



University  
of Basel

Centre for  
African Studies

# ZASB – Research Network Africa Annual Report 2024





# ZASB – Research Network Africa

## Annual Report 2024

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Cover picture: Portrait of Pastor Theophilus Opoku (see page 7), an outstanding observer of the kingdom of Akuapem in the south-eastern Gold Coast during the 19th century (undated, unknown photographer; Basel Mission Archive QD- 30.112.00108).

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# Executive Office

| Veit Art

| Pascal Schmid

The ZASB looks back on another year of diverse and rewarding activities in teaching and research. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the network members and partners involved in organizing exciting events, offering engaging courses and graduate events, and creating innovative output for academic audiences and the broader public. Sadly, one of our longstanding commitments and partnerships – the quarterly *Afrika-Bulletin* – came to an end this year. Our co-editor and initiator of the *Bulletin*, the Afrika-Komitee, has been dissolved. In November 2024, we

published the final issue with a retrospective of 48 years of activities and 196 *Bulletins*, and honored the achievements of this publication with an exhibition featuring the covers of all the issues published during the period of our partnership.

## Switzerland and Ghana

Among the many activities of 2024, three highlights focused on the history of the Basel Mission and the Presbyterian Church in Ghana. A joint teaching project with the University of Ghana and the Akrofi-Christaller In-

### Exploring the Heritage of the Basel Mission Together (joint teaching project, January & July 2024)

The term “Baselfo” (plural) or “Baselnii” (singular) in Twi, the most widely spoken language in Ghana, refers to persons associated with the Basel Mission tradition. The website [baselfo.ch](http://baselfo.ch) is the result of a collaborative teaching project that brought together students and faculty from Switzerland and Ghana in a joint endeavor to research the heritage of the Basel Mission. Students from the University of Ghana, the Akrofi-Christaller Institute of Theology, Mission and Culture, and the University of Basel discussed the history of the Basel Mission in two preparatory seminars, both of which were taught online and on-site. At the heart of the collaboration were two excursions, one to southern Ghana in January 2024, and one to Basel and southern Germany in July 2024, where students and faculty together visited historic monuments, archives and museums, and talked to the descendants of missionaries. Baselfo.ch documents the entangled histories and stories of the Basel Mission. These texts are the results of oral history interviews, archival research, and observations during these two excursions, as well as of independent research. Some also comprise reflections on the research and collaboration experience itself.

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





stitute brought together students and faculty from Switzerland and Ghana in researching the legacies of the Basel Mission in both countries. Organized by Julia Tischler and Ernest Sasu Kwame Sewordor, the project included two excursions – one to Ghana in January, and one to Switzerland in July – and resulted in a website documenting the students' research and travel experiences.

The visit of this strong delegation from Ghana provided an excellent opportunity to celebrate the publication of the volume *The Reports of*

*Theophilus Opoku* in the Series “*Fontes Historiae Africanae*” edited by Michelle Gilbert and Paul Jenkins. The book was launched at the end of a one-day graduate workshop entitled “Reading Theophilus Opoku” with David Maxwell (Cambridge), a member of the editorial board.

Finally, on 8 November, Ernest Sasu Kwame Sewordor and Anne Beutter presented a Festschrift to Paul Jenkins with the title *African History between Ghana and Switzerland*. As archivist of the Basel Mission and the first



lecturer in African history at the University of Basel, Jenkins played an important role in shaping our network, training many young scholars in the field and pioneering the use of photographic sources.

### Conferences

In June, together with the Department of History and the Basler Afrika Bibliographien, the ZASB hosted the 6th biennial conference of the Collaborative Research Group (CRG) African History in the European African Studies network AEGIS. The conference was intended to enhance the visibility of African history within the larger field of African Studies and in the humanities and social sciences. The meeting brought together 40 scholars from all over Europe and Africa.

At the end of August, the third European Student Conference on African Studies, with the theme “Young Scholars Shaping a Field”, attracted 40 students and recent graduates from across Europe and Africa. The event was organized by Catharina Deeg, Aileen Diewald, Wahab Lawundeh and Fabian Zesiger and was once again a great success, encouraging us to continue the series.

In September 2024, we hosted the concluding conference of the SNSF Sinergia project “Reversing the Gaze”. Under the heading “Reversing the Gaze: Concepts without Borders”, this brought together project members and interested scholars from Africa, Asia, North America and Europe to explore theoretical and empirical questions related to applying socio-scientific concepts across regional and historical contexts. It was a worthy final milestone in a project that provided many opportunities for fruitful exchange, including an online colloquium and graduate events at the ZASB.

### Graduate Network

During 2024, we had the pleasure of facilitating a number of graduate workshops. In April, we co-organized a workshop on “Citizenship in Times of Change” in the framework of EUCOR and in partnership with the Basel Institute on Governance, the Arnold Berg-

### Reversing the Gaze: Concepts without Borders (international conference, 12–13 September 2024)

In September 2024, 45 international scholars met at the University of Basel to explore approaches of “reversing the gaze” and to reflect on the use of concepts across borders in the social sciences. During six panel sessions, participants shared and discussed approaches to using social scientific concepts across historical and regional contexts. In her keynote lecture, Shalini Randeria (Central European University) addressed perspectives of and challenges to post-colonial knowledge production in the past, present and future. Finally, the concluding roundtable with Rose Marie Beck (Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences), Patricio Langa (Eduardo Mondlane University/University of Essen) and Peter DeSouza (formerly of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies CSDS, New Delhi) provided an opportunity to discuss epistemological, methodological and political implications of “reversing the gaze”, and to explore new approaches for knowledge production from a global or trans-regional perspective.

