

Johannes Gutenberg-Universität (JGU) Mainz

Johannes Gutenberg University (JGU) Mainz

Fachbereich 07 – Geschichts- und Kulturwissenschaften

Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies

Institut für Ethnologie und Afrikastudien
Department of Anthropology and African Studies



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Fachbereich 07 – Geschichts- und Kulturwissenschaften

Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz

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GENERAL INFORMATION

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

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INTRODUCTION

In 2024, academic and social life in the Department of Anthropology and African Studies (ifeas) was as busy as ever. On 16 February, the department organised a memorable farewell conference entitled “Dealing with Heritage. On Things, Relations, Remembering” in honor of Dr Anna-Maria Brandstetter. Anne, who retired at the end of March, has served the department in a variety of roles over the past 30 years. She was a lecturer, curator of the ethnographic collection, and director of studies. Her decades of dedication to the department were celebrated in a festive gathering that brought together current and former students and colleagues from a range of fields, including anthropology of things, museum studies and memory studies. In June, the 4th edition of the Anthropology of Music Master Class and Lecture Series was hosted by Prof Markus Verne and his team. This year, the Summer School was graced by Prof Martin Stokes (King’s College, London), who gave three lectures on “Listening Beyond Landscape: Music Ethnography and the Environmental Turn”. The end of the Summer School was marked by the African Music Archive’s Summer Party with fantastic performances by Ade Bantu and his band and Temmie Owasa, the 2024 AMA Artist in Residence. The international workshop “Music and Politics: Hidden Messages” took place at the African Music Archives in November. Organized by the BMBF-funded project KOSTIMA, which focuses on “counter-hegemonic voices in music archives”, the workshop aimed to develop a common ground for the three sub-projects involved (Mainz, Hannover, Hildesheim). The ifeas team, whose research focuses on Congolese popular music and its hidden political messages, consists of Dr Hauke Dorsch, Antonia Fendt, and Prof Nico Nassenstein. The end of the year was marked by the symposium “Sorting People into Kinds: Perspectives on Human Differentiation”, organized by the CRC Human Differentiation, which hosts three subprojects led by members of our department. This major event took place from 5 to 7 December and featured internationally renowned keynote speakers Anthony Appiah (NYU), Alondra Nelson (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton), Loïc Wacquant (UC Berkeley) and Eviatar Zerubavel (Rutgers University).

“Policing as a Practice of Categorisation” is the title of a new research project funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Dr Jan Beek and his team, consisting of Prof Thomas Bierschenk and Rachel Etse, want to understand how actors categorize each other in everyday policing interactions, i.e. in control and surveillance actions in public spaces, and what effects the respective categories have on the interactions. Prof Heike Drotbohm represents the ifeas in the Leibniz ScienceCampus RECOMENT, which was inaugurated in 2024. This initiative deals with “Resiliencies: Comparing and Integrating Methodologies, Methods, Narratives, and Theories” and will prepare an application for a Collaborative Research Centre within the next few years. The interdisciplinary research group CEDITRAA, jointly led by colleagues from GU Frankfurt and our department, has received a new grant from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) to continue its research on “Cultural Entrepreneurship and Digital Transformation in Africa and Asia” for another three years. The sub-project in Mainz is led by Prof Matthias Krings and includes Prof Nassenstein, Dr Rashid Jeduah, Artemis Saleh, Dr Tom Simmert and Dr Usaku Wamanda. Four research projects were successfully completed: “Microvariation and Youth Language Practices in Africa” (funded jointly by the DFG and the British Arts and Humanities Research Council, AHRC), “Cinema Narration in East Africa” (funded by the Thyssen Foundation), “PAMRIK - Practice, Affect, Membership of Far Right Internet Communication” (funded by the BMBF) and “Religious Diversity and Tradition in Burkina Faso” (funded jointly by the DFG and the French National Research Agency, ARN).

Several members of staff and former students received awards, prizes and honorary appointments of various kinds: Dr Franziska Reiffen received the dissertation prize from the Faculty of History and Cultural Studies for her thesis “The Social Life of the Mall: Work and Dwelling in Urban Argentina”. Dr Tom Simmert’s dissertation “Creating Afrobeats: Digital Music from Lagos to the World” was awarded the Sulzmann

Foundation Prize for Outstanding Dissertations. Prof Drotbohm was invited by the Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (UERJ) to spend October 2024 as a visiting professor in Rio, Brazil, where she taught “Marcadores Sociais da Diferença”. Thérèse Kayikwamba Wagner, who completed her Master’s degree in Anthropology at our department in 2009, was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Congo in May 2024.

Once again, our department proved to be one of JGU’s most important hubs for international connections and exchanges. At the beginning of the year, Prof Franziska Fay arranged the signing of a new MoU with the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. In April, Prof Fay was appointed as the new coordinator of JGU’s partnership with Rwanda. In this capacity, she facilitated the renewal of the MoU between JGU and the University of Rwanda, which was signed by JGU Vice President Prof Stefan Müller-Stach in the presence of Prof Charles Kabwete, Dean of the School of Governance, Development and Society, University of Rwanda. On 29 October, our department and the State Chancellery of Rhineland-Palatinate jointly hosted a screening of the film “Reclaiming History: Colonial Roots of the Genocide in Rwanda” at the State Chancellery.

Among the numerous international visitors who came to the department as guests, collaborators, and fellows were Prof Ibrahima Wane (Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar), Prof Léon Tsambu (Université de Kinshasa), Élie Mbemba Musengi and Richard Ntaka Bosenge (Musées Universitaires de Kinshasa), Prof Paul Ugor (University of Waterloo), Dr. Usaku Wammanda (Pan Atlantic University Lagos), Dr Natália Corazza Padovani (Universidade de Campinas, Brazil), Dr Jean Paul Ngoboka and Prof Charles Kabwete (University of Rwanda), Prof Daisuke Shinagawa and Dr Makoto Furumoto (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies), Dr Rowland Amaefula (Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike, Nigeria), the griots Dembo Jobarteh and his daughter Sally Jobarteh from The Gambia, the singer and songwriter Temmie Owasa from Nigeria, and the poet, musician, and songwriter 1key (Eric Ngangare) from Rwanda.

The department was joined by new staff members Corinna di Stefano, Rachel Etse, Antonia Fendt, Jan Knipping, Dr Jeannett Martin, and Britta Will. Among the staff members who left the department to take up new positions elsewhere were Şebnem Altunkaya, who moved to the USA, Dr Andrea Hollington, now at the University of Cologne, Dr Cassis Kilian, now at GU Frankfurt, Dr Franziska Reiffen, now at the Studienstiftung, Bonn, Friederike Vigeland, who became the coordinator of municipal development for the city of Ingelheim, and Dr Solomon Waliaula, who resumed his duties as Associate Professor of Literature at Masai Maara University, Kenya.

Our dear colleague Prof Ute Rösenthaller passed away on 18 March 2024. With Ute’s passing, we have lost an outstanding scholar whose extensive body of work encompasses books and articles in the fields of economic, legal, social and media anthropology, as well as memory culture and migration studies. These include internationally acclaimed studies of cult associations in Cameroon (“Purchasing Culture”), intellectual property rights in Africa (“Copyright Africa”), trade networks in the global South (“Africa’s Agency in China’s Tea Trade”, “A History of Mali’s National Drink”), various facets of African entrepreneurship, product histories, advertising and photography. As an accomplished ethnographer, she worked in Cameroon, Mali and Nigeria, and her transregional research took her to China, Malaysia and South Korea. Among the many doctoral students she has supervised in Mainz, Frankfurt and Yaoundé are students from Germany, Cameroon and Nigeria. The Department of Anthropology and African Studies and the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at GU Frankfurt organized a memorial for Ute on 2 June 2024. Her final DFG-funded research project, “African Traders’ Agency on Global Cloth Markets”, continues under the leadership of Dr Jeannett Martin, who joined the Department in October.

Matthias Krings
Head of Department
February 2025

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, **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" 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)

<https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/ethnologie-b-a-ab-2022-23-aktuell/>

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)

<https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/studium/studiengaenge/ethnologie-des-globalen-m-a/>

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/>).

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 editors: Friederike Vigeland (till February), Martin Büdel (since March 2024). In 2024, 5 new working papers were published:

Cassis Kilian. Aesthetics of the Raw. The Tricky Relationship between Humour and Authenticity. *Papers of the Department of Anthropology and African Studies of the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz* 206.

Leo Sibomana, John Doldo IV and Matthias Brack. Kinyarwanda. An Integrative Approach. *Papers of the Department of Anthropology and African Studies of the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz* 207.

Ulrich Kleinewillinghöfer. Die Gëmmе- und die Vere-Sprachen und das Lõŋto. Klassensprachen des Samba-Duru am oberen Benue und ihre Beziehungen zum Gur. Ein Bericht (with an English preface and appendix). *Papers of the Department of Anthropology and African Studies of the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz* 208.

Konstanze N'Guessan. Only Playing? Ethnographic Perspectives on ludic fascism in Germany. *Papers of the Department of Anthropology and African Studies of the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz* 209.

Heike Drotbohm. Shake it, stretch it, share it. Moving Reflexivities beyond Migration. *Papers of the Department of Anthropology and African Studies of the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz* 210.

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** (<https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/archive-am-institut-fuer-ethnologie-und-afrikastudien/videoarchiv/>) 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://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/archive-am-institut-fuer-ethnologie-und-afrikastudien/online-bildarchiv-afrikanische-unabhaengigkeitsfeiern/>), 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** (<https://www.blogs.uni-mainz.de/fb07-ifeas-eng/departmental-archives/archive-west-african-settlement-history/>) 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, Egide de Boeck and former colleague Hans-Ingolf Weier.
- Since 1 November 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 acknowledgement 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 December 2024, the Jahn Library organised a public screening of the film “Eine Kindheit in Nigeria: Wole Soyinka. Ein Film von Vera Botterbusch mit und über Wole Soyinka” (Germany 2000) in the presence of the filmmaker, followed by a discussion. The event was funded by the Ernst-Wilhelm-Müller Foundation.



Veranstalter:
Jahn-Bibliothek
für afrikanische Literaturen
Institut für Ethnologie und Afrikastudien
Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz

Eine Kindheit in Nigeria Wole Soyinka

Ein Film von Vera Botterbusch mit und über Wole Soyinka

Wole Soyinka – Schriftsteller, Humanist, Freiheitskämpfer und Umweltaktivist – wurde 1986 als erster Afrikaner mit dem Nobelpreis für Literatur ausgezeichnet. Der Film erzählt von seiner Kindheit in Nigeria, die Soyinka mit viel Humor in seiner Autobiographie *Aké* beschrieben hat. Für die Dreharbeiten kehrte Soyinka 1999 aus dem amerikanischen Exil an Orte seiner Kindheit in Nigeria zurück.

Der Film (45 Min., BR 2000) wird in Anwesenheit der Regisseurin erstmalig in Mainz gezeigt. Mit anschließender Diskussion.

Montag, 9. Dezember 2024
18:00 (s.t.)
Infobox
Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz
Jakob-Welder-Weg 9
Eintritt frei, ohne Anmeldung.

Mit finanzieller Unterstützung der Ernst-Wilhelm-Müller-Stiftung

ifeas Institut für Ethnologie und Afrikastudien



Public screening. Photo: Sophia Wimmer.

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.

In 2024, the AMA organized a number of exciting concerts. On 16 and 17 February, Rwandan poet and rapper, Eric 1key Ngangare performed at the Bali Bistro on campus and as a closing event for Anne Brandstetter's farewell conference – and at Hafeneck. He used the archives for re-imaginings of his style of hip hop in the framework of our recently established Artist in Residence program. On 5 June, the Malagasy jazz band Ralah' Trio performed at the Schon Schön in Mainz, organized by Martin Büdel and the AMA. As part of our Artists in Residence program, Nigerian composer, songwriter and singer Temmie Ovwasa researched the archives for four weeks and played a set based on re-imagined historical recordings on 28 June. Following her performance the Nigerian Band Bantu gave their concert, promoting their latest album "What Is Your Breaking Point?" Closing the evening Tom Simmert and Hauke Dorsch served again as DJs. On 17 July, kora virtuoso Dembo Jobarteh performed music from the traditional Mandinka repertoire and spoke about performing both in West Africa and the Global North as part of Hauke Dorsch's class on performance theory. The happy ones who attended South African musician and artist Garth Erasmus' experimental and intense concert on 12 December saw a true highlight of this year's cultural activities. Except 1key's, all performances were funded by the Ernst Wilhelm Müller Foundation.

In order to reach out to audiences beyond Mainz, journalist and music producer Jean Trouillet and Hauke Dorsch continued their successful collaborative program in the frame of the Globalwize music show on Radio X, Frankfurt. The shows included an interview with famous novelist Ilija Trojanow, the recording of Eric 1key's live performance on campus, an interview with Tanzanian professor Imani Sanga, an introduction to African music history, a new format which will be followed by many more shows, an obituary to Malian kora master Toumani Diabaté, an introduction to African American political songs by Ifeas student Kathrin Thomas, and an interview of Anti-Apartheid activist and jazz producer Jürgen Leinhos. The shows are available on mixcloud.com/Greedio (nos. 441, 447, 449, 454, 457, 459, 461 and 464, respectively).

Human rights lawyer Anafee Fränznick and visual artist Benjamin Dobó researched our collections for the use in their trans media project "Struggle of fragments". The AMA's collection was hugely extended through the acquisition of Zambian shellac and acetate records and some donations to the archives.



Stefan Schneider, Carina Khorkhordina, Garth Erasmus and Peter Thiessen performing at the AMA lounge. Photo: Hauke Dorsch.

Ethnographic Collection

Dr. Erika Sulzmann started the department's ethnographic collections in 1950 (<https://www.blogs.uni-mainz.de/fb07-ifeas-eng/ethnographic-collection/>). 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 her eight 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. Anna-Maria Brandstetter was the curator of the Ethnographic Collection from 1992 to March 2024. From April to June 2024, Lena Scheibinger was in charge of the collection. In July 2024, Bianca Baumann took over the responsibility for the collection.

In 2024 we welcomed many visitors to the collection, among others students from other departments of Mainz university and guests at our department, and visited museums to exchange about the collections.

As part of the three-day program "Transmission through Transformation" at Kunsthalle Mainz (25–27 January), some of the participating artists and scholars visited the Ethnographic Collection on 26 January, where they discussed the cultural belongings and archival materials, as well as the field work of Erika Sulzmann in the 1950s in the former Belgian colony of Congo.



From left to right: Sarah van Lamsweerde, Esther Mugambi, Franck Moka, Mosalizi Nizar Saleh, Anne Brandstetter, Lena Scheibinger, Fundi Mwamba Gustave, Isaac Sahani Dato and Marlène Harles. Photo: Sarah van Lamsweerde.



From left to right: Franck Moka, Emmanuelle Nsunda, Marlène Harles, Esther Mugambi, Mosalizi Nizar Saleh, Anne Brandstetter and Lena Scheibinger. Photo: Isaac Sahani Dato.

As part of the Global Days at the Otto Schott Gymnasium in Mainz, a group of students visited the Ethnographic Collection in July. The group learned about the methods of provenance research by examining cultural objects translocated from Cameroon during the colonial period and took a closer look at the biographies of individual objects. The practical workshop was complemented by thematic contributions on various translocation contexts and current restitution debates.



From left to right: Élie Mbemba Musengi, Richard Ntaka Bosenge and Lena Scheibinger. Photo: Bianca Baumann.

From 18 to 22 November, Richard Ntaka Bosenge and Élie Mbemba Musengi, curators and researchers at the Ethnographic Department of the University Museums of the University of Kinshasa, were invited to view the Ethnographic Collection. The focus of their visit was to discuss cultural artefacts that Erika Sulzmann acquired during her research trips to the Democratic Republic of Congo. Following the visit to the collection, a transfer of knowledge between the departments was agreed upon.

On 2 December, Bianca Baumann and Anna-Maria Brandstetter welcomed the participants of the seminar “Interdisziplinär I: (Post-)koloniale Medienkulturen Imperiale Sammlungen, Spuren und Reste in Archiven und Museen” (winter term 2024/25) by Mona Wischhoff to a visit to the collection. Mona Wischhoff is a doctoral researcher and lecturer in Media and Culture Studies at the university of Mainz. On the basis of two royal treasures from the kingdom of Nso' in Cameroon and the Old Treasures of the First Australian peoples, they illustrated what ethnological provenance research entails.



From left to right: Anna-Maria Brandstetter and Bianca Baumann. Photo: Mona Wischhoff.

