



Swahili Colloquium
Bayreuth



UNIVERSITÄT
BAYREUTH

Call for Papers:
30th SWAHILI COLLOQUIUM
in Bayreuth, from 26th May until 28th May 2017

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to cordially invite you to the 30th Swahili Colloquium in Bayreuth!

In 2017, the Swahili Colloquium will celebrate its 30th anniversary!

Since its inception in 1987, when the colloquium was held to celebrate 100 years of academic Swahili teaching in Germany, the colloquium has come a long way. It has become a well-established forum hosted annually by the Iwalewahaus at Bayreuth University. Every year, it 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, 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.

Next year's thematic orientation

The Swahili Colloquium next year will celebrate its 30th anniversary by looking back at its history together with scholars, who have paved its way. Furthermore, we would also like to invite the new generation to join in, so that we can critically throw a glance at Swahili studies and discuss its future challenges and potentials.

Apart from inviting papers on the history and future of Swahili Studies, the Swahili Colloquium will also have a special thematic focus: **“Mahusiano! Languages and literatures in interface”**.

In the Eastern African context, moulded by multilingual and -cultural, hybrid, migratory and globalised dynamics, languages and literatures do not exist in isolation, but are shaped by their dynamic interrelation. In this setting, there is an ever increasing number of linguistic and literary options which coexist side by side and, which are decisively (re)shaped in relation to neighbouring languages and literatures. For instance, different genres come into being and obtain legitimacy in relation to/in opposition to one another (as the novel and the oral tale); one language is used in a specific domain rather than another one; parallel versions of discourses and texts coexist and (might) echo back to each other. Taking as a point of departure the myriad of coexistences, correspondences, exchanges and reformulations, which characterize all different types of cultural productions, we invite contributions from a broad array of disciplines to explore the entangled ways through which knowledge is disseminated, appropriated and reinterpreted in the Swahili scenario(s).

We would like to suggest an approach, which considers language or literature not as systems, but rather focusses on multilingual repertoires, choices and options of speakers, artists and writers: How do speakers choose registers and varieties in specific situations? How do cultural brokers facilitate and mediate communication in situation of contact? How do transfer practices such as translation, adaptation, or hypertext enable different linguistic and literary repertoires to travel between and within cultures, thus handling or even creating relations? Which forms, meaning and functions do cultural exchanges acquire in the import, export, processing and integration of knowledge? How do authors/performers and audiences navigate between different languages and genres? How do publishing policies deal with the inflation of coexisting means of diffusion and with multiple audiences?

This year's thematic focus aspires for a more integrated conception of linguistic and literary plurality by engaging with the interconnectedness of Swahili and non-Swahili linguistic and literary worlds. We make a plea for opening up new perspectives for the study of conflation of different linguistic practices, literary repertoires, media aspects, systems of signs, systems of knowing, which bear witness to transculturation processes. We invite panels of 3-4 presenters, and individual paper proposals.

We have already one panel proposal with the title "Orality and writing in classical and free verse Swahili poetry". After forty years from the inception of the debate on traditional/free verse dichotomy, the *mtiririko* (free verse Swahili poetry) is still an open question. This panel invites discussions about the interaction between classical and free verse Swahili poetry, in either oral and written forms. We would like to reflect on the modalities of writing, reception dynamics, the aesthetic of text, its linguistic study, author's poetics etc.

Although we would like to suggest the above given as common points of discussion, presentations can also deal with other topics related to Swahili language, literature and culture. The Swahili colloquium does not intend to thematically restrict discussions, but also to provide a forum open to broad interdisciplinary contributions.

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 **30th October 2016**. 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 the Iwalewahauss, the centre of African studies of Bayreuth University, which is located in Wölfelstraße 2 from 26th May to 28th May 2017.

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

Karibuni nyote!

Sincerely yours,

The organisational team

Serena Talento, Nikitta Adjirakor, Roberto Gaudioso, Annachiara Raia, Rosanna Tramutoli, and Clarissa Vierke

Swahili Colloquium

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Literaturen in afrikanischen Sprachen

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