

**Forum for the Future**

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**BIGSAS**

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*The video still out of the installation Itchy City has been used to announce the Forum for the Future*

*A major event in 2011 was the Forum for the Future associated with the Wilhelmine of Bayreuth Prize by the City of Bayreuth awarded to Madjiguène Cissé.*

*(Image Courtesy of Jyoti Mistry from ITCHY CITY, featuring Kgafela oa Magogodi)*



## About Tomorrow: Trend-Setting Africa

### Public Symposium as part of the Forum for the Future 2011

For far too long, Africa has mainly been associated with a long-lived past and with intricate problems in the present. It is much less well-known, at least in Europe, that this continent has become a laboratory for bold and sometimes stunning flights into the future. Beyond the familiar patterns of „planned development“ by national governments and foreign donors, the current speed of change raises the question whether Africa allows us to glimpse not only into the cradle, but also into the future of humanity – or at least some possible ways into that future: with decreasing certainty “from above” and with an increased momen-

tum for creativity “from below”. *About Tomorrow: Trend-Setting Africa* was therefore chosen as the theme of this year’s public symposium within the „Forum for the Future“, organized annually by the University in conjunction with the City of Bayreuth. Over two days, an impressive range of initiatives from different fields of society, culture and politics were presented, showing rather unexpected aspects of Africa that may also fascinate a wider public not normally interested in that part of the world. Without denying the variety and contradictions of the current African experience, these presentations have alerted us that Africa is about to take on new roles in the global concert.

... a background of stark black that may be taken to signal crisis, suffering and an uncertain future, but also strength;  
 ... a young man on the street who seems to dream about that future, about the paths to choose and its meanings for Africa and the world, challenging established powers and politicians, along with so many youths in Africa today;  
 ... set in an urban environment, where the majority of Africans live a modern life with all its sensations and sufferings („itchy city“, as Kgafela says in the poem that gave this video its name);  
 ... a tinge of rainbow colours

◀ Discussion in the plenary about experiences with micro-credit systems in Africa. (Thierl)

▲ Mark Kaigwa explains the potential of digital communication in Africa. (Thierl)

(red, yellow and green), old symbol of Panafrikan connectedness across the continent and the globe;  
 ... a broadcasting tower, unmistakable indicator of the importance of new media in popular mobilisation (tv, mobiles, electronic networks...);  
 ... and the modern adaptation of long-standing arts of orality in Africa, as represented by Kgafela’s „Slam Poetry“ that is recorded in this video.  
 Following such lines of thought, the Symposium was successfully proposed, convened and organised by the Institute for African Studies (IAS) – the hub of African Studies at the University of Bayreuth which

includes, among others, the renowned Bayreuth International Graduate School for African Studies (BIGSAS). The Symposium was part of the increasing presence of Bayreuth African Studies amongst the wider public, well beyond academia (see other reports in this issue). Besides the Symposium, as in every year, the „Forum of the Future“ also encompassed the award of the “Wilhelmine of Bayreuth Prize for Tolerance and Humanity in Cultural Diversity” by the City of Bayreuth. This year, in tune with the Symposium theme, it went to Madjiguène Cissé, a Senegalese human rights and women’s development activist.  
 The first part of the event took

place in the Auditorium Maximum (AudiMax) of the University. Opening addresses were given by its Vice-President Prof. Stefan Leible, by the Mayor of Bayreuth, Dr. Michael Hohl, and by the Director of the IAS, Prof. Achim von Oppen. Prince Kum’a Ndumbe III, university professor and prolific writer from Douala, Cameroon, then delivered an impressive opening lecture. In immaculate German, he explained why „Africa is the Future“ and pleaded for a more peaceful and sustainable way forward, to which an encounter with Africa at eye level can contribute a lot (see translated extracts adjacent to this overview).  
 Maintaining or making peace



▲ Aichat Gnandi serves African snacks. (Udechukwu)

in the face of deepening rifts in society, often aggravated by new economic opportunities, is a key challenge for Africa's future. *Christiane Kayser* and *Flaubert Djateng* reported about their fascinating work with the „Civilian Peace Service“ in major conflict zones of central and western Africa. They focussed on the example of ZENÜ, a Civil Society Network in Cameroon, developing new approaches towards a dialogue between conflicting parties, notably among youths.

At lunchtime, an instructive guided tour was offered by the Ecological Botanical Gardens of the University through an exhibition of (and on) African crops, their multiple uses and their enormous economic potential. This was combined with a de-



▲ Christiane Kayser speaks about the importance of African think tanks for peace. (Udechukwu)

licious African Lunch, served in the inspiring setting of the greenhouse.

The afternoon was opened by *Dominic Johnson*, the well-known correspondent for Africa at the die *tageszeitung* newspaper and one of the best experts on the current situation in Central Africa, notably the Congo. Based on impressive and even surprising new data, he argued that Africa was about to take a „Great Leap“ which may, despite an unstable or even non-existing framework of public governance, make a global impact before too long.

The rest of the afternoon of this first day was devoted entirely to the award of the Wilhelmine von Bayreuth Prize of the City of Bayreuth to *Madjiguène Cissé* from Senegal. In the late 1990s,

she became renowned for her eminent role in the movement of non-documented immigrants in Europe. Although she herself had legal residence status, she was so committed to the cause of the so-called *Sans Papiers*, in France, that she became one of the spokespersons in their struggle against deprivation of civil rights. After her return to Dakar in 2000, she founded the women's network REFDAF (Réseau des Femmes pour le Développement durable en Afrique), enabling women to take part more actively in economic and political life. The work and personality of the awardee was appreciated in a touching and enthusiastic tribute by *Rupert Neudeck*, Co-Founder of the famous „Cap Anamur“ organisa-



▲ B. Herz discusses J. Flosbach's talk about what Europe in the financial crisis can learn from Africa. (Thierl)

tion for the rescue of refugees and, more recently, of the humanitarian agency „Green Helms“. After being awarded the Prize in a speech by the Mayor, *Dr. Hohl*, *Madjiguène Cissé* herself spoke about her biography, her current work with REFDAF, and about the deep commitment to human rights that has motivated her all the way (see translated extracts, adjacent to this). Finally, a personal „song of praise“ was added by *Fanny-Michaela Reisin*, President of the League for Human Rights in Germany.

The Malagasian tunes of the group *Tao Ravao* first accompanied an evening reception in the Audimax Hall and the BAT gallery and then a performance of contemporary African art, an impressive melange of mod-

ern dance, music and elements of shadow theatre, with *Kepha Oiro*, *Peterson Kamwathi* and *André Jolles*.

On its second day, the Symposium moved to the Kolping House, right in the city centre, to offer further visions of a better future for Africa and the world. *Veye Tatah*, originating from Cameroon and now working as an economic advisor in Germany and editing the monthly „Africa Positive“ journal, illustrated the remarkable potential of African economic enterprises. She also pointed out, however, that this potential for growth and partnership is still inhibited by tariff barriers, regulations and international agreements.

Following the same line of argument in more detail, *Johannes*

*Flosbach*, financial consultant and PhD candidate at the BIGSAS School of Excellence in Bayreuth, emphasized the potential of small-scale entrepreneurs in West Africa. Introduced by Prof. Herz of Bayreuth University, Flosbach examined the experiences of micro-credit systems for small-scale traders. He gave comparisons and arrived at recommendations for such credit systems (by local banks) that gave the participants a lot to think about concerning the managing of indebtedness, a phenomenon that increasingly puzzles European economies themselves.

Another highlight of the second day, also by a researcher from Bayreuth University, was a well-explained presentation by anthropologist *Dr. Thomas Hüsken* about the current situation in Libya, based on recent fieldwork



▲ Christiane Kayser



▲ Flaubert Bjateng



▲ Dominic Johnson



▲ Rupert Neudeck



▲ Veye Tatah



▲ Ahmed Boulane

experience. Libya's political culture, he argued, was much less shaped by the Ghaddafi era than is suggested in European media. This allowed, in his view, a somewhat optimistic perspective for Libya's post-war period.

The „Arab Spring“ was also at the centre of a round-table talk with the producer *Ahmed Boulane*, known as the *enfant terrible* of the contemporary Moroccan film. In his passionate way, he cited some personal experiences and arrived at a more sceptical outlook on the political future of the Maghreb. He was subsequently able to elaborate his position further through the projection of his film „Les Anges de Satan“ (Satan's Angels), which was shown on the same evening

as part of the African Film Festival „CINEMA AFRICA!“

The topic „film“ also served to underline the enormous importance of new media in current African departures. As the last official presentation, Marc Kaigwa, from Nairobi – itself a bustling laboratory of economic, intellectual and artistic experimentation – illustrated the development of „Digital Art“ in Africa. He offered impressive examples of very recent initiatives in animated film and visual internet production and how these can be successfully combined with economic strategies, e.g. by the advertisement,

mobile app or mobile money-transfer industries.

The Symposium „About Tomorrow – Trend-Setting Africa“ undoubtedly provided a fresh and creative stimulus for connecting even more closely the University and the City of Bayreuth and their respective publics – well beyond those interested in Africa as such. Its discussions „about tomorrow“ have become a trend that, it is hoped, will continue „well beyond tomorrow“.<sup>1</sup>

(Achim von Oppen)

<sup>1</sup> „ÜberMorgen“, as the title says in German, is a pun that may be translated as both „about“ and „beyond tomorrow“.

For more information see [www.zukunftforum.uni-bayreuth.de](http://www.zukunftforum.uni-bayreuth.de)

## “Courage, ingenuity, and initiative by women always impress me”



tual solidarity allowed people to make ends meet. Pleasures were shared, as well as sorrows, and the most urgent assistance was provided by a community eager to maintain their balance in a situation of extreme poverty, of almost permanent crisis. Courage, ingenuity, and initiative by women have always impressed me. I began my “social” commitment in primary school when I read and wrote letters for the adults who were almost all illiterate.

Our own history – of my people and of our nation – has always been hidden from us by the colonisers in order to maintain their domination. Only much later did I learn that, according to oral tra-

◀ *Madjiguène Cissé from Dakar, Senegal narrates how she became a human rights and women's development activist. (Neumann)*

### Madjiguène Cissé - Extracts from the address of the recipient of the Wilhelmine of Bayreuth Prize 2011

It is a great honour for me to be the fourth recipient of the “Wilhelmine of Bayreuth Prize for tolerance and humanity in cultural diversity”. To be awarded a prize of such distinction, following eminent personalities of worldwide renown, is not an easy matter. One is tempted to ask oneself what one has done to merit such a great honour.

As the second child of parents of rural origin who were impelled to move to town by recurrent drought, I first saw the light of day in Dakar, then the capital of French West Africa (AOF). My father did not himself have the chance to go to school and was self-taught. However, he was a

true visionary and insisted that I, the only daughter of the family, should have the same opportunity to study as the boys since, as he said, we are entering an era in which education is going to play a big role in society.

Brought up with much rigour and respecting one's neighbour, values such as *jomm* (courage), *kersa* (shame), and *mugne* (patience) were instilled into me from a young age, all this being framed by a spirit of solidarity. I often heard my mother say “*Nit nitaye garabam*” or “man is the remedy of man”. As children of poor families relegated to the periphery of the urban centres, we grew up in spaces where only mu-

ditions, as early as in 1222 the “Mande Charta”, a first declaration of human rights for people in Africa, was declared by Soundiata Keïta, emperor of the Mali Empire. In this he called for respect for human life, respect for one's neighbour, and social justice, while condemning two serious evils, notably hunger and slavery, thus making his people subject to the rule of law.

My commitment to human rights dates back to that period in my childhood. I did not understand why the people were and remained deprived and I only thought about helping them in the best way I could. I began to think about solutions and I started to make small contributions: teaching literacy courses, providing school assistance, organising cleaning actions. When the strong wind of May 1968 reached us also



◀ Bayreuth's Major Michael Hohl hands over the award of the Wilhelmine of Bayreuth prize to Madjiguène Cissé, in the presence of Rupert Neudeck, her laudator. (Neumann)

in Africa, the question of rights reached quite another level for me: the right to a decent life, to normal conditions of education, to health. Thus, I made efforts to bring about changes that were modest but still useful for the people.

Much later, my participation in the struggle of the *Sans-Papiers* (illegal immigrants) was the continuation of my early commitment. Increasingly, I realised the absurdity of the situation: that human beings should be deprived of their basic right of movement. This is simply unjust.

