



Swahili
Colloquium
Bayreuth



UNIVERSITÄT
BAYREUTH



Kongamano la Kiswahili la 35

Bayreuth, tarehe 19 Mei hadi 21 Mei 2023

Wapendwa washiriki,

Tuna furaha kukualikeni kuadhimisha pamoja nasi Kongamano la Kiswahili la thelathini na tano mjini Bayreuth! Kongamano la 2023 litaandaliwa kwa kushirikiana tena na wenzetu kutoka chuo kikuu cha Moi (Eldoret).

Tangu hapo mwaka wa 1987, ambapo kongamano la kwanza lilifanyika ili kusherehekea miaka 100 ya ufundishaji wa Kiswahili vyuoni nchini Ujerumani, Kongamano la Kiswahili limepiga hatua nyingi. Kongamano letu ni jukwaa la kipekee linalofanyika kila mwaka katika chuo kikuu cha Bayreuth. Mkutano huu unajumuisha jamaa kubwa ya kimataifa ya wasomi na watafiti wa taaluma mbalimbali ambao wanachunguza vipengele kadha wa kadha vya lugha ya Kiswahili, fasihi na tamaduni mahususi za Afrika Mashariki barani Afrika na ughaibuni. Mitazamo inayojikita katika nyanja mbalimbali pamoja na michango anuwai kutoka masomo ya kiisimu au kifasihi hadi anthropolojia na historia ndicho kipengele kinachodhihirisha upekee wa Kongamano hilo. Tutafurahi kuwakaribisha tena wote ambao huhudhuria Kongamano katika miaka iliyopita na pia tutafurahi kuwapokea washiriki wapya katika kongamano lijalo.

Mada kuu ya Kongamano la Kiswahili la 35

Kongamano la Kiswahili la thelatini na tano litakusudia kuchunguza mada ifuatayo: **Mashujaa! Jitihada za kufinyanga upya Taaluma za Kiswahili.**

Katika miongo ya hivi karibuni tumeshuhudia mzuko wa dai kubwa la kujikwamua kutoka kwenye ukoloni uzalishaji wa maarifa wa kiakademia, mitaala na makavazi. Dai hilo limetoa cheche ya ujumuishaji wa maarifa mbalimbali kutoka kwenye mikondo kadha wa kadha ya kiepistemolojia ya nchi za kusini. Hata hivyo, changamoto ya kufikia ubadilishanaji wa maarifa yenye usawa na uchambuzi wa kina wa misingi ya kikoloni ya taaluma bado haujatimizika.

Tungependa kujikita katika kongamano la thelathini na tano la Kiswahili kwa mjadala na uchambuzi wa kina wa taaluma zetu na misingi yake. Kwa mfano, kwa namna gani Taaluma za Kiswahili zimeendeleza kasumba ya kikoloni katika dhana, istilahi, historia ya taaluma yake na utaratibu wa taasisi zake? Historia ya taaluma mbadala na vile vile mustakabali, kanuni ya kifasihi na utaalamu wake vitaonekanaje? Lengo letu kuu ni kuwapa sauti watu muhimu na waanzilishi katika masomo ya lugha, fasihi, historia na utamaduni wa Kiswahili – tusifikiri tu watalamu wa chuo kikuu, bali vile vile wasanii, wachapishaji na mafundistadi ambao kabla ya hapo waliwekwa kando ama walinyamazishwa.

Tukifuata nyayo za uchunguzi wetu wa Shaaban Robert kama mwanafikra na mtaalamu, iliyokuwa mada kuu ya Kongamano la mwaka 2022, dhamira yetu mahususi ni kufinyanga upya uwanja wa Taaluma za Kiswahili juu ya vyanzo, aina za uzalishaji wa maarifa, na wanafikra ambao kufikia sasa walifichwa walakini walichangia kwa kiasi kikubwa kwenye kuanzisha, kuendeleza na kutengeneza upya uwanja mahususi wa uzalishaji (wa maarifa) katika Afrika Mashariki.

