



University  
of Basel

Centre for  
African Studies

# ZASB – Research Network Africa Annual Report 2021







# ZASB – Research Network Africa

## Annual Report 2021

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**Cover photo: Kareedouw is the administrative centre for the Kou-Kamma Municipality in the Sarah Baartman District of the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. The town is positioned as a gateway to a farming valley that sits between the Tsitsikamma and Suurans Mountains and is called the “breadbasket of the Eastern Cape.” The aerial image from 1998 shows the distinct features of central pivot irrigation and mixed farming which is the subject of James Merron’s ongoing research on remote sensing and water infrastructures in South Africa.**

Aerial photograph of Kareedouw in the Eastern Cape (498\_674\_002\_00226, Chief Directorate, National Geospatial Information, Republic of South Africa. Reproduced under Government Printer’s Authorisation [Authorisation No. 11872] dated 30 May 2022).

# Editorial by the Directorate



| **Sonja Merten**

| **Julia Tischler**

In the past year, students, researchers, and staff connected to the ZASB continued to struggle with the consequences of the ongoing Corona pandemic. Online teaching meant that some of our students barely set foot in a real classroom, and some only know their fellow students via Zoom. Given the highly volatile situation, many researchers could only plan on an ad hoc basis which is especially hard on those who face a fixed deadline for their PhDs and other projects. Despite all odds, there has also been encouraging news about MA students completing their degree with great success as well as doctoral students managing to proceed with their work or even completing their hard-earned PhDs. In addition, several network members were able to secure new research grants.

In October, members of the Steering Committee, the central strategic organ of the ZASB, and the teaching commission African Studies convened for a half-day retreat in order to take stock of the ongoing MA African Studies. In particular, participants sought to discern whether the modules of the MA are still well aligned with the ongoing research undertaken at the ZASB. Three graduates were so kind to share their experiences with the MA African Studies and answered questions raised by the participants. Among others, students have valued the flexibility and broad range of subjects offered by the MA programme as well as the possibilities for collaboration and exchange. On the other hand, this very flexibility requires students to plan and focus their studies very much on their own.

Participants of the retreat also discussed the ZASB's broad interdisciplinarity, represented both in teaching and within the network itself. On the one hand, working across the social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences holds great potential that also distinguishes our university's programme from other African Studies courses; on the other hand, it is a challenge that requires constant reflection and monitoring. The directorate and the executive office pledged to do their best in bringing together researchers from various backgrounds and disciplinary cultures, while

also ensuring that students receive all the assistance they need to navigate coursework across a broad array of methodologies.

In the past year, our research and teaching have been significantly challenged by questions surrounding the decolonization of African Studies. What does it mean to study "Africa" based at an institution in Europe? How legitimate is it for a white person to teach about African societies and history? How are our collaborations with African colleagues structured? Have we become too complacent regarding the existing imbalances in global academia that seem to disadvantage Africa-based researchers? While these questions have been around for years, even decades, they are currently being asked with greater urgency, and senior researchers and staff have a lot to learn from our students in this regard. One specific forum to address some of these issues was the "ZASB Critical Reflection, Practices and Ethics Day", which took place in a hybrid format in September 2021. This initiative by members of our network will be continued with a next Day planned for September 2022. We believe that our network and student community provide a trusting and well-meaning environment in which to further these debates in a productive manner.

At the end of 2021, Lorena Rizzo left the directorate after almost three years of service. We are immensely grateful to Lorena for her outstanding engagement as well as the idealism, determination, and enthusiasm she contributed in leading the ZASB through turbulent times.



# Politics and Governance



**Claudia  
Baez-Camargo**

**Saba Kassa**

This key area addresses the challenge of understanding the articulation between how a society wants to live (politics) and the coordinated action (governance) undertaken to make this possible. The members wish to focus less on the state and more on the actions and practices constitutive of contexts informing politics and governance.

In addition, the KAA acknowledges the importance of knowledge that addresses practical problems, especially since these and policy issues might be an important source of inspiration for the identification of theoretical, conceptual, and methodological challenges.

## **Eucor workshop series: The trouble with the state**

Indeed, while the state is a central concept for the study of politics and governance across the social sciences, its usefulness for the analysis of socio-political phenomena and processes in Africa and beyond is contested. The role of the state regarding knowledge production and policy-making in an African context was the theme of the workshop series “The Trouble with the State: Boundaries and Networks in Africa”, which was organized by members of the key area in cooperation with colleagues in Freiburg i.Br. (Germany) and in Strasbourg (France). The workshop series funded by Eucor – The European Campus was initially scheduled to take place in spring semester 2020 with sessions in Freiburg, Strasbourg, and Basel. Due to the restrictions during the pandemic, the workshops were postponed and finally took place online in October and November 2021.

## **Cooperation with ABI and ACT in Freiburg**

The workshop series contributed to strengthening the ZASB’s collaboration with the Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (ABI) and the Africa Centre for Transregional Research (ACT) at the University of Freiburg. In the light of the importance of these ties for the Africa research community in both Basel and Freiburg, we are happy that the ABI looks back on five very successful years under Andreas Mehler’s

lead. Prospectively, our collaboration will benefit from Freiburg’s participation in the major network project “Global Hierarchies in Peace and Conflict” (together with the Universities of Marburg, Bayreuth, and Erfurt) starting in 2022, and, depending on the outcome of an internal selection process at the University of Freiburg, from the stronger engagement in the cluster project “Decoloniality Now” in the years to come.

The international bi-annual conference of the German Association of African Studies VAD, hosted by ACT in Freiburg in June 2022, will mark a next occasion for exchange and networking.

## **Addressing bribery and corruption**

As part of the research project “Addressing Bribery and Favouritism in the Tanzanian Health Sector: A Behavioral Approach”, the research team at the Basel Institute on Governance conducted an intervention between November and December 2021 and impact measurement took place in January 2022. Research will carry on, including the analysis and finalization of the research reports by mid-2022.

The project “Harnessing Informality: Designing Anti-Corruption Network Interventions and Strategic Use of Legal Instruments” builds on the findings of previous research on informal governance and corruption. During 2021, the team finalized the research and published several reports. Moreover, the Basel Institute on Governance led various anti-corruption prevention research activities in support of national anti-corruption bodies in countries in Eastern Africa.

The Public Governance team at the Basel Institute on Governance will continue to publish spin-off research reports emanating from its research on informal networks and corruption, with a focus on practitioner-orientated policy briefs, synthesis papers on the emerging body of knowledge on networked corruption, and deep dives into innovative themes with regard to cycles of corruption.

### **Illegal wildlife trade in Africa**

As part of the research activities under a PMI Impact-funded project focusing on financial crime in illegal wildlife trade, the research team at the Basel Institute on Governance undertook community field research and social network analysis of criminal organizations. During 2021, the team finalized the research and the publication of reports. The cross-divisional programme of work on the Targeting Natural Resource Corruption (TNRC) project included political economy analyses of the political context of investigations and prosecutions in connection with illegal wildlife trade in Malawi and Uganda.

### **Religious communities and sustainable development**

In the framework of the research project “Religious Communities as Actors for Ecological Sustainability (Limpopo Province): The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in South Africa”, qualitative, semi-structured individual interviews, group interviews, and focus groups were used for data collection in 2021. Research suggests that eco-theology is probably not the most prominent topic for the majority of the interviewees. Rather, social issues and topics related to spiritual life dominate the current discourses in the churches. On an individual level though, the majority of interviewees were involved in taking care of their surrounding environments. Through the interviews and focus groups, researchers discovered environmental practices among some interviewees that bear an eco-theological potential, that is, influencing the congregations and local communities to become involved in environmental protection.

The project concludes that the focus groups created should be encouraged to meet regularly beyond the time frame of this project and discuss ways to implement environmental protection measures in their immediate surroundings. In November 2021, the project group hosted a webinar followed by an in-person workshop with stakeholders at the University of Pretoria.

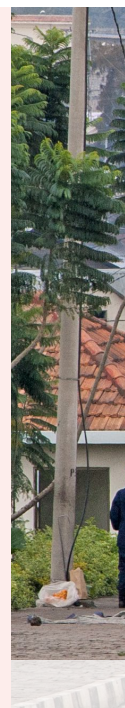


## | The Trouble with the State: Boundaries and Networks in Africa (Eucor workshop series, October/November 2022)

The state is a central concept for the study of power, domination, and socio-political change across the social sciences. Its usefulness is however contested, especially in African contexts where the Eurocentric ideal-type of the state stands in marked contrast to political realities on the ground. This raises a number of crucial questions: How are the physical and/or discursive boundaries of states contested, changed, and re-enforced in view of the importance of transnational social spaces? How can general concepts like boundaries and networks advance an understanding of politics that goes beyond both Eurocentric universalism and Africanist exceptionalism? And what are the implications of such theoretical considerations for development and peacebuilding practitioners working in Africa?

To address these timely questions among young researchers, a consortium at the ZASB, the Basel Institute on Governance, the Arnold Bergstraesser Institute, the University of Freiburg, SAGE - Sociétés, Acteurs, Gouvernement en Europe, and Sciences Po Strasbourg organized three half-day online workshops engaging with particular topics in this debate. In each workshop, a keynote by a leading scholar provided fresh analytical perspectives and methodological reflection. Twelve PhD candidates and postdocs had the opportunity to present a paper and discuss their research with peers and international scholars. The workshop series proved to be a platform for thematically focused exchange across the fields of political science, sociology, history, anthropology, and peace and conflict studies.

[www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/eucor-workshop-series](http://www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/eucor-workshop-series)



### Selected projects

#### **Harnessing Informality: Designing Anti-corruption Network Interventions and Strategic Use of Legal Instruments.**

Principal investigator: Claudia Baez Camargo

Co-investigators: Lucy Koechlin (University of Basel), Scott Newton (SOAS, University of London)  
01.01.2018-30.11.2021; Global Integrity Anti-Corruption Evidence Programme

#### **Addressing Bribery and Favouritism in the Tanzanian Health Sector: A Behavioural Approach**

Principal investigator: Claudia Baez Camargo

Co-investigators: Richard Sambaiga (University of Dar es Salaam), Ruth Persian and Matthew Howitt (The Behavioural Insights Team), Tobias Stark (Utrecht University)  
01.01.2019-31.12.2021; DFID/Global Integrity

#### **Financial Crime in Illegal Wildlife Trade (research component)**

Principal investigator: Saba Kassa.

Project members: Jacopo Costa, Robert Lugolobi.

01.04.2019-31.12.2021, PMI Impact

#### **RELIEN: Unternehmen und Religion**

Lead (University of Basel): Andreas Heuser

Consortium: Université de Strasbourg, Universität Koblenz-Landau, Université de Haute-Alsace, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) - Délégation Alsace, Kanton Basel-Stadt, Universität Basel

01.09.2020-30.06.2023; Interreg Upper Rhine

#### **Religious Communities as Actors for Ecological Sustainability (Limpopo Province): The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in South Africa**

Principal investigator: Andreas Heuser  
01.10.2020-30.09.2021, State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)/Leading House Africa

### Key publications

Baez-Camargo, Claudia, Jacopo Costa, and Lucy Koechlin. 2021. "Informal Networks As Investment in East Africa". Basel Institute on Governance/ Global Integrity Anti-Corruption Evidence.

Costa, Jacopo. 2021. "Social Network Analysis Applied to Illegal Wildlife Trade Between East Africa and Southeast Asia". Working Paper 35. Basel Insititute on Governance.

Costa, Jacopo, Claudia Baez-Camargo, Saba Kassa, and Robert Lugolobi. 2021. "The Role of Informal Networks in Promoting Illegal Wildlife Trade: A Qualitative Analysis from Uganda". *Trends in Organized Crime*, 1-23.

Heuser, Andreas. 2021. "Pfingstbewegung und Megakirchen - Neue Forschungstrends". *Verkündigung Und Forschung (VuF)* 66 (2). Gütersloher Verlagshaus: 84-103.

Heuser, Andreas. 2021. "Zerbrochener Spiegel: Von Lernorten der Ökumene zu ökumenischen Nicht-Orten. Die EKD-Thesenreihe zur ökumenischen Ausbildung im Spiegel aktueller kirchenpolitischer Entwicklungen". *Interkulturelle Theologie* 47 (2). EVA; Basileia: 215-19.





