



University  
of Basel

Centre for  
African Studies

# ZASB – Research Network Africa Annual Report 2023





# ZASB – Research Network Africa

## Annual Report 2023

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Cover: Raffaele Bossard (Emmen) and Mthunzi Mvubu (Johannesburg) performing in a Swiss-South African Jazz Indaba at the bird’s eye jazz club on 2 and 3 May 2023. The shows were part of the supporting program of the conference “Cultural relations between Switzerland and South Africa, 1948-1994” (Photo: Paul Argast).

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# Executive Office



| Veit Art

| Pascal Schmid

For the ZASB Executive Office, 2023 was marked by many events, both large and small, which we had the opportunity to organize, as well as a particularly high number of international guests whom we had the privilege of hosting for longer or shorter sojourns here in Basel. It was also a year in which our network as a whole engaged intensively at various levels with the current and future direction of Africa-related teaching, research and collaboration – a process that will certainly continue in 2024 and hopefully result in fresh approaches and initiatives. Finally, we said farewell to two long-serving members of our network, who have retired after teaching their final courses in 2023: We would like to take this opportunity

to thank Giorgio Miescher and Piet Van Eeuwijk for their invaluable commitment to our network and our study program.

## Conferences

In 2023, the ZASB executive office co-organized various conferences with partners within the Research Network Africa and beyond. In May, the ZASB, together with the Basler Afrika Bibliographien, hosted the conference “Cultural relations between Switzerland and South Africa, 1948–1994”. The event marked the conclusion of a research project funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation and featured a cooperation with the bird’s eye jazz club, which hosted a Swiss-South African Jazz

### “Science, Expertise, and Other Modes of Knowledge” (STS-CH 2023 conference, 31 August & 1 September 2023)

In 2023, the ZASB together with the Department of Social Sciences of the University of Basel had the honor and pleasure of hosting the biennial conference of the Swiss Association for the Study of Science, Technology, and Society (STS-CH). It attracted some 200 Swiss and international scholars from a variety of academic disciplines and fields of study. The conference theme, “Science, Expertise, and Other Modes of Knowledge: Trends, Patterns, and Prospects,” offered a starting point to address questions of how diverse knowledge regimes shape our social, political and cultural world.

The high number of participants was evidence of the areas of common interest to the fields of African Studies and STS. The more than 30 panels dealt with a variety of topics such as knowledge politics, policies and governance; public health; life sciences; feminist materialism; the Anthropocene; science in citizenship and state-building; IT, computing, digitization; innovation and entrepreneurship; sociotechnical transitions; technological infrastructures, and many more. Three keynotes provided points of reference for the two-day event: Bruce Lewenstein (Cornell University, USA) opened the conference with a keynote on “Citizen science, participation, inclusion...and STS”; the first day was closed with the ZASB’s annual Carl Schlettwein Lecture, which was presented by Fredrick Ogenga (Rongo University, Kenya) on “Digital Peacebuilding”; and the keynote of the second day was presented by Sally Wyatt (Maastricht University, Netherlands) who reflected on the effect of 9/11 on STS and its evolution since that time.

As interdisciplinary fields of research and teaching, both African Studies and STS are accustomed to engaging with topics across different disciplinary traditions. However, physically bringing together scholars from these two fields made the conference a uniquely inspiring opportunity for personal exchange. It provided a venue for engagement with common intellectual issues that both interdisciplinary fields bring to the table. A roundtable discussion was held on “STS and the Global Politics of Knowledge” to offer a focused forum for such issues. A special session on “The dynamics of knowledge and policy: The social sciences and humanities in Africa” featured participants of the Basel Summer School in African Studies, which took place in the week preceding the conference.

[www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/sts-ch2023](http://www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/sts-ch2023)



Indaba featuring six South African artists in four distinct line-ups.

In another collaboration with the Basler Afrika Bibliographien, the symposium “Revisiting Histories and Cultures of African Diasporas, Religion and Belief” was organized in June on the occasion of the 100th birthday of the historian Hans Werner Debrunner (1923–1998). Debrunner was a scholar of African history and religion and a pioneer of African Studies in Switzerland. He lived and taught in Akropong and Accra (Ghana) in the framework of the Basel Mission and the Presbyterian Church of Ghana for several years, before eventually settling in Basel, maintaining a steady scholarly

output throughout his life. The symposium demonstrated the continued interest in and importance of his contributions to the field of African Studies.

On 31 August and 1 September 2023, the ZASB co-organized the biennial conference of the Swiss Association for the Studies of Science, Technology & Society (STS-CH), together with the Department of Social Sciences of the University of Basel. We welcomed 200 scholars from a variety of academic disciplines and fields of study. 40 percent of the participants were based abroad, and we were especially grateful that we could raise funds to enable scholars from African and Asian institutions





## LOST LIBRARIES, BURNT ARCHIVES

edited by  
Sindi-Leigh McBride  
& Julia Rensing

### ***Lost Libraries, Burnt Archives* (edited by Sindi-Leigh McBride and Julia Rensing)**

On 18 April 2021, a devastating fire destroyed large parts of the Jagger Library at the University of Cape Town (UCT) and with it, the African Studies Special Collection. Thousands of precious books, personal archives, manuscripts and one of the most extensive African film collections in the world were lost. *Lost Libraries, Burnt Archives* is a collected volume of short stories, artworks, poems and essays by 22 contributors. It is the result of a collaboration between UCT and the ZASB and responds to the “Of Smoke and Ash: Jagger Library Memorial Exhibition,” curated by Jade Nair and Duane Jethro at UCT. This exhibition commemorated the tragic fire at the Jagger Library and celebrated the salvage efforts of volunteers and UCT Libraries. The contributors to the book are either artists or academics, sometimes both, and their contributions concern libraries and archives, or reflect on the topics of commemorative practices and collective loss, artistic practice, and curatorship as a creative site of knowledge. Editors Sindi-Leigh-McBride and Julia Rensing are members of the Basel Graduate Network African Studies.

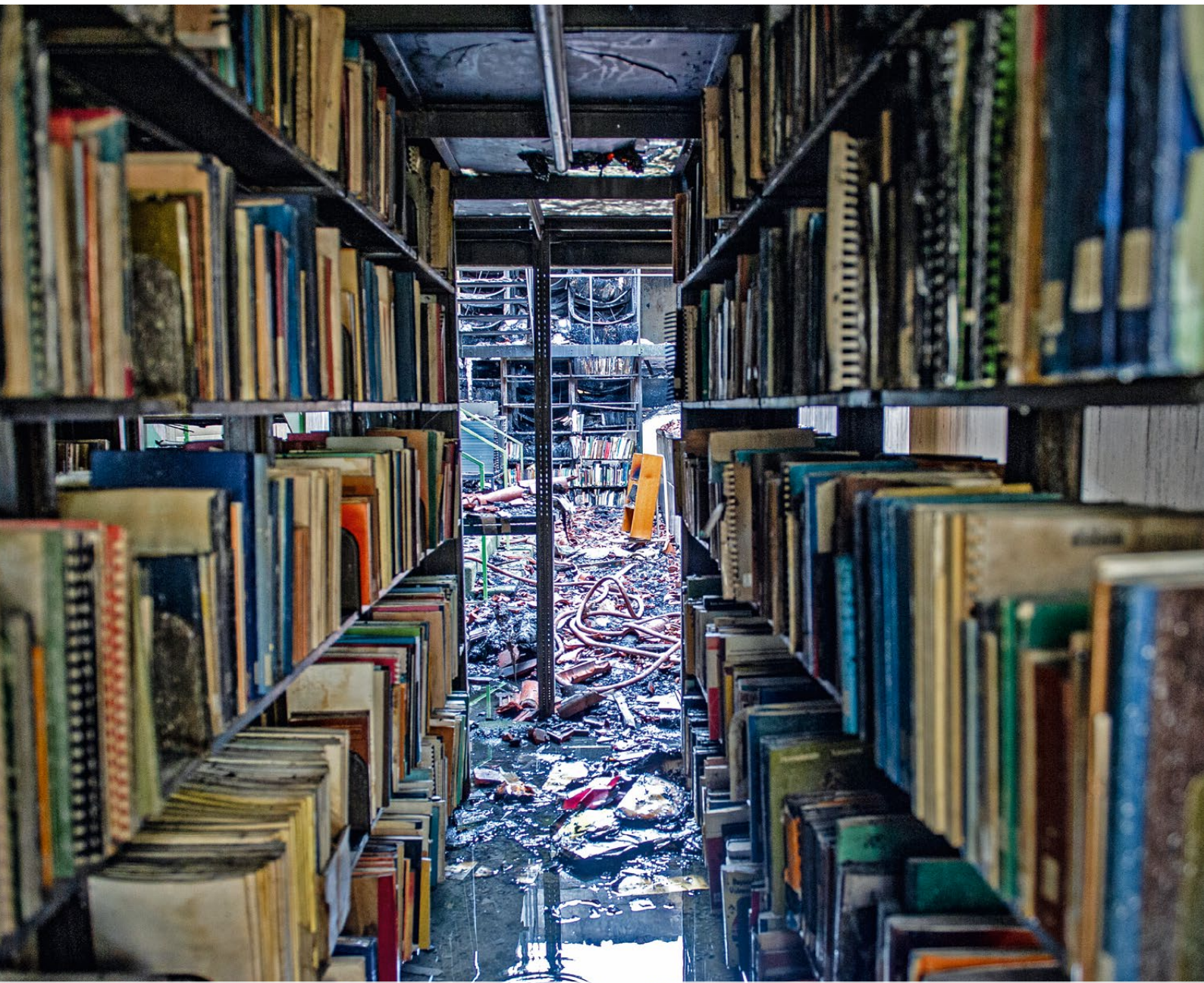
The physical book had a limited print run of 100 copies and was not available for sale but instead made freely available to libraries, research institutions and specialized archives in South Africa and select international institutions. Additionally, a number of copies were made available to individuals who donated to the fundraising and development platform Victory of the Word. The eBook is available free of charge.

[www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/lost-libraries](http://www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/lost-libraries)

to participate in the conference. Under the title “Science, Expertise and Other Modes of Knowledge: Trends, Patterns and Prospects”, the conference offered opportunities for exchange and discussion in more than 30 panels.

Finally, in October, more than 60 participants were brought together for the conference “Conjunctions of Archives and Public Spheres”, co-organized with the Basler Afrika Bibliographien in cooperation with the Swiss Society for African Studies and in the context

of the SNSF-funded project “The (In-)audible Past.” The 26 presenting scholars came from a wide range of career and research backgrounds and hailed from three different continents, including ten from southern Africa. Their varied inputs provided multiple, critical and creative perspectives, all discussed in particularly lively and at times controversial ways by an attentive audience. The conference also saw the Swiss premiere of Namibian director and scholar Perivi Katjavivi’s film “Under the Hanging Tree.”



"From the ashes of one archive, [Lerato] Maduna has built a new one – chronicling flames, ashes, debris, destruction and archival agency" (Sindi-Leigh McBride and Julia Rensing in *Lost Libraries, Burnt Archives*). Lerato Maduna is a Photographer at the Communications Department of the University of Cape Town and has documented the aftermath of the fire at the Jagger Library. *Lost Libraries, Burnt Archives* features an interview with her and a selection of her photographs.

Photo: Lerato Maduna/University of Cape Town

### Graduate Network

In the run-up to the STS-CH conference, we organized the sixth edition of our biennial Summer School under the title "Making knowledge policy-relevant: The SSH's role in global sustainable development". In training sessions and a practice-oriented Advanced Study Skills workshop, 16 participants discussed theoretical and conceptual issues as well as practical challenges concerning the relation between basic and applied knowledge. Linking the Summer School to the STS-CH

conference proved to be of great benefit, as Summer School participants not only presented the results of their group work in a special session, but also had the opportunity to attend and contribute to the panel discussions and network with the international conference audience.

Apart from the Summer School, we would like to highlight two workshops organized in the framework of the Graduate Network. The research workshop "Is Methodology the

Only Way?” (April 2023) brought together senior scholars and PhD students in order to explore the role methodology can play in overcoming ideological positions in debates about epistemological eurocentrism and coloniality in knowledge production. In the graduate workshop “New Knowledge in the Making. Transdisciplinary Research Practices” (September 2023) postdocs, PhD students and advanced MA students, together with two renowned experts, addressed the relationship between science and society and the translation of scientific knowledge into practice. Also to be mentioned here are the 15th edition of the EthnoDoks meetings which took place in Basel and was co-organized by members of our Graduate Network, as well as the webinar “Writing for African Studies Journals” which we organized in conjunction with the *Journal of Southern African Studies* (JSAS) and the University of Edinburgh.