Tunakaribisha majadiliano na ushirikishaji wa miradi ya kitaaluma na (hi)stori(a) ya maisha ya wanawake na wanaume ambao harakati, maisha na mafanikio yao hayakutiliwa maanani kwa muda mrefu. Itakuwaje kama tukiandika upya uchambuzi na urekodishaji wa lugha ya Kiswahili, uchambuzi wa kifasihi au kihistoria kwa kupitia mitazamo ya wao wanaoitwa mara nyingi „watoaji habari“? Kufanya hivyo kutaonyesha pia haja ya uzingatiaji wa kina na kutafakari mienendo yetu binafsi ya utoaji wa maarifa.

Matokeo ya namna gani yatatokea ikiwa tukisoma upya makusanyiko ya mashairi ambayo hudhaniwa ni kazi za Waswahili na papo hapo tutafakari upya tanbihi zirejeleazo washairi, wamiliki wa maktaba na masomo ya ziada?

Nani ndiye aliyepiga chapuo uchapishaji wa makrabasha na vijitabu, au hata tovuti na mablogu, akiwa na lengo la kusambaza maarifa ambayo hayaingizwi kwenye vitabu vya kiakademia? Dhana mbadala na vipengele vya uzalishaji wa maarifa gani twaweza kubaini katika riwaya na makala za magazeti waaidha vitendawili/mafumbo na njia nyingine za mawasiliano zinazotajwa kuwa ni ‘dogo’? Matukio yanayoanzishwa na harakati za kijamii au makavazi ya kienyeji, kama vile vituo vya redio vya kienyeji, maktaba binafsi, nyaraka za magazeti au vikundi vya Facebook na whatsapp vitafanikiwa kusimulia (hi)stori(a) mbadala ipi? Masimulizi mbadala ya sauti za wanawake na za kifeministi yepi twaweza kufukua? Masimulizi na mitazano gani vinatolewa na aina za utamaduni pendwa mfano wa densi, muziki na soka?

Tukizingatia (hi)stori(a) ya maisha ya watu muhimu katika nyanja mbalimbali za uzalishaji wa kifikra, kinyenzo, kiutamaduni, kijamii na kiishara katika Afrika Mashariki hatukusudii kuongeza uchanganuzi wa makini wa uwanja wetu tu – wa kale na sasa – lakini pia kuacha alama ya kudumu katika Masomo ya Kiafrika kwa upana zaidi, ambako kutafungua njia za kufanikiwa kwenye meta fizikia (mfumo anuwai) na hivyo basi kuleta mianya mipya ya makavazi na sheria mpya.

Usajili

Tutapokea michango kwa Kiswahili na Kiingereza. Kila wasilisho litapewa muda wa dakika thelathini; ambamo dakika ishirini ni za kuwasilisha na dakika kumi ni za majadiliano na hadhira. Tafadhalini mjiandikishe kwa baruapepe kupitia swahili@uni-bayreuth.de na mtutumie kichwa cha makala au mapendekezo ya paneli mpaka tarehe 19 Desemba mwaka huu. Iwapo mtawasilisha kwa Kiswahili, tutumie pia muhtasari wa makala kwa Kiingereza. Tunawaomba wote kujiandikisha hata ikiwa mtashiriki bila ya kuwasilisha makala, ili tuweze kupanga vizuri.

Wakati/Mahali

Kongamano litafanyika kuanzia tarehe 19 Mei hadi 21 Mei 2023 Chuo Kikuu cha Bayreuth. Tutatoa taarifa zaidi kuhusu Kongamano hapo baadaye. Pia, nasi endapo kuna maswali yoyote usisite kuwasiliana nasi kwa barua pepe hii, swahili@uni-bayreuth.de

Karibuni nyote!

Salamu nyingi kutoka Bayreuth na Eldoret,

Kamati ya watayarishaji wa kongamano

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Swahili Colloquium

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35th Swahili Colloquium

Bayreuth, from 19th to 21st May 2023

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to cordially invite you to celebrate the 35th Swahili Colloquium with us in Bayreuth! The 2023 Colloquium will again take place in cooperation with our partners at Moi University (Eldoret).

