Dear Junior Fellows,

The month of October was full of activities in the BIGSAS community, the University and the city of Bayreuth at large. Some of the highlights of the numerous events include the 2019 edition of the BIGSAS Journalist Award ceremony and the International Conference of Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence. This edition of the Newsletter highlights some of the events of the past weeks, especially as it relates to BIGSAS JFs. Since this is our first edition of the Newsletter as your representatives, we introduce ourselves to you. Also, this Newsletter introduces a batch of our amiable new junior fellows for the 2019/20 winter semester. There is also a column with important dates of future events to assist in your individual planning.

On a final note we commend Larrisa and Hanza for their service in the past months. Please feel free to contact us with any suggestions, feedbacks, enquiries or information. We look forward to hearing from you!

NEW JF-REPS

Alice Mingqing Yuan (Alice)
Topic: Representations of China in Kenyan Narratives
Department: English Language and Literature
Email: bigsas.reps@uni-bayreuth.de
Mobile phone: +49-17681693775

Oladapo Ajayi (Dapo)
Topic: Fuji Music and Everyday life in the Contemporary Yoruba Urban space
Department: Literatures in African Languages
Email: bigsas.reps@uni-bayreuth.de
Mobile phone: +49-5901468398
BIG CONGRATULATIONS!

Gemechu Adimassu Abeshu & Adeyemi Balogun had a successful PhD defence in October. We wish them great success in their future endeavours.

MEET BIGSAS NEW JUNIOR FELLOWS

Albert Irambeshya (Rwanda)
Social Protection for Elderly People in the Context of Rapidly Ageing Population in Rwanda

Ngozi Edeagu (Nigeria)
Writing back to Empire: Newspapers, Non-Elites and Decolonisation in the Global Public Sphere, 1937-1957

Dandara Maia (Brazil)
Socio-Political Performances of the Dressed Body: Wax Prints and Africanity

Cecilia Edward Ngaiza (Tanzania)
Collective Human Rights in Court Practice: A Comparative Survey of Tanzania, East Africa and the African Union

Leiyo Singo (Tanzania)
Research Topic: Sustainable Land Use Plans or Repertoires of Domination? Tracing Competing Visions of Bioeconomy in Tanzania
Every second year since 2011, BIGSAS recognizes journalists whose works contribute to a different, less biased image of Africa and its inhabitants in German-language print and online media. This year, the jury of over a dozen BIGSAS alumni selected Anja Bengelstorff’s piece on young African entrepreneurship as the winner of the BIGSAS journalist award 2019 (more on the award here).

The BIGSAS journalist award is traditionally moderated by BIGSAS junior fellows. This year, the duo Asaf Augusto and Johanna Sarre had the pleasure of hosting the event – the BIGSAS equivalent of the Oscars! The task came with some pressure, nervousness and anxieties too. Various parts of the programme needed to be coordinated to flow seamlessly, such as the welcome addresses by the Bayreuth University chancellor Dr. Markus Zanner, The dean of the cluster Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Seesemann and the former mayor of Bayreuth, Dr. Michael Hohl. There were musical contributions by Maputo-based composer and musician Matchume Zango. The Maputo-based composer and musician also contributed to the experience of the evening. During this year’s edition, the former UBT president Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Helmut Ruppert also received a surprise award of recognition. The second place article was written by Katharina Wecker of MUT – Magazin für Lösungen. The evening was climaxed by the keynote speech of Ethiopian-born German TV moderator Yared Dibaba (the entire speech was held in Plattdeutsch!).

We also took the liberty of opening the event with a reference to the work of the famous Kenyan author and gay-rights activists Binyavanga Wainana’s “How to write about Africa” (2005). For us it was our way of honoring Biyanvanga who died earlier this year.

We relied on Mirjam Strasser’s guidance during our preparation. We also worked with the notes our predecessors handed, particularly Diana Mignano and Hanza Diman’s note. The duo successfully and charmingly hosted the BIGSAS Journalist Award in 2017.
Asaf did a fantastic job, breaking the ice with some jokes strewn into his moderation, held entirely in his third Language, German. At the end of the day, everything worked out well and, telling from the feedback we received, the audience enjoyed it as much as we did.

We want to thank BIGSAS for entrusting us with this task, and we highly recommend taking on this responsibility to anyone interested in a unique on-stage experience – looking forward to seeing you at BIGSAS journalist award 2021!

