



Swahili
Colloquium
Bayreuth



UNIVERSITÄT
BAYREUTH



Kongamano la Kiswahili la Thelathini na nne

Bayreuth, tarehe 27 Mei hadi 29 Mei 2022

--- English version below---

Bayreuth, 17.01.2022

Wapendwa mabibi na mabwana,

Ni matumaini yetu ya dhati kuwa nyinyi na jamaa zenu mu bukheri wa afya.

Heri na baraka za mwaka mpya!

Tuna furaha kukualikeni kwenye kongamano la thelathini na nne la Kiswahili Bayreuth kuanzia tarehe 27 hadi 29 ya mwezi wa tano. Kongamano hili la mwaka 2022 litafanyika mtandaoni likiwa na wazungumzaji watakaoalikwa kutoka takriban kila pembe ya dunia. Licha ya mawasilisho na majadiliano hayo, kutakuwa na matukio mengine, kama meza duara na usomaji wa kazi za fasihi. Kongamano la mwaka huu litaandaliwa kwa kushirikiana na wenzetu kutoka chuo kikuu cha Moi (Eldoret), ambao watakuwa na wenyeji wetu wa baadhi ya sehemu za warsha pia.

Mada kuu ya kongamano la 34 la Kiswahili

Tungependa kutabaruku kongamano la thelathini na nne la Kiswahili kwa mjadala na uchambuzi wa kina wa kazi za gwiji wa fasihi, mwanzilishi wa fasihi ya Kiswahili ya kisasa na mwanafikra mahiri Shaaban Robert (1909-1962). Lengo letu mahususi ni kukazia fikra na mawazo anuwai kwa mmoja wa wanafikra muhimu wa kiafrika wa karne ya ishirini, ambaye maandishi yake hadi sasa hayajapata uangalizi na uchunguzi wa kutosha ilihali ya kwamba maadishi yake yanaweza kunufaisha na kuimarisha mijadala ya sasa kuhusu mapokeo ya kisomi ya kiafrika na vile vile kuunga mkono madai ya kujikwamua na sheria/kanoni za kikoloni. Kufikia sasa, ingawa mijadala hii inadai kuibua sauti zilizonyamazishwa pamoja na vyanzo

vingine mbadala na mawazo kuhusu mustakabali na ukale wa kazi za kifasihi, waandishi na wanafikra wanaotumia lugha za kiafrika kujieleza wamekuwa wakitengwa zaidi. Ili kuwashirikisha na kuwaleta pamoja wasomi wa kiafrika katika mijadala mikubwa na makini, tunaona ya kuwa kazi zao hazina budi kupata kipaumbele kufanyiwa tafsiri, lakini pia kujenga, kuimarisha na kukuza maarifa makini yanayowazunguka.

Kwa hivyo, tutaandaa kongamano la Kiswahili mtandaoni lenye michango teule ya wasomi wanaotoa mitazamo tofauti ya kihistoria, kifasihi, kifalsafa, kiisimu, kijamii kuhusu kazi za Shaaban Robert, tafsiri za kazi zake, na jukumu lake hatamu katika kufinyanga lugha ya kisasa ya Kiswahili, fasihi, tanzu na mustakabali wake.