View of the border to the Democratic Republic of Congo from Rubavu, Rwanda.  
Photo: Simone D. McCourtie/World Bank, 2015

#### Selected events

##### East Africa Research Fund End-of-programme Event

Presentation of the final results of the project "Corruption attitudes, social norms and behaviors in East Africa"  
16 March 2021 | Public event/  
Symposium

##### Harnessing the Intangible – eEnhancing Integrity During Crises

Panel at the OECD Global Anti-Corruption & Integrity Forum moderated by Claudia Baez Camargo  
25 March 2021 | Public event

##### Consolidated or Undermined Statehood? The Transnationalisation of State Legitimacy

Session 1 of the Eucor cross-border workshop series co-organized, hosted by Virginie Roiron (Sciences Po Strasbourg)  
25 October 2021 (online) | Workshop

##### Contested Migration, Governance, and Borders

Session 2 of the Eucor cross-border workshop series, hosted by Andreas Mehler and Franzisca Zanker (Arnold Bergstraesser Institute)  
2 November 2021 (online) | Workshop

##### How Can You Harness Informality to Design Anti-corruption Interventions?

Presentation by Claudia Baez-Camargo, GI-ACE Weekly Series  
4 November 2021 | Lecture series

##### African Initiated Churches as Actors for Ecological Sustainability in Limpopo, South Africa

Webinar in the framework of the research project "Religious Communities as Actors for Ecological Sustainability (Limpopo Province): The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in South Africa" co-organized with the University of Pretoria  
5-6 November 2021 | Congress / Conference / Symposium

##### The Trouble with the Nation-state. Knowledge Production and Policy Implications in a Transnational World

Session 3 of the Eucor cross-border workshop series, hosted by Claudia Baez-Camargo (Basel Institute on Governance) and Joschka Philipps (University of Bayreuth) and Pascal Schmid (ZASB)  
9 November 2021 (online) | Workshop

#### Partnerships/major collaborations

University of Dar es Salaam  
Makerere University  
University of Ghana/Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA)  
University of Pretoria, Faculty of Theology  
University of Limpopo  
Arnold Bergstraesser Institute/University of Freiburg i.Br.  
University of Strassbourg  
Chinese University of Hongkong

#### Members

Claudia Baez-Camargo (Basel Institute on Governance)  
Dominik Balthasar (swisspeace)  
Jacopo Costa (Basel Institute on Governance)  
Gregor Dobler (Universität Freiburg i.Br.)  
Till Förster (Department of Social Sciences)  
Laurent Goetschel (swisspeace)  
Andreas Heuser (Faculty of Theology)  
Saba Kassa (Basel Institute on Governance)  
Elisio Macamo (Department of Social Sciences)  
Mazembo Eddy Mavungu  
Andreas Mehler (Arnold Bergstraesser Institut)

# Public Health, Ecosystems, and Well-Being

| Martin Rösli

## Aims and approaches

Given that human health is closely interlinked with social-ecological systems, we pursue interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches to deepen our understanding of environmental health risks in different social and cultural contexts.

In our activities, we consider a broad range of health outcomes, ranging from well-being to chronic diseases. We conduct climate change research by combining climate modelling and health data to find solutions for both adaptation and mitigation. We also have a strong track-record in pesticide research, which includes exposure assessments and health studies. Further, our research comprises a wide range of additional environmental exposures to water, soil, and air, which are pertinent to health such as air pollution, noise, and radiation.

To better understand the complex interactions of environmental conditions with social, cultural, and economic contexts, the social sciences play a key role. A major goal of our activity is to work towards successful interventions to improve the health situation of the population, thereby concentrating on vulnerability and resilience.

## Pesticides

The Covid-19 pandemic has been a challenge for the conduct of research, in particular when it comes to data collection. Nevertheless, in the framework of the “Prospective Child Health Agricultural Pesticide Study in South Africa” (CapSA) further progress was made in completing the remaining 150 interviews with the guardians of the study participants. In addition, substantial progress has been made in geo-coding addresses, a prerequisite for individual pesticide exposure assessments.

In an investigation of the relation between urinary organophosphate pesticide metabolite concentrations with pesticide exposures, socio-economic factors, and lifestyles among rural boys in the Western Cape, we found that younger age and living in and around apple and grape farms are associated with increased

urinary organophosphate pesticide concentrations (Molomo et al. 2021). We also successfully tested silicon wristbands in child/guardian pairs in the same household as a novel method in pesticide exposure assessment (Fuhrimann et al, 2021a). Out of 21 targeted pesticides, 16 current and past used pesticides were found, with deltamethrin, chlorpyrifos, boscalid, cypermethrin, and p,p'-DDT being most commonly detected. Our understanding about the prevalence of various pesticides in soil and air was further improved by detailed analyses of samples collected over the last two years (Dengrele et al, 2021; Veludo et al, 2021).

In collaboration with the Uganda National Association of Community and Occupational

### Africa Pesticide Intervention Studies (APsent): Baseline Data Collection and Intervention in Uganda (online video)

Although high levels of pesticide use by farmers in different parts of Africa have been documented, there is a paucity of evidence about which specific interventions have the capability to reduce the risk of pesticide exposure to ecology and human health. In 2020, the African Pesticide Intervention Study (APsent) was initiated with the overall goal to obtain a better understanding about on-going research and public health activities related to pesticide interventions in Africa, and to provide a basis for suitable interventions targeting specific situations.

In 2021, the APsent project published an online video showcasing a case study in Uganda. The video presents the baseline of the clustered randomized control trial to evaluate a two-day training and SMS intervention on safe pesticide use among smallholder farmers.

[www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/apsent](http://www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/apsent)





Health (UNACOH), the African Pesticide Intervention Study (APsent) was launched, focusing on 545 smallholder farmworkers to reduce the health risk of pesticides. Applying a randomized control trial design, participants were stratified into three distinct groups (control, two-day training, and an SMS follow-up). Currently, the data analysis is ongoing with a focus on changes in a) organic and conventional pesticide use, b) knowledge, attitude, and practices and c) behaviour change in regard to protective glove use. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, training and baseline survey took place in autumn 2020 with a follow-up in 2021. In this context, we have also produced a film about the study and about protection measures. Preliminary results were presented

at the international pesticide workshop in November 2021.

### Air pollution

An analysis investigating ambient air pollution and cardiorespiratory outcomes amongst adults residing in four informal settlements in the Western Province of South Africa found some evidence of an association between annual ambient air pollution (PM<sub>2.5</sub>: particles with a diameter of  $<2.5 \mu\text{m}$ ) exposure and self-reported chest-pain (a crude proxy of angina-related pain), even at levels below the South African National Ambient Air Quality Standards (Bagula et. al. 2021). Further, we have developed and applied a machine learning approach to impute missing PM<sub>10</sub>



The video features the case study and training course for farmers in the Kumi and Sembabule Districts in Uganda  
Film stills/source: Youtube.com



(particles  $<10\ \mu\text{m}$ ) measurement data in areas where data collection is sparse and incomplete as was the case for most air pollution measurement sites in South Africa between 2010–2017 (Arowosegbe et al, 2021b). Subsequently, we evaluated temporal and spatial trends of PM<sub>10</sub> and found a decrease in the change of annual PM<sub>10</sub> levels for sites in Gauteng and Mpumalanga Provinces, while PM<sub>10</sub> levels increased at most sites in Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal (Oluwaseyi et al, 2021b).

### **Climate change, drought, water quality and diarrhoea**

In the first systematic review of its kind on the adverse health effects associated with drought in Africa, we found that existing evidence on adverse health outcomes and drought is limited, mainly reflecting the paucity of data rather than the absence of risk (Asmall et. al. 2021). Malnutrition in children, wasting, stunting, and underweight are the most prominent health effects associated with drought that should be addressed in future research focussing on vulnerable communities. A study investigating diarrhoea among children aged under five years and risk factors in informal settlements in Cape Town highlighted that good hygiene practice is a key intervention against diarrhoea in children below five in informal settlements (Nguyen et. al. 2021).

A study conducted in 2021 on heat and cardiovascular disease relying on databases from two hospitals in Limpopo Province, South Africa (Jacqueline Buhler, MSc) found an increase in cardiovascular disease admissions for warm (27–32°C) and specific cold (12–24°C) apparent temperatures cumulated over 21 days. The increase of cardiovascular disease admissions due to warm apparent temperatures appeared immediately and lasted for 2 to 4 days, whereas the lag-structure for the cold (6–25°C) effect was inconsistent. A proportion of 8.5% and 1.16% of the total cardiovascular disease admissions were attributable to cold and warm temperatures, respectively.

### **Outlook and planned activities**

While the Swiss South African Chair in Global Environmental Health will further address

various environmental health risks, the research portfolio has also steadily widened. For instance, with data from the CapSA study we could demonstrate the negative impacts of maternal drinking and co-exposure from smoking during and after pregnancy on cognitive functions and health related quality of life (Chetty-Mhlanga et al., 2021). In another, currently ongoing project we look into the effect of early puberty on HIV risk among girls participating in the CapSA study. Obviously, the Covid-19 pandemic has also been the subject of several research activities. The total number of postgraduate students involved in the Swiss South African Chair since inception has increased to 42, including 11 PhDs (2 graduated), 28 master students (18 graduated) and three postdocs (1 completed). It is thus our aim to provide a sustainable research platform for environmental and public health research, with mutual learning and exchange between the various international partners involved.

### Selected projects

#### **Joint South Africa and Swiss Chair in Global Environmental Health**

Project leaders: Aqiel Dalvie, Martin Rössli, Guéladio Cissé  
2015-2024, State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), National Research Foundation (NRF) South Africa

#### **Prospective Child Health Agricultural Pesticide Study in South Africa (CapSA)**

Principal investigator: Aqiel Dalvie  
2015-2023, National Research Foundation South Africa (NRF), SARChi Chair Programme, South African Medical Research Council, State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)

#### **Development of Interventions to Reduce Pesticide Exposure in Africa**

Project leaders: Martin Rössli, Aqiel Dalvie, Aggrey Atuhaire  
2020-2021, State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)

#### **Climate Change and Cardiovascular Diseases: State and Exploratory Analyses of Patient Data in Limpopo Province, South Africa**

Project leader: Guéladio Cissé  
2020-2021, State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), Leading House Africa

#### **Feasibility of Mobile Wastewater Laboratories for Detection of Infectious Disease Outbreaks in Remote and Rural Areas**

Project leaders: Dominique Bollinger, Renee Street, Guéladio Cissé  
2020-2021, State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), Leading House Africa

#### **Multifaceted Impacts of COVID-19 on Bottom Forty Percent Income Residents in Malaysia: Inequities and Co-benefits of Interventions**

Project leader: Guéladio Cissé  
2020-2022, ETHZ (Leading House Asia) - special COVID-19 call

#### **Reproductive Health Effects Due to Pesticide Exposure Amongst Boys in the Rural Western Cape in South Africa**

PhD project Wisdom Basera

#### **The Relationship Between Organophosphate Metabolites and Neurotoxicity Amongst Emerging Farmers in the Western Cape: A Longitudinal Study**

MD thesis, Barblin Michelsen

#### **Development of Current Use Pesticide Analysis Methods**

PhD Mufaro Mugari

#### **Modelling South Africa's Daily PM Concentrations at High Spatio-temporal Resolution and Assessing the Association with Acute Adverse Health Effects**

PhD thesis: Oluwaseyi Arowosegbe

#### **A Cross-Sectional Study Examining the Association Between Maternal Drinking Problems and Child Neurocognitive Delays Within the Western Cape Region**

MPH thesis Paolo Viglietti

#### **Cohort Study of Reproductive and Developmental Effects in School Girls Exposed to Pesticides in the Rural Western Cape**

PhD thesis Wicki Majors

#### **Relationship Between Urinary OP Pesticide Metabolites and Change in Anthropometric Outcomes Over 12 months Among Children in the Western Cape**

MPH thesis H. Wallace

#### **The Effect of Climate Change on Cardiovascular Diseases: What the Future Could Look Like for India and South Africa**

PhD thesis: Shreya Shrikhande

#### **Apparent Temperature and Cardiovascular Disease: A Time-series Analysis of Hospital Admission data in the Limpopo Province of South Africa**

Master thesis in Epidemiology: Jacqueline Buehler

## Key publications

Arowosegbe O. O., Rösli M., Kunzli N., Saucy A., Adebayo-Ojo T. C., Jeebhay M., Dalvie M. A., de Hoogh K. Comparing Methods to Impute Missing Daily Ground-Level PM10 Concentrations between 2010–2017 in South Africa. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 2021a;18:3374.

Arowosegbe O. O., Rösli M., Adebayo-Ojo T. C., Dalvie M. A., de Hoogh K. Spatial and Temporal Variations in PM10 Concentrations between 2010–2017 in South Africa. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 2021b; 18 (24): 13348.

Asmall T., Abrams A., Rösli M., Cissé G., Carden K., Dalvie M. A. The adverse health effects associated with drought in Africa. *The Science of the Total Environment*, 2021;793:148500.

Bagula H., Olaniyan T., de Hoogh K., Saucy A., Parker B., Leaner J., Rösli M., Dalvie M. A. Ambient Air Pollution and Cardiorespiratory Outcomes amongst Adults Residing in Four Informal Settlements in the Western Province of South Africa. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 2021;18 (24): 13306.

Chetty-Mhlanga S., Viglietti P., Rösli M., Dalvie M. A. Maternal drinking behaviour and co-exposure from smoking during and after pregnancy in relation to the neurocognitive function of school-children in the rural Western Cape. *Neurotoxicology*, 2022; 88: 36–43.

Degrendele C., Klanova J., Prokes R., Pribylova P., Senk P., Sudoma M., Rösli M., Dalvie M. A., Fuhrmann S. Current use pesticides in soil and air from two agricultural sites in South Africa: Implications for environmental fate and human exposure. *The Science of the Total Environment*, 2022; 807: 150455.

Fuhrmann S., Mol H. G. J., Dias J., Dalvie M. A., Rösli M., Degrendele C., Figueiredo D. M., Huss A., Portengen L., Vermeulen R. Quantitative assessment of multiple pesticides in silicone wristbands of children/guardian pairs living in agricultural areas in South Africa. *The Science of the Total Environment*, 2021a;812:152330.

Fuhrmann S., Wan C., Blouard E., Veludo A., Holtman Z., Chetty-Mhlanga S., Dalvie M. A., Atuhaire A., Kromhout H., Rösli M., Rother H. A. Pesticide Research on Environmental and Human Exposure and Risks in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Systematic Literature Review. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 2021b; 19(1): 259

Mhlanga, S. *An epidemiological cohort study of children and adolescents investigating neurobehavioural effects from pesticide exposure and e-media use in South Africa*. 2021, Doctoral Thesis, University of Basel, Faculty of Science.