### **MA program**

The Master’s program again featured a great number of captivating courses on current topics in 2023. These ranged from politics (military coups) to contemporary arts (Culturescapes 2023: Sahara), and from theories and methodologies from the Global South to the heritage of the Basel Mission in Ghana and Switzerland. In a further applied course, students engaged with the various collections and institutions related to Africa in Basel in preparation for the “Deal with it!” exhibition at the University Library.

### **Research Network Africa**

In 2023, we reflected on the current and future directions of research and teaching within our network through workshops linked to our General Assemblies. One such workshop in March provided an opportunity for our members to discuss and review the thematic key areas within the research network. In September, the third “Critical Reflection, Practices, and Ethics Day” took place with a focus on the future of the MA African Studies program. As a direct result of these discussions, smaller changes were initiated, but we also identified areas that will require major reorientations in the coming months and years.

### **Afrika-Bulletin**

In collaboration with the Afrika-Komitee we published four issues of our quarterly *Afrika-Bulletin* on, respectively, satire as an instrument for highlighting social grievances, the role of security and insecurity in politics and society, the fiftieth anniversary of the Afrika-Komitee, as well as the experiences of people of African descent in Switzerland. Unfortunately, the publication which started with the independence of Angola in 1975 will be discontinued by the end of 2024.

### **Outlook**

Looking ahead to 2024, we would like to highlight a few events organized or co-organized by the ZASB. In June, the ZASB, together with eikones, will hold a summer school on Black Figuration in the context of the exhibition “When We See Us: A Century of Black Figuration in Painting” at the Kunstmuseum Basel curated by Koyo Kouoh and Tandazani Dhlakama. Also in June, the 6th Biennial CRG African History conference of the European Network of African Studies Centres (AEGIS) will take place in Basel. On 31 August and 1 September, our students are organizing the 3rd European Students’ Conference on African Studies. Finally, in September, the ZASB will host the concluding conference of the SNSF Sinergia project “Reversing the Gaze” in collaboration with the Universities of Zürich and Edinburgh.

Looking further ahead, we are particularly excited to announce that we will host the biennial conference of the German African Studies association VAD in 2026. We previously co-organized this meeting in 2008 together with the Arnold Bergstraesser Institute and the Albert Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg im Breisgau. The event is likely to attract some 400 participants. Following the 2008 VAD conference and the 2017 European Conference on African Studies (ECAS), this will be another major event highlighting Basel’s position as a European center for Africa-related research and academic partnership with the continent.



## MA African Studies

### Graduates 2023

**Andela Delic**

Afro-Colombian Youth Activists in the  
Paro Nacional (2019–2021): Memory,  
Identity and Resistance

**Xiao Meng**

Academic In/Equity: Gender and  
Ethnicity Imbalances in Authorship and  
Citation of Tropical Medicine

**Lina Noll**

Men’s meeting places in Volkspark  
Hasenheide, Berlin: An anthropological  
study with epistemological focus

**Wanda Rutishauser**

Noordoever and the Orange River  
Boundary

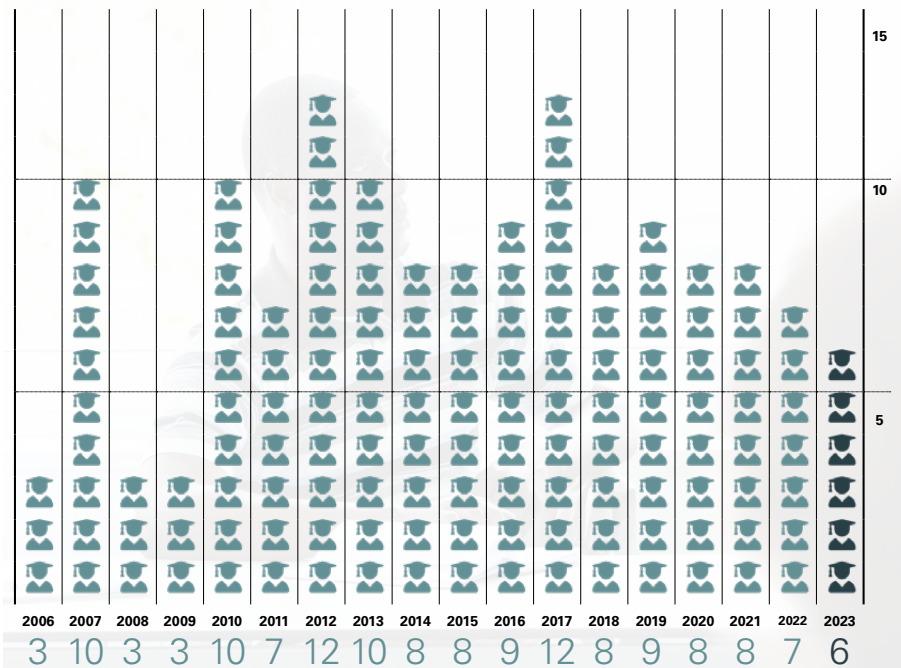
**Marilyn Umurungi**

The Arts of Politics. Black Performance  
Art as an Act of Political Intervention in  
Swiss Theatre

**Julie Zingg**

Kenianische Fairtrade-Rosen im  
Schweizer Blumenhandel. Zur Frage der  
Selbstbestimmung der kenianischen  
Akteur\*innen während des Max  
Havelaar-Stiftung Pilotprojekts (2001–  
2005)

### MA African Studies graduates



 **6**  
in 2023

 **141**  
since 2006

In 2002, the University of Basel introduced the interdisciplinary MA program African Studies. The program helps students develop knowledge about Africa’s past, current and future role in framing the globalized world and encourages them to critically engage with global knowledge production. By the end of 2023, 141 students had graduated from the African Studies program.

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



Toon Dirx (PhD Political Science), Lina Noll, Marilyn Umurungi (both MA African Studies), Marta Rudnicka (PhD Social Anthropology), Wanda Rutishauser (MA African Studies) and Ernest Sewordor (PhD Urban Studies) with Veit Artl (ZASB Executive Director) at the graduation ceremony of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in March 2023 .  
Photo: ZASB

## Graduate Network African Studies

### PhDs awarded in 2023

**Temitope Christina Adebayo-Ojo (Epidemiology; Nino Küenzli)**

A new global Air Quality Health Index based on the 2021 WHO Air Quality Guideline Values

**Toon Dirkx (Political Science; Laurent Goetschel)**

The Political Stability of Post-Insurgent States: Institutional Legacies of Rebel Governance in Eritrea and South Sudan

**Kirubel Mussie (Biomedical Ethics; Bernice Simone Elger)**

Ethical issues in the healthcare of older adults in Ethiopia

**Julia Rensing (African Studies; Lorena Rizzo)**

Troubling Archives: Namibian Auto/Biographical Accounts and Artistic Practices as Archival Interventions

**Shreya Shrikhande (Epidemiology; Martin Rössli)**

Climate change and cardiovascular diseases in India and South Africa: Impacts, perceptions and policy responses

### New members

**Sang Hoon Han (Theology; Andreas Heuser)**

The role of religious NGOs in the peacebuilding process in post-civil war Burundi

**Mellisa Chipso Kaliofasi (History; Julia Tischler)**

Death and Belongings: African Customs, the Colonial State and Deceased Estates Management in Southern Rhodesia

**Thanushiyah Korn (History; Julia Tischler)**

Development, Cooperation, and Conflict – A Global History of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda

**Ndeshimona Namupala (Sociology; Max Bergmann)**

A study on transformative social transfer systems in rural households of Zambezi region, Namibia

**Rufino Siteo (African Studies; Elísio Macamo)**

Violent Extremism and Youth: Public Policies as factors of (De) Mobilization in Mozambique

**Berihun Wagaw (African Studies; Andreas Heuser)**

Dealing with belonging in Times of Crisis: The Impact of the Tigray War on Ethiopian Migrant Communities in Switzerland.

### Graduate events

**Is Methodology the Only Way?**

Workshop with Rose Marie Beck (University of Leipzig), Elísio Macamo (ZASB), Michael Aeby (ZASB) and Patrício Langa (Eduardo Mondlane University)

17 Apr 2023 | Research workshop

**Making knowledge policy-relevant: The SSH's role in global sustainable development**

Basel Summer School in African Studies 2023

23 Aug–1 Sep 2023 | Graduate workshop

**New knowledge in the making. Transdisciplinary Research Practices**

Workshop with Sibylle Studer (td-net) and Johanna Jacobi (ETH Zürich) for Postdocs, PhDs and advanced Master's students

14 Sep 2023 | Graduate workshop

**Networking meeting for Master's students and PhD candidates working on health-related topics in Africa across all disciplines**

In the framework of the ZASB key area "Health"

21 Sep 2023 | Workshop

**Interdisciplinary approaches to ethnographic research**

15th EthnoDoks 2023

22–23 Sep 2023 | Graduate workshop

**Writing for African Studies Journals**

For PhD candidates, postdocs and interested scholars

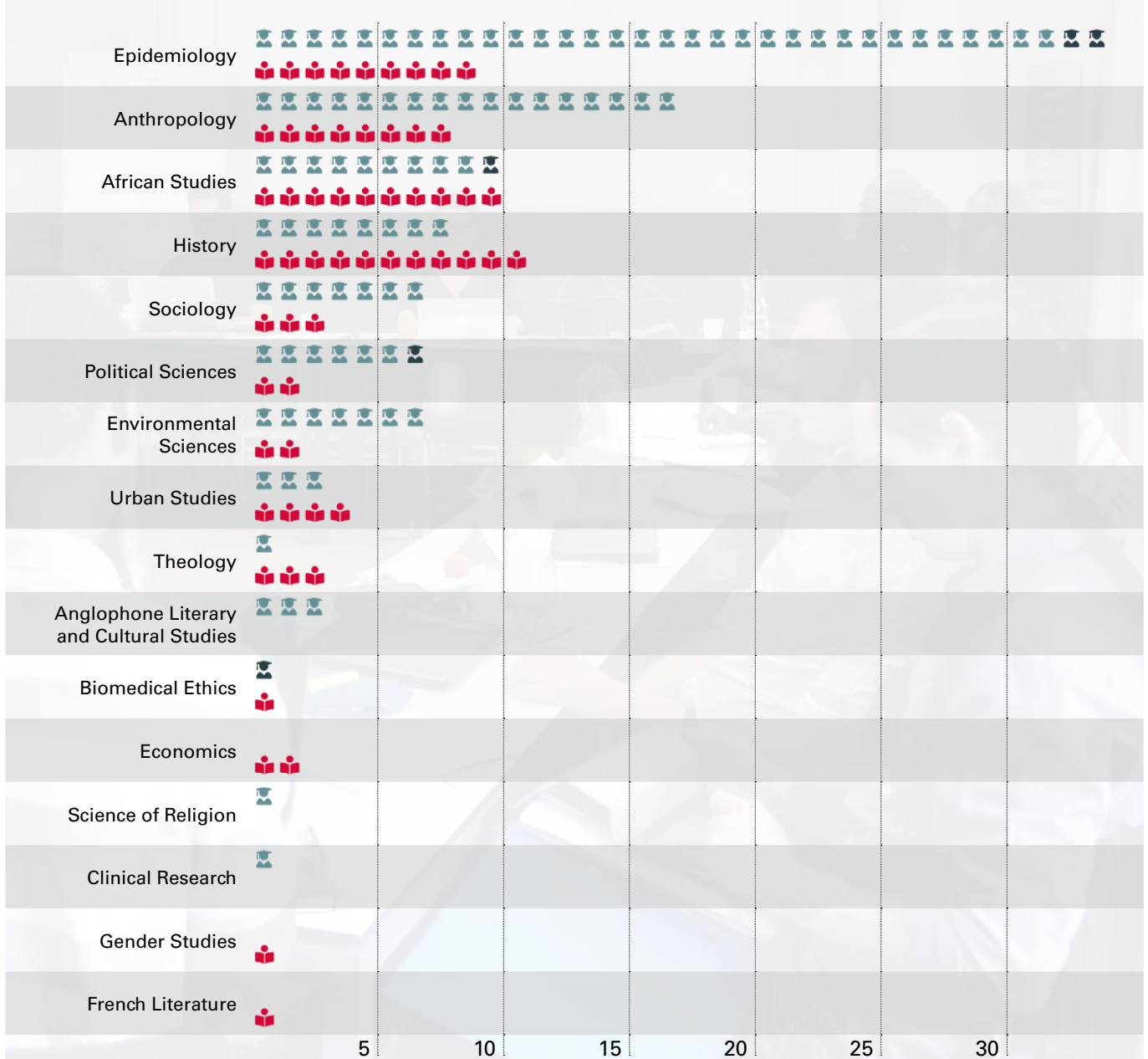
20 Nov 2023 | Webinar

**Outward Ethnographies**

Workshop in the framework of the research project "Reversing the Gaze"

12 Dec 2023 | Research workshop

**Graduate Network African Studies: Graduates and current members**



 **5** PhDs awarded in 2023

 **100** PhDs awarded since 2013

 **57** Current members

In 2013, the ZASB, together with the Research Priority Program Asia and Europe at the University of Zürich, was awarded SUK (now swissuniversities) funding for the joint Graduate Module “Challenges in Interdisciplinary Area Studies”. In Basel, the graduate module developed into a lively community, supporting training for and individual research activities by PhD students within the African Studies network. This formed the basis for the implementation of the swissuniversities-funded Basel Graduate Network African Studies in 2017.

