transformation in Africa and Asia”, led by Matthias Krings together with colleagues from Frankfurt and funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), continued its activities in 2023. Numerous colleagues from the department (Heike Drotbohm, Matthias Krings, Nico Nassenstein and teams) continued to be involved in the Collaborative Research Center 1482 “Studies in human differentiation” (<https://humandifferenzierung.uni-mainz.de>), funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), with individual research trips, media appearances, workshops and, in 2023, the organization of a summer school “Telling people apart: Sorting, grouping and distinguishing” in June 2022 with international PhD students as participants. Hauke Dorsch, Nico Nassenstein and Lisa Roemer (University Library, JGU) have been awarded a new BMBF-funded research project “KOSTIMA – Counter-hegemonic voices in music archives”, which will enable ifeas researchers to conduct four years of research on the Congolese individual holdings of the AMA in cooperation with the JGU University Library and two collections in Hildesheim (Center for World Music) and Hannover (European Center for Jewish Music).

The department continues to collaborate fruitfully with many universities, institutions and researchers around the world, including the long-standing and flourishing partnership with the University of Rwanda through the Rhineland-Palatinate / Republic of Rwanda Agreement, as well as with universities in Japan, Namibia, South Africa and many others. More than ever before, ifeas welcomed a large number of international visitors, visiting scholars, artists and fellows. Funding for travel and accommodation came from a variety of academic institutions, including the Sulzmann Foundation, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and collaborative research projects such as CEDITRAA and the Collaborative Research Center 1482, in which the department plays a central role. Guests have stayed for periods ranging from a few weeks to more than a year, taking part in the departmental colloquium, working in one of the collections or sometimes teaching courses in Anthropology or African Languages and Linguistics. Two Humboldt fellows chose our department for their six-month to two-year research stays in Germany: David Barasa (Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, Kakamega, Kenya) and Rowland Chukwuemeka Amaefula (Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike, Nigeria). The ifeas was and is honored to host both researchers and their innovative research projects. Other guests include (in chronological order) visiting PhD student Bakar Abdul-Rashid Jeduah (University of Milan/University of Turin, Italy), Colin Reilly (Essex, UK), Nathália Antonucci Fonseca (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), Juidth Opoku-Boateng (University of Ghana), Liketso Dube (Great Zimbabwe University, Masvingo, Zimbabwe), Charleston Thomas and Aquisia Thomas (Trinidad and Tobago), Mpunga wa Ilunga (Université de Mbuji-Mayi, DR

Congo), Rachel Mariembe (University of Douala, Cameroon), Michael Meeuwis (Ghent University, Belgium), Patrick Oloko (University of Lagos, Nigeria), James Ogone (Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, Kisumu, Kenya), James Yékú (University of Kansas, USA), Ibrahima Wane (Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal), Mulu Getachew (University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) and Georges Kalombo (Université catholique du Congo, DR Congo). Two aspiring musicians from Kenya (Sharon Onyango-Obbo) and South Africa (Nonku Phiri) were invited to the AMA (African Music Archives) as “Artists in Residence” for several weeks in the summer, where they were able to work creatively with the existing archive holdings – the results of their musical work were then presented at a public AMA remix concert in July. The direct cooperation and collaboration with all guests contributes significantly to the internationalization of our faculty and university, for which Heike Drotbohm is responsible.

Carola Lentz, who holds a Senior Research Professorship in the department, continued to serve as President of the Goethe-Institut. Matthias Krings continued as co-director of the Center for Intercultural Studies (ZIS) until the existing instruments ZIS and SoCuM were merged into a new profile area, the Georg Forster Forum, at the end of 2023. The GFF is funded by the State Research Initiative for an initial period of five years. Members of the Department of Anthropology and African Studies were involved in various ZIS initiatives, including activities in the research group “Linguistic Anthropology, Anthropological Linguistics”, which organized an international workshop in December, and the research group “Indian Ocean Confluences” (around Franziska Fay), which won a grant by Volkswagen Foundation to organize an international summer school in 2024.

The number of international workshops and conferences was higher than in previous pandemic-affected years, with many colleagues involved in organizing workshops, conference panels, and other events to share and discuss their research both nationally and internationally.

Five new working papers (in the department's online working paper series) were published in the course of the year, authored by Cassis Kilian, Thomas Bierschenk, Ramona Huber, Lena Scheibinger as well as Hauke Dorsch, Tom Simmert and Markus Verne. Members of ifeas have (co-)authored or (co-)edited several books or special issues of journals (many of which have been published by international publishers or renowned peer-reviewed journals); an impressive output that demonstrates the broad dissemination of research results by members of the department within the academic community. Again, numerous media appearances by colleagues have demonstrated the department's visibility and involvement in current debates and discussions, as well as other public events, exhibitions and excursions. Numerous public outreach activities were organized and carried out around the department's renowned collections, namely the African Music Archives, the Ethnographic Collection, and the Jahn Library for African Literatures, whose directors Hauke Dorsch, Anna-Maria Brandstetter, and Anja Oed continued to engage in project initiatives, discussions, exhibitions, and collaborations; among these the “Werkstatt Provenienzforschung” organized and curated by Anna-Maria Brandstetter with partners at the exhibition space Schule des Sehens.

In 2023, the social media team of student assistants Sophia Wimmer and Nadia Marchesi, supported by Franziska Fay and Matthias Krings, continued their social media activities around the different study programs offered by the department: The Instagram account https://www.instagram.com/ifeas_mainz/ was used to inform about study opportunities, to announce workshops, conferences and lectures, to present professional fields for anthropologists and linguists and to introduce colleagues working in our department (“ifeas Gesichter”), but also to interview students (“Frag Ethnos!”). These various online activities are designed to connect our scholars with the public – and to attract many more students.

In 2023, the focus on Central Africa, and the DR Congo in particular, could be strengthened and expanded: The Leo Stappers Archive (LSA) was inaugurated as a new collection at ifeas in May with international guest speakers and researchers Mpunga wa Ilunga from the DR Congo and Michael Meeuwis from Belgium. After six months of sifting and sorting the material in the department's basement, selected valuable manuscripts from the 19th century have already been digitized. In 2022, with the support of the Sulzmann

Foundation, the way has been paved for a new Congo Research Archive (Kongo-Forschungsarchiv), which will process the estate of Dr. Erika Sulzmann in cooperation with institutions in the DR Congo; this initiative is being promoted by Anna-Maria Brandstetter, Matthias Krings and Lena Scheibinger.

Several new colleagues joined the department, including Lena Scheibinger, Şebnem Altunkaya and Bakar Abdul-Rashid Jeduah, while some others had to leave. Franziska Reiffen successfully defended her dissertation “The Social Life of the Mall. Working and Dwelling in Urban Argentina”; others have successfully completed their research projects. We are indebted to all of them for their valuable work, their contribution to the department, and for their integrity and collegiality. After completing the positive tenure procedure for his Junior Professorship, Nico Nassenstein gave his inaugural lecture in November 2023 as part of his appointment to the Professorship of African Languages and Linguistics.

We are grateful to all our colleagues, cooperation partners, students and the leadership of JGU for their continued support and interest, and we look forward to a similarly productive year in 2024.

Nico Nassenstein
Head of Department
March 2024

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, theater and film and the languages of Africa.

The department's faculty includes the following professorships:

Heike Drotbohm (Anthropology of African diaspora and transnationalism)

Franziska Fay (Anthropology with a focus on political anthropology) (Junior Professor)

Matthias Krings (Anthropology and African popular culture)

Carola Lentz (Anthropology) (Senior Research Professor)

Nico Nassenstein (African languages and linguistics)

Markus Verne (Anthropology with a focus on aesthetics)

In addition, **Ute Röschenthaier** is extranumerary professor (apl. Prof.) and **Helmut Asche** is honorary professor at the department.

Degree programs 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"), a B.A. in African Languages, Media and Communication ("Afrikanische Sprachen, Medien und Kommunikation") and a Ph.D. (Promotion) in Anthropology ("Ethnologie") and African Languages and Linguistics ("Afrikanistik"). It is also involved in the B.A. Linguistics ("Linguistik") of the Department of English and Linguistics by teaching the module African Linguistics ("Afrikanistik").

The focus of the curriculum and research program 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 endeavors.

B.A. "Afrikanische Sprachen, Medien und Kommunikation" (African Languages, Media and Communication)

<https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/studium/studiengaenge/afrikanische-sprachen-medien-und-kommunikation-b-a/>

The B.A. program "African Languages, Media and Communication", a cooperative program, is a joint initiative of the Department of Anthropology and African Studies with the Department of African Linguistics (Institut für Afrikanistik) at Goethe University Frankfurt. Its central focus is the practical training in two African languages, one of them over the course of two years. In addition, it links African linguistics with relevant sociolinguistic issues and topics of digital and intercultural communication.

B.A. “Ethnologie” (Anthropology)

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

The three-year program focuses on the diversity of contemporary cultural and social practices and aims to provide students with a thorough grounding in the methods, theory, and history of anthropological research. While enabling students to explore human practices in all regions of the world, the program'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.

M.A. “Ethnologie des Globalen” (Anthropology of the Global)

<http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/293.php> / <http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/eng/293.php>

The two-year program 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 Collection, the Jahn Library for African Literatures, and the African Music Archives. The program 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, analyzing, interpreting and presenting their data. In the course of student research projects, relevant anthropological research methods are acquired and practiced.

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

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

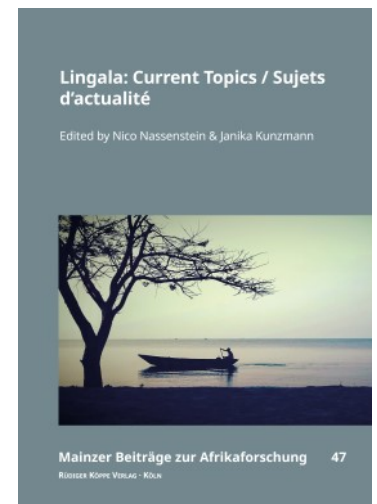
The B.A. “Linguistik” with specialization in “Afrikanistik” is a three-year study program offered by the Department of English and Linguistics in cooperation with the section of African Languages and Linguistics within the Department of Anthropology and African Studies. The specialization within the B.A. program 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 linguistic 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 program offers the whole range of African linguistics, covering the transcription of languages, their morphosyntactic structures, language contact scenarios as well as processes of linguistic change.

Publications of the department

The department publishes the series **Mainzer Beiträge zur Afrikaforschung** (editors: Heike Drotbohm, Franziska Fay, Matthias Krings, Nico Nassenstein, Anja Oed, and Markus Verne; Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe, <https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/publikationen-2/mainzer-beitraege-zur-afrikaforschung/>).

In 2023, one new volume was published:

Nico Nassenstein and Janika Kunzmann (eds.): *Lingala: Current Topics / Sujets d'actualité*. (Mainzer Beiträge zur Afrikaforschung, 47).



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 Mainz (<https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/publikationen-2/arbeitspapiere/>). Managing editor: Friederike Vigeland. In 2023, five new working papers were published:

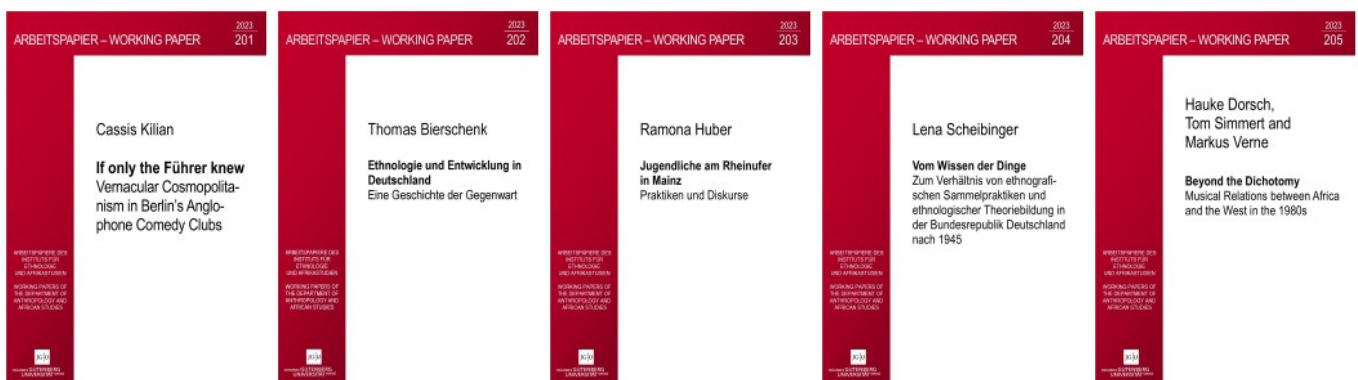
Cassia Kilian. If only the Führer knew: Vernacular Cosmopolitanism in Berlin's Anglophone Comedy Clubs. *Papers of the Department of Anthropology and African Studies of the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz* 201.

Thomas Bierschenk. Ethnologie und Entwicklung in Deutschland. Eine Geschichte der Gegenwart. *Papers of the Department of Anthropology and African Studies of the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz* 202.

Ramona Huber. Jugendliche am Rheinufer in Mainz – Praktiken und Diskurse. *Papers of the Department of Anthropology and African Studies of the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz* 203.

Lena Scheibinger. Vom Wissen der Dinge. Zum Verhältnis von ethnografischen Sammelpraktiken und ethnologischer Theoriebildung in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland nach 1945. *Papers of the Department of Anthropology and African Studies of the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz* 204.

Hauke Dorsch; Tom Simmert; Markus Verne. Beyond the Dichotomy. Musical Relations between Africa and the West in the 1980s. *Papers of the Department of Anthropology and African Studies of the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz* 205.



Research facilities in the department

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

- a **departmental library** (Bereichsbibliothek 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 Collection** (Ethnografische Studiensammlung)
- a **video archive** (<http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/230.php>) comprising ethnographic films, documentaries on African cultures and societies and on current events in the region as well as music clips and African films and film adaptations.
- the **Online Archive: African Independence Days** (<https://bildarchiv.uni-mainz.de/AUJ/>), which provides users with full digital access to more than 20,000 images as well as data collected in collaborative research on the Independence Days in twelve African countries.
- the **Archive: West African Settlement History** (<http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/781.php>) comprising more than 6,000 pages of notes, transcriptions, and translations relating to almost 800 interviews conducted with village elders, earth priests, and village chiefs in the border regions of Burkina Faso and Ghana, as well as further documents from various regional archives.
- the **Leo Stappers Archive** (<https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/leo-stappers-archiv/>) provides access to thousands of unique manuscripts and grammars from the Congo Basin (1890–1980) with a focus on the Kasai region; the archive comprises the former research library of the first Professor of African Philology (1974–1977) as well as archival material by missionaries Camille François Van Ronslé, Egede de Boeck and former colleague Hans-Ingolf Weier.
- Since November 1, 2022, the systematic archiving of correspondence and research documents from the Erika Sulzmann estate by a research assistant has created the basis for the **Kongo-Forschungsarchiv Mainz** (Congo Research Archive Mainz), financed by the Sulzmann Foundation, JGU Mainz.

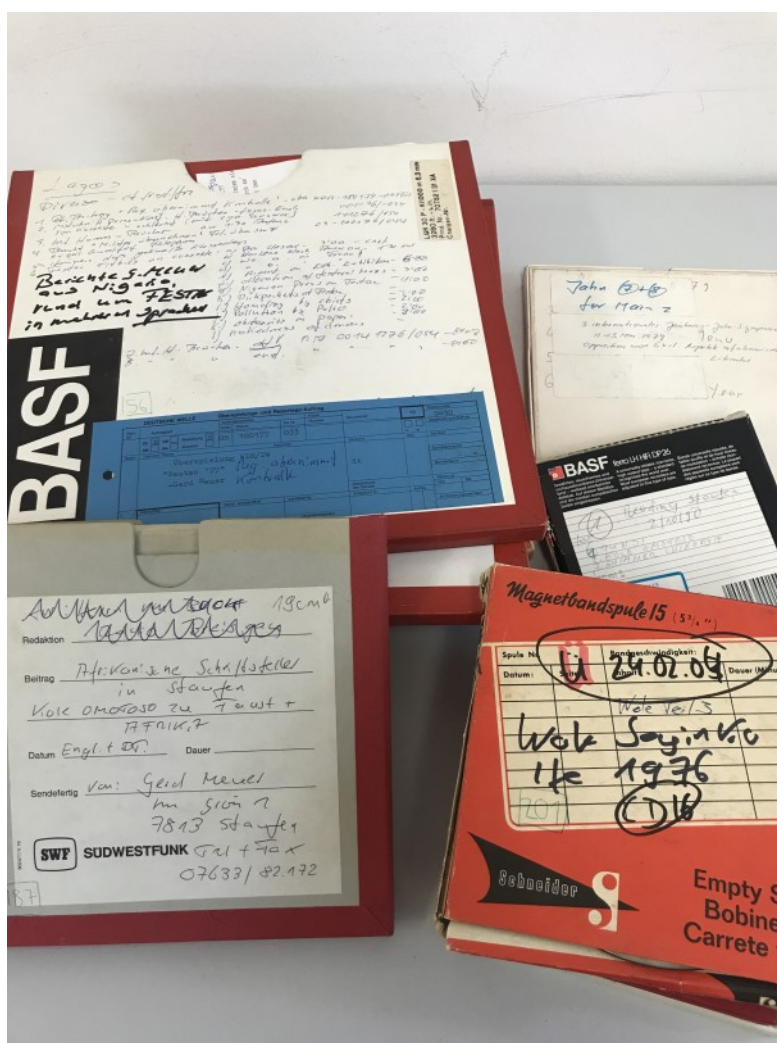


A sample of AMA vinyl records.
Photo: Thomas Hartmann.

