



Swahili
Colloquium
Bayreuth



UNIVERSITÄT
BAYREUTH

Kongamano la Kiswahili la 38

Bayreuth, tarehe 15 Mei hadi 17 Mei 2026

--- English version below---

Bayreuth, 13.03.2026

Wapendwa washiriki,

Kwa furaha kubwa tunatazamia Kongamano la 38 la Kiswahili. Asanteni sana kwa ikisiri zenu zenye kutia moyo, makala na mapendekezo ya paneli! Tumeambatanisha programu na jarida hili.

Kongamano la Kiswahili litafanyika tena **Iwalewahaus** (iliyoko Wölfelstr. 2) na litaanza Ijumaa **tarehe 15 Mei**, saa mbili na nusu asubuhi. Ada ya kiingilio itakuwa Euro 15 (wanafunzi: Euro 10).

Siku moja kabla ya Kongamano kuanza, Alhamisi, **tarehe 14 Mei**, tutakutana katika mgahawa wa Kithai 'Hua Hin' (uliopo Ludwigstr. 30; <http://www.thai-huahin.de/>) kuanzia saa moja jioni. Tunaomba ufahamu wenu kwamba hatutaweza kutunza bili zenu siku hiyo.

Pia kutakuwa na matukio kadha wa kadha wakati wa kongamano hilo: Tutakuwa na michango ya wanaharakati, wasanii na watalamu kama mnavyoona kwenye ratiba. Wakati wote wa Kongamano kutakuwepo 'soko la vitabu', kwa hivyo mnakaribishwa kuonyesha vitabu vyenu na kufurahia maandishi ya Kiswahili.

Ikiwa una maswali zaidi, tafadhali usisite kuwasiliana nasi (swahili@uni-bayreuth.de). Tunatazamia kuwakaribisha hapa Bayreuth!

Karibuni sana!

Wenzenu,

Clarissa Vierke na Serena Talento

Swahili Colloquium

Literaturen in afrikanischen Sprachen

Universität Bayreuth

95440 Bayreuth

Email: swahili@uni-bayreuth.de

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



Swahili
Colloquium
Bayreuth



UNIVERSITÄT
BAYREUTH

38th Swahili Colloquium

Bayreuth, 15th May – 17th May 2026

Bayreuth, 13.03.2026

Dear colleagues,

We are very much looking forward to this year's **Swahili Colloquium** from 15th May until 17th May 2026. Thank you very much for your many inspiring abstracts, papers and panel proposals! Please find the preliminary programme attached to this newsletter.

The Swahili Colloquium will take place in **Iwalewahaus** (located in Wölfelstr. 2) and will start on **Friday 15th May**, 8.30 a.m. The admission fee will be 15 Euro (students: 10 Euro).

The day before the Colloquium starts, on **Thursday, 14th May**, we will have a get-together in the Thai restaurant 'Hua Hin' (located in Ludwigstr. 30; <http://www.thai-huahin.de/>) starting at 7 p.m. We kindly ask for your understanding that we will not be able to take care of your bill on that day.

There will also be several events during the conference: we will have contributions from activists, artists and scholars as you can see from the programme.

During the Colloquium there will be a 'book market': you are welcome to display your books and enjoy Swahili writings!

If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to contact us (swahili@uni-bayreuth.de). We are looking forward to welcoming you here in Bayreuth!

Karibuni sana!

Kind regards,

Clarissa Vierke and Serena Talento

Swahili Colloquium

Literaturen in afrikanischen Sprachen

Universität Bayreuth

95440 Bayreuth

Email: swahili@uni-bayreuth.de

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

Thursday, 14th May 2026

19:00	<i>Get together in the Thai restaurant 'Hua Hin' (located in Ludwigstr. 30)</i>
-------	---

Friday, 15th May 2026

8:30-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:30	Welcome Address (Clarissa Vierke, Stefan Ouma, Serena Talento)
09:30-11:00	Text–Sound Relationships in Swahili Cultural/Digital Production <i>Chair: Clarissa Vierke</i>
09:30-10:00	Rose Anyango O. Ongati (Maseno University): Text-melody relationships: The setting of Kiswahili text to music
10:00-10:30	Shani Omari (University of Dar es Salaam): Sauti ya ‘Utani wa Makabila’ katika Muziki wa Singeli: Dhima na Mwelekeo
10:30-11:00	Annachiara Raia (Leiden University): TiaSauti@Lab: Engaging with Texts and Voices, Live and Digitally
11:00-11:15	<i>Tea Break</i>
11:15-13:00	Swahili Sonic Worlds: Music, Politics, and Society <i>Chair: Hezekiel Gikambi</i>
11:15-11:45	Roberto Gaudio (University of Naples “L’Orientale”): Poem as Song, Song as Poem: Poetics Beyond the Media Paradigm
11:45-12:15	KD Thompson (University of Wisconsin–Madison): Sauti za Wanawake kwenye Redio ya Kiislamu: Negotiating ‘Awrah and Authority at Radio Nuur FM, Tanga
12:15-12:45	Ria Huijgen-Koolen (University of Leiden): Usawa wa wanawake. A Song about the Abuse of Women
12:45-13:45	<i>Lunch Break</i>