The conference formed the concluding milestone in the SNSF-funded research project “Reversing the Gaze: Towards Post-Comparative Area Studies” led by a consortium made up of academics from the University of Basel, the University of Zurich, and the University of Edinburgh.

[www.reversingthegaze.net/conference](http://www.reversingthegaze.net/conference)

straesser Institute, and the Africa Centre for Transregional Research in Freiburg i.Br. (ACT). Also in April, Dag Henrichsen convened the workshop “Feeling, Memorializing, Knowing: Queer\*ing Research Practices” with scholar and writer Anima Adjepong. In June, we facilitated the Summer School “Black Figurations”, held in collaboration with eikones and the Kunstmuseum Basel and in connection with the exhibition “When We See Us”. Also in June, we hosted a graduate workshop on





Shalini Randeria (second from left) after her keynote in conversation with Benedikt Korf, Deval Desai and Ralph Weber (from left).  
Photo: Niamh O'Neill

“Knowledge Production in Sexual and Reproductive Health”, featuring our alumnus Richard Sambaiga, senior lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam.

In August, the biennial CODESRIA/ZASB Summer School took place in Dakar. Under the heading “Making Knowledge Policy-relevant: The SSH’s Role in Global Sustainable Development”, 16 PhD candidates from 13 African countries and four from Europe and Switzer-

land examined the tension and mutual fertilization between the requirements of scholarly standards and social impact, and reflected on the potential role of their own research in societal transformation.

Finally, members of the Graduate Network took part in the Swiss Researching Africa Days held in Bern in October 2024, organized by Veit Arlt on behalf of the Swiss Society for African Studies.

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### MA program

In 2024, the process of revising our Master's program in African Studies began officially with a resolution by the faculty. This included a survey of current students and graduates conducted by Rahel Erhardt and Sonja Merten. We look forward to continuing this journey and hope to be able to announce the new offerings in 2026. In the meantime, teaching and learning in the framework of the existing MA African Studies program continues. Particular highlights in 2024 were the joint teaching project on the Basel Mission and its legacies

in Ghana and Switzerland, the eikones/ZASB summer school, and the European Students Conference in African Studies, all mentioned above.

### Outlook

We look forward to more exciting activities in 2025, including the international conferences "Liquid Urbanisms in Africa: Thinking Climate Adaptation with and through Water" in June and "The African Genome at the Disciplinary Crossroads: How to Widen the Scope of Genomics' Methods across the Humanities



Paul Jenkins at the launch of the edited volume *The Reports of Theophilus Opoku*.  
Photo: Veit Arlt



and Social Sciences” in September. Also in September 2025, we will convene the 7th Basel Summer School in African Studies.

2026. We look forward to welcoming scholars from all career levels from Europe, Africa and beyond.

Looking further ahead, preparations for the joint biennial conference of the Swiss Society for African Studies SGAS/SSAS and the German African Studies association VAD in August 2026 have already started. The theme of the conference is “African Perspectives on Global Transformations”. The call for panels will be open from April to July 2025, and the call for papers from October 2025 to January

#### **| Between Ghana and Switzerland: Paul Jenkins, historian and archivist**

Two events were held in 2024 in recognition of Paul Jenkins’ achievements. As archivist of the Basel Mission (now part of Mission 21) from the 1970s to the early 2000s, Jenkins pioneered work with historical photographs, establishing them as a valuable source in the study of African and mission history in particular. Together with Barbara Frey-Näf, he made the Mission’s unique collection of 30,000 photographs accessible to researchers and the general public worldwide. As lecturer in African History at the University of Basel, Jenkins played an important role in initiating young scholars in the study of African History, archival practice and work with historical photographs, encouraging them to commit to an open-ended engagement with sources originating from a mission context. In 1996 Jenkins was awarded the *Wissenschaftspreis* by the City of Basel and ten years later an honorary doctorate by the Faculty of Theology at the University of Basel.

On 7 July 2024, we celebrated the publication of the volume *The Reports of Theophilus Opoku. A 19th-Century Gold Coast Pastor* in the series “Fontes Historiae Africanae” of the British Library. The volume contains 37 reports written by the prolific Reverend Theophilus Opoku between 1868 and 1908 and includes related texts and resources. With his outstanding gifts of observation, narration and writing, Opoku offers us intriguing insights into the intersection of mission and culture in late 19th century Gold Coast. Jenkins edited, introduced, and commented on these reports, together with the social anthropologist Michelle Gilbert, who sadly passed away shortly after their publication. The two scholars had been working together on these reports since they first met at the Basel Mission Archives in the 1970s, half a century before!

On 8 November 2024, Anne Beuter and Ernest Kwame Sasu Sewordor launched an edited volume, *African History between Ghana and Switzerland*, which traces Jenkins’ work as a historian and archivist. Essays by former students and colleagues celebrate, engage, interrogate and extend beyond his numerous past publications and ongoing academic work.

