



Swahili Colloquium
Bayreuth



UNIVERSITÄT
BAYREUTH

27th SWAHILI COLLOQUIUM

Bayreuth, 8 June to 11 June 2014

15 January 2014

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to cordially invite you to the 27th Swahili-Colloquium in Bayreuth: *karibuni sana*.

The Swahili Colloquium

The Swahili Colloquium has become a well-established forum in Bayreuth. Every year, we invite to this unique colloquium scholars and researchers from different disciplines, who work on various aspects of the language and the respective culture(s). The multidisciplinary approach and the wide range of contributions from linguistics, literary studies to anthropology and history particularly account for the appeal of the colloquium. We are always looking forward to welcoming you all - including new participants - at the Swahili Colloquium.

This year's structure of the colloquium

This year, the schedule is slightly different from the past years.

Firstly, this year the Swahili Colloquium will not start on Ascension Day as it has been our tradition. It has been **shifted to June** to create synergies with two other important conferences held in Bayreuth in that week: The 21st "Afrikanistentag", which will take place on 10th and 11th June, and the conference of the African Studies Association in Germany (VAD) from 11th to 14th June.

Secondly, a symposium "**New Dynamics in Swahili Studies**" is planned to take place as part of this year's Swahili Colloquium. The symposium with a number of invited guests will be organised in cooperation with the University of Leipzig and the "Swahili Forum" team to celebrate 20 years of the online journal Swahili Forum. Aim of the symposium is to discuss the historical development, the present coordinates of Swahili scholarship as well as future perspectives and directions.

This year's thematic focus

The 27th Swahili Colloquium will have a special thematic focus on “**Swahili and New Media and Technologies**”. Echoing a thematic pillar of this year's “Afrikanistentag”, the Swahili Colloquium in this year invites presentation dealing with the implications of new media as well as new technologies in relation to Swahili language. New spaces of expression have come into place where particularly African languages, like Swahili, have found fertile ground to flourish. Differently from the hitherto expensive and rather centralised forms of publishing, which were only accessible to a few, they offer new and often more democratic spaces for the use of Swahili, its teaching as well as its literary expression. Though social media, like Facebook and Twitter, sites, like Youtube, but also blogs and chat rooms as well as new technologies like the mobile phone and its latest hybrid outcomes are very popular in Eastern Africa, their impact on language use as well as its social context have hardly been considered in African studies.

Although we would like to suggest “Swahili and New Media and Technologies” as a common point of discussion, nevertheless, papers dealing with other topics will of course also be considered.

Registration

We would like to ask you to give your paper either in Swahili or English. If your presentation is going to be in Swahili, we kindly ask you for an English summary of approximately one page. Each contribution will be granted 30 minutes (including ten minutes of discussion). Please register via email (to swahili@uni-bayreuth.de) until **31 March 2014**. Please also register if you merely intend to participate (without giving a paper) and/or if you like to participate in the planned symposium “New Dynamics in Swahili Studies”.

Location/time

The location of this year's conference still needs to be confirmed. You will get more information in the next newsletter. The Swahili Colloquium is going to start on Sunday, 8 June, at 9 a.m.

Accommodation

On the website, you will also find a list of hotels and guest houses to make your search for accommodation easier. The guesthouse “Gasthaus zum Edlen Hirschen/Pension Elfert” (Richard-Wagner-Str. 77; 95444 Bayreuth, phone: +49-(0)921/764430, fax +49-(0)921/7644328) also grants a special reduction of 10% to the guests of Bayreuth University.

Some of our students are also willing to host students from other universities. Students who are interested in private accommodation, should send us an email. Furthermore, students who are under the age of 25 also have the possibility to stay at the Bayreuth Youth Hostel (“<http://www.jugendherberge.de/jh/bayern/bayreuth/>, Universitätsstr. 28, phone: +49-921-764380).

Very soon, you will also be able to access this letter as well as the program and other information via the following website:

http://www.afrikanistik.uni-bayreuth.de/de/colloq/swahili_colloq/index.html

At the end of April, we will send a second letter (including the preliminary program).

If you have any questions, please, do not hesitate to contact us. You can reach us via the following email address: swahili@uni-bayreuth.de

We are looking forward to welcoming you at the 27th Swahili Colloquium in Bayreuth.

Kind regards,

Dr. Clarissa Vierke & Prof. Dr. Gabriele Sommer

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