



Swahili Colloquium
Bayreuth



UNIVERSITÄT
BAYREUTH

26th SWAHILI COLLOQUIUM

Bayreuth, from 10 May to 12 May 2013

4 February 2013

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to cordially invite you to the 26th Swahili-Colloquium in Bayreuth: *karibuni sana*.

The Swahili Colloquium

The Swahili Colloquium has become a well-established forum in Bayreuth. Every year, we invite scholars and researchers from different disciplines, who work on various aspects of the language and the respective culture(s) to this unique colloquium. 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 thematic focus

Following the suggestions made during the last Swahili Colloquium, the 26th Swahili Colloquium will have a special thematic focus on *Tafsiri* 'Translation'. This thematic focus suggests different perspectives and questions. First of all, translation into Swahili or from Swahili into another language can be considered from a linguistic perspective that focuses on the grammatical, semantic and pragmatic specifics of Swahili in comparison to other languages (which is also relevant in the context of teaching Swahili language). The question of finding 'linguistic equivalents' also plays a prominent role in the translation of literature. Translators use different strategies which have hardly been studied to convey culturally specific concepts without losing an aesthetic appeal. This year's focus also suggests a consideration how the Swahili literary canon as well as the language have been shaped by translations, such as the Quran, the Bible, Nyerere's Shakespeare translations but also the early adaptations of Arabic poetry. Lastly, translation can also be considered from a point of view of politics and ideology. One can look at translation practices in the context of social norms, institutions and language policy. Postcolonial approaches also offer promising perspectives, considering translation and particularly the choice of texts that get translated as reflecting structures of power and hegemony. Thus, in brief, all presentations looking at translations from various angles are welcome to inspire a multi-disciplinary discussion.

Although we would like to suggest *Tafsiri* as a common point of discussion, this does not mean that we will not consider papers dealing with other topics, as the Swahili Colloquium tries not only to stimulate thematically-oriented interdisciplinary discussions, but also intends to provide a forum open to various contributions related to Swahili.

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 the title as well as a short abstract of your presentation till **30 March 2013**. 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 in Iwalewa-House, the centre of African studies of Bayreuth University (Münzgasse 9). It will start on Friday, 10 May 2013, at 9 a.m.. The conference will end on Sunday, 12 May 2013. Its precise ending is going to depend on the number of contributions.

Soon you will be able to also 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

Accommodation

On the website, you will also find a list of hotels and guest houses to make your search for accommodation easier. 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/>).

In 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 or clarissa.vierke@uni-bayreuth.de

We are looking forward to welcoming you at the 26th Swahili Colloquium in Bayreuth.

Kind regards,

Dr. Clarissa Vierke & Prof. Gabriele Sommer

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