

**Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies**

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

**Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2021, 4–7pm / presented online via Zoom**

<b>03:45 pm</b>	<b>Opening of the virtual conference room</b>
<b>04:00 – 04:10 pm</b>	<b>Opening address</b> by the <b>Deputy Head of BIGSAS, Prof. Dr. Martin Doevenspeck</b>
<b>04:10 – 04:45 pm</b>	<b>Albert Irambeshya</b> <i>The use of Social Media in Enacting Emotional Care to Elderly People During Covid-19 Pandemic in Rwanda.</i>  Introduced by Prof. Dr. Erdmute Alber  Discussant: Dr. Tabea Häberlein
<b>04:50 – 05:25 pm</b>	<b>Isaac Osei-Tutu</b> <i>Entrepreneurship and Prosperity Gospel. A Business and Corporate Ethical Perspective on the Economy of Neo-Pentecostal/Charismatic Megachurches in Ghana.</i>  Introduced by Prof. Dr. Eva Spies  Discussant: Valerie Gruber
<b>05:35 – 06:10 pm</b>	<b>Leiyo Singo</b> <i>"Re-appropriation of Bio-economy" to visiblize pastoralists futures in Tanzania.</i>  Introduced by Prof. Dr. Stefan Ouma  Discussant: Dr. Jevgeniy Bluwstein
<b>06:15 – 06:50 pm</b>	<b>John Ebotui Yajalin</b> <i>Internal Migration and Political Participation: The Experiences of Migrant Slum Dwellers in Urban Ghana.</i>  Introduced by Prof. Dr. Beate Lohnert  Disscussant: Prof. Dr. Stefan Ouma

Access via Zoom:

<https://uni-bayreuth.zoom.us/j/68635929226?pwd=SWRTc3VPSEdvSWN5RGxLcXp5S29LQT09>

Meeting ID: 686 3592 9226 / Passcode: 120499

**Albert Irambeshya – *The use of Social Media in Enacting Emotional Care to Elderly People During Covid- 19 Pandemic in Rwanda.***

Social media has emerged as an important tool for enhancing interactions between people from different places. During the Covid-19 related lockdown in Rwanda, social media served as an effective tool to enact emotional care to elderly people living in rural areas. Despite the emergence of different social media platforms in Rwanda, the usage of these social media by elderly people in their daily interactions is still less visible, since the popular discourse in Rwanda associates the usage of social media platforms with youth. This paper transcends this popular consideration and explores the relevance of social media in the daily life of elderly people. Drawing on the narratives of both care providers and care receivers, the paper depicts the usefulness of social media in strengthening social ties and ensuring closeness between adult children and their elderly parents despite the geographical distance between them. The use of social media facilitated the provision of emotional care to elderly people through the exchange of text, image, and voice messages between the elderly and their children.

---

**Isaac Osei-Tutu - *Entrepreneurship and Prosperity Gospel. A Business and Corporate Ethical Perspective on the Economy of Neo- Pentecostal/ Charismatic Megachurches in Ghana.***

Neo-Pentecostal/Charismatic (nPC) churches are booming in Ghana. They are enterprises, which run other non-profit and profit-oriented enterprises. In their economy, they court followers, mobilize funds, spread positivity, promote 'goodness' of life and offer humanitarian assistance, all based on faith and driven by their economic message, the prosperity gospel. NPC churches compete among themselves, quest for success and promise holistic wellbeing. Yet, in such a religious-economic field where religious freedom and non-interference from State thrive, where needs, faith, money, success-ology and competition mingle, the arbitrator is ETHICS, for situations become complexly delicate, honesty is put to the test, and there emerge critics and critiques. My research, which is multi-disciplinary in Religion, Theology and Economics, attends to the ethical complexities in the message, economic activities, and entrepreneurial operations of three famous Ghanaian nPC megachurches, their enterprises and leaders. Some of these actors often fall into public and scholarly debates over controversies. Combining empirical and normative research methodological approaches, this qualitative project aims at exploring the business ethics inherent in and produced through the everyday economic activities of nPC actors, so as to theorize about the existence of particular 'nPC business ethics'. With this work, I hope to educate society on the ethical ramifications of nPC economy and offer scholars an interdisciplinary conceptual framework to better understand nPC actors.

---

**Leiyo Singo - "Re-appropriation of Bio-economy" to visibilize pastoralists futures in Tanzania.**

Pastoralists have been marginalized in Tanzania for decades. Current development policies especially agro-modernization policies alongside land-use planning and biodiversity conservation reinforces such marginalization of pastoralists through widespread alienation. These policies align with visions from the global North such as Bioeconomy whose dominant interpretations are in line with Green Growth. However, the notion of Bioeconomy as it was originally coined by Georgescu-Roegen supports ideas/policies from the Degrowth discourse, which contradicts Green Growth policies. Degrowth visions correspond to visions/goals from decolonial studies and therefore this discourse has the potential to acknowledge pastoralists' ways of life. Thus, in this paper I argue for re-appropriation of the notion of Bioeconomy in terms of Degrowth in order to visibilize pastoralists' futures.

---

**John Ebotui Yajalin – International Migration and Political Participation: The Experiences of Migrant Slum Dweller in Urban Ghana.**

Internal migration, mainly rural to urban areas, is one of the defining characteristics of countries in the global south today. In Ghana, hundreds of rural dwellers from the northern part of the country migrate daily to Accra and Kumasi, the two most urbanized areas. Most of these migrants, due to poverty, find shelter only in slums. Two of such settlements are Agboghloshie and Moshie Zongo, where residents live under precarious conditions characterized by squalor and extreme deprivation. Residents have to negotiate with city authorities against evictions and for basic amenities. The slum condition has created an avenue for political entrepreneurs who exploit the situation by pledging to provide basic amenities in return for votes and electoral support. While a considerable corpus of empirical studies abounds on internal migration in Ghana, there is yet to be a critical examination of how such mobilities influence migrants' engagement in political participation defined in terms of how migrants organize and negotiate with local and national authorities against evictions and for basic amenities. Besides, how relocation from rural communities into urban slums informs migrants engagement in both conventional and non-conventional politics remains critical gaps unaccounted for in the literature. This study illuminates these black boxes by exploring how relocations from rural areas in northern Ghana to urban slums in the south temporarily or permanently affect actors' engagement in conventional and non-conventional politics. The study is guided by the following major questions: 1. What are the current dynamics of north-south migration in Ghana? 2. To what extent does relocation from rural communities in northern Ghana to urban slums in the south influence migrants' engagement in local and national politics? 3. How do migrants in urban slums initiate, organize, and demand basic amenities from local and national authorities. Using a mixed-method research design involving qualitative and quantitative approaches, the study found that females now dominate the north-south migration stream in Ghana, with economic factors accounting for most relocations. Despite living in very precarious conditions, most migrants expressed high satisfaction for embarking on the move and that their expectations were met. Regarding the impact of relocations on political participation,

the study observed that migration had no significant effect on actors' engagement in conventional politics (voting, campaigning, and engaging in partisan politics). However, evidence suggests that relocation from rural communities into urban slums influences actors' engagement in non-conventional politics (such as protest and demonstrations, contacting politicians, and associational activities aimed at solving communal problems). Again, the study found that migrants were organized and congregated along ethnic lines, and leadership was along these lines. Additionally, the survey found that the actions of migrants posed a severe challenge to urban governance as migrants use both legal and illegal means in securing basic amenities in their communities.

---