Nguyen T.Y. C., Fagbayigbo B. O., Cisse G., Redi N., Fuhrmann S., Okedi J., Schindler C., Rösli M., Armitage N. P., Carden K., Dalvie M. A. Diarrhoea among children aged under five years and risk factors in informal settlements: a cross-sectional study in Cape Town, South Africa. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 2021; 18 (11): 6043.

Veludo A. F., Martins Figueiredo D., Degrendele C., Masinyana L., Curchod L., Kohoutek J., Kukucka P., Martinik J., Pribylova P., Klanova J., Dalvie M. A., Rösli M., Fuhrmann S. Seasonal variations in air concentrations of 27 organochlorine pesticides (OCPs) and 25 current-use pesticides (CUPs) across three agricultural areas of South Africa. *Chemosphere*, 2022;289:133162

### Interventions to Reduce Pesticide Exposure from the Agricultural Sector in Africa (international online workshop, 15–17 November 2021)

Within the framework of the African Pesticide Intervention Study (APsent), an online workshop was conducted to discuss recent research about interventions to reduce pesticide exposure from the agricultural sector in Africa. The aim of the workshop was to mutually learn from different stakeholders involved in pesticide research and management in Africa about barriers and promoters for successful interventions. The first day focused on the exposure of workers. The second day examined interventions that primarily address the reduction of environmental and public pesticide exposure. The third day was dedicated to different stakeholders' perspectives and to a discussion of the most pertinent policy implications.

Participation in the workshop was without cost and open to anyone interested. In total, 198 participants from 37 countries registered. Most of the participants were from Africa (67%), followed by Europe (18%), America (9%), and Asia (4%; see figure). Most of the participants declared to be researchers (69%), followed by representatives of authorities (10%), non-governmental organizations (7%), practitioners (4%), and industry (3%).

*Presentations of the workshop and recordings of the talks are available at [www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/pesticide-exposure](http://www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/pesticide-exposure)*



Selected events**Climate Change and COVID-19: What Do We Know or Could Do From Health Systems' Perspectives for These Twin Planetary Challenges?**

SwissTPH Virtual Event Series N° 4  
(Guéladio Cissé, Martina Ragetti, Jakob Zinsstag, Daniel Cobos)  
3 Jun 2021 | Symposium

**Cell Phone, Cellular Masts, Electromagnetic Waves, 5G and Its Effects on Human Health**

Workshop with the South African Institute of Environmental Health (SAIEH)  
30 Jul 2021 | Workshop

**Online Workshop "Rapid Qualitative Health Research Methods"**

Joint event by the Nursing Department, the SwissTPH and the Department of Anthropology, University of Basel  
23-25 Aug 2021 | Workshop

**What Did You Want to Know About COVID-19?**

SwissTPH Sponsor Symposium at ECTMIH 2021 (Juerg Utzinger, Claudia Daubenberger, Daniel Paris, Andrew Shattock, Guéladio Cissé, Daniel Cobos)  
30 Sep 2021 | Symposium

**Interventions to Reduce Pesticide Exposure from Agriculture Sector in Africa**

International online workshop  
15-17 Nov 2021 | Workshop

**Online Workshop of the Joint South Africa and Swiss Chair in Global Environmental Health**

Study consortium workshop  
18-19 Nov 2021 | Workshop

Members

Guéladio Cissé (SwissTPH)  
Aqiel Dalvie (University of Cape Town)  
Andrea Rother (University of Cape Town)  
James Merron (Projects ZASB)  
Sonja Merten (SwissTPH)  
Martin Rösli (SwissTPH)  
Jasmina Saric (SwissTPH)  
Piet van Eeuwijk (Department of Social Sciences)  
Danelle Van Zyl-Hermann (Department of History)  
Mirko Severin Winkler (SwissTPH)  
Henri-Michel Yéré (Department of Social Sciences)  
Natalie Tarr (Swiss Society for African Studies)  
Sandra Staudacher (Public Health)  
Andrea Kaiser-Grolimund (Anthropology)  
Samuel Fuhrmann (SwissTPH)  
Aggrey Atuhaire (Uganda National Association of Community and Occupational Health (UNACOH))

Partnerships/major collaborations

University of Cape Town, School of Public Health and Family Medicine  
University of Pretoria  
South Africa Medical Research Council  
Malaya University

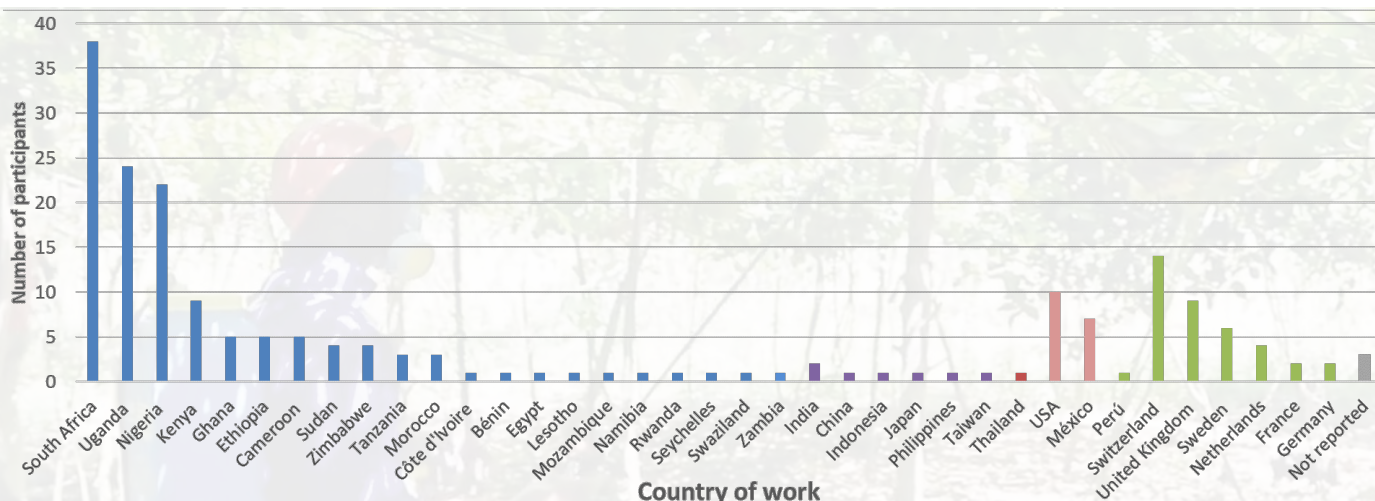


Figure: Country of work of the registered workshop participants.

# Arts, Culture, and Urbanism



| Till Förster

| Kenny Cupers

This key area engages with a wide range of themes and approaches in the study of arts, aesthetics, politics, and everyday lifeworlds. Our members bring together ethnographic, visual, archival, and other research methods in order to develop new perspectives and modes of research in collaboration with partners in Africa and beyond.

## Urban Studies and Critical Urbanisms

The SNSF-funded project “How Infrastructure Shaped Territory in Africa,” led by Kenny Cupers includes three PhD projects. Ernest Sewardor’s dissertation investigates the historical connections between imagined aspirations and colonial infrastructures in the production of mining landscapes in Ghana. Giulia Scotto’s dissertation examines postcolonial questions of logistics, mapping how the infrastructural, architectural, and propagandistic operations of the Italian national hydrocarbon agency ENI shaped postcolonial urbanization in Tanzania and Ghana. Thomas Betschart’s dissertation focuses on infrastructure development in regard to urbanization processes in modern-day Ethiopia. As an urban scholar, his work is situated at the intersection of sociology, geography, planning, and politics, using case study, field reconnaissance, and ethnographic methodologies.

In the framework of the SNSF Sinergia project “Governing Through Design: An Interdisciplinary Phenomenon”, co-directed by Kenny Cupers (with Orit Halpern and Claudia Mareis), Laura Nkula-Wenz focuses squarely on urban governance transformation, the construction of local political agency through international accolades, on urban experimentation and interurban knowledge networks, the nexus of cultural production and urban change, as well as the role of professional integrity in the urban development sector.

Through these and other collaborative projects, the research cluster at Urban Studies and Critical Urbanisms is developing a research agenda centred on the relationship between infrastructure, sovereignty, and the urban – with a particular interest in African struggles for decolonization.

## Aesthetics from the Margins

The Aesthetics from the Margins cluster welcomed Sindi-Leigh McBride as a third doctoral researcher. She investigates the discursive dimensions of climate politics in South Africa and Nigeria, with a particular focus on issues of form, or poetics. The acquisition of an SNSF grant for the project “The (In)Audible Past” led by Ute Holl and Lorena Rizzo will allow two additional PhD candidates and one post-doc position as from spring 2022.

## Literary Studies

Isabelle Chariatte presented the writer Blaise Ndala (Congo RDC/Canada) with the Prix Ahmadou Kourouma during the award ceremony of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Organisation de la Francophonie at the Salon du livre Genève. She also chaired a public reading with the author under the title “Dans le Ventre du Congo”, held at the Literaturhaus Basel in October. During the Semaine de la langue française in March, Isabelle Chariatte hosted a slam poetry event with Timba Bema (Cameroon/Switzerland) about the resilience of women in Haiti.

## African Photography Initiatives

Jürg Schneider (African Photography Initiatives) organized two exhibitions in Spain this year: The travelling exhibition “Lejos y Cerca. Sobre la normalización de la vida cotidiana. África Central-Asturias” from January to July 2021 at various venues in northern Spain (Asturias) brought together photographs (dated between 1930 and 1980) from the Press Photographic Archive of Buea (Cameroon) and the Museum of the People of Asturias, from private collections in Belmonte and Somiedo, and from private collections in Burundi. The exhibition played with the idea of differences and similarities between two societies in order to “normalize” the vision of other people. The exhibition “Tierra, agua y fuego. Ser Mujer en las colinas de Burundi” from December 2021 to January 2022 in Asturias offered the view of the women photographer collective *Rweze* from Bujumbura on the life of women in the country’s provinces.

Selected projects**Aesthetics from the Margins.  
Photography in Africa and the Poetics of  
Un/Making the World**

Principal investigator: Lorena Rizzo  
 Project members: James Lawrence  
 Merron, Kadiatou Nenein Diallo  
 01.02.2018-31.01.2023, foundations and  
 associations

**Territorial Design: How Infrastructure  
Shaped Territory in Africa**

Principal investigator: Kenny R. Cupers  
 Project members: Thomas Betschart,  
 Giulia Scotto, Ernest Sewordor  
 01.09.2018-31.10.2022, SNSF

**Life in the West African Savannah Since  
the 1970s: Hegemony and Autonomy**

Principal investigator: Till Förster  
 Project member: Lucy Koechlin  
 01.11.2019-31.08.2022, SNSF

**Governing Through Design: An  
Interdisciplinary Phenomenon**

Principal investigators: Kenny Cupers,  
 Claudia Mareis (Humboldt Universität),  
 Orit Halpern (Concordia University)  
 Project member (University of Basel):  
 Laura Nkula-Wenz  
 01.03.2020-29.02.2024; SNSF Singergia

Selected events**The Coloniality of Infrastructure.  
Eurafrican Legacies**

Conference organized by Critical  
 Urbanism, University of Basel, with  
 keynotes by Achille Mbembe, Siba  
 N'Zatioula Grovogui and Sarah Nuttall.  
 12 January 2021 | Conference/  
 Symposium

**Slam-session and Lecture by Timba  
Bema (Cameroon)**

In the framework of the Semaine de la  
 francophonie. Host: Isabelle Chariatte  
 30 Mar 2021 | Public event

**Prix Ahmadou Kourouma 2021:  
Presentation of the Winner Blaise Ndala**

A cooperation between the Salon du  
 Livre, the Centre for African Studies  
 and the Séminaire d'études françaises,  
 University of Basel  
 25 Oct 2021 | Public event

Key publications

Cupers, Kenny. 2021. "Coloniality of  
 Infrastructure". *E-Flux Architecture,  
 Online Series*.

Newbury, Darren, Lorena Rizzo, and  
 Kylie Thomas, eds. 2021. *Women &  
 Photography in Africa. Creative Practices  
 and Feminist Challenges*. London:  
 Routledge.

Rensing, Julia, Lorena Rizzo, and  
 Wanda Rutishauser, eds. 2021. *Sites  
 of Contestation. Encounters With the  
 Ernst and Ruth Dammann Collection  
 in the Archives of the Basler Afrika  
 Bibliographien*. Basel: Basler Afrika  
 Bibliographien.

Rizzo, Lorena. 2021. "Photography's  
 Distance Within". In *The Distance Within*,  
 edited by Nicola Brandt, 1-20. Basel:  
 Schwabe Verlag.

Rizzo, Lorena. 2021. "The Materiality and  
 Visuality of Intimacy in a South African  
 Colonial Archive". In *Family and Justice  
 in the Archive: Histories of Intimacy in  
 Transnational Perspective*, edited by P.  
 Gossage and E. Reiter, 1-20. Montreal:  
 Concordia University Press.

Schneider, Jürg. 2021. "Circulating  
 West-African Photographs in the Atlantic  
 Visualscape." *Transatlantic Cultures*.

