Dear Junior Fellows,

With 1st January 2020 in sight, we are excited to say Happy new year to you! We are sure you had a wonderful Christmas celebration as well. With few more holiday days/hours, we hope you enjoy the holiday, get your deserved rest and be refreshed for 2020. This edition of newsletter highlights activities in BIGSAS community in the past two months and it also contains information of the new year’s events. We warmly welcome you to 2020!

Alice and Dapo

BIGSAS Meets on 21.11.2019 @ Campus

Late of November 2019, we were finally able to have our first BIGSAS JF meeting with new members joining us and JF fellows who were enjoying the post-submission period. In an amiable atmosphere, opinions on the issues of working groups and election committee were openly exchanged. Thanks to all the JFs who made time against all difficulties to attend the meeting and warmest welcome to all the new JFs who join the BIGSAS family. As for issues related to working groups, detailed points can be found in the summary that was sent around in a previous mail of update.

Highlights:

1. In the meeting, the JFs established “The finishing-line tradition” where junior fellows who recently submit their dissertation are celebrated by the community. To this end, we were all excited celebrate Sebastian Mueller and Azza Mustafa at the meeting.

2. Work groups – as a result of our deliberation at the last meeting, the JFs Reps discussed the grey area of the “required 4 JFs” for a new work group. We are excited to confirm to
you that a minimum of 2 members is officially recognized to form a work group. Therefore, we look forward to seeing many more work groups spring-up in the year 2020.

4. **BIGSAS Research Colloquium:** As you may recall, a call to participate at the *Early Career Researcher's Colloquium (formerly BIGSAS Colloquium)*, 6 February 2020, 2-6pm was sent to you on 19th December 2019. During our last meeting, we discussed the colloquium as a much-needed space and experience. Therefore, let us all plan to benefit from the next colloquium in February 2020 (more information below). Notwithstanding your current phase, feel free to present your work at the colloquium. We were informed that it was previously cancelled because too few JFs registered to participate.

5. **Electoral committee:** The following JFs volunteered to conduct the next JF representative election: Dandara Maia, Shaden Kamel and Seyni Mamoudou Ibrahim

### BIGSAS Work Groups

BIGSAS currently has 11 work groups, they are initiated and run by junior fellows. Its composition, objectives and operation is flexible. The list of current BIGSAS JFs work group can be found on the website as follows and below are updates from two work groups on their activities:

http://www.bigsas.uni-bayreuth.de/en/studies_programme/workgroups/index.html

**BIGSAS-Lesekreis:**

As advertised on BIGSAS website this work group provides a forum for PhD students to discuss their own texts, articles, dissertation chapters, lectures, outlines, etc. with other PhD students. Texts in German or English are welcome, discussion and feedback sessions will be in German. Meetings of the group take place as members propose.

Our news: Most members of your working group are in the final stages of their PhD. Therefore, we are looking forward to welcome new members, who are interested in discussing their papers, thesis-chapters or presentations to ensure that the working group continues to exist. We are glad to share the experience we have gathered throughout the years with new members. (by Sebastian Müller)

**African Union**

In tight collaboration with Model African Union Bayreuth e.V. Department of Education warmly invite you to Africa politicum or let's talk about African politics.
Africa politicum (AP) is a semi-formal arena where students and scholars from Africa and beyond, irrespective of backgrounds, meet up and debate and critically engage with up-to-date socio-political and economic issues related to Africa. Beyond its primary objective, AP shall be a platform where participants can network, share experiences and innovatively reflect on current challenges faced by African countries and citizens in and outside the continent. AP counts on and values the participation of anyone interested in partaking in its sessions in French, German or English. AP get-together and debate forum unfold once a month. Participants can join AP as speakers for a topic of their choice, chair a discussion roundtable, or simply get involved as active discussant. Invitation of internal or external guest speakers is more than welcomed! It is now your turn to set the agenda of our next session by proposing a burning topic to discuss or ask any further questions in line with AP by sending an email to Hanza Diman (hanza.diman@gmx.de / +49 15789590217).

