

Workshop

“Future Africa” und “African Future-making” im Gespräch

Veranstaltet vom Geographischen Institut der Universität Bonn und
der Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies
2./3. Juni 2016, Poppelsdorfer Schloss, Universität Bonn

The workshop brings together researchers from two groups with related scientific interests: the interdisciplinary Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies with the overarching title “Future Africa: Visions in Time” and the research network “Future-making in rural Africa” at the universities of Bonn and Cologne. With this workshop we want to contribute to three fields of conversation: first, between **African and development studies** in Bonn, Bayreuth and Cologne, second, the **interdisciplinary encounter** between social sciences, natural sciences and humanities; third, between academic research and **development practice**.

Addressing “the future” seems to be increasingly attractive as a focus point in African studies and related research activities across disciplines. The main difference of this focus, compared to earlier approaches in development or transformation studies, is the realization (clearly influenced by the cultural turn) that **ideas, visions and meanings are not only a mirror of their present conditions**, but have an important impact on coping with these conditions and on their strategies to overcome them. Current debates about African futures are characterized by controversial views of things to come. On the one hand, one can observe a renewed **development optimism** based on visions of linear progress towards modernity, pointing at recent (and once again crumbling) economic growth rates in some sectors and societies, at the rise of middle classes, and at examples of cultural emancipation. On the other hand, **pessimistic outlooks** continue to be widespread, now referring to persistent post-colonial conditions, vulnerabilities, land grabbing, ecological problems etc. Against this backdrop, the question arises of **what views of ‘future’ are developed** in different disciplines, of how they conceptualise the meanings of future and future-making, and of how they make use of future-related perspectives in their research on and in Africa.

Starting points of our workshop are some general arguments of the current use of the ‘future’ paradigm in Africa-related research. This involves, explicitly or implicitly, particular interpretations of the past and responses to particular challenges of the present, and paves the way for particular interventions into that present towards a “better” (utopian) or against a threatening (dystopic) view of future. African futures and their agents are subjects and at the same time contested objects of change within global power geometries and development discourses.

DONNERSTAG, 2. JUNI 2016

13.30 Uhr: **Willkommen** mit Häppchen und Kaffee

14 Uhr: **Einführung in den "Future Africa"-Dialog**

Prof. Dr. Detlef Müller-Mahn (Sprecher des Verbundes „Future-making in rural Africa“)

Prof. Dr. Achim von Oppen (Direktor der Academy of Advanced African Studies)

14.15 Uhr: **„Zukunft als transdisziplinäres Forschungskonzept**

I. Reflexion zu Visionen und Repräsentationen von Zukunft in Afrika und der Diaspora

(Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies):

Prof. Dr. Achim von Oppen: Geschichte der Zukunft Afrikas

Prof. Dr. Michael Hauhs: Replacing the nature-culture dichotomy: models as mediators

II. Reflexion zum Zukunft-machen im ländlichen Afrika (Universität Bonn und Köln)

Prof. Dr. Detlef Müller-Mahn: Development regimes and agrarian change

Prof. Dr. Michael Bollig: Towards an African Eden: large scale conservation areas

III. Diskussion zur Theoretisierung von Wandel, Transformation und Zukunft

16.30 Uhr: Kaffeepause

17.00 Uhr: **Praxisrelevanz einer "Future Africa"-Forschung für die Entwicklungszusammenarbeit**

Podiumsdiskussion mit Prof. Dr. Joachim von Braun (ZEF), Prof. Dr. Jakob Rhyner (UNU), Prof. Dr. Achim von Oppen (Uni Bayreuth), Prof. Dr. Julia Verne (Uni Bonn), Prof. Dr. Mathias Becker (Uni Bonn)

Moderation: Prof. Dr. Detlef Müller-Mahn

19.00 Uhr: Empfang mit Imbiss und Getränken (anschließend optional Restaurant Havanna)

FREITAG, 3. JUNI 2016

9.00 Uhr: **Konzeptionelle und empirische Beiträge zu Zukunftsfragen in Afrika**

I. Beiträge zur sozial-ökologischen Transformation in Afrika (Bonn/Köln)

Prof. Dr. Christian Borgemeister, Dr. Sandra Junglen: Ausbreitung von Infektionskrankheiten

Dr. Sybille Bauriedl: Green Development

Dr. Clemens Greiner: Energy Futures

II. Beiträge zu Zukunft Afrika – Visionen im Umbruch (Bayreuth)

Dr. Lena Kroeker: Mittelschichten im Aufbruch

Dr. Constantin Katsakioris: Africa and the communist countries

Dr. Doris Löhr: Wie funktioniert die Future Africa-Forschung in der wissenschaftlichen Praxis?

12.00 Uhr: Lunch

13.00 Uhr: Ende des Workshops

Organisation: Prof. Dr. Detlef Müller-Mahn, Dr. Sybille Bauriedl in Kooperation mit Prof. Dr. Achim von Oppen, Dr. Doris Löhr