Siegenthaler, Fiona, and Cathrine  
 Bublatzky. 2021. "(Un)sighted Archives  
 of Migration - Spaces of Encounter  
 and Resistance. Introduction." *Visual  
 Anthropology* 34 (4). Taylor & Francis:  
 283-95.

Siegenthaler, Fiona. 2021. "Representing  
 Johannesburg in Transformation: Urban  
 Experience, Imageries, and the Work of  
 Art by David Koloane, Jo Ractliffe and  
 Anthea Moys". *Critical African Studies* 13  
 (3): 286-304.

Turner, Irina, Siri Lamoureaux, and  
 James Merron. 2021. "Indiscipline As  
 Method: From Telescopes to Ventilators  
 in Times of Covid". *Filosofia Theoretica:  
 Journal of African Philosophy, Culture  
 and Religions* 10 (3): 79-102.

Partnerships/major collaborations

Catholic University of West Africa (Côte  
 d'Ivoire)  
 University of Bouaké (Côte d'Ivoire)  
 University of Cape Town, African Centre  
 for Cities (South Africa)  
 Rhodes University, Grahamstown  
 (South Africa)  
 University of Fort Hare, East London  
 (South Africa)

Members

Lesley Braun (Department of Social  
 Sciences)  
 Isabelle Chariatte (Department of  
 Languages and Literatures)  
 Kenny Cupers (Department of Social  
 Sciences)  
 Serena Dankwa (Fachhochschule  
 Nordwestschweiz FHNW)  
 Till Förster (Department of Social  
 Sciences)  
 Ute Holl (Department Arts, Media,  
 Philosophy)  
 James Merron (Projects ZASB)  
 Sonja Merten (Swiss TPH)  
 Silke Oldenburg (Department of Social  
 Sciences)  
 Lorena Rizzo (Projects ZASB)  
 Christiane Schlote (Department of  
 Languages and Literatures)  
 Sandra Schlumpf-Thurnherr  
 (Department of Languages and  
 Literatures)  
 Jürg Schneider (African Photography  
 Initiative)  
 Fiona Siegenthaler (Department of  
 Social Sciences)  
 Danelle Van Zyl-Hermann (Department  
 of History)



# Knowledge Production, Forms, and Platforms

| Julia Tischler

Scholars collaborating in this key area address the question of knowledge production on Africa. What are the conditions for producing knowledge on Africa, and how do these affect our research agendas as well as outcomes? Whom do we produce knowledge on Africa for? How do we deal with the asymmetries that continue to characterize African Studies, in which Northern institutions and researchers play a dominant role? What does it mean to produce “postcolonial” knowledge on Africa? How can our research inform broader public debates?

## Research projects

There are currently two SNSF Sinergia projects dealing with different questions of

knowledge, its production and circulation. “Reversing the Gaze: Towards Post-Comparative Area Studies” brings together researchers at the Department of Social Sciences (Elísio Macamo) and the Institute for European Global Studies (Ralph Weber) with colleagues at the Universities of Zurich (Department of Geography) and Edinburgh (School of Law). The project “reverses the gaze” by testing the analytic purchase of concepts developed in the Global South on political crisis phenomena in Europe. The team organized an online kick-off seminar with the international project partners in April 2021, followed by a number of “inception workshops”. In May, the Institute for European Global Studies co-organized the international workshop “Keywords for India,



Impressions from the Basler Afrika Bibliographien 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibition.  
Photo: Basler Afrika Bibliographien

## **‘Don’t Say Anything Against Telephone Directories!’ (Exhibition, Sep-Dec 2021, and online exhibition)**

On the occasion of its 50th anniversary, the Basler Afrika Bibliographien (BAB) presented a colourful exhibition that shed light on various aspects of one key question: How do a library, an archive, and a publishing house handle African knowledge in Europe today? The exhibition reflected on the acquisition, accessibility, and dissemination of African knowledge and content in publications and documents of any kind – books, periodicals, papers and manuscripts, images, posters or maps, sound and film recordings, (digital) exhibitions, and other formats. As such, issues addressed concerned the processes of systematization and knowledge production.

An online exhibition, based on the physical exhibition in 2021, can be explored on the BAB website:

[www.baslerafrika.ch/bab50](http://www.baslerafrika.ch/bab50)

and Beyond? Enriching the Global Social Science Vocabulary”, with guests from the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi (Rukmini Bhaya Nair) and Goa University (Peter deSouza).

The project also hosted a joint colloquium in the spring and autumn semesters open to graduate students at all partner universities and to guests. Project members as well as guest speakers from Leiden (Peter Geschiere), London (Jennifer Robinson), and Coimbra (Maria Paula Meneses) presented their research. Project members furthermore initiated a collaboration with the African Centre for Epistemology and Philosophy of Science at the University of Johannesburg (Veli Mitova), with whom they will host a first event together in June 2022. Also in June, a project workshop is planned as a face-to-face event, followed by a roundtable discussion hosted by the project as well as two panels convened by project members at the conference of the German African Studies Association VAD in Freiburg i.Br. (Germany).

The Sinergia-Project “African Contributions to Global Health”, a collaboration between the Department of History (Julia Tischler), Swiss TPH (Jürg Utzinger), and EPFL (Jérôme Chenal) works on the (non-)circulation of knowledge in the field of health between the Global South and North ([globalhealthafrica.ch](http://globalhealthafrica.ch)). After long delays due to the pandemic, researchers were able to conduct fieldwork in Togo, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Tanzania, and Zambia, among others. In March 2021, team members convened an online roundtable on the question of whether countries in the Global North are willing to learn from Africa, where many countries show comparatively favourable Covid-19 statistics (“Covid-19: Learning from Africa - or not”). The next event in the discussion series will follow in March 2022 on “Arts and Global Health: Learning from Malawi”. Under the aegis of Tanja Hammel (Department of History), project members finalized an interdisciplinary massive open online course (MOOC) for the platform FutureLearn. In spring semester 2022, Tanja Hammel will offer a blended-learning course based on the MOOC at the University of Basel.

Natalie Tarr (Swiss TPH/ZASB) together with Stephen O. Ombere of Maseno University in Kisumu, Kenya, have been awarded a research partnership grant of the Leading House Africa. The project entitled “The Power of Images: Arts-based Materials in Sexual and Reproductive Health Interventions in Africa” looks at how public health visuals in the public space such as murals, posters, and billboards, impact on sexual and reproductive health behaviour of young people.

### Outreach activities

Dag Henrichsen (Basler Afrika Bibliographien) organized a series of hybrid (online/on-site) conversations on “Decolonising Knowledge? Africa Collections in Focus”. The series included an artist talk between Vitjitua Ndjiharine (Windhoek) and the anthropologist Fiona Siegenthaler (Basel/Stuttgart), a conversation between the librarian Jakobina Mwiiyale (Windhoek) and the decolonial scholar Nora Schmidt (Vienna), and with the filmmaker Perivi Katjavivi (Windhoek). The events were organized in collaboration with the Swiss Society for African Studies (SSAS) and the ZASB as part of the series “Wissensorte – Lieux de Savoir” of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (SAHS).

The BAB celebrated its 50th anniversary with an exhibition at its premises at Klosterberg, which can now be explored online. Furthermore, the BAB published contributions to its podcast series “Interviews and Conversations”, featuring selected recordings from the BAB audio archive and past and recent interviews with scholars and BAB guests.

Picking up ideas that were discussed at a previous KAA meeting, Isabelle Chariatte (French Studies) is co-organizing a course for students on the topic of “l’Afrique entre fiction(s) et réalité(s)” at the Gymnasium Liestal. Tanja Hammel presented a talk at the FHNW on colonial legacies in Basel and engaged in a discussion with two members of the Basel-Stadt Grand Council who would like to plead for the institution of an expert committee tasked with a historical reappraisal of Basel’s colonial past.

## Selected projects

### African Contributions to Global Health: Circulating Knowledge and Innovations

Principal investigators: Tischler Julia, Utzinger Jürg, Chenal Jerome (EPF Lausanne)

Project members, Basel: Danelle van Zyl-Hermann, Tanja Hammel, Doris Osei-Afryie, Ipy Eric Nebie, Günther Fink, Christian Burri, Jakob Zinsstag  
01.06.2019-31.05.2023, SNSF (Sinergia)

### Reversing the Gaze: Towards Post-Comparative Area Studies

Principal investigators: Elísio Macamo, Ralph Weber, Deval Desai (University of Edinburgh), Benedikt Korf (University of Zurich)

Project members, Basel: Tebuho Winnie Kanyimba, Matthias Claudio Maurer Rueda, Lerato Posholi, Pascal Schmid  
01.09.2020-31.08.2024, SNSF (Sinergia)

## Key publications

Heuser, Andreas. 2021. "Afrozentrizität-Afropolitanität-Kosmopolitanismus. Positionsbestimmungen Postkolonialer Afrikanischer Theologie". *Interkulturelle Theologie* 47 (2). EVA; Basileia: 36-60.

Heuser, Andreas. 2021. "Outlines of a Pentecostal Dominion Theology". In *Political Pentecostalism: Four Synoptic Surveys from Asia, Africa, and Latin America*, edited by Leandro L. Bedin-Fontana and Markus Luber, 187-246. Kirche Und Weltmission. Regensburg: Verlag Friedrich Pustet.

Schlumpf, Sandra. 2021. "Spanisch in Afrika/Afrika in Spanien. Sprachliche Charakteristika Von Spanischsprecherinnen Und Spanischsprechern Aus Äquatorialguinea in Madrid". *Romanistisches Jahrbuch* 72 (1). De Gruyter: 339-87.

Schlumpf-Thurnherr, Sandra. 2021. "De Castizar a Disparar O ¿cómo Hablan Los Guineoecuatorianos El español? Terminología metalingüística Y Reflexiones teórico-ideológicas a Partir De Un Corpus De Entrevistas sociolingüísticas". *RILEX. Revista Sobre Investigaciones léxicas* 4 (3). Universidad de Jaén: 11-51.

Tarr, Natalie. 2021. "Bintou and Alain". In *Figures of Interpretation*, edited by B. A. S. S. Meier-Lorente-Mutz-Duchêne, 34-38. Writing Without Borders. Bristol: Multilingual Matters.

Tischler, Julia. 2021. "'The Only Industry That Can Make Us Hold Our Own': Black Agrarianism in South Africa from a Transatlantic Perspective, Ca. 1910-1930". *The American Historical Review*, 1-28.

Zepro, Nejimu Biza, Araya Abrha Medhanyie, Afework Mulugeta Bezabih, Natalie Tarr, and Sonja Merten. 2021. "Lived Experiences and Perceptions of Childbirth Among Pastoralist Women in North-East Ethiopia: A Multimethod Qualitative Analysis to the WHO Health Systems Responsiveness Framework". *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 18 (23). MDPI: 12518.

Zyl-Hermann, Danelle van. 2021. *Privileged Precariat: White Workers and South Africa's Long Transition to Majority Rule*. The International African Library. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.



Historian Andrea Kifyasi, here at the Tanzanian National Archive, and ...  
Film still from the MOOC "Examining African Contributions to Global Health" (FutureLearn, 2021)

### Examining African Contributions to Global Health (massive open online course)

The history of science has largely been written from the perspective of the Global North. This has meant that the impact of the Global South has been neglected and undervalued. A five-week massive open online course (MOOC) uncovers the innovation and excellence that Africa has brought to global health over time. The interdisciplinary course was created by team members of the Sinergia Project "African Contributions to Global Health" and features members of the ZASB network.



Selected events**| COVID-19: Learning from Africa - Or Not?**

Discussion series "Global Health Africa" with Bassirou Bonfoh (Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques), Jacinta Victoria Muinde, Ruth Prince (both University of Oslo), and Jürg Utzinger (SwissTPH)  
16 March 2021 (online) | Public event

**| Peter Geschiere: Reversing the Gaze. Anthropological Experiments – Steps Towards Decolonization?**

Guest lecture in the research colloquium "Reversing the Gaze"  
7 April 2021 (online) | Colloquium

**| Keywords for India, and Beyond? Enriching the Global Social Science Vocabulary**

Workshop with Rukmini Bhaya Nair and Peter deSouza  
7 May 2021 (online) | Workshop

**| Jennifer Robinson: Generating Concepts for Global Urban Studies. Reformatting Comparative Urbanism**

Guest lecture in the research colloquium "Reversing the Gaze"  
19 May 2021 (online) | Colloquium

**| How Political is Knowledge?**

Basel Summer School in African Studies with Elísio Macamo and Ralph Weber  
13-17 September 2021 (online) | Workshop

**| Vitjitua Ndjiharine and Fiona Siegenthaler: Unsettling (Y)our Gaze and Decolonizing the Archive**

Conversation in the hybrid artist talk series "Decolonising Knowledge? Africa Collections in Focus"  
22 November 2021 | Lecture series/ Public event

**| Maria Paula Meneses: Translating Forms of Knowledge**

Guest lecture in the research colloquium "Reversing the Gaze"  
1 December 2021 (online) | Colloquium

**| Jakobina Mwiyale and Nora Schmidt: Decolonizing Africa Collections? Library Legacies and African Studies Futures**

Conversation in the hybrid artist talk series "Decolonising Knowledge? Africa Collections in Focus"  
2 December 2021 | Lecture series/Public event

**| Perivi Katjavivi: Cinematic Work and Colonial History**

Screening and discussion in the hybrid artist talk series "Decolonising Knowledge? Africa Collections in Focus"  
6 December 2021 | Public event/Lecture series

Members

Isabelle Chariatte (Department of Languages and Literatures)  
Laurent Goetschel (swisspeace)  
Tanja Hammel (Department of History)  
Dag Henrichsen (Basler Afrika Bibliographien)  
Andreas Heuser (Faculty of Theology)  
Alexandra Hofmänner (Department of Social Sciences)  
Mohomodou Houssouba (songhay.org)  
Elísio Macamo (Department of Social Sciences)  
Christoph Pimmer (Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz FHNW)  
Lerato Posholi (Institute for European Global Studies)  
Sandra Schlumpf-Thurnherr (Department of Languages and Literatures)  
Fiona Siegenthaler (Department of Social Sciences)  
Natalie Tarr (SwissTPH)  
Julia Tischler (Department of History)  
Danelle Van Zyl-Hermann (Department of History)  
Ralph Weber (Institute for European Global Studies)  
Jakob Zinsstag (SwissTPH)

Videos and podcasts that show how the continent has contributed to Global Health practices take participants to Mali, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, and Zambia. The course offers a unique Africanist perspective and insights into different disciplines such as public health, urban planning, and history. Thereby learners familiarize themselves with innovations that benefit public health not only in Africa, but also in other parts of the world.

