

Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies

BIGSAS Colloquium in the Knowledge Lab of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence

**Thursday, 12th of May 2022, 4–6 pm / presented in S58 (RWI) &
online via Zoom**

03:50 pm	Opening of the virtual conference room
04:00 – 04:05 pm	Opening address by the Dean of BIGSAS, Prof. Dr Andrea Behrends
04:05 – 04:40 pm	Ange Dorine Irakoze <i>The role of law in achieving sustainable development: a study of Burundi mining laws</i> Introduced by Prof. Dr Thoko Kaime Discussant: Isaac Abotebuno Akolgo
04:45 – 05:20 pm	Carsten Möller <i>Moving towards power? - Mobilities within Political Mobilization in Uganda Kenya and Eastern DRC</i> Introduced by Prof. Dr Martin Doevenspeck Discussant: Prof. Dr Alexander Stroh-Steckelberg
05:25 – 06:00 pm	Saïkou Oumar Sagnane <i>Unexpected regime change and military transition in the Republic of Guinea. Information flow, uncertainty an ambiguity</i> Introduced by Dr Joschka Philipps Discussant: Prof. Dr Babacar Mbaye Diop

Participation in Person:

The Colloquium will take place in the Seminar Room S58 (RW I Building) on the campus. Please note that on the premisses of the University of Bayreuth there is no longer any "Covid-19 access restriction" in place.

Participation via Zoom:

<https://uni-bayreuth.zoom.us/j/68396130569?pwd=K250OG9IS3F3OXVrdUFBL2UzUjFSZz09>

Meeting ID: 683 9613 0569 / Passcode: 897688

Ange Dorine Irakoze - The role of law in achieving sustainable development: a study of Burundi mining laws

(this presentation will be held in english)

The Republic of Burundi is endowed with mining resources and tried to grasp on it to boost the national economy. The National Development Vision (2018-2027) provide that the investment in mining sector must contribute significantly to the growth of the economy development and achieve an annual contribution average rate of 47.0%. Similarly, according to the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) adopted by the country in 2009, the mining policy and legal framework is designed to provide tax incentives to private investment for domestic mobilization of tax revenue. To ensure that mining sector plays its role in the country's economy, important legal reforms have been made. These include the enactment of a mining law in 2013, the establishment of National Mining Policy in 2014, the government's decision to complete its application in Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in January 2015 and the promulgation of a mining regulation in June 2015.

Although the mining agreements concluded between the country and the multinational company request companies to pay taxes and royalties, they also indicate that in cases where more favorable fiscal regime is available, the multinational company may consider it and adopt it entirety. This provision is not clear to which tax regime it refers to, since the mining agreement is already signed in compliance with the existing royalties' regime. This leaves a room for uncertainty and facilitate mining companies to proceed with tax regime forum shopping. Indeed, the mining agreement yield a way out of manipulation of national tax and royalties' framework to obtain advantages not initially designated by State when it was adopted and concluded. It is this flexibility that trigger erosion of revenues that should contribute to economic growth, by considering complaisance royalties regime. Also, this sets the basis of base erosion by multinational companies by reporting underestimated mining quantities and underestimated exporting pricing.

In addition, these tax breaks in mining fiscal regime amount in tax subsidies that are driving down the country revenues that could finance the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. They are detrimental to Burundi and may not be efficient legal instruments to enable mobilization of domestic resources for development.

One overlooked aspect is how normative and regulatory tax regime contribute to the harnessing of mining resource for sustainable development of Burundi. Similarly, how can such regime be improved to guarantee that it portray its role of attracting investment and managing utilization of mining resources for economic growth. In addition to that, an assessment on how and under what enforcement mechanisms mining projects can contribute to the promotion of country sustainable development is compelling.

Carsten Möller - Moving towards power? - Mobilities within Political Mobilization in Uganda Kenya and Eastern DRC

(this presentation will be held in english)

In a world that is moving at an increasing pace, mobility has become more important than ever. Election campaigns with their large-scale political mobilization exercises are no exception to this. As the term political mobilization already suggests, making individuals and objects mobile for political purposes is a key feature for obtaining power within electoral systems. Currently however, there is only limited knowledge on how the access to mobility affects political mobilization.

My research project investigates the relationship of mobility, political mobilization and power in Uganda, Kenya and Eastern DRC. It attempts to analyse how the ability to move influences the way political mobilization is practiced and how this affects power structures within these countries.

The research focusses on the role of motorcycle taxi riders, called Boda-Boda or Moto, who play a key role in the transport systems of all three countries. They however also take part in various political activities on different political levels. Motorcycle taxi riders are able to provide rally participation, transport services, information, advertisement and even a violent crowd to politicians who are willing to repay them with financial means and political patronage. In this, it is their mobility and availability that makes them more effective than alternative mobilized groups such as youth, women or market vendors. Recruiting motorcycle taxi drivers can thus become a crucial advantage during elections. As a result of this cooperation, politicians are more likely to win elections and experience an increase in power if they mobilize this highly mobile group. Likewise, the position of motorcycle taxi drivers in the transport sector is strengthened through the additional income and political protection from taxation and police persecution. This is particularly important as they are often criticised for their reckless driving and involvement in organized crime and thus partially excluded from certain areas, e.g. central Nairobi or Airports. Identifying how mobility affects political mobilization will therefore help to improve the knowledge on how campaign strategies, election outcomes and transport patterns affect each other and cast a light on this under-researched but effectual relationship.

Saïkou Oumar Sagnane - Unexpected regime change and military transition in the Republic of Guinea. Information flow, uncertainty and ambiguity

(this presentation will be held in english)

This thesis project is part of the debate on the reconfiguration of African studies. To contribute to this reflection, this research project analyzes exceptional and unexpected situations in which clear explanations and answers to pressing questions are not easily available. As a case study, it takes the seizure of power by the military in the Republic of Guinea. This incident, as well as of a political transition, are illustrative of these unpredictable situations. The empirical objective of this work will be to study the way in which information circulates in the current context of uncertainty in the Republic of Guinea on the one hand, and to analyse the interactions between the information circuits, the uncertainties around the phenomenon, the ambiguities of the actors and the power relations. The aim is also to conduct a methodological and theoretical reflection on the role of the researcher in the production and circulation of information. To contribute to a reconfiguration of African studies, this reflection questions and compares different systems of thought and communication (scientific and non-scientific) on their capacity to produce certainties in the face of unexpected events.

The approach is based on the development of an analytical framework based on the circulation of information to understand social phenomena (exceptional and unexpected). It combines historical, ethnographic and qualitative sociological methods to :

- understand the circulation and the multiple paths of information as well as its moments of attenuation, transformation, deviation or disappearance ;
- highlight the uncertainties, ambiguities and power relations that take shape through the circulation of information.

In the end, this work provides a reflection on the role of the social sciences in the production of knowledge in so-called "African studies".