**Cinema Africa 2019**

Between 21 and 24 November 2019, four movies have been brought to the audience through the film festival “Cinema Africa 2019”, which took the Bayreuthers on a unique cinematographic journey across the African continent. Four movies include Resgate (*Redemption*) from Mosambique directed by Antonio Forjaz and Mickey Fonseca, *Duga, Les Charognards*, from Burkina Faso directed by Abdoulaye Dao, *Fatwa* from Tunis/Belgium directed by Mahmoud Ben Mahmoud and *La Miséricorde de la jungle (Die Barmherzigkeit des Dschungels)* from Ruanda/Belgium directed by Joël Karekezi. Many BIGSAS JFs have actively participated in it.
Congratulations to Nikitta Dede Abena Adjirakor for 2019 DAAD Prize

On the 14th of November 2019, our colleague Nikitta Dede Adjirakor was awarded the DAAD Prize at the President's Dinner. The DAAD Prize is given to outstanding foreign students in a German university for social as well as academic gains. Nikitta won the award for her work on women’s health for which she has produced a documentary as well as published stories. The award also took into account her interest in Ghanaian languages and literature for which she recently produced the Ghanaian Languages Literature Festival as well as the Ghanaian Languages Short Story Prize. In attendance were Prof Dr. Clarissa Vierke and Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Seeseman.

Congratulations and Best wishes

Najoum Abdourahamane Alhassane successfully defended his thesis on 28 November 2019 on "Les ruptures conjugales à Niamey, Niger: processus, strategies des négociations et systems de gestions"

Daniel Owusu Kyereko defended his thesis: 9 December 2019 on “Including the Marginalized: The Case of Children of Migrants and Education in Ghana”

Jaana Maria Janßen defended her thesis: 17 December 2019 on „Schaffung von Gemeinsamkeiten im Kontext kultureller Differenz – Sozialgeographische Perspektiven auf Prozesse von Vernetzung und Postmigranten in Deutschland und Finnland”

Benedict Arko successfully defended his thesis: 17 December 2019 on “Translating Discourses of Local Economic Development: The Case of the Ghana Decent Work Programme”

We wish you guys great success in your future endeavors!❤️
Save the Dates:

- 8th January 2020  Management Board Meeting
- 4th February 2020  Steering Committee Meeting

**Early Career Researcher’s Colloquium (formerly known as BIGSAS Colloquium), 6 February 2020, 2-6pm**

The Early Career Researcher’s-Colloquium (formerly the ‘BIGSAS Colloquium’) will take place on 6 February 2020 in the context of the Knowledge Lab of the Cluster ‘Africa Multiple’ from 2-6 pm. Up to six Early Career Researchers/Junior Fellows can present.

The new format is attached to the former BIGSAS Colloquium and an important opportunity to engage Senior and Junior Researchers in an interdisciplinary dialogue of mutual benefit: the Early Career Researchers in order to discover the relations of themes and gain experience in presentation and discussion and for the Senior Researchers, Supervisors and Mentors to share their expertise and gain insight in the diversity of early career research in the Cluster and beyond.

Interested ‘Tandems’ (Early Career Researchers/BIGSAS Junior Fellows and their respective Supervisors) please kindly send a message to our team member Alexandra.Loskutov@uni-bayreuth.de to collect

a) an abstract of 500 words of the research

b) a short information about the current state of the research.

**Looking forward to receiving your messages until 10 January 2020.**

**Call for Papers:**

- ASAUK (African Studies Association of the UK) conference will take place from 8-10 September 2020 at Cardiff University. 43 thematic streams have been selected and the call for papers will open on 27th January 2020.  

- 9th biennial conference of the African Association for Rhetoric together with United States International University-Africa, Nairobi, Kenya call for papers on ‘RHETORICAL (RE)INVENTION OF AFRICA IN THE 21ST CENTURY’  
  July 22-24, 2020, deadline 31 March 2020  
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

We wish Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! See you in 2020!

Yours, Alice & Dapo