

# The BIGSAS World 2012 – 2013

Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies



**It takes all sorts to make a world**

# The BIGSAS World

## C O N T A C T

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## I M P R I N T

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Page 40: "Wilhelm-Leuschner-Museum in Bayreuth" by Regina Fettköther

Page 42: "Guests and team members of the 2013 BIGSAS Festival of African and African-Diasporic Literatures" by Daniela Inconato

and "Open Air Concert 2013" by Andreas Harbach

Page 66: "Dj Stef the Cat and the party crowd at the after-party" by Stefanie Alisch

Page 68: Bildarchiv Landtagsamt

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**It takes all sorts to make a world**

## Word of the Editors



Robert, Gilbert, Peter, Alžběta, and Samuel (f.l.t.r.)

We are pleased to present to you the first edition of The BIGSAS World! This newsletter offers a panoramic view of the Junior Fellows' (JF) experiences as young researchers in the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS). We invite you to share with us our experiences and impressions on academic and social life in BIGSAS. With the broad gamut of the BIGSAS family both in terms of cultural background and academic training, this newsletter offers a diversity of experiences of young scholars that are exciting and inspirational, entertaining and conscientious, creative and provocative, humorous and philosophical. As you explore these pages, you get a taste of research experiences

gathered at home, in Bayreuth and around the world during international conferences, field research and other academic assignments. For that matter, the newsletter connects the local with the global, the personal with the communal, and the scientific with the social within a lively multilingual and intercultural context that reflects the career trajectories, interactions and horizons of the Junior Fellows.

Since BIGSAS does not isolate itself in the ivory tower of research, we have sought to trace the marks of BIGSAS in various spaces such as, at school, in parliament, different sporting grounds, streets, shops, buses, and other fora in which this unique graduate school attempts to make a difference in the Bayreuth community and beyond. This has led to the building of uncommon bonds both at institutional and personal levels. Some of these contacts and exchanges have left lasting impressions in the hearts and minds of the Junior Fellows and would certainly enrich their lives and intercultural experiences in profound and enduring ways. Enjoy your reading and feel free to send us your comments through the contact address provided at the back of this issue.

Your Newsletter Editorial Team:  
Gilbert, Alžběta, Robert, Peter and Samuel

## Word of the Dean

It was on 12 March 2012. Gilbert Ndi Shang and I were invited to participate in a DAAD workshop in Bonn. On the train on our way back to Bayreuth we had enough time to discuss different issues connected with the academic and social life in BIGSAS. I learned from Gilbert, among others, that some Junior Fellows (JFs), as we call our doctoral students, are productive also in creative writing in different languages. It was moreover the time when the then JF Representatives (see pp. 37-8), Jennifer Scheffler and Peter Narh, introduced a monthly two to four pages leaflet on the social and sports activities in BIGSAS. So should we not bring together this information with some “poetic moments” (see pp. 52-3) and a list of the academic activities of the JFs in one periodic newsletter with the following aims: 1. to keep a record of the manifold activities and achievements of the JFs; 2. to inform the alumni and all BIGSAS friends about these activities; and 3. to offer inspiration to other graduate schools like BIGSAS?



Prof. Dr. Dymitr Ibriszimow

No sooner said than done: Gilbert met Peter and Alžběta Šváblová, who followed Jennifer as a JF Representative. Then Robert Owino and Samuel Ndogo joined the group and thus the editorial team of The BIGSAS World was created. Originally the idea was to produce the newsletter annually. Of course, the dissertations and the academic projects are the top priority for our JFs. So by the end of 2013 the team decided to edit The BIGSAS World biennially.

The first issue, which appears in 2014, covers the years 2012 and 2013. Meanwhile three of the five editors successfully completed their PhD projects and are now BIGSAS alumni; the other two are in the final stage of their dissertations. The first half of 2014 was busy with new activities, among others the award ceremony of the first BIGSAS honorary doctorate to the renowned literary scholar and author, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o. You will read more about this (and many other things) in the next issue of The BIGSAS World.

I congratulate the editorial team and the authors on this very interesting first issue of The BIGSAS World. I wish the new newsletter many more issues and its “parents” all the best in life!

August 2014

Prof. Dr. Dymitr Ibriszimow,  
Dean of BIGSAS

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# Award for Moulay Driss El-Maarouf and Student Town Hall Meeting

“Dance With Us: Motion Across Cultures” was the motto of the photo competition by the international network “ExchangesConnect” in 2012. One of the award winners was Moulay Driss El-Maarouf, a Junior Fellow of the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies. In his PhD thesis, he researches the local and global dynamics of Moroccan music and dance festivals. His award-winning photo “Follow my Steps” displays part of a dance of the Gnawi; this Moroccan ethnic group has a long-lasting music tradition that is highly esteemed and popular in North Africa.



Award-winning Photo “Follow my Steps”



US Consul General Conrad R. Tribble and the award winner Moulay Driss

“ExchangesConnect” is coordinated by the Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs of the US Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It was a pleasure for the US Consul General to Munich, Conrad R. Tribble to come to Bayreuth to personally hand over the award to Moulay Driss El-Maarouf. During

the Consul General’s three-year-period of office he has arranged public “town hall meetings” in Bavarian towns. His aim has been to encourage dialogue about cultural, social and political topics in the context of German-American relations. So, the “Town Hall Meeting” in Bayreuth, which took place in May 2012 on the campus of the University of Bayreuth, was the perfect opportunity to award the prize to the BIGSAS doctoral student for his photograph.

The numerous participants, amongst them BIGSAS Junior Fellows, made the meeting a lively discussion of recent political issues – ranging from transatlantic relations, the situation in North Africa to the political and military conflicts in the Near and Middle East. Conrad R. Tribble made it clear in his elaborated and precise answers that the United States understands these international developments as urging challenges for which they do not yet have final solutions.

# The BIGSAS Journalist Awards 2011 and 2013

On the occasion of the FIFA – World Cup 2010, BIGSAS initiated the BIGSAS Journalist Award. A group of committed Alumni of the Graduate School acted as jury of the competition. Together with the specialist on Africa Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Helmut Ruppert, they were looking for excellent journalistic contributions which focussed on the African continent and its diversity, as well as contributed to a better understanding of Africa. There is no such journalist award in German-speaking countries for well-researched articles about Africa, which shows the uniqueness of the BIGSAS Journalist Award. Bringing together academics and journalists, whose interest is the African continent, and jointly promoting a differentiated perception of Africa, is goal of the award.



Prof. Dr. Helmut Ruppert, former President of the University of Bayreuth, BIGSAS Journalist Award 2011 winner Dialika Krahe and Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Bormann, President of the University of Bayreuth (f.i.t.r.)



Charlotte Wiedemann and BIGSAS Journalist Award 2013 winner Philipp Hedemann

The reaction 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 on the best journalistic work, therefore they chose one winner and three other journalists received special recognitions. The prize was handed over to the winner Dialika Krahe for “*Das zweite Dorf*” (The second village) during an Award Ceremony on 15 April 2011. Due to the huge interest and excellent submissions in 2011, BIGSAS decided to renew the call for articles in 2013. On 10 July 2013 BIGSAS handed over the BIGSAS Journalist Award to the winner Philipp Hedemann for his article “*Die früheren Kolonialherren sind zurück*” (The former colonial rulers are back). Furthermore Charlotte Wiedemann received special recognition for “*Bilals Frömmigkeit*” (Bilal’s Piety).

# The BIGSAS Journalist Award 2013

The media is quite important in the formation of views and opinions about other places, cultures and peoples. What we know about other parts of the world is partially but considerably shaped by the media (in)formation that is generated about them, internally or externally. It was a good experience being one of the jury members of the BIGSAS Journalist Award 2013. As a member of the jury, one had to do an intensive reading and re-reading of the pre-selected articles. The work demanded a great level of thoroughness since it had to do with giving a justified opinion on which articles deserved the award. The pre-selection facilitated the jury members' job since nearly all the articles shortlisted were of reasonable quality in my humble judgement. On the other hand, that also made the job of the jury difficult – with so many good articles of very topical and insightful content rendered in interesting and captivating style, it became also difficult to choose the best. The best therefore could only be *primus inter pares*, first amongst equals.

That said, I was pleased that my three preliminary choices made it to the top four articles in the short-

list. Overall, the articles were quite diverse, handling controversial historical issues like the slave trade; charitable projects by goodwill Africans; the economic potential of some African countries; the relationship between the Euro crises and African economies; the interconnection of post-Apartheid South Africa and Martin Luther King's Dream for the United States of America; and last but not the least, the role of laughter in coping with stress. At the end of the process, the best articles were scrutinised on the much-sought qualities of objectivity, balance of opinion, mastery of background knowledge and the strength of the form that should characterise professional journalism in any context. Philipp Hedemann's article, titled "*Die früheren Kolonialherren sind zurück*" was eventually adjudged the winner of the prize. The focus of Philipp's article can be conceived of in the context of recent unrest and anxiety in Mozambique, which underscore the importance of political stability and an equitable political space for sustainable economic growth and development.

Text: Gilbert Ndi Shang



Rémi, Tabea, Ramzi, Laure (f.l.t.r.) and Gilbert (7<sup>th</sup> f.l.) were members of the jury chaired by Prof. Dr. Helmut Ruppert (6<sup>th</sup> f.l.). F.r.: Prof. Dr. Dymitr Ibrizimow, Dean of BIGSAS, Horst Eggers, President of the *Universitätsverein Bayreuth, e.V.*, Charlotte Wiedemann, Philipp Hedemann, and Marco Finetti, Director, Press and Public Relations of DFG (7<sup>th</sup> f.r.)

# DAAD Award 2013



Prof. Dr. Anna Köhler, Vice President of the University of Bayreuth, handed over the DAAD prize to Gilbert

I feel very honoured to be awarded the DAAD prize 2013 for outstanding achievement of a foreign student. The DAAD recognises the role of international students in enriching the German Universities both culturally and academically. My initial reaction to this award is to express sincere gratitude to the DAAD for granting me the opportunity to widen my academic horizons in Germany. As the second BIGSAS Junior Fellow to win this award (the first was Salma Abdalla in 2011), I am also very grateful to BIGSAS through which I undertook academic

and sociocultural activities with colleagues from all over the world across different countries, cultures, gender, age groups and academic backgrounds. This is a very unique experience for me and I hope it is for my colleagues too.

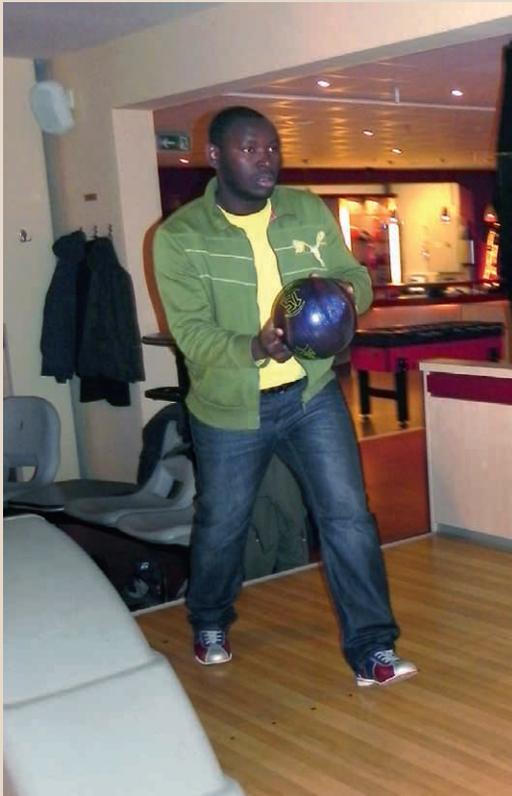
I am deeply beholden to my colleagues in BIGSAS with whom I have engaged in various academic and cultural activities over the past years for their very enlivening sense of camaraderie. It is always a source of pleasure to accomplish something with such endowed colleagues. What I see happening in the context of BIGSAS is that

apart from the inspiration Junior Fellows get from the Senior Fellows, there is an equally horizontal flow of inspiration and enriching exchange of skills amongst the Junior Fellows themselves. Just get to accomplish a task with any Junior Fellow, and you will be surprised by the value s/he adds to your own knowledge and skills. I therefore share this unique honour with my distinguished colleagues in BIGSAS.

Text: Gilbert Ndi Shang

# Bowling

On Tuesday, 24 January 2012 a group of Junior Fellows headed down to the new Bowling Centre near *Geschwister-Scholl-Platz* to an event organised by the JF Representatives Jenny and Peter. The star of the fun evening became Rémi, striking up to 178 points in the last game of the evening. Congratulations and thanks to all the participants!



Rémi, the star of the game, aiming for precision



The bowling team



Choosing the right size of the ball

## BIGSASworks!

BIGSASworks! is an online journal published as part of the 'Bayreuth African Studies Working Papers' of the Institute of African Studies, University of Bayreuth, Germany. Edited by their colleagues, BIGSASworks! provides a platform for all Junior Fellows of BIGSAS who are willing to jointly or individually publish to showcase their ongoing research as doctoral candidates. Each volume focuses on a particular theme or theoretical concept formulated by the Junior Fellows, and the contributing papers draw from different disciplines.

Volumes published

Volume 1:

### **Women's life worlds 'in-between'**

*Editors: Antje Daniel, Katharina Fink, Lena Kroeker, Jaana Schütze*

The first volume deals with issues around women's life worlds and gender relations, leading readers to re-think particular women's issues in Africa.

(<http://opus4.kobv.de/opus4-ubbayreuth/frontdoor/index/index/docId/948>)

Volume 2:

### **Trends, Discourses and Representations in Religions in Africa**

*Editors: Meron Zeleke, Halkano Abdi Wario*

In the second volume, three thematic concepts are addressed, that is, religious trends, cultural discourses and representation, to capture some of the most contemporary issues of concern to Muslim,

Christian, and indigenous religious communities in Africa.

(<http://opus4.kobv.de/opus4-ubbayreuth/frontdoor/index/index/docId/673>)

Volume 3:

### **The Making of Meaning in Africa: Word, Image and Sound**

*Editors: Duncan Omanga, Gilbert Ndi Shang*

The third volume addresses the intricate ways in which events, processes and phenomena are apprehended and reproduced in Africa. All the papers are underlined by an investigative quest for the understanding of meaning making processes in Africa.

(<http://opus.ub.uni-bayreuth.de/opus4-ubbayreuth/frontdoor/index/index/docId/1267>)

Volume 4:

### **Challenging notions of development and change from everyday life in Africa**

*Editors: Girum Getachew Alemu, Peter Narh*

In the fourth volume, the papers deal with the interdependence of global development paradigms and local contexts in the spheres of migration, new media, natural resource management and political economy to elucidate the understanding of 'development' in the African context.

(<http://opus.ub.uni-bayreuth.de/opus4-ubbayreuth/frontdoor/index/index/docId/1358>)



# Bringing Hope to the Youth in Alego, Kenya: Sauti Kuu



BIGSAS Junior Fellows welcomed members of the Sauti Kuu Foundation

On 15 October 2013, Dr. Auma Obama, founder and director of 'Sauti Kuu Foundation', returned to a familiar place as she often does – the small, picturesque town of Bayreuth, Germany, where she graduated with a PhD in 1996. Dr. Obama had a round table discussion with students of the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS) and engaged with members of the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies. Also present at the discussion were students of the *Markgräfin-Wilhelmine Gymnasium* of Bayreuth, then 16 to 17 year olds who through the BIGSAS school project (see pp. 56-7) have the opportunity to meet African students and challenge media stereotypes of the African continent with the personal stories of the BIGSAS Junior Fellows.

Auma Obama's Kenya-Germany relationship began many years ago when as a young girl she discovered and fell in love with German authors such as

Heinrich Böll and Wolfgang Borchert. Dr. Obama described being a foreign student in Germany as not having been without its challenges. As someone who is passionate about intercultural communication, she engaged her listeners with anecdotes about feeling like "the other" for the first time and rising above the pressures of constantly being "confronted with oneself". While she comes from an



Dan Joshua Odur, Dr. Auma Obama, Kennedy Oduor Omondi (f.l.t.r.)

academic background, Auma Obama has always been interested in the practical approach to things. This need to balance "talking", or as she puts it intellectualizing, with "doing" now leads her to inspire the youth in her ancestral home of Alego, in south-west Kenya.

*Sauti Kuu* is a Kiswahili word that literally stands for "Powerful Voices". The foundation, based on the

principle of 'Self-Help', works with disadvantaged children and youth to unlock their potential, in particular through life skills training and educational opportunities that lead to economic sustainability. The aim is to enable children and the youth to be makers of their own destiny. Meet Kennedy Oduor Omondi, an engaging young man in his first year at a university in Kenya. Kennedy has been with Sauti Kuu since the beginning when Auma would sit with him under a tree in Alego, brainstorming about how best to reach the region's youth. As Auma fondly recounts, Kennedy was shy and struggling with a stammer back then. Fast forward to today, Kennedy is holding the room's attention as he explains how Sauti Kuu helps Alego's young men and women develop the confidence to believe in and articulate their ideas and together think up sustainable ways to effectively use local resources – no stammer.

We all know the controversy surrounding development aid and the "victim of poverty" mindset that has spread across the African continent. Sauti Kuu's concept is a different take on teaching someone to fish instead of giving them a fish – how about asking if the person you would like to teach fishing eats fish in the first place, tailoring the solution to individuals and their particular needs. The uniqueness of Sauti Kuu's approach is also its main challenge: how to convince the youth that participating has benefits. Project Field Manager, Mr. Dan Joshua Odur, tells of young people who turn their backs on the project after a while, or parents who deter their children from participating



Round table participants

on realising that Sauti Kuu is not about free hand-outs. The NGO/victim of poverty mentality is alive in the community. It is not easy to explain that first the youth must recognise, that they themselves are the solution to their problems and that they need to develop their potential to make a difference instead of relying on outside 'saviours'. Sauti Kuu is still too young to advance a trans-border dialogue with the diaspora (the foundation was founded in 2011) but Auma Obama is looking forward to what she can learn in a planned project with street children in Germany and Kenya. Their needs are different and true to the Sauti Kuu model, thus peculiar solutions will have to be at the forefront of project efforts. Information on 'Sauti Kuu Foundation' can be found at [www.sautikuufoundation.org](http://www.sautikuufoundation.org).