Jahn Library for African Literatures

The Jahn Library for African Literatures (<http://www.jahn-bibliothek.ifeas.uni-mainz.de>) holds a unique collection of literary works in more than ninety languages. It is one of the earliest and most comprehensive research facilities for African literatures worldwide. It evolved from the private collection of Janheinz Jahn (1918–1973), whose interest in African literature arose during a public talk by the Senegalese poet and politician Léopold Sédar Senghor in Frankfurt in 1951. For the rest of his life, Jahn not only collected African literature but also translated and edited literary works by African writers, compiled bibliographies and reference books, and published widely on African literature and culture. In this way, he significantly enhanced public awareness of African literature in Germany and – at a time when works by African writers written in one of the colonial languages were still largely regarded as offshoots of the respective European national literatures – also contributed to the global acknowledgment of African literature across linguistic boundaries. Recently, a series of reels on Ib Zongos graphic biography of Janheinz Jahn was published on instagram (https://www.instagram.com/ifeas_mainz/). The Jahn Library is headed by Anja Oed.

In 2023, the digitization project “Afrikanische Schriftsteller:innen und Musiker:innen des 20. Jahrhunderts im O-Ton: Digitalisierung historischer Tonbänder des deutschen Afrika-Journalisten Gerd Meuer (1941–2017)” was successfully completed. The project was concerned with the digitisation of 20th-century audio-tapes given to the department by the late German Africa journalist Gerd Meuer. It was funded by the Ernst Wilhelm Müller Foundation (<https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/ewms/gefoerderte-projekte/afrikanische-schriftstellerinnen-und-musikerinnen-des-20-jahrhunderts-im-o-ton/>).



Work in progress: audiotapes to be digitized. Photo: Johanna Schramm.

African Music Archives (AMA)

Established in 1991, the AMA's collection of modern music from Africa includes 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 and digitizing the records, cataloguing the collection, acquainting students with African music 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. The collection continues to be extended.

The year 2023 was a year of many new achievements and events. On April 21st, South African composer, musicologist and cello player, Thokozani Mhlambi performed in the AMA.

We established an Artists in Residence program (financed by CEDITRAA) and invited the musicians Nonku Phiri (South Africa) and Sharon Onyango-Obbo (Uganda/Kenya) to research the archives for four weeks and play a set based on re-imagined historical recordings on July 21st. On the same evening kora virtuoso Dembo Jobarteh and his daughter Sally performed music from the traditional Mandinka repertoire. Closing the evening Tom Simmert and Hauke Dorsch served again as DJs.

On October 25th, the University's Vice President for Learning and Teaching Stephan Jolie, the co-ordinator of JGU's Collections Lisa Roemer and the AMA's director Hauke Dorsch inaugurated the AMA-Lounge, a listening station with playlists from the AMA's collections and the Sammlungsschaufenster, a new exhibition zone of the University's collections.

To reach out to audiences beyond Mainz, journalist and music producer Jean Trouillet and Hauke Dorsch established a collaborative program in the frame of the Globalwize music show on Radio X, Frankfurt/M. Shows included a presentation of the AMA by Hauke Dorsch, an introduction to Afrobeats by ifeas student Kathrin Thomas, an interview with Sharon Onyango-Obbo and Nonku Phiri by Tom Simmert and Hauke Dorsch, an introduction to music from the Indian Ocean Islands by Kathrin Thomas and an interview with Günter Gretz by Jean Trouillet and Hauke Dorsch. The shows are available on <https://www.mixcloud.com/Greedio> (# 426, 428, 430, 434 and 436, respectively).

Finally, after some years of preparations, the digitization and research project KOSTIMA (Counter-hegemonic Voices in Music Archives) started in October.

Sharon Onyango-Obbo, Nonku Phiri, Tom Simmert, Jean Trouillet and Tesfahun Haddis in the studio of Radio X.
Photo: Hauke Dorsch.



Ethnographic Collection

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

In 2023 we welcomed many visitors to the collection, among others, students from other departments of Mainz university and guests at our department.

The "Werkstatt Provenienzforschung: Objekte aus der Ethnografischen Studiensammlung" / "Provenance Research Lab: Objects from the Ethnographic Collection" is certainly one of the highlights of the various activities in 2023. From April 19 to May 16, Anna-Maria Brandstetter transformed the exhibition space "Schule des Sehens" into a "workshop" or "atelier" where she worked and researched with students and provenance researchers. The workshop focused on 285 cultural artefacts, all of which were displaced to Germany during the German colonial period in Cameroon and are currently being cared for in Mainz. We spent a month researching the cultural artefacts, correcting and adding to database entries, etc. Anyone and everyone could join in – or simply drop in and have a chat with the organizers. The talks and discussions during the guided tours for students from history, geography and other departments and university staff and the encounters with various visitors revolved around questions of the provenance, the cultural significance and the future dealing with the cultural artefacts, including restitution.



Photos: A.
Brandstetter



Photos: A. Brandstetter

Ms. Sylvie Njobati joined us digitally from Cameroon at the finissage to explain the cultural relevance of two royal valuables from the Kingdom of Nso' in Cameroon. Sylvie has been campaigning for years on behalf of the king for the return of the valuables from the kingdom that are in German museums and collections. Above all, she made it clear to us that these two valuables – a beaded bracelet and a small bag - are precious personal royal heritage.



Finissage.

Photo: A. Brandstetter.

As part of the “Werkstatt Provenienzforschung,” Anna-Maria Brandstetter has invited colleagues from Cameroon and Germany to the workshop “Provenance research on objects from Cameroon – and what next?” on 20 April. The workshop focused on research, cooperation and dealing with objects from Cameroon that were extracted to Germany during the colonial era. Starting with cultural artifacts, the participants explored the opportunities and challenges of collaborative research.



From left to right: Nora Hentschel, Niclas Wolff-Jung, Stefanie Michels, Rachel Mariembe, Bianca Baumann, Richard Tsogang Fossi, Ute Röschenhalter, Yagmur Yağmur, Lena Scheibinger, Victoria Stein, Paule-Clisthène Dassi Koudjou, Anna-Maria Brandstetter, Isabella Bozsa and Temidayo Oyeniran. Photo: A. Brandstetter.



From left to right: Paule-Clisthène Dassi Koudjou (conservator of cultural heritage/museum specialist, provenance researcher, responsible for conservation in the Route des Chefferies program, Bafoussam Cameroun), Isabella Bozsa (Ph.D student, Leibniz Universität Hannover) and Rachel Mariembe (archaeologist, museologist, acting head of the Département de Patrimoine et Muséologie, Université de Douala in Nkongsamba) examine an elephant mask from the Kingdom of Fossong-Wentcheng (Cameroon), which was extracted by the colonial trader Adolf Diehl at the beginning of the 19th century and sold to the Linden-Museum. The mask came to Mainz through an exchange in 1971. Inventory number: JGU ES 2329. Photo: A. Brandstetter

The workshop was also held on the occasion of Dr. Rachel Mariembe's visit in Mainz from from 11 to 30 April. As an archaeologist, curator and museologist, she is head of the cultural heritage inventory of seventeen chiefdoms in West Cameroon. She is associate curator of the Route des Chefferies exhibition that took place at the Quai Branly Jacques-Chirac Museum "On the Road to Chiefdoms of Cameroon: The Visible and the Invisible" (April 5–July 17, 2022). She was a guest at the department as a fellow of the Sulzmann Foundation in order to further develop cooperation in research on cultural artifacts from Cameroon in the Mainz collection and in collaborative teaching projects.

The digitization of the collection that was started in 2021 was continued by our team with two research assistants (M.A. student Victoria Stein and B.A. student Niclas Wolff-Jung), Lisa Marie Roemer, coordinator of the JGU Mainz university collections, Larissa Arlt, a photographer in the Servicezentrum Digitalisierung und Fotodokumentation (University Library Mainz) and Anna-Maria Brandstetter. As of December 2023, 2,607 object data are available in the university collections' database "Gutenberg Objects", 553 of which have been digitized. The editing of the metadata and the digitization is made possible with substantial funding by the Ernst Wilhelm Müller Foundation.

Two special digitization projects were completed in 2023: 99 Old Treasures from First Australian peoples and 70 cultural artefacts from the Ekonda and Bolia in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There are a total of 106 artefacts from Australia: 92 artefacts appropriated around 1900, 13 acquisitions from the 1950s/1960s and 1 woven bag acquired by Dr. Ulla Schild in 1988. At least 58 artefacts are considered restricted material and require special "protocols" of access, to which we agreed in cooperation with our partners from AIATSIS (Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies). In consultation with AIATSIS, the cultural material was digitized by photographer Stefan Schmitt (Wiesbaden) in July and August 2023. Experts from AIATSIS can now use the photos and information from Mainz to consult with the Senior Elders in Australia about the cultural artefacts and, above all, how to deal with them in the future. The digitization was made possible by a funding from the Ernst Wilhelm Müller Foundation.



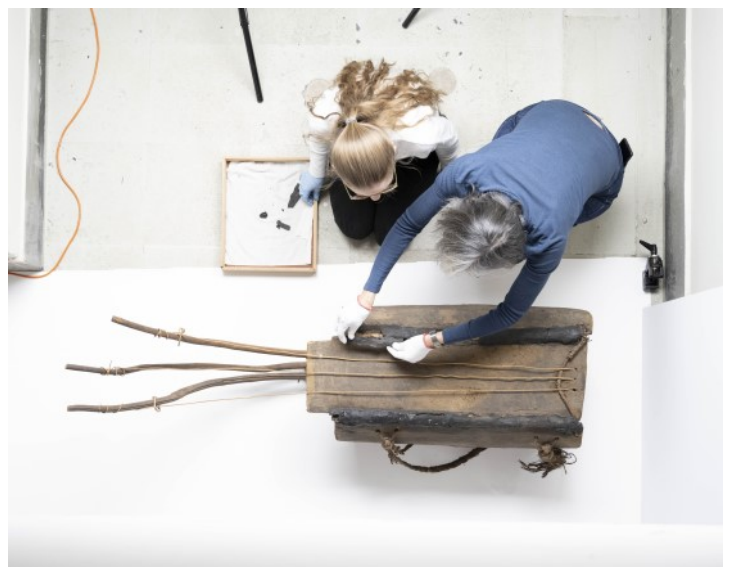
Stefan Schmitt setting up a necklace to be photographed; the necklace made of seeds from the inernte tree (*Erythrina vespertilio*, grey corkwood) is worn by Arrernte women around their breasts and shoulders. Photo: A. Brandstetter.

In the course of nine field works stays, all of which took Dr. Erika Sulzmann to the equatorial rainforest of what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo, she acquired almost 1,000 objects over a period of around 30 years. In November, 70 of these cultural artefacts have been photographed with funding from the Ernst Wilhelm Müller Foundation and the Department of Anthropology and African Studies. Almost all of them are associated with the Bolia king (Bolia) and Ekonda dignitaries. The digital copies will be added to the "Gutenberg Objects" database and made available to the National Museum in Kinshasa.



Stefan Schmitt and Niclas Wolff-Jung setting up a side-blown horn or *ekungú* to be photographed; the horn made of wood and ivory, was crafted by a carver from Liókó (Ekonda) on behalf of Erika Sulzmann; inventory number: JGU ES 181. Photo: A. Brandstetter.

Lena Scheibinger and Anna-Maria Brandstetter setting up a pluriarc or *lokomí ló nkúmú* to be photographed; the pluriarc was played by a special musician just for the Nkumu, a political-religious leader of the Ekonda (Congo); inventory number: JGU ES 208. Photo: Stefan Schmitt (Wiesbaden).



Anna-Maria Brandstetter has developed the format “Teilnehmende Beobachtung in der Sammlung” / “Participant observation in the ethnographic collection”. Until the end of the winter semester 2023/24, students can observe and participate about once a month.

Since the start of the 2023/24 winter semester, Mainz University Library has provided the “Sammlungsschaukasten,” a new presentation, listening and meeting space in the connecting area between the Central Library and the Georg Forster Building. Almost 60 exhibits from the university collections are on display in this permanent exhibition space, including four objects from the Bwiti religion acquired in Libreville (Gabon) in 1917 by the then doctoral student Irene Löffler.

Photo: A. Brandstetter.



Since the 4th Day of Provenance Research in April 2022, the commemorative head for a deceased king from the Kingdom of Benin (Nigeria) has been on display at the Landesmuseum, where it is waiting to return to Nigeria. In an article entitled “Raubkunst im Wartestand” [Looted art on the hold] (Die Rheinpfalz, No. 184, 10 August 2023), journalist Karin Dauscher spoke to the curator of the Ethnographic Study Collection, Anna-Maria Brandstetter, about why the commemorative head is still on display in Mainz. All legal conditions for the return of the Benin bronze have been met by the state of Rhineland-Palatinate. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is now responsible for the restitution. “The King’s farewell may therefore still drag on”, so the article’s conclusion.



Exhibit at the Landesmuseum Mainz. Photo: A. Brandstetter.

Artefacts from the collection such as stoneware pots from the Westerwald region (Germany), which came to West and West Central Africa via the enslavement trade in the 18th century, cowries from Cameroon around 1900 and manillas (made of brass) from Nigeria were on display in the exhibition “Welthandel. Geschichte, Gegenwart, Perspektiven” first at the Museum Industriekultur in Osnabrück (May 7 to October 15, 2023) and then at Tuch+Technik Textilmuseum Neumünster (November 24, 2023 to February 18, 2024).

Online Archive: African Independence Days

The online archive “African Independence Days” (<https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/archive-am-institut-fuer-ethnologie-und-afrikastudien/online-bildarchiv-afrikanische-unabhaengigkeitsfeiern/>) holds more than 28,000 images collected on the Independence Days in twelve African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria and Tanzania. Created in 2010, the archive is one of the outcomes of a large comparative research project on African national days directed by Carola Lentz. The material comprises photographs, newspaper articles, documents, and objects. Some of the material is also stored in the physical archive on African Independence Days at ifeas as well as in the department’s Ethnographic Collection. Most of the material concerns recent celebrations, but the collection has been complemented by some documentation of earlier festivities. The material offers unique insights into practices of national commemoration and political celebrations in Africa. It is intended to invite scholars to further engage in the study of national commemoration and political celebrations in Africa and, more generally, processes of nation-building and state-making.

Since 2020, the online archive has been integrated into the Ethnographic Collection at ifeas. For further information on the archive, see also <https://visual-history.de/project/online-archive-african-independence-days/>.



