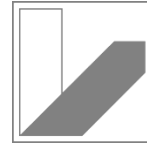




Swahili Colloquium
Bayreuth



UNIVERSITÄT
BAYREUTH

Call for Papers:
32nd SWAHILI COLLOQUIUM
in Bayreuth, from 31st May until 2nd June 2019

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to cordially invite you to the 32nd Swahili Colloquium in Bayreuth!

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 32nd Swahili Colloquium will have the following thematic focus: **“Pwani na bara. Coast and mainland”**.

Viewing coast and mainland as a dichotomy has a long history in Tanzania, Kenya and Mozambique, which continues to shape and haunt contemporary politics and everyday life and conceptualisations. Nothing seems to reflect processes of construction of the coast and its hinterland better than the language Swahili: during the colonial era, for instance, the establishment of a language at a supra-ethnic level and literary productions connected to this project triggered the emergence of a de-ethnicized literary tradition; also the Swahili language has played a crucial role in the formation of the Tanzanian nation state stimulating processes of

ethnic consolidation ideologically denying the dichotomy of mainland and coast. Expanding an ethnically confined language and literary canon into the wider arena of the nation also meant to undermine coastal traditions of learning: The moment Swahili became a national language, coastal Swahili turned into “dialects” – as much marginalized by the nation state as other “ethnic languages” or “mother tongues”.

We would like to invite papers and contributions, which critically reflect the dichotomous constructions of coast and mainland and their effects on language and social practices and policies as well as literary writing. How have texts and languages been used to define and mobilize different constituencies? How are the coast and the mainland and the consolidated nation imagined in literary works? How do these dynamics differ in Kenya and Tanzania? How do they compare to processes of ideological differentiation in Uganda, Burundi or the DRC? How have these constructions changed over time? How has (Western) research added to it?

Furthermore, we would like to suggest an approach that overcomes the dichotomy by focussing not on ideologies, but on practices of writing, speaking and social interaction tracing links and connections between the coast and the mainland and across the vast Swahili-speaking area. In recent years, Indian Ocean studies has given new inspiration to African studies, since it suggests to view Africa not as a continent in isolation, but made up, economically, culturally and linguistically, through dynamic connections and networks. We would like to adapt a perspective of networks and dynamic interrelation in order to consider various relationships between sites on the coast and the mainland, their languages and literary texts – including also a perspective on missing links and incommensurability. While the coast has been privileged as a site of research, we particularly welcome contributions from the mainland, the hinterland of the coast and “from the margin” of the Swahili-speaking area.

Other Topics

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. Panel suggestions are also very welcome. A first panel has already been proposed by Nico Nassenstein and Andrea Hollington: *Sociolinguistic variation and change in Kiswahili: Creative practices, playful language, translocal communication*.

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 2018**. 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 31st May to 2nd June 2019 in Iwalewahaus, the centre of African studies of the University of Bayreuth, which is located in Wölfelstraße 2.

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

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