Text: Linda Besigiroha

## City Tour “Afrika in Bayreuth”: A City Tour with a Difference!



Tour guide Katharina and participants at Sophienstraße, Bayreuth

“Afrika in Bayreuth”, the unique city tour leads to historical and contemporary monuments in the Bayreuth city space with African and multi-cultural experience. It is unique in that it is an opportunity where we share knowledge and experience of Africans and Europeans during the tour.

Gilbert Ndi Shang, Katharina Fink, and Peter Narh, all doctoral students at BIGSAS (now alumni), engage with, and lead the guests through sharing their personal experiences of these monuments. The overall aim of the tour is to present new, unexplored, and sometimes taken-for-granted perspectives on urban space and history. In this way,

we hope to provide insights into international life in Bayreuth.

The city is a cultural as well as a physical space to which different personalities contribute by creating a niche in this space from their respective endeavours. The ideals and life trajectories of these personalities are a source of reflection on one’s own heritage, identity, and contributions to humanity.

As an African, through such reflections I have come to better appreciate my heritage, my identity, and my culture, and the challenges I face from encounters with people from other cultures. This resonates



Exploration of the city from another perspective



City tour guides Peter and Gilbert showed the participants "Afrika in Bayreuth"

with the spirit of this tour: a reawakening of one's heritage and identity through personal experience of the city space.

In essence, the tour comprises eight stops, beginning and ending at the renowned Iwalewa Haus on the Münzgasse, the African art and culture centre of the University of Bayreuth. Guiding our guests through the 90 minute exploration of the city space has been sheer fun and a privilege. We learn a lot from the educative exchanges during this adventure. Having taken part in the tour for a while now, we can only be proud that we are contributing in our little way to making the city of Bayreuth a true international experience!

Text: Peter Narh



The guides are proud of their work

## Conferences



Genevieve making her conference presentation

### **A Junior Fellow's personal story:**

#### **American Academy of Religions – Conference in Chicago, Illinois 2012**

The American Academy of Religions (AAR) is the biggest scholarly religious studies association in America. It offers a forum for scholars to present and discuss their research findings. In that sense, the AAR is not only an appropriate platform for young scholars to share their research projects with the more experienced ones, but also an opportunity to hone their academic skills.

During the AAR conference held in Chicago Illinois in November 2012, I had the opportunity to present

part of my PhD project titled “Contesting Dominant Discourses on Modernity in Ghana’s Religious Field: the Rise of Kwaku Bonsam”. The insightful comments from the participants have enabled me to remarkably sharpen and shape the focus of my research. BIGSAS supports JFs to attend summer schools, workshops and seminars. This contributes a great deal to the realisation of excellence, which is a key characteristic of this graduate school.

Text: Genevieve Nrenzah

**A full list of conferences attended by Junior Fellows in 2012 and 2013 is in the Annex (see pp. 76 ff.).**

## Deutschkurs



The *Deutschkurs* on tour in the city centre of Bayreuth – interactive learning with Birgit Fteimi

Lieber Leser,  
liebe Leserin,

so wie ich hier sitze, ist es nachmittags, achtzehn Minuten nach vier. Ich habe jetzt eine ganze Zeit überlegt, wie ich mich am besten ausdrücken kann. Ich denke, ich wäre verloren, hätte ich die Magie, eine neue Sprache zu lernen, nicht erlebt. Ich stelle mir vor, wie ich verloren am Bahnhof stehe, weil ich kein Deutsch spreche. Dann stelle ich mir vor, wie ich mich fühlen würde, wenn ich einen Brief bekomme und alles darin verstehe. Ja das wäre toll! – Gerade während meiner Anfangszeit in Deutschland flüsterte jedoch allzu oft eine innere Stimme zu mir „aber es gibt doch den Google-Übersetzer“...

Ich frage mich, wieso wir dieses Ding überhaupt haben. Ich erinnere mich, dass ich einmal einen kurzen Text übersetzen ließ und dann am nächsten Tag glücklich zum Deutschkurs ging, weil ich davon ausging, dass meine Lehrerin sehr stolz auf mich sein würde. Ihr könnt euch nicht vorstellen, wie enttäuscht ich nachher war. Ich wollte, dass Google es so übersetzt, wie ich es zuerst geschrieben habe, nicht nur einzelne Wörter richtig zu übersetzen und andere nicht. Manchmal war der ganze Sinn verdreht! Von diesem Tag an habe ich immer fleißig gelernt und im Kurs aufgepasst, um meine



Billian and Genevieve in Nuremberg for an excursion organised as part of the German language course

Hausaufgaben selber machen zu können. Was für ein super Gefühl das war, wenn ich alles richtig hatte! Sogar meine Freunde haben mir erzählt, wie sehr sie Google manchmal verwirrt hat. Ich bin glücklich, dass wir alle dies rechtzeitig gemerkt haben.

Unsere Lehrerin ließ uns immer über eigene Erfahrungen berichten, damit wir unser Deutsch trainieren konnten. Das hat mir immer sehr gefallen, weil ich so am besten lernen konnte. Einmal lernten wir Bezeichnungen und Mengen von Sachen aus dem Supermarkt. Das war interessant, weil wir uns anschließend im Supermarkt selbst versuchen

durften. Ein anderes Mal veranstalteten wir unseren Kurs im Stadtzentrum, wo wir lernten, wie man nach Richtungen fragt und sie erklärt. Ich muss zugeben, dass die ersten Versuche im kollektiven Gelächter geendet sind. Aber dann waren wir ernst und haben viel gelernt. Nicht nur den Kursinhalt, sondern auch wie man mit verschiedenen Menschen umgeht. Und wie kann ich den Tag vergessen, an dem wir etwas über unser Heimatland präsentieren sollten? Als ich vor die Klasse trat, war ich so nervös! Mein Herz raste wie die Isikuti Trommeln aus West-Kenia. Ich habe fast meine Wörter verschluckt. Das größte Problem war, die Zahlen richtig zu sagen. Ich frage mich immer noch, wieso die letzte Zahl zuerst genannt wird: „Drei-und-Fünzig“? Das ist doch komisch! Aber glücklicherweise hat es mir meine Lehrerin gut beigebracht. Und die Uhrzeit sagen? Wenn ich damit anfangen, wie verwirrend es für mich war, könnte ich ein ganzes Buch schreiben. Neben den Sachen von denen ich erzählt habe, habe ich noch viele andere interessante Erfahrungen machen dürfen. Ich habe viel gelernt und sage deshalb stolz: „Los Leute, lasst uns Deutsch sprechen!“

Bis zum nächsten Mal,  
Eure Studentin aus dem Deutschkurs,

Billian Khalayi Otundo

## “Encounter” with the Police



BIGSAS Junior Fellows and members of the administration team visited the Upper Franconia police headquarters. Police Chief, Rheinhard Kunkel is in the middle.

We could not delay, we could not hurry more. The invitation came from the Police Chief Mr. Reinhard Kunkel. We arrived at the Police Headquarters of Upper Franconia midmorning of 31 October 2012. In less than 10 minutes we were seated in a large hall, face-to-face with the top officers of the Police Headquarters. Not long afterwards, the meeting turned into exchanges between the police and the visitors. But wait a moment, I mean very friendly exchanges! Twenty BIGSAS members interacted openly and cordially with their police host. The visit was arranged between BIGSAS and the Police Administration as an opportunity for the two institutions to get acquainted with each other and establish some collaboration in their respective work. For us in BIGSAS, we were happy but also curious to

along all the time, what channels of redress are available to people having issues with the police, and what processes are there to register bicycles with the police. The police officers answered these concerns professionally and with precision. Talking about bicycles, some more pleasant surprises were in store for many of us. We learnt that in Germany, every child is trained by a police officer on how to ride the bicycle!

The BIGSAS members and the police officers expressed interest in some areas of collaboration. Since many of us, both men and women are football fans, the idea of a special friendly football match between FC BIGSAS (see pp. 26-7) and the police added to the enthusiasm of the day.

know more about how the police in Germany conduct their work to offer the high level personal security we enjoy in Bayreuth.

Having listened to an eloquent presentation by the Chief Superintendent Horst Thiemt on the structure, functions and the model of the Upper Franconian police, BIGSAS members individually had the chance to ask questions, mainly from their experience in their stay in Bayreuth this far. For instance, Junior Fellows wanted to know what specific identity card one is required to carry

To round up this exciting day, the police gave us yet a last pleasant insight. At the ultra-modern control room of the Upper Franconian Police, we listened



A police officer explains his work

to and saw how the police keeps security and response to security challenges, with the help of modern gadgets, some of which looked really sophisticated. On a memorable day as this, photography had its time too. The photos we took with the police speak for the occasion! Take a look at these photos again: broad smiles here, looks of keen interest there – BIGSAS members felt always warmly invited to visit the police again. And that is just what a BIGSAS doctoral student did; he indeed visited the police again, and told of his experiences, which we present to you next:

Text: Peter Narh

### The *Oberfranken* Police: Paying attention to extra-ordinary details

The rare opportunity of getting an inside story of the functioning of the *Oberfranken* Police in Bayreuth was not only an avenue for institutional interaction, but intimately relates with my PhD research on “Militarization in Post-1986 Uganda: Politics, Military and Society Interpenetration”. Specifically, I was interested in the patterns of relation that exist between the police and the military in Ger-



A meeting of new insights: BIGSAS and the police during their discussion

many. Since I needed further insights, a meeting with *Polizeiobererrat* Horst Thiemt was scheduled. I therefore returned to the police headquarters on 29 November 2012 for a one-on-one session. In the course of our discussion three aspects stood out.



Jude with the Police Officer Georg Löffler at his defence in April 2013

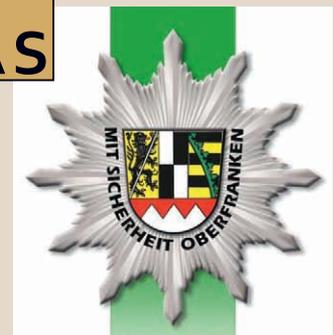
by comparing officer Thiemt’s efforts with my experience in Uganda. In the course of my field research, I interviewed a number of police officers and none ever tried to retrieve an official document to counter-check information being discussed. Third, the officer expressed vivid interest in knowing how his ideas and our discussion in general would fit into my PhD research. Additionally, on 16 of April 2013, Officer Georg Löffler represented the *Oberfranken* Police at my PhD Dissertation defence. After the defence Mr. Löffler followed-up with an email requesting to know my grade and how I was feeling. I could not help it but gasp “dear me, competence at work in Germany!” So here we are; based on these encounters I draw the conclusion, the German police pays attention to extra-ordinary details: EVERY DETAIL COUNTS!

Text: Jude Kagoro

First, officer Thiemt surprised me by pointing out that I had changed my hair and beard styles. Indeed, that was true. The officer was able to accurately reconstruct my appearance yet he had seen me only once in the crowd of the visiting BIGSAS members. Second, during our discussion, the officer laboriously retrieved official versions of documents. Without even my prompting, he went on to explain that from his perspective every word and statement counts. Let me add context to this aspect



Logos of BIGSAS and of the Upper Franconian Police



## BIGSAS FC: Sweating Out the Challenges of Research!



BIGSAS FC celebrating their victory

Besides research, BIGSAS JFs and SFs take time off to exercise, not only in gyms, but also out in the open playing football! BIGSAS FC, the men's football team, was officially created in 2011. It comprises over 20 JFs and SFs as well as friends of BIGSAS. The ladies of BIGSAS are not left behind; their football team is a usual attraction in the *Hofgarten* every week where they train. Though we label the teams as men's and women's, they are indeed mixed – a solid take-off point of BIGSAS Diversity Programme (see pp. 34 ff.).

Every summer, BIGSAS FC takes part in the *Wilde Liga* football league organised by the City of Bayreuth. In 2012, we played in the first division of the league against nine other teams and finished sixth



The BIGSAS *Mannschaft*

on the league table. Our trophy shelf is gradually growing with two trophies already won: the *Afrika Festival Nürnberg* tournament 2010 and the University of Bayreuth Beach Soccer *Interkultureller Doppelpass* tournament in June 2012. The 2013 summer league promises to be exciting, and we are poised for even more.

Our colours are orange and green both representing our positive disposition for the future and our love for an ever-green planet earth.

Text: Eric Anchimbe,  
Cheikh Anta Babou,  
Gilbert Ndi Shang

# Police Foot



BIGSAS family and friends support their team

As part of the lively and ever interesting BIGSAS culture, the BIGSAS FC engaged the Upper Franconian Police in a friendly football match. The match, which took place at the Police Headquarters in Bayreuth on 25 September 2013, is part of the BIGSAS philosophy of fostering intercultural understanding between individuals and also cooperation amongst institutions. ‘We have planned this for about one year now but could not get a convenient day until today’, observed the Police Chief Reinhard Kunkel. ‘We had a meeting with the members of BIGSAS who wanted to know how the police works in Germany. This is a demonstration of our transparency’, he further explained. The Dean

of BIGSAS, Professor Dymitr Ibrizimow adds that ‘Sports give people, irrespective of age and culture, the opportunity to exchange views and deepen friendship, without prejudices.’ The BIGSAS Sup-



BIGSAS FC and the team of the police

porters Club added colour to the event with music and cheers of ‘over the bar!’ and ‘inside the net!’ Although the host team scored the first goal in the first half of the match, the BIGSAS team proved themselves formidable. The match ended 6:3 in favour of BIGSAS FC. In the spirit of sportsmanship, both teams had dinner and some drinks together at the Police Restaurant.



Text: Uchenna Oyali

The attack line of BIGSAS FC proved unstoppable, giving the opponents’ defence a tough task during the encounter

## Football Once More: AFCON 2013, the Super Eagles Are Back!!!

From 19 January to 10 February 2013 the top African soccer teams based on merit qualification converged in South Africa for the 29<sup>th</sup> edition of the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON 2013). This was South Africa's second time of hosting the tournament, the first being in 1996. South Africa emerged as replacement host after the initial host Libya withdrew due to civil unrest.

While soccer followers were surprised that record champions Egypt (won it 7 times), and long-time power house Cameroon failed to qualify, the teams that got to South Africa were keen to demonstrate that they deserved their place as the top 16 finalists, of note were debutants Cape Verde and Ethiopia who had been away for 31 years. When the tournament got underway, soccer fans were served some very exciting and scintillating spectacles; the tournament had it all – great goals, individual talents and passionate fans!! There were several fantastic encounters on the way to the finals. In the group stages Tunisia's 1-0 North African derby win over Algeria, Cape Verde's win over Angola, and Ghana's narrow 1-0 win over Mali for me were the pick of the bunch. The West Africans dominated the quarter finals, Nigeria's win over tournament favourites Ivory Coast and Mali's penalty shoot-out win over South Africa really stood out. It is undeniable that the semi-final match between Ghana's Black Stars and the Stallions of Burkina Faso was an irresistible cracker, despite the poor officiating.

In the final game, it was Burkina Faso vs. Nigeria and both teams were on the cusp of history. The Stallions were attempting to win for the first time, and Nigeria's coach Stephen Keshi trying to be the second individual to win as a player and a coach (Egypt's Mahmoud El Gohary won as a player in 1959, and as a coach in 1998), the last time Nigeria won the tournament in 1994 Keshi was team captain. Nigeria's Super Eagles emerged champions thanks to a glorious strike from Sunday Mba, one of the six players from the Nigerian squad from the local league. As for tournament awards, Nigeria's Emmanuel Emenike and Ghana's Mubarak Wakaso emerged as highest goal scorers with 4 goals each, and Burkina Faso's Jonathan Pitroipa was voted player of the tournament.

The goal of the tournament honours went to Tunisia's Youssef Msakni for his volley against Algeria. The next tournament will be hosted by Morocco in 2015. As a Nigerian, it was so good to see our darling Super Eagles back at the top; will they stay there? Time will tell. Above all Nigeria's victory is a victory for Stephen Keshi, a straight-talking, single-minded professional. Amidst all the frictions that go on in Nigeria and Nigerian football in particular (and believe me there is a lot of it), nothing unites us like the beautiful game. It breaks all barriers, we rise above all divisions and fault-lines disappear...even if temporally. So maybe I end with a wish: may the Eagles always win...I can see all my colleagues nodding in agreement!!!

Text: Jimam T. Lar

## Fieldwork in Maasailand

During the summer of 2012, I travelled to Tanzania where I spent six months in a small village of the Maasai people to research. The focus of my research is on images the local Maasai have of the visiting tourists and vice versa. I also recorded my observations as a participant at the camel safari project several kilometres outside the village.



Vanessa with Paolo, her research assistant on a drill in technicalities

During the first month I learned to speak Maa (the language of the Maasai) at a mission in Kenya, and then obtained my research permit in Dar es Salaam. After arriving in the village where I had also stayed during my first fieldwork period, my research assistant Paolo, a young father from this village, and I completed the translations of my Q

test in Maa, so that we could use the mind mapping method Q not only with the tourists, but also with the Maasai. We practised filming during several ceremonies so that by the time the tourists arrived we were a quick team. Our work consisted of running after the camels through thorn bushes and dust, trying to tape as much of the safaris as possible. Before and after the safaris I undertook Q tests, interviews and group discussions with the tourists, while Paolo transcribed and translated the videos we took. Given that his English is far from being perfect, since he never went to school, I was impressed how quickly he was able to learn the basics of computer-use, and after some time was able to work independently.

On days when there were no tourists we covered many miles moving through the dry savannah landscape to visit remote settlements and undertake Q tests with the local Maasai there. I developed a system to enable us do the rank-ordering of 42 cards even with illiterate people. As a result of Paolo's great patience and determination, we successfully obtained these interviews and mind maps, regularly taking more than four hours asking questions to one person! This shows how my gratitude extends to all community members who supported me with time, tea, good words and a place to sleep.

