

Socialism informed the political visions and shaped the destinies of people in postcolonial Africa and beyond. The failure of socialist experiments in the 1980s and the demise of socialist utopianism left a big void. This workshop examines how political actors, social groups, intellectuals, students, and artists experienced socialism, reacted to its demise and reinvented themselves. Furthermore, it explores the imprints socialism left on states and its complex legacies within present-day struggles for democracy and human rights, education and economic justice, as well as in the realm of popular culture, literature and arts. The workshop finally explores how socialism is remembered, represented and debated today and examines its afterlives in contemporary social and national independence movements.

Useful information

Workshop venue:

Iwalewahaus
Wölfelstraße 2, 95444 Bayreuth
Tel. 0921/55-4500

Getting there:

The workshop venue is within a 5 minute walking distance from the main train station.

Accommodation:

Hotel Lohmühle
Badstraße 37, 95444 Bayreuth
Phone: 0921/53060

The Hotel is within a 5-10 minute walking distance from the workshop venue/main train station.

After Socialism

Forgotten Legacies, Possible Futures in Africa and Beyond

Workshop in Bayreuth
13-14 October, 2017

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Program

Friday 13 October

13.00 Meeting at the Iwalewahaus: Lunch, coffee, and city center tour

16.00 Reception at Iwalewahaus

16.45 Welcome address, Achim von Oppen (Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies)

17.00 Introduction: "The Left throughout the Long Defeat in Africa and Beyond", by the conveners

17.15 - 18.30 PANEL 1 – "Eastern bloc-educated Students"

Tanja Müller (University of Manchester), "'Samora's Children': The Celebration of (post-) Socialist Citizenship in Mozambique"

Constantin Katsakioris (Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies), "Return from the USSR: Soviet-educated Africans, Work and Politics"

18.30 - 19.45 PANEL 2 – "Perspectives from West Africa"

Pascal Bianchini (University Paris 7 Diderot), "May 68 and its Sociopolitical aftermath in Senegal: Systemic Crisis, Political Recomposition and Militant Trajectories from the 1960s to the 2000s"

Sa'eed Husaini (Oxford University), "Legacies of the Left: Socialist Currents in Contemporary Nigerian Political Party Activism"

20.15 Dinner at Restaurant Eule
Kirchgasse 8, 95444 Bayreuth

Saturday 14 October

09.15 - 10.30 PANEL 3 – "Socialism and the National Question in the Middle East"

Didier Monciaud (Cahiers d'histoire Paris 7), "Alternative Voices on the National and Social Questions: Trajectory and Contributions of the Left in Egypt"

Joost Jongerden (Wageningen University), "The Kurdistan Workers Party PKK and the Reinvention of Radical Politics"

10.30 - 11.45 "Imprints of Socialist Ideas on the State"

Béatrice Hibou (CNRS France) and **Mohamed Tozy** (Sciences Po Aix), "The Trajectory of the Values of the Left in an Imperial Context: The Neo-liberal Morocco"

Alexander Stroh (Bayreuth University), "Traces of Socialism in Burkina's Party System? Sankarism and Social Democracy in Historical Context"

Lunch at Iwalewahaus

13.15 - 14.30 PANEL 5 – "Intellectuals and Writers"

Adam Mayer (University of Kurdistan Hewler), "Political Horizons Inspired by Eastern European State Socialisms in Nigerian Belles Lettres, Novels of Radical Feminism, and Children's Literature: The Cases of Mkwugo and Ifeoma Okoye"

Elara Bertho (CNRS France), "Socialist Utopia, Political Repression and Literary Creation in Guinea Conakry"

14.30 - 15.45 PANEL 6 – "The South African Left, Past and Present"

Christopher Lee (Lafayette University), "At the Grave of Alex La Guma: Socialist Itineraries Before and After the End of Apartheid"

Ksenia Robbe (Leiden University), "Local Attachments/Global Alignments: Remembering 20th-century Socialist Activism in Recent South African Cultural Production"

Coffee break, 15 min

16.00 - 17.15 PANEL 7 – "Memories and Public Debates"

David Ratner (Tel Aviv University), "Past Covered in Red: The Contested Memory of the Revolutionary Period in Contemporary Ethiopian Society"

Abraham Brahima (Bayreuth University), "Spectres of Marx: Current Debates on the Socialist Past in Benin, between Nostalgia and Obstinate Rejection"

17.15 - 18.30 PANEL 8 – "Places of Memory and Arts"

Dores Cruz (University of Cologne), "Walking the Socialist City: Epistemology and Ideology of Commemorative Street Names in Maputo"

Nadine Siegert (Iwalewahaus, Bayreuth University), "Cuidado Camarada ... -Transfigurations of Socialism in Contemporary Angolan Art"

Snack break, 15 min

18.45 - 19.45 - Final discussion

20.00 Dinner at Hua Hin (Thai Restaurant)
Ludwigstraße 30, 95444 Bayreuth