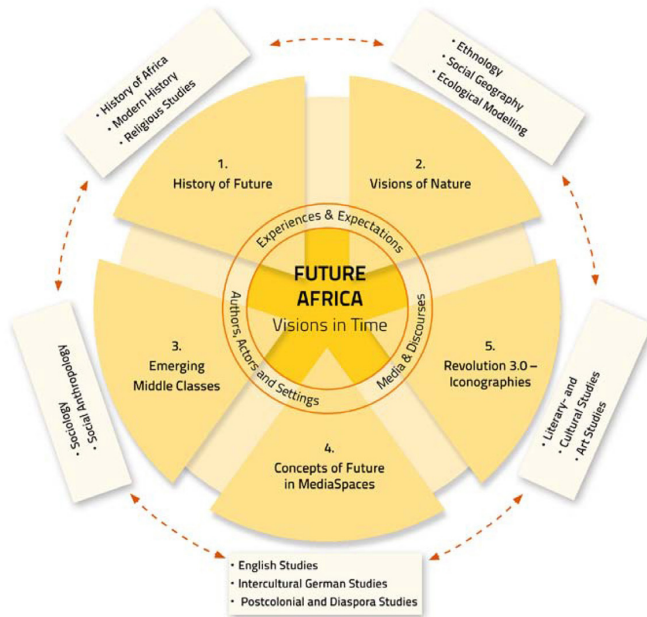


Ethnological and sociological approaches are used to address visions of the future among middle classes as a manifestation of their social rise. Another Sub-Project looks at fictional representations of 'Future' that are generated in African Diasporas and communicated by artistic movements such as Afrofuturism or in new media such as the internet. Finally, iconographies of African revolutions are discussed and anthologized from the perspectives of cultural and art studies.



The second pillar of the Bayreuth Academy's work on "Future Africa and beyond" in the 2nd phase consists of Working Groups that are convened for one Semester each and led by postdoctoral researchers from in- and outside the Academy who are supported to develop their own research topics, e.g.

"Waiting for futures" (Summer 2017).. With essential participation of renowned Guest Fellow the Working groups provide platforms for intense debate about selected transdisciplinary and cross-regional aspects



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Future Africa and beyond-

Visions in time

2nd Phase

Bayreuth Academy – An interdisziplinäres Research Center

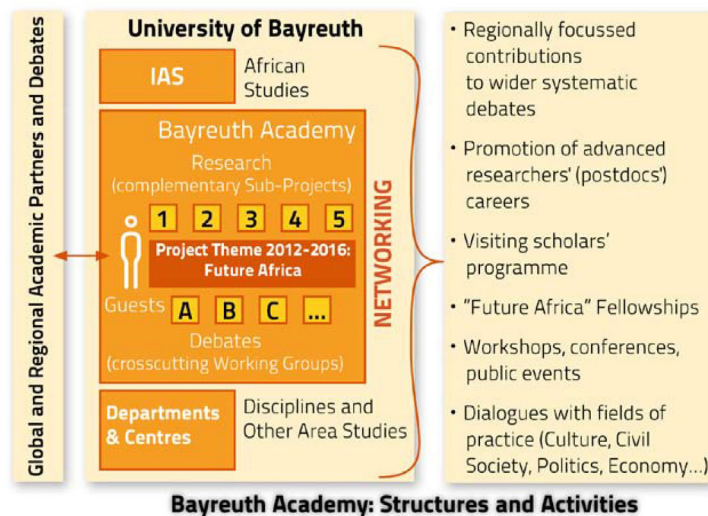
The “Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies” (founded in October 2012) is an interdisciplinary Research Centre which is closely anchored to Bayreuth University’s Institute of African Studies. The Bayreuth Academy is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung -BMBF) since 2012.



The most important aim of the Academy is to intensify academic exchange between Africa-related and other fields of research, especially in the humanities and social sciences. The Bayreuth Academy is to demonstrate that African studies offer precious impulses for scholarly debates within and beyond the so-called area studies. In doing so, the Bayreuth Academy emphasizes that Area Studies work systematically, just as much as the so-called systematic disciplines find their empirical evidence regionally. Moreover, the Bayreuth Academy discusses Africa in its given global contexts. Entanglements with Diasporas matter just as much as those with other regions and world histories.

The Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies operates at an international scale. Its work focuses on one overriding project theme for several years.

Research on this theme is based on a number of specific group projects and is carried out predominantly by young post-doctoral researchers. In order to intensify the interdisciplinary dialogue on the overriding theme across regional divides, the different Sub-Projects meet on a regular basis in Working Groups that run for one semester each, discussing selected aspects of the overriding theme. To widen the debates, a number of short-term Guest Fellows are associated to the Bayreuth Academy through its visiting scholars’ programme.



Another essential aim of the Academy is to present results from its researches and debates to the wider public. Workshops, panel discussions, readings, film screenings, and exhibitions will serve as forums for dialogues with experts actively involved in politics and economics as well as, cultural production and exchange. Its exhibition FAVT, the result of intensive cooperation between tandems from science and art, is currently shown in various Goethe Institutes in Africa.

Project "Future Africa and beyond"

The first thematic enterprise of the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies was the project on “Future Africa – Visions in Time” (2012- 2016) by BMBF. It started off from the assumption that perceptions and representations of “Future” in Africa and its Diasporas are highly innovative and dynamic, that they hence invite for stimulating comparisons, and that they have an increasingly global relevance. It demonstrated that research focusing on the “Global South” contributes significantly to wider, systematic debates on “Future”. The second phase expands the topic to “Future Africa and beyond” (2016-2018).

Research on this topic follows two lines of activity. Firstly, a total of five sub-projects pursue research on specific aspects of the general theme from different disciplinary perspectives. They run for the entire project period with a focus on different parts of Africa and African Diasporas. A historiographical sub-project studies the transformation of narratives of ‘Future’ in the 19th and 20th centuries. Models of time and future in nature are examined as informing conservation strategies or coping with climate change.



Reviewing Conference of the Bayreuth Academy, June 2016