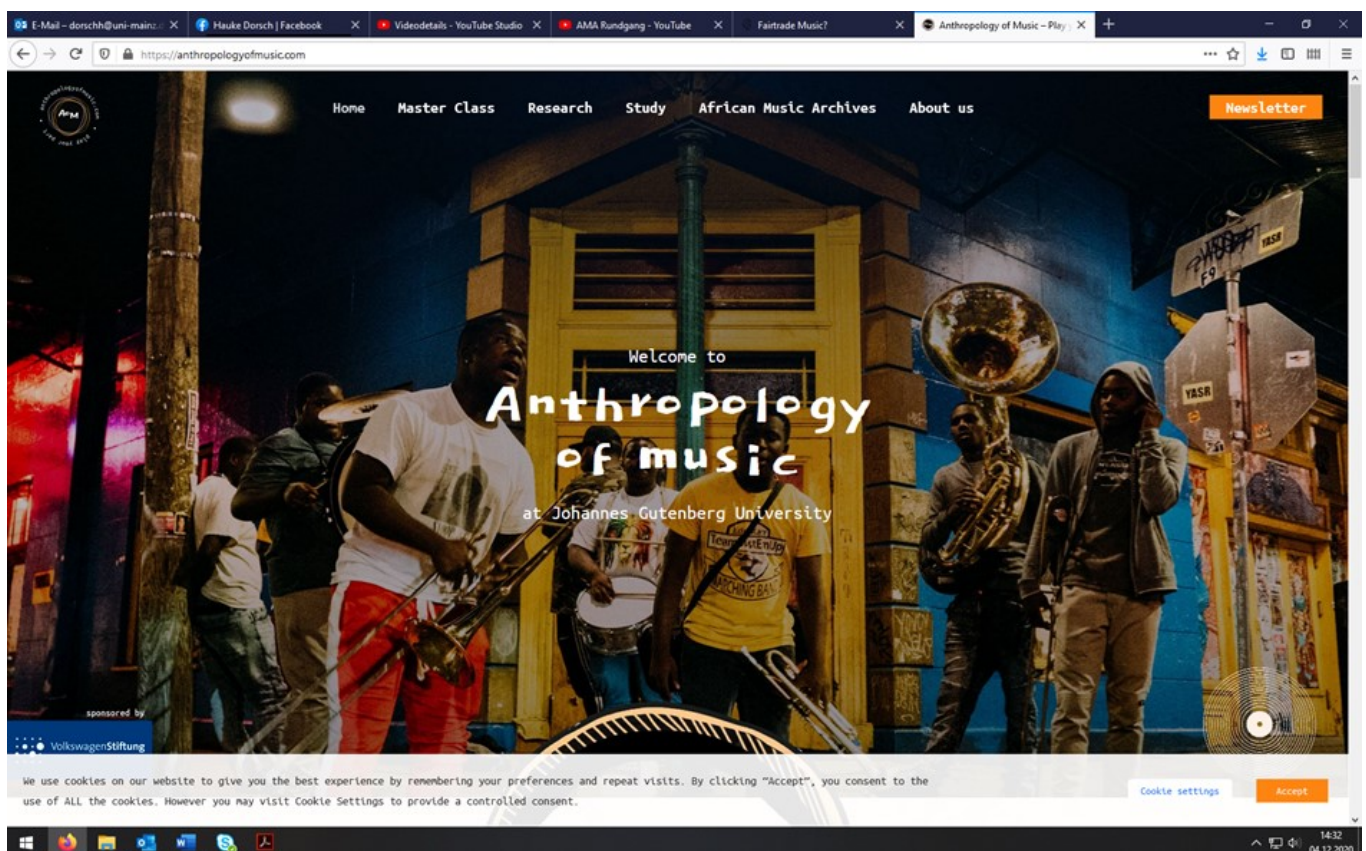
Anthropology of Music

Since 2020, the website <https://anthropologyofmusic.com/> represents a new working group within the department. It was created to advertise the **Anthropology of Music Master Class and Lecture Series**, its subjects, presentations, and its findings. So far, this master class and lecture series took place three times, in 2018, 2019 and 2022, featuring Timothy Taylor (on the topic of “value and music”), Steven Feld (on “acoustemology”), and Louise Meintjes (on “aesthetics, politics and sound”).

Apart from announcing and documenting these series, the website also introduces a wider public to the rapidly growing working group at the ifeas that focuses on anthropological approaches to the study of music and aesthetics. It introduces related research projects at the ifeas, activities of the AMA and the people involved. In the future, it shall also serve as a node for the participants of the master classes and other scholars interested in questions related to anthropological approaches to music. Furthermore, related study programs, news and events will be advertised. Scholars and students active in this project include Martin Büdel, Hauke Dorsch, Daniel Jákli, Tom Simmert and Markus Verne.

The master class and lecture series and this website are hosted by the ifeas and the AMA and financed by the Volkswagen Stiftung. The series were supported by: Ministry of Science, Further Education, and Culture Rhineland-Palatinate, German Research Foundation (DFG), Center for Intercultural Studies at JGU (ZIS). The website was designed by steinkuellerundsteinkueller.de.

For more information: <https://anthropologyofmusic.com/>



Screenshot of the website.

RESEARCH PROJECTS BY FACULTY MEMBERS

Counter-hegemonic voices in music archives (KOSTIMA): Political readings, contextualizations, contemporary references

Project coordination: **Hauke Dorsch, Nico Nassenstein, Lisa Marie Roemer**

Duration: **2023 – 2027**

Funded by Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

<https://www.ub.uni-mainz.de/de/drittmittelprojekte#kostima>

The research project “Kontrahegemoniale Stimmen in Musikarchiven (KOSTIMA): Politische Lesarten, Kontextualisierungen, Gegenwartsbezüge” (funding code 01UQ2304A) is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in the funding line “Vernetzen – Erschließen – Forschen. Alliance for University Collections II”. The joint project is coordinated by the JGU Mainz University Library and plans to index and research the collections of the African Music Archives (AMA) in Mainz, the European Center for Jewish Music (EZJM) in Hanover and the Center for World Music (CWM) in Hildesheim. Central to the investigation of the musical archive material is the question of the counter-hegemonic messages it contains and their location in social contexts.

The Mainz sub-project focuses on song lyrics of Congolese music from the AMA. These reflect a time of diverse political upheavals in the Congo under the authoritarian regime of President Mobutu. The perspectives of various artists that have been passed down here include diverse forms of subtle political communication that are often hidden and encrypted – and have not yet been analyzed in detail. This is where the project comes in, using cognitive and structural linguistic methods to investigate strategies for inscribing political content into song lyrics and their intertextuality. Central to the ethnomusicological-Africanist sub-project is the question of the extent to which social reality and politics are not only depicted in the lyrics of Congolese artists, but how these lyrics also indirectly and subversively shape politics and how superordinate social dynamics are implicitly interwoven through lyrics.

The research results are published open-access and communicated to a broad public via multilingual scrollytelling and a traveling exhibition.



The first project meeting in Hildesheim and Hannover in November 2023.

Photo: Nico Nassenstein.

Research on religious and traditional minorities in Bam province (Burkina Faso)

Project director: **Katrin Langewiesche**

Duration: **2023 – 2024**

Funded by Welthungerhilfe.

The purpose of this research is to analyze the role of tradition and traditional religions in the non-violent management of conflicts in the province of Bam. The research will focus on one traditional institution, the *buguba* and *bagenaaba*, in the Koungoussi region. The study highlights socio-cultural relations between this autochthonous group and the other components of society, in particular their ritual implications for the well-being of the village community in a context of security and humanitarian crisis in the province of Bam in Burkina Faso.



Togonaaba's granddaughter with her spokesman.
Photo: Harouna Marané, 2023.



Togonaaba's granddaughter with her spokesman.
Painting: Valérie Blanchard, 2023.

African traders' agency on global cloth markets

Project Director: **Ute Rösenthaller**

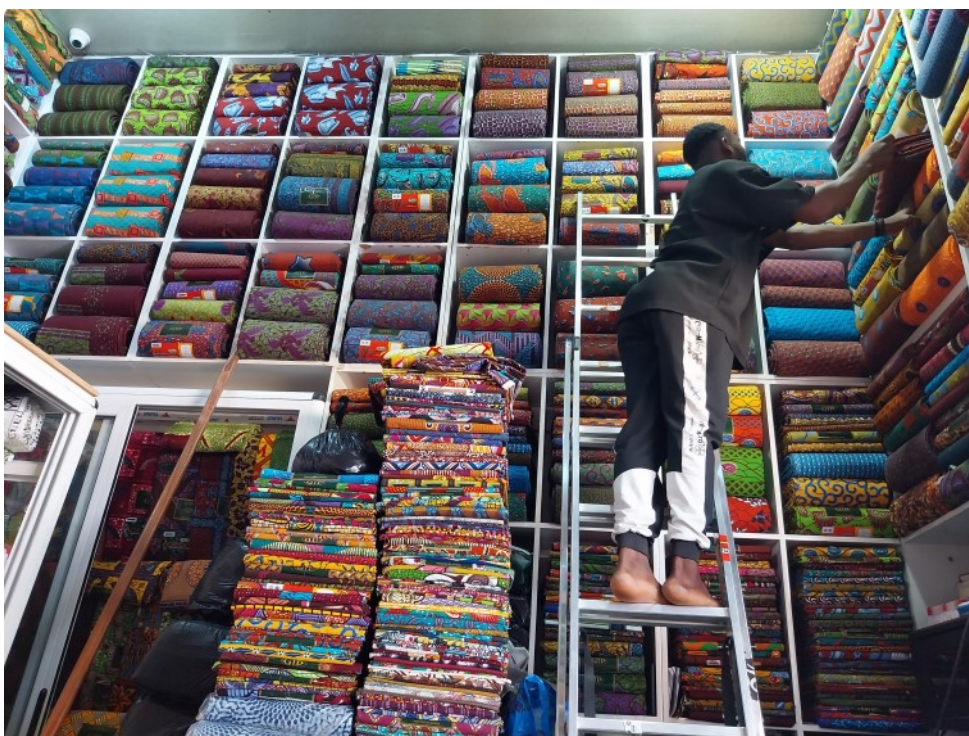
Duration: **November 2022 – October 2025**

Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

The project highlights the important contribution of African actors in supplying West African markets with a great variety of cloth and dress. It examines what is behind this variety of cloth and style that consumers use to communicate complex messages. Scholarship on clothing increasingly explores dress practices, the agency of consumers in styling the dressed body, and the repercussions of globalization on local artisanal production. However, most studies understand the changing cloth supply and dress practices as shaped by external influences such as European colonization, missionary education, global flows and the influx of cheap Asian products. They rarely note the agency of African cloth traders who decide to a great extent what fabrics and clothing African markets offer to their consumers.

The project explores in a comparative study in three West African countries – Cameroon, Ghana and Mali – the trade routes of fabrics and the agency through which they arrive on these markets. It studies the distinctive features that cloth and dress are required to have, their material, quality, colour and pattern in order to sell and meet consumers' expectations. It also examines how importers and traders acquire "cloth knowledge" to be able to anticipate consumers' desires and expectations in times of quickly changing fashions and in which way dresses can be remodelled to create a convincing outfit.

The project develops the topic through two closely connected thematic fields. The first studies local textile categories and discourses of traders and consumers on cloth and dress, the communicative properties of cloth, and local hierarchies of value into which cloth is sorted according to its origin and quality. The second field focusses on the trade routes and the individuals through whose agency clothing and fabrics arrive on African markets. It also looks at artisanal textile manufacture and its influence on national industrial cloth production and the features of imported fabrics. In 2023, fieldwork was carried out in Yaounde and Accra, and to better understand the ongoing inner-African textile trade, also in Lagos, Cotonou and Lomé.



Employee showing cloth to a customer, GTP wax cloth shop at Makola market, Accra.
Photo: Ute Rösenthaller.

The management of loss: Politics of life and death in Minas Gerais (Brazil)

Project Director: **Heike Drotbohm**
Researcher: **Theresa Mentrup**
Duration: **March 2022 – March 2025**

Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

<https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/2021/06/24/die-verwaltung-von-verlust-politiken-von-leben-und-tod-in-minas-gerais-brasilien/>

Beyond their momentary impacts, catastrophic events mark the beginning of long-lasting processes of political, social, and cultural reordering. This can entail the provision of governmental and non-governmental care and assistance, as well as the rearrangement of social categories and of the relations between various actors. This project focuses on the consequences and the repercussions of the 2019 collapse of the tailings dam of a mine waste disposal basin in Brumadinho, a small town located in the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais. Examining the ongoing compensation processes in the aftermath of this catastrophic incident, the research project seeks to answer the question how the perception of social and moral responsibilities is related to processes of legal mitigation and reparation in a post-disaster context.

A previous research trip to Brumadinho in 2022 established relevant research contacts and delivered first empirical data on the ongoing local processes regarding the dam collapse. In January 2023, Theresa Mentrup again conducted ethnographic fieldwork in the region, this time participating, among other things, in events relating to the 4th anniversary of the catastrophe. Between June and August, Theresa returned to Brumadinho and continued her engagement with local and public actors affected by the 2019 incident. Furthermore, she conducted in-depth ethnographic fieldwork within a municipal department specialized on calamity management that was created in the aftermath of the dam collapse and which is situated at the administrative intersection between public health and social assistance.



Mass in front of Brumadinho's central church to mark the 4th anniversary of the dam collapse on 25 January 2023. The 272 sunflowers each represent a victim of the incident in 2019. Photo: Theresa Mentrup.

Migration and im/mobility in the Global South during a global pandemic (DFG network)

Project Coordination: **Heike Drotbohm, Antje Missbach** (University of Bielefeld)

Duration: **October 2021 – October 2024**

Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

<https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/2021/10/19/dfg-netzwerk-migration-und-im-mobilitaet-im-globalen-su%cc%88den-in-zeiten-einer-pandemie/>

The global SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has produced unanticipated and novel experiences of isolation, confinement, and exclusion. As part of initial initiatives designed to prevent SARS-CoV-2 from entering their national territories, and later as part of their containment measures, governments around the world have employed migration management tools and severed travel restrictions. Although border closures and social distancing orders have negatively affected countless people, they have more specifically impacted migrants, refugees, and those for whom mobility is an essential act. While public attention has largely focused on the Global North during the pandemic, the situation in the Global South has been routinely ignored or dismissed. This ignorance is not necessarily deliberate; there is simply too little empirical data available for certain areas because many researchers have either lost personal access to research sites or found it difficult to follow the developments on the ground from afar. According to theories of migration and mobility, the hitherto excessive attention on countries of the Global North, derived from their perception as desirable and factual destination countries, not only manifests outdated perceptions of centers and peripheries but also produces conceptualizations of migration and im/mobility that are inherently Global North-centric. To counterbalance existing biases inherent to migration and im/mobility studies, this network of migration researchers seeks to explore and critically discuss the extent to which the current worldwide experience of immobilization promotes the long-term transformation of the norms, practices, and experiences of migration and im/mobility. Despite the many ruptures of daily life, the current transformations offer scholars of migration and im/mobility studies also a unique opportunity to reflect on the current state of migration and im/mobility studies that refer to new experiences and perceptions of decoupling, containment and waiting. This standstill forces us to consider and develop alternative approaches to a) collecting data, b) producing new knowledge about the impact of the global pandemic on their respective research areas (under the “new normal”), and c) contributing to theorizing migration and im/mobility within the social sciences, which will programmatically re-orientate migration and im/mobility studies. In April 2022, a kick-off workshop for the DFG network took place in Mainz.



Workshop participants.
Photo: Heike Drotbohm.

Microvariation and youth language practices in Africa



Principal investigator: **Nico Nassenstein**

Team members Mainz: **Andrea Hollington** (Postdoc), **Jan Knipping** (assistant)

Team members Essex: **Hannah Gibson** (PI), **Colin Reilly** (Postdoc) / **Elvis ResCue** (Postdoc)

Partners: **Fridah Kanana** (Kenyatta University), **Sambulo Ndlovu** (University of Eswatini)

Duration: **2021 – 2024**

Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

<https://microvariation-and-youth-languages.com>

As in the first year our project continues to study microvariation in youth language practices in Bantu speaking areas of Eastern and Southern Africa. With a comparative perspective, we investigate morpho-syntactic variation in closely related languages in order to learn more about the morphosyntax of youth language practices in the context of language change and language contact.

In the course of this second year, research trips and data collection continued and fieldwork has been conducted by Andrea Hollington in South Africa (April) and Tanzania (July/August) and by Nico Nassenstein in Rwanda (March and October). Working on our data, we have produced corpora of spoken youth language practices, such as the lugha ya mtaani corpus which has been transcribed and translated by Andrea Hollington and research assistant Faris Ramadhani and comprises more than 100 pages of youth language conversations (with translations and annotations). Moreover, Nico Nassenstein also conducted a research trip to Israel for collaborative work with our project partner Ellen Hurst-Harosh in March and presented findings in Tokyo in November. Furthermore, we moved to the final phase of editing our special issue for Linguistic Vanguard on youth language and morphosyntactic variation as well as our monograph on the project team, to be published with Rüdiger Köppe; both will appear in 2024. The envisaged monograph will feature a comparative perspective on our findings with insights into all research areas of the project.

In June, we presented a talk on the role of collaborating with youth in our research at the European Conference of African Studies (ECAS, “African Futures”) in Cologne, and in August we presented a talk on Swahili-based youth language practices in Lubumbashi at the Colloquium on African Languages and Linguistics (CALL) in Leiden.

Our website (<https://microvariation-and-youth-languages.com>) went live and has been filled with interesting insights into our project throughout the year.

isiTsotsi speakers at uShaka Beach
in Durban, South Africa 2023.
Photo: Andrea Hollington.



Practice, affect, membership of right-wing-extremist internet communication (PAMRIK)

Team members PAMRIK: **Konstanze N'Guessan, Jan Beek**

Team members MISRIK: **Kai Denker** (Project coordinator), **David Meier-Arendt, Thomas Arnold, Jonas Pfeiffer, Cecilia Liu, Gregor Geigle** (TU Darmstadt), **Georgios Terizakis, Marcel Noosten** (HfPV Wiesbaden)

Duration: **August 2021 – August 2024**

Funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

Subproject of the BMBF joint research project MISRIK (Memes, ideas, strategies of right-wing-extremist internet communication)

The joint research project MISRIK (Memes, ideas, strategies of right-wing-extremist internet communication) is a multi-disciplinary collaborative research project on far right digital practice. The project aims at understanding far-right communication on social media, which pose a largely underacknowledged threat to civil security. Oftentimes online hate only becomes visible once it emerges offline as violence. How do right-wing extremists of the so-called “New Right” use social media to subtly share their messages through memes and other forms of social media communication? What are the theories and strategies behind such metapolitical action? How do the affordances of social media platforms allow and channel for fluid and temporal virtual communities to take shape? How are online and offline activism connected?

