

The workshop is open to everyone and there is no conference fee. Please register with a short email to florian.stoll@uni-bayreuth.de until **April 24, 2016**.

Middle Classes in Africa – anthropological and sociological perspectives

The debate on middle classes in Africa – and other regions of the global South – has raised great interest among anthropologists and sociologists. In the last years there has been considerable progress in this debate: Social scientists have criticised the mainly economic discourses on “the African middle-class” and the quantitative definitions by income or consumption used there. Anthropology and Sociology showed their potential to improve the discussion on middle classes by adding descriptions on differences between groups within the middle classes and by offering a perspective on agency of individuals. As a result, the idea of a relatively homogenous group has been challenged. This workshop aims at bringing together perspectives on middle classes in Africa from Anthropology, Sociology and other disciplines. Furthermore, we want to discuss strengths and weaknesses of specific (disciplinary) approaches. Also, the workshop should provide an opportunity to reflect on empirical results and/or concepts and definitions.

Organisation: Subproject 3 “Middle Classes on the Rise” of the Bayreuth Academy

Conveners: Erdmute Alber, Dieter Neubert, Lena Kroeker, Florian Stoll, Maïke Voigt

Venue: Iwalewahaus (2nd floor), Wölfelstraße 2, 95444 Bayreuth.

<http://www.bayreuth-academy.uni-bayreuth.de/en/index.php>

Useful information

Workshop venue:

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

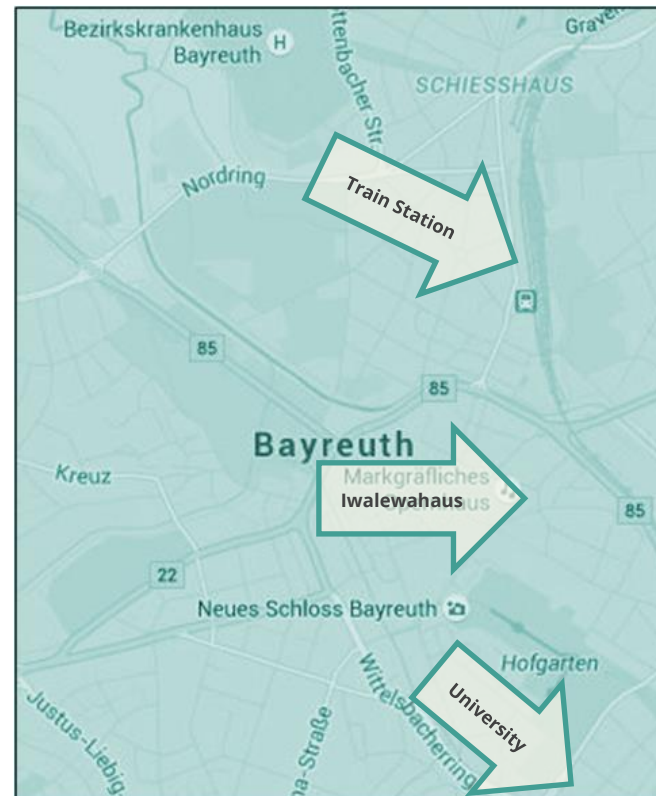
Getting there:

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

Accommodation:

Hotel Bayerischer Hof
Bahnhofstraße 14, 95444 Bayreuth
Tel: 0921/78600

The hotel is directly at the main-train station and within a 5-10 minute walking distance from the workshop venue.



Middle Classes in Africa – anthropological and sociological perspectives

April 27-29, 2016 in Bayreuth



Programme

Wednesday – April 27

- 14.00 Welcome and Introduction**
- 15.00 Panel I: Social differentiation and the life course**
- 15.00 – 15.40 Erdmute Alber (Bayreuth Academy) “Innovative models for old age among the beninoise middle classes”
- 15.40 – 16.20 Cati Coe (Rutgers University) “Changing Old Age Scripts and New Kinds of Servants: Consumption of Care Services among the Middle Class in Accra, Ghana”
- 16.20 – 16.35 Coffee break
- 16.35 – 17.15 Julia Pauli (University Hamburg) “Where does the middle class belong? Namibian weddings and the contested production of locality”
- 17.15 – 18.00 Discussion
- Discussant: Keebet von Benda-Beckmann (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle)
- 19.00 Dinner (Lohmühle; Badstrasse 37, 95444 Bayreuth)

Thursday – April 28

- 09.00 Panel II: Concepts for the analysis of sociocultural groups + middle classes in Africa I**
- 09.00 – 09.40 Dieter Neubert (Bayreuth Academy) “(Middle) class and socio-cultural diversity in Kenya. Limitations of class analysis”
- 09.40 – 10.20 Henning Melber (Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, Uppsala) “In Search of the African Middle Classes”
- 10.20 – 10.35 Coffee break
- 10.35 – 11.15 Matteo Caravani (The Institute of Development Studies, Sussex) “The Ugandanization of Karamoja: Class and Patriarchy in the village of Lojom”
- 11.15 – 12.00 Discussion
- 12.00 – 13.00 Lunch break

13.00 Panel III: Socio-professional differentiation and entrepreneurship

- 13.00 – 13.40 Maike Voigt (Bayreuth Academy) “Social mobility of middle-class entrepreneurs in Kisumu, Kenya”
- 13.40 – 14.20 David O’ Kane (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle) “The Social and Political Contexts of Entrepreneurship and the Middle-Class in Makeni, Sierra Leone”
- 14.20 – 14.35 Coffee break
- 14.35 – 15.15 Sarah Hanisch (University of Vienna) “Striving for middle class status - the ambiguous status of Chinese migrants in Africa”
- 15.15 – 15.45 Discussion
- 15.45 – 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 Panel IV: Concepts for the analysis of sociocultural groups + middle classes in Africa II

- 16.00 – 16.40 Florian Stoll (Bayreuth Academy) “Understanding the Diversity of Middle Classes in contemporary urban Kenya: A Cultural Sociological Frame for the Analysis of Social Milieus”
- 16.40 – 17.20 Dražen Cepic (University of Birmingham) “Symbolic boundaries as an analytical tool for exploring middle classes in Africa”
- 17.20 – 17.30 Coffee break
- 17.30 – 18.15 Eberhard Rothfuss (University of Bayreuth), Henning Melber and Dieter Neubert “Middle classes in Africa and South America”
- 18.15 – 18.45 Discussion
- Discussant: Helmuth Berking (Technical University, Darmstadt)
- 19.30 Dinner (Rosenau, Badstrasse 29, 95444 Bayreuth)

Friday – April 29

09.00 Panel V: Securing the Future

- 09.00 – 09.40 Keebet von Benda-Beckmann (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle) “Bridging Boundaries and Burning Bridges. Social Security of the Middle Classes”
- 09.40 – 10.20 Rogers Hansine (BIGSAS) “Fertility transition in Maputo and the urban milieu”
- 10.20 – 10.35 Coffee break
- 10.35 – 11.15 Lena Kroeker (Bayreuth Academy) “The ability to mitigate uncertainty”
- 11.15 – 12.00 Discussion
- Discussant: Cati Coe (Rutgers University)
- 12.00 – 13.00 Final Discussion
- Discussant: Dieter Neubert (Bayreuth Academy)