In June, Anna-Maria Brandstetter organized a visit of the exhibition “Der Hase ist des Jägers Tod — Kultur und Natur des südlichen Afrikas” (21 March 2024 — 2 February 2025) in the Museum Wiesbaden. The curator of the exhibition, Andy Reymann (provenance researcher, coordinator for the Hessian network), and Yvonne Finzler (research associate at Museum Wiesbaden) explained how the exhibition had been developed and guided Bianca Baumann, Anna-Maria Brandstetter, Lena Scheibinger, Victoria Stein and Hanna Jotzo through the two sections on nature and culture (4 June).

In July, Bianca Baumann, Anna-Maria Brandstetter, Axel Brandstetter, Lena Scheibinger and Niclas Wolff-Jung visited the exhibition “Stuttgart – Afghanistan: connect – recount – encounter” (27 January – 28 July) at the Linden-Museum Stuttgart. The exhibition, curated by Annette Krämer (Orient department), “tells of the multi-layered connections between Stuttgart, Germany and Afghanistan” (exhibition website). The exhibition also displayed cultural objects that had been acquired during the Stuttgart Badakhshan expedition of 1962/63. Some of the objects were intended for the Ethnographic Collection in Mainz and were later given to the Linden-Museum in exchange in 1971. During the in-depth tour of the exhibition, Annette Krämer explained how the exhibition was developed in close collaboration with the working group “Entangled: Stuttgart – Afghanistan” since 2019 (10 July).

A cultural object from the collection played a prominent role in an exhibition at the Kunsthalle Mainz: a copper cross, most likely from the Katanga region, was on display at the exhibition “Unextractable: Sammy Baloji invites” from 27 October 2023 to 11 February 2024.

Copper cross, by a craftsman not known to us today, probably Katanga region (Democratic Republic of the Congo), c. 1900 / purchased in 1979 by Erika Sulzmann in Butálá, a village on the Sankuru (BaShóówá, subgroup in the Kingdom of Kuba) / entered in 1990 in the Ethnographic Collection, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Inv.-Nr. JGU ES 3083. Photo: Anna-Maria Brandstetter.



Objects from the university collections have been on display in the “Sammlungsschaukasten”, a presentation, listening and meeting space in the connecting area between the Central Library and the Georg Forster Building, since the winter semester of 2023/24.

On 8 February, Victoria Stein gave a presentation on the displayed objects of the Bwiti religion that were acquired in 1917 in Libreville (Gabon) by the then doctoral student Irene Löffler. In the early 1970s, the anthropologist from Mainz brought back from her research in Gabon some 70 objects of the Bwiti religion that had previously been confiscated in the capital Libreville. Stein explained how the figures and objects presented in the showcase provide an insight into this religion, which combines elements with Christian connotations with various aspects of local religious traditions.

From 17 September to 13 October, the exhibition “Open Science – Open Collections” showcased three cultural artefacts from the Ethnographic Collection. The display was part of the Open Science Festival on 17 and 18 September and was curated by Lisa Roemer and Judith Blume. Based on three themes, the presentation “Open Science – Open Collections” gave an insight into the practice of open science in the collections of the three Rhine-Main universities. The three cultural artefacts of the Ethnographic Collection were embedded in the presentation of how university collections create access, transparency and cooperation for collections from colonial contexts.



Exhibition “Open science – Open Collections” by Lisa Roemer and Judith Blume.
Photo: Lisa Roemer.

On 30 October, on the “Tag der Sammlungen” (Day of Collections), new presentations were opened in the “Sammlungsschaukasten”. Since then, a selection of objects acquired during the “African Independence Days” research projects have been on display commemorating the independence jubilees. Between 2009 and 2019, ifeas carried out two major research projects on the independence jubilees in twelve African countries. The Ethnographic Collection has received around 150 merchandise articles with accompanying documentation. The objects form a unique collection of everyday items that often receive little attention after the celebrations. They refer to the countries’ national politics of remembrance and the establishment of a sovereign nation-state.



Sammlungsschaukasten. Photo: Anna-Maria Brandstetter.



On the occasion of the “Tag der Sammlungen” (Day of Collections) Lena Scheibinger offered a guided tour in the Ethnographic Collection. Under the title “Vom Äquator in die Vitrine” (From the Equator to the showcase), she presented cultural artefacts acquired by Erika Sulzmann and Ernst Wilhelm Müller during the “Mainz Congo Expedition” (1951–1954) in the equatorial rainforest of then Belgian Congo. A specific focus was put on objects associated with the Nkumu, the political-religious head of a village, and the collection division between Mainz and the Musée de la Vie indigène in Léopoldville (today Kinshasa) in 1953.

Presentation at the “Tag der Sammlungen”.
Photo: Bianca Baumann .

The digitization of the collection that was started in 2021 was continued by our team with our research assistants (M.A. student Victoria Stein as well as B.A. students Niclas Wolff-Jung and Claire Fischer), Lisa Marie Roemer, coordinator of the JGU Mainz university collections, Larissa Arlt, photographer in the Servicezentrum Digitalisierung und Fotodokumentation (University Library Mainz) and the curators of the collection (Anna-Maria Brandstetter, Lena Scheibinger and Bianca Baumann). As of December 2024, 2,631 object data are available in the university collections' database "Gutenberg Objects", 773 of which have been digitized. The editing of the metadata and the digitization has been made possible with substantial funding by the Ernst Wilhelm Müller Foundation.

In December 2024, a new digitization project was launched. The aim of the project is to make the collection, which was acquired by the founding mother of the collection, available on the research platform Kulturerbe Rheinland-Pfalz. This will make it possible to share the knowledge contained in the collection and to review the colonial legacy of the collection.

In June 2024, the directors of ethnographic and world cultures museums and collections in German-speaking countries published the Zurich Declaration. In this declaration, the potential of ethnographic and world cultures museums and collections was brought to the attention of the public, politicians and the media in the context of growing global nationalism and crises. Anna-Maria Brandstetter and Bianca Baumann, as representatives of the Ethnographic Collection in Mainz, supported this initiative (<https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/files/2024/06/2024-Zuercher-Erklaerung-E-final.pdf>).

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. All legal conditions for the return of the Benin bronze have been met by the state of Rheinland-Palatinate. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Berlin is now responsible for the restitution. How much longer will the commemorative head have to wait?

While waiting in the museum, the commemorative head is delighted by the many interested visitors. On 4 May, the Luxembourg-based artist Uyi Nosa-Odia (<https://www.artbyuno.com/>), who was born and grew up in Benin City (Nigeria), and his partner Alessandra Ferraro showed their respect for the commemorative head.

From left to right: Anna-Maria Brandstetter, Agnes Cibura (museum educator at the Landesmuseum Mainz), Uyi Nosa-Odia and Alessandra Ferraro.
Photo: Anna-Maria Brandstetter .



At the end of the year, Anna-Maria Brandstetter introduced students of the project seminar "Die Geschichten hinter den Kunstwerken – Einführung in die Provenienzforschung zwischen Kunstmarkt und Sammlungswesen" by Katharina Hüls-Valenti (Art History Department, IKM, JGU Mainz) to postcolonial provenance research, using the biography of the commemorative head as a case study (20 December).

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/>.



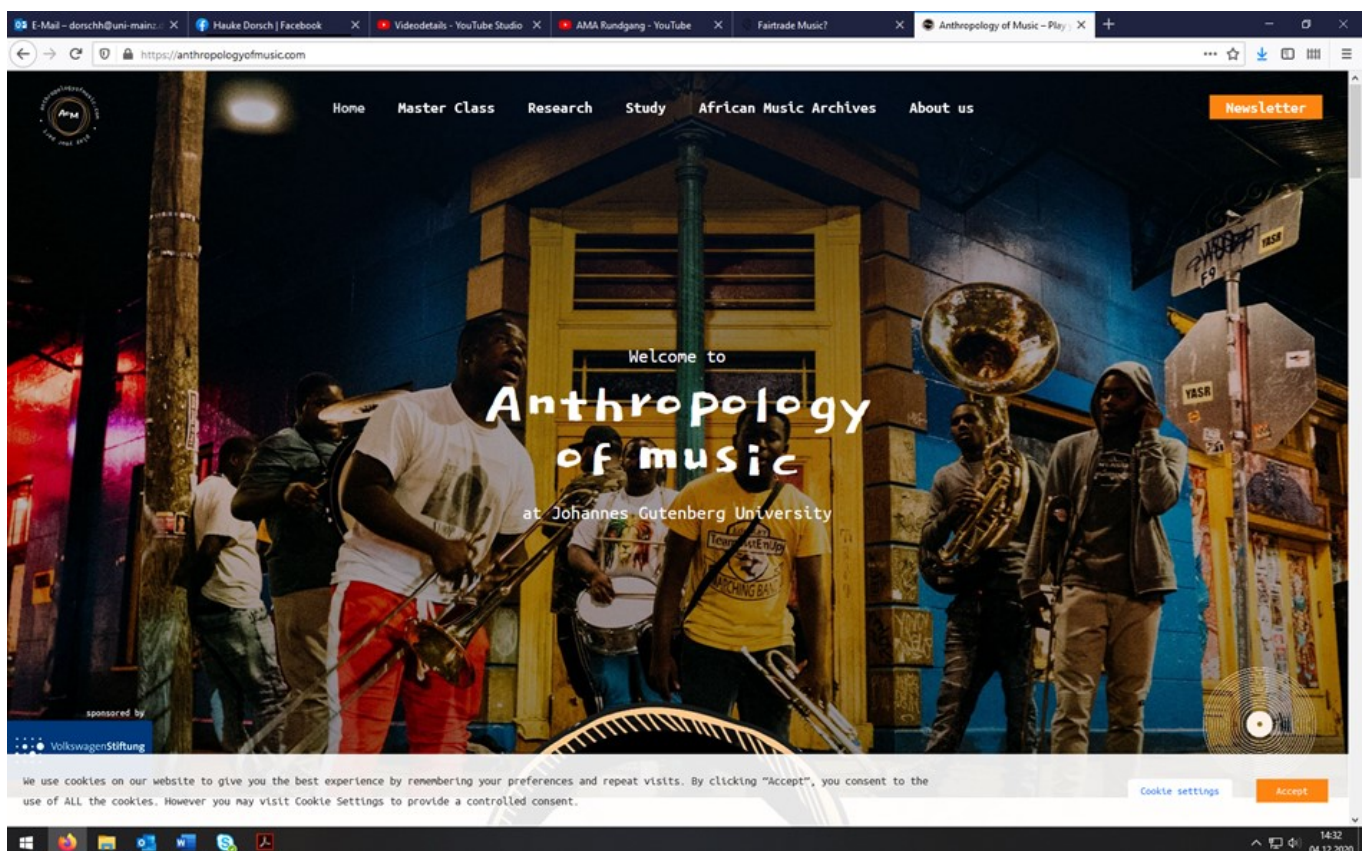
Anthropology of Music

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

Restoration and preservation of the tangible and intangible heritage of the Bugba

Project coordination: **Katrin Langewiesche**

Researchers: Paul Koudougou (President ICOM-Afrique), Mahamadi Ouédraogo (Association Sidpamenemde), Edwige Mori Traoré (INSS), Sidi Traoré (UNESCO Facilitator-Expert)

Duration: **2024 – 2026**

Funded by the Gerda Henkel Foundation

The project is focused on restoring the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of an indigenous population group in Burkina Faso whose homes are located in regions marked by recurring attacks by armed groups. The aim of the project is to rebuild the concessions of two traditional dignitaries, to produce or restore their instruments and ritual clothing, and to train apprentices in stonemasonry, woodcarving, leatherwork and the production of thatched roofs. The documentation of the restoration measures and the study of the oral traditions should form the basis for applying for inclusion in one of the UNESCO lists for the preservation of intangible cultural heritage.



Presentation of the concept on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone in the village of Koalla, 11 October 2024. Photo: Harouna Marané.

Biography, generation and historical time in the making of an African middle class

Project director: **Carola Lentz**

Duration: **2024 – 2025**

Funded by the JGU Internal University Research Funding and the Einstein Center Chronoi, Berlin

The project explores the changes in the life courses, career trajectories, social belonging, and self-images of upwardly mobile men in an African society in transformation. It looks at four generations of educated men and their families from a marginalised rural area in Northern Ghana who have, after the introduction of the first schools in 1935, eventually made careers in the civil service, the educational sector, and the free professions. The co-ordinates of individual time – family time – historical time (Hareven 1977) and the concept of generation (Mannheim 1952) are central to understanding the dynamics of this dramatic social transformation.

The project will result in a book manuscript for which Carola Lentz started compiling interviews and observations since the early 1990s. In November and December 2024, she visited Ghana for an update and carried out additional fieldwork at the funeral celebrations for Dr. E.N. Gyader, a long-term friend and interview partner who died unexpectedly in July this year. Next year, she will benefit from a three-month fellowship at the Einstein Center Chronoi, Berlin, for writing up some chapters and discussing them with co-fellows and colleagues in Berlin.



Selling Dr. E. N. Gyader's memoirs at the funeral ground, 30 November 2024.

Photo: Carola Lentz .



Traditional hunters saluting Dr. E. N. Gyader's funeral, 30 November 2024.

Photo: Carola Lentz .

Policing as a practice of categorization

Team members: **Jan Beek (project coordination), Rachel Etse, Thomas Bierschenk**

Duration: **January 2024 – August 2024**

Funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)

<https://www.blogs.uni-mainz.de/fb07-ifeas-eng/policing-as-a-practice-of-categorisation-reciprocal-ascriptions-in-the-control-of-public-spaces/>

The project studies how actors reciprocally categorize each other in everyday policing and how these categories affect practices. By anthropologizing this field of research, the project innovatively approaches a topic that has sparked intense debate in both public and academic spheres. This involves contextualizing practices, acknowledging emic terminologies and multiperspectivity, and adopting a non-normative, epistemologically equidistant stance to identify contradictions rather than resolve them.

The research design operationalizes these approaches through ethnographic research in two “hotspots” – identified as such by actors and the media – in the Rhine-Main area. In the current phase of the project, this hotspot is a football stadium. The study examines three central actor groups: fan liaisons, security personnel, and police officers, each with distinct interests, resources, and operational frameworks. In late 2024, the research team – consisting of nine students and the regular team members – conducted participant observation across four match days at a regional football stadium. This research will culminate in an edited volume featuring team members’ contributions.

On 21–22 November 2024, the team organized the international workshop “Relational knowledge production in ethnographic team research: methodologies and epistemologies” at JGU Mainz, together with Lisa Marie Borrelli (Social Works, HES-SO Valais-Wallis) and Julia Verne (Geography, JGU Mainz). The workshop addressed a crucial yet underexplored issue: how relationships among researchers shape knowledge production in increasingly team-based ethnographic research. The workshop explored these dynamics through collaborative writing and discussion, with results planned for publication in a special issue.



Photo: Jan Beek.

Counterhegemonic 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 Archive for the Music of Africa (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 recruitment of Antonia Fendt as a research assistant and doctoral candidate and Jan Knipping as a research assistant from July 2024 heralded the start of the research phase of the Mainz sub-project following the successful completion of the digitization phase. To mark the occasion, an internal workshop with international guests from Dakar, Kinshasa and Maiduguri entitled "Music and Politics. Hidden Messages" took place in Mainz, which primarily served the purpose of networking and developing common content lines for the three sub-projects involved.

Workshop in the AMA Lounge, 21 November.

Photo: Jan Knipping.



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 focusses on one traditional institution, the buguba and bagnaaba, 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, Jeannett Martin (since 1 November 2024)**

Duration: **November 2022 – June 2026**

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. After taking over the project direction, Jeannett Martin organized a two-day workshop in Lomé in December 2024 (see p. 44).

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 – October 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 immediate effects, catastrophic events often mark the beginning of long-term processes of political, social, and cultural reorganization. This can include the provision of state and non-state care and aid, as well as the rearrangement of social categories and relations between different actors. This project focuses on the consequences and repercussions of the 2019 collapse of the tailings dam of a mining waste disposal basin in Brumadinho, a small town in the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais. By examining the ongoing processes in the aftermath of this incident, the research project seeks to answer the question of how perceptions of social and moral responsibility relate to different notions of legal mitigation and repair in a post-disaster context.

Previous research trips to Brumadinho in 2022 and 2023 established relevant research contacts and provided in-depth empirical data on ongoing local processes related to the dam collapse and restoration efforts. In January and February 2024, Theresa Mentrup again conducted ethnographic fieldwork in the region, this time not only attending events related to the 5th anniversary of the dam collapse, but also continuing her engagement with local and public actors affected by the disaster. In February, Heike Drotbohm also travelled to Brumadinho to participate in local activities related to the 2019 incident. Together, Heike Drotbohm and Theresa Mentrup conducted a one-day workshop with research participants in Brumadinho. Back in Germany, Theresa Mentrup also accompanied a delegation from Brazil to Munich and Cologne in May 2024 to deepen the project's understanding of the transnational, political and legal dimensions of the incident.