Immigration laws have certainly become more exacting and more coordinated on a European scale; this is also because of a paradigm shift. Europe uses increasingly stringent measures to limit, and even suppress, the right to travel freely. Foreigners living on European territory are insidiously pushed into illegality by the conditions and criteria required when seeking extension of residence permits. These are

undignified and frankly unbearable, for example a foreign student or worker being required to queue up in front of foreign national registration offices at 4 o'clock in the morning in the hope of being let in at 9 o'clock; families end up being separated, with estrangements encouraged and with children being controlled when leaving school. The hardening of immi-

**"Now Europe is about to undergo draconian austerity measures very much like those imposed in the 1980s on the South."**

gration policy becomes evident before a foreigner even sets foot on European soil. Be it a businessman, professor, human rights activist, student, or trader, the applicant for a visa has to undertake a real combative encounter and undergoes all sorts of vexations and humiliations to his dignity as a human being in order to get an entry

visa for European territory. This creates frustrations which are not conducive to good relations between Europe and the countries of the South.

This policy against human rights is often justified by the need to preserve economic stability, notably employment, within a Europe that has, for many years, pursued ultraliberal policies. And now Europe is about to undergo draconian austerity measures very much like those structural adjustment plans imposed in the 1980s on the countries of the South by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. The payment of interest on the debts of the Southern countries, together with bad governance, has gradually suffocated our economies, jeopardizing all economic, social and cultural development.

In Africa, from the first, mutual social assistance and solidarity permitted the populations to re-

sist the exacerbation of poverty. Then, gradually, social movements and organisations arose. The most vulnerable strata of African society have thus reunited and organised themselves in order to take their destiny into their own hands.

In Senegal, REFDAF (*Réseau des femmes pour le Développement en*

*Afrique*) was born in 2000 by the will of women who were victims of austerity policies and of the lack of political will among our leaders to get out of the diabolical circle of poverty. By combining women's networks and their grass-root associations, REFDAF wishes to promote a new vision of economic and social development in Africa and to reflect the role of women in the creation of conditions for sustainable development.

The majority of women live in unacceptable conditions: without running water or electric-

ity, without rewarding outlets for their produce, sometimes without a roof. Their most fundamental rights are plainly ignored: the right to health, to education, to training, the right to entertainment....

To redress this situation, REFDAF has created Local Product Exchange Platforms (*Espace d'Échanges*). This is a project whose first step has been to buy market stalls and shops for women in the big markets of Dakar in order to allow women to sell their local products at just prices. A chain develops from the woman who cultivates land, raises birds, or processes her products, up to the marketing spaces for primary or finished products, under the control of the women themselves who, in this way, have a comprehensive vision of the process, from production to marketing.

Another equally important initiative, the project of the «REFDAF Women's Housing Area» (*Cité des Femmes du REFDAF*) came into

being in December 2002. The aim is to allow women to be owners of their plots, something rare in Senegal where only 2 % of women are landowners. The REFDAF women opened a communal bank account in January 2003 and have already saved, despite their meagre incomes, more than 80 million Franc CFA (120.000 €). Women themselves have drawn-up the plans for this housing estate, located where they want to live, a communal habitat that takes into account local requirements such as climate, independent access to

**"Social movements and organisations arose reuniting the most vulnerable strata of African society in order to take their destiny into their own hands."**

renewable energy, access to education, health etc.

All these projects are part of the aspect of "training" women: an area that REFDAF is very insistent on in its programmes, in order to fill in the gaps within their education and to offer new perspectives to everyone of them. In this way, wherever possible, REFDAF organises qualifying training in literacy, IT, advocacy and lobbying financial management, and training to obtain a driving license.

Finally, in the same perspective of opening-up possibilities, REFDAF is involved in setting up a large movement to include other African women, with the main objective of making a female civil society emerge that is strong and capable of making an impact on the orientations, as well as the actions, that mark societal advance. REFDAF aims at 'forming' female citizens in a comprehensive sense, who can then take responsibilities in their societies.

As you can see, REFDAF's mis-

sion is to make a sustainable contribution to the development of Senegal and of Africa, but also to link up with that new form of global thinking which emphasizes, above all, the human being and its harmonious development.

Today, in times of multiple crises, of lacking orientations, of conflicts, Africa interrogates itself, and is questioned about, what contribution it can make to the concert of nations. This question imposes itself on all of us inhabitants of the earth. In Europe, the currently raging crisis acutely raises

the question of which mode of development we want and which would create a balance for all. In Africa, the crisis has taught us to manage day-to-day life differently, to initiate a holistic development which takes into consideration a reasonable exploitation of our resources, investing not only in the present but also in the future. The models we follow are still of an empirical kind whose theoretical frameworks remain to be formulated. We therefore invite the intellectuals and researchers of the Institute for African Studies of the University of Bayreuth to engage with us in this reflection process:

- How to promote solidarity with, and acceptance of, the other, since we all belong to one and the same humanity?
- How to link up with nature to preserve our ecosystems?
- What kind of humanity do we want for ourselves and for the coming generations?

(Madjiguène Cissé, Translation: Achim von Oppen)

## Africa is Taking Off, Africa is the Future!

Extracts from the Opening Lecture by Prof. Prince Kum'a Ndumbe III,  
Université de Yaounde I – Fondation AfricAvenir International, Douala, Cameroon



◀ Prince Kum'a Ndumbe III from Douala (Cameroon) emphatically points out the importance of Africa for a global future. (Udechukwu)

As a young pupil, in July 1961, I came to this country of yours, to Munich, and was not even able to say "Guten Tag" in German. Now, in November 2011, you have flown me in from Cameroon to give, in your German language, the Opening Lecture for the Symposium "About Tomorrow – Trend-Setting Africa" (ÜberMorgen – Trendsetter Africa).

"Africa is Taking Off, Africa is the Future"<sup>1</sup> is the translated title of a book I wrote in German that was published five years ago in Berlin. This title is irritat-

1 Kum'a Ndumbe III., Afrika ist im Aufbruch, Afrika ist die Zukunft - An die Mitbürger der Einen Welt im anbrechenden 21. Jahrhundert - herausfordernde Reden zur Begegnung, Band II, (Gesammelte Deutsche Werke von Prinz Kum'a Ndumbe III.) Verlag AfricAvenir/Exchange & Dialogue; Berlin/Douala, 2006

ing and still irritates those who have internalized Africa as being a recipient of charitable assistance, so infested by AIDS and endless unrest that only through the humanitarian intervention of the benevolent West and North can it be saved from doom. Is it this Africa that should be taking off, this Africa that should be meaning 'future'? As a sub-title to my book, I wrote 'To the Fellow Citizens of the One World in the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century – Challenging Discourses for Encounter'. I was not aware that by this book, which appeared as part of an eleven-volume anthology of my writings in German, I crossed a red line. The German, the European, the North writes about itself, about the world, about Africa and mainly for readers from the North, for the German reader. And now, unexpectedly, an African voice makes itself heard in the German-speaking area, unfiltered by translation, with an unusual message. Here I am, a sign of that Africa in take-off, inviting you for a critical dialogue.

When I first came to Germany, Africa had 257 million inhabitants. Today, 50 years on, we are more than one billion people, with the highest birthrate (3.4 %) worldwide. In 2050, there will be, according to estimates, even 2.7 billion Africans. And this population is young, very young. More than half of this continent's

inhabitants today are under 30 years old, and in 2050, 29 % of the youth of the world is expected to live in Africa. Today's 500 million EU inhabitants, in contrast, will hardly have increased by 2050. And their percentage of people over 65, already at 17 % today, will rise to 30 % in 2060. Demographic trends are thus opposite to each other in Africa and Europe.

Where do these Africans and Europeans live, now and in the future? According to UN statistics, in 2010 97 % of all people in the world lived in their home country, only 3 % (214 million) have emigrated. In March 2011, only 30 million out of one billion Africans lived abroad. We should thus be doubtful about horror scenarios conjured up by some politicians about an "invasion of barbarians from the south".

In addition, Africans tend to emigrate to other African countries, even in wartime, rather than leaving their continent altogether. Internal migration within Africa makes up for over 90 % of general African migration; 63 % of the remaining 10 % went to Europe. Africans are thus mostly living at home.

But this billion of people needs access to efficient education and training locally. As an example, I will look at the development of universities in Africa. When colonial Africa became independent, it had barely 10 university-level institutions. My own country, Cameroon, had no university in 1960. Since then, however, 10 state universities and more than

12 private university institutions have developed. In 2010, over 800 such institutions have been counted in Africa as a whole. The African Union plans a 'Panafrican University', with 5 main centres in the different subcontinents, each with a particular specialization, which will form a network with other universities in Africa.

Even if the quality of education can still be doubted in some places, the enormous advances in recent decades should not be underestimated. The North, especially, gains much from graduate African migrants. In 2000, every 8<sup>th</sup> graduate from Africa lived in an OECD country, mostly after academic education in his or her home country. A simple and uncritical adoption of externally oriented curricula from the former colonial metropole or other countries of the North is gradually giving way to an Africa-centred education and training, for better efficiency in the development of the countries of the continent.

The real take-off of the new Africa is based on an Africa-centred culture between tradition and postmodernity, on an African renaissance in education, and on innovations of international standard, which are all oriented towards the satisfying of Africa's own needs in research and technology. These are the preconditions for a sustainable economic boost to the African continent.

The wealth of Africa in minerals is well known, even if, time and again, this threatens to become a curse for these countries due to international rivalry and lust for power. One third of the world reserves of minerals are under the African continent: 89 % of platinum, 81 % of chrome,

61 % of manganese, 60 % of cobalt, 46 % of diamonds, 21 % of gold, 20 % of uranium and 15 % of oil. Thus, preconditions exist for an autonomous kick-off of the African economy. But since African countries are not yet able to exploit these raw materials by themselves, they grant mining rights to foreign companies from the industrialised countries.

Revenues from mining royalties, export of other raw materials, the expansion of small industry, coupled with investments and private consumption, have produced a considerable growth rate in Africa in recent years. While in Europe and the US growth rates of only 1.7 % were expected for 2011, some parts of Africa fare much better, the outstanding case being Ghana with a growth rate of 13.5 % in 2011. Even in 2012, many African countries will record top growth figures in the world statistics. The negative image of the African economy by public opinion in the North clearly needs a fundamental revision.

The economic take-off, however, must not be measured only by growth rates. It has become evident that Africa is a rich continent whose population, however, has been kept in, or governed into, structural poverty for centuries. The new developments clearly show that this structural poverty in a wealthy environment has begun to produce predictable explosions. Down to the lowest classes, the population has realised that structural poverty is being maintained by foreign powers and multinational companies as well as by small groups within these countries who give free reign to those who are mercilessly plundering their countries. They have

also realised, however, how difficult it is, against all international propaganda, to establish in their countries a freely elected political system of their own choice. This dilemma has become even more evident in "Arab Spring" countries, in Ivory Coast and in Libya. There is an enormous longing for freedom, good governance, justice, transparency and accountability among African populations. But the riots, the cry for democracy, the resignation, arrest and even killing of heads of state were or are also to be seen in the context of foreign interests in strategic raw materials.

To conclude: We have deified money in our exchanges. Money is God, power, values. I attack you, I kill you, because I want to rescue your family from you. Then I cash in the dividend. How can we, you in Europe and in the West, we in Africa and in the South, get out from this impasse of mutually slaughtering each other by the most modern weapons?

Africa is taking off. We carry the youth, they carry the future, and the future demands justice, hope, and harmony with creation. Why are we still permitting ourselves to plan and act in such a short-sighted way? We, from Africa, call for a return, as we are the cradle of humankind. We must call back this humanity to itself, even in this age of unprecedented technical and technological achievements. You are not the masters – submit to the wisdom of the Creator and of creation. Then, we will be able to jump into a postmodern future and regain harmony within us and between ourselves. The choice is in the hands of all of us.

(Prince Kum'a Ndumbe III,  
Translation: Achim von Oppen)

## Tracks and Traces of Violence

### Representation and Memorialisation of Violence in Africa in Art, Literature and Anthropology

From 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> July 2011, an ambitious international conference took place at Iwalewa-Haus. The conference, entitled “Tracks and Traces of Violence – Representation and Memorialisation of Violence in Africa in Art, Literature and Anthropology” aimed to explore the field of ‘representations of violence’ from both a scientific and an artistic angle. The participants – scholars, writers and artists from over ten different countries – discussed the issues of violence and literature, arts and media as well as anthropological perspectives on the topic of trauma and violence within African societies and beyond.

In the lectures cultural, social and individual representations of violence in the media were discussed: for example, questions around the absence of visible traces of violent events and how to deal with these artistically. The in-between of art and science emerged, as, for instance, in the extraordinary lecture given by South African photographer Jo Ractcliffe, as a fruitful aesthetic zone for future engagements. The multidisciplinary and multilingual conference was well located at Iwalewa-Haus as pieces from its collections which related to the topic of the conference itself were on display.