- Jenkins, Paul, and Michelle Gilbert, eds. 2024. *The Reports of Theophilus Opoku: A 19th-Century Gold Coast Pastor*. Fontes Historiae Africanae. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press.
- Beuter, Anne, and E. Sasu Kwame Sewordor. 2024. *African History between Ghana and Switzerland. Essays Honouring Paul Jenkins*. Basel: Basler Afrika Bibliographien.

[www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/paul-jenkins](http://www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/paul-jenkins)

## Graduate Network African Studies

### PhDs awarded in 2024

*Subject area and first supervisor in brackets*

**Faisal Nooh Ali (Epidemiology: Daniel Paris)**

Epidemiology and Control of Hypertension in Somaliland

**Thomas Betschart (Urban Studies: Kenny Cupers)**

Infra-Incremental Urbanism and Differential Mobility in Ethiopia

**Andrea Christina Buhl-Colmsee (Anthropology: Brigit Obrist)**

Images of Palliative Care in Tanzania – A Hospital-Ethnography in a Cancer Clinic in Dar es Salaam

**Kai Florian Herzog (History: Julia Tischler)**

Violent Economies: Everyday Violence, Ignorance, and the Making of Colonial Order in the Namaqualand Borderlands, c. 1880–1903

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

Understanding Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescent Girls and Young Women's Experiences of Gender-Based Violence in Low-Income Communities in Nigeria

**Katienegnimin Seydou Konate (French Literature: Hugues Marchal)**

Bestiaire et biotope végétal dans la littérature de jeunesse de Côte d'Ivoire

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

Development, Cooperation, and Conflict. A Global History of Rwanda's Path to the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi

**Sindi-Leigh McBride (African Studies: Elísio Macamo)**

The Politics and Poetics of Climate Change in South Africa and Nigeria

**Francis Daudi Mlacha (History: Martin Lengwiler)**

A History of the Insurance Business in Tanzania and Kenya, 1945–2006

**Brian Ngwenya (History: Julia Tischler)**  
Vectors, Villains, Victims: The Socio-Cultural and Political Implications of African Policemen's Service in the BSAP in late colonial Zimbabwe, c.1960–1980

**Cita Wetterich (Gender Studies: Andrea Maihofer)**

Violence against Male Refugees – Patterns, Factors and Consequences for Individuals and Communities

**Ursula Wüthrich Grossenbacher (African Studies: Elísio Macamo)**

Impact of Religion/Spirituality (R/S) on the Outcome of HIV Care in Different Health Settings in Rural and Urban Zimbabwe with a Special Focus on Adolescent Patients

### New members

**Chiara Carrara (African Studies: Elísio Macamo)**

Bridging Disciplines: Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis in Zanzibar through the Lens of History and Medical Anthropology

**Nadira Haribe (Sociology: Elísio Macamo)**

Care Under Suspicion: A Feminist Ethnography of Ethical Communities in the Context of Counterterrorism Legislation in Switzerland

**Adina Kwakye (African Studies: Elísio Macamo)**

Beyond the Return Initiative

**Stéphane Saintil (French Literature: Hugues Marchal)**

Au premier coup de canon d'alarme, les villes disparaissent et la nation est debout » : Pour une analyse de la fabrique littéraire de la nation haïtienne (1804–1915)

### Graduate events

**EUCOR cross-border workshop: "Citizenship in Times of Change. East-African Perspectives"**

In collaboration with the Basel Institute on Governance, the Arnold Bergstraesser Institute and the University of Freiburg i.Br.  
22 & 29 April 2024 | Workshop

**Methodological Challenges in African Studies**

Research workshop for PhD students  
3 May 2024 | Workshop

**Workshop: "Feeling, Memorializing, Knowing. Queer\*ing Research Practices"**

One-day hybrid workshop with scholar and writer Anima Adjepong  
16 May 2024 | Workshop

**Summer School: "Black Figuration"**

eikones/ZASB Summer School in collaboration with Kunstmuseum Basel  
3–7 June 2024 | Graduate workshop

**Workshop: "Knowledge Production in Sexual and Reproductive Health"**

Hybrid workshop with Richard Sambaiga, University of Dar es Salaam  
7 June 2024 | Workshop

**Workshop: "A Conversation with Theophilus Opoku"**

Research workshop for PhD and MA students  
6 July 2024 | Workshop

**Summer School: "Making Knowledge Policy-relevant: The SSH's Role in Global Sustainable Development"**

6th CODESRIA/ZASB Summer School in African Studies and Area Studies in Africa, Dakar, Senegal  
26–30 August 2024 | Graduate workshop