The project also published first results in the *Blätter für deutsche und internationale Politik* (01/24) and began to prepare a final workshop to be carried out in October 2025.

Commemoration and demonstration in Brumadinho for the 5th anniversary of the dam collapse on January 25, 2024. The 272 red balloons represent the victims 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 centres 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 until 06/24)

Team members Essex: **Hannah Gibson** (PI), **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 two years, the project continues to study microvariation in youth language practices in Bantu speaking areas of Eastern and Southern Africa. With a comparative perspective, it investigates 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 the final year, a finalizing research trip to round up the fieldwork collaborations was conducted by Andrea Hollington. She travelled to Johannesburg, South Africa, and Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, in April 2024. Working on the research data, she conducted some more interviews to compare the linguistic practices of Durban and Johannesburg regarding isiZulu, isiTsotsi and isiNombolo and worked on data analysis and understanding social and linguistic contexts with the local expert Celimpilo Ndebele in Johannesburg. In Bulawayo, she worked on the youth language data corpus with her research assistant Keith Moyo and continued to translate and analyze youth language conversations.

Furthermore, the papers of a special issue of *Linguistic Vanguard* on youth language and morphosyntactic variation have been published. The team also proceeded to work on its monograph in order to complete the manuscript by the end of the year. The envisaged monograph will feature a comparative perspective on the findings with insights into all research areas of the project. In May/June, Nico Nassenstein and Andrea Hollington visited the University of Essex to meet their project partners, work on the monograph chapters, organize and carry out a workshop presenting their research findings to colleagues and students and to hold their final advisory board meeting

The team's website (<https://microvariation-and-youth-languages.com>) presents further insights into the project.



Interview team in Soweto, South Africa. 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 – December 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. It investigates which theories and strategies inform metapolitical action in the digital realm, how the affordances of social media platforms allow and channel for fluid and temporal virtual communities to take shape and how online and offline activism are connected. The anthropological sub-project undertaken by Konstanze N'Guessan 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 offline and online, the subproject provides thick descriptions of practices and self-imaginaries of far-right digital activists.

The first half of 2024 was dedicated to a final short phase of research on the post-digital political afterlife of meme campaigns, such as the queerphobic Twitter campaign #Stolzmonat and through a close reading of the genealogy of the Gigi d'Agostino meme on Tik Tok. The final project phase was largely dedicated to analysis and writing as well as discussing research results in international (EASA, Barcelona) and interdisciplinary praxis-oriented (Motra-K, Wiesbaden) conferences, as well as in thematic workshops and individual lectures. As part of the transfer-oriented approach of the project, the game that had been developed by project partners in 2023 was playtested, refined and used on different occasions and with different target groups (highschool students, adults, multipliers). In December 2024, the lecture series on “Digital Fascism” (summer term 2023) that had been organized as part of the project, was awarded with the Athene interdisciplinary teaching award of the TU Darmstadt (https://www.tu-darmstadt.de/universitaet/aktuelles/meldungen/einzelansicht_482816.de.jsp).



Tracing the post-digital political life of memes, Politischer Aschermittwoch, AfD Kreisverband Rödermark, February 14, 2024.
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.

Solomon Waliaula conducted fieldwork in Tanzania in March and April 2024, starting off with archival research at Tanzania Video Library Association (TVLA). He conducted in-depth interviews with video-library entrepreneurs in Mwananyamala and Tabata neighbourhoods and engaged in participant observation and in-depth interviews with video-hall audiences and film DJs in Bunguruni. He found out that advances in media technology had led to transformation in the production and distribution of recorded versions of cinema narration. Most video libraries no longer stock VHS, VCD and DVDs of recorded performances; these are only kept as master copies at the main retail stores in Kariakoo. Soft copies are made and sold to customers through memory sticks and smart phones. Video hall reception has reduced and is largely confined to Bunguruni, which is one of the most populated low-income neighbourhoods of Dar es Salaam. According to records at TVLA, there are 68 formally registered DJs whose work is in circulation in Dar es Salaam and



approximately 100 unregistered small time DJs that are trying to attain visibility. There is sustained effort by TVLA to get the National Arts Council of Tanzania to certify and license DJs, which is yet to be done, but the process is ongoing. Azam TV, the only East African direct broadcast satellite service founded in 2013, has introduced dubbing of foreign films in Kiswahili and it offers very affordable subscription packages. This has eaten into part of the fandom of cinema narration, especially those who can afford television and a reliable connection to electric power. Nevertheless, cinema narration is still a vibrant cultural practice in Dar es Salaam and serves as entertainment for many in low-income areas. The team presented part of the findings of the project at the ASAUk conference in Oxford and the Symposium "Resounding Archives: The Politics of Listening to the Moving Image" in Berlin.

Solomon Waliaula conducting an in-depth interview with a video hall operator in Bunguruni, Dar es Salaam.
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 – December 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/>

The project Melanin Matters studies how members of society differentiate among each other along skin tone lines. It comprises two case studies, one on the categorizations of persons with albinism and on light(er)-skin/dark(er) skin differentiations within Black communities.

In autumn 2024, Marion Grimberg hosted a week of events around skin tones, skin health and skin tone discrimination at the Goethe-Institut in Lagos, Nigeria. She organized the “Melanin Matters” week with Friederike Brinker (PR representative of the CRC Human Differentiation), Nadine Siegert (Director of the Goethe-Institut Lagos), and the Nlele Institute for Photography. The week’s goal was to address topics relevant in contemporary Nigeria, such as skin tone discrimination and harmful skin-lightening practices. It also aimed at bringing Marion Grimberg’s research findings to the communities that helped her gather her data. The week included a two-day photography workshop where participants learned about working with different skin tones and light sources and completed personal photography projects. A one-day academic conference connected scholars from the Universities of Ibadan, Lagos, and Mainz. The conference addressed Nigerian skincare practices and the memefication of socio-cultural associations with light(er) and dark(er) skin tones. Words and valuations used in Nigerian languages to talk about skin tones were also discussed. At a workshop for women, dermatologist Cole-Adeife talked about how to care for the skin in an environment where health-damaging skin-lightening products are widely available. In a film screening event, actress Beverly Naya presented her project “Skin talk” which addresses colorism in Nigeria. The week ended with a panel discussion on the state of skin health and skin tone discrimination in Nigeria, bringing together speakers from the realms of academia, medicine, entertainment, and activism. An episode of the CRC’s podcast was recorded during the women’s workshop and features a discussion between Marion Grimberg and Olabanke Goriola, a Ph.D. candidate currently undertaking research on colorism in the Nigerian dance industry.

Matthias Krings published the article “Rassifizierende Humandifferenzierung. Ein Plädoyer für spezifizierende Vergleiche statt ethno-zentrischer Subsumtion” together with Stefan Hirschauer, and the article „Playing with difference: Oyibo lip-sync performances of Nigerian popular culture on TikTok“ together with Izuu Nwankwo. He presented a paper titled “‘Est(h)a Blish!’ Memetic performances of female success of TikTok” at the “Melanin Matters” academic conference in Lagos, the VAD conference in Bayreuth and the ASUK conference in Oxford. As participant of the “Being & Becoming Bobrisky” symposium, he presented a paper on “Bobrisky’s presentation of self as a contested case of ‘doing being’ a woman”. At two CRC conferences he gave a talk on “Coloristic human differentiation”.



“Melanin Matters” photography workshop in Lagos.
Photo credits: Bemuter Tilley-Gyado

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 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, the researchers 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 to Uganda (March 2024) and Rwanda (in November 2024) were undertaken by Nico Nassenstein over the course of the year.

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 early 2024, both Elena Hernández and Elena Reichl undertook their finalizing fieldtrips, returning to their research sites in Portugal and Brazil for a duration between three and six weeks.

At the University of Campinas, Elena Reichl collaborated with her Brazilian colleagues Isabelle Chargas and Natália Padovani and organised the roundtable discussion “Horizontes da Solidaridade”. This event brought together members of social movements and politicians to discuss the challenges of solidarity in Brazilian food distribution practices.

Upon their return, the project members engaged in discourses pertaining to their findings and preliminary chapters of their dissertations at numerous colloquia, CRC meetings, and international conferences. For Elena Reichl, the question of social transformative practices within religious groups and social movements, and their relationship to belief and citizenship emerged as a pivotal concern. Elena Hernández’ organization of her empirical data revealed three main areas of focus: spatial and social differentiation in Lisbon’s urban sphere, vulnerability as a claim advanced by various actors, and the normative framings of migrant or migrantized families.



Meeting of the Homeless Workers’ Movement, São Paulo, March 2024.
Photo: Elena Reichl .

In June, the project members convened an international workshop, entitled “Rethinking the Volatility of Vulnerability”, at the JGU, during which they discussed how the notion of vulnerability and the eligibility for care are enacted, stabilized and justified but also claimed, contested and rejected.



Mural Art showing a former inhabitant at the location of his former house, Lisbon, March 2024
P.hoto: Elena Hernández.

During her guest professorship in Rio de Janeiro, Heike Drotbohm briefly visited the community kitchen in Santo André, where Elena Reichl had conducted her research, and discussed some of the most recent challenges with the care providers working in this facility.

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) will 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**, **Bakar Abdul-Rashid Jeduah** (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 the final year of the first funding phase, the project’s research results have been consolidated and were presented and discussed at conferences such as “Dis/Ordering Distribution” (April, Frankfurt), organized by CEDITRAA, and at ASA UK (August, Oxford) and VAD (September, Bayreuth). The publication of research results takes place in three book collections, edited by members of the project. Two of these were completed this year and will be published soon: “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>

CEDITRAA was granted a second funding phase by the BMBF from January 2025 to December 2027. Phase II will be based on our findings around distributed production processes, exemplified by collaboratively authored TikTok dance videos. The



research results of Phase I suggest that the thesis of the key role of cultural production should be further developed with a focus on distribution. Phase II thus follows the research questions: To what extent do distribution practices and their infrastructures, formats and institutions structure the production of music and film in sub-Saharan Africa and East Asia? And to what extent does the constitution of transregional cultural and exchange spheres through digital platforms, portals and distribution networks affect the categorical constitution of the regions themselves?

Participants of the conference “Dis/Ordering Distribution” (24 April). Photo: Tom Simmert.

PH.D. RESEARCH

Completed Ph.D. dissertations

Anthropology

Baumann, Bianca:

Unwägbarkeiten der ethnologischen Provenienzforschung: Fallbeispiele von Objekten aus Kamerun aus kolonialen Kontexten am Landesmuseum Hannover. (Krings)

Fuhrmann, Larissa-Diana:

The Art of Appropriating Political Violence: Curating Artistic Contestations Relating to Daesh and its Entanglements. (Krings)

Simmert, Tom:

Creating Afrobeats: Digital Music from Lagos to the World. (Krings)

African Languages and Linguistics

Vigeland, Friederike:

Aspects of Nungurama Grammar - A functional-typological approach based on data from three varieties (Deelamə, Guyuma and Gwaandama). (Kastenholz)

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)

Bruchhäuser, Katja:

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

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. (Krings)

Hailu, Tesfahun Haddis:

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 Dammbruch 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:

Intellectual Property Rights and Stand-up Comedy in Nigeria: Practices of Joke Ownership on and off stage. (Krings)

Oldorff, Gisèle:

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

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)

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)

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)

ACTIVITIES

Conferences organized by faculty members

29 January, Mainz

“Panchronic language contact: Angolan perspectives”

International workshop organized by **Nico Nassenstein**, **David Paul Gerards** (JGU Mainz), **Axel Fanego Palat** (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt) and **Alex Cobbinah** (USP São Paulo) with Africanists and Romanists from different countries whose research focuses on languages from/in Angola

This was the first event organized by the research group on Bantu languages and Bantu-Luso contact, to be followed by another workshop and an international conference in 2025. Also Heike Drotbohm participated in the event and could contribute relevant anthropological insights.



16 February, Mainz

“Dealing with Heritage. Über Dinge, Beziehungen, Erinnern. Eine festliche Ansammlung für Anna-Maria Brandstetter”

Workshop organized by **Bianca Baumann**, **Hauke Dorsch**, **Cassis Kilian**, **Matthias Krings**, **Céline Molter** and **Tom Simmert**

How we look at things, what meanings they take on, how they move through time and space, what knowledge is embedded in them, has always occupied ethnologists. Due to colonial entanglements, ethnographic collections and questions of restitution are today more than ever at the center of public perception. As an ethnologist and curator of the Ethnographic Collection at the Institute of Anthropology and African Studies at JGU, Anna-Maria Brandstetter has dealt intensively with ethnological perspectives on objects. Early on, she asked critical questions about the history of collections and tested decolonial practices in her work with the collections. She calls for “understanding the material heritage of ethnology as an opportunity” and places the exchange with specialist colleagues and representatives of the societies from which the cultural artifacts originate at the center of her work and the facilitation of restitution. To celebrate the new chapter in her life, friends and colleagues gathered for a one-day conference with short presentations on all things to honor an academic career that has had a decisive impact on the ifeas and the ethnological study of things.




17 February and 22 June, online

“Research on Western Swahili”

Workshops (and “study meeting”) organized by **Nico Nassenstein, Hannah Gibson, Lutz Marten** and **Daisuke Shinagawa** (from Essex, London, Tokyo)

The two online events included talks by colleagues from England, DR Congo, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Austria, Burundi, Belgium and Germany and will eventually lead to a co-edited publication “Research on Western Swahili” by Nico Nassenstein, Hannah Gibson, David Kopa wa Kopa, Teresa Poeta and Daisuke Shinagawa (in preparation). These two first online events are intended to become a regular forum for research on understudied Swahili varieties and with a focus on contact and change in the Swahili-speaking world.



JGU JOHANNES GUTENBERG UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ
ifeas Institut für Ethnologie und Afrikastudien

Research on Western Swahili 1st Workshop and Study Meeting

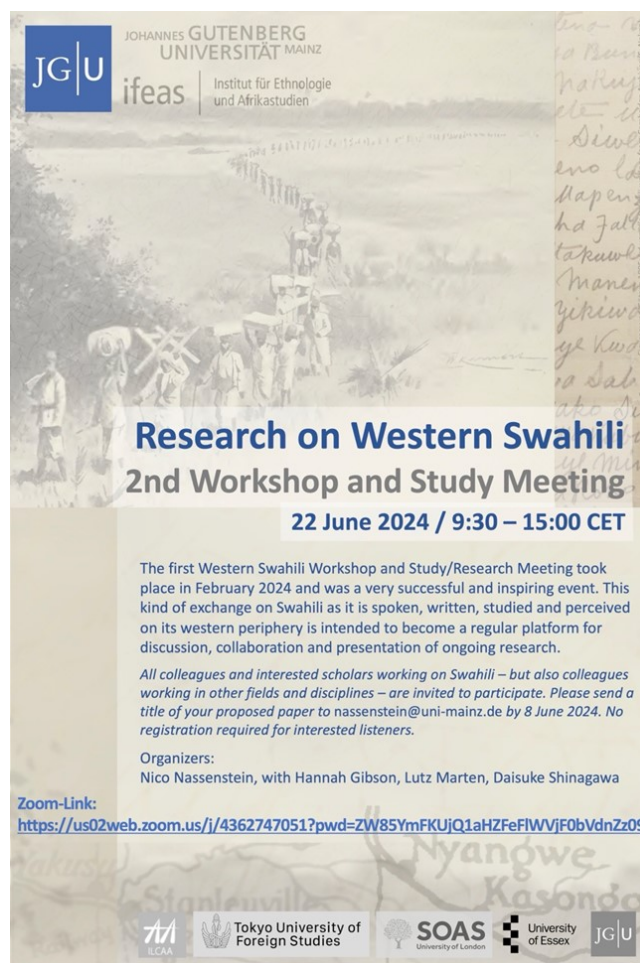
17 February 2024
10:30 – 17:00 CET (Zoom)
Registration until 1 February 2024 via nassenstein@uni-mainz.de

“Western Swahili” (a term that first appears in Kilgour 1939: 87) has been less thoroughly and seriously studied than other dialect areas; it has often been the subject of individual studies with an interest in language contact or with a focus on urban usage. Scholars working on Swahili varieties and variation in the western periphery (DR Congo, Rwanda, Burundi and to some extent Uganda, Zambia and perhaps South Sudan?) and with an interest in language and history, dialectology, language contact and change, phonetics and phonology, morphology and syntax, sociolinguistics and anthropological linguistics (etc.) are invited to participate in this session, which will take place online on 17 February 2024. This meeting is not intended as a “conference” with fully written (comprehensive) papers, but invites colleagues interested in any of the listed areas to give short 15-minute contributions with “notes from the field”, short data sessions, research ideas or discussion of archival sources (no title/abstract needed). The day will end with a discussion session.