The socio-anthropological project follows an actor-oriented, ethnographic approach. It studies the fluid or gradual membership in far-right digital communities, affective-emotional dimensions of “shitposting”, trolling and engaging in memetic warfare and unravel how alternative truth claims are established and made “believable” through practices of digital communication. Through participant observation of digital practices off-line and online, the subproject provides thick descriptions of practices and self-imaginaries of right-wing extremists, who often remain invisible behind their online presence and propaganda. The first term of 2023 was dedicated to (post)digital fieldwork, culminating in the live digital ethnography of the far right internet campaign #Stolzmonat. Data collection was paralleled by grounded theory analysis and the presentation of first research results in conferences and to practice partners. A board game, to be used for primary prevention, and an online publication in cooperation with the Amadeu-Antonio-Foundation were developed on the basis of research results. A conference organized with the Schader Stiftung in Darmstadt with associated partners from civil security research, police forces and democratic education, as well as the international symposium of the European Security Research Programme in Brussels were used to disseminate and “test” first research results with regard to their practical applicability.



Discussing inside perspectives on far-right meme practice at the practice conference in Darmstadt, October 2023. Photo: Konstanze N'Guessan.

V-jaying in East Africa. An intermedial practice at the interface of film and storytelling

Project Directors: **Matthias Krings, Claudia Böhme** (Trier University)

Researcher: **Solomon Waliaula**

Duration: **August 2021 – July 2024**

Funded by Thyssen Foundation.

<https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/kinoerzaehlen-in-ostafrika-eine-intermediale-praxis-an-der-schnittstelle-von-film-und-muendlicher-erzaehlkunst/>

Cinema narration is a concept that refers to a media practice, mainly in East Africa, characterized by oral artists engaged in a play-by-play commentary of mainly foreign language films, initially for the benefit of those members of the audience that did not understand the foreign languages in which the films were produced. In the beginning, it was all about live performance but later the artists became more enterprising and dubbed their voice and wide gamut of verbal art on the films, producing new versions in the process.

In 2023 Solomon Waliaula had two sessions of fieldwork in Uganda (March–April and August). It involved an ethnographic engagement with audiences in *bibandas* (make-shift cinema halls) in low-income neighborhoods of Kampala. It was established that the recorded narrated films were very popular in these venues. There were also interviews with Veejay Shao Khan and Veejay Sammy and it was established that the art of veejaying in Kampala was popular and also financially rewarding. Interviews were conducted with video-library operators as well as producers at several TV stations, where veejayed films are not only shown as part of scheduled entertainment but some veejays have been employed by the media houses to produce translated films that are aired in the stations. At KBS TV we established that veejays also double as news presenters. Interviews were held with officials at the Film Production Department at the Uganda Cultural Centre where it was established that the practice of cinema narration operated informally and largely with the benefit of political patronage; there was no clear legal framework to regulate it. It was established that the veejays' voices were also used for marketing purposes in the mainstream corporate world and industry. Within the year, we also presented our work in two academic forums, namely, the Cologne 2023 ECAS Conference in June and the Kampala 2023 East African Literary and Cultural Studies Conference in August. In both, we focused on the evolving patterns of orality and technology in cinema narration, which in the Ugandan case has culminated in veejays' providing commentary also for locally made films that are not in foreign languages. As the project was granted a one-year extension, we aim to include this trend in cinema narration from translation to aesthetic practice among the objectives to explore in the remaining time.



Solomon Waliaula (left) with Deejay Shau Khan at a video store in Kampala. Photo: Solomon Waliaula.

Melanin matters: Skin tone politics in Nigeria and beyond (CRC 1482)

Project coordination: **Matthias Krings**

Researchers **Marion Grimberg, Christopher J. Hohl**

Duration: **July 2021 – June 2025**

Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

Subproject A01 of the Collaborative Research Centre 1482 “Studies in human differentiation”.

<https://www.blogs.uni-mainz.de/fb07-ifeas-eng/melanin-matters-skin-tone-politics-in-nigeria-and-beyond/>

As the visible surface of the human body, the skin is subject to cultural ascriptions and manipulations. The project Melanin Matters studies how members of society differentiate among each other by drawing on cultural notions of skin tone. The project asks how skin tones are represented and negotiated, how and when skin tone is made meaningful as marker of human differentiation, and which values are attached to skin and skin tone. It takes into consideration that meanings ascribed to skin tones may exceed “racial” interpretations and could change depending on the context. Its two main case studies, the categorizations of persons with albinism and light-skin/dark-skin differentiations within Black communities, both intersect the domains of health, attractiveness, gender, ethnicity, class, or disability.

In 2023, we continued our fieldwork in Nigeria. During two trips, Marion Grimberg spent a total of six months in Lagos researching the local skin care industry. This included focusing on vendors, their products, and marketing strategies, attending exclusive events visited by their clients and interviewing dermatologists about skin care and skin lightening. Christopher Hohl conducted participant observation at several events commemorating International Albinism Awareness Day held annually in July. In September, Matthias Krings continued his research on the category of *oyinbo* (‘light skinned foreigners’) based on focus group discussions with students from the University of Lagos.

Marion Grimberg presented preliminary findings at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. First results on the shifting representation of albinism and the transformation of its stigma into charisma were published by Christopher Hohl in an article entitled “Albinism between stigma and charisma: Varying interpretations of two photographs from South Africa”.

Fieldwork on the streets of Lagos, July 2023.
Photo: Osagie Fredrick.



Contouring and blurring of linguistic human differentiation. Rwandan or Burundian?

Project Director: **Nico Nassenstein**
Researcher: **Deborah Wockelmann**
Duration: **2021 – 2025**

Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

Subproject B02 of the Collaborative Research Centre 1482 “Studies in human differentiation”.

<https://humandifferenzierung.uni-mainz.de/teilprojekt-b02/>

The project examines linguistic practices of human categorization and differentiation of multilingual speakers in Uganda. It addresses the question of how language use in the Great Lakes region corresponds to or counteracts linguistic boundaries and national affiliations, and examines the connection between colonial historical processes that led to state demarcations and ongoing processes of differentiation of speakers through their current linguistic practices.

In Uganda, migratory movements and mobility bring together many speakers from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds. In interpersonal encounters, it becomes visible how people are differentiated through language and how they differentiate themselves and others through language. Speakers are stigmatized and divided into social categories (e.g. ethnic groups, foreigners, etc.) on the basis of external characteristics (skin color, facial features, stature) and their linguistic performance (language choice, accent, language proficiency).

In this project, we look at these very moments of contestation, following the questions: How do speakers mark or conceal linguistic differences and what new fluid affiliations are indexed? How do speakers position themselves and how are they perceived and differentiated by others? In what situations does human differentiation become relevant in interpersonal interaction in the first place?

Two further research trips as part of this project were undertaken by Deborah Wockelmann from 15 February to 21 March and from 12 to 28 August 2023. Nico Nassenstein travelled to Rwanda in March and October 2023 together with project partners.

Investigating taxi slogans in the New Taxi Park in Kampala.
Photo: Deborah Wockelmann.



Sorting with care. Human differentiation in contact zones of support

Project Director: **Heike Drotbohm**

Researchers: **Elena Hernández, Elena Reichl**

Duration: **July 2021 – July 2025**

Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

Subproject B04 of the Collaborative Research Centre 1482 “Studies in human differentiation”.

<https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/2021/10/19/helfende-und-hilfe-empfaenger-humandifferenzierung-zwischen-solidaritaet-und-sortierung-in-portugal-und-brasilien/>

This subproject: “B04: Sorting with care. Human differentiation in contact zones of support”, which is part of the Collaborative Research Center “Studies in human differentiation”, continued its work. In 2023, Elena Reichl and Elena Hernández spent substantial time in their respective research settings.

Elena Reichl concentrated on distributive practices in social movements, churches, and urban land occupations. The question, how social distinctions are embedded in solidarity and support practices and their (political) heterogeneity gained particular importance. Simultaneously, Elena Hernández conducted her research in Lisbon, Portugal, exploring various forms of support in the grassroots housing activism and social service activities. Her aim was to understand how networks of support are directed to alleviate the persistent consequences of austerity policies and overlapping crises. Upon their return, both researchers discussed their results with colleagues from the CRC and the Department of Anthropology and African Studies in several colloquia, the CRC summer school, as well as at various international conferences.

Elena Reichl presented the paper “Sobre Deus e Socialismo: Alívio à fome em Tempos de Polarização Política no Brasil” at the University of Campinas in São Paulo and discussed preliminary research results with Brazilian colleagues and research participants. Elena Hernández presented the paper “Confronting the crisis with care” in the panel “Recovering everyday life in an era of multiple crises” at the SIEF (International Society for Ethnology and Folklore) conference “Living uncertainty” in June 2023.



Painted signs for a demonstration for the right to housing.
Photo: Elena Hernández.



Tents in the center of Lisbon.
Photo: Elena Hernández.

Religious diversity and traditions in Burkina Faso: historical and contemporary challenges

Project directors: **Katrin Langewiesche, Alice Degorce**

Duration: **2021 – 2024**

Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the French National Research Agency (ARN).

<https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/religioese-diversitaet-und-traditionen-in-burkina-faso-historische-und-zeitgenoessische-herausforderungen-divtradbf/>

This project starts from the ambiguity of the notions of tradition and traditional religion, which are often referred to by the same term in local languages of Burkina Faso. Based on this observation, it proposes a pragmatic and epistemological approach to observe the relationship between tradition and local religions through the practices and discourses of artists, intellectuals, young people and local leaders, rather than focusing on pre-defined conceptual units. Far from being relegated to the past, debates about traditional religion and/or tradition in Burkinabe society remain timely. The project focuses on the historical and contemporary challenges of these “traditions” within Burkina Faso's religious diversity. The main question, therefore, concerns the relationships that these concepts create, what they defuse, rearrange or disrupt in Burkinabe society. How do the shifts, boundaries and similarities between traditional religion and tradition affect the practices and discourses of the actors? To what extent do they re-appropriate “tradition”? And how does this make sense in the current context of Burkina Faso?

Burkina Faso with its different religious and cultural traditions seems to be a good field of investigation to reflect on diversity, encounters and interactions, although studies on the current developments of traditional religions in Burkina Faso are rare. Moreover, today, high expectations are placed in traditional religions to tackle violent Islamic radicalism; yet it is not very clear what their contribution may well be. The aim is to examine the diverse perspectives of actors in specific social, political and historical processes on tradition and traditional religions. How do these people reinvest traditional religion at a moment in Burkina Faso's history marked by a rise in terrorism, major political uncertainties and worrying tensions between different population groups?

Five work packages (WP) make it possible to carry out this project: the analysis of the discourses of political and intellectual elites, of the performing arts, of local rulers, of “ordinary” practices such as naming and, finally, of the re-articulation of tradition and its patrimonialization in rural areas. It is supported by a French team (IRD-Imaf) and a German team (University of Mainz, ifeas), who together supervise M.A. students in Burkina Faso and collaborate with Burkinabe artists, both during the field research phases and in developing the methodology and valorizing the research.



Portraits of buguba. Photos: Andrien Bitibaly and Katrin Langewiesche.

CEDITRAA – Cultural entrepreneurship and digital transformation in Africa and Asia

Joint project of Goethe University Frankfurt and Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz

Team members (JGU): **Matthias Krings** (Project Director), **Nico Nassenstein** (PI), **Ute Röschenthaler** (PI), **Izue Nwankwo**, **Artemis Saleh**, **Tom Simmert**, **Hauke Dorsch** (Associated Researchers)

Duration: **April 2021 – June 2024**

Funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

<https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/ceditraa-cultural-entrepreneurship-and-digital-transformation-in-africa-and-asia/>

How does digitization transform cultural production and particularly music and film in Africa and Asia? How does it contribute to the consolidation of a multi-polar “new world order of cultural production” (Bhutto 2019)? Building on the cultural and mobility turns in area studies CEDITRAA brings together an interdisciplinary team of economists, cultural Anthropologists, Africanists, Koreanists, Sinologists and film and media scholars. Combining quantitative data analysis with digital ethnography and participant observation, audience ethnographies and textual and formal analysis, CEDITRAA focuses on the cultural production, digital circulation, and consumption of music and film with a focus on digital transformation, the project studies resources, creative processes and infrastructures, legal frameworks, archiving, and distribution and consumption.

In its third year, the project's research results have been consolidated and were presented and discussed at conferences such as ECAS (Cologne) and DGSKA (Munich). The publication of research results takes place in three book collections, edited by members of the project: “Distributed Productivities: Digital Transcreation and the New World Order of Cultural Production” will be published by Meson Press, the two titles “Dis/Ordering Distribution” and “Decentering ‘Soft Power’” will be published in the series “Research in the Sociology of Organizations”. Further publications are listed on the project website <https://ceditraa.net>. In June and July, Nonku Phiri (South Africa) and Sharon Onyango-Obbo (Uganda/Kenya) were invited as artists in residence at the African Music and James Yékú visited the department as CEDITRAA fellow. In September, the team organized the international conference “Afrobeats: Digital Encounters and the Global Mainstreaming of African Popular Music” in Lagos (Nigeria). Following the conference, Ute Röschenthaler researched the music listening habits of young people and their ideas on copyright. Nico Nassenstein traveled to Brussels in January to meet with Cilubà- and Lingala-speaking partners, spend time in the neighborhood Matongé and interacted with multilingual Congolese residing in Brussels. In March and September, he was in Rwanda for a research stay and could collect ethnographic data on language use in the Congolese borderlands, especially focusing on the dynamics and contact of English and Lingala. Artemis Saleh visited Lagos during the pride month in June and witnessed the first major pride events in Nigeria so far, comprising of a three day conference on queer and trans matters, workshops, pride parties, film screenings, ball room shows, and community gatherings. Since August, the project has gained a new team member: Bakar Abdul-Rashid Jeduah has been researching controversies on social media about Korean Afrobeats musicians using a variety of digital methods and has found that the transculturalization of the genre is a side effect of its progressive popularization, which can now be observed on all continents. Izue Nwankwo left the project in September and took on a new position at the University of Toronto. He remains an associate member of the project.



Cosplayers at Lagos Comic Convention 2023.
Photo: Tom Simmert.

PH.D. RESEARCH

Completed Ph.D. dissertations

Anthropology

Reiffen, Franziska:

The social life of the mall. Working and dwelling in urban Argentina. (Drotbohm)

Current Ph.D. dissertation projects

Anthropology

Abru, Silvia Enow:

The influence of fashion industry on African hairstyles. (Röschenthaler)

Altunkaya, Şebnem:

Psychedelic fusions: Politics, culture and identities in Anatolian Rock. (Verne)

Baumann, Bianca:

Ethnologische Provenienzforschung. Herausforderungen, Grenzen und Möglichkeiten anhand ausgewählter Objekte aus Kamerun aus kolonialen Kontexten am Landesmuseum Hannover. (Krings)

Bruchhäuser, Katja:

Kleidung als Ausdruck von Kommunikation im Grasland von Kamerun. (Röschenthaler)

Fuhrmann, Larissa-Diana:

The art of contesting political violence – encountering resistive practices to the so-called Islamic State and the “War on Terror”. (Krings)

Geschke, Janis:

On the permeability and cementation of national borders in German deportation bureaucracies. (Drotbohm)

Grimberg, Marion:

Melanin matters: Skin tone and categorial belonging in Lagos, Nigeria, and beyond. (Krings)

Haddis, Tesfahun:

Farming on the edge: Landscapes and work ethics in the highlands of northern Ethiopia. (Verne)

Hernández, Elena:

Helfende und Hilfe-Empfänger. Humandifferenzierung zwischen Solidarität und Sortierung in Portugal. (Drotbohm)

Hohl, Christopher:

The other white body in past and present: Shifting representations of albinism, 1520–2020. (Krings)

Jákli, Daniel:

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

Mentrup, Theresa:

Sedimentierungen der Fürsorge. Aushandlungen von Berechtigung und Verantwortlichkeit nach dem Dambruch von Brumadinho (Brasilien). (Drotbohm)

Molter, Céline:

The Oberammergau Passion Play in the global context of christian theming. (Bierschenk)

Neubauer, Inès:

Kommodifizierung von Elektroschrott in Agbogbloshie, Ghana – Informelle Akteure im Transit. (Röschenthaler)

Obi, John Bessong:

Comedians' search for livelihood: A study of jokes ownership and protection in Nigerian stand-up comedy. (Röschenthaler)

Oldorff, Gisèle:

Agaciro aushandeln. Selbstbestimmung und Würde in den Zukunftsentwürfen junger Menschen in Ruanda. (Fay)

Radermacher, Theresa:

Das gelebte Asylverfahren in einer Aufnahmeeinrichtung für Asylsuchende. Interaktionen zwischen den beteiligten Akteuren. (Drotbohm)

Reichl, Elena Maria:

Helfende und Hilfe-Empfänger. Humandifferenzierung zwischen Solidarität und Sortierung in Brasilien. (Drotbohm)

Scheibinger, Lena:

Gesammelte Beziehungen. Transkulturelle Rückbindung eines (post-)kolonialen Sammlungs- und Archivbestands aus dem kongolesischen Regenwald. (Krings)

Simmert, Tom:

Creating Afrobeats – Digital music from Lagos to the world. (Krings)

Wolter, Nele:

Constructing livelihoods: Making a living among older Cameroonians in times of crisis. (Drotbohm)

African Languages and Linguistics

Knipping, Jan:

A study of drinks and drinking as processes of human differentiation in Uganda. (Nassenstein)

Kunzmann, Janika:

A grammar of Mbum, an Adamawa language of Northern Cameroon. (Nassenstein)

Saleh, Artemis:

The re-invention of womxn: Queer(ing) Nigerian media cultures and the anthropology of relatability. (Nassenstein)

Vigeland, Friederike:

A polylectal grammar of Nungurama/Longuda (Adamawa, North-Eastern Nigeria). (Kastenholz)

Wockelmann, Deborah:

Sociolinguistics of migration: Creative language practices in Kinyarwanda. (Nassenstein)

PH.D. RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

Geschke, Janis (Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung, doctoral scholarship)

Jákli, Daniel (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes, doctoral scholarship)

Knipping, Jan (DAAD, field research scholarship; Sulzmann Foundation, field research scholarship)

Kunzmann, Janika (Gutenberg Graduate School of the Humanities and Social Sciences, exposé scholarship)

Oldorff, Gisèle (Sulzmann Foundation, field research scholarship)



Semiotic Landscape of alcohol wholesale boxes in Kikuubo, the main business road of Kampala. Photo: Jan Knipping.