Between 2013 and 2023, a total of 100 young researchers affiliated with the Graduate Module or the Graduate Network completed their PhDs at different faculties of the University of Basel.

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

## Cooperation

### Projects

#### **CODESRIA/ZASB Summer School in African Studies and Area Studies in Africa**

Joint biennial Summer School  
Coordinators (Basel): Veit Arlt, Elísio Macamo  
Coordinator (Dakar): Samuel Fongwa  
Ongoing since 2014, Oumou Dilly Foundation

#### **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

#### **Pilot African Postgraduate Academy**

Research training program for postdocs  
Coordinators: Mamadou Diavara (Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main/Point Sud, Bamako), Elísio Macamo  
01.07.2019–31.12.2024; Gerda Henkel Stiftung

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

Research project in collaboration with the University of Zurich and the University of Edinburgh  
Principal investigators: Elísio Macamo, Ralph Weber, Deval Desai (Edinburgh), Benedikt Korf (Zurich)  
Project members, Basel: Tebuho Winnie Kanyimba, Matthias Claudio Maurer Rueda, Lerato Posholi, Pascal Schmid  
01.10.2020–30.09.2025, SNSF (Sinergia)

#### **The (In)Audible Past**

Research project in collaboration with the University of Fort Hare and Rhodes University  
Principal investigators: Ute Holl, Lorena Rizzo, Gary Andrew Minkley (University of Fort Hare), Helena Pohlandt-McCormick (Rhodes University)  
Project members, Basel: Ulrike Kiessling, Luregn Lenggenhager, Raffaele Perniola, Emanuel Welinder  
01.04.2022–31.03.2025, SNSF (Lead Agency)

#### **Making knowledge policy relevant: The SSH's role in global sustainable development**

Fellowships for Africa-based PhD candidates for the Basel Summer School in African Studies  
Coordinators: Pascal Schmid, Elísio Macamo  
23.08.2023–01.09.2023, SERI/Leading House Africa, PhD Graduate Program



Antoinette Danebai Lamana at the "Basler Fasnacht"  
Photo: Veit Arlt

Events**Cultural relations between Switzerland and South Africa, 1948–1994**

Conference organized in collaboration with Hochschule der Künste Bern, Basler Afrika Bibliographien and Africa Open Institute of the University of Stellenbosch  
3–5 May 2023 | Congress/Conference

**Revisiting Histories and Cultures of African Diasporas, Religion and Belief**

Symposium on the occasion of the 100th birthday of Hans Werner Debrunner, co-organized with the Basler Afrika Bibliographien  
9–10 Jun 2023 | Public event/congress/conference

**Science, Expertise and Other Modes of Knowledge: Trends, Patterns and Prospects**

2023 conference of the Swiss Association for the Studies of Science, Technology & Society (STS-CH), co-organized with the Department of Social Sciences of the University of Basel  
31 Aug–1 Sep 2023 | Congress/conference

**Conjunctions of Archives and Public Spheres. Embodied Histories, Memory, and Multi-Media Archives in and from Africa**

Conference co-organized with the Basler Afrika Bibliographien in cooperation with the Swiss Society for African Studies  
19–20 Oct 2023 | Congress/conference/symposium

**10th Namibia Research Day 2023**

Hybrid workshop in Basel and Windhoek, co-organized with the Basler Afrika Bibliographien and the School of Humanities, Society and Development of the University of Namibia  
21 Oct 2023 | Workshop

**The (In)Audible Past**

Hybrid working meeting of the SNSF-funded research project “The (In)Audible Past”  
1–2 Dec 2023 | Workshop

Visiting scholars**Makau Kitata**

University of Nairobi, Kenya  
SNSF International Exchange (Nov 2022–Jan 2023)

**Antoinette Danebai Lamana**

University of Douala, Cameroon/  
University of Lille, France  
Oumou Dilly visiting PhD candidate (Feb–Jul 2023)

**Albert Tibaijuka**

St. Augustine University, Mwanza, Tanzania  
Oumou Dilly research fellow (Feb–Nov 2023)

**Mandirann Ablavi Amegnonka**

Université de Kara, Togo  
Visiting researcher (Jun 2023)

**Richard Malishome Mutema**

Tambwe Legacy Foundation, Zambia  
Visiting research fellow (Jul–Aug 2023)

**Reisch Vanel Attipo**

University of Lomé, Togo  
Oumou Dilly visiting PhD candidate (Aug 2023–Jun 2024)

**Joël Fabrice Djaha**

Félix Houphouët-Boigny University, Côte d'Ivoire  
Oumou Dilly visiting PhD candidate (Aug 2023–Feb 2024)

**Rufino Siteo**

Joaquim Chissano University, Mozambique  
ESKAS visiting PhD candidate (Sep 2023–Aug 2024)

**Antoinette Danebai Lamana (visiting PhD student, spring semester 2023)**

Antoinette Danebai Lamana is a PhD candidate at the Universities of Douala and Lille. Her research focuses on social dynamics and agency in rural areas. She spent the spring semester 2023 at the ZASB with an Oumou Dilly fellowship.

*“First, a working environment reminiscent of chalets, a view over the River Rhine at the ZASB, warm support from the team and, in particular, Veit Arlt’s tireless support before and during the sojourn. Then, how not to mention the Basler “Fasnacht” – my first carnival experience in vivo – that set the tone for my eclectic academic stay: atmosphere, committed message, generosity, parody etc. Finally, the challenging seminars and symposia at the University of Basel immersed me in current scientific debates and methodological and epistemological questions. I enjoyed the framework and resources of libraries, great moments with researchers willing to exchange and discuss in a friendly way, but also sessions to work on my thesis in the company of students of the Graduate School of Social Sciences or in the Research Seminar on Quantitative Data Analysis in African Studies. This stay was an exceptional moment for me, academically, personally and socio-culturally, a space for reflection, work, and escape but also an ideal setting to find myself...”*  
(Excerpt from Antoinette Lamana’s blog post on the Oumou Dilly website)

Since 2015, the Fondation Oumou Dilly has been supporting various young African scholars with visiting fellowships at the ZASB.

[www.oumoudilly.ch/scholars](http://www.oumoudilly.ch/scholars)

## Outreach

### Events

**Reading by Beata Umubyeyi Mairesse, laureate of the Ahmadou Kourouma Prize**

Reading at the *Literaturhaus Basel* in cooperation with the *Salon du Livre Genève* and the subject area French Studies at the University of Basel  
27 Mar 2023 | Public event

**Geteiltes Kulturelles Erbe? (Un)Recht, (Un)Religion, (Un)Restitution: was n/ tun?**

Panel discussion in the framework of the course “Restitutions und/als Rituale” in collaboration with the *Department of Religious Studies* at the University of Basel  
25 Apr 2023 | Public event

**Reading by Mohamed Mbougar Sarr: “Die geheimste Erinnerung der Menschen”**

In collaboration with the French embassy in Switzerland as well as *Literaturhaus Basel* and *Alliance française de Bâle*  
15 May 2023 | Public event

**Guided tour: Basel and Africa/ Stadtführung: Basel und Afrika**

Guided city tours in the framework of the *Kunsttage Basel*  
25, 26 & 27 Aug 2023 | Public event

**Deal with it! African heritage in Basel**

Exhibition at the University Library Basel and supporting program  
25 Aug 2023–31 Jan 2024 | Exhibition

**Fredrick Ogenga: “Maskani Pan-African Digital Peacebuilding”**

Carl Schlettwein Lecture 2023 in partnership with swisspeace and in the framework of the STS-CH 2023 conference  
31 Aug 2023 | Guest lecture/public event

**African Studies – an exploration of Basel/Afrikastudien – eine Entdeckungsreise durch Basel**

Guided city tours in the framework of the exhibition “Deal with it! African Heritage in Basel”  
18 Sep & 3 Nov 2023 | Public event

**PARC – a new meta-catalogue for Africana collections in Basel**

In August 2023, the new research portal PARC (Portal for African Research Collections) was launched. PARC aims to make all Africana collections in Basel accessible and visible in one meta-catalogue. For the first time, the collections of the Basler Afrika Bibliographien, Mission 21, Museum der Kulturen Basel, Swiss TPH and the University of Basel are searchable in a single online catalogue. In addition to bibliographic and archival collections, the catalogue includes ethnographic objects, photographs, posters, films/videos, sound recordings and digital collections including audio-visual media.

PARC is an innovation project and is open to other partners, especially Africa-based institutions. Therefore, PARC’s technical design is oriented towards the demands and challenges of the African market, so that access is guaranteed, and knowledge exchange can take place. This includes optimization for low-bandwidth operation as well as tools for decentralized data management, so that data providers can retain ownership of their data.

On the occasion of the launch of PARC, the University Library Basel hosted “Deal with it!”, an exhibition that shared perspectives on the handling of African cultural assets in Basel-based collections and research institutions. The large number of institutions related to the African continent in the Basel area is, in part, the result of a long tradition of academic engagement with Africa in the region. With the University’s clear commitment to research on, in, and with Africa, Basel has developed into an international center for interdisciplinary African research. Building on the perspectives of students who participated in a project course offered in spring 2023, “Deal with it!” discussed the individual and collective history and present of the five Basel-based institutions that are initially involved in PARC. An extensive and diverse supporting program featured concerts, roundtable discussions and workshops, as well as further exhibitions.

