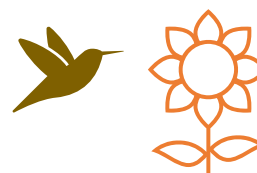




# BIGSAS Junior Fellow Representatives' Summer 2022 Newsletter



Dear all,

To draft this newsletter was a real challenge. So much happened since we, Usman Ahmad and Monika Rohmer, took office in April 2022. After two years heavily impacted by the Covid19 pandemic we were finally allowed to gather again. And so we did (see: Getting together)! Next to events organised by the Representatives, numerous lectures and seminars were organized by Junior Fellows – too many to list them here!

However, writing this newsletter reminded us as well of the loss of our dear colleague Richard Ugochukwu Anyah. His inquisitive, kind, humorous character will be duly missed.

We are grateful for the BIGSAS community in delightful and sorrowful times. We did our best to revive the community spirit this semester and hope that our work will be continued by our predecessors.

Yours,

Monika & Usman

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## Mourning our dear colleague Richard Ugochukwu Anyah

Our dear colleague Richard Ugochukwu Anyah, PhD candidate within the Africa Multiple Excellence Cluster, University of Bayreuth, and the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies, BIGSAS, unexpectedly passed away at 30 years of age. Like so many friends and colleagues during this time, we were devastated.



Richard Ugochukwu Anyah was meant to present initial findings from his research project in the area of Liberian heritage studies to an audience at the VAD 2022. His inquisitive, kind, humorous character will be duly missed. Our thoughts are with the family.

On 20<sup>th</sup> of June a memorial service was held in presence at Iwalewahaus with the possibility for family and friends to join online. Thanks to all the Junior Fellows contributing to the evening and allowing us to mourn together.

## Thanks to the BIGSAS team

We want to thank all BIGSAS staff for their continuous efforts. First, thanks to Ms Wagner and Ms Volk who patiently explain the formalities to us Junior Fellows and all other questions with which they are addressed. Second, Michelle Heese always had an open ear for the Junior Fellows' concerns. Thank you for your openness and patience! Finally, we closely cooperated with our BIGSAS dean, Prof. Andrea Behrends. While as Reps we meet over lunch with her twice, all Junior Fellows were able to directly address the dean during regular online meetings. We hope that this fruitful exchange will continue.



## Getting together

Finally, this summer we were able to meet again physically. We enjoyed seeing each other in person during our newly established Monday Working Days, while getting to know Bayreuth better and in visiting Regensburg.

### Monday Working Days

We established a Working Day on Mondays. One could feel the concentrated attitude every Monday in the room while the lunch breaks were marked by laughter. Join us next term at GSP, S17!



Honorary Doctorate Fatou Sow

On 18 May the University of Bayreuth festively presented Dr. Fatou Sow with the BIGSAS Honorary Doctorate. With this award, the Senegalese sociologist Dr. Fatou Sow – based at the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) in Paris – is recognised for her unwavering commitment to the cause of women and her outstanding scholarly achievements in feminist topics on the African continent. Sow is a veritable pioneer of gender studies and African feminism, who has worked at the forefront of women’s rights in West Africa and beyond for more than half a century. Two Junior Fellow Representatives, Ngozi Edeagu and Monika Rohmer, enriched the evening with their humorous moderation. Nevertheless, some of our colleagues were a bit disappointed by the not-so-decolonized menu....



Guided Tour ÖBG

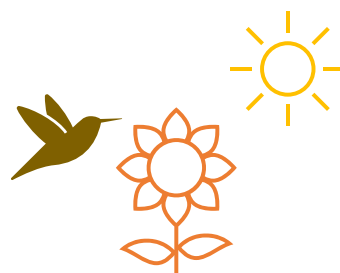
On their first strategic meeting as Reps, Monika showed Usman the botanical garden.... And they both decided to share this wonderful place with all their colleagues. Finally, On 12 May we were guided eloquently through the botanical garden of the university. While some recognized plants of their home-countries, others were amazed by this small paradise so close to their office.