Our work was sometimes obstructed because there was a bit of unrest in the area during my visit, and the warriors, to whom Paolo belongs, were regularly called upon to fight a neighbouring ethnic group.



Paolo in action

At some point over 300 warriors entered our village and one day our market was stormed by another ethnic group and many got hurt. Another challenge was the limited supply of water, which did not only leave us unable to bathe or wash our clothes, but we could not even drink water or cook food. As a result, we missed certain meals. Nevertheless, our work and mutual support was always a positive moral resource and we had a lot of fun and beautiful moments, even if our bellies were not always filled. On the last days of my stay, Paolo and I went into the bush for several days to drink medicine and regain strength, and under Paolo's instructions I improved my goat-slaughtering skills.

Overall I can say that this fieldwork period has been successful. We worked hard under challenging circumstances. It was standard for me to work twelve hours per day. On many days, we started at five in the morning, sometimes working till eleven or twelve at night. There was a lot of heat, cold and dust. Often, we did not have access to sufficient transportation and electricity. We had to deal with the ongoing fights and resulting limitations and insecurities in the area. It has however been a pleasure and I am grateful to the local community for all their support. I am very excited now to analyse the unique material which I have brought "home" from "home".

Text: Vanessa Wijngaarden



Vanessa presenting her work at the BIGSAS Colloquium

## General Assembly

The BIGSAS members decided to postpone the regular December 2011 General Assembly (GA) to February 2012 because of the evaluation process of the BIGSAS renewal application in the framework of the Excellence Initiative by the German Federal and State Governments.

In February 2012 the BIGSAS Junior and Senior Fellows met for the GA. Reports were given by different offices of BIGSAS, including the Dean and the JF Representatives. The Assembly also officially agreed to merge Research Areas C and D, as well as to integrate several new Principal Investigators (PIs). The biggest part of the GA, however, was the election of the new members of the Academic Committee. Professor Dymitr Ibriszimow was re-elected as BIGSAS Dean, with a clear majority of votes. The two Vice Deans, Professor Martin

Doevenspeck and Professor Rüdiger Seesemann were also elected, as well as Professor Susan Arndt, the Representative of the BIGSAS Diversity Programme (see pp. 34 ff.).

The main point of the very joyous GA in June 2012 was the BIGSAS renewal in the Excellence Initiative for the period until 30. October 2017. Also the new ombudspersons were introduced (see pp. 50-1).

The GA in October 2012 concentrated on strategic decisions for the second period of BIGSAS starting November 2012.

In December 2013 the GA elected new members of the Academic Committee. Professor Ibriszimow and Professor Doevenspeck were re-elected as Dean and Vice Dean, respectively. As Professor Seesemann and Professor Arndt did not run for the election, they were succeeded by Professor Martina Drescher (Vice Dean) and Dr. Ulf Vierke (Representative of the Diversity Programme). Dr. Eric Anchimbe was re-elected as deputy Diversity Representative. For more information, also about the new Research Area Representatives, please visit the BIGSAS webpage.



Junior Fellows listening to reports by members of BIGSAS



([http://www.bigsas.uni-bayreuth.de/en/organisation/academic\\_committee/index.html](http://www.bigsas.uni-bayreuth.de/en/organisation/academic_committee/index.html)).

# Good Governance Debate Series 2012



AGGN members during group discussion time

Three BIGSAS Junior Fellows, Asebe Regassa, Tamer Mohammed and Matthew Sabbi, took part in the Good Governance Debate Series 2012 in June and July in Stuttgart. The event was organised by the African Good Governance Network (AGGN) in partnership with CLEAN AFRICA, an NGO. The debate aimed at fostering understanding about multidimensional governance issues pertaining to Africa. Thematic areas debated included environmental governance, trade relations with Africa, infrastructure delivery, good governance, and the role of China in Africa's development dilemma.

These themes were debated amongst participants from five universities in Germany, including Bayreuth. The three Junior Fellows performed very well, reaching the semi-final stage and using the



Tamer discussing with other AGGN colleagues on a specific theme



Asebe and Tamer (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> from left) with other AGGN participants

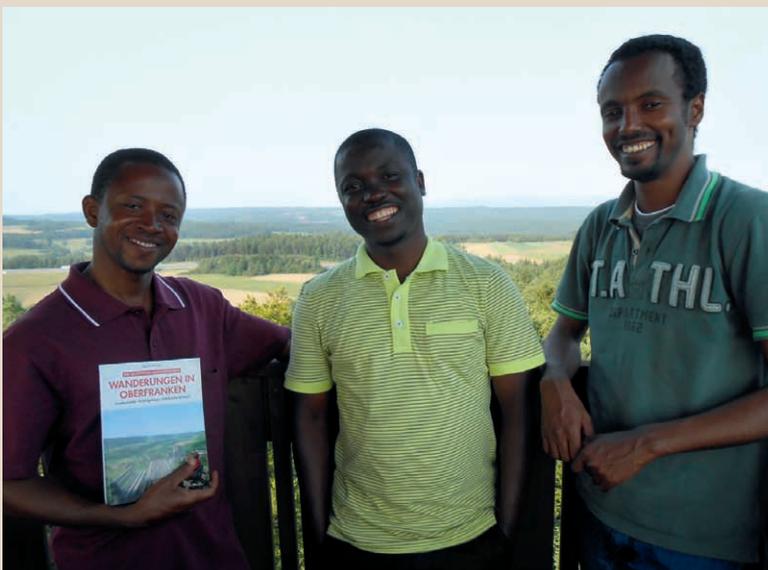
opportunity to promote the Graduate School as one of the outstanding academic institutions in Europe with exclusive focus on Africa.

Text: Asebe Regassa

## Hiking Trip in Pegnitz



The hiking crew walk up the hill in the *Fränkische Schweiz*



Challenging, but fulfilling: The hikers Peter, Mathew, and Milion are happy after their tour (f.l.t.r.)

Our hiking was fun and exercise! On 4 September 2012, courtesy of Jennifer Scheffler, a couple of BIGSAS Junior Fellows went up from Pegnitz city centre for a 12 km round trip of hiking.

Casually yet purposefully, our hiking tour took us from Pegnitz city centre late in the afternoon, through peaceful bush, forest, and lush grounds. Indeed such beautiful landscape may explain why the region is referred to as *Fränkische Schweiz* (Franconian Switzerland).

After about 1 hour 30 minutes of walking, we eventually reached the highest peak in the area, called *Kleiner Kulm*, 624 meters high. Up and down the hills, we could not help but intermittently pluck some berries, apples, and other nice edible fruits in the forest to taste. On few occasions though, we lost our way and had to retrace our steps back and forth. After about four hours 30 minutes of non-stop walking, except for a few minutes at *Kleiner Kulm*, we returned to Pegnitz town exhausted, but happy we made it!

# Interview with the Diversity Representative, Susan Arndt



Prof. Dr. Susan Arndt

**Robert Owino interviewed Prof. Dr. Susan Arndt in March 2013:**

*First and foremost I am grateful for the time you spared out of your busy schedule to undertake this interview with The BIGSAS World.*

*The Diversity Programme is less understood and at times misunderstood even by some of the BIGSAS Junior Fellows. Could you kindly demystify the Diversity Programme?*

The Diversity Programme started off as a “Women” and thereafter a “Gender” Programme which supported mainly women and parents who could not pursue their studies effectively due to the need to divide time between their studies and their children. However, with time we realised that acknowledging women or parents only would not meet the needs of the wider BIGSAS community where a lot of aspects (culture, religion, sexuality, gender, ability, class etc.) of diversity exist. The Gender Programme was consequently developed into the Diversity Programme.

*What is the major focus of the Diversity Programme?*

Diversity is a very fluid concept since human beings are all diverse in one aspect or another. The BIGSAS Diversity Programme has been designed to acknowledge and guarantee diversity, compensate disadvantages and offer empowerment. These are its major pillars: First of all, we offer structural and financial support for both parents and Junior Fellows with disabilities or chronic diseases. Secondly, diversity grants are awarded upon issuance of a diversity statement that identifies disadvantages a JF might have faced in the past or present. Thirdly, the Diversity Programme is designed to create networking spaces for empowerment, solidarity and understanding of individuals with unique needs which may not be obvious to the community.



BIGSAS Junior Fellows sharing experiences on parenting

Fourthly, Diversity Lectures and Talks (i.e. *Salongespräche*) are organised to sensitise the BIGSAS community.



A kid on the block: Playtime for kids at the Bayreuth University Campus

*Do you have any specific focus on the rich cultural diversity that is found in BIGSAS?*

Indeed, we need to celebrate and support BIGSAS diversity and diversity in BIGSAS. There is no specific focus. One particular interest is however, that the BIGSAS Diversity Programme supports individuals within BIGSAS who are facing disadvantages due to parenthood, disability, chronic diseases or challenges. With the inclusion of those otherwise ostracised and excluded groups of individuals, the Diversity Programme ensures that diversity is secured against power constellations that try to install a mainstream and aims at empowering per-

sons who might not be accepted in and by this very mainstream.

*What are the main activities undertaken by BIGSAS under the Diversity Programme?*

Currently our activities include BIGSAS Diversity lecture series through which we sensitise the community here in Bayreuth and at BIGSAS about diversity issues. Moreover, we plan to convene two conferences that will be organised with our Partner Universities. We also organise diversity workshops as chaired by professional diversity trainers and coaches. There is also the format of the *Salongespräch*, i.e. informal talks with guests who share their career paths and lives and how they manage to cope with structurally-grounded disadvantages and discrimination.

*What are some of the challenges that you as a team experience under the Diversity Programme?*

Diversity is not yet well understood by many people and we always have to reiterate the idea of diversity to make it well understood since many questions still exist. As I previously said, the concept of diversity is also very fluid and this makes it very difficult to establish fixed criteria of inclusion or exclusion. Yet, though criteria are fluid, this should not be misinterpreted as the absence of criteria at all. The Deputy Diversity Representative Dr. Anchimbe and I might not be trained diversity trainers, yet we have learned on the job. It has been positive in the



Prof. Dr. Anne Adams sharing views during the *Salongespräch*

sense that we have had a lot of flexibility in finding out which formats will work better or best meet the requirements of our BIGSAS community.

*What opportunities, if any, remain unexploited by Junior Fellows under the Diversity Programme?*

I would be glad if the Junior Fellow Representatives would organise a diversity evening where Dr. Anchimbe and I can then talk more about the Diversity Programme. There is also more information on the BIGSAS website under the Diversity Programme and applications by the Junior Fellows for the various formats are useful in performing and specifying future criteria for eligibility under the Diversity Programme.

*What is your vision for the Diversity Programme this year and in the foreseeable future?*

My vision is to make the Diversity Programme not only successful but it should also initiate a process through which people become interested and

start discussing diversity issues, identifying specific challenges and power as well as establishing structures and instruments of empowerment. In the distant future I hope to see a diversity research project on Africa conducted here in Bayreuth.

*What is your parting shot to the Junior Fellows?*

BIGSAS is a great experience since it represents diversity in many respects and is the first of its kind that I have seen in a Graduate School in Germany. BIGSAS lives, welcomes and supports diversity.

*Thanks so much once again for clarifying a lot of questions that usually linger in the minds of many. I believe with this clarifications the Diversity Programme will be better understood.*

Text: Robert Owino



A round table discussion organised by the Diversity Programme

## Junior Fellow Representatives: A Chronology

Since its establishment in 2007, BIGSAS has supported its Junior Fellows to elect coordinators for Junior Fellows' activities. These coordinators are referred to as Junior Fellow Representatives. Their role in BIGSAS includes liaison between the BIGSAS Management and Junior Fellows. They also serve as a link between the University of Bayreuth and the Junior Fellows, with respect to academic work, social life, and the general wellbeing of the Junior Fellows. As a channel of communication from the Junior Fellows and BIGSAS Management, the Junior Fellow Representatives are the first port of call when Junior Fellows encounter any challenges. Matters affecting Junior Fellows are discussed in a friendly atmosphere and in utmost confidentiality.

The JF Representatives are elected for a six-month term renewable. The Representatives in the first half of 2013, Alžběta Šváblová and Jimam Lar were both in their second year of studies. Alžběta Šváblová holds an MA degree in Political Science and International Relations from the Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. The focus of her research project is post-conflict reconstruction in Liberia. Apart from her academic work, Alžběta likes exploring the Upper Franconian countryside around Bayreuth, tasting the local cuisine and discovering the peculiarities of German language. Jimam Lar holds an MA degree in History from the University of Jos in Nigeria and King's College, London. Jimam is currently a DAAD doctoral scholar, working on the topic of vigilantism in Plat-



Alžběta and Jimam – an inspirational tandem

eau State, Nigeria. In his leisure time he enjoys reading biographies, swimming and watching football. In 2013 Johanna Rieß was elected as a replacement for Alžběta Šváblová after the end of her two term tenure. Johanna has an MA degree in Interdisciplinary Media Studies from the University of Bielefeld after her BA degree in Culture and Society from the University of Bayreuth. She is a *Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung* scholarship holder. Her current PhD research focuses on the historical and actual aspects of Internet usage in Nairobi/Kenya. In her free time she likes swimming, acting and playing cello.



Tabea  
Häberlein



Laure  
Peem



Rémi  
Tchokothe



Salma  
Abdalla



Christian  
Ungruhe



Anne-Kristin  
Borszik



Kofi  
Glover



Antje  
Daniel



Lena  
Kroeker



Jennifer  
Scheffler



Meron  
Zeleke



Katharina  
Fink



Peter  
Narh



Alžběta  
Šváblová



Jimam  
Lar



Johanna  
Rieß

**The chronology of tenure below shows Junior Fellows who served in office:**

1. Tabea Häberlein and Laure Peem (2008)
2. Rémi Tchokothe and Salma Abdalla (2009)
3. Christian Ungruhe and Anne-Kristin Borszik (2009)
4. Kofi Glover and Antje Daniel (2010)
5. Lena Kroeker and Kofi Glover (2010)
6. Jennifer Scheffler and Meron Zeleke (2011)
7. Meron Zeleke and Katharina Fink (2011)
8. Peter Narh and Jennifer Scheffler (2012)
9. Alžběta Šváblová and Peter Narh (2012)
10. Alžběta Šváblová and Jimam Lar (2013)
11. Jimam Lar and Johanna Rieß (2013)

## Kindergarten



Baby bodysuits and T-shirts:  
My mum / my dad is excellent!

Children are also included in the BIGSAS community – some of these children were born in Africa and others here in Germany. A recent graduate, Ahmed Elhassab, gives his personal experience of becoming a new parent in BIGSAS.

### Being a new parent in BIGSAS!

On the late evening of 31 December 2011, during a moment of heavy snow fall, my wife gave birth to our first born son, Ramzi. Since then, I have joined the club of new parents in BIGSAS. It was a special kind of feeling, particularly in a totally different cultural environment together with all the difficulties that accompanied the pregnancy and delivery process. However, the gentle treatment we received from the medical crew who did the delivery operation with smiles on their faces, was impressive.

The hospitality and high quality of health-care we received at *Klinikum Bayreuth* for more than three days helped my wife to recover very fast.

Although it was a moment of overwhelming joy and pleasure, I found it difficult to strike a balance between my new status as a parent and my academic commitment here in Germany. Luckily for me, BIGSAS awarded me a one month fully-paid parental leave. This was a highly gratifying gesture for me especially in my cultural context. Lastly, I would be



BIGSAS Kind: Ramzi Elhassab

remiss if I forget to acknowledge the solidarity and the moral support that we received from the greater family of BIGSAS in general, my colleagues and the JFs in particular. I took pride in their fraternity.

Text: Ahmed Elhassab

## Leuschner Haus



*Wilhelm-Leuschner-Museum in Bayreuth*

Six Junior Fellows and one BIGSAS staff member visited the Wilhelm-Leuschner-Memorial-Museum in Bayreuth on 31 January 2012. Silvia Herrmann, the curator on duty, gave the BIGSAS team a very comprehensive and absorbing tour through the exhibition, telling us about the life and work of Wilhelm Leuschner. He was born on 15 June 1890 in Bayreuth to a working class family. Having been involved in the workers' union and in the Social Democratic Party for some years, he became a member of the regional parliament in the days of the first democratic republic in Germany after World War I. His political career continued until he became the Minister of Interior in Hessen.

During the Nazi regime, Leuschner was arrested and sent to a concentration camp for some years. Upon his release he contacted different resistance groups and cooperated

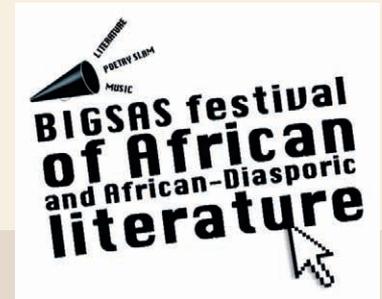
with people he knew from the Social Democratic Movement. He was also involved in the circle around General von Stauffenberg, who tried to kill Hitler in 1944. Shortly after this abortive attempt, Leuschner got arrested again and was sentenced to death.

The tour and the exhibition gave a vivid insight into life in Germany in the first half of the 20th century. It helped to clarify the circumstances surrounding the reign of the Nazis as well as the plight and motives of the brave people who fought against this regime, individuals who disregarded the danger their struggle posed to their lives. We were indeed grateful to Silvia and the Leuschner-Foundation for the tour and the important work they are doing.