[www.parc-portal.org](http://www.parc-portal.org)



Afrika-Bulletin**| Black Curls and the Stories Behind them**

Photo exhibition at the ZASB in the framework of the supporting program for "Deal with it! African Heritage in Basel"

22 Sep–20 Oct 2023 | Exhibition

**| Lost Libraries, Burnt Archives**

Book discussion with Sindi-Leigh McBride, Julia Rensing (editors, both University of Basel) and Koleka Putuma (writer and poet)

16 Nov 2023 | Public event

**| Barbed(wire): tool of oppression, tool of protection**

Photo and poster exhibition at the ZASB  
14 Dec 2023–29 Mar 2024 | Exhibition

**| Die Macht der Satire**

Afrika-Bulletin Nr 189 | Feb 2023

**| Sicherheit – ein knappes Gut**

Afrika-Bulletin Nr 190 | Mai 2023

**| 50 Jahre Afrika-Komitee – 50 Jahre gelebte Solidarität**

Afrika-Bulletin Nr 191 | Sep 2023

**| Auf zwei Kontinenten zuhause**

Afrika-Bulletin Nr 192 | Nov 2023

In the media**|"Entwicklungszusammenarbeit auf Augenhöhe: Geht das?"**

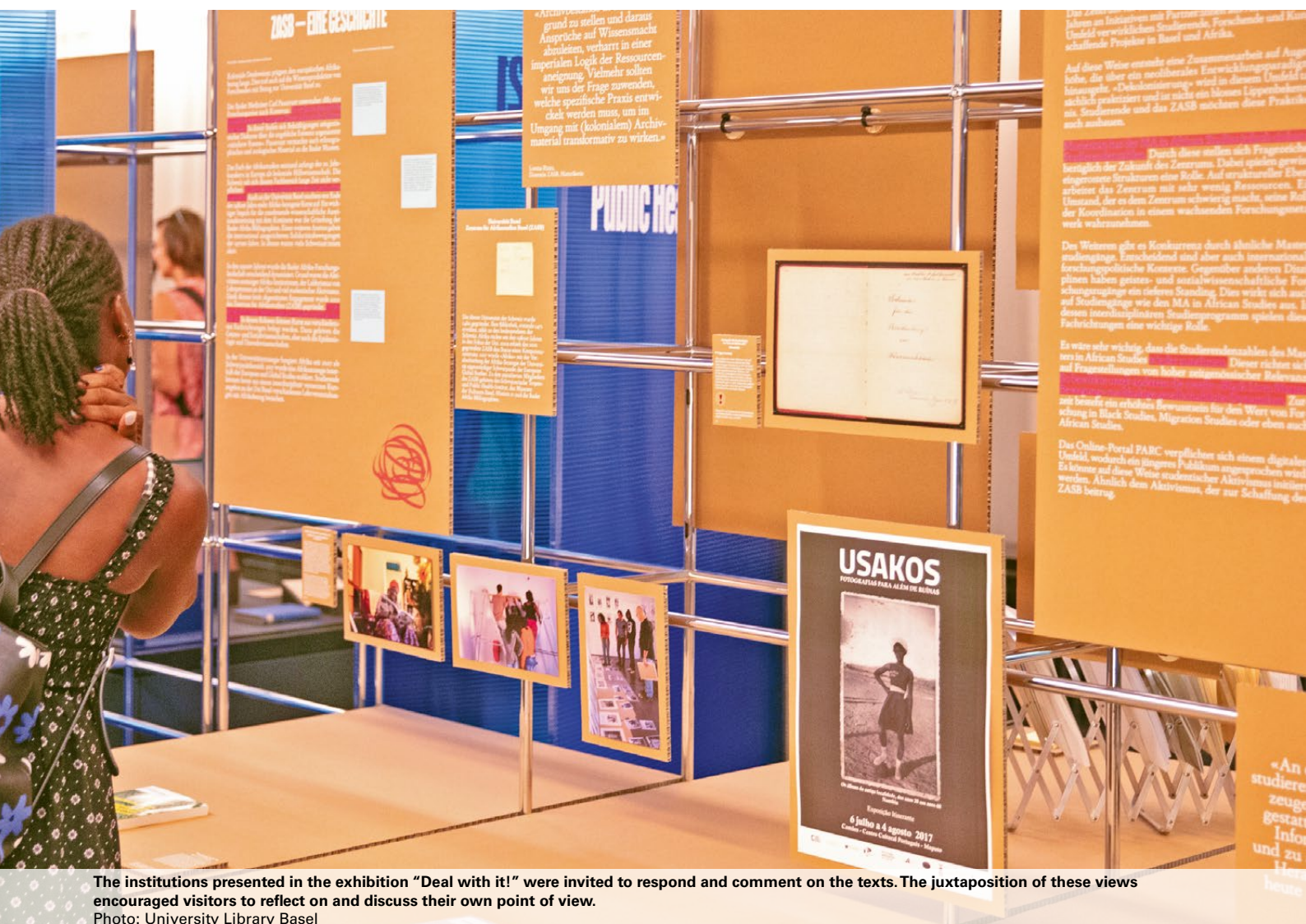
Elisio Macamo in der Sendung Perspektiven von Radio SRF (10.06.2023)

**|"Im Schatten der Geschichte: Die Schweiz und der Völkermord in Ruanda"**

Interview mit Thanushiyah Korn in den Schaffhauser Nachrichten (19.10.2023)

**|"Wie sinnvoll ist Entwicklungshilfe?"**

Podcast Laut + Leis (Katholisches Medienzentrum) mit Elisio Macamo und Nicole Bolliger (15.12.2023)



The institutions presented in the exhibition "Deal with it!" were invited to respond and comment on the texts. The juxtaposition of these views encouraged visitors to reflect on and discuss their own point of view.  
Photo: University Library Basel

## 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

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

#### | Department of History

Ernest Sewordor  
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  
Elísio Macamo  
George Paul Meiu  
Brigit Obrist  
Jon Schubert  
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

### Members of the ZASB Steering Committee (31.12.2023)

Lena Bloemertz (Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz FHNW)  
Kenny Cupers (Department of Social Sciences)  
Dag Henrichsen (Basler Afrika Bibliographien)  
Andrea Kaiser-Grolimund (Department of Social Sciences)  
Saba Kassa (Basel Institute on Governance)  
Elísio Macamo (Department of Social Sciences)  
George Paul Meiu (Department of Social Sciences)  
*Sonja Merten (Swiss TPH)\**  
Lorena Rizzo (Projects ZASB)  
Martin Rööslí (Swiss TPH)  
Jon Schubert (Department of Social Sciences)  
Ernest Sewordor (Department of History)  
*Julia Tischler (Department of History)\**  
Henri-Michel Yéré (Department of Social Sciences)

*\*ZASB Co-Director*

#### | Institute for European Global Studies

Lerato Posholi  
Ralph Weber

#### | Projects ZASB

Michael Aeby  
Kadiatou Nénéin Diallo  
Luregn Lenggenhager  
James Merron  
Giorgio Miescher  
Lorena Rizzo

#### | Swiss TPH

Guéladio Cissé  
Claudia Daubenberger  
Samuel Fuhrmann  
Sebastien Gagneux  
Andrea Kaiser-Grolimund  
Jennifer Keiser  
Nino Künzli  
Sonja Merten  
Christian Nsanzabana  
Daniel Paris  
Christoph Pimmer  
Martin Rööslí  
Jasmina Saric  
Natalie Tarr  
Jürg Utzinger  
Mirko Severin Winkler  
Jakob Zinsstag

#### | swisspeace

Dominik Balthasar  
Laurent Goetschel

#### | Partner institutions

Lena Bloemertz (Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz FHNW)  
Aqiel Dalvie (University of Cape Town)  
Serena Dankwa (Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz FHNW)  
Gregor Dobler (Universität Freiburg i.Br.)  
Marcel Dreier (Fepa)  
Annika Hampel (Arnold Bergstraesser Institut)  
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)  
Jasmin Rindlisbacher (Basler Afrika Bibliographien)  
Jürg Schneider (African Photography Initiative)  
Christian Vandersee (Basler Afrika Bibliographien)  
Franziska Zanker (Arnold Bergstraesser Institut)

#### | President's Office

Erich Thaler

#### | Executive Office

Veit Art  
Pascal Schmid



## Budget and Expenditure 2023 (GK4901)

	Budget 2023 (CHF)	Expenditure (CHF)
Office	800	904.82
PhD students	4000	4665.35
Cooperation	3500	3636.75
Membership Fees	1200	1123.8
MA course	13,000	11,304.21
Staff	500	511.8
Publications	4500	5279.87
Student exchange	4000	2879.02
Events	9500	9060.17
Advertisement and Representation	3000	3297.35
Conference Participation	2000	2267.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,000</b>	<b>44,930.89</b>

**Office:** This budget item mainly consists of costs of office supplies.

**PhD students:** Further support of PhD students was provided by the Graduate Network African Studies (CHF 3,439.07 in 2023).

**Cooperation:** This budget item includes costs of 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:** 90 percent of these expenses are salary costs for student tutors.

**Staff:** Most expenses in this budget line are related to welcoming new staff members, send-off events, as well as training events.

**Publications:** The publications include the *Afrika-Bulletin* as well as contributions to publications from our network members such as the volume *Lost Libraries, Burnt Archives*, edited by Sindi-Leigh McBride and Julia Rensing.

**Student exchange:** In the past year, two students of the Master's program African Studies spent a semester at the University of the Western Cape.

**Events:** The main expenses were for the ZASB's presence at the European Conference on African Studies ECAS 2023 in Cologne, the Carl Schlettwein Lecture, several conferences ("Cultural relations between Switzerland and South Africa, 1948-1994", "Revisiting Histories and Cultures of African Diasporas, Religion and Belief", "Conjunctions of Archives and Public Spheres"), and the exhibition "Schwarze Locken" hosted at Rheinsprung 21 in the framework of "Deal with it!".

**Conference participation:** Expenses in this budget line include the support of conference participation of staff and network members, especially in cases where the participants could not profit from the University's travel fund.

**Advertisement and representation:** This budget item includes the production of the annual report of ZASB, welcome and farewell of visiting scholars and students, various meetings with partners as well as receptions.

# Politics and Governance



| Saba Kassa

This key area addresses the challenge of understanding the interplay between politics and governance; in other words, between how society wants to live, and the coordinated action undertaken to make this possible. In so doing, its members wish to focus less on the state and more on the broader actions and practices constituting contexts of politics and governance. In addition, the KAA acknowledges the importance of knowledge that addresses practical issues, especially since these problems and policy concerns are an essential source for identifying theoretical, conceptual and methodological challenges.

## **Citizenship and human dignity**

In November 2023, a virtual brainstorming session brought together 15 researchers working on politics and governance in Basel, Freiburg im Breisgau and Strasbourg. The meeting continued the conversation initiated at a workshop linked to the ZASB General Assembly in March 2023 and provided a space to connect with fellow scholars, to reflect on the intellectual agenda for research on politics and governance in Africa, and to explore synergies and entry points for strengthening collaboration. During the workshop, participants discussed a draft concept note elaborating a proposal to develop a research agenda for the key area anchored on the concepts of citizenship and dignity. The participants discussed various approaches to these concepts and brainstormed how to lend substance to them through concrete individual and collaborative research initiatives, publications, and workshops. A key message from the discussion was that being part of this network enriches and strengthens members' work. Participants agreed to organize follow-up events in order to continue active collaboration, harnessing each other's interests and expertise.

To stimulate further reflection on how research on politics and governance can be linked through a focus on citizenship and human dignity, the KAA invited Till Förster, former Chair of Anthropology at the University of Basel, to present a book project on politics in the West African savannah at a virtual lecture on 11 December 2023. The rich and illuminat-

ing audience discussion highlighted how perspectives of citizenship intersect with politics. A workshop with a focus on East African perspectives on citizenship is planned for spring 2024 with sessions in Basel and Freiburg i. Br.

## **Corruption prevention**

The Basel Institute on Governance, with financial support from the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, continued with research and technical assistance in the field of corruption prevention in Malawi and Zambia. In Zambia, the team conducted research on corruption risks in the mining sector and provided strategic recommendations to the government on how to address them. In Malawi, the team implemented corruption prevention strategies to support anti-corruption stakeholders.

Together with partners in Malawi, Switzerland and the UK, the Basel Institute on Governance secured funding for a new research project that will examine crisis responses and corruption in vulnerable sectors. Starting in March 2024, the project will incorporate a behavioral perspective to understand how such factors can exacerbate corruption in moments of crisis. The project will map the corruption experienced in the Malawian health sector during different types of crises. The aim is to identify where and in what specific ways corruption has occurred. On this basis, the project will explore innovative approaches to preventing and mitigating corruption. One way in which this will be done is by applying behavioral insights to enhance the impact of anti-corruption initiatives, for example by correcting misperceptions or addressing perceived social norms. Another approach will be to recommend technological solutions to increase transparency and accountability, for example by facilitating community involvement in monitoring and overseeing emergency response efforts, or by incorporating anti-corruption elements into existing emergency response plans.

## **Peace Agreements and Transitions**

Michael Aeby's research on how African inter-governmental organizations support the im-

plementation of comprehensive peace agreements and transitions in intrastate conflicts served to lay the groundwork for a multiyear project that examines further key aspects of peace agreement implementation. These include the design of monitoring mechanisms, and public perceptions of implementation processes. The planned project will provide an important empirical contribution to the research literature on the African Peace and Security Architecture. The project is dedicated to the questions of how, why and with what results five African communities of states supported the implementation of comprehensive peace agreements in intra-state conflicts through mediation, guarantees and monitoring during transition phases. The three project modules, which comparatively examine the institutions of the intergovernmental organizations, their support practices in peace processes, and their aid commitments in peace agreements, form the basis for further research.

In this framework, Michael Aeby continues to co-convene the online colloquium of the African Politics Research Group (APRG) in collaboration with the University of Edinburgh. The colloquium serves as a platform for PhD candidates, postdocs and established scholars with various disciplinary backgrounds who are based at universities in the North and South to discuss ongoing and recently completed research.