ACTIVITIES

Conferences organized by faculty members

7–8 February, Ouagadougou

“De la collecte à la création”

Workshop organized by **Katrin Lange-wiesche** and **Alice Degorce**

The second workshop of the research project “Religious diversity and traditions in Burkina Faso: historical and current issues” (DivTrad_BF) continued to explore the notions of “tradition” and “traditional religion” in their aesthetic, artistic and anthropological dimensions. The aim was to take a closer look on how artists and researchers collect data on intangible phenomena perceived as traditional: Dances, tales, rituals, music, first names.



Workshop “De la collecte à la création”, Ouagadougou.
Photo: Harouna Marané.

11–14 April, London

“Children, violence, and political ethnography: Moving beyond systemic critique”

Panel convened by **Franziska Fay** and **Caitlin Procter**, Conference of the Association of Social Anthropologists.

19–24 April, Amorbach

Nico Nassenstein co-organized a spring school “**Soy así!**” (with Anne Storch and Angelika Mietzner, University of Cologne) mainly for PhD candidates and some external scholars from the universities of Frankfurt, Basel, Tobago and also Puerto Rico on critical (self-)reflections and “being oneself” in academia. Jan Knipping and Deborah Wockelmann, both Ph.D. students at the ifeas, also participated in the spring school.

24–27 May, Tennessee-Knoxville

“African crossings in online spaces: Global transmissions and transmutations of African (popular) culture and arts through digital media”

Panel convened by **Izue Nwankwo** at the 48th Annual Meeting of the African Literature Association (ALA).

30 May, Cologne

Nico Nassenstein co-organized a conference panel “**Tourism and the future – performances, expectations and resistance**” at the ECAS conference (African Futures), together with Angelika Mietzner, Cassandra Gerber and Janna Perbix.

31 May to 3 June, Cologne

“The present future: Prospects and constraints of African artistic creativity in digital media”

Panel convened by **Izuu Nwankwo** and **Daria Tunca** (University of Liège, Belgium) at the European Conference on African Studies (ECAS).

1 June, Cologne

“Futures of African textile and fashion markets”

Panel (2 sessions) at the European Conferences on African Studies (ECAS), convened by **Kristin Kastner** and **Ute Röschenthaler**



Handwoven striped shirt, northern Ghana, National Museum Accra. Photo: Ute Röschenthaler.



Rehabilitating the family cemetery: a practice of remembrance. Hamile, Ghana, December 2016. Photo: Carola Lentz.

1 June, Cologne

“Family memory and African futures”

Panel convened by **Carola Lentz** and **Isidore Lobnibe** at the European Conference on African Studies “African Futures”.

The panel brought together researchers from Africa and Europe studying changing motivations and practices of remembering family histories in Africa. Remembering family history – drawing up genealogies and chronicles, organizing family events, preserving objects and houses as vestiges of the past and many more – is an important force in binding the family together and shaping its future. The family seems to remain an attractive framework for organizing belonging and togetherness not least because of its capacity to embrace transethnic, transnational and transreligious relations. The panel explored how family practices shape the family members’ visions of possible and desirable futures. Furthermore, the case studies presented on family practices of remembering in different African countries addressed the role of memory for family cohesion (or conflict), and the relation between family memory and other forms and scopes of memory making such as national or “ethnic” politics of memory.

14 June, online

Follow-up workshop to the ECAS panel **“The future of textile and fashion markets in Africa”**

Convened by **Kristin Kastner** and **Ute Röschenthaler**.

21–22 June, Mainz

“Re- and decentering migration in studies of human categorization”

Workshop convened by **Heike Drotbohm** and **Franziska Reiffen** during the Summer School “Telling people apart: Sorting, grouping and distinguishing”, organized by the CRC 1482 “Studies in human differentiation” at JGU Mainz.

In migration research and in the social sciences in general, the appropriateness of established units of analysis, such as nation-states, ethnic groups, and migrants, has been called into question. In the workshop, the participants, of whom some but not all conducted research on migration-related topics, discussed how migration intersects with other forms of social differentiation. The participants practiced both a decentering and a recentering approach: When discussing migration-related research perspectives, they employed a decentering perspective to highlight muted mobility categories that played a role alongside migration. When discussing non-migration-centered research projects, they discussed which migration and mobility related dimensions had possibly been overlooked. In both cases participants were interested in understanding the entanglement and power dynamics between migration, im/mobilities and other forms of human differentiation.

22–23 June, Mainz

Nico Nassenstein held a workshop **“Translanguaging, switching, mixing, fluid language use – communication across (ethno)linguistic boundaries”** at the summer school “Telling people apart” of the CRC 1482 “Studies in human differentiation”.

11 July, Brussels

Nico Nassenstein co-organized a conference panel (with Carsten Levisen, Roskilde) **“Magical speech acts”** at the International Pragmatics Conference (IPRA).

25–28 July, Munich

“The politics of (post-)truth: Knowledge-making in fragmented worlds of mis/trust”

Workshop at DGSKA conference 2023 “Contested knowledge: Anthropological perspectives”, convened by **Heike Drotbohm** and **Olaf Zenker** (Martin-Luther-University Halle Wittenberg).

A spectre is haunting modernity at large – the spectre of “post-truth” and “alternative facts”. Knowledge formations have always been politically challenged and enriched by dissenting voices pointing towards unfitting facts and divergent interpretations, occasionally leading to paradigmatic revolutions. In recent decades, modern science as the sole provider of certain knowledge has also been profoundly offended from within by post-positivist and post-modern provocations, assembling projects within philosophy, cultural studies, feminism, science and technology studies (STS) and anthropology. What makes our contemporary moment different is, arguably, that such forms of profound scepticisms have now entered the political mainstream of many societies. As many observers have noted, the material and infrastructural standards of evidence-making and expertise-building seem to have profoundly changed within many sectors of society. In this process, the very possibility of knowledge as sufficiently reliable and integrative despite all contestations has been severely challenged. Against this backdrop, this workshop brought together contributors to empirically engage and theoretically reflect upon the politics of (post-)truth regarding three interrelated questions: first, which political processes do underpin the making, and safe-guarding, of concrete knowledge formations under conditions of increasingly fragmented and mutually mistrusting epistemic communities? Second, which political modalities are enabled, and undermined, by such epistemic mis/trust? And, third, what political role(s) can anthropological knowledge-making play under such conditions?

25–28 July, Munich

“(Counter)public contestations: Feminist theorizing for anthropological ethics”

Panel convened by **Franziska Fay** and **Mario Schmidt**, German Anthropological Association Conference 2023.

27 July, Munich

“Contested sounds: Post-colonial encounters, representation and appropriation in music”

Workshop organized by **Lisa Johnson** (University of Trier/Saarland University) and **Hauke Dorsch** with presenters Tom Simmert (Mainz), Rashid Jeduah (Milano, Mainz), Wolfgang Kempf (Göttingen) and Ingrid Kummels (Berlin) at the bi-annual conference of the DGSKA.



Impression from the Munich conference. Photo: Hauke Dorsch.

12–14 September, Lagos

“Afrobeats: Digital encounters and the global mainstreaming of African popular music”

International conference convened by **Matthias Krings**, **Patrick Oloko**, **Ute Röschenthaler**, **Artemis Saleh**, and **Tom Simmert**, funded by CEDITRAA, ZIS and Thyssen Foundation.

The conference explored contemporary African popular music in a moment of increased global exposition via digital media, specifically for West African “Afrobeats”. Attendees discussed the inner-African dynamics of music production, their conditions and audiovisual languages, focusing on various dimensions including their socio-political context, global influences, digital presence, and cultural exchanges, shedding light on the complexities and nuances that shape contemporary African music, and delving into the intricate interplay between globalized cultural production, digital innovation, and the meanings of popular culture in the current age. Presentations further delved into the utilization of digital technologies by musicians and fans, examined the influence of the Nigerian music scene on artists in other African and non-African regions, and scrutinized the role of digital technologies and global platforms for the entrepreneurial endeavors of African musicians.



Participants of the Afrobeats conference. Photo: Maluchi Chukwuemeka.

5 October, Paris

“Les arts de la scène en recherche-cr  ation”

Conference organized by **Alice Degorce**, **Aurore Desgranges** and **Katrin Langewiesche**, Campus Condorcet, Centre de colloques, Paris.

Graffiti LaFleuJ, Ouagadougou 2022.
Photo: Katrin Langewiesche.



6 October, Bonn

“Digitale Umzüge und Portale: Chancen und Herausforderungen der Dekolonisierung von Wissensarchitekturen (Datenbanken)” [Digital migrations and portals: opportunities and challenges of the decolonization of knowledge architectures (databases)]

Panel convened by **Judith Blume** und **Sebastian Burger** (Coordination of the collections at Goethe University Frankfurt), **Lisa Roemer** (Coordinator of the university collections at Mainz University) und **Anna-Maria Brandstetter**

Annual Conference of the University Collection in Germany 2023 – “Sammlungen in Bewegung. Chancen und Herausforderungen von analogen und digitalen Umzügen”, at the University of Bonn (5–7 October)

After a short introduction on “Event-based provenance identification in the CCC portal” by Romy Köhler, who has worked as a researcher for the project “Collections from Colonial Contexts” (CCC) of the German Digital Library until the end of 2023, and a presentation of the databases at the universities in Mainz and Frankfurt, we explored together with the workshop participants various questions regarding the naming of fields in the data field catalogue and the identification of provenance events with regard to extractions from colonial contexts.

12 October, Darmstadt

"This memes war?"

Workshop organized by **Konstanze N'Guessan** with the Schader Foundation

On 12 October, Konstanze N'Guessan co-organized the practical workshop "This memes war?" with the Schader Foundation in Darmstadt in order to present initial results of the interdisciplinary research project MISRIK (Memes, ideas, strategies of right-wing extremist internet communication) and plan their transfer into primary prevention, police training and democratic education. Participants were given the opportunity to contribute to the ongoing research process and join in the development of innovative formats of transfer-oriented civil security research. In December, the results of that first practice conference were reviewed and reworked to be presented and discussed at the 10th Symposium of the European Security Research Programme in Brussels.



Presenting the “Meme-ory” at the Symposium of the European Security Research Programme in Brussels. Photo: Kai Denker.



Practice conference “This memes war?”, Schader Foundation, 12 October, 2023, Photo: Leonie Mainka.

9–11 November, Göttingen

“Disentangling the multiplicity of crises: Im/mobilities and uncertainties beyond perceptions of emergency”

Third network meeting of DFG-funded network “Migration and im/mobilities in the Global South in pandemic times”, organized by **Heike Drotbohm**.

Crisis talk has seeped deep into our daily conversations, with this ubiquitousness accompanied by new discursive, affective and political complexities. Pandemic crisis, economic crisis, political crisis, humanitarian crisis, refugee crisis, climate crisis, food crisis, energy crisis, housing crisis, human rights crisis. To capture the newness of these most recent configurations, we speak of a series of overlapping and interrelated crises, multiply and continuously unfolding, also using notions of “intersecting” crises (Dowler 2020) and “polycrisis” (Tooze 2022). According to this renewed understanding, the central problem is not the futility of political solutions that focus on a single cause. Instead, it is their extreme complexity, their nonlinearity, transboundary causality, and the emergence of new and deep uncertainties.

As migration scholars, we have long viewed crisis talk with great scepticism. Several scholars have questioned the political framings that result in certain conditions and temporalities being constructed as “crisis” when related to migration phenomena. While crisis can certainly be considered an initiator of migration, the conceptual linkage between migration and crisis denies the everydayness and ordinariness of human mobility and non-territorial forms of belonging. Above all, the notion of “migration crisis” ignores the overriding interest of states in controlling crossborder movements and the political unwillingness to recognize the scale of violence and suffering induced by border extension, detention and deportation. At the same time, however, we cannot ignore that “the crisis” is also a significant empirical reality of our contemporary moment. Despite an array of valid critiques, we should not abandon the concept but instead use it as a productive heuristic method to better understand the context-specific experiences and evaluations of current transformation processes and their impact on local, regional and transnational mobility dynamics. In light of recent developments, we can observe how newly emerging events and the dramatic nature of their uncertainties (whether the pandemic, wars, scarcity or natural disasters) vie for our attention and how they displace those developments previously marked as crises. Given the substantial volatility of the current situation, we also become aware of the relativity of assessment and the arbitrariness of normality.

Following the plea to demigrantize migration research, we came together to disentangle the multiple layers and temporalities of urgency and uncertainty in chosen settings. While migration may eventually be part of the perception of exceptionality and hardship, we considered the intersection of im/mobilities with classed, gendered and racialized differences in these environments and also provide insights into the socio-economic antecedents of the transformations of societies. Although we understand the crisis as an event understood to disrupt coherence and augment uncertainties for the prospects of the future by breaking down the usual order of things, the notion also invited us to move beyond perceptions of emergency and explore the hardships of the ordinary from an empirical perspective. In doing so, we contributed to a timely counter-discourse about the diversity of human perception in confrontation with difficulties and harm. Ultimately, each crisis is different. Utilizing our empirical case studies, we explored the experiences of time and the politics of exception to understand how crises transform or cascade with different modalities, intensities and temporalities.

1 December, Mainz

“Reconfiguring language preservation and protecting language-related social practices and spaces”

International workshop convened by **Franziska Fay** and **Nico Nassenstein**, ZIS working group Linguistic Anthropology/Anthropological Linguistics.

Franziska Fay and Nico Nassenstein organized an international workshop (funded by ZIS) “Reconfiguring language preservation and protecting language-related social practices and spaces”, inviting colleagues working on language documentation, protection, preservation of language in linguistic anthropology and related fields. The one-day workshop results will lead to a publication in the book series “Anthropological Linguistics” with De Gruyter Mouton.

RECONFIGURING LANGUAGE
**PRESERVATION
& PROTECTING**
LANGUAGE-RELATED SOCIAL
PRACTICES AND SPACES



01 December 2023, JGU Mainz
Forum 6, H814 (Ludwig), 9:00 – 18:00
SECOND INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP
of the research group “Anthropological Linguistics / Linguistic Anthropology” (2015)
Organized by: **PROF. DR. FRANZISKA FAY**
PROF. DR. NICO NASSENSTEIN
Department of Anthropology and African Studies

ZIS Zentrum für Interkulturelle Studien Mainz JOHANNES GUTENBERG UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ JGU



Workshop participants. Photo: Andrea Hollington.

Other events organized by faculty members

15 April, Mainz

All institutions in Mainz that are currently conducting provenance research invited to a panel discussion entitled “Looted, exchanged, traded” at the Landesmuseum Mainz of Generaldirektion Kulturelles Erbe (GDKE) to present various topics of provenance research in the context of the 5th International Day of Provenance Research. Moderated by Marie-Christine Werner from SWR (Südwestrundfunk), the participants in the panel discussion gave a comprehensive insight into their current research projects in the fields of Nazi-looted art and post-colonial provenance research in archaeology and cultural anthropology. Dorothee Glawe took part on behalf of the Landesmuseum Mainz with the topic “Systematische Prüfung der Erwerbungen der Gemäldegalerie und des AltertumsMuseums der Stadt Mainz in den Jahren 1933–1945”. Nathalie Neumann from the Department of Art History and Musicology at Johannes Gutenberg University and Prof. Adam Ganz, media scholar at Royal Holloway University, London, dealt with the “Rekonstruktion und Lokalisierung der privaten Kunstsammlung des Teppichhändlers Felix Ganz (1869–1944), Inhaber der Firma Ludwig Ganz AG aus Mainz”. Anna Georgiev and Dr. Jörg Drauschke from the Leibniz Centre for Archaeology (LEIZA) presented the project “Das Glas vom Gleis – Archäologie der Bagdadbahn unter kolonialen Vorzeichen”, and **Anna-Maria Brandstetter** presented provenance research at the Ethnographic Study Collection using the example of the trader Adolf Diehl (1870–1943), who worked for colonial trading and plantation companies in Cameroon (see also: <https://www.swr.de/swraktuell/rheinland-pfalz/mainz/podiumsdiskussion-zu-raubkunst-forschung-102.html>).