Asebe, Jean-Pierre, Lohna, Ivan, Katharina, Jennifer, and Mrs Anette Volk in the *Wilhelm-Leuschner-Museum* in Bayreuth

# Literature Festival



## BIGSAS Festival of African and African-Diasporic Literature 2012 and 2013

In Bayreuth since 2011, the BIGSAS Festival of African and African-Diasporic Literature has become an integral part of the cultural and academic landscape of the city. From 14 to 16 June 2012, BIGSAS convened the second of the annual festival, under the title “Remembering Flash Forward:

future shape memories. In doing so, history has offered the shortest path into the future, leading us all around the planet – with Africa being one of its global players. Keynote lectures were given by the literary scholar and activist Peggy Piesche (Germany/USA), by the poet and Women’s/African Studies Assistant Professor Gabeba Baderoon (South Africa) and by the professor of French and Francophone literatures Lydie Moudileno. Participating

authors who read from their works and took part in panel discussions were: Pumla Dineo Gqola (South Africa), Nadifa Mohamed (Somalia/Great Britain), Zukiswa Wanner (South Africa), Kossi Efoui (Togo/France), Ken Bugul (Senegal/Benin), Olumide Popoola (Germany/Great Britain) and Susan Kiguli (Uganda). The Ghanaian-British Director John Akomfrah presented his latest film “Nine Muses” and together with the American journalist and cultural critic Greg Tate discussed “Sci-Fi, Afro-Futurism and Migration”. The festival’s traditional transnational Spoken Word Session, with the poets Blaq Pearl (South Africa), Deeb (Egypt) and Olumide Popoola (Great Britain/Germany), the theatre performance



The guests of the 2012 BIGSAS Festival. Top row (f.l.t.r): John Akomfrah, Blaq Pearl, Gabeba Baderoon, Zukiswa Wanner, Tirop Peter Simatei, Pumla Dineo Gqola, Kossi Efoui, Lydie Moudileno, Philipp Khabo Köpsell, Susan Kiguli. Center: Ken Bugul (le), Werewere Liking (ri). Front row (f.l.t.r.) DJ S-Max, Olumide Popoola, Deeb

African Literature as Poetics in Motion”, held at the Iwalewa Haus. The festival set out to explore how memory impacts conceptualisations of the future and how, reciprocally, conceptualisations of the

“Voix de Ventre d’Africaines” by the Cameroonian-Ivorian performer Werewere Liking and the concluding open air concert on the Bayreuth Market Square with Daara J Family (Senegal’s finest Hip



Guests and team members of the 2013 BIGSAS Festival of African and African-Diasporic Literatures



Hop Formation) all framed the festival’s literary and academic core programme with their respective contributions to the act of “Remembering Flash Forward”.

Then came 2013. As yet another successful event, BIGSAS convened its third and so far largest Festival of African and African-Diasporic Literatures, under the title “Intertextuality: Dialogues in Motion”, from 20 to 22 June 2013. This year’s festival was supported with funding from the prestigious German Federal Cultural Foundation, *Kulturstiftung des Bundes*. The 3-day festival investigated



Open Air Concert 2013: The Black Rock Coalition Orchestra gave a stunning performance by intertextually saluting their musical heroines

the manifold complex relations of texts transcending borders of space, time, generation, genre and media. In dialogue with the more than 20 guests – renowned scholars, writers, artists, performers and activists from the African continent and many of its diasporas in Europe and the Americas – the dynamics of intertextuality were explored in panels, readings, performances, a photo exhibit and an open air concert.

In their words of greetings the directors of the *Kulturstiftung des Bundes* both masterfully summed up the project’s ambitious visions and respectfully acknowledged the festival organisers’ commitment. The poet and cultural theoretician, Edouard Glissant, described the boundary transcending process of rewriting, alienation and productive misunderstanding using the expressive term “creolisation”. By so doing, he focused on the cultural productions in former colonies. The festival thus transformed Bayreuth into a similar location of creolisation.

Gratitude was expressed to the entire organising team of the festival, in particular the festival directors Professor Susan Arndt and Nadja Ofuatey-Alazard, as well as the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS) and the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies for a job well done. The entire festival has been documented. Video recordings of all events can be accessed via the festival’s website: [www.bigsas-literaturfestival.de](http://www.bigsas-literaturfestival.de) or [www.bigsas.uni-bayreuth.de/literaturfestival](http://www.bigsas.uni-bayreuth.de/literaturfestival)

Text: Nadja Ofuatey-Alazard

## Minister Heubisch, the Bavarian State Minister of Sciences, Research and the Arts Visits BIGSAS

Following the renewal of the DFG's support for BIGSAS in the framework of the Initiative of Excellence, the University of Bayreuth in general and the BIGSAS community in particular were on 19 November 2012 honoured by the visit of the Bavarian State Minister of Sciences, Research and the Arts. The Minister, Dr. Wolfgang Heubisch, personally came to Bayreuth to congratulate the BIGSAS community for the renewal. In his introductory speech, the BIGSAS Dean Professor Dymitr Ibrizimow convivially welcomed Minister Heubisch as a member of the BIGSAS family. Prof. Ibrizimow then explained the three "E"s upon which BIGSAS is anchored namely: *Erfahrung* (experience), *Erkenntnisse* (knowledge) and *Expertise* (expertise). During this occasion the University President Professor Rüdiger Bormann hailed the diversity of competences developed within BIGSAS and drew the Minister's attention to the fact that Bayreuth's focus on African studies was not a recent development but a feature that has been part of the University since its creation.

The Junior Fellows Jean-Pierre Boutché from Cameroon and Nadine Siegert from Germany spoke on behalf of all JFs and appreciated the excellent working conditions in BIGSAS. They also expressed the JFs' commitment to offer their expertise to Bavaria and beyond. The JFs then offered Minister Heubisch a special gift with a symbolic message



Minister Dr. Wolfgang Heubisch received the "Präsent" from the Junior Fellows represented by Nadine and Jean-Pierre

titled "Präsent" (present) to illustrate the active presence of BIGSAS in research and the commitment of the Junior Fellows to offer their expertise as a present.

Minister Heubisch congratulated all BIGSAS members for the renewal of the DFG's support and thanked the JFs for having chosen Bayreuth and Bavaria as research destinations among many other places. The Minister expressed his wish to visit Africa in order to get personal insight on the diversities of this dynamic continent thanks to his positive experience in BIGSAS.

Text: Jean-Pierre Boutché

# Not as Far Away as You Might Think ... a Trip to *Kamerun*



Destination *Kamerun*



Serah, Stefanie, Samuel, and Alžběta cycling back from *Kamerun* to Bayreuth

From Bayreuth to *Kamerun* in less than an hour? Yes, it is possible! One sunny Saturday afternoon at the beginning of September 2012, a small group of BIGSAS Junior Fellows decided to prove it. The multidisciplinary team composed of a geographer, a musicologist, together with an expert in literature and a political scientist made a trip to a place called *Kamerun*. Originally, the name was given to a forester's house as a nostalgic reminder of the times at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when *Kamerun* was a German colony. Today, the house has been changed into a cosy restaurant with a *Biergarten* – a popular destination for hikers and bikers from Bayreuth and its surroundings.

Our journey through the picturesque countryside did not take long and apart from splendid views, the group also enjoyed various refreshments (apples, berries etc.) ready at hand along the way. After a short rest in the *Forsthaus*, we got on our bikes again and headed back to Bayreuth. *Es war wirklich schön!*

Text: Alžběta Šváblová

## Names & Meanings: *Bussardweg*



“Weg” means “road”

As you enter the compound through the main entrance, the doorpost reads “*Rheinstraße*”, but sooner or later, you discover that this name is only as important as the bus that takes you to the town or university campus. While the “*Rhein*” street is written clearly at the entrance, one has to enter the space through the backdoor to unearth the somewhat obscure signpost that indicates the entrance to “*Bussardweg*”. It took us some weeks of *Deutsch* classes to know that “*Weg*”, means “road” and I still do not know the specific meaning of “*Bussard*”. However, after a few months as tenant, your memories of “that place” become conditioned by the alliances, good neighbourliness, friendships and unions that it enables you to build. It is a window into an interracial space, literally and figuratively.

As a transit space, the window provides a prism unto the world outside and that within. It is from that space that one learns to wave at every passer-by with sheer familiarity, to smile at every stranger and



The lively faces of international students in *Bussardweg*

accept them as members of a shared community. Through the window, one’s ears are constantly caressed by hybrid sounds of Deutsch, Amharic, Swahili, Turkish, Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Czech, etc. You might not understand all that filters through your windowpane but you are reminded of one thing: they are all human voices.

Though space and time are both holograms of transitivity and displacement, it is necessary for the human soul that even within the intersected realities of existential nomadism we build a sense of home wherever we pitch our tent. When this homelessness is characterised by shared activities, mentalities, idioms and habits generated by a shared space, we can then talk of “those times we spent together”. The “*Weg*” (road) can be a space of uncommon experiences, some of which can impact the lives of fellow sojourners in considerable ways.

Text: Gilbert Ndi Shang

# Negotiation Workshop with Dr. Alexander Mühlen



Back row (f.l.t.r.): Vanessa, Lena, Serah, Gilbert, Ivan, Mimboabe, Julia, Lohna, Chikas, Samuel, and Irina (r.)  
Front row (f.l.t.r.): Laure with her son Dominique, Girum, Ahmed, Dr. Alexander Mühlen, and Timothy

## Participation List

Stefanie Alisch  
Mimboabe Bakpa  
Timothy Bayewu  
Julia Boger  
Lohna Bonkat  
Chikas Danfulani  
Antje Daniel

Ahmed Elhassab  
Girum Getachew  
Serah Kiragu  
Lena Kroeker  
Ivan Marowa  
Samuel Ndogo  
Laure Peem

Gilbert Ndi Shang  
Alžběta Šváblová  
Irina Turner  
Florian Weisser  
Vanessa Wijngaarden

The workshop “International Negotiation Skills” by Dr. Alexander Mühlen (Ambassador retired) from 23 to 25 February 2012 at BIGSAS started with a round of introduction and the participants were asked to say whether they had prior experience in international negotiation either in theory or practice. None of the 19 JFs had experienced either practical involvement or theoretical orientation in international negotiation. After Dr. Mühlen introduced himself he pointed out the main situations in which negotiations take place in life. After the first theoretical input, a practical role play to illustrate multilateral negotiation was simulated. The performance was based on a situation in which a donor organisation intends to donate a certain amount of money to a country and the three key ministries of the recipient country would have to negotiate how to share the funds. Two groups were selected and the simulation was recorded on video. After a short break the outcome was discussed in detail where different levels and stages of negotiation were highlighted. The entire performance was rather new for the JFs to see themselves on screen and to analyse their actions, which one participant said was “shocking but fulfilling”.

On the second day another more complex role play about multilateral negotiation on the topic “budget support versus project aid” took place. In this role play participants assumed roles as representatives within different ministries of a donor country and a recipient country. The analysis of the role play revealed that it was not only difficult to negotiate

between the two country delegations, but also within the group’s own ministry. This experience was close to a real life situation. After the lunch break the preparation of the UN Security Council simulation for Saturday started. The plot was read out, highlighting basic aspects of the draft resolution. The roles were also distributed (17 delegates as permanent and non-permanent members plus two Presidents and a Chair of the Meeting). Before the end of the second day a brief outlook on training was given. The outlook was about a hypothetical country with a multi-ethnic population and the question was how to implement a constitution with political systems that could prevent ethnic clashes.

The overwhelming majority of the participants expressed their satisfaction with the content of the workshop, pointing out time constraints as the only shortcoming of the whole event. Some participants also suggested organising a similar seminar in the form of a summer school in order to discuss topics related to the JFs dissertation projects such as climate change or gender issues.

Text: Julia Boger,  
Serah Kiragu,  
Samuel Ndogo



## Oma und Opa

It was in spring 2010 when we met this lovely senior couple during their routine morning walk. Chikas, Serah and I thought it was a great idea to shed the winter fat by burning some calories. Coincidentally, we were jogging along the *Thurnauerweg*, the same route the couple used for their walks. On several occasions, the two teams crossed path. Apparently the couple had been yearning to get to know us but they did not just know how to start. Gradually, a simple “*Guten Morgen*” started breaking the ice.

On one particular morning, *Oma* as we now call her, gathered courage for a lengthier conversation and in her mind, she must have said, “I will have to talk to this lady today”. That lady happened to be me. Incidentally, Chikas and Serah had colluded to put off their mobile phones. My efforts to wake them up so that we could brave the chilly morning were futile. That is how I ended up having the wonderful encounter with the couple. Indeed, *Oma* always recounts this incident to everyone who cares to know how her link with the “*Afrikanische Enkel*” began.

I must confess this was a great test to my German proficiency (which was barely three months old having just arrived from Kenya in mid-April). As a matter of fact, my command of German was at the level of “*Ich bin Magdaline. Ich komme aus Kenya (Punkt).*” You can therefore imagine the drama that ensued when *Oma* and I commenced the conversation. It was punctuated with Eee! Aaa! Mnn! and followed with incomprehensible gestures. I guess the gestures worsened the matter since such extra-linguistic features are not always semantically uni-

versal. *Oma* tried to speak as slowly as she could in *Deutsch* but the dialogue came to a halt. We ended up just smiling at each other since the body language audibly or silently said: “We are mutually interested in knowing each other”.



Opa and Oma Spulak

*Herr Spulak*, also known to us as *Opa* shyly watched the two of us in amazement and perhaps amusement! Then spontaneously, as if from a light bulb moment, he quickly bent over and whispered something into *Oma*'s ear, which must have been something like: “*Können wir die Damen zum Tee und Kuchen einladen?*” I gladly accepted the invitation with a definite “*Ja! Dankeschön!*” I promised them that I would inform my two friends – Chikas and Serah. That was the beginning of this long and exciting relationship that is growing by the day. The



following day I was accompanied by Serah and Chikas and we fixed a date for our first visit to *Oma* and *Opa*. This first visit took place on a Sunday afternoon. It marked the “official” start of our having German grandparents. At the beginning of their 80s and us in our 30s and 40s, addressing one another as father/mother – daughter sounded odd. “*Oma*” and “*Opa*” seemed the best way to address and communicate with them. *Oma*, whose speciality is economics, prepared a strawberry cake and tea while *Opa*, whose hobby is music, entertained us with his accordion as well as played for us collections of André Rieu such as My African Dream. We ate, drank and danced to *Opa*’s music turning the otherwise quiet house into a merry-making palace.

Ever since, we have become part of the Spulak family and they are part of our family, too. We celebrate our birthdays together. *Opa* has kept a good record of each one’s birthday. *Oma* always bakes the birthday cakes. We sing and dance with them during their birthdays. No month passes without a Sunday afternoon tea/cake invitation. When Chikas completed her PhD thesis, *Oma* and *Opa* threw a graduation as well as a farewell party in her honour. As a mark of the African connection, the Spulak’s living room boasts of several African artefacts, ranging from a curving of a Maasai warrior to postcards of Kenya’s famous wildlife. While *Oma* has a collection of African necklaces and blouses, *Opa* has a Kenyan-style summer sombrero. Our contact is maintained in health and sickness. When in 2012 *Opa* had to spend some time in hospital,



*Zum Wohl!* – A family toast

we made effort to visit as well as to call him. We had prayed for quick return of good health.

Over time, *Oma* and *Opa* have introduced us to their family members – sons, daughters, grandchildren. Our relationship has even been extended to their friends too – in 2011, we were introduced and taken to meet *Herr* and *Frau* Lautner who live around *Sophienberg*. We have also introduced our families to them. Serah’s family and Chikas’ sister visited the Spulaks in 2011. With the departure of Chikas, the gap has been filled by Lohna Bonkat. Recalling this name is still a challenge to *Oma* and *Opa* – at least for the time being.

This couple has made our stay in Bayreuth wholesome – a home away from home. Our taste buds readily appreciate *Sauerkraut*, *Bratwurst* and *Meerrettich*, *Oberfränkische* dishes that would perhaps never have featured in our menus. But over and above the food, it is the love and friendship that binds us. Truly, we honour this elderly and lovely couple!

Text: Magdaline Nakhumicha Wafula



# Ombudspersons

## Excerpt from the BIGSAS Codex of Doctoral Studies and Mentorship

### **“7) Collegial and respectful behaviour**

BIGSAS strives to facilitate a respectful work environment for all its faculty, administration staff and PhD students. Given this fundamental aim, the Junior Fellows have the right to study and work in an environment free of exploitation, intimidation, harassment and discrimination based on characteristics such as gender, race, religion, age, nationality, sexual orientation, disability, or political beliefs and affiliations.

In turn, the Junior Fellows have the responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner befitting an academic colleague. They also have the responsibility to provide accurate and honest reporting of their findings and dissertation progress and to uphold ethical norms in interpersonal communication, research methodology and academic writing. Finally, they have the responsibility to take the initiative in asking questions that promote their understanding of the academic requirements and financial funding particularities of BIGSAS.

### **8) Grievance procedures**

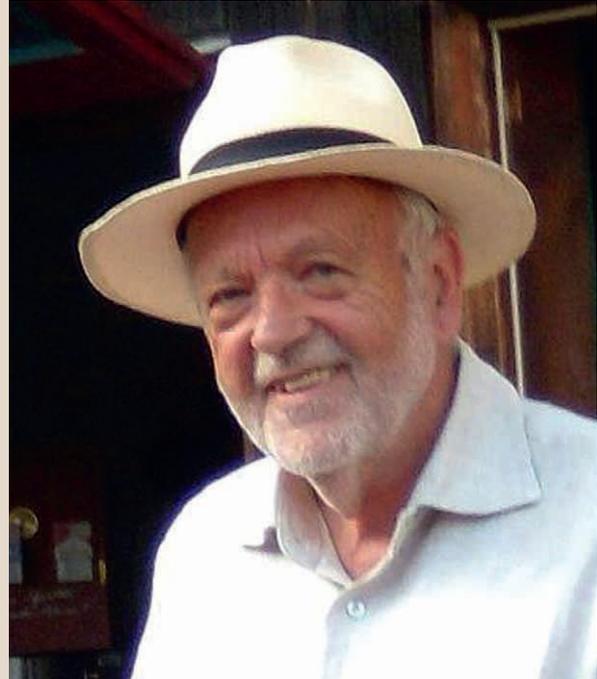
The Junior Fellows have the right to be judged by supervisors and other teaching and research staff in accordance with fair procedures solely on the basis of their professional qualifications and professional conduct. Disagreements should be solved, wherever possible, consensually and informally, i.e. either party may call on the *Vertrauensdozent* (person of confidence) in search of an internal solution to the problem. The *Vertrauensdozent* acts as a personal tutor to the PhD students and is elected by the PhD students from among the emeriti. The *Vertrauensdozent* is the first person to be called on for impartial judgement and mediation by both PhD students and members of the individual mentoring groups in case of minor disagreements. Major disagreements that cannot be solved informally require a more formal grievance resolution procedure, including the support of an independent external professional mediator. If both parties to a dispute request that an external mediator be called in and if this is agreed to by the *Vertrauensdozent*, then both parties involved are obliged to take part in the mediation process. In the course of the process, both parties are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner and not let the situation have a negative impact on the wider academic and administrative environment of BIGSAS.”