### **Digital peacebuilding**

In collaboration with swisspeace, the ZASB invited Fredrick Ogenga to present the distinguished annual Carl Schlettwein Lecture, which took place in the framework of the 2023 conference of the Swiss Association for the Studies of Science, Technology, and Society (STS-CH). The focus of the lecture was on digital peacebuilding in the context of the 2022 elections in Kenya.

Selected projects

**Anti-corruption prevention research and technical assistance work in Malawi and Zambia**

Principal investigator: Claudia Baez Camargo

Project members: Saba Kassa, Jacopo Costa

Malawi: 01.01.2020–31.12.2025, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Zambia: 01.01.2023–31.12.2023, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

**Political Theology in African Megachurches in Hong Kong and Switzerland**

Lead (University of Basel): Andreas Heuser

01.09.2021–28.02.2023, Leading House Asia Bridging Grant

**Supporting the Implementation of Peace Agreements in the African Peace & Security Architecture**

Principal investigator: Michael Aeby  
01.08.2022–30.11.2024, SNSF Postdoc. Mobility Return Grant/University of Basel

Key publications

Aeby, Michael, and Jamie Pring. 2023. "Development Trajectories of Mediation Support Structures in the AU, ECOWAS, IGAD and SADC." *South African Journal of International Affairs* 30 (1): 97–120.

Aeby, Michael. 2023. "CEWARN's Strategy Framework and Civil Society Partnership: Lessons for Early-Warning and Response Systems." *ACCORD Conflict Trends*. November 15.

Camargo, Claudia Baez, and Jacopo Costa. 2023. "Culture and Corruption." In *Elgar Concise Encyclopedia of Corruption Law*, edited by Mark Pieth and Tina Søreide, 169–73. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Heuser, Andreas. 2023. "Der Gottesnomade und seine GOD BOX: Werner Herzogs Hommage an Bruce Chatwin." In *Mission in Film und Literatur. Heuristische Annäherung: Kontexte - Akteur:Innen - Ambivalenzen*, edited by Klaus Hock, Claudia Jahnel, and Klaus-Dieter Kaiser, Bd. 1: 27–51. Leipzig: Evangelische Verlagsanstalt.

Heuser, Andreas. 2023. "Dominion Theology as a Pneumatic Theo-Praxis." In *Politischer Pentekostalismus: Transformationen des Globalen Christentums im Spiegel Theologischer Motive und Pluraler Normativität*, edited by Leandro B. Fontana and Markus Luber, *Weltkirche und Mission*, 18: 95–114. Regensburg: Verlag Friedrich Pustet.

Heuser, Andreas. 2023. "Interkulturelle Übersetzungszonen und Religio-Scapes: 'Aussereuropäisches Christentum'" *Zeitschrift für Missionswissenschaft und Religionswissenschaft (ZMR)* 107 (1–2): 104–12.



Fredrick Ogenga, Associate Professor of Media and Security Studies at Rongo University in Kenya and Founding Director of the Center for Media, Democracy, Peace & Security, delivered the 2023 Carl Schlettwein Lecture. Photo: Niamh O'Neill

Selected events**Fredrick Ogenga: “Maskani Pan-African Digital Peacebuilding”**

Carl Schlettwein Lecture 2023 in partnership with swisspeace  
31 Aug 2023 | Guest lecture

**Elísio Macamo: “The Moral Sustainability of Governance”**

Keynote at the MIASA Midterm Conference “Sustainable Governance in a Time of Global Flux: Issues, Concepts and Future Directions,” University of Ghana, 19–21 September 2023  
19 Sep 2023 | Public lecture

**Saba Kassa: “The politics of anti-corruption: How politics supports and undermines anti-corruption efforts”**

In the framework of the African Politics Research Group online colloquium  
23 Nov 2023 | Colloquium

**Till Förster: “Nafoun – there is no fire”**

Online lecture in the framework of the ZASB key area ‘Politics and Governance’  
11 Dec 2023 | Guest lecture

Partnerships/major collaborations

Arnold Bergstraesser Institute/University of Freiburg i.Br.

University of Ghana/Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA)

University of Edinburgh

Kamuzu University of Health Sciences, Malawi

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

EssentialTech Centre, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL)

Nottingham Trent University

Members

Michael Aeby (Projects ZASB)

Claudia Baez-Camargo (Basel Institute on Governance)

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)

Elísio Macamo (Department of Social Sciences)

Mazembo Eddy Mavungu

Andreas Mehler (Arnold Bergstraesser Institut)

Mark Pieth (Basel Institute on Governance)

Jon Schubert (Department of Social Sciences)

Franziska Zanker (Arnold Bergstraesser Institut)

**“Maskani Pan-African Digital Peacebuilding. Moving Beyond the 2022 Controversial Presidential Elections in Kenya” (Carl Schlettwein Lecture, September 2023)**

The 2023 Carl Schlettwein Lecture took place in the framework of the biennial conference of the Swiss Association for the Studies of Science, Technology & Society (STS-CH 2023) and focused on digital peacebuilding based on pan-African approaches. Using the example of a peacebuilding project in Kenya, Fredrick Ogenga examined the impact of information and communication technology, in particular social media, on conflict and democracy in the context of the 2022 elections.

Fredrick Ogenga is Associate Professor of Media and Security Studies at Rongo University, Kenya, and Founding Director of the Center for Media, Democracy, Peace & Security (CMDPS). During the autumn semester 2023, he was a visiting fellow at swisspeace in Basel. In his Carl Schlettwein Lecture, he presented an enthusiastic and inspiring insight into his work at the intersection of research and policy.

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

# Health



Andrea Kaiser-  
Grolimund

Danelle van  
Zyl-Hermann

The key area with the broad name “Health” brings together researchers from different disciplines and at different stages of their academic careers. A particular focus of the key area is exploring health-related themes through critical conceptual and epistemological reflection and exchange from different disciplinary perspectives, including both the social and natural sciences. Our members represent various faculties and departments of the University of Basel as well as affiliated institutions, in particular the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH).

## **KAA Health writing project**

Following last year’s conversations and workshop around the restructuring and (re)conceptualization of our key area, we have formed a working group on interdisciplinarity, communication and collaboration. This group seeks to understand the ontological, epistemological, methodological and political (dis)connections between the social and natural sciences, using our own experiences as springboard. The group, which currently consists of Andrea Kaiser-Grolimund (anthropology), Henri-Michel Yéré (sociology), Danelle van Zyl-Hermann (history) and Christian Nsanzabana (parasitology), is working towards a comment piece. Additional members of the key area expressed their interest in joining the collaborative writing project. We plan to conduct follow up meetings to discuss and proceed with the writing project that will hopefully result in a publication in 2024.

## **KAA Health student group**

The fact that many students focusing on health in Africa spend several weeks or months on research trips each year has so far made it difficult to establish a stable network. PhD candidates Regina Molomo (Epidemiology and Public Health) and Andrea Graf (History) have continued their initiative to bring together MA and PhD students from different faculties and disciplines working on health-related topics to create a space for mutual support and exchange. The key area Health student group held its first meeting in September 2023. The aim is to establish an interdisciplinary network of students who are researching

health in Africa from different perspectives. The network is intended to facilitate informal exchange between students, for example to help each other with organizational, methodological and logistical issues. Furthermore, through the organization of interdisciplinary events, such as workshops and conferences, MA and PhD students should be encouraged to learn from each other beyond disciplinary boundaries. The student group plans to hold their next meeting in March 2024.

## **Global environmental health**

In the frame of the Joint South Africa and Swiss Chair in Global Environmental Health, various studies in the area of environmental health have been conducted. Using a mixed-methods approach we found that diarrhoeal incidence in children under 5 years from Cape Town has decreased over the last decade, and that incidence is strongly influenced by local temperature and humidity, particularly over the hot dry season (Lee et al, 2023).

In a longitudinal study of 590 children living in informal settlements in Cape Town during twelve months, we investigated the association between a metabolite of pesticide exposure in urine (dialkyl phosphate) and the incidence of asthma. While pesticide metabolites were detectable in almost all children, no association with asthma was observed (Mthethwa et al, 2023). To better understand pesticide exposure in rural areas of South Africa, we measured pesticide residues in 38 children and their guardians during the spraying season 2018 during seven days using silicone wrist bands and through analyzing urine and household dust samples. Health-risk threshold for organophosphate was exceeded in 21% of the urine samples (results will be published in 2024 by Veludo et al).

## **Towards the elimination of cervical cancer**

In 2023, the SNF SPIRIT project focusing on perceptions of cervical cancer screening in a small town in Tanzania started data collection. The project is led by Sonja Merten (Swiss TPH) and Sally Mtenga (Ifakara Health Institute, Tanzania). Using body mapping and other par-

ticipatory methods, embodied experiences of screening and perceptions of the ‘womb’ were explored.

### **Food safety and food security**

From April 2024 to March 2027, the collaborative project “Trade-offs between food safety and food security and its impacts towards the SDGs for children in South Africa, Sweden and Switzerland” funded by SNSF/NRF/FORMAS will be conducted by Swiss TPH, the University of Cape Town and Lund University. The project focuses on food safety and security making use of established biobanks to measure food toxins (pesticides and mycotoxins) and food quality biomarkers in 2000 urine samples of children from South Africa, Switzerland, and Sweden. By collaborating with stakeholders in each country, the project aims to translate the evidence from the biomonitoring to accelerate progress towards the SDGs, providing evidence and policy recommendations for transformative change in food systems and nutrition.

Selected projects**The pesticide exposome and its impact on the health and well-being of farmer families along sustainable food production systems**

Principal investigator: Samuel Fuhrmann  
2023–2028, SNSF Starting grant

**African Pesticide Intervention Project (APSENT)**

Principal investigators: Martin Rössli, Samuel Fuhrmann, Guéladio Cissé  
PhD researcher: Peter Ssessekkade  
2022–2025, ESKAS

**Towards the elimination of cervical cancer: transdisciplinary science for smarter implementation strategies**

Principal investigators: Sonja Merten, Sally Mtenga (Ifakara Health Institute, Tanzania)  
2022–2025, SNSF SPIRIT

**ALIVEAfrica: Animals, Livelihoods and Well-being in Africa**

Project leader: Hannah Brown (Durham University, UK)  
Co-investigator, Basel: Andrea Kaiser-Grolimund  
2021–2026, ERC Starting Grant

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

Principal investigators: Julia Tischler, Jürg Utzinger, Jerome Chenal (EPF Lausanne)  
Project members, Basel: Danelle van Zyl-Hermann, Tolulope Esther Fadeyi, Doris Osei-Afryiye, Ibyn Eric Nebie, Günther Fink, Christian Burri, Jakob Zinsstag  
2019–2023, SNSF Sinergia

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

Project leaders: Aqiel Dalvie, Martin Rössli, Guéladio Cissé  
2015–2024, SERI, NRF South Africa

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

Principal investigator: Aqiel Dalvie  
2015–2023, NRF South Africa, SARChi Chair Programme, South African Medical Research Council, SERI

Selected events**Concluding conference of the SNSF Sinergia Project “African Contributions to Global Health: Circulating Knowledge and Innovations”**

Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques en Côte d’Ivoire (CSRS), Abidjan  
13–14 September 2023 | Conference/symposium

**KAA “Health” student group meeting**

Networking meeting for Master’s students and PhD candidates working on health-related topics in Africa across all disciplines  
21 Sep 2023 | Workshop

**Workshop: “Thinking with and through Animals”**

With Frédéric Keck (Laboratoire d’Anthropologie Sociale, Paris), organized by Andrea Kaiser-Grolimund and Piet van Eeuwijk, SwissTPH and Medical Anthropology Research Group (MARG)  
30 October 2023 | Workshop

**Kelly Chibale: “Fostering Drug Discovery in Africa”**

Public lecture co-hosted by the Swiss TPH and Novartis  
24 Nov 2023 | Guest lecture

PhD and MA projects**The impacts of agricultural practices and climate change on the health and well-being of farmworkers in South Africa**

PhD thesis: Tshepo Phakisi

**Out of Sight? Bilharzia in Madagascar as a Global History of ‘Neglected Tropical Diseases’, 1950s to the present**

PhD thesis: Andrea Graf

**Reproductive health effects of pesticides exposure on boys and girls in the rural Western Cape, South Africa**

PhD thesis: Regina Molomo

**Prospective Cohort Study on Early Life Household Air Pollution Exposure in Ghana and Cardiovascular Disease Risk in Childhood**

PhD thesis: Seyram Kaali

**The impact of interventions and farming practices on the health and well-being of smallholder farmer families in Uganda**

PhD thesis: Peter Ssekkade

**The effect of climate change on cardiovascular diseases: What the future could look like for India and South Africa**

PhD thesis: Shreya Shrikhande

**Climate Change impacts on Malaria: from risk assessment to health adaptation in Rwanda**

PhD thesis: Felix Rubuga

**Antimicrobial resistance in humans, animals, and the environment in Somali region in Ethiopia**

PhD thesis: Abdifatah Muktar Muhammad

**The influence of religion/spirituality (including tradition) on the health outcomes of young people living with HIV in Zimbabwe**

PhD thesis: Ursula Wütherich-Grossenbacher

**Towards Understanding and Managing Chronic Pain among Adult Pastoralists in Eastern Ethiopia**

PhD thesis: Eleonore Arrer



## Key publications

**Citational In/Equity: A Review of Discrimination and Racism in Citalional Practices within Tropical Medicine**

MA Thesis: Xiao Meng

**Climate change and respiratory illnesses in the Limpopo province, South Africa: Assessing risks and vulnerabilities**

MA Thesis: Daniel Kipo

**Health Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Eritrean Population in Basel, Switzerland**

MA Thesis: Rahel Erhardt

Bapolisi, W. A., Bisimwa, G., & Merten, S. 2023. "Barriers to Family Planning Use in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo: An Application of the Theory of Planned Behaviour Using a Longitudinal Survey". *BMJ Open* 13 (2): e061564.