Zoom-Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4362747051?pwd=ZW85YmFKUjQ1aHZFeFVWJf0bVdnZz09>

Organized by Prof. Dr. Nico Nassenstein in close collaboration with the research project teams
“A new perspective on descriptive linguistics in Africa based on the translingual ecology” (jrp000268) (ILCAA, TUFSS, Japan) //
“Grammatical variation in Swahili: contact, change and identity” (Leverhulme Trust) (Essex, SOAS; UK)

Kilgour, R. 1939. *The Bible throughout the World. A Survey of Scripture Translations*. London: World Dominion Press.



JGU JOHANNES GUTENBERG UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ
ifeas Institut für Ethnologie und Afrikastudien

Research on Western Swahili 2nd Workshop and Study Meeting

22 June 2024 / 9:30 – 15:00 CET

The first Western Swahili Workshop and Study/Research Meeting took place in February 2024 and was a very successful and inspiring event. This kind of exchange on Swahili as it is spoken, written, studied and perceived on its western periphery is intended to become a regular platform for discussion, collaboration and presentation of ongoing research.

All colleagues and interested scholars working on Swahili – but also colleagues working in other fields and disciplines – are invited to participate. Please send a title of your proposed paper to nassenstein@uni-mainz.de by 8 June 2024. No registration required for interested listeners.

Organizers:
Nico Nassenstein, with Hannah Gibson, Lutz Marten, Daisuke Shinagawa

Zoom-Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4362747051?pwd=ZW85YmFKUjQ1aHZFeFVWJf0bVdnZz09>

ILCAA Tokyo University of Foreign Studies SOAS University of London University of Essex JGU

23 February Brumadinho, Brazil

“Só tirar poeira? Debater e repensar o conjunto de meio ambiente, saúde e condições de vida no cotidiano pós-rompimento em Brumadinho”

[Just dusting off? Debating and rethinking the interplay of environment, health and living conditions in the aftermath of the Brumadinho dam collapse]

Workshop organized by **Heike Drotbohm** and **Theresa Mentrup** as part of the DFG-funded project “The Management of Loss: Politics of Life and Death in Minas Gerais (Brazil)”

In this one-day participatory workshop with 15 people from ten different local communities and organizations in Brumadinho, we discussed how local actors interpret the effects of the dam collapse of 25 January 2019. We discussed their understandings of what remains in everyday life after the tragedy-crime; the traces left by the incident in the territory until today; what these traces have to do with socio-environmental issues, health and living conditions, and – beyond the past and the present – how the different perspectives and experiences of the participants allow us to reflect on Brumadinho's future. In three small groups, we discussed issues of health, environment and social transformation, not only to identify the main problems, but also to reflect on possible solutions and futures for the territory. The workshop opened up a space to rethink important aspects of the consequences of the dam's collapse and to discuss some of the impressions gathered during field research with a wider audience.



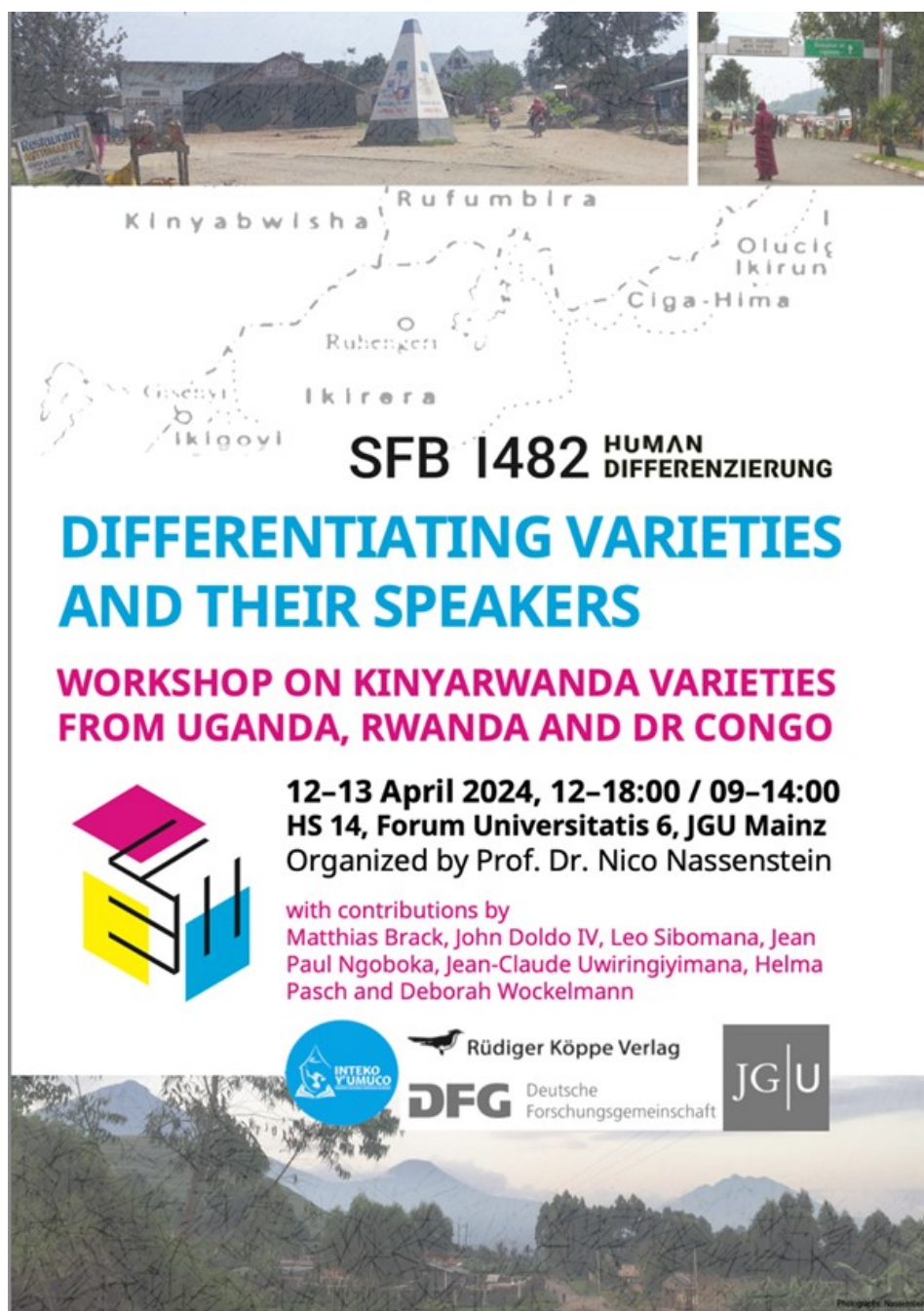
Participants of the Workshop. Photo: Heike Drotbohm.

12 – 13 April, Mainz

“Differentiating varieties and their speakers: Workshop on Kinyarwanda varieties from Uganda, Rwanda and DR Congo

International workshop organized by **Nico Nassenstein** and funded by the CRC1482 (Human differentiation)

Scholars from Germany, Rwanda and the United States discussed recent research on Kinyarwanda and its variation against the background of human differentiation. In the context of the organized workshop, John Doldo IV (New York/Cologne) and Nico Nassenstein were also interviewed by Friederike Brinker for a podcast episode of “Sone/Solche”, exchanging ideas on identity, history and linguistics in the Great Lakes Region: <https://www.ub.uni-mainz.de/de/remix/podcasts/sone-solche>.



The poster features a map of the Great Lakes region with labels for Kinyabwisha, Rufumbira, Olucig, Ikirun, Ciga-Hima, Rubengeri, Ikirera, and Ikingoyi. Two photographs at the top show a local market scene and a person walking on a path. The text on the poster includes:

SFB 1482 HUMAN DIFFERENZIERUNG

DIFFERENTIATING VARIETIES AND THEIR SPEAKERS

WORKSHOP ON KINYARWANDA VARIETIES FROM UGANDA, RWANDA AND DR CONGO

12–13 April 2024, 12–18:00 / 09–14:00
HS 14, Forum Universitatis 6, JGU Mainz
Organized by Prof. Dr. Nico Nassenstein

with contributions by
Matthias Brack, John Doldo IV, Leo Sibomana, Jean Paul Ngoboka, Jean-Claude Uwiringiyimana, Helma Pasch and Deborah Wockelmann

Logos for INTEKO Y'UMUCO, Rüdiger Köppe Verlag, DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, and JGU are also present.

25 – 26 April, Frankfurt

“Dis/Ordering Distribution: Infrastructures, Formats and Practices in the Circulation of Culture”

Workshop organized by **Vincenz Hediger, Matthias Krings** and **Cornelia Storz**

Are we witnessing the emergence of a “new world order of cultural production”, as observers like Pakistani writer Fatima Bhutto claim? New artistic movements like contemporary Afrobeats emerge bottom-up in urban centers like Lagos but rise to global visibility only through distribution networks which are headquartered in the traditional centers of Paris, Amsterdam, London, New York or Los Angeles (or in the case of tiktok/ByteDance, Beijing), replicating a geography which closely mirrors the power structure of an earlier geopolitical period. Increasingly, there appears to be a tension between path-dependent distribution networks and the creative struggles of artists and producers trying to transcend and reshape the structures of these networks. Ultimately, a “new world order of cultural production” would have to include the emergence of a different system of distribution to resolve that tension. The workshop “Dis/Ordering Distribution” addressed these questions in a series of pointed, 15-minute interventions followed by longer debate sessions, as well as panel sessions.

5 – 7 June, Mainz

“Rethinking the volatility of vulnerability against categorical constraints”

The international workshop “Rethinking the Volatility of Vulnerability Against Categorical Constraints”, organized by the subproject “Sorting with Care” [**Heike Drotbohm, Elena Hernández, Elena Reichl**] of the Collaborative Research Center on Human Differentiation, delved into the multifaceted concept of vulnerability. The workshop ranged across a spectrum of perspectives, from Sarah Vaughn’s thought-provoking insights on climatic vulnerability on a planetary scale to historical and socio-anthropological case studies that illuminated more localized contexts. Bringing together participants from diverse disciplines, the event fostered rich discussions on the dynamics of differentiating categories that influence how vulnerability and eligibility for care are enacted, stabilized, and justified –as well as how they are claimed, contested, and rejected.



Participants of the Workshop. Photo: Heike Drotbohm.

3 July, Lisbon

“A reflexive turn in humanitarian studies? Rethinking the construction of migration, difference and race beyond mobilities”

Panel convened by **Heike Drotbohm** and **Carna Brković**, 21st IMISCOE Annual Conference

10 – 11 July, Mainz

“The Politics of (Post-)Truth: Knowledge Making in Fragmented Worlds of Mis/Trust”

International Workshop convened by **Heike Drotbohm** and **Olaf Zenker** (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)

Knowledge formations have always been politically challenged and enriched by dissenting voices pointing towards unfitting facts and divergent interpretations, occasionally leading to paradigmatic revolutions. The workshop brought together 15 scholars interested in the methodological and epistemological challenges of knowledge production and dissemination in times, when the very possibility of knowledge as sufficiently reliable and integrative despite all contestations has been severely challenged. The contributions dealt with different dimensions of sympathy (affective and normative) as a way out of binaries between likeable and unlikeable Others, post-truth realities in Brazilian contact zones of support (examples including social movements, soup kitchens, churches and squats), or the role of mistrust and truth-production in the context of the Migrant Protection Protocols along the U.S.-Mexican border. Further presentations discussed the concept of “truthiness” as a tool allowing us to acknowledge and examine the social and emotional dimensions of truth claims, the role of “pseudo law” in German sovereignist circles, conspiracy narratives of “awakening” in Czech environmental contexts, complemented by a welcomed humorist approach to the topic. All contributions addressed the political processes within knowledge formation in fragmented and mutually mistrusting epistemic communities, and the role anthropological knowledge-making can play under such conditions.

Workshop participants.
Photo: Heike Drotbohm.



23 – 26 July, Barcelona

“Witnessing Violence and Undoing Entrenched Pedagogies in Times of Crisis” (P160)

Panel convened by **Franziska Fay**, **Caitlin Procter** (EUI Florence/Geneva Graduate Institute) and **Cristiana Strava** (Leiden) at the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) conference 2024 at the University of Barcelona

In this conference panel we engaged with the fact that bearing witness to violence is often part of anthropologists' work in the field and in the academy. We asked how the implications of such experiences affect how we understand the idea of witnessing, to what extent it shapes our theorizing, and how it undoes our pedagogies in times of crisis.

Panel: <https://nomadit.co.uk/conference/easa2024/panel/14696>

29 – 31 August, Oxford

“Social Media and the (Re)generation of African Popular Culture”

Panel organized by **Matthias Krings** and **Izuu Nwankwo** for the African Studies Association of the UK

This panel explored the intersection of African popular culture and social media. It was based on the proposition that social media platforms such as Facebook, Youtube, Instagram and TikTok are enabling the dissemination of African popular culture both within African societies and around the world on an unprecedented scale, connecting the continent not only to its diaspora but potentially to people who have had no connection to it. We sought to understand both how social media is being used to generate, i.e. to produce and create, new forms and genres of African popular culture that are native to the digital environment, and how it is being used to regenerate older genres, such as music or stand-up comedy, that existed before the advent of social media but have since been reshaped and given new forms that enable them to flourish in the digital environment and beyond.

29 September – 5 October, Mainz

“Co-Constructing Oman: Global Knowledge Production and the Making of National Identity”

International Summer School, JGU Mainz

In this interdisciplinary summer school organized by **Veronika Cummings**, **Stephanie Döpper**, **Franziska Fay**, **Pia Maiorano**, **Lucas Proctor** and **Julia Verne** from the universities of Mainz, Frankfurt, and Heidelberg, and their research collaborators in Oman, we fostered an interactive engagement with contemporary forms of knowledge production about Oman. Building upon recent work within Science Studies, which foregrounds the political nature of science and recognizes its contribution to our world as much as it describes it, we discussed how international and interdisciplinary scientific practices, national science and policy, and publics intersect and interfere with each other. By asking which disciplines and perspectives have come to dominate knowledge production about Oman, who and what remains excluded or sidelined, and how this may be challenged by new ways of engaging local communities through citizen science, we encouraged a critical reflection on research in and on Oman which challenges the longstanding boundaries between North and South, past and present, science and humanities.

Conference website: <https://summerschool2024.archaeoman.de/>



30 September – 2 October, Königswinter

“Memes in extrem rechter Internetkommunikation”

Workshop organized by **Konstanze N’Guessan** as part of the adult education seminar “Rechtsextremismus in Deutschland – Eine Gefahr für unsere Gesellschaft”, at the Arbeitnehmer-Zentrum Königswinter.

1 October, Bayreuth

“Reconfiguring Global Presence: Collaborative Performance and African Popular Culture in Digital Audiovisual Media”

Panel convened by **Bakar Abdul-Rashid Jeduah** and **Tom Simmert** at the Association for African Studies in Germany (VAD) conference.

The panel sought to understand how novel ways of collaborative performance through digital audiovisual platforms are reconfiguring the presence of African popular cultural products within the global space.

30 October, Lagos

Together with **Friederike Brinker** from the CRC 1482 “Human Differentiation” and **Nadine Siegert** from the Goethe-Institut Lagos, **Marion Grimberg** organized the one-day “Melanin Matters” conference on the meanings of skin tone in Lagos, Nigeria. This event connected scholars from the Universities of Ibadan, Lagos, and Mainz in discussions around Nigerian skin care practices, the memefication of socio-cultural associations with lighter and darker skin tones, and the words and valuations used in Nigerian languages to talk about skin tones.



Group picture of the “Melanin Matters” academic conference.
Photo: Bemuter Tilley-Gyado.

10 – 11 October, Ouagadougou

Katrin Langewiesche organized the starting workshop for the research project “Restoration and preservation of the tangible and intangible heritage of the Buguba”, INSS.

31 October, Campinas, Brazil

“Entre os afetos do care e das fronteiras”.

Workshop, convened by **Heike Drotbohm** and **Natália Padovani**, Unicamp, Núcleo de Estudo de Gênero PAGU.



21 — 22 November, Mainz

“Methodology and Epistemology in Ethnographic Team Research”

Workshop organized by **Thomas Bierschenk**, **Jan Beek** and **Rachel Etse** in the context of the research project “Policing as a practice of categorisation. Reciprocal ascriptions in the control of public spaces”.