**Workshop: "Trajectories of Gender in Global Health: Where are we Going?"**

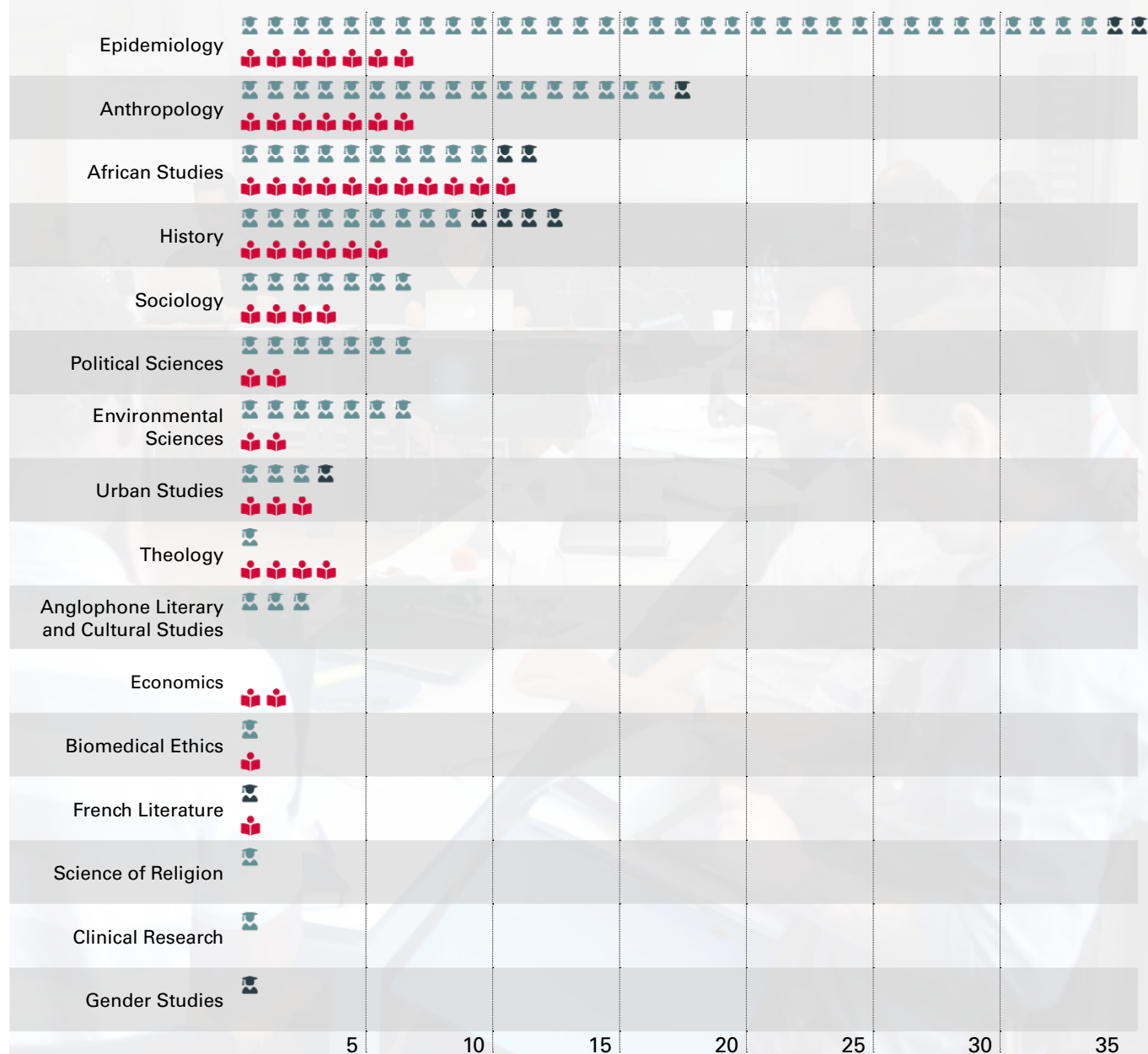
Co-organized by the ZASB KAA "Health", Medical Anthropology Switzerland (MAS) and the Swiss TPH  
21 November 2024 | Workshop

**Methodological Challenges in African Studies**

Research workshop for PhD students  
9 December 2024 | Workshop



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



 **12** PhDs awarded in 2024

 **113** PhDs awarded since 2013

 **50** 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.

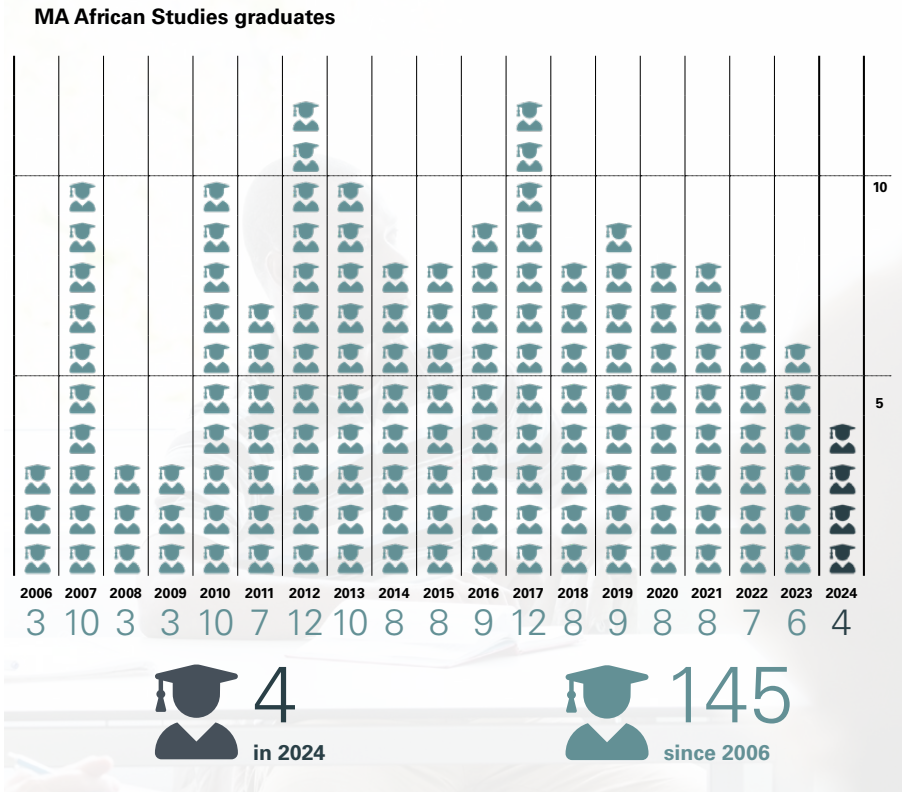
From 2013 to 2024 a total of 113 young researchers affiliated to the Graduate Module or the Graduate Network completed their PhDs in various faculties of the University of Basel.