The different forms of representations discussed in the three days of the think tank ranged from literary expressions via visual art to photography, and from YouTube clips of folk songs to community theatre. Thus the col-



loquium covered different media and therefore different discourses. From the literary perspective, broad approaches allowed an overview of the strategies used by African writers to question the representation of violence in fictional as well as in autobiographical works. Worth mentioning is the growing importance of the archetype of the child soldier

in Francophone and Anglophone writings in order to denounce the horrors of war and the silence of the international community. Case studies concentrated on the works, among others, of the Togolese writer Kossi Efoui and V.S Naipaul from the West Indies.

Violence in contemporary arts was also depicted through the example of revolutionary songs in

Benin and community theatre in KwaZulu-Natal. Abstract paintings by Moroccan artists try to get around the censorship laws estab-

▼ Round table at the conference (Wahboun)



lished during *les années de plomb* (the years of lead, 1960s-1980s) to testify against repressive politics at a national as well as an international level. Besides the scholarly presentations, the event also featured the work of three artists: the whole programme was opened by Ungalani Ba Ka Khosa (Maputo), one of the most important writers from Mozambique, with a reading from his novels *Ualalapi* and *Sobreviventes da Noite*, and performances were given by two artists, the Nigerian-born Otobong Nkanga and Rachid El Adouani, a stand-up comedian and scientist from Morocco. Not only did they round off the programme, they also offered a different view on the topic of memory and violence in the arts.

The element binding together the various strands was the topic of the conference, which opened up the field to the practices of different societies dealing with the past, yet at the same time tackling

the location of these questions in the present and the envisaging of futures. The skills of the BIGSAS Junior Fellows to do their own research, via the self-organised format of ‘work groups’, were proved once again at the conference.

KwaZulu-Natal in Durban (South Africa), José Paulo Borges Coelho from University Eduardo Mondlane in Maputo (Mozambique) and Youssef Wahboun from the University Mohammed V. in Rabat (Morocco). In addition to these guests, other international guests such as: Sandra Boerngen (Frankfurt), Sélom Komlan Gbanou (Calgary), Susanne Gehrmann (Berlin), David Ngoran (Cocody-Abidjan, Strasbourg), Metje Postma (Leiden), Detlef Quintern (Bremen), Jo Ractcliffe (Johannesburg), and Antje Ziethen (Kassel) were invited to contribute their presentations.

The conference aimed to work with colleagues at the BIGSAS Partner University in Eldoret, Kenya, by means of a virtual conference: the experts from SEED (New ICT Strategies for the Enhancement of Higher Education Management) enabled the conference participants to take part in panel discussions with colleagues in Eldoret. The virtual sphere was also used at another level – a blog accompanied the conference and enables the ongoing communication of participants and the public.

The conference was organised and moderated by the BIGSAS Junior Fellow workgroup ‘Tracks and Traces of Violence’. The upcoming publication “Tracks and Traces of Violence” (2012) is highly anticipated and will continue in the spirit of the conference, fusing art and social sciences in order to understand processes of representations in the media.

(BIGSAS-Workgroup  
Tracks and Traces of Violence)

<http://tracksandtracesofviolence.wordpress.com>

## Award-winning: Moving article about humanity in two worlds



### SPIEGEL-journalist receives BIGSAS Journalist Award for an article about migration from Africa

On the occasion of the FIFA – World Cup 2010, BIGSAS initiated the BIGSAS Journalist Award. A group of committed Alumni of the Graduate School, Astrid Bochow, Oumarou Boukari, Tsevi Dodounou, Rose Jaji, Germain Nyada and Clarissa Vierke acted as the jury for the competition. Together with the Africa specialist Helmut Ruppert they were looking for excellent journalistic contributions which highlighted

the African continent and its diversity and also contributed to a better understanding of Africa.

The response to the first BIGSAS Journalist Award was immense as 89 articles from German-speaking countries were submitted. It was no easy task for the jury to decide but they finally chose one winner, and three other journalists received special recognition for their articles. The award was given to Ms. Dialika Krahe, a journalist on the news

magazine DER SPIEGEL, for *Das zweite Dorf* (The second village) during an Award Ceremony held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2011 in the presence of Wolfgang Heubisch, the Bavarian Minister of State for Science, Research and the Arts.

In his opening speech, Dymitr Ibriszimow, Dean of BIGSAS, acknowledged the international profile of the Graduate School and stressed the inspiring exchange between academics and doctoral students from all over the world. He thanked the sponsors who made the BIGSAS Journalist Award 2011 possible. He said that the award should encourage



▲ *The judges (BIGSAS Alumni) with Helmut Ruppert (former President of the University of Bayreuth), Dialika Krahe (the winner), Wolfgang Heubisch (the Bavarian Minister of State for Science, Research and the Arts) and Rüdiger Bormann (the President of the University of Bayreuth)*

◀ *The BIGSAS Journalist Award 2011 - an occasion that brings together BIGSAS Alumni, Junior and Senior Fellows, journalists, members of the University of Bayreuth and the interested public.*

people to discover the diversity of the African continent and its exciting and fascinating sites.

In his welcoming speech, the President of the University of Bayreuth, Rüdiger Bormann, reminded the audience of BIGSAS' success in the German Excellence Initiative of the Federal and State Governments. Far more than 90 PhD students are working on their dissertation projects, a fact which shows the success of the Graduate School.

Wolfgang Heubisch, the Bavarian Minister of State for Science, Research and the Arts, described the BIGSAS Journalist Award as

an excellent idea. Science should not be put into a tower but should be spread into the world and into society. The humanities, which deal with topics such as the development of values or with cultural issues, have an independent importance apart from the natural sciences and technical disciplines. Much to the delight of the audience, the minister assured the University of Bayreuth of his support for the Africa focus

The ceremonial speech was given by Patrice Nganang, academic and author, who is living and teaching in Cameroon. He reminded his audience of the democratic meaning of new media on the one hand, but he emphasized that on the other hand journalism of high quality is still irreplaceable.

In his laudatory speech, the former President of the University of Bayreuth, Helmut Ruppert, who chaired the jury of the Journalist Award, outlined the selection procedure. The jury was delighted that the winner and the three other journalists who received special recognition are

of a young generation of journalists. He further emphasized that they share a distinctive sensitivity to the African continent.

The winner, Dialika Krahe (28), has been a journalist at DER SPIEGEL since 2009. She does research for her reports in Nigeria, Nepal, Kairo or Neukölln. Her article *Das zweite Dorf* convinced the jury of the BIGSAS Journalist Award by its pictorial, highly authentic description, its clear language and partly poetical expressiveness. The author manages to portray the topic of migration from Africa to Europe, using the example of inhabitants of a Senegalese village, in a differentiated and sensitive way. The jury gave Krahe's article the award as it contributed to a better understanding of the African continent.

The BIGSAS Journalist Award has become a new platform to give a wider audience an understanding of Africa-related topics. Due to the huge success of this BIGSAS project, a sequel to the event is under discussion.

(Susanne Ott)





## BIGSAS Festival of African and African Diasporic Literatures

African Conceptualisations of Europe was the theme of the first BIGSAS Festival of African and African Diasporic Literatures held from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> May 2011. The festival was open to the interested public and explored the world of words in an age that has witnessed the rapid transition from hard books to e-books and the accelerated global movement of people and goods as well as ideas and information. The invited authors and artists engaged in readings and performances ranging between prose and poetry, drama and short story, music and politics.

The festival brought together



artists from Harare and Berlin, London and Ibadan, Djibouti and Paris, Yaoundé and Bayreuth.

Spoken fiction was framed and supplemented by lectures, round-table discussions and open debates in which renowned scientists from both Germany and abroad took part.

The overall aim was to contribute to a public debate about current conceptualisations of Africa and Europe which are often biased and still carry distorted notions of 'Self' and 'Other', and which are often informed by colonialist fantasies. A major point of interest was: What positions do African intellectuals hold of these conceptualisations of processes in Europe? What are the stances taken by people living in the African diasporas in Europe and the Americas? How do they challenge, subvert and reconstruct notions of Europe as a *white* Christian entity?

Given the range of topics and the expertise of the invited au-



◀ *Words and Voices by African and African-diasporic authors were well received during the first BIGSAS literature festival. (BIGSAS)*

▲ *More than 800 guests followed the open-air concert given by the band "1884". (BIGSAS)*

thors and speakers, the festival fulfilled its promise to be entertaining, interactive and stimulating, all at the same time. To the general delight of visitors, the festival also featured performances. On the opening night, three African/African-diasporic spoken word artists performed their poetry accompanied by local musicians, and on the closing night the festival hosted the open air concert of the Afro-diasporic Berlin-based formation »1884«. The concert was held on the Bayreuth market square in the city centre and was attended by more than 800 people. The name of the band, as well as the textual focus of the songs, al-

ludes to the role Germany played within the European colonial project. The band demonstrated that high quality musical performance and political education go well together.

Participating authors were: Cristina Ali Farah (Somalia/Italy), Biyi Bandele (UK/Nigeria), Tsitsi Dangarembga (Zimbabwe), Patrice Nganang (Cameroon/USA), Femi Osofisan (Nigeria), Jean-Luc Raharimanana (Madagascar/France), Chika Unigwe (Nigeria/Belgium), A. A. Wabéri

(Djibouti/France) and Sénouvo Agbota Zinsou (Togo/Germany).

The festival was organised through the cooperation of the University of Bayreuth/BIGSAS, an Excellence Initiative of the German Federal and State Governments, the City of Bayreuth, the *Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung*, various foundations and many other supporters and partners. The next literature festival is scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

(N. Ofuathey-Alazard/BIGSAS)

[www.bigsas.uni-bayreuth.de/literaturfestival](http://www.bigsas.uni-bayreuth.de/literaturfestival)

## BIGSisters - Excursion to Bonn and *SalonGespräche*



**B**IGSisters is a network of female academics who are members of the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies. The group was founded in 2010 with the support of the BIGSAS Gender Programme. BIGSisters aims to bring together women working in and doing research about Africa; to provide a platform for discussion about gender issues as well as career-related questions.

In October 2011, the group decided to take a trip to Bonn and meet networking partners in their working environment. The City of Bonn was the perfect destination as many well-known organisations offering attractive career opportunities can be found there, as well as persons working in the field of gender equality. BIGSisters visited *Deutsche Welle* (DW), a TV and radio broadcaster providing news for a foreign audience in 30

languages. They met with Bettina Burkart, a Gender Equality Officer of DW. Two of her tasks are: observing the company from a gender perspective and helping employees to combine their jobs and family lives. Dr. Burkart gave BIGSisters several pieces of advice for career planning, for instance not to be afraid of making changes in one's specialisation.

Moreover, BIGSisters had a meeting with Jutta Kranz-Plote, head of Division 310 (i.e. the Division of Millennium Development Goals, poverty reduction, social protection, sectorial and thematic policies) at the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development. Kranz-Plote gave an overview of the history of gender issues in development policies of the last 40 years. Nowadays the Ministry has a dual strategy: all measures are following a gender mainstreaming approach, and there are also programmes and

◀ The BIGSAS Workgroup BIGSisters found out how *Deutsche Welle* broadcasts for their audience in 30 languages

measures that specifically focus on gender equality. Kranz-Plote emphasized the need to continuously strengthen gender issues, to inform the younger generation about what has been accomplished so far and to ensure that young women also see the necessity to fight for their rights. During their trip, BIGSisters also visited the *Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung*, United Nations – Gender Climate Change Mechanism and *Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst* (DAAD).

In addition to this trip to Bonn, BIGSisters also organise *SalonGespräche* in Bayreuth; amongst others, Tsitsi Dangarembga (author from Zimbabwe), Cynthia Kros (University of Witwatersrand in South Africa) and Vuyelwa Jacobs (activist from South Africa) have visited to take part in discussions. They talked about their life stories, their career and its development as well as about questions related to gender and Africa. In January 2012, BIGSisters welcomed Grada Kilomba to a *SalonGespräch*.

Any female member of BIGSAS is welcome to join the network. The only condition is to be prepared to contribute time and ideas to strengthen the BIGSisters' aims: networking, mentoring and organising regular talks by established women in Bayreuth.

(Susanne Ott)

You can also read more about the BIGSisters in their blog: [big-sistersbayreuth.wordpress.com](http://big-sistersbayreuth.wordpress.com).