Guided Tour Wagner Museum



On 17 June we visited Richard-Wagner-Museum and learned more about this prominent figure of Bayreuth. For all of us, a lot of new information was presented. While some were impressed by the number of books displayed, others wondered how Richard Wagner could have fit on his tiny couch...



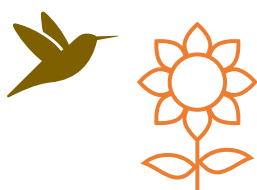
### Trip to Regensburg

On 16 July, a couple of Junior Fellows decided to make the most of the 9-Euro-Ticket and visited Regensburg. We visited Regensburger Dom, Steinerne Brücke, ... and to the left you see a picture of Walhalla. Besides impressive architecture, we enjoyed a life-performance on a slack line and laughed a lot during our lunch break. Only the way back was unnecessarily extended by Deutsche Bahn...



### New Hang-Out Room

As we use the facilities at GSP more frequently, the idea to turn the Dean's office into a Junior Fellow hang-out space was met with great joy. Thanks to Andrea Behrends, it features a comfortable couch for coffee breaks and power naps. We are looking forward to the opening party in October!



## Congratulations for Defences

**Mingqing Juan** defended his dissertation with the title “Literalizing Kenya\*China: From the “Third World” to the Global South” on April 27<sup>th</sup>.



**Ghadafi Saibu** defended his dissertation with the title “Political Parties, Violent Youth and Electoral Insecurity” on May 16<sup>th</sup>.



**Emiliano Minerba** defended his dissertation with the title “Historical-comparative analysis of the Swahili and Wolof metrical systems” on May 20<sup>th</sup>.



**Dikko Muhammad** defended his dissertation with the title “Dispersal of Discourses in the Poetry by Women in Northern Nigeria” on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Jocelyne Kenne Kenne** defended her dissertation with the title “Language and Interaction in the Chinese Community in Cameroon: a Sociolinguistic Profile” on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Our congratulations and all the best for your future careers!

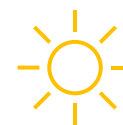




## Welcome to our new Junior Fellows

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Since January 2021, the following Junior Fellows joined BIGSAS (in order of acceptance to BIGSAS).



1. **Hannah Svea SCHILD**; Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Erdmute Alber; Dissertation topic: The Work of Bringing up Children. Parental Practices in Times of Uncertainty in East Africa
2. **(Richard Ugochukwu ANYAH**; Supervisor: Dr Cassandra Mark-Thiesen; Dissertation topic: Broadcasting History in Liberia: Narratives of the Past and Present)
3. **Isaac Abotebuno AKOLGO**; Supervisor: Dr. habil. Kai Koddenbrock; Dissertation topic: The Political Economy of Money and Finance in Post-Colonial Ghana
4. **Samah Abd El Rahman Mohammed Khalaf ALLAH**; Supervisor: Dr. Serawit Debele; Dissertation topic: Towards a history of Queer/Feminist "movement" in Sudan
5. **Jihad ALFAKIR**; Supervisor: Dr. Serawit B. Debele; Dissertation topic: Queer and intersectional activism in Tunisia: the Mawjoudin Queer Film Festival
6. **Carla Maria COBURGER**; Supervisor: Dr. Kai Koddenbrock; Dissertation topic: Financial Subordination and Economic Complexity
7. **Saïkou Oumar SAGNANE**; Supervisor: Dr Joschka Phillips; Dissertation topic: Unexpected regime change and military transition in the Republic of Guinea. Information flow, uncertainty and ambiguity
8. **Robin FRISCH**; Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Joël Glasman; Dissertation topic: The Social History of the Franc CFA. Monetary Transitions in Togo and Cameroun from the Mandate Period to Independence (1918-1960)
9. **Danielle Audrey ISLER**; Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Katharina Schramm; Dissertation topic: Black People and Whiteness in Cape Town, South Africa: Constructions, In/Compatibilities and Reactions to Exclusions
10. **Kingsley Celestine JIMA**; Supervisor: Dr. Joschka Philipps; Politics of the Unknown Gunmen- Television Reporting on Banditry in North-west Nigeria
11. **Luisa SCHNEIDER**; Supervisor: Dr Cassandra Mark-Thiesen; Dissertation topic: Histories and memories of Transatlantic Returning
12. **Momo Marie Nadege TSOGO**; Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ute Fendler; Dissertation topic: Le cinema allemand au Cameroun de l'entre-deux guerres. Analyse d'un revisionnisme colonial en images.
13. **Gift Gawanani MAULUKA**; Supervisor: Prof. Dr Thokozani Kaime; Dissertation topic: State obligations in addressing climate change-induced child labour: an investigation of child labour legal frameworks enforcement in Malawi and Ghana
14. **Augustine GYAN**; Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Andrea Behrends; Dissertation topic: Digital Activism, 'Hidden Transcripts', and Socio-cultural Transformation in Gold Mining Communities in Ghana