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

MA African Studies



Mamadou Balde (MA African Studies), Julia Rensing (PhD African Studies) and Maria Randy Mwatondange (MA African Studies) at the graduation ceremony of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in March 2024 . Photo: Veit Artl



In 2002, the University of Basel introduced the interdisciplinary MA program African Studies. This program is designed to assist students in developing knowledge about Africa’s past, current and future role in framing the globalized world, and it encourages them to engage critically with global knowledge production. By the end of 2024, 145 students had graduated from the African Studies program.

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



Kitch Mensah-Bonsu (MA African Studies), Katienegnimin Seydou Konate (French Literature) and Rahel Erhardt (MA African Studies) at the graduation ceremony of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in September 2024. Photo: Veit Artl

Graduates 2024

- Mamadou Oury Balde**  
L’intégration des demandeurs d’asile et réfugiés à l’université de Bâle
- Rahel Erhardt**  
Covid-19 and the Eritrean Community in Switzerland: A Study on Influencers of Protective Behaviour and Lived Health, Financial and Social Effects
- Kitch Mensah-Bonsu**  
Internet Users and Digitisation in Ghana: Measuring Digital Citizenship Through Social Media Participation in Democratic Governance in Ghana
- Maria Randy Mwatondange**  
Unsettling Scene: An Analysis of Photographs Taken in a German Prisoner Camp in Grootfontein (Namibia)



### Third European Students' Conference on African Studies (international conference, 29-30 August 2024)

The Third European Students' Conference on African Studies brought together 40 young scholars from universities across Europe and Africa – from Poland to Portugal and from South Africa to Ghana – to present their research projects. The conference provided an invaluable platform for master's students to showcase their research, engage in discussions with experts, and foster interdisciplinary collaboration. More than just a space for knowledge exchange, the event became a springboard from which to shape the future of African Studies, to empower emerging scholars, to strengthen their academic confidence, and to encourage intellectual growth.

The conference offered participants the opportunity to present work on a wide range of themes, such as politics and conflict, health, youth participation, citizenship and belonging, decoloniality and liberation, and art and literature. For many of these students, this was the first time they had presented on an international stage, and they received valuable feedback that refined their ideas and enhanced their research. These experiences were critical, fostering a sense of belonging in the academic community while highlighting the diverse and cutting-edge research driving the field of African Studies forward. Constructive feedback played a central role in this process. Participants encountered new perspectives and were given feedback in a supportive and collegial atmosphere. This constructive critique improved their work and promoted an environment of intellectual and emotional growth—both of which are essential if they are to thrive in academia. The emphasis on open dialogue encouraged students to see critique as a growth tool rather than a judgment, helping to demystify academic feedback and build resilience.

The interdisciplinary nature of the conference was another key factor in its success. The diverse topics covered encouraged participants to explore new methodologies and to think beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries. This led to rich discussions and new insights, allowing emerging scholars to envision the potential for cross-disciplinary collaboration in their future work. Networking opportunities played a significant role, helping students to establish connections for future partnerships while ensuring the representation of diverse voices and perspectives in an inclusive environment.

Engagement in critical debates was a further highlight of the conference. Presenters focused especially on decoloniality and the legacies of colonialism, contributing to ongoing discussions about centering African voices in the field. For many emerging scholars, particularly those from marginalized backgrounds, the platform allowed them to challenge dominant paradigms and propose new frameworks for understanding African realities. This engagement was empowering, offering them the confidence to question long-standing assumptions and to present alternative perspectives.

A notable moment in the conference was the keynote address by Mercy Hombakazi Nqandeka, entitled "Empowering Voices: Reclaiming African Narratives and Shaping Our Future." As a black scholar, artist and writer from South Africa, Nqandeka's presence as keynote speaker underscored the commitment of the conference's organizers to highlighting marginalized voices. Her powerful address inspired the audience and emphasized the importance of reclaiming African narratives in academia. By giving space to Nqandeka's unique perspective, the conference succeeded in fostering a deeper appreciation for indigenous knowledge systems and their role in shaping the future of African Studies.