## BIGSAS Colloquium: Advanced work in progress



### Two-day colloquium at Iwalewa-Haus on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November 2011

**O**n 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November, BIGSAS held its annual colloquium in a new format for the first time. While the colloquium used to be scheduled for a whole week in previous years, this winter semester a two-day workshop was held, aiming to provide an opportunity for Junior Fellows to present their work in progress to the wider academic community of BIGSAS for discussion.

The colloquium opened with a presentation about epistemological and methodological approaches of a research project on environmental governance in the Dormaa area in Ghana. Other topics on this first day ranged

from cultural tourism in the Kalahari region to the relationship between the introduction of the Sharia and female education in northern Nigeria. The last part of the day focussed on contemporary South African politics.

On the second day, there were presentations of Junior Fellows' research projects such as the different effects that languages have on HIV/Aids discourses and the spatial configuration of inter-group relations in Serau Village in Khartoum. The last two presentations were held in French and marked a shift to linguistics and law.

The colloquium highlighted the inter- and trans-discipli-

nary character and qualities of BIGSAS, creating a productive dialogue between different disciplines, geographical contexts, histories, theories and methods. The colloquium was well attended and all of the papers were followed by vivid, confident and insightful, yet critical discussion. While the November colloquium was dedicated to "Advanced work in progress", a second colloquium, on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> February 2012, will give Junior Fellows at earlier stages of their PhD studies the possibility of presenting their work in a similar, conference-style setting.

(H. Gunkel/C. Ludl/BIGSAS)

▲ The BIGSAS Colloquia guided by the Postdocs are a good opportunity for Junior Fellows to train free speech and academic discussion (BIGSAS)

## BIGSAS in Town - 2011



▲ The painting area at the BIGSAS in Town stall were very popular for children of Bayreuth. (BIGSAS)

In July 2011, BIGSAS in Town again took place during the annual Afro-Karibik-Festival of the City of Bayreuth. The Graduate School presented itself by means of an information stall and an entertaining programme.

At painting areas, children could let their imaginations wander and paint their ideas of

Africa. Their works were displayed on exhibition walls. At the information stall, BIGSAS Junior Fellows and the Administration Team answered questions concerning the Graduate School.

On Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> July and Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> July, Katharina Fink, Peter Narh Tetteh and Gilbert Shang, Junior Fellows of BIGSAS, organised a guided city tour entitled "Bayreuth meets Africa – An exceptional city tour". People could discover amazing connections between Africa and Bay-

reuth at different stops along the tour. For example, the stop "Margravia Opera House – Wilhelmine, Wagner and Ougadougou" examined the connection from a musical perspective. In order to attract different nationalities to join the tour it was offered in both German and English. The Administration Team and the Junior Fellows created a brochure especially for this event in which all the stops on the tour were explained in detail.

(Susanne Ott)

## Status Quo of BIGSAS

The Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies is proud to announce that two more Junior Fellows have successfully submitted and defended their dissertations since October 2010: Kristin Kastner (Austria), supervised by Kurt Beck, and Ramzi Ben Amara (Tunisia), supervised by Franz Kogelmann. In total, BIGSAS now has 10 Alumni and confidently expects many more high quality PhDs during the coming years.

Since the winter term 2010, the number of Junior Fellows in BIGSAS has increased steadily. BIGSAS received a total of 87 applications from applicants of 27 different nationalities for the summer term 2011; 67 candidates applied from African countries, 16 applicants were European citizens and 4 applications came from the American continent. Students from 28 different countries submitted 108 applications for the summer term 2012: from Europe, Africa, Asia, the US and Brazil.

As demonstrated by the large number of applications and the wide range of applicants, the remarkably strong interest in the BIGSAS PhD programme is evident. The international status of the Graduate School is demonstrated by the increasing number of young researchers who apply to BIGSAS to continue their academic career. The school is characterised by its gender balance, which also enhances its international status. (BIGSAS)

## Madjiguène Cissé's visit to BIGSAS



▲ The JF Representatives Jennifer Scheffler and Peter Narh Tetteh in an interview with Madjiguene Cissé

Madjiguène Cissé was awarded the Wilhemine von Bayreuth Award in Bayreuth on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011. The award, recognition of the valuable work of Madame Cissé towards tolerance and peace in cultural diversity, is a product of the collaboration between the City of Bayreuth and the University of Bayreuth. The award recognises her outstanding achievements for African migrants in Europe and the rights and wellbeing of women in West Africa.

Based on its conviction of the relevance of sharing experiences with Africans, BIGSAS invited Madame Cissé for a discussion on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2011. She informed the Junior and Senior

Fellows about the work she has been doing in both France and Senegal. Madame Cissé has been particularly involved in the Sans-Papiers movement, a rights-advocacy movement for so-called "illegal" migrants in France. She is the founder and coordinator of REFDAF, a non-governmental organisation which serves as a network bringing together hundreds of grassroots associations in the southern and western regions of West Africa, especially in Senegal. REFDAF focuses on women's networking and development challenges.

Madame Cissé's visit was rel-

evant for BIGSAS Junior Fellows for several reasons; some Junior Fellows are writing theses on gender issues, in particular on women and children; many of the Junior Fellows found it important to discuss the challenges of African migrants in Europe as well as Europe-Africa relations. The Graduate School encourages its Junior Fellows to issue invitations to African academics and practitioners, so this meeting with Madame Cissé was a further step towards the establishment of this kind of networking.

(Susanne Ott)

For further information visit <http://www.refdaf.org/-English-.html>



## Spuren - 30 Jahre Iwalewa-Haus

In 1981, Ulli Beier opened Iwalewa-Haus with the exhibition "Neue Kunst in Indien". Since then, more than 150 exhibitions of paintings, graphics, sculptures and textiles as well as photography, film and video-art have taken place. Beside the exhibitions, a literary and music programme, with international artists, has been developed as an inherent part of the institution. In addition to this cultural programme, the institution is integrated into the African Studies programme at Bayreuth University providing both BA and MA teaching and broad research projects.

The exhibition "Spuren" shows films, posters and guest books from the institution's early days until the present day and also gives a glimpse of the future of Iwalewa-Haus, which should be, in Ulli Beier's words, "... rather meeting place than museum, a house, where you can do everything: intellectual presentation, classical drum concert, fashion show or Indian food."



**Visions d'ailleurs | رؤى من بعيد | Maono ya watu wengine |  
Visions from elsewhere | Visionen von anderswo...**

... presents, in four rooms, selected artworks from Africa, India, Papua New Guinea and Australia from the Iwalewa-Haus collections. We find a broad spectrum of works, from classical modernism to contemporary installations .

The collection emerged from Ulli Beier's former private collection and today also represents the main research focus of each Iwalewa-Haus director. Beside artworks of Djilatendo, which are among the oldest in the collection, new acquisitions and permanent loans are also exhibited. The show is supplemented with audio examples from the music archive, which has similarly been built up since the beginning of the institution.

The concept and mounting of both jubilee exhibitions have been part of a summer 2011 BA course on "Introduction to exhibiting and museum practices" with students from the courses "African Languages Literature and Art" and "Culture and Society of Africa".



The section ***laboratory*** presents the projects 'Not in the title', 'Ordinary Rendition' and 'Trash Anthology-Anthology Trash' of three young artists from Kenya and Angola, which have been developed during short-term residencies at Iwalewa-Haus from September to November 2011. The new artist-in-residence programme is introduced with this exhibition.



◀ "Ordinary Rendition" von Peterson Kamwathi (Grevén)  
 ▶ "Anthology Trash Trash Anthology" von Yonamine (Grevén)  
 ▼ "Not in the title" von Sam Hopkins (Gasche)



## Iwalewa-Haus as laboratory

### outcome of three short-term artist residencies



In September and October 2011, three young artists from Kenya and Angola were invited to work at Iwalewa-Haus, in the context of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the institution. Sam Hopkins, Peterson Kamwathi and Yonamine were invited to realize their artistic projects in the framework of the Iwalewa-Haus laboratory, which is one of the conceptual keys and fields of activity within the context of the jubilee.

The Angolan artist Yonamine was born in Luanda in 1975 and has lived in Angola, the DR Congo, Brazil, UK and Portugal. His installations and video-works reflect Angolan history but are at the same time inspired by popular culture and Pop-Art artists such as Andy Warhol and Basquiat. His archeology of images from the collective archive is interspersed with ironic comments on the past and present of the African continent and its icons and heroic figures. For the installation 'Anthology Trash - Trash Anthology', the artist took the publication archive of Iwalewa-Haus as one point of departure to deconstruct and interrogate history.

Peterson Kamwathi, born in Nairobi in 1980, is one of Kenya's best regarded young artists. In his work he deals with symbols and their meanings. His drawings and woodcarvings reflect the current Kenyan society

and its significant rituals and behaviour. For his exhibition at Iwalewa-Haus "**Ordinary Rendition**" he takes a closer look at the physical aspects of the international travel process showing, for example, oversized passport-images, which are part of an emotional transition across borders and between places that are long-gone, and loaded with memories, but also point to future places linked with hopes and new desires.

"**Not in the title**" (2011,) by Sam Hopkins, is a four-room installation that explores the idea of authenticity in relation to the collection of Nigerian horror films in the Iwalewa Haus collection. The installation presents a series of 'real' trailers, mixed together with 'fake' trailers for films which have never been made. These trailers are presented within the context of their fictionalisation; the four rooms present both the apparatus through which the trailers were created and clues as to which trailers are real and which are fake. This process of deconstruction is, however, neither straightforward nor simple. If some of the trailers are fake, what about the video covers? The portraits? The whole set? Once the seed of suspicion has been sown, the viewer is left in a vast grey area, not knowing what to doubt and what to believe.

(Nadine Siegert)



In the section **utopia**, Iwalewa-Haus' future was the focal point. In an international workshop, fields of work such as local and international cooperation, museum pedagogy, research and teaching, exhibition practices and the artist-in-residence programme were presented and discussed extensively. The outcomes and resulting projects, as well as the new online video platform, will be presented to the public in the coming months.

#### Utopie – Die Zukunft des Iwalewa-Hauses

Das Iwalewa-Haus ist ein Atrium, nicht nur durch seinen Aussehen, sondern durch seine Funktion. Für 2025 ist der Umbau des Iwalewa-Hauses in die International House geplant, ein Gebäude, das nicht nur ästhetisch neue Herausforderungen stellt, sondern auch die Bedürfnisse der globalen Gesellschaft erfüllt. In diesem Zusammenhang ist die Umsetzung der Visionen im Vordergrund. Es ist wichtig, dass das Iwalewa-Haus mit der lokalen Gemeinschaft verbunden bleibt. Die Unterstützung der lokalen Wirtschaft ist ein zentraler Bestandteil der Visionen. Die Iwalewa-Haus wird ein Zentrum für die lokale Gemeinschaft sein, das die Bedürfnisse der lokalen Bevölkerung erfüllt. Die Iwalewa-Haus wird ein Zentrum für die lokale Gemeinschaft sein, das die Bedürfnisse der lokalen Bevölkerung erfüllt.

In der kommenden Phase werden wir gemeinsam mit Wissenschaftler, Künstler und Kulturschaffenden an der Entwicklung des neuen Iwalewa-Hauses arbeiten. Wir werden uns mit der lokalen Gemeinschaft verbinden und die Visionen in die Realität umwandeln. Dabei werden wir die Bedürfnisse der lokalen Bevölkerung in den Mittelpunkt stellen. Die Iwalewa-Haus wird ein Zentrum für die lokale Gemeinschaft sein, das die Bedürfnisse der lokalen Bevölkerung erfüllt. Die Iwalewa-Haus wird ein Zentrum für die lokale Gemeinschaft sein, das die Bedürfnisse der lokalen Bevölkerung erfüllt.



Personalia



◀ Rainer Polak  
Florian Gonsior, Christian Kirchen and Harald Sippel ▶

■ Bayreuth-based ethnomusicologist **Rainer Polak** PhD wins a three-year research project with a fellowship from the German Research Council (DFG). Affiliated to Cologne University of Music and Dance, the project's title translates as *Pulse and Microrhythm: Metric Timing Patterns in Five Musical Cultures from West Africa (Mali and Ghana)*. The project aims to develop a cross-culturally comparative perspective on structures of microrhythmic asymmetry—colloquially referred to as rhythmic “feel” or “swing”—in West African percussion ensemble music. To achieve this goal, Polak, as the project's director, collaborates with ethnomusicologists and music theorists from the US, Germany, and The Netherlands.