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15. **Lucilla LEPRATTI**; Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Andrea Behrends; Dissertation topic: Anti-trafficking as antimafia: campaigns against sex-trafficking in contemporary Palermo

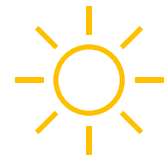


16. **Leah GERFELMEYER**; Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Christine Hanke; Dissertation topic: Die colonial commodities Kakao/Schokolade. Eine Auseinandersetzung mit den entanglements zwischen den medialen Dispositiven der Materialien Kakao/Schokolade und der deutschen kolonialen Vergangenheit in Westafrika

17. **Nihal Ouazzani CHAHDI**; Supervisor: Dr. Britta Frede; Dissertation topic: Trances in Translation: Towards an Ethical Turn in Translating Alterity in the Moroccan Sufi Ritual al- ḍāḍra

18. **Deborah Nwadiuto DIKE**; Supervisor: Dr Cassandra Mark-Thiesen; Dissertation topic: A Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) of Twitter Memes used in Discourses around Nigeria's Elections and Sociopolitics from 2015

19. **Asma Ben Hadj HASSEN**; Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Andrea Behrends; Dissertation topic: An ethnography of migrant sub-Saharan domestic work in Tunisia



We warmly welcome all of you to BIGSAS and wish you all the best for your dissertations and the coming years



## About the Reps





**Monika Rohmer** is Research Associate at the Department of African Languages and Literatures of the University of Bayreuth. In her dissertation, she explores conceptualisations of WATER on the Senegalese coast from an ecolinguistic perspective. She loves to show Bayreuth and its surroundings to everyone interested. Her favourite summer activities is cycling to *Badesee Trebgast*, always alongside her three-year-old son.



**Usman Ahmad** is a lecturer in the Department of English and French, Umaru Musa Yar'adua University (UMYU), Katsina. He was a Visiting Scholar at Indiana University in the United States of America between 2014 and 2015 where he attended a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistance (FLTA) Program. As a BIGSAS Junior Fellow, he currently works on English-Hausa translation of Legal Documents. His areas of research interests are Translation Studies, Semantics, Sociolinguistics, English and African Linguistics.

### What do YOUR Representatives do?

- ✓ Read all applications and participate in the interviews for JFs admission to ensure a fair procedure 
- ✓ Receive requests & complaints from JFs and follow them up in close communication with BIGSAS management and administration
- ✓ Keep the mailing list up to date to circulate information and requests, but also to get feedback from JFs concerning BIGSAS activities 
- ✓ Help coordinate JF activities as well as BIGSAS participation
- ✓ ... (there's always room for your ideas)

We are looking for representatives for the next semester, starting in October 2022.

We are looking forward to your application!



### Contact

You can reach the Junior Fellow Representatives via the email address [bigsas-reps@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:bigsas-reps@uni-bayreuth.de)

To stay up-to-date we further recommend joining our WhatsApp group.