

ABOUT THE NEW JF REPS



Hello everyone, my name is Andreas Wüst, I am from a small mountain village in the south of Munich/Germany. My research is in the field of political sciences with Prof. Dr. Alexander Stroh-Steckelberg. My research topic is: „Rebranding Moroccan Identity –Cultural policies between modernisation and legitimation of power“. In my free time I love travelling and getting to know other cultures. Sportswise, I love running, hiking and all sorts of team sports, including football and basketball. But I also practice squash and martial arts, such as Judo and fencing.



Hey hey! And I am Shaden from Egypt! I am a second-year Media Studies PhD student and my research interests are related to Digital Media, Social Media, Journalism, Communication and Gender. Check out this link <https://bigsas.hypotheses.org/1125> if you are interested to know some information about my research topic. If you would like to know more information about me please do not hesitate to contact me.

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To stay updated with the latest events organized by Junior Fellows or ourselves, please join our Junior Fellow Whatsapp and Facebook group if you haven't already.

Latest news!

1. **The BIGSAS Colloquium** will take place this week Thursday, 19 November 2020 exclusively online via ZOOM. This colloquium offers a good opportunity for Junior Fellows to present their work and receive feedback through interdisciplinary dialogue with peers, PIs and supervisors! Tune in : <https://unibayreuth.zoom.us/j/97574079410?pwd=ZnB0Y3BIMlhsbGdueGFYbEdUZWFsUT09>

2. Reform of the doctoral regulations

In spring 2021 the doctoral regulations of BIGSAS will be changed. The reform takes into consideration major shortcomings of the current version and important issues that were raised with the integration of BIGSAS into the Cluster of Excellence Africa Multiple. The most important changes will include:

- The possibility of cumulative PhD by publishing a certain number of papers in peer reviewed journals (details will be announced by the BIGSAS administration shortly);
- Work groups will no longer be a formal requirement. However, financial support and promotion of work groups will be maintained in order ensure the continuation of this important structure of exchange among Junior Fellows
- The creation of a course programme set up by BIGSAS of which a certain part will become a mandatory element (details are currently being discussed, please feel free to send us topics which you would consider helpful for a larger group of JFs)
- The introduction of the participation in the BIGSAS colloquium as a requirement to obtain the PhD
- The opportunity to hand in a copy of the dissertation to the library in order to speed up the process of receiving the doctor title
- The chance to inspect the comments made by commission members to the dissertations before the defence

All the new rules will be in force only after a transition period where current Junior Fellows can choose between the old and new system. Details concerning this period will be announced shortly by the BIGSAS administration.

Events that have taken place

Restaurant evening at Ganesha!

On Friday, September 25 some of us met at the Indian restaurant Ganesha to enjoy ourselves around good Indian food. It was a great opportunity to bring different generations of BIGSAS together. Khadija Benthami, who will finish her thesis very soon. Shaden Kamel, Andreas Wüst and Dandara Schellenberg who are in the middle of their work and Carsten Möller who has taken up his work only this year. Discussions kept on long after our reservation at Ganesha had expired, so we changed to a little bar where we could continue talking until late in the evening.



Guided Tour through margravian Bayreuth

On the 18th of October our Junior Fellow Andreas Wüst organised a guided tour through the margravian Bayreuth. Starting with the old castle of Bayreuth, he took our colleagues Shaden Kamel and Ibrahim Bachir as well as a friend to the city church where we visited the crypt of the old margraves of Bayreuth and their relatives. After that Andreas took us to the new castle in the very heart of the city center where he explained to us the historical particularities of Bayreuth under Wilhelmine and her husband Frederic who, in the 18th century, made the city a point of attraction for artists from all over Europe. After our visit to the castle we had the opportunity to admire the unique architecture of the Margravian Opera House which is part of the UNESCO World Heritage. Tea and cake in a local café then gave us the chance to exchange on our projects and future plans.

Hiking trip to Ochsenkopf

Our hiking trip to Ochsenkopf on the 25th of October allowed us to discover the sources of both, the river Main which flows through the city of Bayreuth, and some parts of germanic mythology which have their origin here. Together with Oldapo Ajayi, Valerie Gruber, Dikko Muhammad, Andreas Wüst and some friends we enjoyed one of the last days in autumn with fantastic weather and Bavarian sky in blue and white. Starting in the morning by train from Bayreuth we drove through the upper-franconian countryside until we reached the Fichtelsee, an idyllic lake in the mountains, from where we set off to the Ochsenkopf, one of the highest spots in the regions. When we reached the summit around lunch time, we were welcomed by a fantastic view over the valleys and nature around Bayreuth. After our descent to the little skiing village of Bischofsgrün we had a picnic before recharging our batteries with a good meal in a traditional fraconian restaurant. Coming back to Bayreuth only in the evening we told ourselves to repeat this experience again very soon!



Our colleague Dandara Maia has organised an art exhibition which is going to be accessible in Iwalewa House after the lockdown and already open for visits online:

WAXATLAS. Mapping African Prints (Watch: <https://fb.watch/1Bf2fSAOD3/>)

Colourful and exuberant, wax prints are loved in West Africa and all over the continent. They have for long attracted attention outside the continent as well. Compiling over a hundred years of history, these prints are an iconological collection and archive, at the same time a communication media, an agent of feelings and emotions. The exhibition seeks to unfold the coexisting images which survive within wax. WAXATLAS exhibition is inspired by the work of Aby Warburg and his Bildatlas Mnemosyne. As in the German art historian's work, the WAXATLAS combines pictures related to the cultural history of the fabric in panels. They depict how the interplay of Javanese batiks, African textiles, and European art transformed wax prints designs. These visual elements and themes have traveled through time and reappear in classical and new patterns produced until today. WAXATLAS invites you to trace the diverse routes and stories that are written into these textiles.