The MOOC is available on the platform FutureLearn.

[www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/mooc-health](http://www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/mooc-health)



... Doris Osei Afriyie, PhD candidate at SwissTPH, are two of the experts featured in the MOOC. Film still from the MOOC "Examining African Contributions to Global Health" (FutureLearn, 2021)

# Land, Landscapes, and Ecology



Giorgio  
Miescher

Nikolaus Kuhn

## Aims and approaches

The Key Area of Activity “Land, Landscapes, and Ecology” features a research agenda based on the combination of three interconnected key themes in Africa-related research and debates in the humanities, social, and natural sciences:

Land is a core topic in political struggles across Africa, and beyond, and the question of who owns and who can make use of the land and natural resources more generally, is fundamental to any socio-political analysis. Practices of land-use are never isolated but always related to complex ecological, social, and cultural processes, which, at the same time, are embedded in broader spatial and temporal frameworks.

The term “landscape”, on the other hand, offers a theoretical perspective for discussing material and imagined (or practical and meta-physical) conceptions, through which land is shaped, perceived, experienced, and understood. Landscape, therefore, is a concept that is reflected on in both the social and the natural sciences, and it opens up productive pathways towards interdisciplinary research.

The term “ecology”, finally, refers to the study of interactions between components within ecosystems, and highlights the commitment to include biological, environmental, and conservation science into our understanding of land and landscapes in Africa.

In sum, the KAA “Land, Landscapes, and Ecology” offers a platform for thinking about the past, present, and future of land and land-use across the disciplines, on the basis of a sustained interdisciplinary dialogue that wishes to synthesize theoretical and methodological approaches from natural science, social science, as well as the humanities.

## Land use and landscape narratives

Since 2017, researchers from the fields of the social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences based in South Africa, Namibia, and Switzerland, have worked together in the tri-national research project “Space in Time:

Landscape narratives and land management changes in a Southern African cross-border region”. The project aims to understand the changing landscape along the Lower Orange River/!Garib from various disciplinary angles. The project brings together KAA members from different disciplines. Our common research questions imply, firstly, to identify changing land use and claims, secondly, to ask how these changes in land use and land claims affected the landscape, and, thirdly, how the landscape has reflected these changes.

Due to the pandemic and the ensuing travel restrictions, we had to cancel many of our planned activities. Fortunately, the SNSF granted a one-year extension of the project until May 2022, allowing the taking up of field research again in the second part of 2021. In April 2021, we conducted a three-day online workshop to present draft papers and preliminary research results. The workshop was very successful and provided the presenters with valuable feedbacks for finalizing and re-submitting their papers to be included in an edited volume bringing together the project findings.

The BAB Archives were busy digitizing the German colonial correspondence file “Verfügungen Polizeistation Sendlingsdrift Bd.2”, relating to the Lower Orange River and covering the years 1910 to 1914. After the National Archive of Namibia had received a paper copy already a few years ago, the BAB Archives now envisage a digital repatriation of the correspondence.

In May 2021, a workshop on “Exhibition Making”, jointly hosted by the ZASB and the Museums Association of Namibia in collaboration with the Usakos Museum’s Council took place in Usakos, Namibia. A financial contribution by the ZASB enabled both research for the workshop and the workshop itself. The workshop’s success, however, soon became overshadowed by a terrible new wave of the pandemic hitting Namibia extremely hard, during which we sadly also lost our long-standing partner Jeremy Silvester, director of the Museums Association of Namibia. The successful

partnership between Basel and Windhoek owes a lot to Jeremy and he was always an inspiration for young and old colleagues in both countries.

### **Land use and environmental impact**

The SNSF/SSAJRP project on South African cropland dust emission risks with a focus on physical thresholds, environmental, and socio-economic impacts, led in Basel by the Physical Geography and Environmental Change Research Group (Nikolaus Kuhn) came to a successful close, although the planned final conference had to be postponed due to the pandemic. Heleen Vos, who completed her PhD in June 2021, presented key research results at several conferences and peer-reviewed journals.

Heleen Vos also succeeded in receiving a Seed Grant by the Leading House Africa for a pilot study on physical and chemical characteristics of anthropogenic and natural regions of the Kimberley Tri-Biome. The latter has been selected by the South African government as one of the research areas of the EFTON programme. With the Physical Geography and Environmental Change Research Group as a partner in the EFTON programme, the continuation of the collaborative research on rangeland degradation is secured.

Rangelands comprise two thirds of the global cropland and are subject to an intense degradation of soils and vegetation. Most research so far has focused on the regional dimension of causes and impacts of soil erosion. The work done by Nikolaus Kuhn and his team in the Karoo expands the scope of such studies by focusing on the relevance of rangeland degradation on global biogeochemical cycles. The research group also contributes to the DEZA-funded “Jijiga One Health Initiative” under the lead of the Swiss TPH (Jakob Zinsstag).

### **Teaching and exchange**

On the level of teaching, we have launched a series of winter/summer schools jointly organized with the University of Namibia within the framework of the “Learning for (Ex) Change” project in 2019. For the second time

after 2020, again due to the pandemic, we had to cancel the joint comparative fieldwork in Graubünden, Switzerland, and the Karas Region, Southern Namibia, scheduled for 2021. In a reduced form, the exchange is to take place in February 2022.

The weekly Namibian and Southern African Studies research colloquium is an important platform for the interdisciplinary work of our key area. The colloquium allows bringing international scholars from various disciplines to Basel and offers students and staff an opportunity for regular interdisciplinary exchange and debates. Since the autumn semester 2020, the colloquium has been jointly organized with the University of Namibia as a hybrid online/on-site event and has since then become a pillar of regular academic exchange at student and faculty level. Hence, in this case, the digitization allowed us to strengthen forms of collaboration on an equal basis with a university from the South.

### **Outlook and planned activities**

We look forward to various activities in research and teaching in 2022:

- The second phase of the “Jijiga One Health Initiative” from 2021 to 2024 will continue with a special focus on “Application of remotely sensed data to support pastoralists’ land use and management decisions”.
- Field research in the northern Cape (near Springbok) within the framework of EFTON starts in mid-2022
- Final research and writing up will take place within the framework of the joint-research project “Space in Time”. An edited volume bringing together the diverse project findings is in preparation.
- The third winter/summer school, originally planned for 2021, will bring Namibian and Swiss students to Switzerland and Namibia to explore and compare the history (and its lasting legacy) of migrant labour and borders in the two countries.

In addition, several individual research stays and scientific exchange visits are scheduled for 2022.

Main Projects**Land Degradation in the Karoo (ongoing), South Africa**

Principal investigator: Nikolaus Kuhn  
 PhD researcher: Lu Li  
 Since 01.01.2015, University funds

**Soil Erosion Monitoring With Unmanned Aerial Vehicles**

Principal Investigator: Nikolaus Kuhn  
 01.01.2016-31.03.2022, University funds

**South African Cropland Dust Emission Risks: Physical Thresholds, Environmental and Socio-economic Impacts**

Principal investigator: Nikolaus Kuhn  
 PhD researcher: Heleen Vos  
 Postdoc researcher: Juliane Krenz  
 01.04.2017-31.03.2021, SNSF/SSAJRP

**Space in Time: Landscape Narratives and Land Management Changes in a Southern African Cross-border Region (the Lower Orange River)**

Principal investigators: Giorgio Miescher, Maano Ramutsindela (UCT)  
 Coordinator: Luregn Lenggenhager  
 Co-investigators/partners: Nikolaus Kuhn, Lena Bloemertz, Dag Henrichsen, Juliane Krenz, Martha Akawa (UNAM)  
 01.06.2017-31.05.2022, SNSF/SSAJRP

**Learning for (Ex)Change: Yearly Joint Summer/Winter Schools in Namibia and Switzerland**

Team Unibas: Luregn Lenggenhager, Lena Bloemertz, Giorgio Miescher, Silva Lieberherr  
 Team UNAM: Martha Akawa, Martin Hipondoka, Romie Nghitevelekwa, Goodman Gwasira, Nahas Angola  
 01.02.2019-31.01.2023, Stiftung Mercator Schweiz

**Jijiga One Health Initiative, Subproject on Application of Remotely Sensed Data to Support Pastoralists' Land Use and Management Decisions**

Principal investigator: Nikolaus Kuhn  
 PhD researcher: Seid Ali  
 01.01.2021-31.12.2025, SDC

**Aligning Agricultural Production and Biodiversity in Tanzania (ongoing)**

Principal investigator: Ruth Delzeit  
 PhD researcher: Simone Markoff  
 01.03.2021-28.02.2023 University funds

Key publications

Salawu-Rotimi, Adeola, Pedro H. Lebre, Heleen Cornelia Vos, Wolfgang Fister, Nikolaus J. Kuhn, Frank D. Eckard, and Don A. Cowan. 2021. "Gone With the Wind: Microbial Communities Associated With Dust from Emissive Farmlands". *Microbial Ecology* 82 (4). Springer: 859-69.

Bloemertz, Lena, Romie Nghitevelekwa, Brice Prudat, Laura Weidmann, Gregor Dobler, Olivier Graefe, and Nikolaus J. Kuhn. 2021. "Social Meaning and Material Constraints of Land Scarcity in Northern Namibia". *Integrated Land Management Institute (ILMI) Working Paper Working Paper No. 13*. Namibia University of Science and Technology: 11.

Merron, James, and Luregn Lenggenhager. 2021. "Left Button Picture, Right Button Bomb: Nature, Warfare and Technology in a Southern African Border Region". *Engaging Science, Technology, and Society* 7 (1). Society for Social Studies of Science: 67-89.

Lenggenhager, Luregn, Lena Bloemertz, and Romie Nghitevelekwa. 2021. "Turning Land into Money: Land, Inequality, and Reforms in Namibia". *Review of Agrarian Studies* 11 (1). Foundation for Agrarian Studies.

Krenz, Juliane, Philip Greenwood, and Nikolaus J. Kuhn. 2021. "Anthropogenic Erosion-Induced Small-Scale Soil Heterogeneity in South African Rangelands". *Anthropocene* 34. Elsevier: 100290.

Lenggenhager, Luregn, and Maano Ramtsindela. 2021. "Property Killed a Peace Park Dream: The Entanglement of Property, Politics and Conservation Along the Gariep". *Land Use Policy* 105. Elsevier: 105392.

Vos, Heleen C., Wolfgang Fister, Johanna R. von Holdt, Frank D. Eckardt, Anthony R. Palmer, and Nikolaus J. Kuhn. 2021. "Assessing the PM10 Emission Potential of Sandy, Dryland Soils in South Africa Using the PI-SWERL". *Aeolian Research* 53. Elsevier: 100747.

**Farewell to Jeremy Gale Silvester (1962-2021)**

On 5 June 2021, Jeremy Silvester, director of the Museums Association of Namibia, fell victim to the Corona pandemic then raging in Namibia and taking the lives of too many. We mourn the loss of a long-time partner and friend; his passing reminded us of the importance of our Africa-based colleagues for African Studies in Switzerland. Without their willingness to collaborate with us, African Studies in Basel would be a hollow endeavour.

Jeremy Silvester was an outstanding scholar, activist, and inspirational mentor for all young as well as old colleagues. The Namibian Heritage, History and Museums Studies sector has lost a visionary advocate of community focused initiatives in curatorship, collecting, archives, research, and publications throughout the country and beyond. We had the privilege to engage with Jeremy Silvester in numerous, often long-term teaching, exhibition, and publication projects. Hardly two months before his passing, we jointly organized the hybrid workshop "Collecting Voices, Images and Objects for Usakos Museum" that took place on 18 May 2021, the International Museum Day. It is still difficult to accept that this was our last collaborative work. But we remain optimistic, as Jeremy Silvester would have been, that a new generation of scholars in Namibia and elsewhere will continue to represent what he lived.