Asaf & Joh

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “Africa Multiple: Conversations and Building Networks”

October 30-31, 2019, University of Bayreuth

The Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, established at the University of Bayreuth in January 2019, takes a new approach to the study of heterogeneous and mutually influential African ways of life and world-making by focusing on the multi-directional and multi-layered processes of relating in which they emerge. It is based on a new conceptual framework that foregrounds multiplicity and relationality in order to rethink notions of diversity, plurality, and connectivity, thus shifting the focus from diverse, discrete entities that have connections towards the continuous relational processes involved in their continuous production and reproduction. As the main concepts of the Africa Multiple Cluster, multiplicity and relationality raise questions about knowledge production in a wide range of themes and contexts, connected with different interests and priorities. Many BIGSAS JFs were also at the conference.

BIGSAS JFs @ FUSION CONCERT

On 31 October 2019, the first Network Conference of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence came to a festive close with a unique concert in a unique setting. Five internationally renowned musicians performed together, bringing their traditional instruments for a fusion of styles from classical music to Jazz at Bayreuth’s UNESCO World Heritage site: the Margravial Opera House. The polyphonic and polyrhythmic experience to borrow the work of Prof. Dr. Ute Fendler leaves a great deal of energy behind in Bayreuth and BIGSAS JFs harvested enough to last till the period of their thesis completion.
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS - BIGSAS Works
For this special issue, we invite Junior Fellows to submit papers that address the experiences and practices of conducting fieldwork in Africa. Following an interdisciplinary framework, we invite contributions from different disciplines, fields and subjects of interest. We especially welcome groundbreaking contributions that explore different theoretical and methodological approaches to fieldwork experiences and challenges. We envision an issue that is experientially inspired. Thus, we are interested in insights drawn from the positionality of the researcher. We encourage papers that explore the intersection of social and political positioning such as race, gender, sexuality, religion, age and power in the field. What insights have you gained through fieldwork practices in Africa, that strengthened or challenged your assumed objectives? Although we speak of Africa, we seek papers that contribute to dismantling the myth of Africa as a monolithic entity by zooming in on specific instances of fieldwork in, for instance, cities, towns and performance spaces. We also welcome papers with a comparative focus.
Please submit working titles and abstracts (200-250 words) by the 1st of December 2019. Full paper drafts (5000 - 8500 words) should be submitted by the 5th February 2020. Kindly note that we are unable to grant any extensions with these dates.
Submit to any of these emails or all: dapojayi2010@gmail.com, kittadee@yahoo.com, hanza.diman@gmx.de

CALL FOR PAPERS - “Intersectionality: Theory, Approach, Activism”
The Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence and the GeQuInDi network at the University of Bayreuth have issued a call for paper proposals for a three-day symposium on “Intersectionality. Theory, Approach, Activism”. Between 6 and 8 February 2020. Scholars who wish to contribute to the symposium are asked to submit an abstract of no more than 250 words. The deadline is 15 Dec 2019. More details:https://www.africamultiple.uni-bayreuth.de/pool/dokumente/cfp-intersectionality-symposium_fin.pdf
SAVE THE DATES

THESIS DEFENCE
Mr Rogers Hansine (BIGSAS), **14 November 2:30 pm, S25, GEO**.
N.B. The Defence is open to the public, but all attendees are expected to respect examination rules during the defence.

BIGSAS JFs Meeting: **15.11.2019 @13.30 (Frisch Raum, Mensa)**
Meeting agenda: (i) welcome of the first batch of newly admitted JFs (ii) unveiling the BIGSAS JFs finishing line tradition (iii) work groups and other related matters (iv) AOB. Kindly plan to attend!

**MANAGEMENT BOARD/ STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
18th November 2019 Executive Committee Meeting (EC)
4th December 2019 Steering Committee Meeting (SC)
8th January 2020 Executive Committee Meeting (EC)
N.B: The **Steering Committee (SC)** was formerly known as Academic Committee (AC) and the **Executive Committee (EC)** was formerly known as Management Board (MB)

**CONFERENCES AND SUMMER SCHOOLS**


Ife Institute of Advanced Studies invites applications for the 2020 Ife Summer Institute doctoral and postdoctoral fellowship. Theme: Exploring New Frontiers: Knowledge Creation, Collaboration and Dissemination. Date: July 20, 2020 – August 1, 2020 (https://www.ife-ias.com/blog/call-for-applications-summer-institute-2020?fclid=1wAR1om8KQP_irvcEU7VCyy8HeG5h3Td0ql-nf1lc6KGjVSufdzwM6KioMmbQ)
CINEMA AFRICA celebrates its 12th edition

At the end of November, the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence will present the African film festival “Cinema Africa”. In total, four movies will be shown at Cineplex Bayreuth to demonstrate the wide range of filmmaking that the African film industry has to offer. From 21 to 24 November 2019. More details at: https://www.africamultiple.uni-bayreuth.de/en/news/2019/_Cinema-Africa_-celebrates-its-twelfth-edition/index.html

For suggestions and feedbacks: kindly contact us at bigsas.reps@uni-bayreuth.de

Yours
Alice & Dapo