The Junior Fellows elected and the General Assembly in June 2012 confirmed Gudrun Mieke and Gerd Spittler as ombudspeople in BIGSAS. They kindly agreed to take over the function as mediators in case of conflict.

Both professors emeriti are well known to the Junior Fellows for their wide experience as researchers in their respective fields in African Studies at the Uni-

versity of Bayreuth and as supportive individuals in their extended research communities. They were initiators and managers of the collaborative research centre “Local Action in Africa in the Context of Globalisation” funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Gudrun Mieke acted as chair of African linguistics I between the years 1992 and 2007. Gerd Spittler held the chair of anthropology at the University of Bayreuth from 1988 until 2004.



Professor Emerita Dr. Gudrun Mieke and Professor Emeritus Dr. Gerd Spittler

## Poetic Moments

**Some of the Junior Fellows do not limit their writing skills to scientific texts. Apart from dissertations and articles they devote themselves to poetry and creative writing as well.**

### **Footprints in the Snow**

(Gilbert Ndi Shang)

In chilly winter morning, as the earth slumbers still  
They headed out, gathering dewes from forlorn fields  
Divine tears of vanishing dark, behold Footprints in the snow!  
Fresh on the hearth, perchance, an angel passed at dawn!

If life is but a long walk on a wintry day  
Great souls have trudged those paths  
They sojourned into Man's soul  
Igniting the glow of our humanity

And when we bid you well and turned our backs  
They built marbled edifices in your name  
Bowed before "your" statues in worship  
And continued in their old ways

While their market squares boomed with usurious sightseers  
We, orphans of our generation, gathered around your tomb  
We danced the music of silence, beheld the embers of your shadow  
We dipped into the marrow of the unsaid, unuttered desires

To hear the Voice of the Future.

**Daada saare am<sup>1</sup>**

(Jean-Pierre Boutché)

Moy yotti ma, daada saare am?  
*Who is like you, mother of my house?*  
 An bellere bernde am  
*You are the grease of my heart*  
 Moy he'i ma, daada bikkon am?  
*Who is like you, mother of my children?*  
 An cabbaawal suudu am  
*You are the foundation of my house*  
 Barka ma tan yiideyel  
*Thanks to you alone, honey*  
 Mi nani beldum e mbossam  
*I get nice feelings from my core*  
 Bana dakkere bee kossam  
*Nice like millet bullets in the milk*  
 Yettoore am sey gimel ngel  
*My gratefulness is this little song*  
 Daada saare am  
*Mother of my compound*  
 bellere bernde am  
*Grease of my heart*  
 Daada saare am  
*Mother of my children*  
 Nebbam pitirla am  
*Oil of my lamp*

<sup>1</sup> The original language of this poem is Fulfulde.



## Quotes

„Ich und Sie gehören zusammen,  
unsere Bekanntschaft ist kurz aber  
unsere Verwandtschaft ist ewig.“  
- Jean Paul to Emmanuel Osmund -

“When a traveller returneth home, let him  
not leave the countries, where he hath  
travelled, altogether behind him; but maintain  
a correspondence by letters, with those of his  
acquaintance, which are of most worth. And let  
his travel appear rather in his discourse, than his  
apparel or gesture; and in his discourse, let him be  
rather advised in his answers, than forward to tell  
stories; and let it appear that he doth not change  
his country manners, for those of foreign parts; but  
only prick in some flowers, of that he hath learned  
abroad, into the customs of his own country.”  
- Francis Bacon -

Yat tzzwit ur ar tskar tammnt.  
(Tashelhit Berber from Souss (Tasusiyt))  
One bee alone can't provide honey.

Xamul aay na wànte laajtewul a ka yéés.  
(Wolof)  
Ne pas savoir, ce n'est recommandé, mais ne pas  
demander, c'est pire.  
(French)

Kwa shujaa huenda kilio, kwa mwoga kicheko.  
(Swahili)  
A hero goes forth crying while a coward goes forth  
laughing. (It is not always about fighting hard, but  
fighting smart.)

The world is like a Mask dancing. If you want to  
see it well, you do not stand in one place.  
- Chinua Achebe, *Arrow of God* -

It always seems impossible until it's done.  
- Nelson Mandela -

See also **School Project Quotes –  
Reactions from Pupils and Students** p. 57

## Relax: Ski Day



First time on skis: Lohna helps Serah to get on her feet

On Saturday, 11 February 2012 a group of more than ten Junior Fellows met in the morning and went to Bischofsgrün to enjoy a day outside in the snow and try out cross-country skiing and sledging down the hill. What an experience, to stand on the skis for the first time and to discover that even in winter you can sweat seriously ...

Thank you, Jennifer and Martina for the organisation and logistical support!



The Skiing Team



Oh what fun it is to ride on a sledge!  
Gilbert in high gear!

## School Project: BIGSAS@school

The child is father of the man, so said the English bard William Wordsworth. It is always a very rewarding experience to meet young minds curious to know more about the world. This is for the simple reason that our future depends on what shapes the consciousness of today's youth. Participation in the BIGSAS school project has enabled my colleagues and me to engage in fruitful and intriguing Questions & Answers sessions with primary school pupils and secondary school students on their perceptions of Africa. These encounters have contributed in enlightening pupils and students about life in Africa. The visit to Markgräfin-Wilhelmine-Gymnasium on 7 February 2013 was another exciting experience in this regard. I found some of the questions the students posed rather fascinating and mind searching. Questions spanned from the hot political issues like the crisis in Mali to the conditions in the slums in Africa; our impressions about Germany before coming here and what we like about Germany as an African.

What I found interesting is that by talking to the younger generation, there

is little room for political correctness both in the questioning as well as in the answers, a major precondition in my view, for true dialogue amongst cultures. The youngsters showed a pre-disposition to objective inquiry about what they hear in the news about Africa. If there was any recurrent term in our answers to the flurry of questions, it was the word "diversity"; that one cannot talk about Africa in generic terms as it is a continent of immense diversity – geographically, socially, politically and culturally. Also, that some of the challenges Africa faces are consequences of issues that are global and which



Four members of the BIGSAS@school team (Lohna, Gilbert, Ivan, and Jennifer) with their guest pupils

African governments and people can address only in partnership with other parts of the world. I could gauge the surprise on the faces of the students when I told them that my home country Cameroon (of about 20 million inhabitants) has more than 280 languages. When asked about what makes my local community peculiar, I thought of the local festival called *Rkongni* (love), a kind of love that connects both hearts and minds to a shared humanity.

The most memorable part was when each one of us was asked to say something in our mother tongue. I succeeded in getting the students utter greetings in my mother tongue Limbum: “*wi ha sahke?*” (*Wie geht’s euch?*) and they answered, “*wir ha sah yu kah.*” (*Es geht uns gut.*). While they might certainly have had occasion to correct my German in the course of exchanges, I struggled to get them pronounce the Limbum words as correctly as possible. I was happy that I had contributed to cultural exchange in my own little way. We had learned something new from one another. Their curiosity gradually switched to a sense of familiarity. As we left the premises of the school, waving good bye to the grinning faces of the youngsters, I was struck by a scathe of nostalgia for the school grounds as I recalled my days on those same benches. More than a decade ago. Thousands of miles away. Yes, it was on those “same” benches that my own views about Germany and “other” peoples and cultures of the world were shaped.

Text: Gilbert Ndi Shang

### School Project Quotes – Reactions from Pupils and Students:

“Africa is a continent with over 50 countries.  
I wasn’t aware of this fact before.”

“Family life and everyday life are similar to  
Germany. That was surprising for me.”

“You learn much more than when you always sit in  
the classroom. You pay much more attention and  
are more interested because these persons are  
really talking about their own experiences.”

“It helped me to also get to know the positive sides  
of Africa and not only hear about natural disasters  
or catastrophes on the radio or TV.”

# Senior Expert of the AU Commission Visits BIGSAS

Dr. Yohannes Woldetensae, senior expert at the African Union (AU) Commission visited BIGSAS on Tuesday 12 November 2013. He was welcomed by the BIGSAS deans and management during a BIGSAS colloquium where he reflected on the activities of the African Union Commission on Higher Education in Africa. During his short visit organised

He has made extensive presentations particularly on quality, relevance and harmonisation of higher education systems in Africa. As an expert in the AU commission, he is currently playing advisory roles on the Africa-EU partnership, Africa Tuning project, Pan-African University initiative, Nwalimu Nyerere African Union scholarship project, African Quality



Dean of BIGSAS Prof. Dr. Dymitr Ibrizimow introducing Dr. Yohannes Woldetensae



Dr. Yohannes Woldetensae during the round table in November 2013

by the BIGSAS Workgroup “Higher Education and Society”, Dr. Yohannes gave a keynote address and participated in round table discussions with JFs and alumni.

Dr. Woldetensae has been promoting the Commission’s activities on higher education by giving speeches at different fora and has engaged in various African higher education reform policy debates with African governments and experts.

ration mechanism processes and other continental higher education initiatives in collaboration with the Association of African Universities and other regional integration fora. He has also played a decisive role in the effort to put the Arusha Convention on the practical level through a thorough revision process.

Text: Emnet Tadesse Woldegiorgis

## A Smile for all Seasons



Junior Fellows bring a smile to *Herr Stoklasa*

Every year the spring season in Germany comes in March. This is a transitional season between winter and summer. It is in the spring that flowers blossom, decorating the land with all shades of colours. Trees that had wilted and shed off their leaves, plants that had withered, appearing as if dead due to the biting cold in winter gradually gain new life. The snow melts and the sky turns from grey to sunny blue. Indeed, spring is the season of rebirth, bringing sheer joy and gladness to all and sundry.

Two spring seasons ago, a team of BIGSAS Junior Fellows honoured two residents of Bayreuth for their exemplary services and more specifically, for the smile and warmth with which they execute their duties. It had been unanimously agreed among the JFs that “for putting smiles on our faces, we present a bouquet of flowers and a thank you card to each of the two persons as a gesture of appreciation for their cheerful mien as they do their jobs.” The two were *Herr Michael Stoklasa* (a bus driver normally



*Frau Zeilmann* was surprised by the gift and gesture of the Junior Fellows

on route 306 that plies between the Campus and *Geschwister-Scholl-Platz*) and *Frau Zeilmann* (a cashier at *Norma* Supermarket).

In the brief event held on a Friday afternoon, the BIGSAS JFs together with coordinator Dr. Christine Scherer did the presentations. On his part, Herr Stoklasa was grateful for the recognition and could not hide his joy. Even though he had to rush back to a waiting 306 bus en route to the Campus, he

spared time to receive the gifts and to take photos with the group.

The highlight of the day was at the *Norma* Supermarket. The BIGSAS delegation queued with other clients waiting for their turn. In her usual manner, *Frau Zeilmann* warmly greeted the next person on the queue. Alas, she had nothing to buy! Instead she had something to present. Valerie and Chikas explained the reason for the gifts — that the doctoral students wished to appreciate the smile and warmth with which she treats her customers. Upon hearing those words *Frau Zeilmann*'s tears flowed freely; tears of joy and surprise. As if in a choreographed move, the waiting customers clapped in unison as the group seized the moment to pose for photographs.

That evening a few of us went back to *Norma* Supermarket to buy some items. When we got to the counter, *Frau Zeilmann*, who could not hide her joy said, "I was pleasantly surprised by your kind gesture." As I returned to my hostel, I thought loudly: what a smile, a smile for all seasons; an infectious smile that cheers everyone!

The occasion described here was part of BIGSAS outreach activities during the anti-racism week in March 2011.

Text: Samuel Ndogo

## “Thank You” to the BIGSAS Office



Thank you – Sweet thank you!



The administration team was moved by the present of the Junior Fellows

In January 2012, a group of Junior Fellows came together to prepare a basketful of home-made cookies for the BIGSAS Office. This was done on behalf of all JFs to show appreciation for the hard work of each staff member in the bygone year and to wish them a happy and successful 2012 / 2013. All through the years, the BIGSAS Administration has done an amazing job and its administrative tasks provide a conducive atmosphere for Junior Fellows to carry out their research and other academic activities. To meet up with new demands and to cope with the increase in the BIGSAS family, the Administration has witnessed changes: New members have joined its ranks in different functions and capacities. But three things have remained constant over these years: dedication, efficient service and cordial relationship with the Junior and Senior Fellows. It is especially for these qualities that the JFs showed their appreciation. The smiles on their faces say it all and as the saying goes, a heartfelt smile gives warmth enough for three winters.

## Tribute to Chinua Achebe

The renowned African writer Amadou Hampâté Bâ once stated that “when an old man dies, it is a whole library that burns down.” But the English author Julie Burchill cogently reminds us that “tears are sometimes an inappropriate response to death.



Serawit presenting the biography of Chinua Achebe

When a life has been lived completely honestly, completely successfully, or just completely, the correct response to death’s perfect punctuation mark is a smile.” It is on this note that the Bayreuth community and students of BIGSAS converged at the Iwalewa Haus, the African Centre of the University of Bayreuth on 14 April 2013, to celebrate the legacy of Chinua Achebe (1930 - 2013), the great African novelist who passed away on 21 March 2013. The concept of the tribute ceremony was to discuss the legacy of Achebe in Africa and beyond, focusing on what makes his works peculiar and enduring in the minds of his readers.

The evening was characterised by textual readings from fiction, essays, poetry performances, testimonies of personal encounters with Achebe, video clips of Achebe’s interviews, and discussions on some pertinent ideas that run through his works. The organisers invited three specialists on African literature, currently on various research fellowships at the University of Bayreuth. These were, Prof. Alain Ricard, Prof. Victor Dugga and Prof. Oyenyi Okunoye. Each of them gave an account of what they considered as Chinua Achebe’s enduring legacy. The main articulations included Achebe’s enormous creative talent, his willingness to pro-



Prof. Dr. Alain Ricard giving a testimony of his meeting with Chinua Achebe

mote and mentor other African authors, his insightful critique of postcolonial politics and his vision for African societies that uphold values like social inclusion, participatory democracy and inter-cultural dialogue.

Excerpts from Achebe's texts – *Things Fall Apart*, *No Longer At Ease*, *The Trouble with Nigeria* – dominated the evening. Aspects of his work that found favour with the audience include the 'complex simplicity' of his style, his dexterous use of proverbs and subtle use of irony to reveal the ambivalence of human character. There were also two dramatisations of his poems "Beware Soul Brother" and "Benin Road". These performances were greeted by loud applause from the audience who greatly appreciated the figurative density of his poetry, an aspect that is hardly mentioned in reference to Achebe the 'novelist'.

Given that Achebe's works have not only resonated amongst African intellectuals and literary students, there was also need to get what 'non-specialised'

readers of his work remembered. This happened to be the most interesting aspect of the tribute where the general response proved that his works were quite instrumental in constructing a feeling of a shared community. The text that a greater part of the audience identified with remained (perhaps, understandably so) *Things Fall Apart*.

To crown the evening, the audience was treated to selected tunes of music from various African countries. Truly, the memorable evening dubbed "The Achebe Night" left powerful impressions on the audience.

This event was organised by JFs Gilbert Ndi Shang, Samuel Ndogo, Jimam Lar, Katharina Fink, Nadine Siegert and Serawit Debele.



Hector, Duncan, Million, Simon, and Ivan with Mrs Joyce Anchimbe sharing their experiences of Achebe's works

Text: Gilbert Ndi Shang  
Samuel Ndogo

# Tribute to Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

On Thursday, 5 December 2013, in a televised message, the President of South Africa, Jacob Zuma, announced the sad news of the passing on of Madiba: "Our nation has lost its greatest son; our people have lost a father. Although we knew that this day would come, nothing can diminish our sense of a profound and enduring loss. His tireless struggle for freedom earned him the respect of the world."

Born on 18 July 1918, Mandela was one of the most iconic leaders of the ANC, the African National Congress that fought against racial discrimination in South Africa. His political struggle earned him 27 years behind bars in Robben Island between 1964 and 1990. After his historic release, Mandela led the transition of the South African nation from white minority to a more representative and inclusive rule in 1994. He was a revered statesman and jointly with the then white president of South Africa F. W. de Klerk, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993. It was his selfless act of stepping down just after a single five-year mandate as president that equally earned him great honour and praise amongst world leaders and people across the globe.

The entire world has been celebrating and remembering the collective struggle he led alongside other great freedom fighters like Walter Sisulu and Oliver Tambo, founders of African National Congress Youth League (ANC YL) in 1944. During the period, he was labeled as a terrorist, but today we celebrate the life of a selfless man who traded his

own interests and bitterness for the freedom of the black population of South Africa and constructed a firm foundation for a society free of racism.

A memorial service conducted on Sunday 8 December 2013 at the Standard Bank Arena was preceded by a cultural performance to usher his passage to the world of the ancestors. Three traditional leaders called upon the spirit of anti-apartheid activists Oliver Tambo and Walter Sisulu to accept Mandela's spirit, in a manner befitting a person who had great respect for his tradition. The 10 December memorial service held at Johannesburg Soccer City Stadium, the site of the 2010 World cup final, drew leaders of all political complexions from across the globe, to pay their last respects to this great African icon.