*Catharina Deeg, Aileen Diewald, Wahab Lawundeh and Fabian Zesiger (conference organizing team)*



**Impressions from the Third European Students' Conference on African Studies.**  
All photos: Chucheng He

## 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: 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 Angula  
1 February 2019–31 December 2024  
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  
1 July 2019–31 December 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  
1 October 2020–30 September 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  
1 April 2022–31 March 2025  
SNSF (Lead Agency)

#### **Inherited Futures – Objects, Time, Knowledge**

Principal investigator: Lorena Rizzo  
Co-investigator: George Mei  
Project members: Julia Rensing, Zainabu Jallo, Nadia Bellardi, Kadiatou Diallo  
1 February 2024–31 January 2027  
SNSF (Projects)



Reich Vanel Attipo at his work place at the premises of the ZASB.  
Photo: Veit Arlt



## Events

### Workshop: «Le système de migration et d'asile suisse»

Workshop with Mamadou Oury Baldé (ZASB) and Luzia Jurt (FHNW) at the Université Général Lansana Conté de Sonfonia (UGLC), Sonfonia, Ratoma, Conakry  
7 May 2024 | Workshop

### 6th Biennial AEGIS CRG African History Conference

Conference of the Collaborative Research Group African History of the European African Studies association AEGIS  
20–21 June 2024 | Conference

### Book launch and workshop: “The Reports of Theophilus Opoku. A 19th-Century Gold Coast Pastor”

Celebrating the publication of the volume edited by Michelle Gilbert and Paul Jenkins  
6 July 2024 | Public event/workshop

### Third European Students’ Conference on African Studies

Organized by students from the University of Basel  
29–30 August 2024 | Conference

### Conference: “Reversing the Gaze: Using Concepts Across Borders”

International conference in the framework of the research project “Reversing the Gaze”  
12–13 September 2024 | Conference

## Visiting scholars

### Reisch Vanel Attipo

University of Lomé, Togo  
Oumou Dilly visiting PhD candidate  
(August 2023–June 2024)

### Joël Fabrice Djaha

Félix Houphouët-Boigny University, Côte d’Ivoire  
Oumou Dilly visiting PhD candidate  
(August 2023–February 2024)

### Rufino Sitoe

Joaquim Chissano University, Mozambique  
ESKAS visiting PhD candidate  
(September 2023–August 2024)

### Manuel Barroso Sevellano

Autonomous University Madrid  
Visiting postdoctoral fellow (March–July 2024)

### Richard Sambaiga

University of Dar es Salaam  
Visiting research fellow (June 2024)

### Alfred Kwarteng

Akrofi Christaller Institute, Ghana  
Visiting PhD candidate (July–December 2024)

### Reisch Vanel Attipo (visiting PhD student, August 2023–June 2024)

Reisch Vanel Attipo is a PhD student at the Regional Center of Excellence on Sustainable Cities in Africa (CERVIDA DOOUNEDON). His research focuses on the risks related to the vulnerability of urban technical networks to flooding in Brazzaville (Congo) and the communities of the Golfe Prefecture in Lomé (Togo). He spent the academic year 2023/24 at the ZASB on an Oumou Dilly fellowship.

*“My stay in Basel was an enriching experience in many ways. Located at the crossroads of Switzerland, France and Germany, this cosmopolitan city offers a unique fusion of cultures, a picturesque landscape and a stimulating atmosphere for study and discovery. As a student at the Centre for African Studies, I have had the privilege of immersing myself in a stimulating academic environment in the heart of Basel. The modern facilities and available resources have enriched my learning experience. But more than that, it was the inclusive and collaborative atmosphere that really marked my stay. The lively classroom discussions, inspiring lectures and informal encounters with researchers and students from all over the world broadened my horizons and fueled my passion for African Studies.”*

*(Excerpt from Reisch Vanel Attipo’s blog post on the Oumou Dilly website)*

The Fondation Oumou Dilly has been supporting young African scholars with visiting fellowships at the ZASB since 2015.

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

## Outreach

### Events

#### Barbed (wire): Tool of Oppression, Tool of Protection

Photo and poster exhibition at the ZASB  
14 December 2023–29 March 2024 |  
Exhibition

#### Book Launch “African History between Ghana and Switzerland. Essays Honouring Paul Jenkins”

With a reflection by Nana Opare Kwakye  
(University of Ghana/Presbyterian  
Church of Ghana)  
8 November 2024 | Public event

#### Farewell: Afrika-Bulletin

Poster exhibition at the ZASB  
21 November 2024–21 May 2025 |  
Exhibition

#### Ademide Adelusi-Adeluyi (Howard University): “Lagos Life: Streets, Maps, History”

Carl Schlettwein Lecture 2024 in the  
framework of the course “Africa,  
Method, Theory”  
22 November 2024 | Public lecture