13:45-15:30	Panel: Reassessing a Colonial Collection: Swahili Manuscripts at SOAS, University of London (organised by Angelica Baschiera and Florian Balbiani) <i>Chair: Annachiara Raia</i>
13:45-14:15	Ross Melvin (SOAS Library, University of London): Swahili Material at SOAS: A Crucial Record of Collecting Practices
14:15-14:45	Florian Balbiani (University of Erfurt): Collecting, Editing, and Publishing Swahili Literature in the 1930s: Between Christian Mission, Nationalism, and Academia
14:45-15:15	Angelica Baschiera (SOAS University of London): The Life and Work of the late Sheikh Yahya Ali Omar
15:15-15:30	Comment by Annmarie S. Drury (City University of New York)
15:30-15:45	<i>Tea Break</i>
15:45-17:15	Popular Music and Social Discourse in Contemporary Swahili Contexts <i>Chair: Shani Omarii</i>
15:45-16:15	Devet Goodness (University of Dar es Salaam): Discourse and stylistic analysis of Roma Mkatoliki selected songs
16:15-16:45	Swaleh, Kadara (ZMO Berlin): The Bububu Railway and the Socio-Economic Sounds of Colonial Zanzibar, 1905–1930
16:45-17:15	Asha Ally Mustapha (University of Dar es Salaam): Uradidi Sauti katika Muziki wa Bongo Flewa: Uchunguzi Kifani Miziki ya Diamond Platnumz
17:15-17:30	<i>Tea Break</i>
17:30-18:00	<i>Uzinduzi wa vitabu wa Kithaka wa Mberia</i> <i>Discussants: Rayya Timamy (University of Nairobi), Roberto Gaudio (University of Naples “L’Orientale”) and Hezekiel Gikambi (Kenyatta University)</i>
18:00-18:30	<i>Launch: Kai Kresse and William Mkufya: Haki na Mamlaka: Kadhia za Waislamu wa Kenya Baada ya Ukoloni (Mkuki na Nyota, 2026)– tafsiri ya Swahili Muslim Publics and Postcolonial Experience (Indiana University Press, 2018). Discussants: Mohamed Aidarus Noor (FU-Berlin); Irene Brunotti (Leipzig); Farouk Topan (Aga Khan University)</i>
18:30-20:00	<i>Reception/Kiburudisho and Celebrating Abdilatif Abdalla’s 80th Birthday</i>

20:00-20:50	<i>Screening: Philosophical Journeys: DRC (Safari za Kifalsafa: Jamhuri ya Kidemokrasia ya Kongo) by Prof. Alena Rettova (University of Bayreuth)</i>
-------------	---

Saturday, 16th May 2026

09:00-10:30	Performing Voice and Power: Satire, Authority, and Oral Traditions Chair: <i>Serena Talento</i>	
09:00-09:30	Peter A. O. Wasamba (University of Nairobi): Sauti za Kaya: Voice, Performance, and Epistemic Sovereignty in Digo Oral Literature	
09:30-10:00	Okoa Simile (University of Dar es Salaam): Voice Imitation as Political Satire and Moral Positioning in Mrisho Mpoto's <i>Nikipata Nauli</i>	
10:00-10:30	Hezekiel Gikambi (Kenyatta University): Sauti za Ukosoaji za Mrisho Mpoto na Dorphanage: Uchambuzi wa Kongoo kwa Kutumia Akili-Unde katika Mashairi ya Maongezi	
10:30-10:45	<i>Tea Break</i>	
10:45-12:15	Memory, archives, and belonging Chair: <i>Xavier Garnier</i>	Meaning-Making Across Music, Politics, and Narrative Chair: <i>Devet Goodness</i>
10:45-11:15	Ida Hadjivayanis (SOAS University of London): Voicing the Archipelago: Memory, Belonging, and Littoral Life in <i>Salama binti Rubeya</i>	Nathan Oyori Ogechi (Kisii University) and Emily K. Bosire-Ogechi (Moi University): Viswahili katika siasa na demokrasia nchini Kenya
11:15-11:45	Kai Kresse (ZMO, Berlin): The archive of Malenga wa Mvita: Ustadh Ahmad Nassir's literary heritage to the world	Caroline Asiimwe (East African Kiswahili Commission): Gendered Voices, Mobility, and Regional Belonging: Narrative Multiplicity in <i>Dunia Yao</i> by Said Ahmed Mohamed
11:45-12:15	Rachel Muchira (Leipzig University): Sauti za wanyonge: Paradise and Afterlives as writing-back at the German and Kiswahili archive	