With other 19th century freedom fighters like Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi, Mandela set a high water mark to both leaders and citizens all over the world. The ideals for which these great leaders sacrificed their lives should trigger a soul searching in us with regard to our relation with fellow humans. It is only in that sense that paying tribute to them can make meaning.

Text: Ivan Marowa

## United in Partnership: A Busy Week in Maputo



BIGSAS Partner University: *Universidade Eduardo Mondlane*

Multiple connections between BIGSAS and its Partner University *Universidade Eduardo Mondlane* (UEM) in Maputo, Mozambique have developed as the result of Professor Ute Fendler's regular research and teaching visits there and her invitation to professors and artists to Bayreuth.

To strengthen these bonds we travelled to Maputo in March 2012. The BIGSAS delegation comprised of Professor Fendler, Dr. Ulf Vierke, Dr. Christine Scherer, Nadine Siegert and I from Bayreuth plus Professor Youssef Wahboun from the BIGSAS partner university in Rabat, Morocco.

Our short week together in Maputo was crammed with activities. On Monday we started off with an all-day symposium at UEM's *Escola de Arte e Comunicação* (ECA) where we shared panels with Maputo-based scholars, artists and musicians. The auditorium was packed, mostly with ECA students,

who responded to the talks with prompt questions and comments.

The UEM very generously put us up at their visitor flats and the *Goethe-Institut* became our second home. On Tuesday night, Ulf and Nadine spoke about Angolan and Kenyan art at the *ArtRaum*, the new art space at the *Goethe-Institut*. On Wednesday night Ute Fendler's vibrant talk on African films inspired the audience of film makers and artists. On Thursday we were treated to a presentation of Berry Bickle's projects by the artist herself.

On Wednesday morning our group presented papers at UEM's Faculty of Letters where Prof. Fendler usually participates in the *Dockamena* cinema festival. The lively feedback from the audience once again enriched our projects. At a meeting with ECA director Nathaniel Ngomane and ECA teaching staff we discussed curricula and the needs of



Dj Stef the Cat and the party crowd at the after-party

the two partner institutions. A follow-up meeting ensued the next morning where we developed specific ideas for teaching and research exchanges in the field of literature, media, music and art.

Maputo's grand and crumbling *Scala* theatre was officially under construction, but as an exception it housed the South African-Mozambican co-production "Inhale / Exhale" put together by the dancer/choreographer Lulu Sala. Lulu had visited Bayreuth to conduct dance workshops in 2012, directing a dance piece with BIGSAS students (see p. 71). Still in a haze after seeing the contemporary dance and music piece, we all headed to C.E.M, the train station built by Gustave Eiffel. There was an after-party, and the train station's café served as the bar, while the platform where the trains usually leave, became the dance floor. I ended up DJ-ing while

dancers of the National Ballet came on the dance floor/platform in full body masks called *Mapiko* to interact with the party crowd.

An opening at the National Museum of Art; a visit to the writer's association; a reception at Professor Ngomane's apartment; a Henning Mankell play at *Teatro Avenida*; a private party at Miguel Priska's flat and a guided tour around town by the wise and friendly historian-novelist Ungulani and his wife remain some of the sweetest memories.

Text: Stefanie Alisch

## Visit to the *Bayerischer Landtag* (Bavarian Parliament) 2012

A group of eleven BIGSAS Junior Fellows joined other participants from Bayreuth in a visit to the *Bayerischer Landtag* in March 2012. The visit was the brainchild of one of our Bayreuth local Members of Parliament Dr. Christoph Rabenstein. Two buses

making great impact in the politics of Germany in general. At the federal level is Angela Merkel the Chancellor, while in the *Bayerischer Landtag* we have Barbara Stamm as *die Präsidentin des Bayerischen Landtags* (the President of the Bavarian

Parliament). The documentary showed how leaders are chosen in the House. Following this, we had a chance to sit and have a feeling of the chairs on the floor of Parliament house, where business is conducted.

Once again our host MP took the opportunity to give a brief lecture on the composition of the Parliament, the sitting arrangement and how discussions are conducted.



JFs with the member of the *Bayerischer Landtag* Dr. Christoph Rabenstein (3<sup>rd</sup> f. l.)

were made available to us for the trip. When we arrived, we were welcomed by our host MP. Subsequently, we were offered a befitting lunch at the Parliament's Cafeteria. The personal at the canteen were friendly and they served us with drinks and full meals.

After lunch, we proceeded to watch a short documentary about how business is conducted in the House. The key remark one could make from this interesting video was that women seem to be

to ask some questions, to which we received warm responses from the MPs. Personally, I was uplifted by the visit and the interactions we had with "*die Deutschen*" from Bavaria both young and old. I never felt out of place at any particular time. The group of BIGSAS JFs is grateful to Jennifer Scheffler, our colleague who arranged for this successful tour. Now, I look forward to visiting the Federal Parliament!

Text: Ivan Marowa

## Visit to the *Bayerischer Landtag* (Bavarian Parliament) 2013



Salma presenting on “*Wasserknappheit und Wasserversorgung in Khartum, Sudan*” in the *Bayerischer Landtag*

In February 2013, I was honoured to accompany the BIGSAS Dean and the vice Dean to the *Landtag* of Bavaria in Munich. We were invited to talk to the Committee for Higher Education, Research and Culture about BIGSAS and the African focus of the University of Bayreuth.

After presentations by Professor Dymitr Ibrizimow and Professor Martin Doevenspeck, I gave a brief presentation of my PhD thesis titled “*Wasserknappheit und Wasserversorgung in Khartum, Sudan*” as an example of a research project in BIGSAS. Although it was not easy for me to explain my work with my relatively unprofessional level in German language, the members of the *Landtag* showed high interest in my doctoral project and equally asked general questions about my country Sudan and my personal future plans. It was a very enriching experience for me to interact with them and to get to know some of them personally during the break.

We arrived 30 minutes before our time slot, thus we had the chance to attend part of a discussion that was going on and not related to our matter. As



The BIGSAS Delegation and members of the Bavarian Parliamentary Committee for Higher Education, Research and Culture. Back row (f.l.t.r.): MP Dr. Thomas Goppel, former Bavarian Minister of Sciences, Research and the Arts, MP Walter Nadler, *Ministerialrätin* Claudia Mangels, Representative of the Bavarian Ministry, Prof. Dr. Martin Doevenspeck, Vice Dean of BIGSAS, MP Ulrike Gote, Prof. Dr. Dymitr Ibrizimow, Dean of BIGSAS, MP Dr. Christoph Rabenstein. Front row (f.l.t.r.) MP Julika Sandt, Salma Abdalla, MP Oliver Jörg, Chair of the Committee, and MP Isabell Zacharias, Deputy Chair of the Committee

an African coming from a different tradition of political practice, I was impressed by the commitment of the members of the *Landtag* to represent the interests of their electorates. I also like the way the floor was equitably shared among the members to debate issues. This gave them the chance to express themselves and for their opinions to be considered accordingly.

As a female academic, I was very much inspired by women’s representation and empowerment in German politics. In summary, I felt privileged and honoured to get the chance to visit the *Landtag* of Bavaria and I hope BIGSAS maintains such outreach initiatives.

Text: Salma Abdalla

# Welcome! Get to Know our New BIGSAS Colleagues!

The BIGSAS Welcome day is a regular event at the beginning of every semester to officially welcome new Junior Fellows to BIGSAS.



The BIGSAS community welcomed the international newcomers at the Welcome Day in April 2012

One of such events took place on 19 April 2012, during which BIGSAS members welcomed 22 new JFs. Our new colleagues came from different countries in Africa (14), Europe (6), Asia (1) and South America (1). The new students comprised twelve accepted in the Preparatory Course and ten admitted directly in the BIGSAS PhD programme. The Preparatory Course is intended for new JFs to learn German language, while improving their thesis proposals for full admission into BIGSAS.

Not only JFs are welcomed every semester. BIGSAS invites guest professors and artists to Germany for a period of time. During this time, the guests interact with members of BIGSAS and the entire University of Bayreuth through formal lectures and informal meetings. In the 2012 summer term, we were privileged to host as guest Dr. Jessie Kabwila Kapasula.



Welcome Day in April 2013

And the growth of BIGSAS has not stopped. In winter term 2012/13 four new Junior Fellows from Africa (2) and Europe (2) were admitted. In the following summer semester 14 students from Africa (6), Europe (7) and South America (1) became part of BIGSAS and in winter semester 2013/14 five other students from Africa joined the members. So, we are looking forward to the next Welcome Day on 17 April 2014!

## Wedding Bells Ring: Salma Abdalla Weds!



The BIGSAS family grows by the day. It is a pleasure to share the joy of our colleagues, as they wed their loved ones. The newest couple on the block is myself Salma and my love Yousif. My wedding was a combination of traditional and modern ceremonies in Oslo, Norway in winter 2012. In attendance, of course, were my family and friends and those of Yousif to celebrate with us. I have received several congratulatory and goodwill messages from my BIGSAS colleagues as I journey through my matrimonial life.

Text: Salma Abdalla



Yousif and Salma on their wedding day

## BIGSAS Music and Dance Workshops 2012



BIGSAS JFs and colleagues performing the songs and drills learned during the workshops

Between 21 and 23 May 2012, BIGSAS doctoral students took part in a series of music and dance workshops. These workshops, organised under the direction of Prof. Ute Fendler, Director of the Institute of African Studies (IAS), University of Bayreuth, had as guest artists the professional dancer/choreographer Lulu Sala and the music specialist/performer Matchume Zango, both from the Republic of Mozambique. The initiative to invite these artists came as a result of the BIGSAS Diversity Programme and the Jam Session, a group of JFs who meet regularly at Iwalewa Haus to play and discuss about African music cultures.

The two artists hosted two separate workshops that ran for three days each. During the workshop hosted by Matchume Zango, many BIGSAS Junior Fellows (re)discovered their music talent and reflexes

as they learnt how to play instruments like percussion, piano, rattle, drumming, guitar, etc. Interestingly, the group composed a song with verses and a refrain in a variety of African languages ranging from Arabic of Sudan, Limbum of Cameroon, Chopi of Mozambique, Ewe of Ghana, the Pidgin English of Nigeria, all these reflecting the diversity of the BIGSAS linguistic and cultural community. Simultaneously, in the course of the “dance as communication” workshop with Lulu Sala the participants practised several drills and various body movements that portrayed the textuality of the body in (e)motion as a sight of narrative and meaning making.

On the final evening of 23 May, the two workshop groups converged and combined at the *Theaterraum* of the University of Bayreuth for a dance performance titled “...but Beautiful” by Lulu Sala.

The JFs and their colleagues performed the songs and choreographic drills practised during the three day workshops. After that the main guest artist Sala held the audience spellbound with an enchanting performance that exemplified the expressivity of the dance. These spectacular performances took place before a cheerful and evidently thrilled audience of students/staff including the Dean of BIGSAS and other members of the Bayreuth community.

Text: Gilbert Ndi Shang,  
Maroua El Nagare,  
Aminata C. Mbaye



# X-mas Party



“Carolina” by Congolese star Awilo Longomba aroused some of the best fits of the evening

Twelve eventful months have passed, but memories of the last BIGSAS Christmas party linger on. As every year, the Junior Fellows converged in Iwalewa Haus to celebrate the end-of-year in a hectic musical jamboree. Though the evening began rather listlessly, the party quickly gathered steam as the body gradually swayed to the tune of the evening rhythms. Not before long, the floor boomed with eclectic gyrations, reflecting individual dancing styles and the degree of flexibility of the dancing bodies. From zaiko, rumba, ndombolo, coupe decale, to reggae, everyone had their best choice of music for the evening.

Amongst the clips that elicited the most ecstatic vibrations were Yvonne Chaka Chaka’s “Umqombotti”, Brenda Facie’s “Vulindela”, Sean Paul’s “Hold my Hand”, P-Square’s “No one like you”. When the able DJ rolled in pop tunes like Shakira’s “Waka Waka”, Kenan’s “Waving Flag” and Flavour’s “Ashawo”, the dancers literally took matters into their hands as their more or less synchronic chorusing relegated the original tunes to the background. However, the climax of the evening came with the emergence of a Bayreuther Lucky Dube, complete in Rasta dreadlocks, yearning after a brother gone missing in the city in the difficult years of Apartheid (“Remember Me”). This was followed by the revelation of the



Diderot and Lohna dancing at the end of year party



Grand style – Matthew and Nadine

evening: a “Michel” Jackson, with dexterous moon dance fits, taking everyone by surprise and converting the most committed dancers into adulating spectators.

Truly, the dead are not dead. Artists never die. They live in each one of us, in our bones and in our reflexes. Their music becomes the connecting thread across generations, veins across social cultures beyond countries, continents and races. Their music takes shape in our hearts and minds and become the language in which we negotiate our belonging to a specific generation. As the evening drew to its end, we could agree that music is food for the soul, a universal language and as the school

child’s favourite adage goes, “All work without play makes Jack a dull boy”. From Oliver Mtukudzi’s doleful “Toddi, what shall we do”, Awilo Longomba’s “Carolina” to Dube’s “Different Colours, One People”, the sounds of the evening conveyed stories of social dilemmas, unreciprocated love, political upheavals, all approached with much stoicism and above all, woven into entrancing rhythms.

Text: Gilbert Ndi Shang



Instantaneous but symbolic choreography when DJ Jenny played Lucky Dube’s “Different colours, one people”

## You and the Environment: Let Everyone Sweep in Front of their Door

The sagacious Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi once quipped that “the world has enough for every man’s need but not enough for everyone’s greed”, a statement which rings true today more than ever and challenges modern consumerist culture that is fixated on profit and irreversibly enlarges humanity’s ecological footprints in our desire to keep up with the Joneses. Perhaps the Cree Indian proverb “only when the last tree has died and the last river has been poisoned and the last fish been caught will we realise that we cannot eat money” might rouse humanity from its deep stupor of greed. At the risk of harping on the frayed string, I dare say that present environmental realities portend a bleak future for planet Earth as well as humanity since we are increasingly exploiting finite resources to satiate infinite appetites while generating toxins through pollution. It is now common knowledge for example that smog levels in China have reached a record high and are now giving rise to greater incidences of respiratory illness. It is ridiculous that people in China have to stay indoors or cope by wearing face masks. Could this be because China produces at much lower costs goods that find their way to the consumption markets of the world? Developing countries have caught on consumption patterns previously preserved for Europe and America with the consequence that goods which were not indispensable some time ago, such as cameras, computers, cell phones, and televisions are now perceived as necessities. In fact, it has been reported that electronic waste is the fastest growing waste stream in the world.

While these goods are not bad in themselves, capitalist high priests in the spiritual temples of consumerism ensure that people continue buying what they do not need in order to fuel economic returns through strategies such as planned and perceived obsolescence. In planned obsolescence goods are actually made for the garbage dumps since they are designed to be useless as quickly as possible while in perceived obsolescence people are convinced to throw out goods that are still useful because they are not fashionable anymore and do not reflect their status in society. A good example is the great turnover in cell phone models and other electronics. I ask myself what great difference in utility is between iphone 4 and iphone 5? Meanwhile planet Earth and the rest of humanity pay a steep price for the luxury of a name.

Most certainly the window of action is rapidly closing to a group of people who are impervious to the consequences of their actions in a manner reminiscent of the man who jumped off a 20-storey building and was heard to say “so far so good” as he passed the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor! The good news is that each one of us in our own small way bears an immeasurable potential to set the planet on its recovery path as immortalised in the poignant words of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: “let everyone sweep in front of his own door and the whole world will be clean”.

Text: Robert Owino

## *Zu guter Letzt* – Final Remarks

Dear reader, you have taken your time to get to know about the activities of the BIGSAS Junior Fellows over the last two years. We appreciate this. We, the Junior Fellows, believe you deserve to know about what we do in BIGSAS in the course of our study. This innovative Newsletter does not convey all our accomplishments. Nonetheless, it conveys the nature and tempo of life in BIGSAS. Like you, we cherish it and will sustain its publication every second year to get you informed.

As an inaugural edition, this Newsletter might fall short of perfection, but it represents the best efforts of all who have been involved in its realisation. We therefore count on your invaluable commentary and suggestions to enable us enhance its content and structure. The next issue will even be more appealing, in the sense that a lot more events have taken place since the completion of this first issue.

To the BIGSAS management, you deserve our gratitude. Constantly, the management as a team as well as individual members have devoted time and other resources to ensure this Newsletter comes to fruition. We greatly enjoyed your collaboration and team spirit all along this project.

To the BIGSAS Junior Fellows who contributed to this first issue, you made it possible for us to reach out to our readers. We hope that these articles have contributed to providing some insights into our activities in BIGSAS. We are immensely beholden to you.

