Dear Junior Fellows,

It is now one month that we officially took office to serve and get your voices louder wherever they need to be heard. As part of our commitment, we will continue the job well done by our predecessors. Anna Lena and Sebastian showed us the path to take. And it is our turn to move from the theory to the practice. It will not be easy but with your support we will, for sure, not mess up! Actually, our foremost challenge it to get you through the transitional phase BIGSAS is engaged in. To this end, we will involve all of you and rely on your comments, critics and any form of feedbacks. Your cooperation is the condition *sine qua non* to strengthen our family spirit and achieve whatever the challenge is. We will have meetings to discuss your concerns. We will have parties where we can eat, drink and dance together and leave the Thesis aside, at least for a while. That is all we can promise for the moment!

If you have suggestions, enquiries or information to add or if you would like to report about a certain activity, just send us an e-mail via bigsas-reps@uni-bayreuth.de

If you have cash, keep it, Larissa doesn’t accept 😊
Excellence Cluster “Africa Multiple” Here we are!

It is the highlight of month and undoubtedly the best news to end the year with! Since the end of September, the University of Bayreuth and its renowned researchers in African studies based at BIGSAS, IAS and Bayreuth Academy can proudly enjoy the success of their struggle. All together they have secured the Excellence Cluster “Africa Multiple” for Bayreuth and Bavaria. This achievement stiffens up the assurance that BIGSAS will sustain but what does this mean to us, current Junior Fellows?

Well. Frankly we, your representatives cannot provide any answer to this interrogation as we are also asking the same question. As such only a joint meeting we are facilitating between BIGSAS (Cluster) and Junior Fellows will help shed more light on the current state of affairs and dispel probable uncertainties. We keep you in touch anyways! In the meantime, let’s congratulate all those in BIGSAS and beyond who dedicated their time and energy for such a preeminent triumph as we are all going to share the fruit of their effort, hopefully😊

BIGSAS (re)unite in Addis Ababa...

Addis Ababa University is currently hosting BIGSAS Alumni Conference on the topic The Future of African Studies Scholars in Africa and Abroad. This conference is the first of its kind on the African continent bringing together BIGSAS and all its alumni. The program is rich with several contributions and exchanges on Education and Knowledge Production, Higher Education Fundraising and Collaborative Research and Academic Exchange and Entrepreneurship etc. This conference is an opportunity for networking while cementing the unity in the whole BIGSAS family and for that Addis Ababa appears to be the right place. Just remember 1963 with Addis Ababa hosting the creation of the then Organisation of African Unity. We wish a fruitful conference with a lot of fun…
Events

Past…

*Workshop*: „Consulting Skills for Researchers“, 25-26 October 2018 (see report below)


Ongoing…


Upcoming…


*Call for panels*: Theme: Africa: Connections and Disruptions at University of Edinburgh’s Centre of African Studies 12-14 June 2019). In the meantime, should you have any questions, please contact the conference admin at admin@ecasconference.org. Deadline for a panel proposal: 14 November 2018!

*Podium discussion* AfrikaDialog des Auswärtigen Amts an der Universität Bayreuth. Discussants: MdB Uwe Kekeritz (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen), Robert Dölger, Commissioner in charge of African Affairs at the German Federal Foreign Office, Dr. Delia Nicoué (BIGSAS Alumnus) Migration Expert and Lecturer of NGO related issues, Jun.-Prof. Alexander Stroh (Universität Bayreuth and BIGSAS) Date: 12 November 2018 at Iwalewahaus. Time: 18.00

*African Movie à l’honneur*: Cinema Africa, Cineplex Bayreuth, 18-29 November 2018
Workshop Report

‘Consulting Skills for researchers’

On Thursday 25 and Friday 26 October 2018 nine Junior Fellows participated in the workshop ‘Consulting skills for researchers’ conducted by Anette Hammerschmidt.

Coordinated by Sebastian Müller the event is part of the BIGSAS JF-initiative ‘JFs and entrepreneurship’. In this context it was a direct response to the ‘JFs and Entrepreneurship - Kick off workshop’ that took place in June 2018 organized by BIGSAS Admin-Team and JF-Reps and the workshop ‘Moderation and facilitation skills’ organized by the BIGSAS workgroup GiA.

The trainer Anette Hammerschmidt developed a specific program in response to needs expressed by JFs in the last-mentioned workshop while enabling new-comers to join in. The two days’ workshop covered the following topics: Consultancy-context and the systemic approach, Clarification of roles, Procedure to conduct consultancy (Establishing contacts, Question techniques, Visualisation, Expert- vs. Process consultancy, Finalisation phases) and Contracts.

The workshop included inputs from the trainer, exercises and debriefing sessions in small groups. Special focus was given to Process Consulting. The participating JFs Mai Azzam, Adeyemi Balogun, Khadija Benthami, Hanza Diman, Aklilu Haile, Carolin Herzog, Shillah Memusi, Sebastian Müller and James Wachiara were able to practice on cases they had chosen from their own working experiences in academia and from an aspired career as professional consultant. The workshop proved what the trainer had pointed out, that in a growingly complex world, consulting skills are needed not just in the distinct role as a formal consultant but in various situations and roles.

by Sebastian Müller
ABOUT: BIGSAS JF-initiative “JFs and entrepreneurship”

A number of JFs expressed their interest in starting a career as entrepreneurs, either in addition or instead to an academic career or even linking both with each other. In this context BIGSAS JF initiative focus on:

- JFs who are aspiring to become entrepreneurs themselves
- JFS who like to become resource persons for entrepreneurs in Germany and/or Africa
- JFs who do research on entrepreneurship

BIGSAS JF-initiative “JFs and entrepreneurship” is meant as a platform to link JFs and other stakeholders, feed into discussions about entrepreneurship and organizes events on JFs interests linked to entrepreneurship. In case you want to share information or see a need for an event do not hesitate to contact Sebastian.Mueller@uni-bayreuth.de

Sources:
https://www.uni-bayreuth.de/de/forschung/exzellenzstrategie/africa-multiple/index.html

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