28 – 29 November, Frankfurt

“Practices of Distribution and the Reconfiguration of Culture”

Co-organized with Cross Area Studies e.V. and CEDITRAA

For most of the post-WW II period the debate about culture centered on notions of hegemony and “cultural imperialism”. The focus was on the global dominance of the United States and what the Frankfurt School described as the “culture industries”, commercial entities producing commodified forms of culture and experience at the expense and exclusion of regional and local varieties. But more recently, the emergence of digital technologies appears to have introduced a new dynamic into the organization of cultural spaces and flows, to the point where some observers announce the dawn of a “New World Order of Cultural Production”. However, cultural production and culture more broadly speaking are ultimately shaped by distribution, i.e. the pathways through which cultural expressions reach audiences (and through which audiences respond to, and thus shape cultural production in turn). Any analysis of a recalibration of cultural spaces and flows will have to start with an analysis of the infrastructures, formats and institutions of distribution. Taking the paradigmatic status of cultural production and cultural flows for the contemporary transformations in area studies as its starting point, the symposium discussed the challenges of the study of practices of distribution in an interdisciplinary perspective.

4 – 5 December, Lomé

“African traders’ agency in global cloth markets - a collaborative workshop”

International workshop convened by **Jeannett Martin**.

The two-day event brought together researchers involved in the DFG project “African traders’ agency on global cloth markets”, initiated and launched by Ute Röschenhaler and directed by Jeannett Martin since 1 November 2024.

After a commemoration of Ute Röschenhaler’s scholarly and collaborative work in this project, participants from Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon and Germany, and from different disciplinary backgrounds discussed critically what had been done so far, the individual sub-projects, conceptual, comparative and disciplinary as well as issues of collaboration in this project. The academic discussions were further stimulated by an exhibition on fabrics and textile traders (“Nana Benz”) in Togo at the “Governor’s Palace”, a guided tour of the port of Lomé, and a visit to the “Vlisco Village” and further fabric and cloth traders at the Lomé Trade Fair.

Results of the workshop and the individual sub-projects will be published in an edited volume with contributions from all participants.



Workshop participants. Photo: Judith Opoku-Boateng.



Workshop participants and visitors at Lomé trade fare. Photo: Judith Opoku-Boateng.

9. December, Mainz

“Mobilities, Care, and Urban Control. A Conversation with Mimi Sheller”

International closed workshop, convened by **Heike Drotbohm** and **Gabriele Schabacher**, CRC “Studies in Human Differentiation”.



Workshop participants. Photos: Fiona Trittler.

Other events organized by faculty members

January – November, Burkina Faso

Katrin Langewiesche and **Mahamadi Ouédraogo** organized travelling exhibitions in the villages of Sabcé, Guibaré, Tikaré, Kongoussi, Sabou and Kaya.

March, Ouagadougou

Katrin Langewiesche and **Mahamadi Ouédraogo** designed a concept for the radio broadcast “Zame, ya boinda bebe?”, a monthly program on Bugba traditions on the radio station “La voix du paysan”. The program can be listened to via the Radio Garden app by selecting Radio *La voix du paysan, Ouahigouya*. The live broadcast takes place on the first Saturday of the month at 7 p.m., local time, and is then repeated every Sunday at 8 a.m.

Ouahigouya, M. Ouédraogo at „La voix du paysan“, March 2024.
Photo: Katrin Langewiesche.



27 – 31 May, Paris

Alice Degorce and **Katrin Langewiesche** from the research program DivTradBF organized the workshop “Traditions et créations. Dynamiques sociales contemporaines au Burkina Faso”. It brought together researchers, artists from the DivTrad_BF program and invited guests. Researchers and artists attempted to analyze social dynamics, processes of influence, public debates, bureaucratic procedures and political decisions through which traditions unfold. In addition to methodological and thematic questions, some participants discussed their artistic and scientific engagement in a country in crisis. The workshop included the opening of a photo and painting exhibition, a performance of a narrative theater and two study days at the Campus Condorcet, the Centre de Colloques and the Humathèque.



Workshop participants.
Photo: Apollinaire Banghnyan.

8 March – 20 June, Mainz

Exhibition “Tiny unpredictable material objects. Postcolonial perspectives on Georg Forster's herbarium specimens (1772–1775)” in the Schule des Sehens

Georg Forster (1754–1794) is known in Mainz for his leading role in the Mainz Republic. But he was not only a revolutionary, he was also a naturalist, cultural anthropologist, writer, translator and university librarian. He was just 17 years old when he set out with his father on James Cook's second voyage around the world (1772–1775). Forster's botanical preparations, drawings and publications follow the standards of botany, which became a science in the 18th century. They point to the indigenous knowledge of Polynesian societies, which was overwritten by the Europeans. Around 250 years after setting out, the exhibition reflects on the world travels in the context of European expansion, colonial exploitation and hegemonic knowledge production. And it draws a line to the activist protests against the anniversary celebrations in 2019 of the voyages around the world.



Photos: L. Arlt. University Library Mainz

The exhibition is the result of the sub-project “Sammeln erforschen” at the Berlin University of Applied Sciences (HTW) in cooperation with the Central Custody of the University of Göttingen. The research project was funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. The exhibition was first shown at Forum Wissen in Göttingen in 2022 and was modified for the presentation in Mainz in 2024. **Anna-Maria Brandstetter, Kirsten Grimm, Justus Jonas und Lisa-Marie Roemer** were the main exhibition team in Mainz. They were joined by four students of BA Anthropology from the exhibition seminar by Anna-Maria Brandstetter. For further information see <https://www.magazin.uni-mainz.de/georg-forster-umsegelt-die-welt/>.

The accompanying programme included guided tours of the exhibition, the Botanical Garden and the city of Mainz, as well as an artist/curator talk and an evening lecture. At the artist/curator talk “Restoring Tupaia's story: artistic research in archives” Khadija von Zinnenburg Carroll (Associate Professor of History Central European University Vienna) and Marlène Harles (curatorial assistant, Kunsthalle Mainz) discussed the potential of artistic research in archives (8 May). The invitation of Khadija von Zinnenburg Carroll to the opening of the exhibition and the artist talk was funded by the Ernst Wilhelm Müller Foundation. In the evening lecture entitled “Georg Forster auf dem Brotfruchtpfad”, Frank Vorpahl (historian and writer) delved into the importance of breadfruit in the Pacific and its fascination from Georg Forster to the present day (5 June).



29 October, Mainz

The Department of Anthropology and African Studies and the State Chancellery of Rhineland-Palatinate jointly hosted a screening of the film **“Reclaiming History: Colonial Roots of the Genocide in Rwanda”** at the State Chancellery on 29 October. Anna-Maria Brandstetter organized the evening on behalf of the department together with the Ruanda-Referat of the State Chancellery (Carola Stein, Katharina Krings and Jenny Bauer). The film is the first to examine the connections between German and Belgian colonialism and the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. The Rwandan-German directing team searched for the origins of the racially motivated hatred between Tutsi and Hutu. After the screening, the historian Charles Mulinda Kabwete (University of Rwanda), the anthropologist Gisèle Oldorff (Department of Anthropology and African Studies, University of Mainz) and the directors discussed the special production of this documentary, the colonial origins of the racist ideology and the aspirations of young Rwandans for the future. **Anna-Maria Brandstetter** moderated the discussion.

Anna-Maria Brandstetter served as historical advisor on the film, which was released on 6 April: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9DOER8JmSc>

She participated in the German premiere of the documentary “Reclaiming History: Colonial Roots of the Genocide in Rwanda”, on October 9 in the auditorium of the James Simon Gallery. After the screening, Liz Shoo moderated a panel with Lars-Christian Koch, director of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin collections in the Humboldt Forum, trauma therapist Esther Mujawayo-Kreiner, Anna-Maria Brandstetter and the directors Matthias Frickel and Samuel Ishimwe.



The 1.5-hour tours “Mainz – Postcolonial” were continued at regular intervals in 2024. 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 them in 2023. The research for the tours by Niclas Wolff-Jung, BA student of anthropology in Mainz, was funded by the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung.

The tours for and through the Mainzer Neustadt want to give people in Mainz a new, different access to the(ir) city. The goal is to show that Mainz was involved in colonialism, to make its traces visible, and to sensitize people to 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 are numerous examples, from street and place names such as Sömmerringplatz and Adenauer-Ufer to Mainzer Zollhafen, that the participants of the tours explored critically together.

9 October, Mainz

Hauke Dorsch and **Marlène Harles** offered a guided tour “Probe im Transkulturellen Kontext” through the exhibition Ari Benjamin Meyers “Always Rehearsing”.

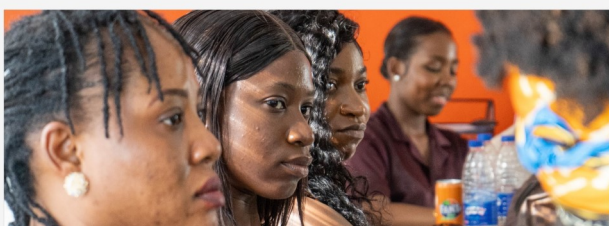
29 October – 5 November, Lagos

Marion Grimberg hosted the “Melanin Matters” week in Lagos, Nigeria. The events around the skin and skin tones were organized by her, Friederike Brinker (PR representative of the CRC 1482 Human Differentiation), Nadine Siegert (Director of the Goethe-Institut in Lagos), and the Nlele Institute of Photography. The week addressed topics relevant in contemporary Nigeria, such as skin tone discrimination and harmful skin-lightening practices. It included a two-day photography workshop where participants completed personal projects around skin-related photography. At a workshop for women, dermatologist Cole-Adeife talked about how to care for the skin in an environment where health-damaging skin-lightening products are widely available. At a film screening event, actress Beverly Naya presented “Skin talk”, her talk show addressing colorism in Nigeria. A panel discussion on the state of skin health and skin tone discrimination in Nigeria brought together speakers from academia, medicine, entertainment, and activism.

Melanin Matters

project week-

Highlights & Memories



Collage of moments from the “Melanin Matters” project week in Lagos.
Photos: Bemuter Tilley-Gyado.

Lectures, media appearances and other activities by individual faculty members

Bianca Baumann

- 02/2024 "Ethnologische Sammlungen zwischen Kontaktzonen und dekolonialen Aushandlungsräumen". Paper presented at the conference "Dealing with Heritage. Über Dinge, Beziehungen, Erinnern. Eine festliche Ansammlung für Anna-Maria Brandstetter", JGU Mainz (16 February).

Jan Beek

- 09/2024 "Wahrnehmung von Race/Kultur/Ethnizität bei Polizeikontrollen". Paper presented at Ethnologie in Schule und Erwachsenenbildung (ESE) e.V., Münster (2 September).
- 05/2024 "'Racial Profiling' – Ethnologische Erkenntnisse aus dem Rhein-Main-Gebiet". Paper presented at HöMS Mülheim (2 May).
- 05/2024 "'Racial Profiling' – Ethnologische Erkenntnisse aus dem Rhein-Main-Gebiet". Paper presented at the Arbeitstagung der IK-Multiplikatorinnen und Multiplikatoren, HöMS Wiesbaden (22 May)

Thomas Bierschenk

- 02/2024 "Die Polykrise im Sahel (The polycrisis in the Sahel)", Altcusaner association, Frankfurt chapter (17 February).
- 02/2024 "Entrepreneurs, business associations and rentier capitalism in Africa". Paper presented at the University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE) (29 February).
- 05/2024 Presentation of the book "Policing Race, Ethnicity and Culture" (Manchester University Press 2023) at the Hessische Hochschule für öffentliches Management und Sicherheit (HöMS), Mülheim/Main (with Jan Beek) (2 May).
- 05/2024 "Die Polykrise im Sahel". Paper presented at Rotary Club, Mainz Chapter (16 May).

Anna Maria Brandstetter

- 01/2024 "Gibt es ein Menschenrecht auf kulturelles Erbe? Erläuterungen am Beispiel von Kulturgütern aus dem kolonialzeitlichen Kamerun". Paper presented at the lecture series "Wem gehören kulturelle Güter? Kulturerbe, Aneignung, Austausch", organized by the Studium generale at the University of Mainz, winter semester 2023/24 (18 January).
- 01/2024 Moderation of the discussion after the performance "TRACER", a collective artistic research project consisting of Esther Mugambi, Emmanuelle Nsunda, Nizar Saleh, Emily Hardick, Anne Wetsi Mpoma, and Sarah van Lamsweerde, as part of the three-day programme "Transmission through Transformation" at the Kunsthalle Mainz (27 January).
- 03/2024 Participation in the Annual Conference of Directors of Ethnographic and World Cultures Museums and Collections in German-speaking Countries in Zurich, organized by the Museum Rietberg, Völkerkundemuseum UZH and NONAM (North America Native Museum), and collaboration on the Zurich Declaration 2024 "Museums, the public, politicians and the media have a duty" (10–12 March).
- 05/2024 Participation in the round table discussion with Chelsea Odufu, Chidi Nwaubani, Nuits Balnéaires, Ibaaku and Clément Ndé Fongang, moderated by Cheria Essieke, as part of the exhibition "RESTITUTION... et après?", curated by Cheria Essieke und Team New Afro (<https://www.newafro.net/>), at the Institut français Mainz (24 May).

- 06/2024 "Von Neuguinea über Biebrich nach Mainz: Zur Geschichte der ‚Sammlung Karoline und Gustav Bergmann‘. Paper presented in the context of the temporary exhibition "Herkunft [un] geklärt. Die Erwerbungen des Altertums Museums und der Gemäldegalerie der Stadt Mainz 1933–45" at the Landesmuseum Mainz (11 June). – Interview with Susanne Böhme, SWR Kultur regional, for SWR2 Journal am Mittag about the provenance research on the "Sammlung Bergmann" (11 June).
- 06/2024 "Zurück in die Zukunft?!". Paper presented in the session "Sammlungen revisited" at the 15th Annual Conference of the University Collection in Germany 2024 – "Neue Rollen, neue Ziele? Universitätssammlungen im Spannungsfeld von Forschung, Finanzen und Politik" – at the University of Zurich and the ETH Zurich (14 June).
- 09/2024 "Die Rheinlandkinder – die verfolgten und vergessenen Kinder der französischen Kolonialsoldaten". Paper presented at the 2nd day of remembrance for the Tirailleurs Sénégalais in Germany, organized by the Initiativgruppe "Sépultures des Tirailleurs Sénégalais en Allemagne", and guided tour of the graves of the Tirailleurs Sénégalais at the French Honorary Cemetery who were stationed in Mainz after the end of the 1st World War (8 September).
- 09/2024 "Against all odds: A plea for slow provenance research". Paper presented at the International Conference "From history to present: Dealing with museum collections from colonial contexts in Hesse and beyond" (23–24 September) at Museum Wiesbaden (<https://museum-wiesbaden.de/tagung-2024>) (24 September).
- 09/2022 Participation in the MIASA Workshop "Inspiration and reciprocity: Transferring insights and perspectives on restitution matters from Africa to Europe" at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Freiburg, Germany (26 and 27 September) and chair of the panel "The German discussion – main elements and obvious gaps" (26 September).
- 11/2024 Participation in the Workshop "Le patrimoine culturel au Rwanda – perspectives anthropologiques" at the Centre IRIBA (Center For Multimedia Heritage), Kigali, organized and hosted by Assumpta Mugiraneza (Centre IRIBA) and Jean Jules Irakoze, with Kayumba Cyitatre (Centre IRIBA), Regina Sarreiter (Goethe Institut), Cécile Umutoni (Entreprise sociale I BUHORO) and Mucyo Kanyankore Arnaud (INGOBE Scoop, author, dancer INTORE) (8 November).
- 12/2024 "Universität ohne Museum". Paper presented at the conference in celebration of the retirement of Prof. Dr. Mareile Flitsch (University of Zurich) "Begegnungen ... in ethnologischer Forschung, Lehre und Museologie", at the Ethnographic Museum, University of Zurich (6–7 December).
- 12/2024 Participation in the workshop on the provenance research project "Auf dem Prüfstand" at the Museum der Kulturen Basel (9 December).

Corinna Di Stefano

- 07/2024 "Unsheltered Im/Mobilities and De/Bordering Health Care Access. The Case of Homeless EU2 Citizens in Frankfurt am Main". Paper presented in the Panel on "Doing and undoing urban bordering: de-marcations, territorialisations, and resistance". EASA2024 Conference, Barcelona, Spain.