According to a wide-spread paradigm, production and perception of rhythm in dance music, and beat-based music in general, is premised on a time-grid of nominally equivalent and equidistant fast pulses. Microrhythmically asymmetric timing patterns on

the level of beat subdivision, for instance the “swing feel” of uneven eighths notes in jazz music (long, short, long, short ...), are thus explained as expressive deviation from a norm of categorical isochronicity. In an earlier research project, on the example of jembe music from Mali, and affiliated to the Institute for African Studies, Bayreuth University, Polak substantiated the hypothesis that asymmetric swing patterns also can represent the metric norm. It is now important to investigate the theoretical status and socio-musical relevance of metric timing patterns in transregional and cross-cultural perspectives: does asymmetric beat subdivision occur only exceptionally, in particular instances of local styles, or does it represent a principle of broad, perhaps even near-universal, reach? Is the flavouring of rhythmic surfaces with propulsive drive the only key function of asymmetric swing, as is commonly assumed, or does it also relate to “deep” aspects of metro-rhythmic structure? Is a preliminary typology of patterns and functions on the horizon? As a first step to approaching these questions, the project sets out to compare vernacular styles of dance music from the northern (Sahel and Sudan) and southern (coastal) parts of western Africa — West Africa being the core area referred to in the ethnomusicological theory of “African” rhythm.



■ **Florian Gonsior** (July to September 2011) and **Christian Kirchen** (from October 2011) took over the post of manager of the Tanzanian-German Centre for Postgraduate Studies in Law (TGCL) as successors to **Harald Sippel**, who now holds an interim-professorship at the Faculty of Law of the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich.

■ After several years as Assistant Professor in Islamic Studies at Northwestern University, Evanston, US, **Rüdiger Seesemann** has come back to Bayreuth University. With support from Bayreuth University he has been awarded a prestigious DFG Heisenberg professorship.

Guests

■ **Montasser Abdelghani**, human geographer at Sultan Qaboos University in Muscat, Oman, and a former PhD alumnus of Fouad Ibrahim at our university, was invited to Bayreuth by the Department of Social Geography for three months. He was supported by a DAAD travel grant.



■ **George Olusola Ajibade's** research visit in Bayreuth, under the auspices of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, was renewed for three months from April to June 2011. Being associated with the Chair of African Linguistics II, he made forward progress on his project on “Yorùbá verbal arts, popular culture and HIV/AIDS pandemic”. He not only profited from the excellent library of our university but also from the possibilities offered by the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS). During his stay, Ajibade became a BIGSAS-associated postdoc. A number of junior fellows in BIGSAS, from the fields of anthropology, cognitive linguistics and translation studies are working on different aspects of HIV/AIDS in Africa, and Ajibade's stay provided a very good opportunity for the exchange of ideas with junior and senior colleagues in Bayreuth, to their mutual benefit. In his presentation on “Same Sex relationship in Yoruba culture and Orature” in the African Languages and Literatures Research Colloquium, he presented some aspects of his work to a wider interested public.



■ **Christoffel R. Botha** is Professor of African Languages and Director of the School of Humanities at the University of Fort Hare in South Africa. He was invited by Dymitr Ibriszimow, Dean of BIGSAS, to be a guest lecturer from 9<sup>th</sup> May until 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2011.

Prof. Botha is one of the most renowned specialists in the field of Xhosa Language and Xhosa Literature. He grew up in Eastern Cape Province of the Republic of South Africa, where he was exposed to the Xhosa Language from an early age. This childhood experience determined his future academic interest.

While Botha has taught Xhosa at various South African universities, e.g. Stellenbosch University, University of the Western Cape and University of Fort Hare, he has also undertaken several study visits abroad. His academic visits to the University of Massachusetts, the University of London and the University of Texas have enriched his research in the field of African linguistics. In addition, Botha has translated documents from English into Xhosa for UNESCO, Mercedes Benz of South Africa and the South African Rugby Football Union.

Botha gave a great number of guest lectures during his stay at the University of Bayreuth on “Early Black South African Intellectuals”, “African Thought and Philosophy”, “Xhosa Language Acquisition” and “Xhosa Literature in Translation”.



■ **Kennedy Gastorn** holds a PhD from Bayreuth University, in addition to LLB and LLM certificates from Dar es-Salaam University. He is Senior Lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam School of Law (Formerly Faculty of Law), Coordinator of the Tanzanian-German Centre for Postgraduate Studies in Law (TGCL) and Associate Dean (Administration and Public Affairs). He visited Bayreuth in August 2011 for the TGCL Summer University. During that time he also accompanied the participating students on study trips to Berlin and Nuremberg.



■ **Ahonagnon Noël Gbaguidi** is Professor of Law at the Université d'Abomey-Calavi, the BIGSAS Partner University in Benin. He was invited by Ulrike Wanitzek as a guest of the Graduate School from 2<sup>nd</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

Gbaguidi has a long history with the University of Bayreuth, where he completed his doctoral thesis under the supervision of Ulrich Spellenberg in 1994. Furthermore, between 2000 and 2003, Gbaguidi conducted research regarding African land rights, in collaboration with Ulrike Wanitzek and Ulrich Spellenberg. He also concentrated on family and succession law and authored the book *Family and Succession Law in Benin* in 2010. In addition, he also completed a research project with the International Labour Organization and published insights in the 900-page opus *Jurisprudence sociale du Bénin*.

Gbaguidi has held a great number of eminent positions such as Director of Studies and Research at the Supreme Court of the Republic of Benin (1996-2003) and Director of the National School of Administration and Magistracy at the Université d'Abomey-Calavi (2003-2010). He is currently UNESCO Chair of Human Rights at the Université d'Abomey-Calavi.

During this year's stay at the University of Bayreuth, he gave a guest lecture with Ulrike Wanitzek on "Family Law in Selected African States".



■ **Abbas Kubaff** is one of a kind: an old-school Kenyan rapper and considered to be the best lyricist of his country. He was artist in residence at Iwalewa-Haus during the events of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, performing his programme for the exhibition preview.

The poet was born in the 1970s in the metropolis of Nairobi and grew up in the slums of Kariobangi South, a neighbourhood on the outskirts of Nairobi. He is a multi-talented artist who expresses himself through his music and in 3D graffiti art as well as by means of other artistic expressions including portraits, wall stencil murals and Chinese palette-knife canvas pieces. Since 2009 Abbas has been part of the crossing edges music project NRBLN – BLNRB, which is a project of young bands and musicians from Nairobi and Berlin who together try to fathom the borders between electronic music, hip-hop and African musical traditions. The project is organized by Goethe-Institut Nairobi and Teichmann Brothers, a Berlin DJ and Musician duo, both of whom are also trustees of the project. The album 'BLNRB' was released earlier this year and received outstanding critical reviews worldwide.

■ **Paul Newman** is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Linguistics at Indiana University in Bloomington, as well as former Director of the Centre for the Study of Nigerian Languages at Bayero University in Kano. He was invited by Dymitr Ibrizimow, Dean of BIGSAS, to be a guest lecturer from 2<sup>nd</sup> May until 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2011.

Newman started his focus on African Studies, mainly on the Chadic languages, in 1961 when he joined the first Peace Corps group to go to Nigeria. After he had finished his Ph.D. in linguistics at the University of California, he returned to Nigeria to be the first Director of the Centre for the Study of Nigerian Languages at Bayero University. Newman has also worked for a great number of well-known institutions such as Yale University, the University of Michigan and the University of Leiden. In 1983, Newman joined the Department of Linguistics at Indiana University.

Due to his significant contributions, Paul Newman is considered to be one of the most influential African linguists of his generation. His most important work is the nearly 800-page opus *The Hausa Language: An Encyclopedic Reference Grammar*. He has also authored seventeen other books and has written more than 100 articles. In 1979, Newman established the *Journal of African Languages and Linguistics*. This has been the leading forum for publications in the field of African linguistics ever since.

He gave two guest lectures at the University of Bayreuth on "Hausa Historical Linguistics" and "Greenberg's African Language Classification a Half Century Later".



■ **Roxana Ma Newman** is a former Adjunct Professor in Linguistics, and Assistant Dean, International Programmes, at Indiana University, as well as former Visiting Associate Professor in Linguistics at Stanford University. She was invited by the Institute of African Studies to be a guest lecturer in Bayreuth from 2<sup>nd</sup> May to 3<sup>rd</sup> of June.

Roxana Ma Newman is one of the best specialists worldwide on the Hausa language and Hausa lexicography. During her academic career she worked for a number of well-known universities such as Columbia, Bayero (Kano, Nigeria), Leiden (the Netherlands), UCLA, Stanford, and Indiana. Her most important works are an English-Hausa Dictionary

and (together with Paul Newman) a Modern Hausa-English Dictionary. Besides her academic activities, Roxana Ma Newman devoted much of her time to editorial work, project administration and university management.

To the delight of students and colleagues she offered workshops in Bayreuth on *Constructing Dictionaries: Basic Principles, with insights learned from Hausa lexicography* on the 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2011 and on *International education and project administration* at U.S. higher education institutions on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2011. During her stay she was invited by the Hausa lecturer Aishatu Iya Ahmed to participate in the Hausa language courses and to offer her knowledge to the students.

■ **Boniface Kiteme** of the Centre for Training and Integrated Research in Arid and Semi-arid Lands Development in Nanyuki, Kenya, visited the Department of Social Geography in August to continue the cooperation between the Centre and the Department in a project on "Intra-regional learning and technology transfer as a tool for adaptation to climate change in Eastern Africa".



■ **Shaban Mayanja** was driven right from the beginning of his studies to strengthen the cooperation between Africa and Germany in German Studies. After his first degree from the University of Kampala, Shaban Mayanja studied in Saarbrücken and Makerere, where he finished his MA on translation studies in 1992. In 1999 he finished his PhD in German Studies at the University of Hannover. He has followed a wide range of occupations, e.g. as a teacher of German as a foreign language in African countries and as a translator in Germany, as well as leading integration courses in Germany. From 2007 to 2010 he was DAAD-lecturer for German at the University of Ile-Ife (Nigeria). Within the framework of a return-programme of DAAD, he spent ten months at the Department of German Studies in Bayreuth. In cooperation with Karin Birkner (German Linguistics), Martin Huber (New German Literature), Ulrich Bauer (Intercultural German Studies) and Dymitr Ibrizimow (African Linguistics) he advanced the cooperation of Bayreuth with selected institutions in several African countries. In the summer semester, Mayanja offered a course on “Translated Cultures: An introduction to Translation Studies”, which aimed to sensitize students on the increasing importance of translation theory and practice today. The course was therefore designed to equip students with current research methods in translation criticism. Areas covered included Linguistics, African Literature, Cultural Studies and, to a certain extent, German Studies as well. Emphasis was placed on the translation turn (the transition from a philological to a culturally oriented approach in translation) and its consequences for literary translation. The notion of a third text, inherent in African literary works, and the challenges this poses in the translation process was discussed. Case studies involved the German translations of African literary texts.

■ **Nataniel Ngomane** is the Director of the *School of Communication and Arts* at the Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo. He was invited by Ute Fendler, Vice-Director of the Institute of African Studies, to be a guest lecturer at BIGSAS from 1<sup>st</sup> June until 30<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

Ngomane is a comparatist and one of the leading academics of Mozambican literature. He started his academic career at the Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique, where he completed his BA degree in 1994. Five years later, he moved to Brazil to finish his Ph.D. in *Comparative Studies of Literature in Portuguese Languages* at the University of São Paulo.

Ngomane also worked as the editor of the *Lua Nova Journal*, which is published by the Mozambican Writers Association (AEMO). Moreover, he has authored fifteen articles on transculturation and linguistic representativeness. His most recent publication, *Dialogues with Mozambique. Interdisciplinary Reflections, Readings and Approaches on Mozambican Studies*, explains the role of Mozambican literature and cultural production in order to create a greater understanding of Mozambique.

During his stay at BIGSAS and the University of Bayreuth, he gave a guest lecture on “Reflectindo sobre a formação da Literatura Moçambicana” (Reflections on the formation of Mozambican Literature).



■ **Alexander Opper**, Senior Lecturer in Architecture at the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture (FADA) of the University of Johannesburg was the invited Guest Professor of the IAS during the winter term 2011/2012. The architect and designer contributed yet another perspective to the interdisciplinarity in Bayreuth: his views on urban space, musealization, architecture and art explore the ‘contact zones’ of art and science, with a strong focus on the African city. Alexander Opper, who is also a practising artist, took part in the workshop at Iwalewa House in October 2011 that went by the same name, “Contact Zone New Iwalewa”. He is an important figure in the reconceptualization of Iwalewa-Haus in relation to space and the city, and participates in the scientific work of IAS and BIGSAS.