Shaaban Robert ambaye alikulia enzi za ukoloni na hata pia alifanya kazi kwenye utawala wa kikoloni kwa miaka mingi, mara nyingi aliitwa “baba wa fasihi ya Kisasa ya Kiswahili”. Kwa upande mmoja, kazi yake iliingilia kati jamii iliyonaswa katika mikondo ya kikoloni, lakini ambayo, kwa upande mwingine ilisimama kidete kwa ajili ya uhuru, kujikomboa na kudadavua dhana za ushikamano wa muungano wa kiafrika (Pan-Afrika). Katika muktadha huu, alikuwa mlezi wa Kiswahili cha kisasa: alitoa mchango madhubuti katika kuhuisha lugha mpya iliyosanifishwa lakini iliyokuwa tasa, na alitoa mchango huo kwa ubunifu wa maneno na mawazo ya kina, pamoja na maandishi yake halisi na tafsiri zake nzuri. Umahiri wake kama mwandishi haujalanganishwa na kitu chochote: alivumbua insha ya kisasa, na alikuwa mwanzilishi wa tanzu za wasifu (mfano wasifu wa mwimbaji wa taarabu Siti Binti Saad na yeye mwenyewe), alichangia kuhamisha tendi katika uwanja usio wa kidini (mathalani, mashairi yake kuhusu Vita Kuu ya Pili ya Dunia), alitunga ngano za kimaadili na riwaya za uhalisia ili kushughulikia kwa umadhubuti masuala ya kijamii. Lakini pia aliandika riwaya za kwanza za utopia katika Kiswahili, *Kusadikika* na *Kufikirika*. Riwaya hizo mbili ni miongoni mwa riwaya za mwanzo kabisa zinazozungumzia mambo yajayo (umbele) barani humo. Riwaya hizi zimesifiwa kwa ubunifu na ukosoaji wao mkali wa jamii za kikoloni na vile vile kwa mitazamo inayosawiriwa juu ya jamii mbadala (hususani baada ya uhuru). Hali kadhalika, amesifika kwa mawazo yake ya kuwa na dunia ya kibinadamu na yenye usawa zaidi. Mawazo haya yalikuwa na ushawishi mkubwa kwa Julius Nyerere, hasa katika msisitizo wake wa fasihi kama chombo cha mabadiliko ya jamii, na vile vile kwa vizazi vijavyo vya waandishi wa Kiswahili. Ingawa umuhimu wake kama mmoja wa waandishi na wasomi muhimu wa Afrika umetanabahika (kwa mfano, “Utenzi wa Uhuru” ni mojawapo ya vitabu mia moja bora zaidi

vya karne ya ishirini, kuhusiana na uteuzi uliofanywa na A. Mazrui) mjadala wa kina na uchunguzi wa kazi za Shaaban Robert umekuwa mdogo.

Ni nia yetu kuweka misingi ya mjadala ambao sio tu unatambua utofauti na upeo wa kazi, fikra na michango ya Shabaan Robert katika ngazi mbalimbali, bali pia kuziweka katika mtazamo wa kiuhakiki. Uchunguzi wa kina juu ya watu muhimu katika bara la Afrika utasaidia kupanua mtazamo sio tu kwa masomo ya Kiafrika, lakini pia kwa masomo ya fasihi na kitamaduni na masomo ya falsafa kwa maana pana.

Katika kongamano letu washiriki wafuatao watatoa mawasilisho:

- Flavia Aiello, University of Naples “L’Orientale”
- Austin Bukenya, Makerere University
- Annmarie Drury, Queens College, City University of New York
- Xavier Garnier, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3
- Mikhail Gromov, United States International University (Nairobi)
- Nelli Gromova, Lomonosov Moscow State University
- Mosol Kandagor, Moi University
- D.A Masolo, University of Louisville
- Emiliano Minerba, University of Naples “L’Orientale”/ University of Bayreuth
- Collins Mumbo, Moi University
- Aldin Mutembei, University of Dar es Salaam
- Catherine Ndungo, Kenyatta University
- Shani Omari, University of Dar es Salaam
- Ding Ruilin, Beijing Foreign Studies University
- Clarissa Vierke, University of Bayreuth
- Kineene wa Mutiso, University of Nairobi
- Richard Wafula, Kenyatta University

Tutatoa taarifa zaidi kuhusu ratiba kamili hapo baadaye. Pia, usisite kuwasiliana nasi endapo kuna maswali yoyote. Kwa mambo yote yanayohusu kongamano tafadhali tutumie kwa barua pepe hii, swahili@uni-bayreuth.de

Ubaki salama na uwe na siha njema.

Salamu nyingi kutoka Bayreuth na Eldoret,

kamati ya watayarishaji wa kongamano

Clarissa Vierke, Mark Kandagor, Dyoniz Kindata, Serena Talento, Duncan Tarrant

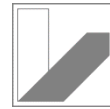
Swahili Colloquium

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



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34th Swahili Colloquium

Bayreuth, from 27th May to 29th May 2022

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

I hope this email finds you and your beloved ones in good health.