Baum, E., Abdi, S., van Eeuwijk, P., Probst-Hensch, N., Zinsstag, J., Tschopp, R., & Vosseler, B. 2023. "It Is Difficult for Us to Treat Their pain'. Health professionals' Perceptions of Somali Pastoralists in the Context of Pain Management: A Conceptual Model". *Medical Humanities* 49 (4), 700-712.

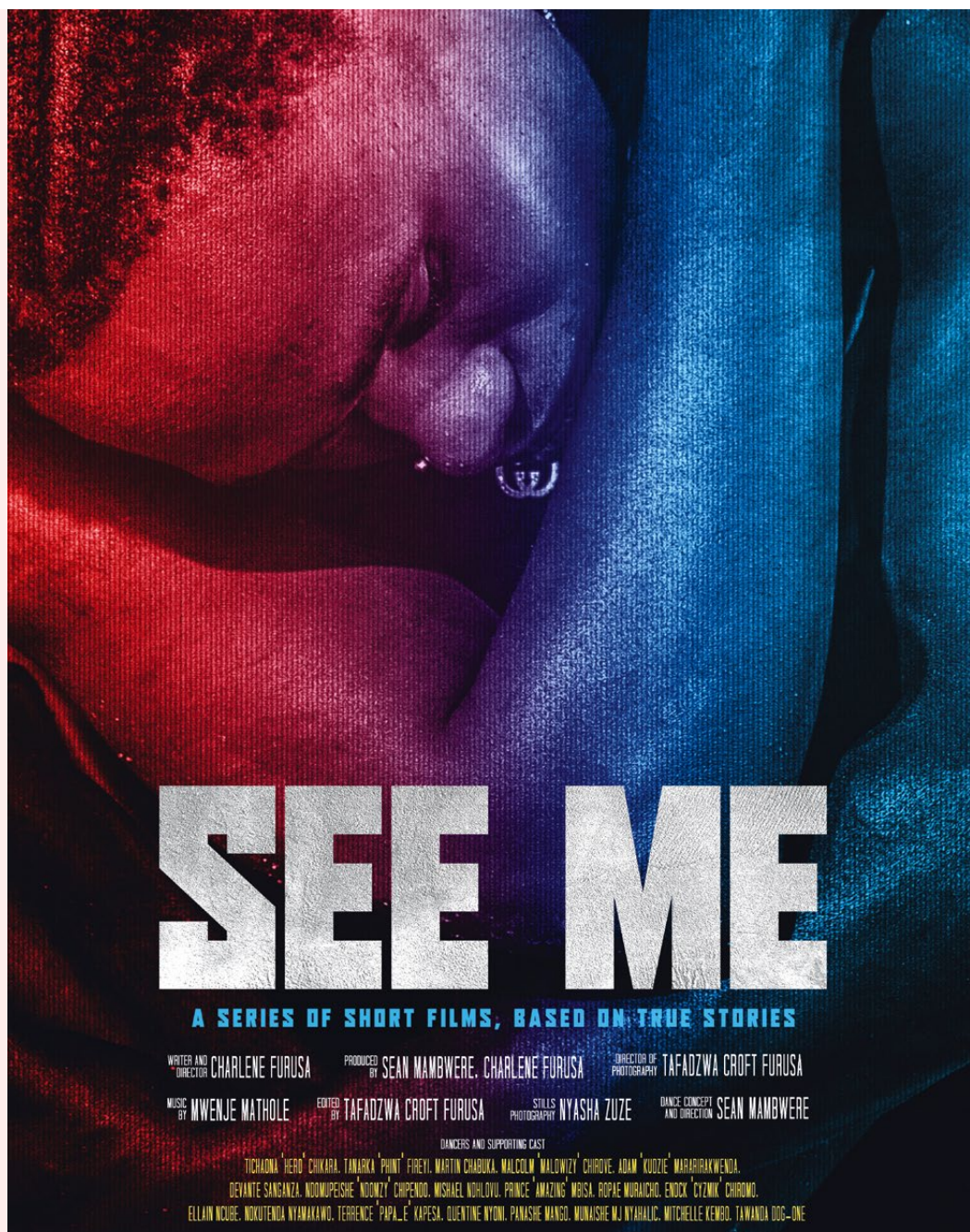
**"See Me – when God Remains the only Hope": Film on young people living with HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe**

The film "See Me – when God Remains the only Hope" is the creation of five Zimbabwean artists (Sean Mambwere, Charlene Mangweni-Furusa, Tafadzwa "Croft" Furusa, Mwenje Mathole, Nyasha Zuze). The content of the film is based on an unpublished paper analyzing qualitative data in the framework of a PhD project at the University of Basel.

The film consists of a series of episodes that tell the stories of young people living with HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe and the ways they were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions. It addresses manifold and interlinked themes such as stigma, discrimination, abuse, mental health and gender-based violence while drawing on real life experiences during Covid-19.

"See Me – when God Remains the only Hope" was first screened in December 2023 in Harare and is available online.

[www.seemethefilm.com](http://www.seemethefilm.com)



- Baum, E., Abdi, S., Probst-Hensch, N., Zinsstag, J., Vosseler, B., Tschopp, R., & van Eeuwijk, P. 2023. 'I Could Not Bear it': Perceptions of Chronic Pain Among Somali Pastoralists in Ethiopia. A Qualitative Study. *PLoS ONE* 18 (11), e0293137.
- Ferrari, G., Lwamushi, S. M., Balaluka, G. B., Lafta, R. K., Schindler, C., Bugugu, D., Lurhangire, E., Tediosi, F., Mendoza, J. R., & Merten, S. 2023. "Understanding Context of Violence Against Healthcare through Citizen Science and Evaluating the Effectiveness of a Co-Designed Code of Conduct and of a Tailored De-Escalation of Violence Training in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and Iraq: A Study Protocol for a Stepped Wedge Randomized Controlled Trial". *Trials* 24 (1), 814.
- Fuhrmann, S., Mueller, W., Atuhaire, A., Ohlander, J., Mubezi, R., Povey, A., Basinas, I., van Tongeren, M., Jones, K., Sams, C., Galea, K. S., & Kromhout, H. 2023. "Self-reported and urinary biomarker-based measures of exposure to glyphosate and mancozeb and sleep problems among smallholder farmers in Uganda". *Environment International*, 182, 108277.
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Members

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Guéladio Cissé (Swiss TPH)  
 Aqiel Dalvie (University of Cape Town)  
 Samuel Fuhrmann (Swiss TPH)  
 Andrea Kaiser-Grolimund (Department of Social Sciences/Swiss TPH)  
 Sonja Merten (Swiss TPH)  
 Christian Nsanzabana (Swiss TPH)  
 Martin Rösli (Swiss TPH)  
 Sandra Staudacher (Faculty of Medicine)  
 Piet van Eeuwijk (Department of Social Sciences/Swiss TPH)  
 Danelle Van Zyl-Hermann (Department of History)  
 Henri-Michel Yéré (Department of Social Sciences)  
 Jakob Zinsstag (Swiss TPH)

Partnerships/major collaborations

University of Cape Town, School of Public Health and Family Medicine  
 University of Pretoria  
 South Africa Medical Research Council  
 Durham University  
 Rwanda Biomedical Centre  
 Jigjiga University  
 Ifakara Health Institute

# 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 and outcomes? For whom do we produce knowledge on Africa? How do we deal with the asymmetries that continue to characterize African Studies, in which institutions and researchers from the Global North play a dominant role? What does it mean to produce “postcolonial” knowledge on Africa? How can our research inform broader public debates?

## **African Contributions to Global Health**

The SNSF Sinergia project “African Contributions to Global Health”, a collaboration between the Department of History (Julia Tischler), Swiss TPH (Jürg Utzinger), and EPFL (Jérôme Chenal), examines the (non-)circulation of knowledge in the field of health between the Global South and North. In 2022, researchers were conducting and finalizing their research in Togo, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Côte d’Ivoire, Tanzania and Zambia, among other places. In 2023, the project was concluded with a two-day conference at the Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques in Côte d’Ivoire (CSRS), in Abidjan.

## **Reversing the Gaze**

The SNSF Sinergia project “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) at the University of Basel with colleagues at the University of Zurich (Department of Geography) and the University of 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.

In 2023, members of the various work groups conducted research in Austria, India, Italy and Switzerland. In May, a research workshop was held in Edinburgh with project fellows and invited experts from Italy, Sri Lanka, the UK and USA. In the spring semester, the final sessions of the project’s bi-weekly online colloquium

took place under the heading “Beyond Area Studies”, with presentations by Benedikt Korf (University of Zurich), James Derrick Sidaway (National University of Singapore), Patrício Langa (University of the Western Cape/Eduardo Mondlane University) and Aline Schläpfer (University of Basel). In addition, the graduate workshop “Is Methodology the Only Way?” at the University of Basel with Rose Marie Beck (University of Leipzig), Elísio Macamo (ZASB), Michael Aeby (ZASB) and Patrício Langa explored the role of methodological issues in the debates on Eurocentrism in the social sciences.

## **Equatoguinean Spanish**

The SNSF-funded project “Improving the visibility of Equatorial Guinea as a Spanish-speaking country”, directed by Sandra Schlumpf, aims to describe the situation of Spanish in Equatorial Guinea from a sociolinguistic and dialectological perspective. A critical, postcolonial approach to analysis aims to revise classical, Eurocentric patterns of description and to grasp and appreciate this African variety of the Spanish language in its specific context. The project thus contributes to the reorientation of Hispanic studies towards a globally oriented perception of the Spanish-speaking world. In March, the project team presented the corpus of data collected in Equatorial Guinea as well as preliminary results at the *XXI Congreso de la Asociación Internacional de Hispanistas* in Neuchâtel.

## **Academic events**

Members of the key area were involved in organizing a number of international conferences in Basel including “Revisiting Histories and Cultures of African Diasporas, Religion and Belief. Hans Werner Debrunner Symposium” (9 & 10 June 2023), “Science, Expertise, and Other Modes of Knowledge” (STS-CH 2023 conference, 31 August & 1 September 2023) and “Conjunctions of Archives and Public Spheres: Embodied Histories, Memory and Multi-Media Archives in and from Africa” (19 & 20 October 2023).

The Basel Summer School in African Studies convened by Elísio Macamo (Director) and

Pascal Schmid (Coordinator) brought together 16 PhD candidates from Switzerland and various African countries. Henri-Michel Yéré, Alexandra Hofmänner and Ralph Weber were among the faculty alongside experts from the science-policy nexus (Marion Bétizeau, Velux Foundation; Fabian Käser, KFPE; Fredrick Ogenga, Rongo University/Center for Media, Democracy, Peace & Security).