8 May, Mainz

Inauguration of the Leo Stappers Archive (LSA), organized by **Nico Nassenstein** and **Anna-Maria Brandstetter**, with talks by Mpunga wa Ilunga (Université de Mbujimayi) and Michael Meeuwis (Universiteit Gent), followed by a guided tour through the archive by Janika Kunzmann.

The Leo Stappers Archive (LSA), which unites the research library of the first Professor (1919–1977) of African Philology at JGU Mainz and archival holdings of the missionaries Camille François Van Ronslé (1862–1938), Egide de Boeck (1875–1944) and a former employee of the Department of Anthropology and African Studies (Hans-Ingolf Weier), provides access to unique manuscripts and grammars of languages of the Congo Basin, dating back to the 1890s, with a special focus on the Kasai region.

Leo-Stappers-Archiv (LSA)

mit **Vorträgen** von Dr. Mpunga wa Ilunga (Université de Mbujimayi) & Prof. Dr. Michael Meeuwis (Universiteit Gent)

Führung mit Janika Kunzmann M.A. und **Umtrunk** im Anschluss

08.05.2023 | 18:30 Uhr
Kleiner Übungsraum, Forum 6, JGU Mainz

Alle Interessierten sind herzlich willkommen!
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Eröffnung

Das Leo-Stappers-Archiv, das die Forschungsbibliothek des ersten Professors (1919–1977) für Afrikanische Philologie an der JGU Mainz sowie weitere Archivbestände der Missionare Camille François Van Ronslé (1862–1938), Egide de Boeck (1875–1944) sowie eines ehemaligen Mitarbeiters des Instituts für Ethnologie und Afrikanistik (Hans-Ingolf Weier) in sich vereint, bietet Zugang zu einzigartigen Manuskripten und Grammatiken über Sprachen des Kongobeckens aus den Jahren 1890–1980 mit einem Fokus auf der Kasai-Region.

Mahamadi Ouédraogo and **Katrin Langewiesche** organized travelling exhibitions in the villages of Koalla, Kelegum and Rouko in Burkina Faso in May, October and December.



Koalla village. Photos: Harouna Marané.

In June/July, **Tom Simmert**, **Hauke Dorsch** and **Artemis Saleh** launched the Artists in Residence program at the African Music Archives. Invited and financed by CEDITRAA, the two musicians Nonku Phiri (South Africa) and Sharon Onyango-Obbo (Uganda/Kenya) spent four weeks at the AMA, during which they familiarized themselves with the collection and used the digitized archive holdings to create new pieces under the motto “AMA Remix”. Together with Dembo and Sally Jobarteh (Gambia), they performed these in front of a large audience at a final concert at the Bali Bistro. **Tesfahun Haddis** accompanied their stay and the performances with a camera to make a film about the project.



AMA Remix. Photo: Heike Drotbohm.

On July 21, **Hauke Dorsch** and **Tom Simmert** served as DJs for the party after the concert of Dembo and Sally Jobarteh and the AMA Artists in Residence 2023, Nonku Phiri and Sharon Onyango Obbo.

Marlène Harles, curatorial assistant at Kunsthalle Mainz, Jonas Engelmann, Deputy Regional Office Manager Rhineland-Palatinate, Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung Rheinland-Pfalz, and **Anna-Maria Brandstetter** developed the tours “Mainz – Postcolonial.” Research for the tours by Niclas Wolff-Jung, B.A. student of anthropology in Mainz, was funded by the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung. The tours for and through the Mainzer Neustadt intend to give people in Mainz a new, different access to (their) city. The goal is to show that Mainz was involved in colonialism, to make its traces visible, and to sensitize people for its continuing effects. The term “postcolonial” refers to the fact that colonialism is not merely a past era of conquest. It is a system of power, oppression, and exploitation whose structures exert influence on our present lives. In the Mainzer Neustadt, there are numerous examples, from street and place names such as Sömmerringplatz and Adenauer-Ufer to Mainzer Zollhafen, that the participants of the tours critically explored together. The exhibition “Unextractable: Sammy Baloji invites” at the Kunsthalle Mainz (27 October 2023 – 11 February 2024) was the context for developing this tour. In his artistic practice, Sammy Baloji deals with colonial relations between the Democratic Republic of Congo through themes such as extractivism, economic exploitation, raw material extraction, but also archives and collections in European museums. The idea was to move this topic out of the Kunsthalle – via walks in the neighborhood of the Mainzer Neustadt.



Tour in January 2023. Photo: A. Brandstetter.

Lectures, media appearances and other activities by individual faculty members

Bianca Baumann

- 09/2023 "The exhibition 'Change of perspective' and some challenges involved in decolonizing exhibitions. A personal account". Paper presented at Point Sud Workshop "Decolonising the public space in Germany and its former African colonies: Memory, civil society and the arts", Stias, Stellenbosch (29 September).

Jan Beek

- 01/2023 "Die Sicht der Dinge: Deutungen von Polizist*innen und Bürger*innen auf polizeiliches Handeln". Paper presented at the Police headquarters Mainz theme day (24 January).
- 11/2023 "Rassifizierungen und andere Unterscheidungen im polizeilichen Alltag in Deutschland". Lecture at the workshop "Racial profiling", HöMS Mühlheim (16 November).
- 11/2023 "Feiernde Jugendliche, Anwohner*innen und Sicherheitsakteure: Konflikte um den öffentlichen Raum". Paper presented at the WBZ Seminar Migrationsgeographien, Fridtjof-Nansen-Akademie Ingelheim (21 November).

Thomas Bierschenk

- 02/2023 Interview for the television documentary "Fasnacht – Noch immer Männersache?/Carnival – still a man's affair?" by Maja Hattesen, broadcast by Südwestradio/SWR (27 February) (<https://www.ardmediathek.de/video/bekannt-im-land/fastnacht-noch-immer-maennersache/swr-rp/Y3JpZDovL3N3ci5kZS9hZXgybzE4MTAzOTQ>).
- 03/2023 "Anthropology meets criminology: Policing as practice of categorization". Lecture at the University of Bournemouth (23 March).
- 07/2023 Member of panel on "Consequences for (trans)regional research" at the network meeting "Limits of the development paradigm: Sustainability and postcoloniality as challenges", Justus Liebig University Giessen (7 July).
- 07/2023 "Ethnologie und Entwicklung in Deutschland. Eine Geschichte der Gegenwart". Paper presented in the panel "Historische und aktuelle Wissensproduktion und -vermittlung in der Ethnologie", Conference of the German Association of Social and Cultural Anthropology (GASCA), Munich (28 July).
- 09/2023 "Wer auch immer im Niger an der Macht ist – die ökonomischen Aussichten des Landes sind düster/Whoever is in power in Niger, the country's economic prospects are bleak". Published as "Schuldgefühle sind nicht angebracht/Feeling guilty is not appropriate", Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung/FAZ online (7 September) (<https://www.faz.net/aktuell/politik/putsche-in-afrika-welche-schuld-der-westen-traegt-19151967.html>).
- 11/2023 "Policing race, ethnicity and culture. Ethnographic perspectives across Europe". Lecture at the workshop "Racial profiling", Hessische Hochschule für öffentliches Management und Sicherheit (HöMS), Wiesbaden (16 November).

Anna-Maria Brandstetter

- 02/2023 (with Barbara Henning) "Muslime in der französischen Besatzungsarmee in Mainz nach dem Ersten Weltkrieg. Eine Spurensuche". Paper presented as part of the lecture series "Beten in Mainz: Religion als Herausforderung in der Geschichte der Stadt", organized by Nina Gallion and Johannes Lipps and the profile area "40,000 years of human challenges" (8 February).
- 05/2023 Input at the web talk "Ruanda: Wie funktioniert Versöhnung nach dem Völkermord?", part of a series of digital events "Learn@Lunch: Frieden. Entwicklung. Wandel", organized by the Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung Baden-Württemberg, Engagement Global and Servicestelle Friedensbildung der Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Baden-Württemberg (25 May).
- 06/2023 "Eine Welt steht Kopf? Rwanda zu Beginn des letzten Jahrhunderts". Paper presented at Völkerkunde?Museum Zürich as part of the program of the exhibition "Hochzeitsreise? 5 Fragen an die 'Sammlung Hans Paasche' aus Ostafrika" / "Honeymoon? 5 Questions on the 'Hans Paasche Collection' from East Africa" (22 June).
- 07/2023 "Raubkunst". Presentation at Otto Schott Gymnasium OSG and guided tour of the Ethnographic Collection for students from the OSG as part of the project week "Global Days" at OSG (11 & 13 July).
- 10/2023 "Alltag in Ruanda" and "Erinnern an den Genozid gegen die Tutsi". Presentations at the benefit evening "Ruanda – 52 Breitengrade entfernt", organized by the Ruandapartnerschaft Mainz-Finthen and Förderverein Evangelische Kirche Finthen (20 October).

Hauke Dorsch

- 03/2023 "Global meets local – Some reflections on heading an African music archive in Germany". Paper presented at Tohono O'odham Community College, Tohono O'odham Nation, Arizona, USA (29 March).
- 05/2023 "The African Music Archives at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz". Paper presented at the workshop "The persistence of Eurocentric high/low divisions. A global perspective on the subtle politics of (un-)popular musics", University of Siegen (22 May).
- 06/2023 "Afrikanische Jazzmusiker*innen und ihre Werke". Presentation at Jazzmusiktage, Nierstein (30 June).
- 09/2023 "From 'Yékéyéké' to 'Love Nwantiti': Popular music of the Mande world and its global transfers". Paper presented at the CEDITRAA conference "Afrobeats – digital encounters and the global mainstreaming of African popular music", University of Lagos (13 September).
- 12/2023 "Wann machen Griots Pop, wann Folk, wann Klassik? Zur Popularisierung einer höfischen westafrikanischen Musik". Paper presented at the CRC plenary session, CRC 1472 "Transformationen des Populären", University of Siegen (14 December).

Heike Drotbohm

- 10/2023 "Care and reunification in a Cape Verdean family – changing articulations of kin and legal ties". Paper presented at the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA), Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS) (17 October).

Franziska Fay

- 04/2023 “‘There could be an endless ocean’: Gender, generation and the (Swahili) seas in Lubaina Himid’s political painting”, Invited talk at the Association for art history annual conference, IOE University College London, UK, (12–14 April).
- 05/2023 “Parenting, interrupted”. Invited discussant at the conference “Affecting parenting politics: Critical perspectives on the global standardization of childcare”, Paper presented at Freie Universität (FU) Berlin (4–6 May).
- 06/2023 [Interview with Franziska Fay about her book *Disputing Discipline: Child Protection, Punishment and Piety in Zanzibar Schools*](#). The Childhood, Law & Policy Network (CLPN) (5 June).
- 11/2023 heute journal up:date, Commentary on Abdulrazak Gurnahs Schillerrede from 12 November 2023. [“Gedanken über Kolonialismus - Literatur-Nobelpreisträger in Marbach”](#) (13 November).
- 12/2023 “Feministische Öffentlichkeiten und politischer Wandel in Tansania“. Public lecture in the series “JGenderU: Intersektionale Perspektiven auf Gender und Körper”, JGU Mainz (4 December).
- 12/2023 “The Indian Ocean as feminist aesthetic space: Thinking with Lubaina Himid’s contemporary practice”. Invited talk at the conference “Colorful threads – the interwoven worlds of art and culture in the Western Indian Ocean”, The Africa Institute, Sharjah, UAE (14–15 December).

Bakar Abdul-Rashid Jeduah

- 01/2023 “Korean Afrobeats: ‘Haters will call it culture appropriation’”. Paper presented at the CEDI-TRAA seminar, Mainz (13 January).
- 05/2023 “Afrobeats on TikTok: From the margins to the global space”. Paper presented at the European Conference on African Studies (ECAS), Cologne (31 May–3 June).
- 07/2023 (with Tom Simmert) “Debating the ethics of ownership and appropriation in global digital Afrobeats culture”. Paper presented at the German Anthropology Association (DGSKA) Conference, Munich (25–28 July).
- 08/2023 Interview for Globalwize Radioshow: “An African presence”. Special introduction to Afrobeats by Kathrin Thomas (3 August). (<https://www.greedyforbestmusic.com/greedio/globalwize-radioshow-428/>).
- 09/2023 “Global Afrobeats fandom and Korean social media dancers”. Paper presented at the conference “Afrobeats: Digital encounters and the global mainstreaming of African popular music”, University of Lagos, Nigeria (12–14 September).
- 10/2023 “Afrobeats on TikTok: Spreadability through dance memes”. Paper presented at the symposium “Afrobeats lower frequencies of contemporary African sounds”, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, online (20–21 October).

Cassio Kilian

- 07/2023 “Aesthetics of the raw: The tricky relationship between humour and authenticity”. Paper presented at DGSKA/GAA Conference 2023 in Munich (27 July).

Jan Knipping

- 08/2023 "Names and their sociocultural and performative functions among Acholi speakers". Paper presented at the 16th Nilo Saharan linguistics colloquium, Nairobi (29 August–1 September).

Matthias Krings

- 07/2023 Discussant at "In Hallyu we trust? Revisiting 'soft power' in the new world order of cultural production". Panel IV, Asia Forum, Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt (6–7 July).
"N-Wort, O-Wort, A-Wort? Hautfarbe-basierte kategoriale Adressierungen im Vergleich". Paper presented at the plenary session of CRC "Studies in human differentiation", JGU, Mainz (14 July).
- 09/2023 "The global mainstreaming of Afrobeats". Introduction to the conference "Afrobeats: Digital encounters and the global mainstreaming of African popular music", Lagos (12–14 September).

Janika Kunzmann

- 05/2023 "Nominal composition and derivation in Mbum (Adamawa)". Paper presented at the Afrika-nist*innentag, Leipzig (5 May).
"ATR-harmonische Muster im Mbum (Adamawa, Kamerun)". Paper presented at the conference Vielfaltslinguistik 5, Hamburg (19 May).
- 09/2023 (with Sören Zimmermann) "Form and function of reduplication in Mbum (Nganha and Ngoundéré)". Paper presented at the 2nd Adamawa Conference, Paris (13 September).
- 11/2023 "What is Mbum and what is not? Addressing multi- and translingualism in the creation of a reference grammar". Paper presented at the international workshop "A new perspective on descriptive linguistics in Africa based on the translingual ecology" at the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (4 November).
"Mbum (Adamawa, Cameroon) in areal contact: Salient segmental phonological features". Paper presented at the 1st Osaka Contact Linguistics Colloquium, Osaka University (6 November).

Katrin Langewiesche

- 02/2023 (with Mahamadi Ouédraogo) "Manières de collecter, manières de collaborer. Une enquête ethnographique autour des buguba". Paper presented at the Workshop II, DivTrad_BF, Ouagadougou (8 February).
- 10/2023 (with Alice Degorce and Aurore Desgranges) "Traditions et créations. Collaborations entre recherche, théâtre, contes et arts visuels au Burkina Faso". Paper presented in Paris (10 October).

Carola Lentz

- 01/2023 "Aus der Wissenschaft in die Kulturpolitik. Eine Ethnologin als Präsidentin des Goethe-Instituts". Paper presented at the departmental colloquium, Department of Anthropology and African Studies, Mainz (10 January).
- 03/2023 "Erinnerung und koloniales Vergessen in Deutschland und Spanien". Public talk with Tania Safura Adam, Goethe-Institut Barcelona (6 March).
- 06/2023 (with Isidore Lobnibe) "Exploring African family history, memory practices, and visions of the future". Paper presented in the panel "Family memory and African futures" at the European Conference on African Studies (ECAS), Cologne (1 June).
- "Die Zukunft der Akademie". Paper presented at the members' meeting of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Berlin (16 June).
- "Gründerlegenden, Familiengeheimnisse und eine neugierige Ethnologin. Afrikanische Familienerinnerungen im Wandel". Paper presented at the Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften, Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Berlin (17 June).
- "Life course, work, and labour in global history: a book presentation". Paper presented at the final conference of Re:Work International Centre "Work and lifecycle in global history", Humboldt University Berlin (22 June).
- 07/2023 "Goethe – Kultur – Zeitenwende. Ein ethnologisches Mittagsgespräch". Lunchtalk with Andrea Behrends and Michael Schönhuth at the conference of the German Association of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Munich (26 July).
- 09/2023 "Vom Kulturexport zum globalen Netzwerk. Eine Geschichte des Goethe-Instituts von 1951 bis heute". Paper presented at the Turkish-German University, Istanbul (19 September).
- 10/2023 "Wie, wo und warum machen wir Kulturaustausch? Paper presented at a public symposium at the Institut français Mainz (12 October).
- "Quo vadis, Goethe-Institut?" Book presentation and public talk at the bookstore Nimmerland, Mainz (13 October).
- "Dekolonisierungstheater? Perspektiven auf eine (post)koloniale Erinnerungskultur". Participation in a public panel at the Frankfurt Book Fair (21 October).
- 11/2023 "Giftiges Erbe – brauchen wir einen Kanon? Über den Umgang mit Klassikern". Participation in a forum at the Literaturfest Munich (18 November).