■ **Gilbert Nduru**, a geography lecturer from Moi University, Kenya, visited the Department of Social Geography at Bayreuth University from April to July 2011. During his stay in Bayreuth he cooperated with Detlef Müller-Mahn in a project that aims at a conceptualization of climate change and adaptation, and also in the design of a project proposal for the German Ministry of Research and Higher Education (BMBF). During his stay in Bayreuth, Gilbert Nduru held a seminar in preparation for an excursion to Kenya.

■ **Kelemework Tafere Reda** (Mekelle University, Ethiopia) is an assistant professor of Sociology and Anthropology at Mekelle University in Ethiopia’s Northern Tigray region. MU is one of Ethiopia’s most promising and booming young universities and is committed to anthropological expertise in various fields and subjects. Kelemework Tafere Reda started his teaching and research career at Haramaya University where he worked until 1995. He coordinated postgraduate programmes and acted as University external relations chief. He did his BA, MA and PhD training in Educational Psychology, Social Anthropology and Ethnology respectively. His current work deals with “The Social and Political Impacts of the Millennium Hydropower Project in Ethiopia”, following his research interests in natural resource-based conflicts, dams and indigenous people – topics he could discuss with various scholars and specialists in this field at Bayreuth University. Kelemework Tafere Reda, whose stay from October to December 2011 was funded by the DAAD, was invited by Kurt Beck, Chair of Anthropology at Bayreuth University. Kurt Beck and Magnus Treiber had already paid a visit to Mekelle University in October 2010.

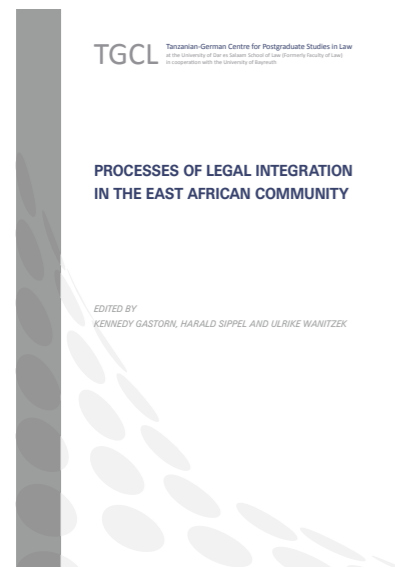
■ **Youssef Wahboun**, artist and professor of art history and comparative aesthetics at University Mohamed V-Agdal Rabat (Morocco) visited Iwalewa-Haus and the University of Bayreuth from 15<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October 2011. Having participated in the BIGSAS-Conference ‘Tracks and Traces of Violence’ in July 2011, he came back to reinforce the exchange with the researchers at Iwalewa-Haus and BIGSAS and to give a presentation on literature in Morocco. Together with Ute Fendler, chair of romance literatures, and Ulf Vierke, director of Iwalewa-Haus, future collaborations were discussed, including exhibitions in Bayreuth, Rabat and Nairobi and an exchange project between the Universities of Rabat, Bayreuth and Maputo (Mozambique).



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## Boost for International Alumni Network

Regular NAB readers might recall the report on two Alumni Workshops hosted by the IAS in Buéa/Cameroon and in Eldoret/Kenya (cf. NAB Vol. X – 2010). These events, and a subsequent stakeholder workshop in Bayreuth in 2010, initiated and strengthened a network of African scholars from various disciplines, sharing the experience of having been either students or scholars at the University of Bayreuth. They also served to confirm the scholars' sincere intention to consolidate their cooperation with the IAS. In view of this initiative, it is fortunate that the *Alexander von Humboldt Foundation* and *German Academic Research Council (DAAD)* have recently approved two project proposals aimed at expanding the Bayreuth International Alumni Network.

The first project is a successful contribution to a competition arranged by the Humboldt Foundation. Its aim is to lay the foundation for a *Bayreuth International Alumni Centre (BIAC)*, resting mainly on two 'regional' pillars: former guest researchers from African countries and alumni from the People's Republic of China. Through BIAC, the University of Bayreuth expects to expand its international research contacts, recruit highly qualified scholars from abroad, and possibly trigger new international research projects. Directed by Dr. Arnim Heinemann, Head of the International Office, this initiative draws to a large extent on experience gained by the IAS and others with international Alumni networking. It is extremely fortunate that a follow-up application was approved by the DAAD,



▲ Participants of the DAAD Alumni Workshop hosted by Moi University Eldoret in July 2010 inspect Jebroch Gorge in the escarpment near Kabarnet town. The excursion was guided by Gilbert Nduru of Moi University. (Bauer)

permitting the IAS to continue the initiative that was so successfully realised with the workshops in 2009 and 2010. The necessary funding has been provided for two regional events, to be jointly organised with, and hosted by, partner universities in Africa. In November 2012, Alumni from Sub-Saharan Africa are invited to convene once again at Moi University, for a workshop designed to explore and discuss "Opportunities and Chances of New Media" with reference to research, teaching, and academic networking. Naomi Shitemi (Moi University), Dieter Neubert and Ulrich Bauer (Bayreuth) will cooperate in the preparations for this event. Participants will proceed from Eldoret to Maseno University for a concluding session for which Florence Indede is responsible. A call for papers for this event is forthcoming and will be published shortly on the Africa

Alumni website ([www.africa-network-ubt.org](http://www.africa-network-ubt.org)).

In March 2013, a second workshop will take place in West Africa, jointly organized with Victor Dugga, University of Jos/Nigeria. This event aims to explore the entire project management process – starting from application, through implementation and to the final stages of reporting and wrapping-up – with a special focus on third-party funded research projects. The workshop will provide space for practical information and best practice presentations, and aims at initiating new project ideas among the participating researchers, and thereby for inter-regional academic networks.

All former researchers from African partner institutions are invited to link up with these Bayreuth initiatives and to ensure that the projects will be of mutual benefit. (Gerd Ulrich Bauer)

## Excursion and Field Course in Morocco, March/April 2011

Southern Morocco was the focus of the geographic fieldtrip to Morocco with Herbert Popp, Regina Fein and 25 students, mainly from African Development Studies in Geography. The two-week excursion was followed by one week of practical training in the field of tourism in the oasis of Tata, supervised by Ralph Lessmeister and Regina Fein.

The excursion led us towards those parts of the country which are usually on the sidelines of tourist sightseeing tours. In this relatively rural area, agriculture, nomadism and work-related migration are the main income opportunities. In this context, the participants visited the Massa irrigation project, an important but also highly contested development project, and studied the socio-economic relevance of the oil-producing Argan tree, the production and marketing of saffron, terrace cultivation and different forms of agriculture in oases. In this regard, particular highlights were the irrigation systems of river oases in the valley of Draa and the ancient underground irrigation systems of the so-called Khettaras. Another characteristic feature is the presence of storage castles, so-called Agadire, which served as storage rooms for food, grain, water and other objects of value until recently and had other social, cultural, economic and political functions. While erosion is slowly destroying some of these storage castles, other particularly spectacular storage castles are being restored and nowadays constitute popular tourist destinations. We therefore also



▲ The group at the Agadir Ait Mellal (Fein)

studied the perspectives of tourism for this peripheral but beautiful and fascinating Moroccan southern region. In recent years, tourism has played a growing role in the city of Tafraoute and in the valley of Ammeln, where it provides an important additional income for the local population. A special tourist attraction for outdoor-lovers is the Djebel Saghro. Our group experienced both its beauty and challenges on a two-day hiking tour across this fascinating mountain massif. After visits to the amazingly narrow Todra Gorge, the oasis of Skoura with its famous clay architecture, the cultural heritage site Ait Ben Haddou and the city of Ouarzazate, we continued our journey to Marrakech and explored both the legendary old

town and the *Ville Nouvelle* in historic and urban geographic perspectives.

In contrast to the tourist hotspot of Marrakech, tourism on a larger scale will remain difficult to implement in peripheral areas. An example of such an area is Tata, where the students evaluated touristic potential and future prospects of the oasis which is located quite near the Algerian border. The results of the fieldwork, including recommendations and visions for Tata's future development, were finally presented to the governor of the province of Tata and were the grand finale of the practical training and of an overall successful stay in Morocco.

(Anne-Sophie Beckedorf & Regina Fein)

## 24<sup>th</sup> Swahili Colloquium from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2011



▲ 24<sup>th</sup> Swahili Colloquium (Rettová)

At the beginning of June, the Afrikanistik I chair again organised the Swahili-Colloquium. This was its 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. The three days of the fully-packed conference programme, hosted by Iwalewa-Haus, passed quickly, as this year's special focus on "Swahili and Modernity" inspired a particularly large number of presentations dealing with many Swahili forms of expression and linguistic varieties. Linguistic varieties from hitherto rather neglected parts of the Swahili-speaking world, like the Comoros, Oman, and the

European Diaspora gained particular prominence. With the support of the German Research Council and the Institut Français Nairobi, in collaboration with the French ANR project "Dimensions de l'objet Swahili: texts et terrains", a group of scholars were brought to Bayreuth from the Democratic Republic of Congo, from Kenya and from Tanzania. Furthermore, scholars from Russia, Ghana, the UK, Italy, France, Spain, Austria and Switzerland contributed to the conference, which was also supported by the "Universitätsverein".

A photo exhibition "Von einem Ufer zum anderen – Die Karawanenroute Sansibar-Tanganjikasee" (From one shore to the other – the caravan route from Zanzibar to Lake Tanganyika), by the French curator Nathalie Carré and the photographer Thomas Dorn, which was born out of the cooperation between Iwalewa-Haus and the French ANR project, was opened during the Swahili-Colloquium and illustrated the diversity of the Swahili-speaking area as raised during the Colloquium's discussions.

(Clarissa Vierke)

## Comparative Chadic and Historical Hausa

### Workshop: A half Century of Comparative Chadic and Historical Hausa A special BIGSAS Symposium on African Linguistics



▲ Roxana Ma Newmann, Herrman Jungrathmayr and Henry Tourneux on the podium (Löhr)

Over the past fifty years, Herrmann Jungrathmayr (Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University, Frankfurt) and Paul Newman (Indiana University, Bloomington) have been two of the foremost scholars in the area of Chadic and Hausa linguistics.

In the symposium on *A half Century of Comparative Chadic and Historical Hausa* organized by Dymitr Ibrizimow, which took place on May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2011, these two scholars gave an overview of developments in these fields and offered their perspectives on unresolved questions and challenges. The workshop was chaired by Roxana

Ma Newman (Indiana University). While Herman Jungrathmayr presented a paper on comparative Chadic, which was complemented by a commentary from and discussion with Henry Tourneux of CNRS (Language, Langues et Cultures d'Afrique Noire LLACAN) and IN-ALCO in Paris, Paul Newman presented his insights on Hausa historical linguistics, complemented by a commentary from and discussion with Philip Jaggard of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London. These two topics, with commentaries by leading experts, were followed by a retrospection of common research

experiences as well as of places visited by most of the present scholars, presented by Norbert Cyffer (University of Vienna).

Many other specialists of Chadic and further African languages, including Veronique de Colombel (CNRS, LACITO), Peter Gottschligg (Austria), Theda Schumann (University of Hamburg), Doris Löhr and Michael Broß (Marburg) and Rudolf Botha (Fort Hare University, South Africa), participated and enjoyed the stimulating presentations. An open discussion, with the participation of the audience, made the workshop a successful and informative event. (Eva Rothmaler)





## 14 Participants at the Second TGCL Summer University in Bayreuth



▲ Participants of the TGCL Summer University in front of the Reichstag building during their study trip to Berlin (TGCL)

On the basis of last year's successfully implemented first TGCL Summer University, the second was held between 6<sup>th</sup> August and 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2011 at the University of Bayreuth. The Bayreuth Institute for Intercultural German Studies (IIG), the Institute of African Studies (IAS) and the Faculty of Law, Business Administration and Economics acted as co-operative partners of the Tanzanian-German Centre for Postgraduate Studies in Law.

Ten LLM students and four PhD students of 2009 and 2010 were invited by TGCL Project Leader Ulrike Wanitzek and then-TGCL Manager Florian Gonsior to attend the TGCL Summer University in Bayreuth. A daily, intensive German language course was accompanied by a legal programme, covering lectures on European Union law and German law:

"Institutions of the European Union" by Johannes Saurer, "Eco-

conomic Constitution of the European Union" by Claas Friedrich Germelmann, "European Legislation" by Jörg Gundel, "European Union: Integration through Harmonisation" by Jana Härtling, "European Union: Draft Common Frame of Reference" by Doris Leitner, "Implementation of Human Rights in Germany" by Stephan Rixen, "The German Constitution and Its Openness to International Law" by Martin R. Otto, "Economic Crimes and Globalisation" by Joerg Brammsen, "From Individualism to Balancing of Interests in German Law" by Ulrich Spellenberg. The classes were supplemented by tutorials chaired by Florian Gonsior.