*The Museums Association of Namibia has honoured its former director with a special "Jeremy Edition" of its newsletter that brings together tributes from friends, colleagues, and partners: [www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/jeremysilvester](http://www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/jeremysilvester)*





Selected events

**Nahas Angula & Nguza Siyambango:**  
**The Role of Local Communities in**  
**Resource Management: A Case of**  
**Okongo Community Forest and**  
**Conservancy, Namibia**

Namibian and Southern African Studies  
 Research Colloquium  
 10 March 2021 | Colloquium

**Phindezwa Mnyaka: Land and Sea**  
**Acts: Performances In and Out of**  
**Photography on the South African Coast**

Namibian and Southern African Studies  
 Research Colloquium  
 24 March 2021 | Colloquium

**Space in Time - Landscape Narratives**  
**and Land Management Changes in a**  
**Southern African Cross-border Region**

Project online workshop co-organised  
 with the University of Namibia and the  
 University of Cape Town  
 22-24 April 2021 | Workshop

**Jona Heita: Human-wildlife Conflict in**  
**Communal Conservancies in Namibia**

Namibian and Southern African Studies  
 Research Colloquium  
 28 April 2021 | Colloquium

**Goodman Gwasira: Re-presenting**  
**Ethnicity in the Owela Museum,**  
**Windhoek, Namibia**

Namibian and Southern African Studies  
 Research Colloquium  
 5 May 2021 | Colloquium

**Making Museums Matter: Collecting**  
**Voices, Images and Objects for Usakos**  
**Museum**

Workshop co-organised with the  
 Museums Association of Namibia and  
 the Usakos Town Council  
 18 May 2021 | Symposium

**Johannes Dittmann: Wildlife Corridors,**  
**Resettlement and the Territorialisation**  
**of Transfrontier Conservation in**  
**northeastern Namibia**

Namibian and Southern African Studies  
 Research Colloquium  
 3 November 2021 | Colloquium

Members

Lena Bloemertz (Environmental  
 Sciences)  
 Ruth Delzeit (Environmental Sciences)  
 Samuel Fuhrmann (Swiss TPH)  
 Dag Henrichsen (Basler Afrika  
 Bibliographien)  
 Juliane Krenz (Environmental Sciences)  
 Nikolaus Kuhn (Environmental Sciences)  
 Luregn Lenggenhager (Projects ZASB)  
 Silva Lieberherr (Brot für Alle)  
 James Merron (Projects ZASB)  
 Giorgio Miescher (Projects ZASB)  
 Lorena Rizzo (Projects ZASB)  
 Vogt Roland (Environmental Sciences)

Partnerships/major collaborations

University of Namibia  
 Museums Association of Namibia  
 University of Cape Town  
 University of Johannesburg  
 University of Pretoria  
 Agricultural Research Council of South  
 Africa



Jeremy Silvester addressing Namibian and Swiss participants of the Winter-School 'Remembering Forced Removal', Swakopmund, August 2017 – one of many collaborative student exchange projects that introduced several generations of Swiss students to Namibian and African Studies.  
 Photo: Paul Grendon

# Executive Office



| Veit Arlt

| Pascal Schmid

Again, we look back on a year marked by safety measures and Zoom meetings. One difference was that everyone – students, lecturers, researchers, and we ourselves – had a certain routine when it came to adapting to the newest regulations and switching from online to face-to-face mode and back. And while in 2020, the pandemic situation often meant cancelling and postponing activities, 2021 offered an opportunity to make good for some of these, and we had a few major events during the year, even if most of them took place entirely or partly in virtual space. Luckily, we were able to organize two social outings at the end of the spring semester, inviting students, PhD-candidates, and other members of the Centre for a hike in the countryside. This was greatly appreciated by all participants.

## Graduate Network

A first highlight was the fact that the Early Career Writing Workshop that we co-organized with the Journal of Southern African Studies (JSAS) and the University of Namibia finally took place. Initially planned as a one-week, on-site workshop in summer 2020 in Windhoek, with preparatory and follow-up activities, we had to postpone the whole programme and adapt it to the Zoom reality. It finally took place as a series public and closed online events between March and July 2021.

In 2021, we also had the pleasure of offering two Summer Schools: The biennial Basel Summer School in African Studies, which took place in 2021 according to schedule, albeit in an online format with 14 participants, nine from Basel, the others taking part from Algeria, Australia, Benin, Denmark, and the USA. This geographical spread would have hardly been possible with an on-site event. The focus was on the relationship between knowledge and politics, and participants critically discussed notions of normativity and objectivity in the social sciences. As in the previous years, the Summer School included an “Advanced Study Skills” workshop, which this year was focussed on academic writing skills.

The second Summer School was the equally biennial CODESRIA-ZASB Summer School

initially scheduled for 2020, which was postponed to September 2021. It was also held as a Zoom event, which allowed a much higher number of participants (more than 80 participants) from all over the African continent. This Summer School addressed the issue of the normative order in African Studies. Its title “The Value(s) of Science. The Normative Order of African Studies” was phrased purposely in an ambiguous way. On the one hand, it addressed the fundamental value of science and, on the other, how interests come together to lend legitimacy and purpose to science.

## MA programme

The shortlisting of programme coordinator Veit Arlt for the University’s Teaching Award 2021 for excellent service documents the appreciation of students and researchers regarding the services offered by the executive office. The award honours staff members for their contribution to conditions conducive for smooth and joyful studies.

Covid-19 continued to be a limiting factor and especially those courses entailing mobility such as the Joint Winter/Summer School with the University of Namibia, which had to be postponed time and again and relaunched in new formats. Student visits from Namibia to Switzerland and vice versa are now scheduled for June/July 2022. We are delighted that at long last we were able to hold the closing workshop of the teaching project IDEAS. In the end, project coordinator Joschka Philipps chose to stage it in Tunisia – it being the country most of the participants could enter without visa.

## Research Network Africa

The major event for our network was the “Critical Reflection, Practices, and Ethics Day”, which we organized as a one-day hybrid event in September. It not only provided a long-desired platform to discuss and reflect on ethical issues with regard to research practice and international collaboration; it was also the first occasion for a bigger number of network members to meet face-to-face, and to informally exchange during the breaks and lunchtime on Petersplatz.

In October we organized a joint retreat of the ZASB Steering Committee and the Teaching Commission African Studies in order to discuss the curriculum of our MA programme and its relation to research and other activities within the network. It was an event that gave space to fundamental and, at times, controversial discussions, and again, it was highly appreciated that this event could take place face-to-face.

### Outreach

While events with a networking component were still hardly possible, we opted for an online format for the Africa Forum on the impact of the Covid crisis on Southern Africa, ways to cope with the crisis, and the role of the pandemic in terms of shaping current and future politics. Henri Michel Yéré chaired a roundtable discussion with Ericino de Salema, Mozambique country director of the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA), Divine Fuh, director of the Institute for Humanities in Africa (HUMA) at the University of Cape Town, and Sankie Mthembu-Mahanyele, Ambassador of South Africa to Switzerland.

With regard to the continuing education programme, one course could take place on-site, while the other was held online; the former on intercultural communication, the latter on media and journalism in Africa. The online course, while lacking the usual opportunities for informal exchange among the participants and with the lecturers, allowed for inputs by two experts from Africa as well as the admission of participants based outside Switzerland.

We published four issues of our quarterly *Afrika-Bulletin* in collaboration with the *Afrika-Komitee*. The topics were restitution, climate change, development cooperation, and, lastly, the political economy of sports. Also in collaboration with the *Afrika-Komitee*, as well as the Swiss TPH, we hosted an *Afriqu'à midi* on the Tigray conflict in Ethiopia with various experts with academic and policy background, again online. The audience was diverse and included members of the University of Basel as well as stakeholders from the media and NGOs.

### Outlook

The coming summer will, hopefully, see at least three highlights for our local African Studies community. From 7 to 10 June 2022, the conference of the German African Studies Association, VAD, will take place in Freiburg i.Br., and while network members will be present with panels, papers, and a roundtable, the ZASB will be visible by means of a reception and a meeting point, and it partners for a concert for the conference participants at the Jazzhaus Freiburg.

Also in June, students of our MA programme, together with students from the University of Geneva will host the second edition of the European Student Conference on African Studies in Basel (31 August to 2 September 2022). This event is organized independently by students with support from the administrative staff of the Centre and advice from members of faculty. Right from the start of the semester, the group developed a great dynamic and by the end of the year a call for papers was launched. Under the theme “African Present”, the conference aims to challenge the binary temporal positions – past and future – in which Africa is usually discussed and proposes to think in notions of contemporaneity. We are looking forward to this event!

Last but not least, after a break of two years, the 16th distinguished Carl Schlettwein Lecture is scheduled for the last Friday of the spring semester, 3 June 2022. It will be presented by the eminent historian Toyin Falola (University of Texas, Austin).



## Network

### Members

#### Basel Institute on Governance

Claudia Baez-Camargo  
Jacopo Costa  
Saba Kassa  
Mark Pieth

#### Department Arts, Media, Philosophy

Ute Holl

#### Department of Environmental Sciences

Lena Bloemertz  
Ruth Delzeit  
Markus Kalberer  
Juliane Krenz  
Nikolaus Kuhn  
Walter Salzburger  
Roland Vogt

#### Department of History

Tanja Hammel  
Julia Tischler  
Danelle Van Zyl-Hermann

#### Department of Languages and Literatures

Isabelle Chariatte  
Christiane Schlote  
Sandra Schlumpf-Thurnherr

#### Department of Social Sciences

Manfred Max Bergman  
Lesley Braun  
Julia Büchele  
Kenny Cupers  
Michelle Engeler  
Till Förster  
Alexandra Hofmänner  
Andrea Kaiser-Grolimund  
Rita Kesselring  
Elisio Macamo  
Brigit Obrist  
Silke Oldenburg  
Fiona Siegenthaler  
Henri-Michel Yéré  
Piet van Eeuwijk

#### Faculty of Business and Economics

Aleksander Berentsen

#### Faculty of Medicine

Manuel Battagay  
Thomas Klimkait  
Sandra Staudacher

#### Faculty of Theology

Andreas Heuser

#### Institute for European Global Studies

Lerato Posholi  
Ralph Weber

#### Projects ZASB

Kadiatou Nénéin Diallo  
Luregn Lenggenhager  
James Merron  
Giorgio Miescher  
Lorena Rizzo

#### Swiss TPH

Guéladio Cissé  
Claudia Daubenberger  
Samuel Fuhrmann  
Sebastien Gagneux  
Jennifer Keiser  
Nino Künzli  
Sonja Merten  
Daniel Paris  
Martin Röösl  
Jasmina Saric  
Natalie Tarr  
Jürg Utzinger  
Mirko Severin Winkler  
Jakob Zinsstag

#### swisspeace

Dominik Balthasar  
Laurent Goetschel

#### Partner institutions

Aqiel Dalvie (University of Cape Town)  
Serena Dankwa (Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz FHNW)  
Gregor Dobler (Universität Freiburg i.Br.)  
Marcel Dreier (Fepa)  
Dag Henrichsen (Basler Afrika Bibliographien)  
Mohomodou Houssouba (songhay.org)  
Susanne Hubler (Basler Afrika Bibliographien)  
Silva Lieberherr (Brot für Alle)  
Mazembo Eddy Mavungu  
Andreas Mehler (Arnold Bergstraesser Institut)  
Barbara Müller (KEESA, Afrika-Komitee)  
Christoph Pimmer (Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz FHNW)  
Jasmin Rindlisbacher (Basler Afrika Bibliographien)  
Jürg Schneider (African Photography Initiative)  
Christian Vandersee (Basler Afrika Bibliographien)

#### President's Office

Erich Thaler

#### Executive Office

Veit Arlt  
Pascal Schmid

#### Steering Committee (31.12.2021)

Claudia Baez-Camargo (Basel Institute on Governance)  
Lena Bloemertz (Department of Environmental Sciences)  
Kenny Cupers (Department of Social Sciences)  
Claudia Daubenberger (Swiss TPH)  
Till Förster (Department of Social Sciences)  
Tanja Hammel (Department of History)  
Dag Henrichsen (Basler Afrika Bibliographien)  
Andreas Heuser (Faculty of Theology)  
Basil Bucher (FG African Studies)  
Elisio Macamo (Department of Social Sciences)  
Sonja Merten (Swiss TPH)  
Giorgio Miescher (Projects ZASB)  
Lorena Rizzo (Projects ZASB)  
Martin Röösl (Swiss TPH)  
Julia Tischler (Department of History)