### Afrika-Bulletin

#### Pragmatismus und/oder Ideologie?

Afrika-Bulletin No 193 | March 2024

#### Mode – Kreativität mit Zukunft

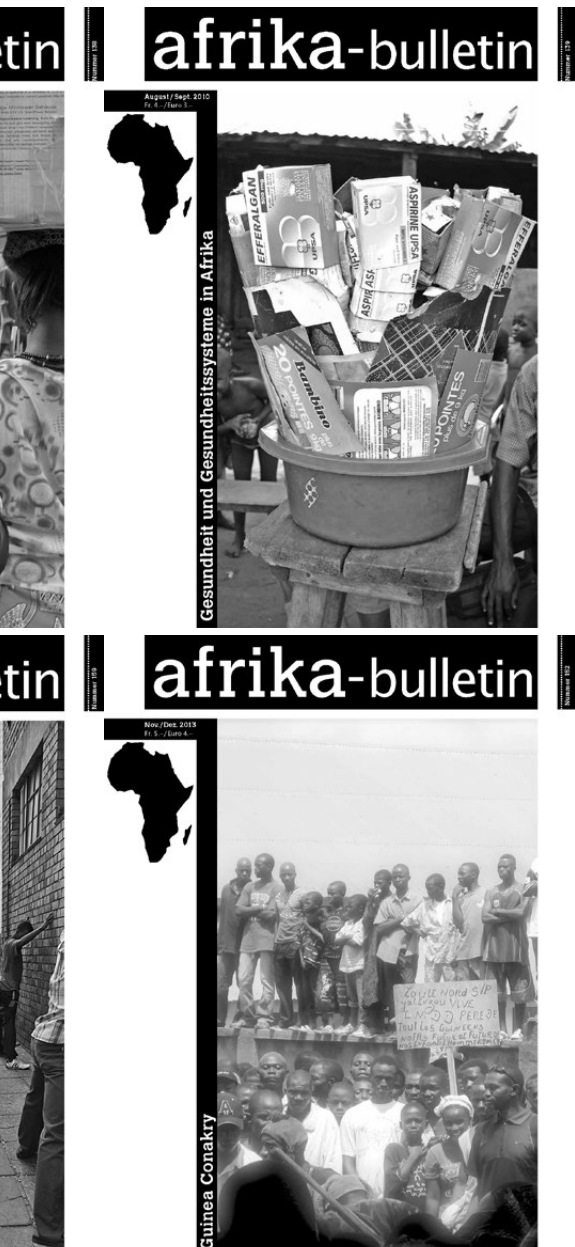
Afrika-Bulletin No 194 | May 2024

#### Aktuelle Entwicklungen und Herausforderungen

Afrika-Bulletin No 195 | September 2024

#### Abschied

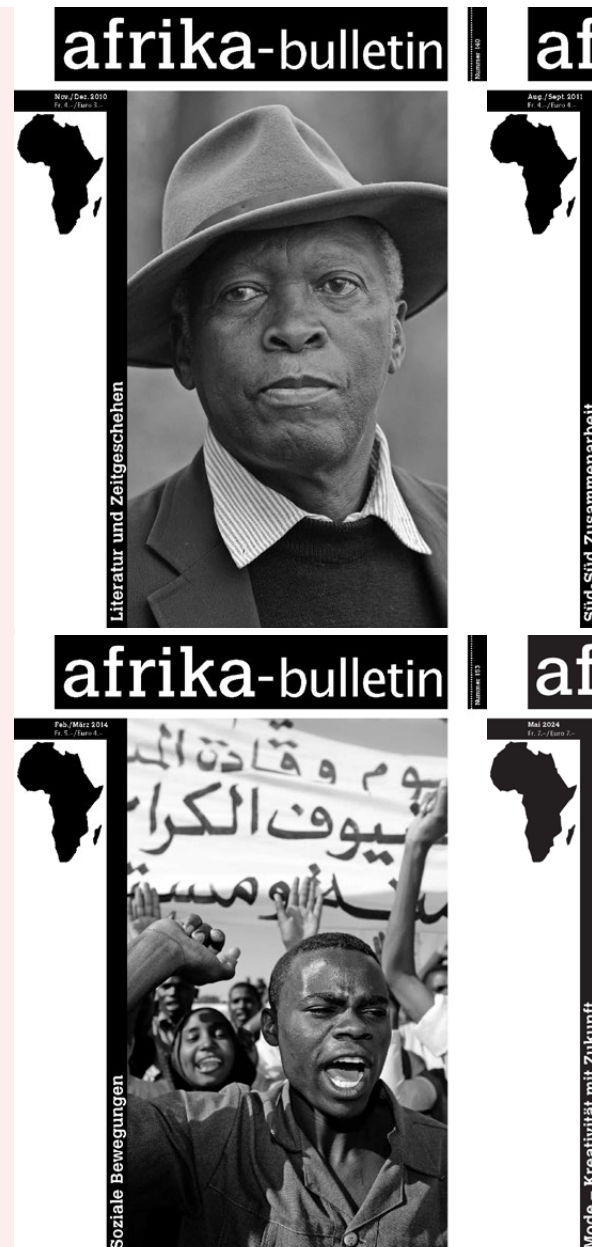
Afrika-Bulletin No 196 | November 2024



#### Afrika-Bulletin (quarterly in collaboration with the Afrika-Komitee, 2010–2024)

In 2024, after 49 years and 196 issues, the Afrika-Komitee and the ZASB ceased the publication of the *Afrika-Bulletin*. Introduced in 1976, the *Afrika-Bulletin* was the mouthpiece of the Afrika-Komitee Basel, which formed part of the solidarity movement for the liberation of Africa. It was published quarterly, each issue addressing a specific social, political or cultural topic. In the 1980s, the Afrika-Komitee collaborated with several other organizations that were given space in the publication, including the Swiss Support Committee for Eritrea and the anti-apartheid movement in German-speaking Switzerland. From 2010, the *Afrika-Bulletin* was edited jointly with the ZASB. This collaboration provided a platform for many MA and PhD students in African Studies at the University of Basel to publish for a wider audience and to gain experience in editorial tasks. In the final issue of November 2024, members of the editorial team and the Afrika-Komitee recall special moments and events, and reflect on their involvement in African issues.

[www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/afrika-bulletin](http://www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/afrika-bulletin)





## In the media

**“Die Pfingstbewegung erfasst weite Teile der Welt”**

Andreas Heuser in der Zeitung *informiert*. und auf *informiert.ch* (23 March 2024)

