

Call for Papers

Approaches to research on/in Africa

4th conference of the network

“Africa-related research in Austria”

19 – 21 of April 2018

Department of African Studies

University of Vienna

Spitalgasse 2-4, UniCampus Hof 5,1 1090 Vienna

Following three previous conferences in Vienna (2014), Innsbruck (2015) and Linz (2016), we invite you to join us for the 4th conference of the network “Africa-related research in Austria” which will be held at the Department of African Studies at the University of Vienna.

The conference aims to encourage the exchange between all those who work on Africa-related topics within Austria, whether outside or inside of academia.

Research on Africa is a broad field: it is conducted at the interdisciplinary Department of African Studies in Vienna as well as at numerous other departments or institutes at Austrian universities. Africa-related research further takes place outside of universities, for example in the context of external research institutions, NGOs or associations which often relate to African Diasporas.

The methodological approaches and positionalities which researchers are at least as diverse as the places where Africa-related research takes place: What common ground do researchers working on/in Africa share? What separates them? How do these different perspectives impact on research projects? What could be gained by more exchange with other researchers working on Africa-related topics? These are some of the questions which will be guiding the conference.

All who want to discuss their research questions, approaches and results with colleagues from other disciplinary backgrounds, are very welcome to propose contributions. There are no restrictions whatsoever with regard to disciplines or perspectives:

This said, contributions from the following areas will be highly appreciated: History, Literary Studies, Linguistics, International Development, Sociology, Political Sciences, Geography, Social and Cultural Anthropology, Media Sciences, Romance Studies, English Studies, Architecture, Translation Studies, Theology, Arts, Law – but also from other disciplines which are not explicitly mentioned here. Contributions relating to the Africa-continent in a more narrow sense are as welcome as contributions on Diaspora-related issues.

We want to emphasize that also students are cordially invited to present their Master- or Doctoral thesis, also if these are still “work-in-progress”. Also above-average Bachelor theses are most welcome.

In order to allow for exchange in diverse forms, we ask you to consider submitting your contribution in one of the four different formats outlined below:

- **“Classical”**

This is the classical conference format with paper presentations of 20 minutes each. Papers will be arranged in panels with 3-4 presenters and presentations will be followed by discussion with the audience.

It is possible to present either results of completed research or “work-in-progress” but also ideas or concepts for new projects can be put to discussion.

- **“Workshop”**

A 3-hour workshop offers the opportunity to discuss manuscripts with relation to their content but also to their form in more depth.

This format requires the 3-4 participants per workshop to submit their draft manuscripts reliably one month before the conference. It is also essential that all participants read the manuscripts of their peers in preparation to the workshop.

- ❖ **„Round-table“**

With this format we invite you to propose a round-table with 3 to 5 participants who discuss on a common topic/question. In order to get the discussion started, participants are asked to prepare short input statements; thereafter a moderator will facilitate a hopefully lively discussion. If you want to initiate a round-table, you may either just send us a proposal for a topic which you would like to discuss or a topic together with a list of possible discussants.

- **“Creative”**

As Africa-related research is not exclusively expressed in scientific writings, we also invite you to propose contributions in creative formats such as films, audio-documents, poems or other creative formats of dissemination of knowledge.

Abstracts for this format should ideally include a link to the audio(visual) document.

You are also welcome to submit proposals to several of the above mentioned formats!

A keynote lecture (speaker to be announced) and a conference dinner will complement the program of the conference.

Procedure:

Please submit an abstract of about 300 words (mentioning the respective format) and a short biographical note to afrika@univie.ac.at **until 13 November 2017**.

All suggestions will be considered by the scientific committee of the conference and its decision will be announced no later than **1 December 2017**.

The final conference program will be circulated in **January 2018**.

Practical information:

The conference starts on Thursday afternoon and ends on either Friday evening or Saturday afternoon (depending on the number of participants and the length of the program). The exact dates will be communicated once the program is finalised.

There will be no conference fees. However, expenses related to travel and accommodation have to be financed by the participants as we cannot offer any financial support.

Students coming from outside of Vienna can benefit from a couch-surfing arrangement which will be organized by the student representatives of the department. Please let us know when submitting the abstract if you want to take advantage of that opportunity.

A selection of papers presented at the conference will be published in one of the next issues of the Africanist journal *Stichproben – Vienna Journal of African Studies* (open access/online und print).

We are looking forward to your submissions and to an exciting conference!

Birgit Englert, Bianca Boros, Dominik Spörker

for the organizing committee

Organizers:

Netzwerk Afrikaforschung Österreich

in cooperation with:

Department of African Studies, University of Vienna: <http://afrika.univie.ac.at/>,

the Student Representatives of African Studies

and „*Stichproben. Vienna Journal of African Studies*“: <http://stichproben.univie.ac.at/>