**Outreach activities**

In 2023, the ZASB again co-organized readings by African authors at the Literaturhaus Basel. In March, in the framework of a cooperation with the Salon du Livre Genève and the subject area French Studies at the University of Basel, Isabelle Chariatte moderated a reading by Beata Umubyeyi Mairesse, winner of the Ahmadou Kourouma Prize 2023. In October, Noël Netonon Ndjékéry read from his book *Il n'y a pas d'arc-en-ciel au paradis*.

Selected projects**African Contributions to Global Health: Circulating Knowledge and Innovations**

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

Project members, Basel: Danelle van Zyl-Hermann, Tanja Hammel, Doris Osei-Afriyie, Ibyn 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  
01.10.2020–30.09.2025, SNSF (Sinergia)

**Improving the visibility of Equatorial Guinea as a Spanish-speaking country**

Principal investigator: Sandra Schlumpf-Thurnherr

Project member: Sara Carreira  
01.02.2021–31.01.2025, SNSF (project funding)

Key publications

Doppelbauer, Max, and Sandra Schlumpf. 2023. "Política lingüística poscolonial en África: el caso de Guinea Ecuatorial." *Signo y seña*, no. 44, 149–177.

Hartmann, Heinrich, and Julia Tischler. 2023. "Introduction. Planting Seeds of Knowledge: Agriculture and Education in Rural Societies in the Twentieth Century." In *Planting Seeds of Knowledge. Agriculture and Education in Rural Societies in the Twentieth Century*, edited by Heinrich Hartmann and Julia Tischler, 1–30. Berghahn Books.

Henrichsen, Dag. 2023. "A Book, a Reader, a Letter, and a Fire: Jeremiah Majikijela Reading Krune Mqhayi." In *Lost Libraries, Burnt Archives*, edited by Sindi-Leigh McBride and Julia Rensing, 178–188. Cape Town: Michaelis Galleries University of Cape Town.

Macamo, Elísio, and Nahed Samour. 2023. "Forum II: 'Reversing the Gaze'?! – Revisiting a Key Concept." In *Thinking with the South: Reframing Research Collaboration amid Decolonial Imperatives and Challenges*, edited by Andrea Fleschenberg, Kai Kresse, and Rosa Cordillera Castillo, 95–110. ZMO-Studien 44. Boston: De Gruyter.

Schlumpf, Sandra. 2023. "El Pluricentrismo Como Marco teórico Para Revalorizar Variedades lingüísticas «periféricas». Reflexiones Sobre El español De Guinea Ecuatorial Desde Un Contexto Migratorio." In *Migración, Pluricentrismo Y acomodación. Nuevas Perspectivas Desde La Lengua española*, 1. Auflage, 281–311. Freiburger Romanistische Arbeiten. Baden-Baden: Rombach Wissenschaft.

**"African Contributions to Global Health" (Project concluding conference, Abidjan, September 2023)**

On 13 and 14 September 2023, project members, staff of the Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques en Côte d'Ivoire (CSRS), and a broad range of scholars, health experts and policy representatives met in Abidjan for the concluding conference of the SNSF Sinergia project "African Contributions to Global Health". At the headquarters of the CSRS, the conference participants discussed the project's core themes, particularly Africa's role in the production of health-related knowledge, public health policy and medical innovation.

The two-day concluding conference provided a platform to debate and refine the research results of scholars from diverse disciplines such as architecture, history, public health, urban planning and health sciences. In a vibrant and stimulating atmosphere, 23 experts from institutions in Belgium, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Malawi, Switzerland and the UK discussed issues concerning the topics of health-care, space and health infrastructure, drugs and clinical research, local knowledge, research ethics, stakeholder contributions as well as policy and health interventions.

The conference was framed by a keynote by Margaret Gyapong (University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ghana) on the first conference day, and a roundtable on the interrelation between science, policy and society on the second day. Next to Professor Gyapong, the roundtable speakers were Marie Lisette (Global Forum of the Defence of the Less Privileged, Cameroon), Matthew Harris (Imperial College London, UK), Bassirou Bonfoh (CSRS, Côte d'Ivoire), and Léo Trembley (Swiss embassy in Côte d'Ivoire).

[www.globalhealthafrica.ch](http://www.globalhealthafrica.ch)



## Selected events

Tischler, Julia. 2023. "The Politics of Rural Domesticity in Segregationist South Africa, 1902–48". In *Planting Seeds of Knowledge. Agriculture and Education in Rural Societies in the Twentieth Century*, edited by Heinrich Hartmann and Julia Tischler, 217–44. Berghahn Books.

**Benedikt Korf: "Introduction: Beyond Area Studies"**

Research Colloquium Reversing the Gaze  
6 Mar 2023 | Colloquium

**James Derrick Sidaway: "Area studies, geography and critical Muslim studies"**

Research Colloquium Reversing the Gaze  
20 Mar 2023 | Colloquium

**Reading by Beata Umubyeyi Mairesse, laureate of the Ahmadou Kourouma Prize**

At the Literaturhaus Basel cooperation with the ZASB, the Salon du Livre Genève and the subject area French Studies at the University of Basel  
27 Mar 2023 | Public event

**Patrício Langa: "The Globality of Higher Education Research as an Area Study"**

Research Colloquium Reversing the Gaze  
3 Apr 2023 | Colloquium

**Workshop: "Is Methodology the Only Way?"**

Workshop with Rose Marie Beck (University of Leipzig), Elísio Macamo (ZASB), Michael Aeby (ZASB) and Patrício Langa (Eduardo Mondlane University)  
17 Apr 2023 | Workshop

**Aline Schlöpfer: "Area studies and other containers"**

Research Colloquium Reversing the Gaze  
24 Apr 2023 | Colloquium



Project members and conference participants at the Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.  
Photo: "African Contributions to Global Health" project

**Sabelo Ndlovu-Gatsheni: “The Challenges of Decolonising African Studies”**

Joint Session with Basler Afrika Bibliographien, Namibian and Southern African Studies and Colloquium of the Institute of Social Anthropology  
10 May 2023 | Colloquium

**Reading by Mohamed Mbougar Sarr: “Die geheimste Erinnerung der Menschen”**

Organized by the University of Basel and the French Embassy in Switzerland in collaboration with the ZASB, Literaturhaus Basel and the Alliance française de Bâle  
15 May 2023 | Public event

**Revisiting Histories and Cultures of African Diasporas, Religion and Belief**

Symposium on the occasion of the 100th birthday of Hans Werner Debrunner, co-organized with the Basler Afrika Bibliographien  
9–10 Jun 2023 | Public event/congress/conference

**Summer School: “Making knowledge policy-relevant: The SSH’s role in global sustainable development”**

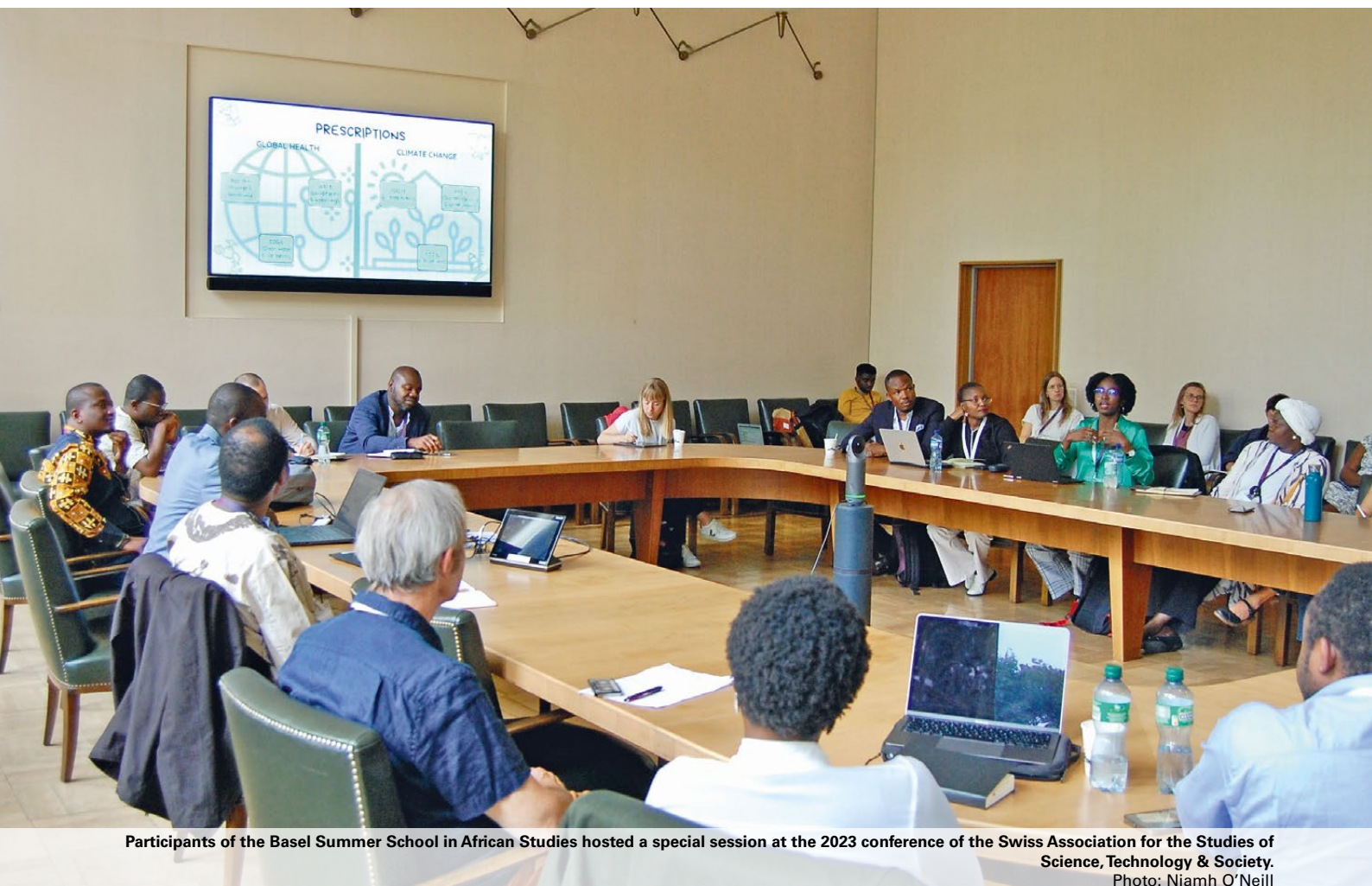
Basel Summer School in African Studies 2023  
23 Aug–1 Sep 2023 | Colloquium

**Science, Expertise and Other Modes of Knowledge: Trends, Patterns and Prospects**

2023 conference of the Swiss Association for the Studies of Science, Technology and Society (STS-CH) co-organized with the Department of Social Sciences of the University of Basel  
31 Aug–1 Sep 2023 | Congress/conference

**Book discussion: “Il n’y a pas d’arc-en-ciel au paradis”**

Discussion with Chadian-Swiss writer Noël Nétonon Ndjékéry  
26 Oct 2023 | Public event



Participants of the Basel Summer School in African Studies hosted a special session at the 2023 conference of the Swiss Association for the Studies of Science, Technology & Society.  
Photo: Niamh O'Neill



### Members

#### **Conjunctions of Archives and Public Spheres. Embodied Histories, Memory, and Multi-Media Archives in and from Africa**

Conference co-organized with the Basler Afrika Bibliographien in cooperation with the Swiss Society for African Studies  
19-20 Oct 2023 | Congress/conference / Symposium

#### **Forum: "German and Namibian sources on colonialism and genocide"**

With Susanne Kuss (University of Freiburg i. B.), Martha Akawa (UNAM), Memory Biwa (historian and artist Berlin) & colleagues  
29 Nov 2023 | Public event

Isabelle Chariatte (Department of Languages and Literatures)  
Laurent Goetschel (swisspeace)  
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)  
Mazembo Eddy Mavungu  
George Paul Meiu (Department of Social Sciences)  
Christoph Pimmer (Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz FHNW)  
Lerato Posholi (Institute for European Global Studies)  
Sandra Schlumpf-Thurnherr (Department of Languages and Literatures)

Natalie Tarr (Swiss TPH)  
Julia Tischler (Department of History)  
Danelle Van Zyl-Hermann (Department of History)  
Ralph Weber (Institute for European Global Studies)  
Franziska Zanker (Arnold Bergstraesser Institut)  
Jakob Zinsstag (Swiss TPH)

#### **"Making knowledge policy-relevant: The SSH's role in global sustainable development" (6th Basel Summer School in African Studies, Aug/Sep 2023)**

Over the course of the Summer School, 16 PhD candidates enrolled at institutions in eleven countries (Angola, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Germany, Ghana, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, Switzerland, Togo and Uganda) developed conceptual, theoretical and practical tools to leverage the transformative potential of their respective research. In six training sessions, they were introduced to epistemological debates, theoretical and methodological foundations, and case studies on the relation between basic and applied research, knowledge transfer, and the development and implementation of policies. They presented their own research projects and benefited from the feedback of the faculty and their peers. In the Advanced Study Skills workshop, the participants were introduced to concepts and practical tools for the transdisciplinary co-production of knowledge. A pitching session with resource persons from the research-policy nexus allowed them to prepare a targeted and concise presentation of their research and to improve their presentation skills. Finally, the Summer School participants were given the opportunity to present the results of their group work to an international audience in a special session of the 2023 conference of the Swiss Association for the Studies of Science, Technology and Society.