The editorial team:

Gilbert, Alžběta, Robert, Peter, Samuel



Gilbert Ndi Shang



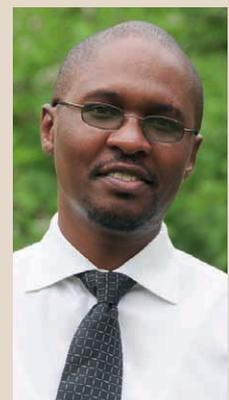
Alžběta Šváblová



Robert Owino



Peter Narh



Samuel Ndogo

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## Conferences

- Abdalla, Salma, 9<sup>th</sup> International Sudan Studies and South Sudan Conference, 23 to 25 July 2012, University of Bonn, Germany, Paper “Negotiating Change: discourses, politics and practices of local community development institutions”
- Abdalla, Salma, VAD German Association of African Studies Conference, 30 May to 2 June 2012, University of Cologne, Germany, Paper “Coping with water scarcity: Negotiating Water Access and Social Change in Peri-urban interface of Khartoum, Sudan Case Study from Serau Village”
- Abdalla, Salma, Water Management in Khartoum International Research Project final Conference, 25 February 2012, University for Women in Ahfad, Omdurman, Sudan, Paper “Understanding Khartoum Peri-urban interface: Negotiating Water Access and Social Change, Case of Serau Village”
- Alisch, Stefanie, Escola e Comunicação e Artes, 26 March 2012, Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo, Mozambique, Paper “Mais Carga! – Investigação da dança de kuduro em Luanda através do método da densa participação”
- Alisch, Stefanie, Faculdade de Letras, 28 March 2012, Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo, Mozambique, Paper “Mais Carga! – Pesquisa sobre dança de kuduro em Luanda através do método da densa participação”
- Alisch, Stefanie, Panel “Vamu lá”, 1. Kuduro International Conference, Chá de Caxinde, 23 May 2012, Luanda, Angola, Panel-Moderation
- Alisch, Stefanie, 1. Kuduro International Conference, Chá de Caxinde, 25 May 2012, Luanda, Angola, Paper “Carga na dança de kuduro – resultado da interação entre bailarín@ e camera?”
- Alisch, Stefanie, Abschlusspanel/Mesa Redonda, 1. Kuduro International Conference, Chá de Caxinde, 25 May 2012, Luanda, Angola, Panel-Moderation
- Alisch, Stefanie, 1. Kuduro International Conference, 23 to 25 May 2012, Chá de Caxinde, Luanda, Angola, Organisation
- Alisch, Stefanie, Thementage “Musik und Globalisierung” 29 May 2012, Bern, Switzerland (via Skype from Luanda, Angola), Paper “Toques, swag e muita carga – Tanz, Mode und strategische Euphorie im Kuduro in Luanda”
- Alisch, Stefanie, Development Workshop, 27 July 2012, Luanda, Angola, Paper “Ndombolo do gueto ta bater, Nbombolo da city quero ver – Algumas considerações sobre o kuduro e suas relações com as estruturas da cidade”
- Alisch, Stefanie, Workshop “Performativity and Mediality in an African Context” with Philip Auslander (Georgia Institute of Technology Atlanta) 8 October 2012, Iwalewa-Haus, Bayreuth, Germany, Organisation and Paper “Performativity and Mediality in Angolan Kuduro Dance”

- Alisch, Stefanie, Guest Talk, Moving Group, 25 November 2013, King's College London, London, United Kingdom, Paper "The epistemology of dance"
- Alisch, Stefanie, Guest Talk, Moving Group, 26 November 2013, London South Bank University, London, United Kingdom, Paper "Mais carga! Kuduro music & dance in Luanda"
- Alisch, Stefanie, Forschungskolloquium Populäre Musik von Prof. Peter Wicke, 14 November 2013, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin Germany, Paper "Pleasure Politics und Asthetic Duelling im angolanschen Kuduro"
- Alisch, Stefanie, Conference Popular Orientalism(s). In Erinnerung an Edward Said als Musikkritiker, Center for World Music, 9 November 2013, Universität Hildesheim, Hildesheim, Germany, Paper "Of wordliness and post-colonial schizophonia: Kuduro in Lisbon"
- Alisch, Stefanie, Music Convention: The Space Between Us, 9 October 2013, IFA/Picnic Records Berlin, Berlin, Germany, Paper "The future is what it's all about – Broken Beat in London and Afro-futurism"
- Alisch, Stefanie, Conference Lusitanistentag, 13 September 2013, Universität Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany, Paper "Duplo sentido e trocadilho bilingue no kuduro angolano"
- Alisch, Stefanie, Perspectives Festival, 12 September 2013, Berlin, Germany, Panel-Moderation, Eröffnungspanel (with Andrea Goetzke, Susanne Binas-Preisendörfer, Susanne Kirchmayr, Katrin Richter and Nico Deuster)
- Alisch, Stefanie, Conceptualising Future-Conference, 5 July 2013, Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies, Bayreuth, Germany, Panel-Moderation, The sound of Afro Futurism (with Greg Tate and Carla Müller-Schulzke)
- Alisch, Stefanie, PopMAC Conference, 4 July 2013, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom, Paper "'Put the fire out' – Kuduro rhythm, lyrics and dancemoves intertwined"
- Alisch, Stefanie, 5<sup>th</sup> European Conference on African Studies (ECAS), 28 June 2013, African Studies Association, Lisbon, Portugal, Paper "Flipping over – the (im)possible icon of Angolan kuduro dance"
- Alisch, Stefanie, ShePop Conference, 15 June 2013, rock'n'popmuseum, Gronau, Germany, Paper "'Put the fire out!' Pleasure Politics in Angolan kuduro music and dance"
- Alisch, Stefanie, "Matters of Collaboration" Symposium, 27 January 2013, Goethe Institut Südafrika, Johannesburg, South Africa, Paper "Postcolonial Schizophonia: Kuduro in Luanda and Lisbon"
- Alisch, Stefanie, IASPM D-A-CH founding conference, 25 May 2013, Bern University of the Arts, Bern, Switzerland, Paper "Fusion systematischer und kulturwissenschaftlicher Forschung zu populärer Musik"
- Alisch, Stefanie, Lusotronics Festival, 18 May 2013, Berlin, Germany, Paper "Façam barulho – make some noise"
- Baas, Renzo, ALA-Conference "Texts, Modes and Repertoires of Living In and Beyond the Shadows of Apartheid", 9 to 13 April 2013, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, Paper "Beyond the Shadows of Apartheid: Narrating Utopia in Namibia"

- Bakhit, Mohamed, Mobilization for Change: Re-defining local decision-making and participation, 25 to 30 May 2013, Center for Development Research(ZEF), Universität Bonn, Bonn, Germany, Paper "Identity Construction of multi-ethnic Shantytowns: a way of life between two generations"
- Bakhit, Mohamed, Ethnologisches Kolloquium WiSe 2013/14, 26 November 2013, Bayreuth University, Bayreuth, Germany, Paper "Identity and lifestyles construction in multi-ethnic shantytowns: inquiring Elbaraka community from Sudan"
- Brahima, Abraham, Social Science Research on Benin in German-Beninese Cooperation: Topics, Results, Prospects, 8 to 10 March 2012, Bayreuth, Germany, Paper "Goethe et le Bénin: la langue dans la coopération universitaire germano-béninoise"
- Brinkmann, Felix, 2nd International Conference of World Educators: Forum on Peace, Education and Economic Development of African States, 12 to 16 November 2013, World Educators Forum, Freetown, Sierra Leone, Paper "The challenges of SME's in Kitwe/Zambia"
- Daniel, Antje, Seminaire Annuel 2012-2013: Femmes, Genre et Mobilisations Collectives en Afrique, 7 February 2013, l'Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris, France, Paper "Women's movements in the post-conflict situation in Kenya"
- Debelo, Asebe, Nature and the Popular Imagination, 8 to 11 August 2012, Malibu, USA, Paper "Conceptualizing Guji Cosmologies of Nature, Southern Ethiopia"
- Donsomsakulkij, Weeraya, The 3rd BIGSAS Festival Afrikanischer und Afrikanisch-Diasporischer Literaturen, "Intertextuality: Dialogues in Motion", 20 to 22 June 2013, Bayreuth University, Bayreuth, Germany, Moderation of Keti-Koti Table Event
- Donsomsakulkij, Weeraya, The 1st Annual Conference of the Postgraduate Forum Postcolonial Narrations, 12 October 2013, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany, Panel-Moderation of "Challenging Boundaries: Postcolonial Narratives and the Notions of the Global"
- Donsomsakulkij, Weeraya, The 10th Biennial ASLE Conference 2013, "Changing Nature: Migrations, Energies, Limits", 29 May 2013, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, USA, Panel-Moderation of "The Presencing of the Physical World in Bessie Head's When Rain Clouds Gather: A Topopoetic Reading"
- Firsching, Henrike, Doktorandenforum Gesellschaft und Kultur (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes), 13 to 16 December 2012, Hanover, Germany, Paper "Metaphernübersetzungen in Hausa- und Swahili-Bibeln"
- Gebauer, Claudia, AKSA (Arbeitskreis Subsaharisches Afrika, Arbeitskreis der DFG), 7 to 9 June 2013, Bayreuth University, Bayreuth, Germany, Organisation
- Gebauer, Claudia, Deutscher Geographentag Session: Climate Change Adaptation in a North-South Context 2 to 8 October 2013, University of Passau, Passau, Germany, Papers "Climate Change Adaptation as Global Assemblage" (with F. Weisser) and "ANT and Ethnography in researching Climate Change Adaptation"
- Greven, Katharina, From Mbari Mbayo to Iwalewahaus, 18 to 20 October 2013, Bayreuth University, Bayreuth, Germany, Paper "Presenting Africa, Presenting Oneself – The 'Phantasy' Africa of Art Patronage in the Times of Modernism"

- Greven, Katharina, APELA Konferenz (Association pour l'Étude des Littératures Africaines), 26 to 28 September 2013, l'Université de Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France, Paper "Living with the Archive: The Ulli Beier Estate in Iwalewahaus"
- Hänsch, Valerie, Coping with the Quest for Happiness and the Preservation of Integrity of the Biosphere in Africa, 11 November 2013, BIGSAS, Bayreuth, Germany, Paper "Mega-projects and diverging epistemologies"
- Hänsch, Valerie, Ethnologisches Kolloquium, 11 June 2013, Bayreuth University, Bayreuth, Germany, Paper "Der Versuch zu einem neuen Leben. Ethnographie einer Krise nach dem Bau eines Staudamms im Sudan"
- Igwe, Leo, 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on African Studies: Tradition versus Modernity in Contemporary Africa 24 to 25 October 2013, Cultura Africa Association, Plzeň, Czech Republic, Co-Presentation "Contesting The Modernity of Witchcraft in Northern Ghana" (with Idris Riahi)
- Inal, Sibel (née. Aydin), 4<sup>th</sup> Global Conference: Bullying and the Abuse of Power, 4 to 6 November 2012, Salzburg, Austria, Paper "Religious intolerance as a means of bullying in Karan Johar's 'My Name is Khan' (2010) Movie"
- Kamdem, Hector F., 2nd International Conference on Africa and its Diaspora (AICAID 2013), 13 to 15 November 2013, University of Georgia, Athens, USA, Paper "A Multimodal Analysis of Homosexualisation in Cameroonian and Tanzanian Popular Music" (with Billian Otundo)
- Kopecká, Živa, "Religious diversity in Africa. Competition and cooperation in African religions", 27 February to 4 March 2012, Bamako, Mali, Attendance and Paper "Hindu temple ritual worship in Durban, South Africa. Kavady and Firewalking festivals"
- Kopecká, Živa, International Society for the Sociology of Religion (ISSR): Rethinking Community Conference, 27 to 30 June 2013, Turku, Finland, Paper "Jahrestagung der Deutschen Vereinigung für Religionswissenschaften (DVRW)", 11 to 14 September 2013, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany, Paper "Hindu ritual worship, Durban, South Africa"
- Kopecká, Živa, International Society for the Sociology of Religion (ISSR): Rethinking Community Conference, 27 to 30 June 2013, Turku, Finland, Paper "No Bhakti, no Shakti: Exploring the field of public South African Hindu practice"
- Kopecká, Živa, Wagner and the Voodoo Priest Conference, 12 February 2013, Bayreuth University, Bayreuth, Germany, Paper "Performing a Shakti \*pūjā\*: Hindu Firewalking \*thiruvizha\* in Durban, South Africa"
- Kopecká, Živa, Koto, Yawo, Literature and Environment, 8 to 10 March 2012, Lubumbashi, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Paper "De la catastrophe naturelle à la catastrophe humaine. La sécheresse dans Sahel! Sanglante sécheresse de Manda-Alpha Diarra"
- Lar, Jimam, 5<sup>th</sup> European Conference on African Studies, (ECAS) 26 to 29 June 2013, African Studies Association, Lisbon, Portugal, Paper "Historicising Vigilante Policing in Plateau State, Nigeria"
- Marowa, Ivan, Research and Intellectual Expo: Research, Innovation and Creativity for Sustainable Development, 5 to 7 September 2012, University of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe, Paper "Conflicting relationships: Challenges to development and social change in Hurungwe"

- Materna, Georg, Workshop: Tourism and Socio-Cultural Change, 26 November 2012, Bayreuth University, Bayreuth, Germany, Organisation and Paper "Social groups and intermediarisation. Analysis of an ethnographical case"
- Materna, Georg, Lecture Series: Tourismus in Entwicklungsländern, 13 January 2012, Bayreuth, Germany, Paper "Die Rolle des ‚informelle Sektors‘ im Tourismus, Bsp. des Senegals"
- Mbaye, Aminata, International Junior Fellows Colloquium, 29 April to 6 May 2012, Quebec, Canada, Paper "L'émergence du 'Je' et la narration du 'Nous' dans la littérature francophone ou la nouvelle parole de l'Afrique"
- Mkumbukwa, Abdallah R., The 38<sup>th</sup> annual convention of New York African Studies Association (NYASA), 5 to 6 April 2013, Institute of Global Cultural Studies, Binghamton University, Binghamton, New York, USA, Paper "An overview of 'changing' boundaries of Zanzibar and control of mangrove forest resources, 1880s - 1950s"
- Mkumbukwa, Abdallah R., Circulating Natures: Water-Food-Energy, European Society for Environmental History (ESEH) 2013 Biennial conference, 20 to 24 August 2013, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Munich, Germany, Paper "The demand for and supply of fish: Development of fisheries industry in Zanzibar, 1929 - 1950s"
- Mohammed Ali, Rami, (Workshop) The Makings and Uses of Motor Roads, 7 to 9 June, 2012, Thurnau/Bayreuth University, Germany, Organisation and Paper "Driving through the Unknown? Navigation techniques of lorry drivers on a Sudanese hinterland road"
- Mohammed Ali, Rami, Young Scholars Workshop 'Ethnologie der Straße in Afrika', 8 to 9 February 2013, Bayreuth University, Bayreuth / Wallenfels, Germany, Paper "Traversing uncertain routes: Perceptions and experiences of desert travelers in Sudan"
- Mohammed Ali, Rami, The International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES): Evolving Humanity, Emerging Worlds, 5 to 10 August 2013, Manchester University, Manchester, United Kingdom, Paper "Traversing uncertain routes: Perceptions and experiences of desert travelers in Sudan"
- Mohammed Ali, Rami, 5<sup>th</sup> European Conference on African Studies, (ECAS) 26 to 29 June 2013, African Studies Association, Lisbon, Portugal, Paper "Living with danger on the Forty Days Road in Sudan" (with Prof. Dr. Kurt Beck)
- Mohammed Ali, Rami, 35<sup>th</sup> Biannual Conference of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Völkerkunde (DGV) Tagung, 2 to 5 October 2013, Mainz University, Mainz, Germany, Organisation and Paper "Traversing uncertain routes: Perceptions and experiences of desert travelers in Sudan"
- Narh, Peter, Opportunities and Chances of New Media: Utilizing New Media and IC Technologies in Research and Teaching, 5 to 12 November 2012, Eldoret, Kenya, Paper "Audio recorders, field research, and interviews: some practical experiences"
- Narh, Peter, Wege zu mehr Demokratie, gesellschaftliche und politische Transformationsprozesse, 19 to 23 September 2012, Wandlitz bei Berlin, Germany, Coordinator of Africa Group at a DAAD Graduate Academy
- Narh, Peter, Ecological sustainability: restoring the planet's ecosystem services, 30 September to 6 October 2012, Columbus, Ohio, USA, Paper "Footprints of environmental policy in Ghana"

- Narh, Peter, Embattled spaces, contested orders, 30 May to 3 June 2012, University of Cologne, Germany, Paper “‘Where is all our land?’: migration-place institution interactions in a rural cash crop economy in Ghana”
- Narh, Peter, PhD Conference on International Development, 18 to 19 September 2012, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany, Paper “Environmental governance in Ghana”
- Nicoué, Delia E., Verortungen. Ethnologie in Wissenschaft, Arbeitswelt und Öffentlichkeit, German Anthropological Association (GAA) Conference, 2 to 5 October 2013, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Mainz, Germany, Paper “Migrationsforscherin mit Migrationshintergrund: Methodische Reflexionen zur Selbstverortung und Konstruktion des Forscher-Egos”
- Ng’atigwa, Francis Xavier, IAMCR 2012 Conference, 15 to 20 July 2012, Durban, South Africa, Paper “Religion Divides: Mapping ‘others’ in Religious Radio Broadcasts in Tanzania”
- Nrenzah, Genevieve, America Academy of Religions Annual Meeting, 16 to 22 November 2012, Chicago, Illinois, USA, Paper “Contesting Dominant Discourses on Modernity in Ghana’s Religious Field: The Rise of Kwaku”
- Ofuatey-Alazard, Nadja, On the Black Mediterranean: Afro-Italian Narratives, 2 to 5 April 2012, Lagos, Nigeria, Paper “Representations of Blackness in Italian Popular Culture: (De)Colonial Gazes”
- Otundo, Billian Khalayi, 3rd International Conference on English Pronunciation: Issues & Practices (EPIP3), 8-10 May 2013, University of Murcia, Murcia, Spain, Paper “Intonation Variation of Questions without Morphosyntactic Markers among Bukusu and Nandi ESL Speakers in Kenya”
- Riahi, Idris, 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on African Studies: Tradition versus Modernity in Contemporary Africa 24-25 October 2013, Cultura Africa Association, Plzeň, Czech Republic, Paper “Contesting the Modernity of Witchcraft in Northern Ghana”
- Shang, Gilbert Ndi, “Human Rights, Literature, and the Visual Arts in Africa and the Diaspora”, 11 to 15 April 2012, Dallas, Texas, USA, Paper “The aesthetical, the ethical and the Mythical: Narrations of Violence in the Novels of Sony Labou Tansi and Ayi Kwei Armah”
- Shang, Gilbert Ndi, “Social, Énonciation Et Singularités Du Roman Francophone”, 1 to 2 May 2012, Québec, Canada, Paper “Les Transformations du genre romanesque dans les romans de Ngugi wa Thiong’o et de Sony Labou Tansi”
- Siegert, Nadine, Zwischentagung der AG Museum der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Völkerkunde, University of Cologne, Germany, Paper “Archiv, Labor & Utopie – künstlerische und wissenschaftliche Perspektiven auf die Sammlungen des Iwalewa-Hauses”
- Siegert, Nadine, VAD Conference, Panel “(New) spaces and strategies for negotiating art and cultural knowledge in African cities”, University of Cologne, Germany, Paper “Luanda Lab – aesthetic practises in a utopian city”, VAD Conference, Panel
- Siegert, Nadine, Gespräche im Museum, Museum Frauenkultur, Fürth, Germany, Paper “Kunst als konkrete Utopie? Zur Arbeit mit Kunst und Künstler\_innen aus Afrika am Iwalewa-Haus, dem Afrikazentrum der Universität Bayreuth”
- Siegert, Nadine, Escola de Comunicação e Arte, Maputo, Mozambique, Paper “I ♥ LUA. Arte contemporâneo em Luanda, Angola”

