Dear Junior Fellows,

it is always a pleasure to keep you informed about the happenings of the last ca 720 hours. Most of us certainly spent a big share of these hours before their computers and books armed with pens and markers running after inspiration to give their thoughts a form on paper. This is not a Sisyphean task as Brahima Amara Diallo, now alumnus, and many other former Junior Fellows have successfully proved it. By the grace of hard working and time for fun, we will get it done!

November was colourful with some very few events. One of these events was the podium discussion “Afrika-Dialgo” hosted by Iwalewa Haus. It was an ideal occasion to have Dr. Délia Nicoue, former Junior Fellow, among the discussants even though the Nordbayerischer would quote her in a post as the “African” in total disregard of her achievements and doctorate title. Nevertheless, the discussion was fruitful, and we hope the different interventions and confronted points-of-views from the public will impact Germany’s Migration Policy. Let’s leave it here and continue with the up-dates and the reports!

Larissa and Hanza

Junior Fellows meet BIGSAS and the Cluster: the outcomes of the exchange!

After an intense communication flow, the first round of the meeting between the Junior Fellows, BIGSAS and responsible of the Cluster finally took place on Thursday November 22\textsuperscript{nd}, 2018. This important meeting provided the framework to address some of the burning questions related to BIGSAS within the Cluster, and the situation of the current Junior Fellows. Due to the relevance of the meeting, Junior Fellows highly contributed with a long list of enquiries. Some of the core questions dealt with whether Junior Fellows would still be granted the transitional and the finalisation funding after December 2018.
Would BIGSAS still provide three months extension funding (received after submission of the thesis) and would the support for field trips, conferences, printing and publication (of the thesis), socialising and academic events (trainings and workshops) continue? To these interrogations, we are happy to report that YES BIGSAS would. Fortunately! However, the specific case of JFs who have been enrolled in BIGSAS as part of a Sandwich Program could not find any concrete statement.

Furthermore, concerning the future of BISAS, we have been informed that the institution would be part of the structure of the Cluster as a body in charge of training doctoral students. Prof. Dr. Martina Drescher has been elected to lead the management as Vice-Dean. The Cluster itself is configured within six thematic research sections: Mobilities, Arts and Aesthetics, knowledge, moralities, learning and affiliation.

JFs who are finalising their thesis and have an interesting Post-Doc research project that can fit in one of the cluster research sections can approach the PRs in order to discuss the feasibility of their projects within the Cluster.

Given the transitional context that still necessitates a concrete shaping at the formal and content level, Dr. Scherer has raised the importance of holding this kind of meeting between the MB and JFs more regularly. We then expect that this meeting is one among many other that will follow to face together the great work going on and all the questions that cannot be currently covered with concrete answers.

The list of other additional issues raised by JFs is still open and will be sent to BIGSAS for reflection. We found that some of you may not have been able to attend the meeting due to the short timeframe. We are very sorry for that and we will do our best that the dates for the coming meeting could be fixed at least some days in advance so that much JFs as possible can join.
About the Alumni Conference...

The Alumni conference took place in Addis Ababa from 31.12.2018 to 02.11.2018. Even though the welcome ceremony was delayed by the blackout on the campus, the enthusiasm of the participants and the joy of reunion cannot be damped. After many welcome speeches, we had heated discussions in panel sessions which are divided into three main topics:

- Education and knowledge production, fundraising and collaborative research, and gender, academic exchange and entrepreneurship.
- During the plenary session, representatives of all panels reported the content and result of their discussions in front of all participants and everyone was very concerned about the future of BIGSAS and BIGSAS alumni. They voiced the wish of a sustainable Alumni network as well as more connections with junior fellows. The alumni conference is really an excellent chance to connect with BIGSAS alumni and hear our older sisters and brothers talking about what is going on in their lives after graduation.

  Minqing Yuan (JF)

Workshop on Practices of Teamwork

On 16 and 17 November 2018 Diana Mignano, Sebastian Müller, Mai Azzam and Valerie Hänisch held a workshop in the Iwalewahaus on the various practices of teamwork. People rarely work alone. Very often they coordinate their activities with others. A core interest of the workshop lies particularly in how people coordinate their activities in concrete work situations. As such both participants and the organisers were especially interested in the practices in and by which workers establish and sustain a common workflow; how they challenge, urge and spur on one another, while working simultaneously or alternately at a common task; how they exchange tools, materials, and/or information. How do workers relate to each other using words, gestures or any other codes?
To address all the above challenges, a group of 12 junior and senior scholars came together and reflected on teamwork from quite different angles, and from different disciplines. Christian Brandt, a sport scientist, gave an insight on the teamwork besides the football field and Nora Niethammer, a theater scientist, raised the challenge of rehearsals. Some participants discussed teamwork in a restaurant kitchen in Athens, how dancers coordinate their performance and how a group of smiths manage to bend a big piece of iron. Other shared about the cooperation in NGOs and among peasants on the field. The presence of some senior scholars among the participants was an add-value. Trevor Marchand could tell about his experiences of working together with minaret builders in Yemen whereas Kurt Beck gave a fine analysis of a footages of Sudanese truck mechanics at work. Gerd Spittler contributed with some concepts on work and teamwork in mind.

A question which came up oftentimes during the two days, and which was highly debated, concerned why people work together at all.

The organising team expresses its gratitude to Mrs. Wagner for her help and especially the reception of the guests coming from UK and different parts of Germany!

Valerie Hänisch (JF)
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 via bigsas-reps@uni-bayreuth.de