The Swahili Colloquium has come a long way since its inception in 1987, when it was held to celebrate 100 years of academic Swahili teaching in Germany. It is now a well-established forum hosted annually at Bayreuth University, which brings together a large international community of scholars and researchers from different disciplines, who work on various aspects of the language and the respective culture(s) in Eastern Africa and the diaspora. The multidisciplinary approach and the wide range of contributions from linguistics and literary studies to anthropology and history particularly account for the appeal of the colloquium. We are always looking forward to welcoming both old and new participants to the Swahili Colloquium.

35th Swahili Colloquium thematic orientation

The 35th Swahili Colloquium will have the following thematic focus: **Mashujaa! ReconFIGURING Swahili Studies.**

The radical demand for decolonizing and decentring academic knowledge production, curriculums and archives in recent decades has increasingly encouraged the inclusion of a variety of knowledges from diverse epistemological communities from the Global South. However, the challenge of reaching a balanced exchange of knowledge and a critical revisit of the colonial foundation of disciplines still remains.

We would like to centre the 35th Swahili colloquium on the discussion and critical inquiry of our discipline(s) and its foundations. How and where has Swahili Studies, for instance, perpetuated colonial legacies in its concepts, terms, disciplinary history, and institutional set-up? How could an alternative disciplinary history, future, and canon of literature and scholarship look like? Our main aim is to bring to the forefront key figures and pioneers in the study of Swahili language, literature, history, and culture - including not only academics but also, for instance, artists, publishers and craftsman, who have previously been sidelined or silenced. Adding on our exploration of Shaaban Robert as thinker and scholar, which was the subject of the 2022 colloquium, our aim is to reconfigure the field of Swahili Studies around so-far hidden sources, forms of knowledge production, and thinkers who have decisively contributed to the establishment, development or renewal of a specific field of (knowledge) production in East Africa.

We invite dialogue and engagement with the intellectual projects and life stories of women and men whose struggles, lives, and accomplishments have long remained in the shadow.

What if we rewrite (the history and present of) Swahili language documentation, literary or historical analysis through the eyes of the so-called “informants”? This also implies a critical and self-reflexive consideration of our own practices of knowledge production. What happens if we critically reread the anthologies of poetry communally attributed to “the Swahili” by reconsidering the footnotes making references to poets, library owners, and alternative readings? Who has spearheaded the publication of pamphlets and booklets, or also websites and blogs, with the aim to distribute knowledge that does not enter into academic books? Which kind of alternative concepts and forms of knowledge production can we find in novels and newspaper articles but also in riddles and other so-called minor forms of communication? Which alternative histories do grassroots initiatives or “vernacular archives”, like local radio stations, private book shelves, newspaper archives or whatsapp groups hold? Which alternative narratives of female and feminist voices can we unearth? Which narratives and perspectives do forms of popular culture and the everyday, like dance, music, and soccer offer?

Zeroing in on life stories of key figures of several spheres of intellectual, material, cultural, social, and symbolic production in East Africa not only adds to the critical examination of our field -both past and present - but will also make an impact in African Studies more broadly, opening up ways of breaking through the (meta)physical empire and breaking ground for new archives and canons.

Registration

We would like to ask you to give your paper either in Swahili or English. Each contribution will be granted 30 minutes (including ten minutes of discussion). Please register via email (to swahili@uni-bayreuth.de) and send us a provisional title of your presentation or a panel proposal until 15th December 2022. If your presentation is going to be in Swahili, we kindly ask you for a short English summary. Please also register if you merely intend to participate without giving a paper.

Location/time

The conference will take place from 19th to 21st May 2023 at the University of Bayreuth.

We will be back with more details soon. In case, you have any questions, please, do not hesitate to contact us via swahili@uni-bayreuth.de

Yours sincerely,

The organizational team

Clarissa Vierke, Mark Kandagor, Serena Talento

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