Nico Nassenstein

- 06/2023 "Performances of fluidity among migrating Kinyarwanda-Kirundi speakers: Camouflage, accommodation, languaging". Paper presented at the LOEWE conference "Language, society & identity in diverse ethnolinguistic contexts", Goethe University Frankfurt (9–10 June).
- 07/2023 Discussant at "In Hallyu we trust? Revisiting 'soft power' in the new world order of cultural production". Asia Forum, Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt (6–7 July).
- "Luba magic, missionary projects, and bringing words back to life in the archives". Paper presented at the IPRA conference, Brussels (11 July).
- (with Mpunga wa Ilunga) "The archive as magical semiotic landscape: Luba life stories, missionary collections, and secret treasures the university basement". Paper presented at the international workshop "Hidden, sacred and magical semiotic landscapes: Interdisciplinary perspectives", Lorsch (19–21 July).

- 08/2023 (with John Doldo IV) "Some observations on "Kinyabwishya" (Kinyarwanda-Kirundi, Bantu JD.60)". Talk presented at the Colloquium of African languages and linguistics, Universiteit Leiden (28–30 August).
- (with Andrea Hollington, Hannah Gibson and Colin Reilly) "Microvariationist perspectives on young people's Lubumbashi Swahili (Kiswahili kya mu Lubumbashi)". Paper presented at the Colloquium of African languages and linguistics, Universiteit Leiden (28–30 August).
- (with Mpunga wa Ilunga) "Sur la position des suffixes pronominaux d'objet en cilubà dans le contexte du changement linguistique actuel". Paper presented at the Colloquium of African languages and linguistics, Universiteit Leiden (28–30 August).
- 11/2023 "The role of Lingala in Eastern Congo's Swahili ecologies and young speakers' language repertoires (Goma/Lubumbashi)". Paper presented at the international workshop "A new perspective on descriptive linguistics in Africa based on the translingual ecology" at the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (4 November).
- "Language contact and missionary interventions in the first half of the 20th century at Yakusu Station: Early Swahili sources and the development of 'Union (Ki)ngwana' in the Congo". Paper presented at the 1st Osaka Contact Linguistics Colloquium, Osaka University (6 November).
- "Zur Rolle der Anthropologischen Linguistik in der Erforschung komplexer Kontexte von Sprachkontakt und sprachlicher Variation in Zentralafrika". Inaugural lecture as part of the appointment to the W2 Professorship of African Languages and Linguistics, JGU Mainz (11 November).
- "A brief history of 'Union (Ki)ngwana' in the Congo: Language standardization and Bible translations". Paper presented at Baraza conference, SOAS London (18 November).
- 12/2023 (with Mpunga wa Ilunga) "Voix résonnantes des archives missionnaires : ethnopoétiques Luba et redécouvertes / Resonating voices from missionary archives: Luba ethnopoetics and rediscoveries". Paper presented at the institute's colloquium, Institut für Afrikanistik, University of Cologne (6 December).
- (with Dilek Dizdar) "Ethnolinguale Humandifferenzierung im Grenzverkehr und in asylrelevanten Kontexten". Paper presented at the plenary session of the CRC 1482 "Studies in human differentiation" (15 December).

Konstanze N'Guessan

- 02/2023 "Die wollen nur spielen!? – Trolling, shitposting und Spiel in der metapolitischen Praxis rechter Internetkulturen. Einblicke in ein ethnografisches Forschungsprojekt". Paper presented at the conference MOTRA-K #2023, Hochschule Fresenius, Wiesbaden (28 February).
- 06/2023 "Aktiv werden gegen Rechtsextremismus und Rassismus: was können WIR tun?" Closing discussion of the workshop "In Hessen aktiv gegen Rechtsextremismus und Rassismus", Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Hanau (1 June).
- "What is a woman? Ethnographic perspectives on uncertainty, trolling and far right metapolitics". Paper presented at the SIEF 16th congress, Brno (8 June).
- 07/2023 (with Vincent Knopp): "(Extrem) rechte Vergemeinschaftung online: Einblicke in die Empirie", Paper presented at the Ring lecture "Digitaler Faschismus", TU Darmstadt (10 July).
- "Memetopolitics. Ethnographic perspectives on far-right meme practice". Paper presented at the DGSKA biannual meeting, Munich (27 July).

- 10/2023 "Parapolitisches Trolling – Ethische und methodologische Fragen rund um rechtsextremistische Diskurse, Bilder, Akteur*innen". Workshop at the practice conference "This memes war? Meme, Ideen, Strategien rechtsextremistischer Internetkommunikation", Darmstadt (12 July).
- 11/2023 "Rassismus, Rassifizierung, Kultur? Ethnologische Begriffsbestimmungen". Paper presented at the conference "Rassismus macht krank". Stiftung für die internationalen Wochen gegen Rassismus, Frankfurt a. M. (18 November).

Izuu Nwankwo

- 02/2023 "African stand-up humour in transcultural sites: How laughter travels across difference". Paper presented at the 29th Australian Humour Studies Network (AHSN) Conference, available online at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaBvRA_n7hU (7 February).
- 06/2023 "African crossings in online spaces: Global transmissions and transmutations of African (popular) culture and arts through digital media". Paper presented at the European Conferences on African Studies (ECAS), Cologne (2–5 June).
- "How laughter travels across difference: African stand-up humour in transcultural sites". Paper presented at ALA 2023, Chicago (22–27 June).

Anja Oed

- 09/2023 "Schwarzer Orpheus meets Comic-Kunst: Janheinz Jahn und die Jahn-Bibliothek für afrikanische Literaturen im Licht von Ib Zongos grafischer Biografie". Lecture followed by a tour of the Jahn Library. Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Rheinland-Pfalz, Mainz (12 September).

Elena Reichl

- 03/2023 "'Sobre Deus e socialismo': Alívio à fome em tempos de polarização política no Brasil". Paper presented at the University of Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil (31 March).

Franziska Reifen

- 04/2023 "Beyond migrant exceptionalism: fragile emplacements in Buenos Aires". Paper presented in the workshop "Migrant.e.s, expats ou acteur.ices mobiles? Repenser les migrations", Goethe University Frankfurt (20 April).
- 07/2023 "Flexible walls: openings and closures in one of Buenos Aires' popular malls". Paper presented at the Conference of the German Anthropological Association (GAA), LMU Munich (27 July).

Ute Röschenthaler

- 03/2023 "Local meanings of global drinks: The example of Chinese green tea in Mali". Paper presented at the workshop "Global drinking" at Sandbjerg Manor, Denmark (17 March).
- 04/2023 "Africa and the global textile trade". Lecture at the Department of Anthropology, Université de Yaounde I, Cameroon (10 April).
- 05/2023 "African cultural entrepreneurs in Korea". Paper presented at the Michael Lounsbury Workshop on Cultural Entrepreneurship, organized by Cornelia Storz, Frankfurt (22 May).

Artemis Saleh

- 06/2023 "Possible worlds in African futurisms". Paper presented at the European Conferences on African Studies (ECAS), Cologne (1 June).
- 07/2023 "On trading safety for trust: Research between risks, trust and a body read as female". Paper presented at the DGSKA conference "Contested knowledge: Anthropological perspectives", Munich (28 July).

Tom Simmert

- 07/2023 "Globalwize # 430 African presence: African Music Archives pres. Nonku Phiri & Sharon Onyango-Obbo": <https://www.mixcloud.com/Greedio/globalwize-430-african-music-archives-pres-nonku-phiri-sharon-onyango-obbo/> (13 July).
- 10/2023 "Alté: Expanding the audiovisual repertoire of Afrobeats". Presentation at the conference "Afrobeats. Lower frequencies of contemporary African sounds" (20–21 October).
- 11/2023 "Zwischen TikTok und Musikindustrie: Tom Simmert erforscht Sound Memes". Interview with Deutschlandfunk "Corso": <https://www.deutschlandfunk.de/zwischen-tiktok-und-musikindustrie-tom-simmert-erforscht-sound-memes-dlf-57bc1a25-100.html> (16 November).

Friederike Vigeland

- 05/2023 "Tempus und Aspekt in Longuda – Ein vergleichender Ansatz". Paper presented at the conference Vielfaltslinguistik 5, Hamburg (19 May).
- 09/2023 "TAM in Longuda – A comparative approach". Paper presented at the 2nd Adamawa Conference, Paris (15 September).

Deborah Wockelmann

- 03/2023 "Repertoires, speakers, and their choices – Multilingual practices in Kampala, Uganda". Paper presented at the International Conference on Languages in Cultural Perspectives: Practices, Discourses, Cognition in Konin, Poland, online (27 March).
- 06/2023 "Venice embodied", Group presentation at the VIU Summer School on "Linguistic landscapes: Using signs and symbols to translate cities", Venice (30 June).
- 08/2023 "Practices of differentiation and linguistic choices in Kampala". Paper presented at the Language Association of Eastern Africa (LAEA) Conference, Kampala (15 August).
- 09/2023 "Linguistic landscapes in the city: Taxi inscriptions in Kampala". Paper presented at the 14th Linguistic landscape workshop (LL14), Madrid (8 September).
- 12/2023 "The implicit meanings of linguistic choices of speakers in Kampala". Paper presented at the research seminar, Institute for African Studies and Egyptology, University of Cologne (6 December).

Excursions and student field research

As part of the course “Project Seminar: Ethnographic Fieldwork”, **Anna-Maria Brandstetter** and **Franziska Reiffen** organized in May a guided tour of Mainz’s Neustadt neighborhood, where students conducted their own research projects. They also visited the exhibition “What is it like to be a bat?” in the Kunsthalle Mainz to address the possibilities and limits of perception and knowledge production.



Visit of the exhibition "What is it like to be a bat?" Photo: Franziska Reiffen.



Guided tour in Mainz Neustadt. Photo: Anna-Maria Brandstetter.

In July, **Anna-Maria Brandstetter** organized a guided tour of the exhibition “Healing. Leben im Gleichgewicht” in the Weltkulturen Museum Frankfurt. In the exhibition, international experts and artists from the fields of art, science and medicine presented their very personal stories, perspectives and strategies on how they resolve crises, create new balances and find answers for the future in global coexistence. The curators of the exhibition Mona Suhrbier and Alice Pawlik guided a group from the department and guests through the exhibition and explained how the exhibition developed out a close cooperation with their international partners.



Visit of the exhibition "Healing. Leben im Gleichgewicht" (Photo: Mona Suhrbier)

Excursion to the Weltkulturen Museum Frankfurt to visit the exhibition “BENIN: Die Sammlung im WKM. Retrospektive/ Perspektiven (Teil 2)” as part of the tutorial for the lecture series “Decolonising Anthropology”, 24 November. The group took part in a guided tour by Jeanne Nzakizabandi.



PUBLICATIONS AND EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES OF FACULTY MEMBERS

Monographs, edited books and special issues of journals

BEEK, JAN

(with Thomas Bierschenk, Annalena Kolloch, and Bernd Meyer) (eds.): *Policing Race, Ethnicity and Culture. Ethnographic Perspectives across Europe*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.

BIERSCHENK, THOMAS

(with Jan Beek, Annalena Kolloch, and Bernd Meyer) (eds.): *Policing Race, Ethnicity and Culture. Ethnographic Perspectives across Europe*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.

LENTZ, CAROLA

(with Josef Ehmer) (eds.): *Life Course, Work and Labour in Global History*. Berlin / Boston: De Gruyter / Oldenbourg.

KUNZMANN, JANIKA

(with Nico Nassenstein) (eds.): *Lingala: Current Topics / Sujets d'actualité*. Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe.

NASSENSTEIN, NICO

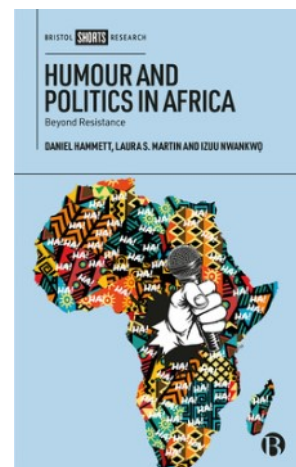
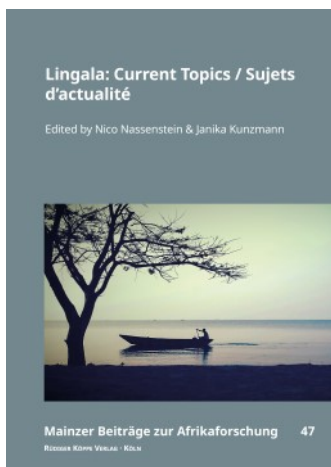
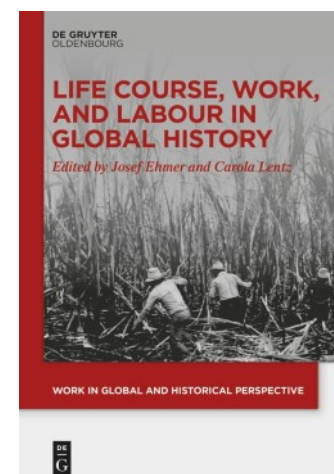
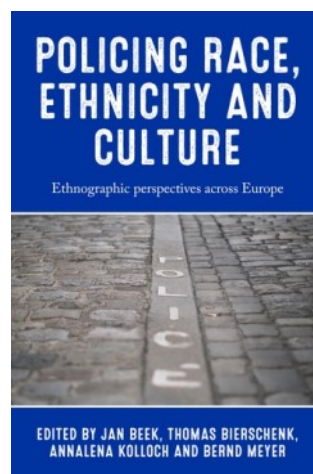
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NWANKWỌ, IZUU

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BEEK, JAN

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BAUMANN, BIANCA

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BIERSCHENK, THOMAS

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FAY, FRANZISKA

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NASSENSTEIN, NICO

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NWANKWỌ, IZUU

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N'GUESSAN, KONSTANZE

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REIFFEN, FRANZISKA

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RÖSCHENTHALER, UTE

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SIMMERT, TOM

(with Hauke Dorsch and Markus Verne) Beyond the dichotomy: Musical relations between Africa and the West in the 1980s. *Working Papers of the Department of Anthropology and African Studies of the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz* 205 (<https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/files/2023/12/205-Dorsch-Simmert-Verne-Beyond-the-Dichotomy.pdf>).

Editorial responsibilities

BIERSCHENK, THOMAS

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

DROTBOHM, HEIKE

Member of the editorial board of the *Zeitschrift für Ethnologie* (ZFE), *Journal of Social and Cultural Anthropology* (JSCA), Berlin (<https://www.jstor.org/journal/zeitethn>).

Member of the editorial board of the *Nordic Journal of Migration Research*, Helsinki (<https://journal-njmr.org/>).

Member of the editorial board of the book series *Women on the Move. Past and Present Perspectives*, Manchester University Press.

Member of the scientific council of the journal *Freiburger Zeitschrift für GeschlechterStudien* (fzg), Freiburg (<https://www.budrich-journals.de/index.php/fgs/index>).

Co-editor of the department's book series *Mainzer Beiträge zur Afrikaforschung* (<https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/publikationen-2/mainzer-beitraege-zur-afrikaforschung/>).

FAY, FRANZISKA

Book review editor of *Monsoon: Journal of the Indian Ocean Rim*, Duke University Press ([Monsoon | Duke University Press \(dukeupress.edu\)](https://monsoon.dukeupress.edu)).

Co-editor of the department's book series *Mainzer Beiträge zur Afrikaforschung* (<https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/publikationen-2/mainzer-beitraege-zur-afrikaforschung/>).

Board member of *The Mouth: Critical Studies on Language, Culture and Society* (<https://themouthjournal.com>).

JANIKA KUNZMANN

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

LANGEWIESCHE, KATRIN

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

NASSENSTEIN, NICO

Co-editor of the peer-reviewed journal *The Mouth: Critical Studies on Language, Culture and Society* (<https://themouthjournal.com>).

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

Series editor of *Anthropological Linguistics*, De Gruyter Mouton.

Co-editor of the department's book series *Mainzer Beiträge zur Afrikaforschung* (<https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/publikationen-2/mainzer-beitraege-zur-afrikaforschung/>).

Member of the editorial board of the journals *Sociolinguistic Studies*, *Anthropological Linguistics*, *International Journal of Language and Culture*.