- Siegert, Nadine, Faculdade de Letras e Ciências Sociais, Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, Mozambique, Paper “As perspectivas nos estudos da Arte Contemporânea em Africa”
- Stasik, Michael, IAS Research Seminar, 11 October, University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana, Paper “Dis/Ordering the Station: An Ethnography of Order and Disorder at Accra’s Neoplan Station”
- Stasik, Michael, SPP 1448, 1. Biennale Conference, 4 to 6 October 2012, Maputo, Mozambique, Paper (with Kurt Beck & Gabriel Klaeger) “Reinterpretation of North Atlantic models: The case of roads and roadsides”
- Stasik, Michael, 12. EASA, 10 to 13 July 2012, Paris, France, Paper “Contingent Orders/Orders of Contingency. Notes from a West African Bus Station”
- Stasik, Michael, 12. EASA, 10 to 13 July 2012, Paris, France, Panel convenor (with Gabriel Klaeger) “Waiting for Godot & Co: modes and moods of the uneventful”
- Stasik, Michael, 3. SSSI Conference, 4 to 6 July 2012, Rotterdam, Netherlands, Paper “Being Less Than a Shadow: ‘Balabala-Business’ at a Central Bus Station in Accra, Ghana”
- Stasik, Michael, Workshop: The Makings and Uses of Motor Roads, 7 to 9 June 2012, Thurnau/ Bayreuth University, Germany, Paper “CARdiologies: Metaphoric Explorations into the Rhythms, Connections and Life of a West African Travel Hub”
- Stasik, Michael, Workshop: The Makings and Uses of Motor Roads, 7 to 9 June 2012, Thurnau/ Bayreuth University, Germany, Workshop organizer (with Kurt Beck, Gabriel Klaeger, Rami Wadelnour) of “The Makings and Uses of Motor Roads”
- Stasik, Michael, VAD Tagung, 30 May to 2 June 2012, Cologne, Germany, Paper “Dis/Ordering the Station: Conflicting Perceptions and Utilizations of a Travel Hub in Accra, Ghana”
- Stasik, Michael, Verortungen. Ethnologie in Wissenschaft, Arbeitswelt und Öffentlichkeit, German Anthropological Association (GAA) Conference, 2 to 5 October 2013, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Mainz, Germany, Panel Co-Organisation and Papers “Rhythm, resonance and prosthetic kinaesthesia in a long-distance bus station in Accra” and “Anthropology of the road”
- Stasik, Michael, The International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES): Evolving Humanity, Emerging Worlds, 5 to 10 August 2013, Manchester University, Manchester, United Kingdom, Paper “Re-gendering public space: the hybridization of entrepreneurial practices in Accra, Ghana” (with Alena Thiel)
- Stasik, Michael, The Makings of African Roads, 1 July 2013, Lisbon, Portugal, Workshop Co-Organisation
- Stasik, Michael, 5<sup>th</sup> European Conference on African Studies, (ECAS) 26 to 29 June 2013, African Studies Association, Lisbon, Portugal, Paper “Station struggles: planners’ imaginaries, dwellers’ practices, and the quest for urban spatial production in a travel hub in Accra, Ghana”
- Stasik, Michael, Institutskolloquium Ethnologie, 14 May 2013, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany, Paper “‘Do you feel Nkawkaw dancing?’ Rhythm, resonance and prosthetic kinaesthesia in a long-distance bus station in Accra”
- Stasik, Michael, SPP 1448 Workshop: “Comparison Re-invented: Adaptation of Universal Methods to African Studies”, GIGA, 4 March 2013, German Institute of Global and Area Studies, Hamburg, Germany, Paper “Comparison along the road”

- Stasik, Michael, Young Scholars Workshop “Ethnologie der Straße in Afrika”, 8 to 9 February 2013, Bayreuth University, Bayreuth/Wallenfels, Germany, Workshop Co-Organisation and Paper “‘Do you feel Nkawkaw dancing?’ Rhythm, resonance and prosthetic kinaesthesia in a long-distance bus station in Accra”
- Šváblová, Alžběta, International Studies Association Annual Convention, 3 to 6 April 2013, International Studies Association, San Francisco, USA, Paper “Approaches to Studying Sexual Violence in Post-Conflict Liberia”
- Talento, Serena, 26<sup>th</sup> Swahili Colloquium, 10 to 12 May 2013, Bayreuth University, Bayreuth, Germany, Paper “Of Presences/Absences, Identity and Power: The Ideological Role of Translation into Swahili during Late Pre-Colonial and Early Colonial Times”
- Talento, Serena, Africanistic Research Colloquium, 26 November 2013, Bayreuth University, Bayreuth, Germany, Paper “Refractive Discourses: The conceptualisation of translation in Swahili classical poetry and the role of translation as a cultural good in Swahili society”
- Traoré, Daouda, 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Gur languages, 5 to 7 July 2012, Bayreuth University, Germany, Paper “Les emprunts intégrés du senar au dyula: essai d’analyse linguistique”
- Traoré, Daouda, 7<sup>th</sup> World Congress of African Linguistics (WOCAL), 20 to 24 August 2012, University of Buea, Cameroon, Paper “Le système des classes nominales en senar (une langue senufo du Burkina Faso): analyse et esquisse comparative avec le proto-senufo”
- Triviño Cely, Diana, Studienzentrum für Afrika, Asien und Islamischer Welt (CEAAMI), 24 February 2014, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia, Paper “Westliche Konzepte von Prostitution in Afrika”
- Triviño Cely, Diana, Studienzentrum für Afrika, Asien und Islamischer Welt (CEAAMI), 26 February 2014, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia, Paper “Forschung und Methodologische Erfahrungen während der Feldforschung über Prostitution in Diego Suarez – Madagaskar”
- Turner, Irina, International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR), North-South Conversations, 15 to 20 July 2012, Durban, South Africa, Paper “Political communication about the State of the South African Nation. Rhetorical turning points in an evolving democracy”
- Umlauf, René, Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Sciences: Design and Displacement, 17 to 21 October 2012, Copenhagen, Denmark, Paper “Counting, Reading, Sensing – The politics of standards and the (re-)shaping of diagnostic space in Uganda”
- Ungruhe, Christian, 35<sup>th</sup> Biannual Conference of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Völkerkunde (DGV) Tagung, 2 to 5 October 2013, Mainz University, Mainz, Germany, Workshop Organisation and Panel-Moderation “Perspektiven einer Ethnologie des Sports” and “Die Wahrheit liegt auf dem Platz. Perspektiven einer Ethnologie des Sports”
- Wafula, Magdaline, BIGSAS Colloquium, 9 February 2012, Iwalewa-Haus, Bayreuth, Germany, Paper “Narrative Voice & Focalization: the Key in ‘Reading out’ Generational Conflicts in Vuta n’kuvute and Kufa Kuzikana”
- Wafula, Magdaline, African Literature Association Conference, 12 to 13 April 2012, Adolphus Hotel, Dallas, Texas, USA, Paper “Generational Conflicts: A Contestation for Women Rights in Kiswahili Novels”

- Wafula, Magdaline, Swahili Colloquium and Dunia Yao, 17 to 20 May 2012, Iwalewa-Haus, Bayreuth, Germany, Paper "Generational Conflicts in Dunia Yao: Utopia versus Dystopia"
- Wafula, Magdaline, CHAKITA Conference 23 to 24 August 2012, Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya, Paper "Migongano ya Vizazi katika Tumaini: Kilio Cha Haki kwa Vijana"
- Wafula, Magdaline, Africanistic Research Colloquium, 5 November 2013, Bayreuth University, Bayreuth, Germany, Paper "Narrative Voice and Focalization in the Narration of Generational Conflicts in Selected Kiswahili Novels"
- Wafula, Magdaline, Chama cha Kiswahili Afrika Mashariki (CHAKAMA). Kongamano la Tisa la Kiswahili na Maendeleo ya Afrika, 14-15 October 2013, St. August University, Mwanza, Tanzania, Paper "Changamoto za Kutafsiri Tamathali za Usemi katika Kazi za Fasihi (Kufa Kuzikana)"
- Wafula, Magdaline, 26<sup>th</sup> Swahili Colloquium, 10-12 May 2013, Iwalewa Haus, Bayreuth, Germany, Paper "Changamoto za Kutafsiri Tamathali za Usemi katika Kazi za Fasihi (Tumaini & Kufa Kuzikana)"
- Weisser, Florian, Deutscher Geographentag Session: Climate Change Adaptation in a North-South Context 2 to 8 October 2013, University of Passau, Passau, Germany, Paper "Climate Change Adaptation as Global Assemblage"
- Weisser, Florian, Neue Kulturgeographie X, 2 to 3 February 2013, Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde, Leipzig, Germany, Paper "Tree Talk: Baumgeographien im Klimawandel"
- Wijngaarden, Vanessa, Atlas.ti User Conference, 12 to 14 September 2013, Technical University Berlin, Berlin, Germany, Paper "Fostering Dialog on Qualitative Methods"
- Wijngaarden, Vanessa, 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the International Society for the Scientific Study of Subjectivity, 5 to 7 September 2013, University Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Paper "Method in Cultural Anthropology: Combining participants with different backgrounds and literacy levels"
- Wijngaarden, Vanessa, Images of Whiteness, 3rd Global conference "Exploring Critical Issues", 22 to 24 July 2013, Harris Manchester College, Oxford, United Kingdom, Paper "A Tanzanian Maasai view on whites: A complex relationship between half-brothers"
- Zöller, Katharina, Bridging Histories of East and Central Africa, 7 to 8 June 2013, Bayreuth University, Bayreuth, Germany, Organisation and Paper "Crossing multiple borders: the 'Manyema' in colonial East Central Africa"

## Summer Schools

Abdalla, Salma, (Re-)configurations of Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa. A Summer school on Islamic Practices, Imaginations, Groups and Actors in the African Context, 12 to 17 August 2013, Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin, Germany, "We civilized them: A Study of Serau Village Youth Islamic Center in Omdurman – Sudan"

Abdel Rahman, Abu Baker, German Language Course, University of Bayreuth, Germany

Bello, Sakinatou, Cours d'été international relatif aux droits de l'enfant, 8 to 18 August 2012, Moncton, Canada

Brinkmann, Felix, Zambian International Mining and Energy Conference & Exhibition, 8 to 20 June 2013, New Government Complex, Lusaka, Zambia

Donsomsakulkij, Weeraya, Decolonizing Knowledge and Power: Postcolonial Studies, Decolonial Horizons, 8 to 18 July 2013, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

Donsomsakulkij, Weeraya, The 11<sup>th</sup> ASNEL Summer School: "Just Politics? Postcolonial Ecocriticism between Imagination and Occupation", 2 to 6 September 2013, University of Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany, "Ecocriticism and Storied Matter: The Natural, Cultural, Material Narratives in Selected Southern African Literatures"

Gebauer, Claudia, Summer School "On Crisis", 26 to 28 September 2013, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Halle, Germany

Gebreyes, Million, Field research methods (qualitative and quantitative) in environmentally-induced migration, 8 to 12 July 2013, United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security, Bonn, Germany

Greven, Katharina, 1st Basel Summer School in African Studies: Interdisciplinarity and Methodological Challenges in Area Studies, 10 to 14 June 2013, University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland, "Phantasy Africa"

Kagoro, Jude, International Journal of Arts and Sciences, 27.-31.05.2012, Boston, USA, "Politico-Military Fusion in the post 1986 Uganda"

- Kopecká, Živa, Programme Point Sud 2012-2013: “The Critical Study of Religious Diversity in Africa – Empirical and Theoretical Perspectives”, 26 February to 3 March 2013, Centre de Recherche sur le Savoir Local, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, “Bhakti, sakti and the beyonds of ritual”
- Lar, Jimam T., 1st Basel Summer School in African Studies: Interdisciplinarity and Methodological Challenges in Area Studies, 10 to 14 June 2013, University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland, “Participants presented doctoral projects, experienced academics presented lectures, and feedback on theory construction, working with concepts, and methodological challenges”
- Marowa, Ivan, AEGIS Summer School, 18 to 24 June 2012, Cortona, Italy, “Spaces of Dispossession: Power, Policies and Discourses of Development in Colonial Zimbabwe”
- Mkumbukwa, Abdallah, AEGIS Summer School, 18 to 24 June 2012, Cortona, Italy
- Mohammed Ali, Rami, SPP Biennial Conference and Summer School, 1 to 7 October 2012, Maputo, Mozambique, “Pursuing Order on Sudanese Hinterland Roads: An Ethnography of Travel Communities (work on progress)”
- Mohammed Ali, Rami, Summer School “On Crisis”, 26 to 28 September 2013, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Halle, Germany, “Dis/ordering the roads: The production of Danger on the Forty Days Road”
- Mohammed, Bakheit Nur, (Re)configurations of Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa: A summer school on Islamic practice, imagination, groups, and actors in the African context, 12 to 17 August 2013, Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, Berlin, Germany, “The holy men in the local communities of Jebel Marra, Darfur Region, Sudan”
- Morisho, Nene, HDCA Summer School on Capability and Multidimensional Poverty 2012, 23 August to 4 September 2012, Jakarta, Indonesia
- Ndogo, Samuel, 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the African Literature Association, 11 to 15 April 2012, Dallas, Texas, USA, “Childhood Memoir and Narrating the ‘Self’ and Nation: Ngugi wa Thiong’o’s Dreams in a Time of War”
- Ng’atigwa, Francis Xavier, International Summer School- Media Studies, 22 to 28 July 2012, Bayreuth University, Germany
- Ng’atigwa, Francis Xavier, (Re)configurations of Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa: A summer school on Islamic practice, imagination, groups, and actors in the African context, 12 to 17 August 2013, Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, Berlin, Germany, “Amplifying the Azan: Investigating the role of Radio Imaan to Muslims in Tanzania: 2004-2011”

- Ng'atigwa, Francis Xavier, *Interdisciplinarity and Methodological Challenges in Area Studies*. Basel Summer School in African Studies, 10 to 14 June 2013, Centre of African Studies, Basel, Switzerland, "PhD Project on progress: Some Methodological challenges"
- Nicoué, Delia, *Phenomenology of Practice and the Tradition of the Utrecht School*, 29 July to 9 August 2013, Utrecht Summer School, Utrecht, Netherlands
- Stasik, Michael, SPP 1448 Summer School, 1 to 3 October 2012, Maputo, Mozambique, "Who is adapting to what, and what is adapted by whom: two contrasting examples from a West African travel hub"
- Šváblová, Alžběta, *African Dynamics in the Global World: New powers, subjectivities and social forces*, 18 to 24 June 2012, Cortona, Italy
- Talento, Serena, AOL Summer School "African Oral Literatures. Old and new media, traditional and new audiences: Fieldwork, methods and training", 4 to 8 June 2012, Procida – Scuola di Procida per l'Alta Formazione – University of Naples "L'Orientale", Italy, Student assistant and member of logistic staff
- Talento, Serena, CETRA (Centre for Translation Studies) 25<sup>th</sup> Research Summer School in Translation Studies, 14 to 27 August 2013, University of Leuven, Leuven, Belgium, "Mapping the History of Literary Translations into Swahili (1830-1970)"
- Traoré, Daouda, *Séquences en Interaction (SEQ-I): de la paire adjacente aux activités complexes*, 18 to 21 June 2012, Ecole d'été ICAR-ASLAN, Lyon, France
- Weisser, Florian, *Sommerschule des SPP1448*, 30 September to 4 October 2012, Maputo, Mozambique
- Woldegiorgis, Emnet, *Southern African Young Scientists Summer Program (SA-YSSP)*, November 2013 to February 2014, University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, Mangaung, South Africa

## Alumni

Name	Defended in 2012	Country of Origin
Wario, Halkano	April	Kenya
Kroeker, Lena	May	Germany
Tchokothe, Rémi	June	Cameroon
Eresso, Meron Zeleke	June	Ethiopia
Danfulani, Chikas	June	Nigeria
Bakpa, Mimboabe	July	Togo
Peem, Laure	September	Cameroon
Bello, Baba Mai	September	Nigeria
Häberlein, Tabea	November	Germany
Ndong, Louis	December	Senegal

Name	Defended in 2013	Country of Origin
Elhassab, Ahmed	Januar	Sudan
Fantaw, Setargew	Januar	Ethiopia
Oldenburg, Silke	Januar	Germany
Kagoro, Jude	April	Uganda
Brahima, Abraham	May	Benin
Araújo, Paulo	June	Brazil
Ndogo, Samuel	June	Kenya
Bello, Sakinatou	June	Benin
Turner, Irina	July	Germany
El Maarouf, Moulay Driss	July	Morocco
Omanga, Duncan Mainye	August	Kenya
Kozi, Marie-Laure	September	Cote d'Ivoire
Morisho, Nene	September	Congo
El Naggare, Maroua	October	Morocco
Kiragu, Serah	October	Kenya
Siebert, Nadine	November	Germany
Ng'atigwa, Francis	December	Tanzania
Wafula, Magdaline	December	Kenya



**It takes all sorts to make a world**

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