Happy new year!

We are pleased to invite you to the 34th Swahili Colloquium, from 27th to 29th May 2022. This year Colloquium will be held online with invited speakers from all over the world. Besides presentations and discussion, we will also feature other events such as a round table and literary readings. This year Colloquium will be organised cooperation with our partners at Moi University (Eldoret), which will also host parts of the conference.

34th Swahili Colloquium thematic orientation

We would like to dedicate the 34th Swahili Colloquium to the discussion and critical inquiry of the works of the literary giant, pioneer of modern Swahili literature, and versatile thinker, Shaaban Robert (1909-1962). Our aim is to draw attention to one of Africa's most important thinkers of the 20th century, whose writings have not received adequate attention despite their potential to decisively enrich current debates about African intellectual traditions and sustain the pressing demands for decolonising the canon. So far, although these debates claim to unearth silenced voices as well as alternative sources and imaginations of literary futures and pasts, writers and thinkers expressing themselves in African languages have mostly been sidelined. In order to bring African intellectuals into broader, serious debates we consider it a priority translating their works, but also building and fostering critical scholarship around them. Accordingly, we will organize a digital Swahili Colloquium with select contributions by

scholars who throw different – historical, literary, philosophical, linguistic, sociological – perspectives on Shaaban Robert’s oeuvre, the translations of his works, and his decisive role in shaping modern Swahili language, literature, genres, and visions.

Growing up during colonial times and even serving the administration for many years, **Shaaban Robert** has often been called the “father of modern Swahili literature”. His work intersected a society caught in colonial structures, on the one hand, but which, on the other hand, also stood up for independence and elaborated notions of panafrikan solidarity. In such a context, he became the nurturer of modern Swahili: he played a decisive role in enlivening the newly standardised but sterile language, with verbal creativity and depth of thought, both with his original texts and fine translations. His versatility as an author has been almost unparalleled: he invented the modern essay, excelled as one of the first in the genre of (auto)biography (of the taarab singer Siti Binti Saad and himself), boosted the secularisation of classical *tendi* (for example, with his poetry on World War II), composed moralistic tales and realist novellas to address social issues, but also wrote the first utopian novels in Swahili, *Kusadikika* and *Kufikirika*. The latter, two of the earliest futurist novels from the continent, have been admired for their creativity and their subtle criticism of colonial society as well as the vision of an alternative (and post-independence) society portrayed within. He has been praised for his views of a more humanist and equal world. Such views also had a decisive influence on Julius Nyerere, especially his emphasis on literature as the means of social transformation, as well as all later generations of Swahili writers. Despite his importance as one of the most important African writers and intellectuals – his poem *Utenzi wa Uhuru* is one of Africa’s 100 best books of the 20th century (a selection initiated by A. Mazrui) – critical discussion and studies of his works have been limited.

Thus, it is our intention to place the foundations of a debate which not only acknowledges the (legacy of the) variety and magnitude of Shabaan Robert’s works, thinking and contributions at various levels, but one which also put these in a critical perspective. In-depth studies of pivotal figures from the African continent will contribute to the enlargement of the perspective not only of African studies but also literary studies, cultural studies, and philosophical studies in a broader sense.

The following speakers are going to present:

- Flavia Aiello, University of Naples “L’Orientale”

- Austin Bukenya, Makerere University
- Annmarie Drury, Queens College, City University of New York
- Xavier Garnier, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3
- Mikhail Gromov, United States International University (Nairobi)
- Nelli Gromova, Lomonosov Moscow State University
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- Catherine Ndungo, Kenyatta University
- Shani Omari, University of Dar es Salaam
- Ding Ruilin, Beijing Foreign Studies University
- Clarissa Vierke, University of Bayreuth
- Kineene wa Mutiso, University of Nairobi
- Richard Wafula, Kenyatta University

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

Stay safe and healthy,

Yours sincerely,

The organizational team

Clarissa Vierke, Mark Kandagor, Dyoniz Kindata, Serena Talento, Duncan Tarrant

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