N'GUESSAN, KONSTANZE

Member of the editorial board of the *Zeitschrift für Ethnologie* (ZFE), *Journal of Social and Cultural Anthropology* (ZFE|JSCA), Berlin (<https://www.jstor.org/journal/zeitethn>).

OED, ANJA

Managing editor of the department's book series *Mainzer Beiträge zur Afrikaforschung* (<https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/publikationen-2/mainzer-beitraege-zur-afrikaforschung/>).

VIGELAND, FRIEDERIKE

Managing editor of *Arbeitspapiere des Instituts für Ethnologie und Afrikastudien der Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz* / *Working Papers of the Department of Anthropology and African Studies, Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz* (<https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/publikationen-2/arbeitspapiere/>).

TEACHING AND RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

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 August and November 2023, Nico Nassenstein spent several weeks at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies in the context of collaborative research (e.g., the DFG-funded project on microvariation). Heike Drotbohm visited ILCAA in October 2023 and also gave a talk at the department. In 2023, the cooperation with TUFS could thus be strengthened both in the fields of African linguistics and social/cultural anthropology.

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)**. 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 been cooperating closely since 1985. In June 2011, Anna-Maria Brandstetter was appointed the coordinator of the university partnership. In June 2014, the agreement of scientific cooperation between the University of Rwanda and the JGU Mainz was renewed. Ever since, the partnership has facilitated exchange in research and teaching. Since April 2020, Gisèle Oldorff has been assisting Anna-Maria Brandstetter with the coordination of the partnership. For her dissertation project "Agaciro aushandeln. Selbstbestimmung und Würde in den Zukunftsentwürfen junger Absolvent:innen in Kigali", Gisèle Oldorff conducted two fieldtrips in Kigali. She travelled to Rwanda for one month in March 2023 and for four months in August 2023. In March 2023, Nico Nassenstein spent one week in Rwanda where he met with representatives of the Partnerschaftsverein Rheinland Pfalz/Ruanda e.V., with the academic partners at the University of Rwanda (together with Gisèle Oldorff), with key representatives of the Rwanda Cultural Heritage Academy (Inteko y'umuco) and the National Libraries of Rwanda, as well as with research partners as part of the ongoing collaborative work within the Collaborative Research Center 1482 "Studies in human differentiation". One B.A. student of our department spent several months at the University of Rwanda as exchange student in 2023.

Since 2017, an agreement of scientific cooperation between the **University of the Western Cape (UWC)** and the JGU Mainz has been in effect. The cooperation involves 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).

Furthermore, the department continues its cooperation with the **University of Namibia (UNAM)**.

The ifeas is a member of the **Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies (AEGIS)**, <http://www.aegis-eu.org>).

Members of the department maintain 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 also participates in the European exchange program **ERASMUS** and has established bilateral agreements with the following universities throughout Europe (<https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/studium/studieren-im-ausland-erasmus/>):

African Languages and Linguistics (Coordinator: Friederike Vigeland)

- Poland: University of Warsaw
- Belgium: Ghent University

Anthropology (Coordinator: Céline Molter; 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
- Portugal: Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Lisbon; Centro de Estudos Africanos CEA/ISCTE, Lisbon
- Spain: Universidad Complutense de Madrid; Universidad de Granada
- Sweden: Höskolan Dalarna
- Turkey: Isik Üniversitesi, Istanbul

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

For the exchange term in 2023/2024, three students of the department were nominated to study at the following partner universities: University of Granada and University Paris X, Nanterre.

RMU – Rhine-Main-Universities (<http://afrikaforschung-rheinmain.de/>)

Within the framework of the **Rhine-Main-Universities** alliance (RMU) of the Goethe University Frankfurt, the JGU Mainz, and Technical University Darmstadt the network “Afrikaforschung Rhein-Main” (Africa Research Rhine-Main) continues its work. It exchanges information on ongoing activities and encourages the development of new collaborative research initiatives with regard to Africa. Two departments of the Technical University Darmstadt, several departments and institutions of the JGU Mainz and of the Goethe University Frankfurt form part of this network. At ifeas, Matthias Krings represents the department in this initiative and coordinates the flow of information.

For further information see also <http://afrikaforschung-rheinmain.de/> or subscribe to the mailing list https://lists.uni-mainz.de/sympa/info/afrikaforschung_rmu.



FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

Incoming fellowships: Visiting scholars at the department

Visiting Ph.D. candidate (funded by the Gerda Henkel Foundation)

March 2022 – December 2023

Tesfahun Haddis Hailu

Mekelle University, Ethiopia

Tesfahun Haddis Hailu is a lecturer in the Department of Theatre Arts within the College of Social Sciences at Mekelle University, Ethiopia. In addition to his academic role, he is actively engaged as an ethnographic filmmaker and playwright.

Tesfahun has received a scholarship from the Gerda Henkel Foundation since 2022, initially for a two-year period, and has applied for a one-year extension to continue his ongoing research. His dissertation entitled “Farming on the edge: Ethnographic analysis of work ethic in the highlands of northern Ethiopia” focuses on the work ethic of traditional farmers in northern Ethiopia, where he also made an ethnographic film during his fieldwork.

The central focus of his research goes to the farmers of Awge, living in the district located in the north-eastern Tigray region of northern Ethiopia who inhabit a mountainous, semi-arid region with a wide altitudinal range on the edge of the East African Rift Valley along the Tigray-Eritrean border that descends into the Afar desert. This area is mainly characterized by steep slopes, rocky soils, stony ground, and limited water resources, which present significant challenges for farming.

Despite the harsh conditions, the farmers not only transform their challenging environment into fertile ground but also find purpose and meaning in their lives. The study exemplifies this through the story of a Tigrean couple, named Abraham and Sarah, along with their family and neighbors who have toiled for years to turn the rugged slopes into farming fields, showcasing how resilience and hard work contribute not only to livelihoods but also to a sense of purpose and meaning in their endeavors.

Visiting Ph.D. candidate

October 2022 – March 2023

Bakar Abdul-Rashid Jeduah

Universities of Milan and Turin, Italy

Bakar Abdul-Rashid Jeduah is a Ph.D. candidate on the Sociology and Methodology of Social Research program, under the Network for the Advancement of Social and Political Studies (Nasp), run together by the University of Milan and the University of Turin. He is visiting under the supervision of Matthias Krings. His research is titled “Afrobeats cultures on social media: Transnational flows, self-presentation, and appropriation.” The study is at the intersection of social media practices and African popular music. It aims at mapping the transnational flow of Afrobeats on social media platforms, especially TikTok, by examining how Afrobeats informs engagement on the platform, and how platform specific practices in turn foster the transnational flow of Afrobeats. It also focuses on the role of Africans in shaping the transnational flow within this global mediascape; how identities are constructed and presented through the creation of, and engagement with, Afrobeats content; as well as the discussions of Afrobeats appropriation in other parts of the world, specifically South Korea. The study further seeks to contribute methodologically to the exploration of digital African cultures through the use of digital methods.

Visiting scholar (cooperation program with Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro)

March–September 2023

Nathália Antonucci Fonseca

She is a doctoral student in Public Health in the area of Human Sciences and Health at the Institute of Social Medicine Hésio Cordeiro (IMS/UERJ) specializing in Gender and Sexuality at the Latin American Centre for Sexuality and Human Rights (CLAM). Her doctoral research investigates a set of affective regularities/irregularities that take part in encounters between Venezuelan migrants and refugee government agents in Rio. During her stay in Mainz, she presented her work in one of Heike Drotbohm's colloquium sessions and shared ideas about the development of some chapters. Receiving feedback and exchanging bibliographical references enriched her work and raised new questions.

Visiting scholar (funded by the Sulzmann Foundation, University of Mainz)

April 2023

Rachel Mariembe

Head of the Department of Heritage and Museum Studies at the Institute of Fine Art of the University of Douala at Nkongsamba, Senior Lecturer at The Institute of Fine Art

As an archaeologist, curator and museologist, she is head of the cultural heritage inventory of seventeen kingdoms in West Cameroon. She was associate curator of the Route des Chefferies exhibition that took place at the Quai Branly Jacques-Chirac Museum "On the Road to Chiefdoms of Cameroon: The Visible and the Invisible" (5 April – 17 July 2022). She was a guest at the department in order to further develop cooperation in research on cultural artifacts from Cameroon in the Mainz collection and in collaborative teaching projects.

Visiting scholar (funded by the Sulzmann Foundation, University of Mainz)

May–June 2023

James Ogone

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, Kenya

James Ogone is a Senior Lecturer in Literary and Cultural Studies at the Department of Languages, Literary and Communication Studies of JOOUST, Kenya. He was hosted by ifeas with funding from the Sulzmann Foundation Fellowship program in May/June, 2023. Ogone presented a paper at a panel chaired by scholars from the University of Mainz during the ECAS 2023 conference held at the University of Cologne. He also presented a paper at a workshop on popular visual media at the University of Cologne. Ogone regularly participated in departmental seminars and consultative meetings at ifeas during which he exchanged ideas with colleagues on the common research theme of popular digital cultures.

Visiting scholar (funded by CEDITRAA / Federal Ministry of Education and Research)

June 2023

James Yékú

University of Kansas, USA

James Yékú is an assistant professor in the Department of African and African American Studies at the University of Kansas. He joined the ifeas on a CEDITRAA fellowship for four weeks in June 2023. During his stay, he worked on his ongoing manuscript on the algorithmic politics of social media commentary discourses on censorship and African literary controversies. He participated actively in several lively discussions with ifeas members both at the ECAS conference in Cologne and in Mainz, presenting his work in the weekly seminar series of the Department of Anthropology and African Studies, on 20 June 2023. His talk which highlighted the role of algorithms in shaping digital platforms and fostering outrage within literary conversations generated some excellent responses from the ifeas colleagues present. James Yékú is currently an Alexander von Humboldt fellow at the Humboldt University of Berlin.

Visiting scholar (funded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation)

July–December 2023

David Barasa

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, Kenya

David Barasa is a Senior Lecturer and Coordinator for Research and Publications at the Department of Language and Literature Education, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, Kenya. He is an Alexander von Humboldt Experienced Research Fellow from 1 July to 31 December 2023. David is hosted by Nico Nassenstein, and his project is titled, “Omuse burial ritual: An inventory of the Tachoni linguistic practices for the dead”. The project establishes how the communicative behavior is manifested in the Omuse burial ritual, the relevance of the particular linguistic code used in the ritual and the relationship of this particular communicative event with other acts performed by Olutachoni speakers. The project’s theoretical contribution is centered around “situated discourse”, that is, the linguistic performance as the locus of relationship between language and socio-cultural order. Since the intention is to work toward the ethnography of communication, the methodology used in this project is heavily based around ethnographic principles, essentially drawn from anthropology.

M.A. AND B.A. THESES

M.A. theses submitted in 2023

Scheibinger, Lena:

Vom Wissen der Dinge. Zum Verhältnis von ethnografischen Sammelpraktiken und ethnologischer Theoriebildung in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland nach 1945. (Krings)

B.A. theses submitted in 2023

Backes, Laura

Grandy Nanny und Jeanne d'Arc als Nationalheldinnen – Weibliche Rollenverhältnisse und Widerstand im Kontext von Nationenbildungen. (Dorsch)

Bünning, Tim Luca

Pflege im Wandel. Die Notwendigkeit transkultureller Pflege in einem deutschen Krankenhaus. (Kilian)

Gehrmann, Anna

Staatliche Selbstdarstellung und Nation Building in der goldenen Parade der Pharaonen - Skizze einer ägyptischen Nationalordnung. (Fay)

Göttlicher, Ronja Miriam

(Sprach)Bilder in einer postkolonialen Welt – Der Begriff "Entwicklung" im Weltwärts-Programm. (Dorsch)

Hußmann, Paul Eckhart Heinrich

Zur Bedeutung von Cannabis in Indien – Anhand zweier historischer Schlüsselmomente, Shiva und Bezügen zum "aktuellen indischen Diskurs". (Dorsch)

Krämer, Katharina Luisa

*Verletzlichkeit anerkennen – Zur sexualisierten Gewalt an Feldforscher*innen.* (Brandstetter)

Minger, Elaina

Dancing Bodies Dancing Gender – Geschlecht im Gesellschaftstanz. (Brandstetter)

Rinneberg, Sylvie

Die Frage nach Authentizität: (Neo-)Schamanismus in Deutschland heute. (Dorsch)

Schramm, Johanna

Dekoloniale und ökologische Politik für ein gutes Leben. Eine Betrachtung des Buen Vivir nach der ontologischen Wende in der Ethnologie. (Kilian)

Thiebaut, Jasmin

*Die Generation als Differenzmarkierung bei brasilianischen Migrant*innen in Portugal.* (Drotbohm)

Zonker, Johanna Katharina

Medizinischer Pluralismus, Gesundheitssystem und Traditionelle Medizin in Ruanda. (Brandstetter)

STUDENT STATISTICS

In the winter semester of 2023/2024, the Department of Anthropology and African Studies had 345 students in total, including students enrolled in one of the B.A. or M.A. programs as well as numerous Ph.D. students.

B.A. programs

In the winter semester of 2023/2024, 264 students were enrolled for the B.A. in Anthropology ("Ethnologie"). Of these, 95 were studying it as their major subject ("Kernfach") while 169 were studying it as their minor subject ("Beifach").

In the winter semester of 2023/2024, 58 B.A. students were enrolled in their first semester (12 with Anthropology as their major and 46 with Anthropology as a minor).

In the winter semester of 2023/2024, 53 students were enrolled for the B.A. in African Languages, Media and Communication ("Afrikanische Sprachen, Medien und Kommunikation"). Of these, 19 were studying it as their major subject while 34 were studying it as their minor subject.

In the winter semester of 2023/2024, 12 B.A. students were enrolled in their first semester (3 with African Languages, Media and Communication as their major and 9 as their minor subject).

11 students finished their B.A. in 2023.

M.A. program

In the winter semester of 2023/24, 28 students were enrolled in the M.A. program in Anthropology ("Ethnologie des Globalen" / "Anthropology of the Global").

One student finished her M.A. in 2023.

Ph.D. program

In 2023, 26 Ph.D. students were studying for a Ph.D. at the department. For a full list of the Ph.D. projects completed in 2023 and students currently studying for a Ph.D. at the department, see pp. 31–32.



Ernst Wilhelm Müller (1925–2013), professor at the department until 1986, established this foundation in his last will and testament in order to support projects of the African Music Archives, the Ethnographic Collection, and the Jahn Library for African Literatures.

Ernst Wilhelm Müller was closely connected with the department for many years. In 1948 he enrolled at the JGU to study cultural and social anthropology (Ethnologie) as well as African languages and linguistics (Afrikanistik). Afterwards, he became a doctoral student at the department and participated in one of the first German field research trips of the post-war period, the so-called “Mainzer Kongo-Expedition”, which took him to the former Belgian Congo (1952–1953). Following his Ph.D., he took up posts as lecturer (1956–1958) and, eventually, as full professor at the department (1969–1986).

From his student days, throughout his academic career and until the end of his life Ernst Wilhelm Müller felt a very strong attachment to the department’s major three collections.

In 2023, the foundation continued its successful support for different research projects (<https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/ewms/>):

- 01/2023 – 03/2024 Digitization of objects from the Ethnographic Collection originating from colonial contexts (Continuation of the project started in June 2021).
- 04/2023 Performance by and discussion with South African composer, musicologist and cello player Thokozani Mhlambi.

- 04/2023 – 05/2023 “Werkstatt Provenienzforschung – Objekte aus Kamerun in der Ethnografischen Studiensammlung” (“Lab Provenance Research – Objects from Cameroon in the Ethnographic Collection”) in the exhibition space “Schule des Sehens” on the campus of the University of Mainz (19 April – 16 May 2023) (co-funded by the Department of Anthropology and African Studies and the Schule des Sehens)
- 04/2023 Workshop “Provenienzforschung an Objekten aus Kamerun – und wie weiter?” (“Provenance research on objects from Cameroon – and what next?”) held on 21 April 2023 with 13 participants from Germany and Cameroon
- 07/2023 Fee and travelling costs for performers Dembo and Sally Jobarteh
- 07/2023 – 09/2023 Digitization of 97 Old Treasures from First Australian peoples in the Ethnographic Collection
- 10/2023 Production of three panels for the AMA-Lounge
- 10/2023 – 11/2023 Digitization of 23 objects from the Ekonda Bolia collected during the field work by Dr Erika Sulzmann and Ernst Wilhelm Müller in the Belgian Congo 1951–1954
- 11/2023 Interview with African Popular Music producer Günter Gretz and film-maker Tesfahun Haddis



Ernst Wilhelm Müller was given this staff when he participated as a doctoral student in the “Mainzer Kongo-Expedition” (1951–1954) led by Dr Erika Sulzmann. This staff of dignity *ensina* was mainly used by older men among the Ekonda in the Congo. It is a particular honor that Ernst Wilhelm Müller, although still a young man, was given this staff. Photo: Stefan Schmitt (Wiesbaden).