[www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/summer-school](http://www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/summer-school)

# Land, Landscapes and Ecology

Giorgio  
Miescher

Nikolaus Kuhn

## Aims and approaches

The key area “Land, Landscapes and Ecology” focuses on the combination of these three interconnected 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 can make use of land and natural resources more generally is fundamental to any socio-political analysis. Land-use practices are never isolated but always related to complex ecological, social, and cultural processes, which, in turn, 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 natu-

ral sciences, and it opens up productive pathways for interdisciplinary research.

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

In sum, the key area “Land, Landscapes and Ecology” offers a platform for thinking about the past, present and future of land and land use across the disciplines, based on a sustained interdisciplinary dialogue that seeks to synthesize theoretical and methodological approaches from natural science, social science and 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 worked together in the



Students and guests attend the launch of the exhibition on 21 December 2023. Photo: Raluca Marcu

**“Barbed(wire): tool of oppression, tool of protection” (exhibition in the foyer of Rheinsprung 21, December 2023–May 2024)**

The photo and poster exhibition “Barbed(wire)” was the result of the seminar “Desire Lines – Lines of Control” offered in the autumn semester 2023. Students produced visual summaries of their semester-long engagement with the political and cultural history of fencing and its particular manifestations in the former settler colonies of South Africa and Namibia. The posters are condensed visual reflections on an ongoing painful history of preventing and controlling the movement of people and animals that began with the invention of barbed wire in the late 19th century, which soon spread rapidly across the subcontinent.

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

tri-national research project “Space in Time: Landscape narratives and land management changes in a Southern African cross-border region”. The project aimed to understand the changing landscape along the Lower Orange River/Garib from various disciplinary angles and brought together key area members from different disciplines. Our common research questions seek, 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.

After a one-year extension granted by the SNSF due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the project came to its official end in June 2022. We concluded the project with an edited volume published open access gold standard by the Transcript Publishing House in Bielefeld in 2023. In early 2024 a second edition will be produced by Creative Books SA in Johannesburg for distribution in Namibia and South Africa. Furthermore, we have produced a mobile exhibition which will tour the bi-national Lower Orange River region together with the Johannesburg publication in February 2024.

In early 2023 we received a start-up grant from the Innovation Office of the University Basel for the Swiss-Namibian project “Povanhu – an inclusive future of tourism in Namibia”. The grant enabled the establishment of Povanh History and Heritage Tours in Namibia and Switzerland. The start-up is an attempt to explore the potential of postcolonial tourism on the market and brings together academic knowledge and practical entrepreneurship. The project also offers theoretical and hands-on experiences in the field of history and heritage tourism for students at the University of Basel and the University of Namibia. A first seminar on “Decolonising Tourism” was offered in collaboration with the director of the Museums Association of Namibia, Ndapewoshali Ashipala, at the University of Basel in the spring semester 2023.

Silva Lieberherr continued her work on supporting the fight against land grabbing and workers’ abuse in Liberia and Sierra Leone by

making visible and public the role of corporate capital.

### **Teaching and exchange**

On the level of teaching we have concluded our series of winter/summer schools in the framework of the “Learning for (Ex)Change” project, jointly organized with the University of Namibia. As a follow-up project funded by the Stiftung Mercator Schweiz, we will produce an edited volume on the topic “History and Legacy of Migrant Labor in Namibia and Switzerland” based on the last winter/summer school in 2022. The grant also enables former student participants of the exchange program to conduct independent fieldwork and research for their contributions to the volume, which is scheduled to be published in 2025.

As an outcome of the seminar “Desire Lines – Lines of Control: A political and cultural history of fencing” offered in the autumn semester 2023, students produced a powerful exhibition on barbed wire, on display in the foyer of Rheinsprung 21 from December 2023 to May 2024.

The weekly Namibian and Southern African Studies research colloquium continues to be an important platform for the interdisciplinary work of our key area. The colloquium allows international scholars from various disciplines to come to Basel and offers students and faculty an opportunity for regular interdisciplinary exchange and debate. Since the fall 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 levels.

Main Projects

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

Basel: Luregn Lenggenhager, Lena Bloemertz, Giorgio Miescher, Silva Lieberherr  
 Windhoek: Martha Akawa, Martin Hipondoka, Romie Nghitevelekwa, Goodman Gwasira, Nahas Angola  
 01.02.2019–31.12.2024, Stiftung Mercator Schweiz

**Povanhu History and Heritage Tours**

Project members: Ndapewoshali Ashipala (UNAM), Martha Akawa (UNAM), Gelsomina Bertaccini, Luregn Lenggenhager, Giorgio Miescher  
 01.04.2023–31.03.2025, Innovation Office of the University of Basel (Propelling Grant)

**Land Degradation in the Karoo, South Africa**

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

**Application of Remotely Sensed Data to Support Pastoralists' Land Use and Management Decisions (Jijiga One Health Initiative)**

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

**GOBABAS – Longterm measurement of the Surface Energy Balance in the Namib Desert (Gobabeb)**

Lead (University of Basel): Roland Vogt  
 Ongoing, university funds

**BSRN GOB Baseline Surface Radiation Network: Station Gobabeb**

Principal investigators: Roland Vogt (University of Basel), Gillian Maggs-Kölling (Gobabeb), Jan Cermak (KIT)  
 Ongoing, university funds

Key publications

Lenggenhager, Luregn, Martha Akawa, Giorgio Miescher, Romie Nghitevelekwa, and Ndidzulafhi Innocent Sinthumule. 2023. *The Lower !Garib – Orange River. Pasts and Presents of a Southern African Border Region*. Bielefeld: transcript Verlag.

Lenggenhager, Luregn. 2023. "Onseepkans: Irrigation, removals and resistance in the borderlands of Namibia and South Africa". In *The Lower !Garib – Orange River. Pasts and Presents of a Southern African Border Region*, edited by Luregn Lenggenhager, Martha Akawa, Giorgio Miescher, Romie Nghitevelekwa, and Ndidzulafhi Innocent Sinthumule, 151-164. Bielefeld: transcript Verlag.

Miescher, Giorgio. 2023. *Namibia's Red Line: The History of a Veterinary and Settlement Border*. Windhoek: University of Namibia Press.

Miescher, Giorgio. 2023. *De Aar: Lines of Architecture in the Making of a South African Town (1902–1977) – with Afrikaans Translation*. Pretoria: ESI Press.

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**Start-up: Povanhu History & Heritage Tours**

Povanhu is a recently established travel provider that developed out of activities at the ZASB. The founding members from Namibia and Switzerland have worked together on many academic projects and aim to give a fresh impetus to tourism in Namibia. The foundation of the enterprise was enabled by a Propelling Grant of the Innovation Office of the University Basel. The tours are carried out in cooperation with a sister organization in Namibia, which is majority owned by Namibians.

Committed to the principle that everyone should travel less, but more meaningfully, Povanhu offers specialized tours with a thematic focus that enable customers to experience the diversity of past and present life in a country of the Global South. The tours are designed to provide a postcolonial experience in a country that is still characterized by colonialism and apartheid.

[www.povanhu.com](http://www.povanhu.com)

Selected events**Bayron van Wyk: “Decolonizing African Spiritualities: Calls for the Recognition of the Prisoner-of-War Graves at Swakopmund’s Kramersdorf Cemetery”**

Namibian and Southern African Studies Research Colloquium

8 Mar 2023 | Colloquium

**Goodman Gwasira: “Aspects of Pre- and Post-Colonial Archeology in Namibia”**

Namibian and Southern African Studies Research Colloquium

15 Mar 2023 | Colloquium

**Henriette Gunkel: “Sand, Atmosphere, Memorialisation: Some Reflections on the Remains of German Colonial Extraction in Namibia’s Desert”**

Namibian and Southern African Studies Research Colloquium

11 Oct 2023 | Colloquium

**Workshop: “Usakos – Making of Common History”**

Workshop at the Bernisches Historisches Museum

19 Oct 2023 | Workshop

**Namibia Research Day 2023**

10th Namibia Research Day in Basel (Switzerland) and Windhoek (Namibia)

21 Oct 2023 | Workshop

**Larissa Fleischmann: “The Postcolonial Dimensions of Health: The Case of Veterinary Fencing in Namibia”**

Namibian and Southern African Studies Research Colloquium

22 Nov 2023 | Colloquium

**Vernissage: “Barbed(wire): tool of oppression, tool of protection”**

Vernissage of a photo and poster exhibition at the Center for African Studies Basel

14 Dec 2023 | Public event

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)

Roland Vogt (Environmental Sciences)

Partnerships/major collaborations

University of Namibia, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Museums Association of Namibia

University of Cape Town, Department for Environmental and Geographical Science

University of Johannesburg, Department of Geography, Environmental Management and Energy Studies

University of the Witwatersrand, Wits Institute for Social & Economic Research



Gathering around the Nathaniel Maxuilili Monument near Walvis Bay, Namibia.  
Photo: Paul Grendon (courtesy of Tina Smith)

# About the ZASB



The ZASB – Research Network Africa coordinates and promotes Africa-related teaching and research at the University of Basel and its partner institutions. It offers a Master's and a PhD in African Studies as consecutive university degrees, as well as a continuing education program for professionals.

## **History**

With the foundation of the Centre for African Studies Basel in 2001, the University of Basel created a platform for the exchange between disciplines, faculties and institutions. In 2009, the University further promoted Africa-focused research with the establishment of the Competence Centre Africa. In 2017, as part of the University's Africa Strategy, the ZASB – Research Network Africa was set up to coordinate research on, in, with and for Africa within the University's core area "European and Global Studies". Supported by the University's strong commitment, Basel has become a national and international center for interdisciplinary and transregional African Studies. This development is rooted in a long tradition of research in the Basel region. The ZASB benefits from a unique concentration of institutions and organizations with historical and academic connections to Africa. Among our partner organizations are the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, the Basel Institute on Governance, the Basler Afrika Bibliographien, Mission 21 and Museum der Kulturen Basel.

## **Teaching and training**

Based on the competencies of its members and partners, the ZASB introduced the interdisciplinary MA program in African Studies in 2002. Since 2011, doctoral students at the ZASB have the option of enrolling for a PhD in interdisciplinary African Studies. Since 2017, the Basel Graduate Network African Studies provides the framework for doctoral training at the ZASB. In 2013, the ZASB introduced the CAS in African Affairs as a complement to the consecutive degree programs.

## **National and international exchange**

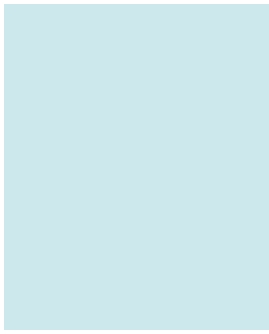
Promoting and supporting exchange and collaboration with scholars and institutions on

a national and international level is a central task of the ZASB. We work closely with the Swiss Society for African Studies (SSAS) in the areas of training, academic exchange and publications. The ZASB is a member of the Africa-Europe Group of Interdisciplinary Studies (AEGIS) and has a partnership agreement with the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA).

## **Outreach**

In addition to its academic activities, the ZASB promotes exchanges between academia and the general public. The ZASB reaches out to the public through publications and events aimed at a wider audience, as well as through the promotion of public and cultural events. In addition, its continuing education program is aimed at professionals in the private sector, government, development cooperation and civil society.





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