12:15-13:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
13:30-15:30	Musical and Religious Expression in Swahili Contexts <i>Chair: Okoa Simile</i>
13:30-14:00	Mohamed Aidarus Noor (Freie Universität Berlin): Mwendelezo au Mabadiliko: Matumizi ya Vitabu vya Sharia ya Kiislamu na Mchango wa Wanavyuoni wa Mwambao wa Afrika ya Mashariki
14:00-14:30	Dorcas Mwasunda (University of Dar es Salaam): Fasihi, Utambulisho na Sauti za Maana: Uchambuzi wa Nyimbo za Mazishi ya Kikristo katika Kanisa la Umoja la Hospitali ya Taifa Muhimbili
14:30-15:00	Rayya Timammy (University of Nairobi): Sauti za maana: Sauti ya Alwy Izudin na maana zake
15:00-15:30	Nancy K. Ayodi (Maasai Mara University): Meaning, Content and Prosody in Israel Mbonyi's Top 2025 Swahili Gospel Music
15:30-15:45	<i>Tea Break</i>
15:45-17:15	Narratives of Power, Translation, and Embodied Knowledge <i>Chair: Ida Hadjivayanis</i>
15:45-16:15	Emiliano Minerba (LLACAN, Paris): Usimulizi wa uwezo wa kisiasa katika tamthilia ya <i>Siri</i>
16:15-16:45	Annmarie Drury (City University of New York): Voice and Collaborative Translation Practice
16:45-17:15	Xavier Garnier (Sorbonne Nouvelle University): When Words Stick to Bodies. An Analysis of Some Nursery Rhymes from Zanzibar.
17:15-18:00	<i>Film screening:</i> <i>Screening of Hijja Toto by Najeeb A. Nassir</i>
18:00-19:15	<i>Reception/Kiburudisho</i>
19:15-20:00	Andrew Eisenberg (NYU Abu Dhabi) and Clarissa Vierke (University of Bayreuth), with Kaustuv Kanti Ganguli (NYU Abu Dhabi), Nandini Roy Choudhury (NYU Abu Dhabi), Mbarak Ali Haji Msuo and Mwanate Kibwana Shamauya (Mombasa): Sonic Entanglements
	<i>Jam session</i>

Sunday, 17th May 2026

09:30-10:00	<i>Book launch and reading: I Have a Home, There's Is a We: Voice of a Stranger in a Strange Land, Mohammed Khelef Ghassani, translated by Meg Arenberg (Nebraska, 2026)</i>
10:00-10:30	<i>Book launch: A Biography of the Indian Ocean: Imagined, Embodied and Experiential Cartographies (Routledge, 2026) by Jacky Kosgei (University of Tübingen). Discussant: Grace Musila</i>
10:30-11:00	Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor and Mshai Mwangola: Fabrics of Being and Becoming. A Performance Lecture on Leso Textiles
11:00-11:15	<i>Tea Break</i>
11:15-13:15	Swahili Language, Orature and Performance <i>Chair: Peter Wasamba</i>
11:15-11:45	Andrew Harvey (University of Bayreuth): Riddles and riddling: from the Swahili coast to the traditions of the Rift
11:45-12:15	Maud Devos (Ghent University), Rasmus Bernander (Gothenburg University) & Gilles-Maurice de Schryver (Ghent University): Isije ikawa pendekezo hili ni la kiisimu! - Pseudo-coordination in Kiswahili and the development of epistemic possibility markers: the case of 'lest'
12:15-12:45	Li Kunruonan (Communication University of China): Sauti ni Msimbo: Cultivating Understanding of Oral Literature through Reading Aloud and Listening
12:45-13:15	Zawadi Limbe Daniel (University of Dar es Salaam): From kanga to Social Media: The Transformation of Women's Voices in Swahili Literature
13:15-13:30	<i>Concluding the Conference</i>