Dorsch, Hauke

- 01/2024 "Die Kora – Musikinstrument der Griots Westafrikas". Presentation at "Denkpause", University Library, Mainz (18 January).
- 03/2024 "Vom Mali-Reich bis Afrobeats – Schlaglichter auf Musik in Westafrika". Presentation at the lecture series "Beyond Music 24", ZHdK, Zurich (25 March).
- 07/2024 "Mali und der Blues"; "Die Kora". Two presentations at "Highdigenous Live! Das Festival des Staunens", Paderborn University (12–13 July).
- 07/2024 "Santería: Afrokubanische Religion im sozialistischen Kuba". Presentation at the Bildungswerk Hospiz Elias, Ludwigshafen (17 July).
- 10/2024 "31.10.1939: Geburtstag des Blues-Gitarristen Ali Farka Touré". WDR Radio show "Zeitzeichen" about the Malian musician (<https://www1.wdr.de/radio/wdr5/sendungen/zeitzeichen/zeitzeichen-ali-farka-toure-geburtstag-100.html>) (31 October) .
- 12/2024 "Politische Botschaften in kongolesischen Liebesliedern – Forschungsprojekte am Archiv für die Musik Afrikas der JGU Mainz". Presentation at the seminar series "Music in Africa", Asia Africa Institute, University of Hamburg (4 December).

Heike Drotbohm

- 05/2024 (with Elena Hernández) "Frictional legacies of immobilities and the continuities of expulsions in contemporary Black Lisbon". Paper presented at the workshop "Mobilities and Movements: Analyzing and Theorizing Legacies", University of Neuchâtel.
- 06/2024 "Lost in Translation. Vulnerability as a Boundary Object". Paper presented at the workshop "Rethinking the Volatility of Vulnerability against Categorical Constraints", JGU Mainz.
- 07/2024 (with Elena Reichl) "Kill your Darlings! Navigating Asymmetric Power Constellations and Feminist Frictions in Brazilian Structures of Support". Paper presented at the international workshop "The Politics of (Post-)Truth: Knowledge-Making in Fragmented Worlds of Mis/Trust", JGU Mainz.
- 07/2024 "Vulnerability as a Boundary Object". Paper presented at the conference of the CRC "Human Differentiation", JGU Mainz.
- 9/2024 "Human Differentiation in Contact Zones of Support. Researching Vernacular Humanitarianism as a Sorting Machine by Other Means". Keynote at the international conference "Vernacular Humanitarianism in a Global Perspective", Mombasapubl, Kenya.
- 10/2024 "Pelas penumbras do cuidado. Continuidades da política tecnomoral no ativismo pró-migrante em São Paulo". Presentation at the Department of Anthropology at the Universidade Estadual do Rio do Janeiro (UERJ).
- 11/2024 (with Theresa Mentrup) "Ruinen der Zukunft? Zeitliche Dimensionen von Extraktivismus und Reparatur in Brumadinho (Brasilien)", Institutskolloquium, Institut für Ethnologie und Afrikastudien, JGU Mainz.
- 11/2024 "Rethinking the Crux of Selective Solidarities in Pro-migrant Activism in São Paulo's Squats". Paper presented at the international workshop: Selective Solidarities in Times of Multiple Crisis. Research Group "Boundaries of Helping under Conditions of Multiple Crises", Goethe University Frankfurt.
- 11 /2024 "Geben und Nehmen. Wer erhält Unterstützung und wer leistet sie?" Podcast contribution in the podcast series "Sone und Solche" of the CRC "Human Differentiation" https://open.spotify.com/episode/7M2MHUPvrHdaxh2jOdiFPJ?si=t_Y70g-eToy77BVi_SfKIQ.

Franziska Fay

- 06/2024 Roundtable: "Agency as a Problem in African History". Invited participant (convenor: Felicitas Becker), The Biennial CRG African History Conference 2024, Centre for African Studies, University of Basel (20–21 June).
- 07/2024 "Feminist Afterlives: Witnessing, Violence, and Gender Justice in Tanzania". Invited Talk, Colloquium, Institute of Anthropology, Goethe University Frankfurt (2 July).

Elena Hernández

- 05/2024 (with Heike Drotbohm) "Frictional legacies of immobilities and the continuities of expulsions in contemporary Black Lisbon". Paper presented at the Workshop "Rethinking Regimes of (Im) mobility through its Past, Present and Future Legacies", Neuchâtel (30 May).
- 06/2024 "Paradoxes of the struggle against a neighborhood's vulnerability after its production at Lisbon's margins". Paper presented at the workshop "Rethinking the volatility of vulnerability against categorical constraints", JGU Mainz (7 June).
- 11/2024 "Contested Mobility Legacies in Portugal". Paper presented at the Workshop "Mobilities, Care and Urban Control" with Mimi Sheller, Leibniz Institute for European History, Mainz (9 December).

Bakar Abdul-Rashid Jeduah

- 04/2024 "Social interactions Between TikTok users and Their Influence on the Creation and Shaping of Micro-Forms and Varieties of Afrobeats Songs". Paper presented at the conference "Dis/Ordering Distribution Infrastructures, Formats and Practices in the Circulation of Culture". Goethe University Frankfurt (25–26 April).
- 07/2024 "Affective transnational socio-political public formation through Afrobeats music". Paper presented at the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) conference, Barcelona (23–26 July).
- 08/2024 "Social Media Dance Challenges. From Azonto to Afrobeats". Paper presented at the African Studies of the UK (ASAUUK) conference. Oxford Brookes University, Oxford (29–31 August).
- 11/2024 (with Tom Simmert) "Distributing Afrobeats through dance and choreography". Presentation at the Institutskolloquium, ifeas, Mainz (26 November).
- 11/2024 Discussant on the roundtable "Infrastructures: The In/Visible Hand of Distribution". Annual CrossArea conference, Goethe University Frankfurt (28–29 November).

Matthias Krings

- 04/ 2024 "Korean Film and Popular Arts in Kenya". Paper presented at the conference „Dis/Ordering Distribution“, Goethe University Frankfurt (25–26 April).
- 05/2024 Interview on light-skinnedness in African societies for Radio show "Der Tag" (Hessischer Rundfunk) (13 May).
- 07/2024 "Kolorismus. Mit Hautfarbe unterscheiden". Paper presented at the Fifth plenary conference, SFB 1482 Humandifferenzierung, Mainz (5–6 July).
- 08/2024 "'Establish/Esther Bleached': Memetic Reflections on Coming of Age on TikTok". Paper presented at the annual conference of the African Studies Association of the UK, Oxford (29 August).

- 09/2024 (with Solomon Waliaula) "Film DJ-ing in East Africa". Paper presented at the symposium "Archival Assembly III", Arsenal – Institut für Film- und Videokunst e.V., Berlin (20 September).
- 09/2024 Participant of the roundtable on "Versammeln/Unterscheiden" at the Annual conference of the German Gesellschaft für Medienwissenschaft, Mainz, (27 September).
- 10/2024 "Establish/Esther bleached': Individual transformation as TikTok meme". Paper presented at the biannual conference of the VAD, Bayreuth (1 October).
- 10/2024 "Est(h)a blish!': Memetic performances of female success on TikTok". Paper presented at the workshop "Melanin Matters", SFB 1482 & Goethe-Institut, Lagos, Nigeria (online) (30 October).
- 11/2024 "Mummy of Lagos': Bobrisky's presentation of self as a contested case of doing being a woman". Paper presented at the symposium, "Being and Becoming Bobrisky: Agency, Subjectivity, Politics", University of Kansas African Studies Center (KASC) and University of Michigan African Studies Center (online) (2 November).
- 11/2024 Host of the roundtable "Infrastructures: The In/Visible Hand of Distribution". Conference "Practices of Distribution and the Reconfiguration of Culture", CrossArea e.V. and CEDIT-RAA, Goethe-University, Frankfurt (28–29 November).
- 12/2024 "Melanin matters: Coloristic Human differentiation". Paper presented at the international symposium "Sorting People into Kinds: Perspectives on Human Differentiation", SFB 1482 Humandifferenzierung, JGU Mainz (5–7 December).

Katrin Langewiesche

- 05/2024 (with Mahamadi Ouédraogo) "Bugpoka – une figure marginalisée des traditions?". Workshop of the research program DivTradBF, Campus Condorcet, Paris, Aubervilliers (29 May).
- 05/2024 (with Harouna Marané, Valérie Blanchard, Pigdewendé Gérard Kientega [KPG] and Mahamadi Ouédraogo) "Les créations autour des bugba : Contes, photographies, peintures, enquêtes". Workshop of the research program DivTradBF, Campus Condorcet, Paris, Aubervilliers (30 May).
- 10/2024 "Safeguarding the tangible and intangible heritage of the Bugba". Introduction Lecture, INSS, Ouagadougou (10 October).
- 11/2024 "Reframing Museum Artefacts of Burkina Faso". Symposium for the 50th Anniversary of the National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, Japan (17 November).
- 12/2024 "Les enjeux de la nomination et de la catégorisation. L'exemple des statistiques des religions du Togo". Colloquium of the research project Dynrelaf, Université-Paris Cité (5 December).

Carola Lentz

- 02/2024 "Kunstfreiheit zwischen Cancel culture und Staatsräson". Paper presented at a meeting of the Leipziger Kreis / directors of German art museums, Bremen (6 February) (online).
- 03/2024 "Family, mobility, and culture in a changing world". Paper and panel discussion at the Goethe-Institut Max Mueller Bhawan, Mumbai (13 March).
- 03/2024 "Female careers: luck, hard work, and institutional support". Paper presented at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai (16 March).

- 06/2024 “Die Sache mit der Kunstfreiheit”. Paper presented in the Research Colloquium for the Arts of Africa, Free University Berlin (18 June).
- 09/2024 “Contested memories: German debates on remembering colonial history”. Paper presented in the Workshop “Return to the Source: Using Film to Exorcise Trauma, Embodied Histories, Memory, and Colonial Ghosts in Namibia”, Goethe-Institut Namibia, Otjisazu Guest Farm (9 September).
- 09/2024 “Colonial violence, the Holocaust, and contested politics of memory in Germany”. Paper presented at the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre (16 September).
- 09/2024 “Family history and the politics of memory in Africa”. Paper presented at the Department of History, University of Dar es Salaam (25 September).
- 11/2024 “In die andere Richtung jetzt. Eine Reise durch Ostafrika: An evening with Navid Kermani”. Navid Kermani in conversation with Carola Lentz. Literaturhaus München (20 November).
- 11/2024 “Family history and the politics of memory in Africa”. Paper presented at MIASA (Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa), Legon, Ghana (26 November).
- 01-12/2024 Numerous public speeches and media appearances as well as newspaper articles; for a selection, see <https://www.goethe.de/de/uun/prs/int/len.html> See, for instance: Interview with Tilo Jung, Jung & Naiv (Podcast), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=quz_uT_mdS8

Theresa Mentrup

- 02/2024 “Só tirar poeira? Debater e repensar o conjunto de meio ambiente, saúde e condições de vida no cotidiano pós-rompimento em Brumadinho”. Participatory workshop, organized together with Heike Drotbohm, Brumadinho (Brazil) (26 February).
- 07/2024 “Nós mulheres somos água? Impressões de Brumadinho (Minas Gerais) para repensar a relação de água, mineração e gênero”. Paper presented at the Summer School „Kulturraum Amazonien. Begegnung, Austausch, Widerstreit“, JGU Mainz (23 July).
- 11/2024 “(K)Ein Feind in Brumadinho? Ethische und methodologische Reflektionen zu ethnographischer Forschung in einer brasilianischen Bergbauregion”. Paper presented at the workshop by the RG South America of the German Association of Social and Cultural Anthropology (DGSKA), University of Munich (8–9 November).
- 11/2024 (with Heike Drotbohm) “Ruinen der Zukunft? Zeitliche Dimensionen von Extraktivismus und Reparatur in Brumadinho (Brasilien)”. Paper presented together at the Departmental Seminar, Institute of Anthropology and African Studies (ifeas), JGU Mainz (19 November).

Nico Nassenstein

- 01/2024 “Lingala não pertence a Angola”: Studying Lingala’s expansion, ideologies around Lingala vs. Kikongo (?) and exogenous language debates on YouTube?”. Paper presented at the international workshop “Panchronic language contact: Angolan scenarios”, JGU Mainz & Goethe-Universität Frankfurt.
- 02/2024 “Variation and change in northeastern DR Congo: Perspectives on Swahili and Bangala– and contact with non-Bantu languages”. Paper presented at the workshop “Explorations in language variation: Swahili and beyond”, SOAS University of London.
- 02/2024 “Habituals in Western Swahili varieties and their potential origin(s)”. Paper presented at the online workshop “Research on Western Swahili: 1st workshop and study meeting”, JGU Mainz

- 04/2024 "Rufumbira: 'Ugandan Kinyarwanda' or a distinct language? On its history, characteristic features and language contact". Paper presented at the international workshop of the CRC1482 "Differentiating varieties and their speakers: Workshop on Kinyarwanda varieties from Uganda, Rwanda and DR Congo", JGU Mainz.
- 05/2024 (with Daisuke Shinagawa and Makoto Furumoto) "'ECS' and 'Inland' Swahili revisited: Substantiating terminology based on linguistic facts and realities". Paper presented at the conference 36th Swahili Colloquium, Universität Bayreuth.
- 05/2024 "Microvariationist perspectives on Lingala and Swahili as spoken in DR Congo". Paper presented at the workshop "Microvariation and youth language practices in Africa", University of Essex.
- 06/2024 (with Daisuke Shinagawa and Makoto Furumoto) "Emerging heterogeneity of 'standard' varieties: Swahili bora and Union Ngwana in relation to ECS". Paper presented at the online workshop "Research on Western Swahili: 2nd workshop and study meeting", JGU Mainz.
- 06/2024 "Notes on the syntax of Bunia Swahili/Ituri Kingwana, a Western Swahili regiolect". Paper presented at the online workshop "Research on Western Swahili: 2nd workshop and study meeting", JGU Mainz.
- 08/2024 (with Axel Fanego Palat, Laura Seel, Angelika Mietzner and Anne Storch) "Space and spatial repertoires in multilingual contexts at the Kenyan coast: Insights from Mijikenda". Paper presented at the international conference "11th World congress of African linguistics (WOCAL11)", University of Nairobi.
- 08/2024 (with Axel Fanego Palat, Laura Seel, Angelika Mietzner, David Barasa and Anne Storch) "Variation among Mijikenda tense-aspect systems". Paper presented at the international conference "Bantu10", University of Dar es Salaam.
- 08/2024 (with Axel Fanego Palat, Laura Seel, Angelika Mietzner, David Barasa and Anne Storch) "Observations on space and spatial orientation in Mijikenda languages". Paper presented at the international conference "Bantu10", University of Dar es Salaam.
- 09/2024 (with Svenja Völkel) "Language and culture shaping each other: Examples from Africa and Oceania". Keynote talk presented at the conference "LXXXI Zjazd Polskiego Towarzystwa Językoznawczego", Lublin University.
- 09/2024 "The study of microvariation and youth languages – the why, the how, the challenges, and first results". Paper presented at the international workshop "Youth language symposium after Cosmas Amenorvi's PhD defense", Leiden University.
- 10/2024 "Sprache". Paper and written research sketch presented at the workshop "Menschen unterscheiden: Historische Perspektiven der Humandifferenzierung", Leibniz-Institut für Europäische Geschichte Mainz.
- 10/2024 (with David Barasa, Axel Fanego Palat, Angelika Mietzner and Laura Nassenstein) "Swahilization in progress: Contact and convergence between Mijikenda languages and Swahili". Paper presented at the conference "Baraza 2024", SOAS University of London.
- 10/2024 (in collaboration with Daisuke Shinagawa and Makoto Furumoto) "Spread of world languages (SPROWL): Why and how do languages spread? (Ki)Swahili as an African world language". Paper presentation and roundtable discussion, Universität Zürich.
- 11/2024 Panelist at the "CrossAreaConference", as part of the panel discussion "Formats and institutions", Goethe-Universität Frankfurt.
- 12/2024 "Language and (self-)recognition in East Africa". Paper presented at the international CRC1482-funded symposium 'Sorting people into kinds: Perspectives on human differentiation', JGU Mainz.

Konstanze N'Guessan

- 03/2024 "‘Hol mir ma den Hidler her’ - (Post)digitale Vergemeinschaftung am Beispiel der Bürgerbewegung Pax Europa", MOTRA-K, Wiesbaden (7 March).
- 05/2024 "Memetapolitics: accelerationism, humor and play in post-digital activism of the far right". Institutskolloquium Ethnologie Frankfurt (21 May).
- 07/2024 "Red-pill-stories in far-right digital culture or how to study (post)-truth anthropologically". Paper presented at the international workshop "The Politics of (Post-)Truth: Knowledge-Making in Fragmented Worlds of Mis/Trust", Department of Anthropology and African Studies, JGU Mainz (10 July).
- 07/2024 "Only playing – ethnographic perspectives on ludic fascism in Germany". Paper presented at EASA, Barcelona (25 July).
- 11/2024 "Far right fertility". Performance at the Open Mic "Cancel Campus", Goethe University Frankfurt (6 November).