Additionally, an interdisciplinary programme comprising economic, sociological and historical subjects was offered:

"Leadership: An Intercultural Perspective" by Torsten Kühlmann, "Case Studies in Management" by Andreas Remer, "Competing Models of Socio-Political

Order in East Africa" by Dieter Neubert, "Where is East Africa? Historical Dimensions of Regional Unity and Difference" by Achim von Oppen.

A supplementary legal workshop was held, where PhD students from the TGCL, the South African-German Centre for Criminal Justice (SAGCCJ) and the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIG-SAS) presented a total of eight papers grouped into three categories: East African Community Law, Human Rights Law and International Criminal Law.

The programme of the TGCL Summer University was completed by excursions to the Museum in Mödlareuth at the former internal German border and to the memorial of the Nuremberg Trials in Nuremberg, as well as a study trip to the German Foreign Office, the Bundestag and a lawyer's office in Berlin.

(Christian Kirchen)

## Foundation of a TGCL Alumni Association



▲ The founding members and their Patron, Hon. Judge Steven Bwana (back row, centre), TGCL Project Leader Ulrike Wanitzek (back row, right) and TGCL Coordinator Kennedy Gastorn (centre row, right) after establishing a TGCL Alumni Association. (TGCL)

A long desired plan has become a reality: seventeen TGCL students and alumni founded the TGCL Alumni Association on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011 in Dar es Salaam.

During the meeting, TGCL Project Leader Ulrike Wanitzek and TGCL Coordinator Kennedy Gastorn thanked the members for their active participation and congratulated them for the cour-

age they showed in establishing the TGCL Alumni Association.

"The Foundation of an Alumni Association will provide new opportunities for the project", Wanitzek said after the meeting. "We expect better networking among the members of the TGCL family and hope that the alumni are going to support the actual students with their experience."

The TGCL Alumni Association

will have a Board which consists of the chairperson, the vice-chairperson, the secretary, the treasurer and five country representatives for Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The Electoral Committee will be chaired by the Association's Patron, Hon. Judge Steven Bwana from Dar es Salaam.

(Christian Kirchen)

## Workshop “Contact Zone New Iwalewa”

International and local guests discussed the future of Iwalewa-Haus



On 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2011, Iwalewa-Haus was the venue for the international workshop “Contact Zone New Iwalewa”. During these two days, the strategy for the future was discussed within the perspective of the relocation to a bigger building in the city centre of Bayreuth in 2014.

Within the three sections of ARCHIVE - LABORATORY - UTOPIA, different aspects were discussed in small workgroups with international scholars and artists as well as representatives of the local cultural scene in Bayreuth. After the keynote speech of the South African architect Alexander Opper, from the University of Johannesburg, who presented an innovative and convincing design for the building, the group went for a guided tour on site to personally experience the space. In the following parallel workgroups, topics such as research

and teaching, local and international cooperation or the artist in residence-program were discussed. The results were collated and presented to all the participants at the end of the workshop.

A common denominator of the discussions was Iwalewa-Haus’ high recognition for past and present work, accompanied by a strong demand to proceed with this high level of quality in research, teaching and the museum projects. The history and role of Iwalewa-Haus as a centre of research and culture was emphasized by various participants. The broad spectrum in teaching and research, the collections, the quality of the exhibitions and publications and the local and international reputation were especially highlighted. On the national level, Iwalewa-Haus is a unique institution, providing the possibility of unmediated encounters of both researchers

▲ Abbas Kubaff performing at the opening of Contact Zone New Iwalewa. (Greven)

and artists and, beyond that, a wide variety of career options for students as well as artists. It was demanded that the trans-disciplinary approach and the broad field of topics and regions should definitely be continued. Iwalewa-Haus should also keep its dynamic as a cultural centre of African studies, providing an open and vital space within the university. Comprehensive continuation and intensification of qualitative research and cultural work, as well as the production of publications by both researchers and artists for a broad audience, was requested by all participants. The Iwalewa-Haus team is now presented with a catalogue of tasks, which will be progressively considered and realized until the relocation and beyond.

(Ulf Vierke & Nadine Siegert)

## Architectural Visions for the new Iwalewa-Haus



The design for the New Iwalewa aims to significantly open up the building on Opernplatz which, from 2014 onwards, will house the Iwalewa-Haus and a number of the University of Bayreuth’s Africa-related foci (IAS, BIGSAS, DEVA). The building’s existing main entrance will be supplemented by a second entrance, via the courtyard. This gesture will immediately result in a flow through the building – versus the current static single entrance/exit situation – allowing the Iwalewa entrance hall and reception area to assume the nature of a public square, becoming a vital new link in an existing chain of Bayreuth’s public spaces. The notion of a gathering space and ‘contact zone’ at the core of the building topples traditional divides between inside and outside and included and excluded, and results in an enlivening challenge to the staid model of the ‘dead’ museum. Whereas the design proposal ensures that the historic front of the building (which wraps around Woelfelstrasse and Muenzgasse) is treated respectfully, in terms of a heritage position, the modest and unexceptional rear façade (facing the

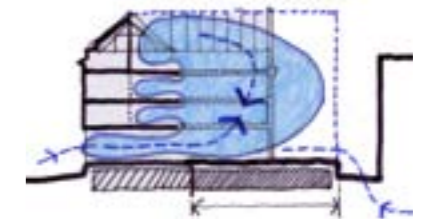
courtyard), is treated as a soft and malleable façade. This means that the currently constricted area where the two wings of the building meet can be opened up



completely, resulting in a glazed linkage to the larger context of the urban fabric of Bayreuth. This glass skin will have the effect of opening up the building from the inside, out, and inviting visitors to participate in the life and programmes of Iwalewa Haus from the outside, in. This gesture supports notions of broader and interactive access by various publics to the Iwalewa Haus’s collections, archives, research and educational offerings. The opening up of the building’s external courtyard façade is complemented by a further design move, also via subtraction: by sensitively removing strategically-chosen non-essential internal walls, on the ground and upper levels, the

▲ Position of the new Iwalewa-Haus within the cityscape. (Opper)

▼ The leaking museum. Foyer becomes courtyard. Courtyard becomes foyer. (Opper)



emergent ‘Urban Windows’ will allow for the internal workings of the Iwalewa Haus to project themselves into the context and, vice-versa, for the context to leak into the building. A lighting concept is being developed to exemplify this dynamic concept of exchange and accessibility. Light is conceived of as a building material which, together with an internal colour concept, will give Iwalewa Haus the possibility to continue to build on and publicly project its distinguishing characteristic: that of challenging stereotypes around perceptions and readings of Africa and African conditions into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. (Alexander Opper Notion Architects Johannesburg)

## Effects of colonialism in Morocco

### 8<sup>th</sup> German-Moroccan Symposium at the University of Bayreuth, April 11-13, 2011



As an element of the scientific relations between Germany and Morocco, for two decades there has existed the tradition of organizing scientific symposia in humanities. These are held at irregular intervals of some years, uniting scientists of both countries around a Morocco-related theme of reciprocal interest by means of lectures and discussions for an exchange of ideas. In order to guarantee a solid basis of communication these symposia are always held in French.

Previous symposia have been held in Passau (1989), Munich (1997) and Paderborn (2001); this time the University of Bayreuth was the meeting place. The theme of the symposium, examining the outcome of the colo-

onial period in Morocco a century after the convention of Fes in 1912, was promising in several respects: Morocco was strongly influenced and dominated by the political, military, economic, cultural and social hegemony of the French / Spanish colonial rule in the period called Protectorate from 1912 to 1956; the effects of colonialism cannot be denied. With a growing temporal distance, it becomes possible to more easily examine this period with a relatively neutral and unprejudiced view because: (a) The colonial period is so far away that the ability to deal with it in a fair way seems to be possible; (b) To ask the question about the effects of colonialism without including French scientists has the advantage that there is no need

to fear that this period will be brightened up or that it will be justified in some way; (c) There are several indications which make it likely that an overall and indiscriminate damnation of the colonial period is to simplify the situation too much. Probably more detailed answers to the global question are required.

Mohamed Ait Hamza, professor in geography in Rabat, one of the BIGSAS partner universities, and Herbert Popp, professor at the Department of Geography of the University of Bayreuth hosted the symposium. 26 participants from Morocco and Germany responded to their invitation. They mostly belonged to the disciplines of architecture, history, geography and anthropology. Under the patronage of

*The publications of all German-Moroccan scientific meetings since 1988 (Popp) ▶*

◀ *The participants of the symposium (Popp)*

the vice-president for International Affairs, Stefan Leible, and the president of the German-Moroccan Society, U. Sierau, mayor of Dortmund, the symposium took place on three days, offering a high standard of scientific content, intensive discussions and rich personal and professional exchanges. In addition to the symposium, field-trips were offered to some neighbouring places (the world cultural heritage town of Bamberg, medieval and Nazi-dominated Nuremberg, the Bayreuth of Markgrave Wilhelmine and of Richard Wagner), a reception was hosted by the district president of Oberfranken (Upper Franconia). and a workshop was held with BIGSAS and with the Institute of African Studies. In this context a further deepening of the already well-established scientific relations between Bayreuth and Morocco, and especially with our partner universities Rabat and Ifrane, were agreed on.

The meeting comprised in detail the following sessions: (1) Political and historical aspects in the early period of the Protectorate; (2) Colonial spatial development in rural areas; (3) The colonial politics of agriculture; (4) Urban planning and urban development in the Protectorate; (5) Colonial politics as connected to some specific social groups; (6) Relations between Morocco and the Trans-Saharan regions. The symposium was

#### Publications of the German-Moroccan Meetings since 1988

##### 1 Rabat 1988: Le Maroc et l'Allemagne. Rapports humains, culturels et économiques

Le Maroc et l'Allemagne. Actes de la Première Rencontre Universitaire. Etudes sur les rapports humains, culturels et économiques. – Rabat 1991 (= Publications de la Faculté des Lettres et des Sciences Humaines de Rabat, Série : Colloques et Séminaires, N° 17).

##### 2 Passau 1989: Le Maroc : espace et société

Abdellatif Bencherifa & Herbert Popp (éd.): Le Maroc – espace et société. Actes du colloque maroco-allemand de Passau 1989. – Passau 1990 (= Passauer Mittelmeerstudien, Sonderreihe, N° 1).

##### 3 Rabat 1993: Marocains et Allemands : La perception de l'autre

Herbert Popp (éd.): Die Sicht des Anderen. Das Marokkobildder Deutschen – Das Deutschlandbild der Marokkaner. Referate des 3. Deutsch-Marokkanischen Forschungs-Symposiums in Rabat, 10.-12. November 1993. – Passau 1994 (= Maghreb-Studien, N° 4).

Abdelwahed Bendaoud & Mohamed Berriane (éd.): Marocains et Allemands : la perception de l'autre. – Rabat 1995 (= Publications de la Faculté des Lettres et des Sciences Humaines de Rabat. Série : Colloques et Séminaires, N° 44).

##### 4 München 1997: Migrations internationales entre le Maghreb et l'Europe

Mohamed Berriane & Herbert Popp (éd.): Migrations internationales entre le Maghreb et l'Europe. Les effets sur les pays de destination et les pays d'origine. Actes du 4<sup>ème</sup> colloque maroco-allemand de München 1997. – Passau 1998 (= Maghreb-Studien, N° 10).

Mohamed Berriane & Herbert Popp (éd.): Migrations internationales entre le Maghreb et l'Europe. Les effets sur les pays de destination et les pays d'origine. Actes du 4<sup>ème</sup> colloque maroco-allemand, Munich 1997. – Rabat 1999 (= Publications de la Faculté des Lettres et des Sciences Humaines de Rabat, Série : Colloques et Séminaires, N° 74).

##### 5 Tanger 1998: Le tourisme au Maghreb

Mohamed Berriane & Herbert Popp (éd.): Le tourisme au Maghreb. Diversification du produit et développement régional et local. Actes du 5<sup>ème</sup> colloque maroco-allemand, Tanger, 1998. – Rabat 1999 (= Publications de la Faculté des Lettres et des Sciences Humaines de Rabat, Série : Colloques et Séminaires, N° 79).

##### 6 Paderborn 2001: Le Maroc à la veille du 3<sup>ème</sup> millénaire. Défis, changements et risques d'un développement durable

Mohamed Berriane & Andreas Kagermeier (éd.): Le Maroc à la veille du 3<sup>ème</sup> millénaire : Défis, changements et risques d'un développement durable. Actes du 6<sup>ème</sup> colloque maroco-allemand de Paderborn 2000. – Passau 2001 (= Maghreb-Studien, N° 14).