#### Meetings 2021

##### General Assembly

02 Mar 2021 (online)

##### Steering Committee Meeting

16 Mar 2021 (online)

##### Steering Committee Meeting

10 Jun 2021 (online)

##### General Assembly/ZASB Critical Reflection Day

09 Sep 2021

##### Steering Committee Meeting

21 Sep 2021 (online)

##### Joint Retreat Steering Committee/ Teaching Commission African Studies

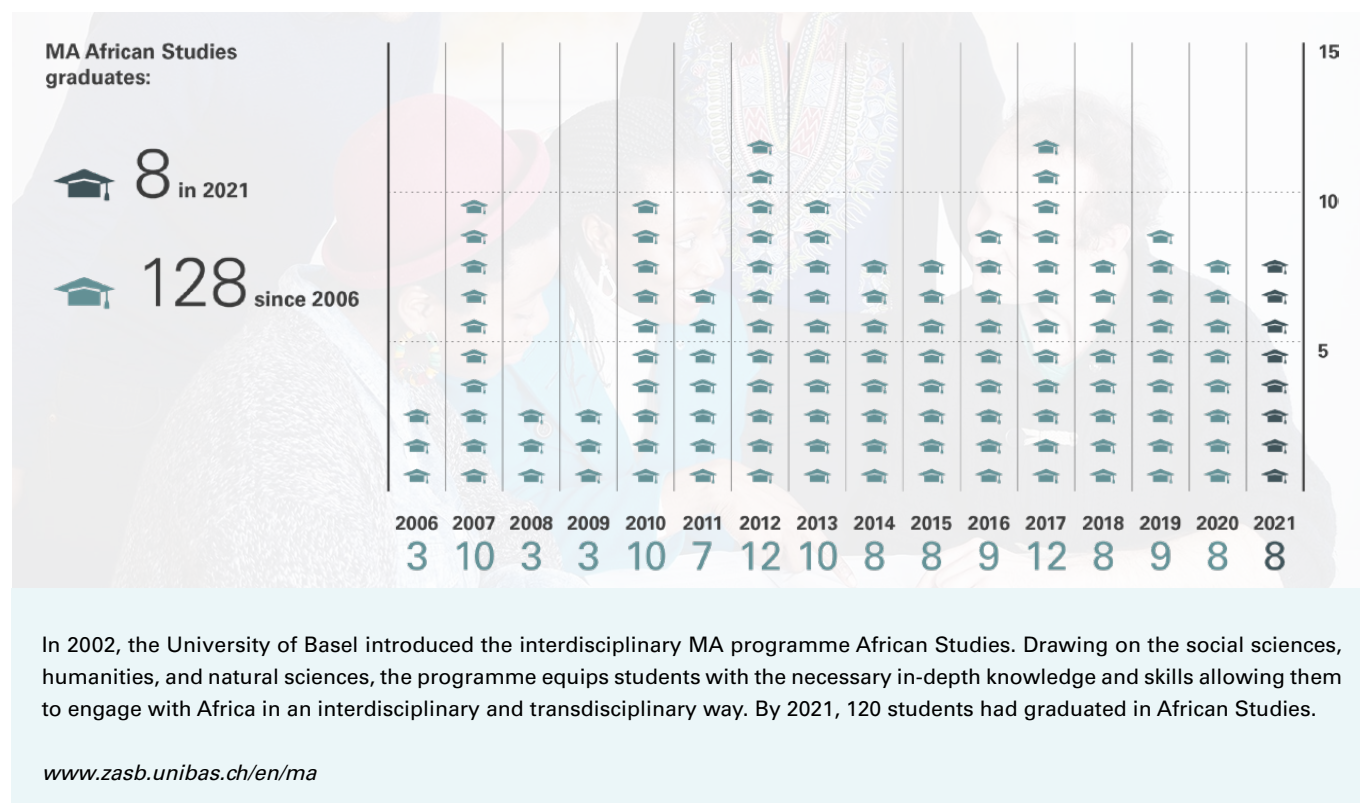
19 Oct 2021

##### Steering Committee Meeting

08 Dec 2021 (online)



## MA African Studies



### Graduates 2021

#### | Jemal Kalinleh Adem

Cultural factors affecting health-seeking behavior of pastoral women in Adadle district of Somali Regional State of Ethiopia

#### | Isaac Boadu

An Assessment of Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) in Relation to Inclusive Education in Ghana

#### | Nemanja Calasan

Role Models and their Influence on the Youth: Swiss youth of African descent and their way to professional basketball

#### | Robin Hill

Diving Across socio-ecological Spaces

#### | Kevin Ischi

Die Schweiz und Ujamaa. Die aussenpolitischen Beziehungen der Schweiz zum sozialistischen Tansania, 1964 - ca. 1975

#### | David Rentsch

Congo Atrocities, Complicity and Colonial Innocence. Swiss Travelogues from the État Independent du Congo, 1885–1908

#### | Mariama Seck

Kolonialismus, Assimilation und Kulturelle Selbstbehauptung - Paulette Nadal, Jugendjahre und Pariser Zwischenkriegszeit: Ein politisches Portrait

#### | Gene Anthony Stewart

Ausweis bitte: Black, Educated, and Racially Profiled in the Basel Metro-Area

### International Digital Exchange Between Africa and Switzerland

This multi-sited course on social sciences, knowledge production, and digitalization in theory and practice brought together students and lecturers from the universities of Basel, Bamako, and Conakry. Initially scheduled for October 2020, the concluding workshop took place in fall 2021 in Tunis.



The focus of the concluding workshop in Tunis was on the translation of sociological research into policy making and practice.  
Photo: Joschka Philipps

## Graduate Network African Studies

### PhDs awarded in 2021

**Balz Andrea Alter (Science of Religion; Jürgen Mohn):**

Back from greener pastures

**Alain Amstutz (Clinical Research; Niklaus Labhardt):**

Supporting Lesotho on the way towards the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets: Operational and clinical research addressing HIV/AIDS care in resource-limited settings

**Nina Brunner (Epidemiology; Manuel Hetzel):**

Treatment seeking and case management for suspected severe malaria in the context of implementing rectal artesunate

**Jerry Hella (Epidemiology; Sebastien Gagneux):**

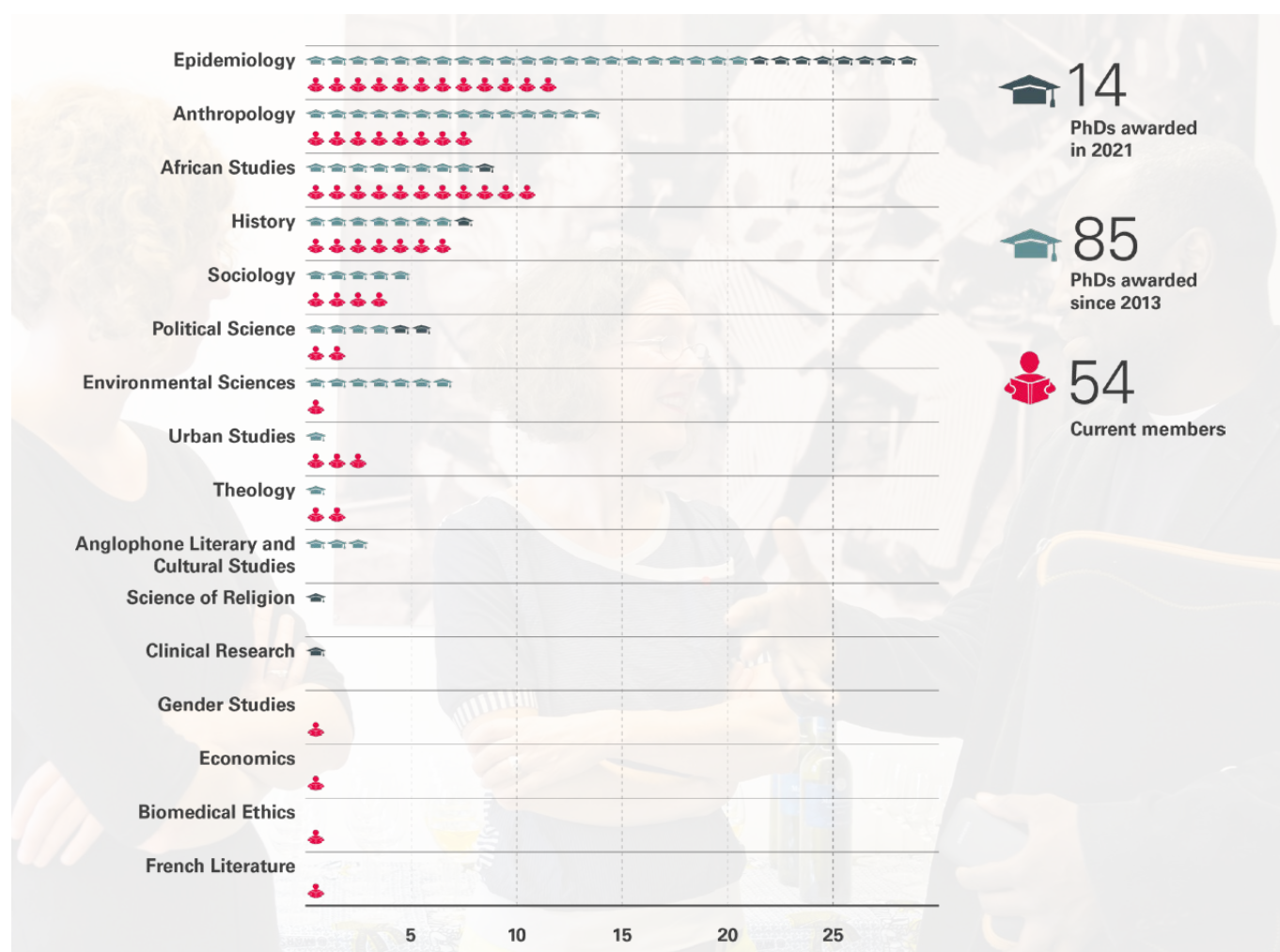
Understanding the epidemiology and transmission of tuberculosis among adults in rural and urban Tanzania

**Andrea Azizi Kifyasi (History; Julia Tischler):**

Neither Saviour nor Exploiter: A Historical Study of China's Medical Assistance in Post-Colonial Tanzania

**Andrea Leuenberger (Epidemiology; Jürg Utzinger):**

Investigating health impacts and equity in communities surrounding large natural resource extraction projects in sub-Saharan Africa: a contribution to sustainable development



In 2013, the ZASB together with the interdisciplinary Centre Asia and Europe at the University of Zürich was awarded SUK (today swissuniversities) funding for the joint Graduate Module “Challenges in Interdisciplinary Area Studies”. In Basel, the graduate module developed into a lively community, supporting training activities for and individual research activities by PhD students within the African Studies network. This formed the basis for a successful application to swissuniversities for a graduate programme. The Basel Graduate Network African Studies was implemented in 2017. Between 2013 and 2021, a total of 85 young researchers affiliated with the Graduate Module or the Graduate Network, respectively, completed their PhD at the University of Basel. Today, the Graduate Network has 54 members at different faculties of the University of Basel.

[www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/phd](http://www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/phd)

New members**Ulrike Lühe (Political Science; Laurent Goetschel):**

Developing the African Union Transitional Justice Policy. A Study in the Practice(s) of Expertise in International Relations

**Nancy Matowo (Epidemiology; Marcel Tanner):**

Dynamics of insecticide resistance in *Anopheles arabiensis* and *Culex pipiens* complex, and its associations to agricultural practices in southern Tanzania

**Céline Mbilo (Epidemiology; Jakob Zinsstag):**

Rabies Epidemiology in DR Congo and Chad

**Janet Michel (Epidemiology; Marcel Tanner):**

Towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) policy roll-out experience in South Africa : how and why policy-practice gaps come about in a UHC context

**Jamie Pring (Political Science; Laurent Goetschel):**

Making the Middle: Localizing Inclusivity in the IGAD-led Mediation in South Sudan (2013-2015)

**Khadeeja "Haddy" Sarr (African Studies; Elisio Macamo):**

Narratives of Identity, Multi-Sited Biographies, and Transnational Life-Modes of Highly Qualified Migrants. Senegambia Migrants in Switzerland and Swiss Migrants in Senegambia

**Joëlle Schwarz (Epidemiology; Sonja Merten):**

Family Planning in Burundi: Hegemonic Discourse, Reproductive Navigation and Embodied Experiences in a Fragile Context

**Kuwawenaruwa August Joachim Shayo (Epidemiology; Fabrizio Tediosi):**

The effects of Jazia prime vendor system in complementing the existing pharmaceutical supply chain across public healthcare facilities in Tanzania

**Jung Yeon (Jacqui) Cho (Political Science; Laurent Goetschel)****Anais Galli (Epidemiology; Jürg Utzinger):**

Evaluating the effects of handwashing stations and hygiene promotion in primary health care facilities in the context of humanitarian emergencies

**Samantha Gamez (Political Science; Laurent Goetschel)**

**Max Hufschmidt (History; Julia Tischler):**  
The Last Missionary Frontier: Health Care, Power, and Development in Lesotho in the 20th Century

**Olutoyin Ikuteyijo (Epidemiology; Sonja Merten):**

Understanding Sexual and Reproductive health of Female Adolescents and Experience of Gender-Based Violence in Slum Areas of Southwest Nigeria

**Seyram Kaali (Epidemiology; Martin Röösli):**

A Prospective Cohort Study on Early Life Household Air Pollution and Cardiovascular Disease Risk in Childhood

**Nesisa Analisa Nyathi (Environmental Sciences; Klaus Kuhn):**

Remote Sensing in Krüger Park

**Samuel Sarpanin (Theology; Andreas Heuser):**

Akan Christology - towards a contemporary Akan Christology

Graduate events**Emerging Scholars & New Research in Southern Africa**

Early Career Writing Workshop co-organized with the Journal of Southern African Studies (JSAS) and the University of Namibia  
19 Mar, 10 May & 29 June-1 July 2021 (online) | Workshop

**Summer School: How Political is Knowledge?**

5th Basel Summer School in African Studies  
13-17 September 2021 (online) | Colloquium

**New Knowledge in the Making: How to Translate PhD Projects for Society**

Workshop for PhD candidates in African Studies/Social Sciences  
22 & 29 October, 26 November

**The Trouble With the State: Boundaries and Networks in Africa**

Eucor cross-border workshop series co-organized with the Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (Germany) and Sciences Po Strasbourg (France)  
25 October, 2 & 9 November 2021 (online) | Workshop

**Postcolonialism in the Portuguese-speaking World And the Place of African Literature in World Literature**

Seminar with Francisco Jatobá de Andrade, Sophia Branco and Ana Gabriella de Souza Andrade  
2 November 2021 | Colloquium