Anja Oed

- 10/2024 "Die Jahn-Bibliothek im Comic und Comics in der Jahn-Bibliothek". Presentation at the Tag der Sammlungen, JGU Mainz (29 October).
- 11/2024 "The Jahn Library for African Literatures in the light of Ib Zongos graphic biography of Janheinz Jahn". Presentation at the Workshop "VDB-Fortbildung für Fachreferent*innen und Bibliothekar*innen der Afrikawissenschaften" at Goethe University Frankfurt (5–6 November).

Elena Reichl

- 01/2024 Podcast Episode "Wie Freiwillige in Brasilien Hunger begegnen" for Sone & Solche – wie Menschen einander unterscheiden by Friederike Brinker (<https://open.spotify.com/show/32f1sileT0xxoW4NWloWuP>) (1 January).
- 06/2024 "Nourishing the imperfect soul: Exploring the Interplay of Vulnerabilities through Prayers and Soups in Curitiba, Brazil". Paper presented at the workshop "Rethinking the volatility of vulnerability against categorical constraints", Collaborative Research Center Human Differentiation, JGU Mainz (6 June).
- 07/2024 (with Heike Drotbohm) "Kill your Darlings! Navigating frictions and identifying continuities in the anthropological venture. Insights from Brazil". Paper presented at the international workshop "The Politics of (Post-)Truth: Knowledge-Making in Fragmented Worlds of Mis/Trust", Department of Anthropology and African Studies, JGU Mainz (11 July).
- 11/2024 "Collaborations and contestations in the field: Insights into the study of support practices in polarized milieus in southern Brazil". Paper presented at DGSKA Regional Group Meeting South America, Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich (9 November).
- 12/2024 "Between precarity and empowerment: Care mobilities and social transformation in a community kitchen in São Paulo". Paper presented at the workshop "Mobilities, Care and Urban Control" with Mimi Sheller, Leibniz Institute for European History, Mainz (9 December).

Tom Simmert

- 09/2024 "Revisiting distortion in the YouTube Afrobeats Archive". Presentation at Archival Assembly #3, "Resounding Archives: The Politics of Listening to the Moving Image", Berlin (22 September).
- 11/2024 (with Bakar Abdul-Rashid Jeduah) "Distributing Afrobeats through dance and choreography". Lecture at the Department of Anthropology and African Studies, JGU Mainz (26 November).
- 12/2024 "Afrobeats: Business Music and Music Business in Lagos, Nigeria". Lecture at the Department of Musicology, HfM Weimar (18 December).

Deborah Wockelmann

- 06/2024 "The ordinary Other: Linguistic practices of differentiation in Uganda". Presentation at the Sociolinguistics Symposium 25, Curtin University, Perth, Australia, online (25 June).
- 03/2024 "Repertoires, ideologies and linguistic choices of speakers in Kampala, Uganda". Presentation at the Winter School in Sociolinguistics, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark (12 March).

Excursions and student field research

Individual members of the department and the Sulzmann Archives were involved in activities in connection with the exhibition “Unextractable: Sammy Baloji invites” at the Kunsthalle Mainz (27 October 2023 – 11 February 2024: <https://www.kunsthalle-mainz.de/wp/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/BEGLEITHEFTBALOJIENG09.pdf>) and the three-days programme “Transmission through Transformation” (25-27 January). Sammy Baloji deals with colonial relations between the Democratic Republic Congo through themes such as extractivism, economic exploitation, raw material extraction, but also archives and collections in European museums.

For the duration of the exhibition, Anna-Maria Brandstetter, Hauke Dorsch, and students of their seminar “Kunst, Musik und (Post-) Kolonialismus im Kongo” gathered in the research room of the exhibition and continued their critical interrogation of colonial archives relating to the exhibition and beyond. On 31 January, they discussed insights into the work with their students

Extracts out of two short films made by Erika Sulzmann and Ernst Wilhelm Müller, titled “Ekonda (Zentralafrika, Nördl. Kongogebiet) – Tanzfest (Nsámbo) in Isangi mit mehreren Tanzgruppen” (11 and 17:30 min) filmed during the festivities held by the Congolese village Isangi when the two German visitors left it in 1953 were presented on a tablet in the research room of the exhibition. The digitized copies of the two films, published in 1960 by IWF, Göttingen, were on view with the kind courtesy of the German National Library of Science and Technology (TIB), Hanover.



Photo: Anne Brandstetter.

Erika Sulzmann led one of the first major anthropological field research projects carried out by German scholars after World War II, the Mainz Congo Expedition (1951–1954). Her name is closely connected with the Department of Anthropology and African Studies at JGU Mainz, where she worked from 1948 to 1976. She was involved in the organization of the Ekonda dance group from the village of Bobulamo in the Territoire de Bikoro, Province de l'Equateur, that took part in the performance “Changwe Yetu” at the Brussels World Fair in 1958 with a modified version of their traditional dances. The above-mentioned short films were shown in the Palace of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi. Ph.D. student Lena Scheibinger drew the TRACER team's attention to the fact that Sulzmann visited these dancers in 1958 in Antwerp and wrote the text “Les Danseurs Ekonda à Changwe Yetu” about them. “TRACER” is a collective artistic research project consisting of Esther Mugambi, Emmanuelle Nsunda, Nizar Saleh, Emily Hardick, Anne Wetsi Mpoma, and Sarah van Lamsweerde, which takes a critical look at the Changwe Yetu performances (1955–1958). In the discussion following



the performance of “TRACER” as part of the three-day programme “Transmission through Transformation” (25–27 January), Lena Scheibinger talked about how Erika Sulzmann was involved in the Changwe Yetu project.

Heike Drotbohm organized a writing retreat with her Ph.D. candidates in Schauinsland, Schwarzwald, on 23–25 May.



Retreat participants. Photo: Elena Hernández.

Jan Beek, Thomas Bierschenk and Rachel Etse organized the field school “The production of social order in soccer stadiums” (Mainz/Frankfurt, October/November 2024) in the context of the research project “Policing as a practice of categorisation. Reciprocal ascriptions in the control of public spaces” (see p. 19 for more information).

An excursion to the Weltkulturen Museum in Frankfurt am Main on 27 November was part of **Bianca Baumann**’s seminar “Ethnological Provenance Research”. Curator Julia Friedel and provenance researcher Josefine Neef gave the course participants an insight into the Africa Depot of the museums and presented their research on the provenance of selected cultural artefacts. The excursion provided a behind-the-scenes look and allowed for a practical exchange that complemented the theoretical approach of the seminar.



Curator Julia Friedel explains the background of some of the cultural artefacts held at the Weltkulturen Museum to the participants of the course “Ethnological Provenance Research”. Photo: Bianca Baumann .

PUBLICATIONS AND EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES OF FACULTY MEMBERS

Monographs, edited books and special issues of journals

DROTBOHM, HEIKE

(with Hansjörg Dilger) (eds.): Affective Regimes of Care beyond Humanitarian Crisis. Themed section in *Focaal. Journal of Global and Historical Anthropology*. Vol. 98 (April 2024).

LANGEWIESCHE, KATRIN

(with Alice Degorce and Ludovic Kibora) (eds.): *Religious Encounters and Social Dynamics in Burkina Faso*. Dakar: Amalion.

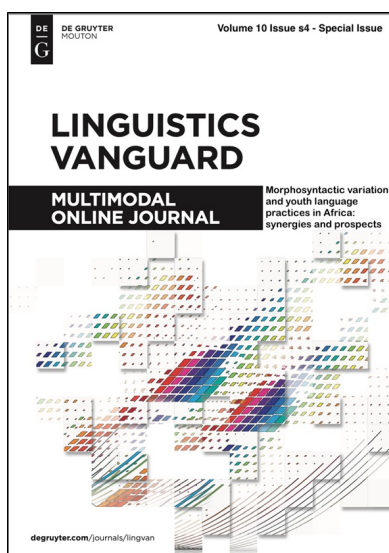
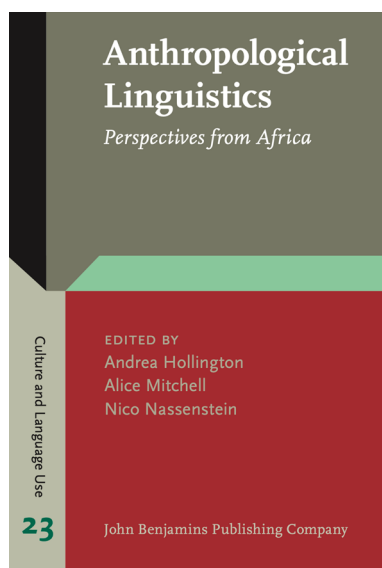
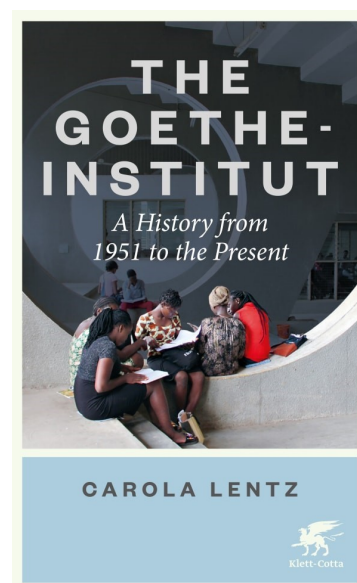
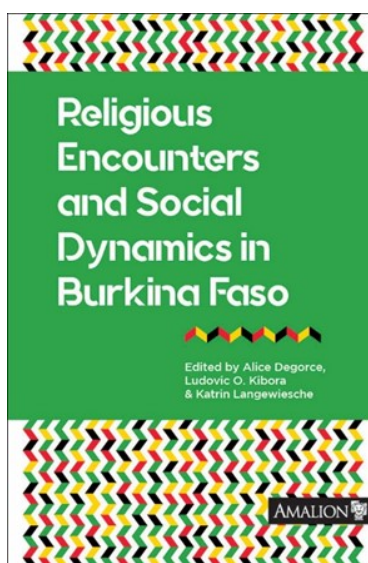
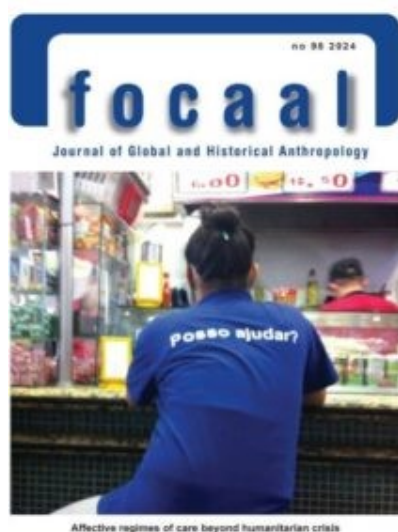
LENTZ, CAROLA

The Goethe-Institut: A History from 1951 to the Present. Stuttgart: Klett-Cotta.

NASSENSTEIN, NICO

(with Andrea Hollington and Alice Mitchell) (eds.): *Anthropological Linguistics: Perspectives from Africa*. [Culture and Language Use 23]. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.

(with Hannah Gibson, Andrea Hollington, Fridah Kanana Erastus, Sambulo Ndovu and Colin Reilly) (eds.): Morphosyntactic Variation and Youth Language Practices in Africa: Synergies and Prospects. *Linguistics Vanguard* 10 (s4), 283–377 (guest-edited special issue).



Articles, book chapters, working papers, etc.

BEEK, JAN

(with Christiane Howe and Nils Zurawski) Wie werden Fehler gemacht? Die Konstruktion und Narration von Fehlern durch das polizeiliche Beschwerdemanagement. In: Kai Seidensticker (ed.), *Fehlerkultur in der Polizei – Ausprägung, Einflussfaktoren und Möglichkeitsräume*. Wiesbaden: Springer VS.

(with Thomas Bierschenk) Preface: Policing as Boundary Making, (De-)Differentiation, and Translation. In Marcel Müller, *Der Umgang mit Differenz in der Polizeiarbeit: Eine auto-ethnografische Untersuchung*. Wiesbaden: Springer, V–X.

Die Konstruktion kultureller Differenz durch polizeiliche Arbeit. *Migration und Soziale Arbeit* 45 (4), 302–309.

BAUMANN, BIANCA

What is it about? Attempts to Interpret the Biography of a Portrait Figure from the West Region of Cameroon. In: Claudia Andratschke; Lars Müller and Katja Lembke (eds.): *Provenance Research on Collections from Colonial Contexts – Principles, Approaches, Challenges. Contributions of the International PAESE Conference, 21–23 June 2021* (Veröffentlichungen des Netzwerks Provenienzforschung in Niedersachsen 5), Heidelberg: arthistoricum.net, 102–113.

BIERSCHENK, THOMAS

Book Review of Sausdal, David. 2023. *Globalizing Local Policing. An Ethnography of Change and Concern among Danish Detectives*. London: Palgrave MacMillan. *Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale* 3 (3), 123–125.

(with Jan Beek) Preface: Policing as Boundary Making, (De-)Differentiation, and Translation. In Marcel Müller, *Der Umgang mit Differenz in der Polizeiarbeit. Eine auto-ethnographische Untersuchung*. Wiesbaden: Springer, V–X.

CORINNA DI STEFANO

Internal bordering and debordering in urban humanitarian health care. *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 47 (12), 2520–2540 (<https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2024.2344691>).

DORSCH, HAUKE

(with Clémentine Nkongolo) Musik. In: Julien Bobineau, Philipp Gieg and Timo Lowinger (eds.): *Handbuch Demokratische Republik Kongo – Geschichte, Politik, Gesellschaft, Kultur*. Berlin: Frank & Timme, 599–614.

DROTBOHM, HEIKE

Categories as Learning Practice: Navigating Contested Belonging Along Transatlantic Mobile Trajectories. Special issue edited by Ulrike Bialas, Johanna Lukate & Steve Vertovec: *Contested Categories in the Context of Migration*. *Ethnic and Racial Studies* (<https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2024.2404481>).

(with Hansjörg Dilger) Thinking Affects of Care through Power. An introduction. *Focaal. Journal of Global and Historical Anthropology* 98 (1), 1–14 [part of a themed section, edited by Heike Drotbohm & Hansjörg Dilger: “Affective Regimes of Care beyond Humanitarian Crisis”].

Along the Twilights of Care. Continuities of Technomoral Politics in São Paulo's Pro-migrant Activism. *Focaal. Journal of Global and Historical Anthropology* 98 (1), 15–30 [part of a themed section, edited by Heike Drotbohm & Hansjörg Dilger: "Affective Regimes of Care beyond Humanitarian Crisis"].

Shake it, stretch it, share it! Moving Reflexivities beyond Migration. *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)* 210.

FAY, FRANZISKA

Wie die Beschaffenheit der Welt das Sein einer Sache bedingt: Über Christopher (Kit) Davis. In: Lisa Burger, Tim Burger und David Sumerauer (eds.): *Inspirationen: Über die Entstehung ethnologischen Denkens*. Wuppertal: Edition Trickster at Peter Hammer Verlag, 128–132.

GRIMBERG, MARION

Conference review: Skin beyond the Social: Materialities, Relationalities, Porosities", 18 February 2022, FU Berlin, Germany. *Sociologus* 72 (1), 75–78.

HERNÁNDEZ, ELENA

Quem ocupa não tem culpa! – Wer besetzt, trägt keine Schuld. Solidarisches Miteinander und das Anerkennen vielfältiger Ungleichheiten. *Freiburger Zeitschrift für GeschlechterStudien* 30, 65–73.



KNIPPING, JAN

"They look hostile from afar." Language ideologies and representations of "Northernness" in Uganda. In: Andrea Hollington, Alice Mitchell and Nico Nassenstein (eds.): *Anthropological Linguistics: Perspectives from Africa*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 202–222.

KRINGS, MATTHIAS

Kinoerzählen und digitaler Wandel in Ostafrika. Transformationen einer intermedialen Erzählgattung. *Communicatio Socialis. Zeitschrift für Ethik der Medien und der digitalen Gesellschaft* 57 (1), 28–38 (<https://doi.org/10.5771/0010-3497-2024-1-28>).

(with Izuu Nwankwo) Playing with Difference: Oyibo Lip-sync Enactments of Nigerian Popular Culture on TikTok. *Journal of African Cultural Studies* (<https://doi.org/10.1080/13696815.2024.2415355>).