##### 7 Rabat 2004: Pour une nouvelle perception des montagnes marocaines

Mohamed Ait Hamza & Herbert Popp (éd.): Pour une nouvelle perception des montagnes marocaines : espace périphérique ? patrimoine culturel et naturel ? stock de ressources dans l'avenir ? Actes du 7<sup>ème</sup> colloque maroco-allemand 2004. – Rabat 2005 (= Publications de la Faculté des Lettres et des Sciences Humaines de Rabat, Série : Colloques et Séminaires, N° 119).

##### 8 Bayreuth 2011: Le Maroc : bilan de la période coloniale

Mohamed Ait Hamza & Herbert Popp (éd.): Le Maroc : bilan de la période coloniale. Actes du 8<sup>ème</sup> colloque maroco-allemand 2011. – Bayreuth 2012 (*sous presse*).

generously sponsored by the German Research Foundation, DFG, and the foundation Oberfrankenstiftung.

The lectures will be published in French in the "jubilee year" 2012 (a century after the beginning of the French colonial rule in Morocco).

The participants agreed on the next symposium, to be held

within the next two years, which will take place, in rotation, in Morocco, namely in Meknès under the direction of Brahim El Fasskaoui (Meknès) and Herbert Popp (Bayreuth). The theme will be Patrimoine et tourisme culturel au Maroc (Heritage and cultural tourism in Morocco).

(Herbert Popp)

## The granary citadels of the Anti-Atlas (Southern Morocco)



▲ The inflas (leaders) of Agadir Afella Ouzaghar (Popp)



▲ Oblique aerial view of Agadir Taourirt-n-Brouhr, situated upon its village (Popp)



▲ View of the inner courtyard of Agadir Imhailen (Popp)

### From decay to revaluation as cultural heritage and mise en scène for cultural tourism

Since 2009, Herbert Popp, professor of Urban Geography at Bayreuth University, has investigated the origins, history, recent function and present and future discourses concerning the recovery of the granary citadels (*Agadirs, Ksour*), within a larger project sponsored by DFG. He has done this in cooperation with his Moroccan colleagues Mohamed Aït Hamza and Brahim El Fasskaoui, as well as with his Tunisian colleague Abdelfettah Kassah. The citadels are located at the Northern fringe of the Sahara desert in the transitional zone between poor rain-fed farming and a steppe vegetation which only allows pasture activities. Case studies for a deeper analysis of these objects in the cultural landscape feature South-

ern Tunisia and the Anti-Atlas Mountains in Southern Morocco. The group of researchers has been able to show that under the conditions of climatic risk (inter-annual precipitation variability) and the insecure conditions, in the form of aggressive conflicts among the tribes, the granary citadels are an efficient solution for the reduction of these risks: that is, as buildings for stockpiling, and as defendable citadels as well. Today, the granaries have become more and more disordered – in Tunisia without any exception, and in Southern Morocco this is true for most of them – but, alongside the trend of architectural decay, we recognize more recent assessments which allow us to hope that many of these objects can be preserved.

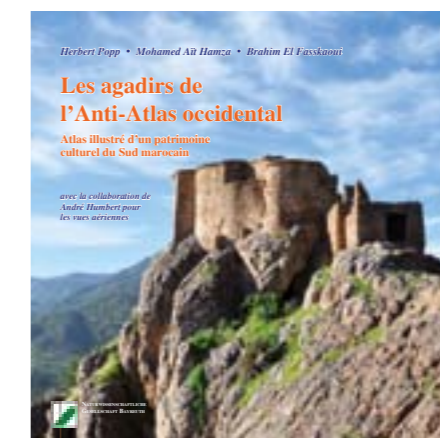
On the one hand, the Berber population has developed a stronger historical awareness which tries to preserve the tangible evidence of their own past. (The key word “patrimoine” (heritage) plays an important role in political discourses, and financial means for the restoration and architectural protection of the granaries are given by the state.) On the other hand, it is culture-oriented international tourism which has discovered the granaries and their important role as impressive relics and photogenic witnesses of a cultural and historical rural society. These master-pieces were created in order to guarantee the survival of mankind in these regions. A new trend has begun which creates initiatives and expresses arguments that could lead to the classification by UNESCO of the Tunisian and Moroccan granaries as objects of cultural world heritage.

As an important result of their research work so far, the German-Maghrebian research team has just published an extensive and opulently illustrated documentary volume in French with the title *Les agadirs de l'Anti-Atlas occidental* (The granaries of the Western Anti-Atlas). This is the second element and the continuation of the volume which was published in 2010 about *Les ksour du Sud tunisien* (The granaries of Southern Tunisia). Both volumes not only present a synthesis of our knowledge about the history, functions and forms of organization of the granaries, but are, as well, a kind of inventory as an atlas: all granaries which are still functioning or which are still in an acceptable structural state are presented, following a

systematic way of description. For each structure, in order to facilitate a visit to it, details are given of the name, GPS-coordinates, tribal membership, date of creation, number of stores and storeys, present use, and degree of tourist use, as well as a satellite image of each granary and

a schematic map. Through the visualization of these impressive objects in the cultural landscape by means of oblique aerial views taken by the researchers, all the charm of this rustic, but very complex and sophisticated culture is made clear.

(Herbert Popp)



The volume can now be ordered, in a slipcase, directly from the Lehrstuhl für Stadtgeographie oder at the price of €69,-- by visiting [www.agadirs-anti-atlas-maroc.com](http://www.agadirs-anti-atlas-maroc.com)

Monograph about the granaries in the Anti-Atlas mountains (500 pages, format 27 to 27 cm, in colour, with numerous figures, tables and photos)

## In Brief



#### Colorless Voices Multimedia Performance

The Kenyan contemporary dancer and choreographer Kepha Oiro performed his multimedia piece 'Colorless Voices' in the context of the *Forum for the Future* Bayreuth. The show was realized during his four-day residence in Bayreuth, together with the Madagascan musician Tao Ravao and the performers André Jolles and Benedetta Reuter from 687performance (Cologne). The performance was also Kepha Oiro's first cooperative venture with the Kenyan artist Peterson Kamwathi, who participated in the creation of the multimedia setting of the stage. It is also the first event in a series of contemporary performances of African artists which will be developed by Iwalewa-Haus with the support of the chair of Theatre Studies at the University in Bayreuth. (Siegert, Foto: Reuter)



#### DAAD award for Salma Abdallah

**Salma Abdallah**, Junior Fellow of BIGSAS and member of the Water Management in Khartoum (WAMAKHAIR) group of the Department of Social Geography, won the DAAD award 2011 for her achievements during her studies.



#### Research on learning and adaptation in Eastern Africa

The Department of Social Geography of Bayreuth University carried out a series of 4 conferences and workshops in Eldoret (November 2010), Nairobi (March 2011), Bayreuth (April 2011) and Addis Ababa (October 2011), to explore the potential of "Intra-regional learning and technology transfer as a tool for adaptation to climate change in Eastern Africa". The initiative was financed by the Federal Ministry of Research and Higher Education (BMBF) and the Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) Programme of the World Bank in Nairobi.



#### WAMAKHAIR-conference in Thurnau, June 2011

The members of the Water Management in Khartoum International Research Project (WAMAKHAIR) met for a three-day retreat in the castle of Thurnau in June 2011. This conference served to bring together the main results of the WAMAKHAIR research project, which was launched in 2008 and which is now in its final stage. Furthermore, the conference participants prepared the structure of a joint WAMAKHAIR-publication which is going to be launched in 2012. WAMAKHAIR comprises more than 15 researchers (professors, post-doctoral students, PhD-students, Master students) from Germany (Bayreuth), France (Paris), Sudan (Khartoum) and Switzerland (Fribourg). The project uses the study of water management in order to understand social change in Khartoum. This integrated and multidisciplinary approach addresses various topics which are relevant for water management, such as migration, private sector investments in infrastructure, governmental policies, urbanization and aspects of power, control and rule.



#### Student field trip to Kenya

A group of 29 Bayreuth University students from the departments of African Development Studies in Geography, and Economics, visited our Kenyan partner university in Eldoret on a field trip to Kenya (26<sup>th</sup> September until 16<sup>th</sup> October 2011). The excursion was an intensive exercise of interdisciplinary learning and intercultural cooperation. In a workshop at Moi University, German and African students discussed similarities and differences between their universities, campus life and study programmes in Germany and Kenya, and they explored possible ways of learning more from each other. During joint field research, German and Kenyan geography students studied a number of community based development projects.

#### Events-Workshop speech acts

An International Workshop on Speech Acts and Speech Events in African Languages took place at Iwalewa Haus Bayreuth from 9<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> December, 2010. Contributions included papers from scholars from different countries (Brazil, Kenya, Singapore, Belgium, Germany and the US). These scholars have been working on a number of topics in the fields of intercultural pragmatics, politeness research and empirical data on speech acts (i.e. advice, refusals, warnings and greetings) as well as on conversational analysis and gesture studies. A volume of proceedings is to appear soon (Sommer, Gabriele and Clarissa Vierke (eds.) /Speech Acts and Speech Events in African Languages/. Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe).

#### Bayreuth City Award for Julia Verne

On the occasion of the celebration of the "Dies Academicus" on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2011, **Julia Verne** was awarded the "Preis der Stadt Bayreuth" (Bayreuth City Award) by Michael Hohl, the Mayor of Bayreuth, for her dissertation "Living Translocality: Culture and Economy in Swahili Trading Connections". The dissertation was supervised by Detlef Müller-Mahn, professor in the Department of Social Geography.

## Editorial

The Bayreuth African Studies Newsletter is published by the Institute of African Studies. Therefore, staff changes and other news from the publisher's side as well as on the editor's side are reported jointly here.

In early 2012, the directorate of the IAS has been taken over by Ute Fendler (Romance Literature) and Ulrich Berner (Studies of Religion). Concerning for the IAS Office itself, Idris Riahi has been appointed new coordinator of IAS since January 2012.

As for NAB, the editing of Iwalewa-Haus related activities has been taken over by Nadine Siegert. Magnus Echtler has rejoined the NAB team after his paternal leave. Martin Doevenspeck has been assisted for this issue by Regina Fein. Responsible for BIGSAS related news are now Christine Scherer, Stefanie Jost and Susanne Ott. As for Manfred von Roncador, he will leave the NAB-crew after this issue.

We all wish our readers a happy remaining year 2012.

For more information we draw your attention to our web sites:  
[www.ias.uni-bayreuth.de/en](http://www.ias.uni-bayreuth.de/en) and  
[www.bigsas.uni-bayreuth.de](http://www.bigsas.uni-bayreuth.de)



**Institute of  
African Studies**



UNIVERSITÄT  
BAYREUTH



## NAB

Newsletter of African Studies  
at Bayreuth University  
Vol. XI 2011  
ISSN 1867-6634 (print)  
ISSN 1867-6642 (online)

Published 2012 by the  
Institute of African Studies  
[www.ias.uni-bayreuth.de](http://www.ias.uni-bayreuth.de)

University of Bayreuth  
95440 Bayreuth, Germany

NAB online:  
<http://www.ias.uni-bayreuth.de/en/publications/nab>

All correspondence to:  
[NAB@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:NAB@uni-bayreuth.de)

*Editorial Board*  
Manfred von Roncador (editor-in-chief)  
[manfred.vonroncador@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:manfred.vonroncador@uni-bayreuth.de)

Christine Scherer  
[christine.scherer@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:christine.scherer@uni-bayreuth.de)

Martin Doevenspeck  
[doevenspeck@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:doevenspeck@uni-bayreuth.de)

Magnus Echtler  
[magnus.echtler@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:magnus.echtler@uni-bayreuth.de)

Regina Fein  
[regina.fein@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:regina.fein@uni-bayreuth.de)

Stefanie Jost  
[stefanie.jost@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:stefanie.jost@uni-bayreuth.de)

Franz Kogelmann  
[franz.kogelmann@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:franz.kogelmann@uni-bayreuth.de)

Susanne Ott  
[susanne.ott@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:susanne.ott@uni-bayreuth.de)

Nadine Siegert  
[nadine.siegert@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:nadine.siegert@uni-bayreuth.de)

Ulrike Wanitzek  
[ulrike.wanitzek@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:ulrike.wanitzek@uni-bayreuth.de)

*Layout*  
Yannick Tylle  
[tylle@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:tylle@uni-bayreuth.de)

*Photos*  
Ulrich Bauer, Regina Fein, Katharina Greven, Doris Löhr, Michael Neumann, Alexander Opper, Herbert Popp, Alena Rettová, Heiko Thierl, Kristina Udechukwu, Youssef Wahboun

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