Curation: Dandara Maia

Some Junior Fellows have recently joined the team!

Perseverance Madhuku from Zimbabwe. Field of Study: African History. Research Interests: Colonial History (mainly British), Medicine and health in Southern Africa, International and Global health programs since 1900. PhD Topic: Combating Diseases in Frontier Zones: Measles Outbreaks and Vaccination Campaigns in South Eastern Zimbabwe 1900-2010 (provisional title)



Hamissou Rhissa Achaffert from Niger is a Junior Fellow in the Africa Multiple, Cluster of Excellence since January 2020. He is member of the research section moralities. He was admitted in as Junior Fellow at BIGSAS on May 2020. He is part of the team of the Project Religious engineering. The making of moralities, development and religion in Niger. PhD project: Thinking and Doing Development in Niger: the role of local Islamic Associations. Field of Study: Study of Religion. Research Interest: Study of Religion, Social transformation, Cognitive Justice, Open Science, Slavery, Radicalisation, Health and Education in Niger.



Ibrahim Bachir Abdoulaye from Niger was admitted to the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS) in April 2020. He is working on Turkish charitable organizations, focusing their activities in Niger. Ibrahim Bachir holds a Master's and a Bachelor's degree in International Relations in Turkey. His research area are Turkish foreign policy towards Africa and Turkey-Africa relations. His hobbies are reading, traveling and classical music.



Godelive Batano. "My name is Godelive Batano from DRC. My field of interest is on development economics and I will be working on child labour in artisanal mining, case of Southern DRC. Away from my studies I like going to movies, jogging and visiting new places. I have a keen interest in development issues specifically in developing countries. I am looking forward to meeting other junior fellows in Bayreuth."

Some Junior Fellows have left us ☹️

We wish our former Junior Fellows all the best for their future life and professional career!!! Let's stay in touch!!!

News from "The BIGSAS World" Blog

Oldapado Ajayi (Dapo) and Mingqing Yuan (Alice) said goodbye to their two terms of being Junior Fellow representatives. Read their whole farewell letter on <https://bigsas.hypotheses.org/1134>

BIGSAS Junior Fellows, aren't we all one? *Preview*

"Being BIGSAS Junior Fellow representatives is an experience that was worthwhile for us. We felt honored of being elected as the Reps while at the same realised the weight of responsibility and promise in front of us when stepping into the position. Our first meeting with Hanza and Larissa (the former reps) was helpful. They provided tips and insights on the workings of BIGSAS which fired us up with confidence and smoothed the path ahead of us..."

With all sincerity, the moment where we changed the email signature to Alice and Dapo announced the change, and yes, composing the first email was not that easy.

We still remember the nervousness and long-hour discussion before sending out our first email..."

International Day of Democracy (Article available in German and French)



SPECIAL DAY 15/09/2020

Demokratie und was uns der Arabische Frühling darüber zu sagen hat

(Pour une traduction française, veuillez faire défiler la page vers le bas). Die Vereinten Nationen haben 2007 den 15. September zum Internationalen Tag der Demokratie erklärt. Andreas Wüst nimmt uns mit auf eine Reise...

Andreas took us to Tunisia in his contribution to the blog and describes the role democracy can play in a country that has been part of the Arab Spring. His descriptions and observations show the importance of taking a critical look at a democratic transformation from a variety of perspectives. Read more on <https://bigsas.hypotheses.org/1148>.

Connecting Latin America and Africa – in conversation with Valerie Gruber

Valerie Gruber is a new Junior Fellow who joined BIGSAS in February 2020. Her research focuses on issues of re-existence and the importance of art for social transformation. In her interview (available on <https://bigsas.hypotheses.org/1218>) she emphasizes the importance of her participatory approach, working with local communities in Brazil and Columbia: “the doctorate is an ideal opportunity to do exactly this – knowledge co-production is combined with a socially responsible and artistic project”

International Day of Bread

It is a common idea that German people love bread. Junior Fellow Joh Sarre can confirm this stereotype, “just recently a friend asked me what I miss most about Germany when I’m in a non-European country. After a short thought, my answer was actually: bread – probably the most clichéd answer among German expats. My absolute favourite bread is my home-baked whole grain bread – thanks to a simple recipe for success it even takes less time to prepare than cycling to the bakery”.

Food is better when it’s shared - so here is the recipe from Joh:

500 gr wholemeal spelt flour

150 gr seeds (sunflowers, linseed, pumpkin, chia, chopped nuts...mixed to taste)

1/2 l water

2 tsp dry yeast

2 tsp salt

2 tablespoons fruit vinegar (e.g. apple vinegar)

Mix the dry ingredients in a bowl, mix the liquid ingredients in the measuring cup, then tilt together and knead into a viscous dough using dough hooks. Pour into a box form (30x15cm), place in a cold (!) oven, set to 200°C top/bottom heat. 1h later the bread should be ready, i.e. it should sound hollow when you tap on the bottom. Unfortunately, only works really well in an electric oven, gas ovens get too hot too quickly.

Veronica Buchumi also shares her Chapati recipe, find out more here: <https://bigsas.hypotheses.org/1234>

BIGSAS Alumni - one award after the other! Congrats to Gemechu Abeshu, who receives the “Preis der Stadt Bayreuth” Read about his time in Bayreuth as well as his new projects here: <https://bigsas.hypotheses.org/1255>. We congratulate Gemechu Adimassu Abeshu on receiving this award and wish him and his family all the best for the future!

By the way: Alumnae Sabrina Maurus is also awarded with the same price. Congrats!

If you wish to participate in the editorial team of the blog or want to publish a piece of your work, don’t hesitate to contact Dina Falten, project assistant at BIGSAS. You can reach her via email: dina.falten@uni-bayreuth.de