(with Stefan Hirschauer) Rassifizierende Humandifferenzierung. Ein Plädoyer für spezifizierende Vergleiche statt ethno-zentrischer Subsumtion. *Berliner Journal für Soziologie* 2/2024 (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11609-024-00520-9>).

LENTZ, CAROLA

(with Andrea Noll) Early-career funding in German-African academic cooperation: achievements, challenges, perspectives. Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften: *Denkanstöße aus der Akademie* 16 January, 5–99 ([BBAW Denkanstoesse 16 2024.pdf](https://www.bbaw.de/denkanstoesse/16-2024.pdf)).

Kulturarbeit muss unabhängig bleiben! Guest commentary. *Der Spiegel*, 13 January.

(with Hauke Dorsch and Peter Geschiere) Ute Rösenthaller: Obituary (1960–2024). *Zeitschrift für Ethnologie / Journal of Social and Cultural Anthropology* 149 (1), 155–160.

(with Teresa Koloma Beck and Omri Boehm) Die Zukunft unseres Erinnerns. Ein kulturpolitisches Gespräch. *Merkur* 906 (78), 5–18.

NASSENSTEIN, NICO

(with Alice Mitchell and Andrea Hollington) (eds.) Introduction. In: Andrea Hollington, Alice Mitchell & Nico Nassenstein (eds.): *Anthropological Linguistics: Perspectives from Africa*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 1–28.

(with Laura Seel) "Show your feelings!" On the expression of emotions in Rabai (Midzichenda). *Ibid.*, 331–366.

On the development of tense-aspect markers in Lingala youth language: a microvariationist look at language change in the verb phrase. *Linguistics Vanguard* 10 (s4), 307–318.

(with Hannan Gibson, Andrea Hollington and Colin Reilly) New perspectives on morphosyntactic variation in African youth language practices. *Ibid.*, 283–288.

N'GUESSAN, KONSTANZE

Only playing? Ethnographic perspectives on ludic fascism in Germany, *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)* 209 (https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/files/2024/09/AP-209_NGuessan_Only-Playing.pdf).

Extrem rechte Internet – Meme als Mittel der politischen Propaganda. *Demokratie gegen Menschenfeindlichkeit* 2024 (2), 160–171.

Doing being father: Ethnographic perspectives on intimate fathering as identity work in Côte d'Ivoire. *Africa Today* 70 (3), 3–23 (<https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/3/article/923028/pdf>).

THERESA MENTRUP

Die Katastrophe von Brumadinho und die deutsche Verantwortung. *Blätter für deutsche und internationale Politik* 01 24, 29–33 (<https://www.blaetter.de/ausgabe/2024/januar/die-katastrophe-von-brumadinho-und-die-deutsche-verantwortung>).

Repercussions of Responsibility: Retracing Transnational Moral Obligations after the Brumadinho Dam Collapse. In: Sarah May, Stefan Groth and Johannes Müske (eds.): *Morality as Organizational Practice: Negotiating, Performing, and Navigating Moral Standards in Contexts of Work*. Münster: Waxmann, 153–168.

OED, ANJA

Jenseits von Writing Back. Dimensionen der Internationalität afrikanischer Literatur. In: Winfried Eckel, Christiane Solte-Gresser and Laura Vordermayer (eds.): *Komparatistik. Jahrbuch der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Allgemeine und Vergleichende Literaturwissenschaft*. Bielefeld: Aisthesis Verlag, 195–215.

REICHL, ELENA

Kochen als Klassenkampf? Solidarität in einer Gemeinschaftsküche in São Paulo, Brasilien. *FZG – Freiburger Zeitschrift für GeschlechterStudien*, 2024, 75–84.

Editorial responsibilities

BIERSCHENK, THOMAS

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

BÜDEL, MARTIN

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/>) since March 2024.

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>).

KRINGS, MATTHIAS

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

KUNZMANN, JANIKA

Co-editor of the peer-reviewed journal *Afrikanistik & Ägyptologie Online* (AAeO) ([Afrikanistik-Aegyptologie-Online \(AAeO\) — Afrikanistik-Aegyptologie-Online](https://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/>) till February 2024.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

The **University of Rwanda (UR) in Huye** and the JGU Mainz have been cooperating closely since 1985. In order to continue this longstanding partnership, the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was renewed in October 2024. The aim of renewing the agreement of scientific cooperation between the two universities is to continue furthering the exchange and to initiate new collaborative projects in research and teaching. At UR, Prof. Dr. Charles Mulinda Kabwete, Dean of the School of Governance, Development and Society is the designated partner. At JGU, Jun.-Prof. Dr. Franziska Fay is the new coordinator and has taken over the role of the partnership representative from Dr. Anna-Maria Brandstetter, who had held the position since 2011. Franziska Fay is assisted by Gisèle Oldorff and Lena Scheibinger.



Photo: Stefan Sämmer

Everything about the cooperation between the University of Rwanda and JGU Mainz: <https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/kooperation-mit-der-university-of-rwanda/>.

In November 2024, Jun.-Prof. Dr. Franziska Fay and Prof. Dr. Nico Nassenstein spent one week in Rwanda, where they met with representatives of the Partnerschaftsverein Rheinland Pfalz/Ruanda e.V., with the academic partners at the University of Rwanda, with key representatives of the Rwanda Cultural Heritage Academy (Inteko y’umuco) as well as with research partners as part of the ongoing collaborative work within the Collaborative Research Center 1482 “Studies in human differentiation”.

The **University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania** and the JGU Mainz established a new scientific agreement in February 2024. This new MoU was initiated by Jun.-Prof. Dr. Franziska Fay, who serves as the coordinator for the partnership at JGU, and is represented by Dr. Masoud Dauda, Unit of Anthropology, Department of Sociology, School of Social Sciences at UDSM. The agreement aims to strengthen education, cultural and scientific ties between the two parties and promote and facilitate cooperation in teaching and research in the field of anthropology in both Tanzania and Germany.

Anna-Maria Brandstetter, who was the coordinator of the academic cooperation between the University of Rwanda and the University of Mainz until April 2024, spent three weeks in Rwanda in both March/April and November. She met with partners at the University of Rwanda, the Ethnographic Museum, the Kandt House Museum and the Centre IRIBA and prepared the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two universities, which was signed in October.

In May 2024, Nico Nassenstein hosted Prof Daisuke Shinagawa and Dr Makoto Furumoto, two colleagues from **Tokyo University of Foreign Studies**, with whom the Department of Anthropology and African Studies has been cooperating for several years based on a memorandum of understanding. In the context of this research stay, collaborative projects could be strengthened and a joint talk was given at Bayreuth University. Both scholars gave talks in the departmental colloquium.

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.

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 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 2024/2025, two students of the department were nominated to study at the following partner universities: University of Granada and Aix-Marseille University.

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

Since November 2024

James Odhiambo 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. His research project “Digital Cultures Outside the West: Creative Social Media Vernaculars and Popular Imaginaries in Kenya” seeks to demonstrate that the digital revolution has given rise to cultural productions that cut across societal hierarchies in terms of their popularity. The project seeks to demonstrate how local realities refract the experience and understanding of technologies to produce “vernacular cultures” that resonate with the people’s indigenous knowledge structures and everyday realities. The project sets out to investigate the expressive grammar of the vernacular; significance of audience in mediated performances; vernacular aesthetics in emergent genres; construction of vernacular imaginaries; and the future of vernacularization of digital media in Kenya. The findings of the project are envisioned to make a contribution to ongoing debates on contemporary digital culture and the politics of domestication of technologies in various global locations.

Visiting scholars

November 2024

Richard Ntaka Bosenge, Élie Mbemba Musengi

Richard Ntaka Bosenge and Élie Mbemba Musengi are curators and researchers at the ethnographic department of the university museums at the Université de Kinhasa. They visited the department for one week in November in order to develop a joint research framework for Erika Sulzmann’s scientific legacy resulting from her nine field trips to Ekonda and Bolia in the equatorial rainforest of today’s Democratic Republic of Congo between 1951 and 1980. The exchange was guided by the question of how a Congolese cultural heritage preserved in a European diaspora can be reconnected with its communities of origin. During the fruitful discussions, a particular focus was put on cultural artefacts in the Ethnographic Collection and correspondences in Lingala between Erika Sulzmann and her Congolese interlocutors and research partners.

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

October 2024

Charles Mulinda Kabwete

Department of History and Heritage Studies, School of Governance, College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS), University of Rwanda

Dr. Charles Kabwete is a professor of history at the Department of History and Heritage Studies and dean of the School of Governance, Development and Society at the University of Rwanda. He had a fellowship of the Sulzmann Foundation for Visiting Scholars from Africa at the Department of Anthropology and African Studies and was hosted by Anna-Maria Brandstetter.

Visiting scholar (funded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation)

August 2022 – July 2024

Rowland Chukwuemeka Amaefula

Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike, Nigeria

Rowland Chukwuemeka Amaefula is a Lecturer at the Department of Theatre Arts, Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike, Ebonyi State, Nigeria. He received his Ph.D. in Dramatic Criticism from the University of Nigeria Nsukka, re-examining purposively selected Nigerian plays, hitherto considered as feminist, as laden with characters performing gender non-conformance as protest. Amaefula is also a Georg Forster Postdoctoral Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation from 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2024 at the ifeas and is hosted by Matthias Krings. His research project is titled, "Laughter is Big Business: The Transcendence of Young Entrepreneurial Nigerian Women in Social Media Comedy". The study focuses on a growing trend in Nigeria in which young women leverage the pervasiveness of social media to circulate their skits. He contends that, whilst mainstream stand-up forms in Nigeria have been largely male-dominated, these female comedians have become equally successful in characterizing different aspects of contemporary living through comedy skits circulated through various social media platforms. The study seeks to investigate how purposively selected comedienues with little production capital and technical expertise have opted for social media as a domain for expressing their talents. Employing the ethnographic approach as well as close reading and critical analyses, he examines ways the selected comics utilize social media to assert artistic agency and center their performances.

M.A. AND B.A. THESES

M.A. theses submitted in 2024

Dobbelstein, Angela:

Das Buch in Rwanda: Ein Entwicklungsprojekt. (Krings)

Etse, Rachel:

Zwischen Provokation, Verhöhnung und Herabwürdigung. Beleidigungskultur im deutschen Männerfußball. (Krings)

Kreutz, Henrike:

Disability Visibility: zur Sichtbarmachung von Behinderung im Kontext der Paraolympischen Spiele. (Krings)

Ziegelmayr, Marlene:

Vornamen in Burkina Faso: Konventionen, Bedeutungen und soziale Dynamiken. (Krings)

B.A. theses submitted in 2024

Aktan, Dicle:

Digital unterwegs: Wie Technologie die Ethnographie verändert. (Dorsch)

Albrecht-Fuseini, Mareike Gwendolyn:

“What if she made shoes?” Ayesha Harruna Attahs Roman The Hundred Wells of Salaga als Beispiel für afrikanischen literarischen Feminismus im 21. Jahrhundert. (Oed)

Barry, Sarah:

Die Selbstinszenierung von Ethnizität am Beispiel des Musikvideos. (Dorsch)

Dvorak, Hannah:

Loyiso Mkizes Comic-Reihe Kwezi als Beispiel für Afrika-Futurismus. (Oed)

Ebner, Luisa:

Perspektiven aus und auf Namibia im Humboldt Forum. (Dorsch)

Faye, Yaye:

Das Nominalklassensystem des Wolof. (Nassenstein)

Förster, Anja:

Der Einfluss von Religion und Moral auf die Stellung der Frau an der ostafrikanischen Swahili-Küste. (Fay)

Greiner Lourido, Nadia Michelle:

Ein soziolinguistischer Ansatz zur kapverdischen Identität durch Sprache: Entwicklung des Kreols und der Gesellschaft im Archipel. (Nassenstein)

Heß, Jana-Christin:

Der Initiationsprozess ulwaluko der Xhosa und die Bedeutung von männlicher Verantwortung. (Brandstetter)

Klempert, Nina:

Tode der Einsamkeit – Zur Bedeutung japanischer Sterberituale im Kontext des Kodokushi. (Dorsch)

Klein, Laura Lucia:

Die DDR-Kinder aus Namibia – Der Einfluss des Bildungsprojektes “Schule der Freundschaft” auf ihre Identitätsentwicklung. (Dorsch)

Leyser, Hendrik:

Aufbrechende Stigmatisierung sprachlicher Ungleichwertigkeit – Ein linguistisch-anthropologischer Blick auf Kreolverbeteiten anhand des Naija. (Nassenstein)

Marchesi, Nadja:

Namen als Symbol und Aushandlungsort postmigrantischer Identitätsprozesse. (Nassenstein)

Molitor, Leandra:

Zwischen Wissenschaft und Vorurteil – Eine kritische Analyse der deutschen Tsiganologie und ihrer Rolle in der Verbreitung antiziganistischer Einstellungen. (Dorsch)

Oehmler, Pauline Johanna:

Ayahuasca-Tourismus: Zwischen Aneignung und Heilung. (Dorsch)

Roß, Janna Lucia:

Zur Bedeutung des Mainzer Goethe-Platzes in der Mainzer Neustadt – Eine ethnographische Feldforschung. (Dorsch)

Thomas, Kathrin:

„Ich habe das Gefühl, die Leute denken, ich habe eine Bombe unter dem Kopftuch“ – Sicherheitsempfinden und Diskriminierungserfahrungen von muslimischen kopftuchtragenden Frauen am Flughafen. (Krings)

Traub, Clemens:

„Doing Persian“ in der iranische Diaspora in Deutschland. (Brandstetter)

Windirsch, Eva:

Die Vergemeinschaftung auf einem Rave. (Dorsch)

Wollmann, Julia Marie:

Jugend, Protest und Waithood im Kontext von #Rhodes must fall und #Fees must fall in Südafrika. (Fay)

Wolters, Zoé Joelle:

Janet Kouranys Ideal einer sozialverantwortlichen Wissenschaft und die Entwicklungszusammenarbeit gegen weibliche Genitalbeschneidung. (Fay)

STUDENT STATISTICS

In the winter semester of 2024/2025, the Department of Anthropology and African Studies had 366 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 2024/2025, 239 students were enrolled for the B.A. in Anthropology ("Ethnologie"). Of these, 87 were studying it as their major subject ("Kernfach") while 152 were studying it as their minor subject ("Beifach").

In the winter semester of 2024/2025, 44 B.A. students were enrolled in their first semester (16 with Anthropology as their major and 28 with Anthropology as a minor).

In the winter semester of 2024/2025, 100 students were enrolled for the B.A. in African Languages, Media and Communication ("Afrikanische Sprachen, Medien und Kommunikation"). Of these, 53 were studying it as their major subject while 47 were studying it as their minor subject.

In the winter semester of 2024/2025, 68 B.A. students were enrolled in their first semester (40 with African Languages, Media and Communication as their major and 28 as their minor subject).

12 students finished their B.A. in 2024.

M.A. program

In the winter semester of 2024/2025, 27 students were enrolled in the M.A. program in Anthropology ("Ethnologie des Globalen" / "Anthropology of the Global").

5 students finished their M.A. in 2024.

Ph.D. program

In 2024, 23 Ph.D. students were studying for a Ph.D. at the department. For a full list of the Ph.D. projects completed in 2024 and students currently studying for a Ph.D. at the department, see p. 33–34.



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, in fact, until the end of his life Ernst Wilhelm Müller felt a very strong attachment to the department’s major three collections.

In 2024, the foundation continued its successful support for different projects (<https://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/ewms/>):

- 01/2024 – 31/2024 Digitization of cultural objects from the Ethnographic Collection originating from colonial contexts (continuation of the project started in June 2021).
- 05/2024 Invitation of Khadija von Zinnenburg Carroll. The artist participated in the opening of the exhibition “Tiny unpredictable material objects: Postcolonial perspectives on Georg Forster's herbarium specimens (1772–1775)” at the Schule des Sehens, JGU Mainz (8 May – 20 June) on 7 May and at the artist/curator talk “Restoring Tupaia's story: artistic research in archives” with Dr. Marlène Harles (curatorial assistant at Kunsthalle Mainz) on 8 May.
- 12/2024 – 03/2025 Digitization of 170 cultural belongings from the Ekonda and Bolia acquired during field work by Dr Erika Sulzmann and Ernst Wilhelm Müller in the Belgian Congo 1951–1954 (co-funded by the Department of Anthropology and African Studies).
- 12/2024 Public screening of the film “Eine Kindheit in Nigeria: Wole Soyinka. Ein Film von Vera Botterbusch mit und über Wole Soyinka” (Germany 2000) in the presence of the filmmaker, followed by a discussion.