**Methodological Challenges in African Studies**

Workshop for PhD candidates in African Studies  
6 December | Colloquium

**International Dialogues and Travelling Concepts**

Hybrid workshop co-organized with the Federal University of Pernambuco (Brazil)  
13 December 2021 | Workshop



## Cooperation

### Projects

#### | Learning for (Ex)change

Exchange project for MA students with the University of Namibia (UNAM)  
Basel: Giorgio Miescher, Luregn Lenggenhager, Lena Bloemertz  
UNAM: Martha Akawa, Martin Hipondoka, Goodman Gwasira, Jona Heita, Hilma Nghiyalwa  
01.02.2019-31.01.2023, Stiftung Mercator Schweiz

#### | International Digital Exchange Between Africa and Switzerland (IDEAS)

Exchange project for MA students with the Universities of Bamako and Conakry  
Basel: Elísio Macamo, Joschka Philipps, Noemi Steuer  
Bamako: Bréma Ely Dicko  
Conakry: Alpha Amadou Bano Barry, Soumahila Bayo  
01.06.2019-30.11.2021; Movetia

#### | Pilot African Postgraduate Academy

Research training programme for postdocs  
Coordinators: Mamadou Diavara (Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main/ Point Sud, Bamako), Elísio Macamo  
01.07.2019-31.12.2022; Gerda Henkel Stiftung

#### | The Trouble With the State. Boundaries and Networks in Africa

Eucor graduate workshop series  
Basel: Claudia Baez-Camargo, Jacopo Costa, Joschka Philipps, Pascal Schmid  
Freiburg: Andreas Mehler, Franzisca Zanker (ABI/University of Freiburg)  
Strasbourg: Virginie Roiron (SAGE/ Sciences Po Strasbourg)  
01.12.2019-31.12.2021; EUCOR Crossborder Education Grant

#### | Emerging Scholars & New Research in Southern Africa

Early career writing workshop co-organized with the Journal of Southern African Studies (JSAS) and the University of Namibia (UNAM)  
JSAS: Lyn Schumaker, Keith Shear, Marion Wallace  
UNAM: Saara Kamati, Ellen Namhila, Napandulwe Shiweda  
Basel: Dag Henrichsen, Flavia Keller, Lorena Rizzo, Pascal Schmid  
01.03.2020-31.07.2021; British Academy, MopaneTrust

### Events

#### | Making Museums Matter: Collecting Voices, Images and Objects for Usakos Museum

Workshop on the International Museum Day, co-organized with the Museums Association of Namibia and the Usakos Town Council  
18 May 2021 | Symposium

#### | ZASB Critical Reflection, Practices, and Ethics Day

Discussion forum for ZASB network members and partner organizations  
9 September 2021 | Workshop

#### | Namibia Research Day 2021

8th Namibia Research Day in Basel (Switzerland) and Windhoek (Namibia) co-organized with the Basler Afrika Bibliographien and the University of Namibia  
2 October 2021 | Symposium

#### | Felwine Sarr: Political Imagination and African Tomorrows

Guest lecture by Felwine Sarr (Duke University)  
6 December 2021 | Guest lecture

### Visiting scholars

#### | Ana Sophia de Souza Andrade

Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, Brazil  
Visiting PhD candidate (Sep 2021-Feb 2022)

#### | Francisco Jatoba de Andrade

Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, Brazil  
Visiting research fellow (

#### | Paulo Sophia Branco de Lima

Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, Brazil/ Universidad de Barcelona, Spain  
Visiting PhD candidate (Sep 2021-Feb 2022)

#### | Emma Asige Liaga

University of Pretoria, South Africa  
Oumou Dilly visiting PhD candidate/ postdoc (Feb 2019-Jun 2021)

#### | Dominique Niemand

University of Pretoria  
ESKAS visiting PhD candidate (Sep 2021-Aug 2022)

#### | Lévis Togo

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso  
Visiting artist, (Oct 2021)

#### | Early Career Writing Workshop: "Emerging Scholars & New Research in Southern Africa" (2020–2021)

The workshop at the University of Namibia (UNAM) was planned as the 2020 edition of the Journal of Southern African Studies's (JSAS) series of writing workshops. As a partnership between JSAS, UNAM, and the ZASB, it offered early career scholars from Southern Africa and Switzerland a one-on-one mentoring by experienced journal editors and scholars. Applications were being selected when, in spring 2020, it became clear that an in-person workshop in July would not be possible. Remote mentoring for the 17 successful applicants was put in place, and, finally, from March to July 2021, the workshop took place as a series of online events. While the online format had obvious disadvantages, it allowed a wider group of mentors to participate, and the public lectures reached a much wider audience (around 220 people). There was also a sense in which the online workshop became a practical form of solidarity, especially as a terrible wave of Covid hit Namibia in June. Overall, it has been a positive achievement to have delivered the workshop under such difficult conditions. By the end of 2021, six participants had submitted their papers to JSAS.

## Outreach

### Events:

#### **Lewis Nkosi. The Black Psychiatrist**

Book presentation co-organized with the Basler Afrika Bibliographien  
22 June 2021 | Public event

#### **Ethiopia at the Crossroads: Tigray War, Ethnic Conflicts and the Political Transition**

Afriq'â midi with Jon Abbink (University of Leiden), Juwera B. Ali (University of Westminster), Tsedale Lemma (Addis Standard) and Tobias Hagmann (Public Culture Lab Ltd); in collaboration with Afrika-Komitee  
1 July 2021 (online) | Public event

#### **Legacies, Agency, Transformation. The Covid Crisis and Political Imagination in Southern Africa**

Africa Forum 2021 with Ericino de Salema (Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa), Divine Fuh (University of Cape Town), Sankie Mthembu-Mahanyele (Ambassador of South Africa to Switzerland)  
18 November 2021 (online) | Public event

#### **Decolonizing Knowledge? Africa Collections in Focus**

Artist conversation series with Vitjitua Ndjiharine, Fiona Siegenthaler, Jakobina Mwiyale, Nora Schmidt, and Perivi Katjavivi, co-organized with the Basler Afrika Bibliographien  
22 Nov, 2 & 6 Dec 2021 | Public event

### Continuing education courses

#### **Media and Journalism in Africa: Transformations and Challenges**

11-12 June 2021 (online)  
With Cinzia Dal Zotto (University of Neuchâtel), Ericino de Salema (Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa), Ruedi Küng (InfoAfrica), Reuben Kyama (One World Public Relations), Elísio Macamo (University of Basel)

#### **Intercultural Skills: Communication**

26/27 August 2021  
With Ariane Curdy (Ctrl Culture Relations), Elísio Macamo (University of Basel)

### Afrika-Bulletin

#### **Überleben in Zeiten der Krise**

Afrika-Bulletin Nr. 177, February 2020

#### **Afrikas Musik bewegt die Welt**

Afrika-Bulletin Nr. 178, April 2020

#### **Frauen in Bewegung**

Afrika-Bulletin Nr. 179, September 2020

#### **Covid-19: Afrikanische Perspektiven auf die Krise**

Afrika-Bulletin Nr. 180, November 2020

### In the media

#### **Zwei Minen für bloss einen Dollar**

Rita Kesselring's article in WOZ (28 January 2021)

#### **EU-Lieferkettengesetz soll Konzerne haftbar machen**

Rita Kesselring in an article on the EU supply chain law to enforce liability of corporations on kurier.at (3 February 2021)

#### **La Tanzanie va exploiter le plus grand gisement de nickel au monde**

Rita Kesselring in the Le Temps blog "Lignes d'horizon" (26 March 2021)

#### **"Development Is the Freedom to Live a Self-determined Life"**

Elísio Macamo in the SDC magazine One World (issue 01/2021)

#### **Fehlt uns eine gemeinsame Welt?**

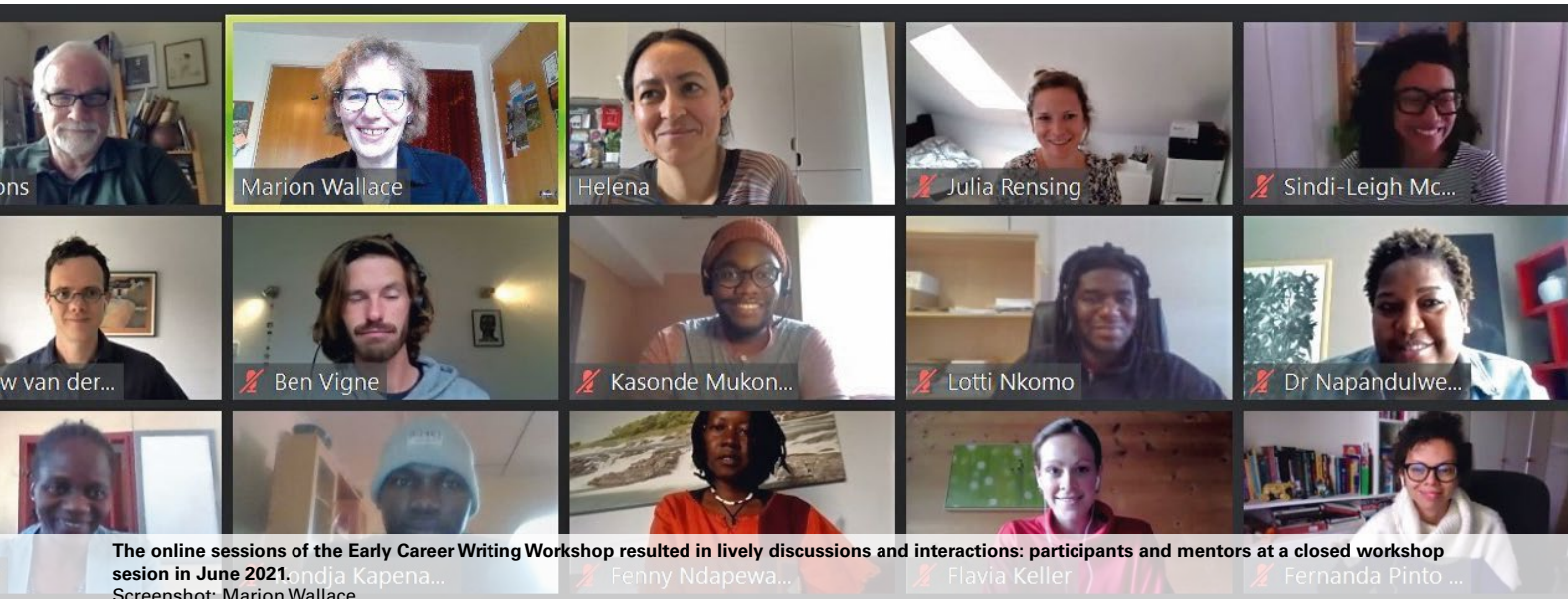
Sindi-Leigh McBride with a guest article in WoZ (20 May 2021)

#### **In Sambia wird ein neuer Präsident gewählt**

Rita Kesselring on Radio SRF 4 News (12 August 2021)

#### **#NoWhiteSaviors: Is 'White Aid' Colonialist?**

Elísio Macamo on swissinfo.ch (19 October 2021)



## Budget and Expenditure 2021 (GK4901)

	Budget 2021	Expenditure
Office	800	464.71
PhD students	4000	2371.72
Cooperation	3500	3468.30
Membership fees	1200	1203.35
MA course	10,000	11,475.30
Staff	500	194.70
Publications	4500	4507.70
Student exchange	4000	807.15
Events	12,500	7953.42
Advertisement and representation	3000	1515.45
Conference participation	2000	727.76
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,000</b>	<b>34,689.56</b>

**Office:** Less presence on site resulted in less office expenses.

**PhD students:** Most of the support of PhD students is provided by the Graduate Network African Studies (CHF 11,508.82 in 2021). With its operating funds, ZASB supports those PhD students who are not eligible for funding by the Graduate Network.

**Cooperation:** This budget line includes costs for network events, but also expenses related to visiting researchers.

**Membership fees:** ZASB is a member of the Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies AEGIS, the Swiss Society for African Studies SSAS, and Friends of the Archives (supporting access of students to the archives of Mission 21).

**MA course:** The main part usually consists of support for MA research projects and participation in field courses. Due to the travel restrictions, these expenses were very low. Instead, funds were allocated to tutors who supported hybrid teaching.

**Staff:** There were less expenses, mainly due to the restrictions on gatherings.

**Publications:** These include the Afrika-Bulletin.

**Student exchange:** In the past year, there were no applications by incoming or outgoing students. We supported the flight of one graduate returning to the continent upon completion of the MA course.

**Events:** We supported the event series “Decolonizing the Archive” in the SAGW series

“Wissensorte – lieux de savoir”, two book launches, a visit to the Pharmaceutical Museum, and an Afriqu’à midi. Provision has been made for the symposium in honour of Till Förster in 2022. Also included are the Reflection Day and the joint retreat of the Teaching Commission African Studies and ZASB Steering Committee.

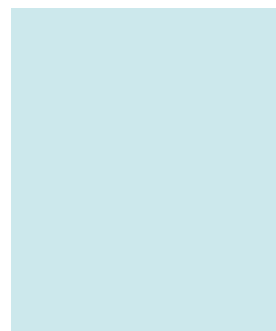
**Conference participation:** Due to the pandemic, the expenses refer mostly to registration fees.

**Advertisement and representation:** This includes the production of the annual report, the welcome and farewell of visiting scholars and students, an obituary notice, and various meetings with partners.

***NB:** The Faculty of Humanities called upon all units and departments to assist in bridging a budgetary gap.*







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