Dear Junior Fellows,

We are excited to arrive at the end of the summer semester 2020. It was indeed a semester like never. It has been a challenging one due to all the changes and unseen situations. We apologize for the lateness of this edition of Newsletter, we have been under our waters in the past weeks. We hope you and your family have gone through all these uncertainties smoothly. With few more holiday days/hours, we hope you enjoy the sun, laughter and a bit relaxation. Kindly get your deserved rest and be refreshed for the next semester. This is our last Newsletter to you as your representatives. We are and we shall remain very thankful for every support that we enjoyed from you all the way. The BIGSAS community shall continue to remain one of our most treasured community.

Alice and Dapo

BIGSAS Colloquium

An online edition of BIGSAS Colloquium was held on July 2\textsuperscript{nd} 2020. It took place within the frame of Knowledge Lab Team of the African Multiple Cluster of Excellence. Thumbs up to all the Junior Fellows who presented for their innovative and informative works at the colloquium. The JFs attendance at the colloquium was also impressive. The spirit of solidarity amongst the BIGSAS junior fellows is highly encouraged. Kindly send your feedback and inquiry about BIGSAS colloquium to the Director Early Career& Equal Opportunities, Dr. Christine Scherer via Christine.Scherer@uni-bayreuth.de

BIGSAS Festival of African and African-Diasporic Literatures

The 10\textsuperscript{th} Digital Festival of African and African-Diasporic Literatures took place online on July 3\textsuperscript{rd} to 4\textsuperscript{th} under the theme “Care, Responsibility and Solidarity: Narrating Resistance in Arts, Academia and Activism”. It has invited Achille Mbembe, Ngugi wa Thiong’o, Véronique Tadjio and many other artists, writers, activists and scholars to discuss and show solidarity online during the COVID-19 time. More details can be found at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpf629oc56dt2k5BUSAQCNw/videos
Arrangements for 2020/21 Winter Semester

Next semester will start on November 2nd, 2020.

For the 2020/21 winter semester, the University has decided

- in favour of studying in face-to-face mode with varying degrees of digital content.
- new bachelor's and master's students, in their first semester will be prioritized for non-virtual classes.
- possible teaching formats and final thesis preparation with a significant in-person component will be explored. This will include, inter alia, laboratory courses and practical tutorials.
- those preparing for the completion of their studies, e.g. in state examination preparatory courses, will also receive preferential access to face-to-face teaching and learning, and to the requisite support infrastructure.
- all other courses will provide didactically appropriate, hybrid forms of digital and analogue teaching where possible, taking advantage of extended teaching hours.

BIGSAS JFs Election

We are pleased to announce the commencement of another election cycle for the position of BIGSAS junior representatives. The following junior fellows will supervise this election cycle:

1) Hanza Diman
2) Alice Mingqing Yuan
3) Oladapo Ajayi

The tasks of junior fellow representatives comprise among others:

1) The Newsletter
2) Mandatory attendance of the Steering committee meetings
3) Being part of the selection committee during the application process of new junior fellows
4) organizing semester meetings and other events
5) Interface between BIGSAS administration and the junior fellows
The eligibility criteria:

- every junior fellow who has been in BIGSAS for at least six months, i.e. after the first semester in BIGSAS, has the right to run for election. The candidate must have completed the six months at the time of taking charge.
- junior fellows can either nominate themselves or be nominated by other junior fellows with the consent of the candidate.
- junior fellow representatives must be able to guarantee presence and availability in Bayreuth during the six months of their mandate.
- incumbent junior fellow representatives who have served one term have the right to present themselves as candidates for a second term.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us via this email:

bigsas-election@uni-bayreuth.de.

Summer 2020 gon be lit
BIG CONGRATULATIONS ❤️
to the following fellows for completing their Ph.D and wish you all embark on a new, exciting and wonderful journey!
Alžbétá Šváblová
Sabrina Maurus
Fabian Lehmann
Eliane Sonkoue Meli Epse Kamdem
Azza Mustafa Babikir Ahmed
Maike Voigt

Call for Papers
• 2020 African Studies Association Virtual Annual Meeting
  Time: November 19-21, 2020
  Place: Online
  Website: https://africanstudies.org/annual-meetings/
  Program Chairs: Carina Ray of Brandeis University and Prinisha Badassy of the University of Witwatersrand
  The Hour of Decision: Power, Persistence, Purpose, and Possibility in African Studies
• European Conference of African Studies
  Time: June 02-05, 2021
  Place: Cologne
  Website: https://www.ecasconference.org/2021/
  Theme: “African Futures”

Do you have any suggestions, enquiries or information to add or would you like to report about a certain activity, just send us an e-mail to bigsas-reps@uni-bayreuth.de
Thanks to all for your support!

Yours,
Alice & Dapo