**“Die Welt verstehen, wie sie heute ist”**

*Bajour* zur Podiumsdiskussion mit Henri-Michel Yéré (7 May 2024)

**“Austausch statt Polemik: Uni Basel stellt sich der Postkolonialismus-Debatte”**

*Baseljetzt* zur Podiumsdiskussion mit Henri-Michel Yéré (8 May 2024)

**“Wie Rechtspopulisten in Südafrika Politik machen, ohne bei Wahlen anzutreten”**

Interview with Danelle van Zyl-Hermann from *swissinfo.ch* (28 May 2024)

**“Sierra Leone’s Bushmeat Markets Pose Serious Health Hazards – We Studied Two for Six Months to Find Solutions”**

Article on *The Conversation* co-authored by Wahab Lawundeh (4 June 2024)

**«El español en África en pasado, presente y futuro»**

Interview with Sandra Schlumpf-Thurnherr in “África hoy” on *Radio Exterior de España* (2 July 2024)

**“Mozambique Government Faces Protests over Election Result”**

Elisio Macamo on *Deutsche Welle* (6 November 2024)

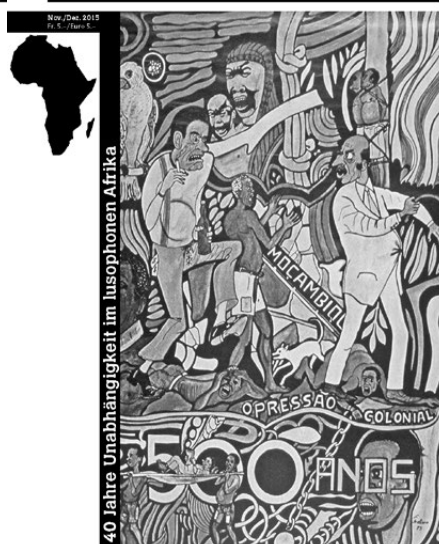
**“Sharing M/othering Practices”**

Serena Dankwa as guest in the MigArt podcast series *Talk Talk Talk* (22 September 2024)

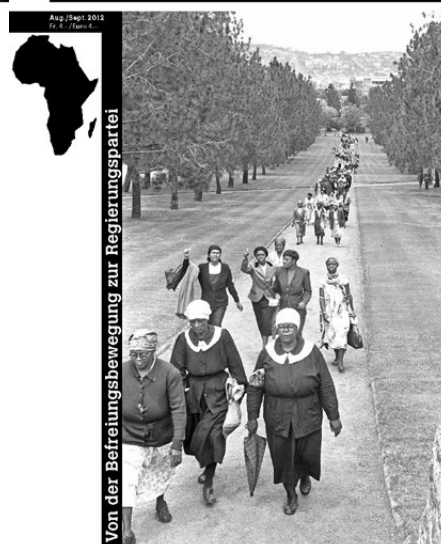
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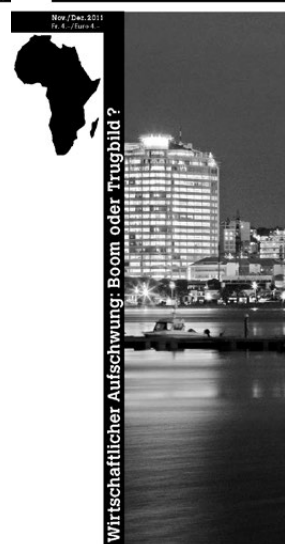
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## Network

### Members

#### Basel Institute on Governance

Claudia Baez-Camargo  
Jacopo Costa  
Saba Kassa  
Mark Pieth

#### Department of Arts, Media, Philosophy

Ute Holl

#### Department of Environmental Sciences

Ruth Delzeit  
Markus Kalberer  
Juliane Krenz  
Nikolaus Kuhn  
Walter Salzburger  
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Julia Tischler  
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#### Department of Social Sciences

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Lesley Braun  
Julia Büchele  
Kenny Cupers  
Serena Dankwa  
Michelle Engeler  
Till Förster  
Alexandra Hofmänner  
Elísio Macamo  
George Paul Meiu  
Brigit Obrist  
Nancy Odendaal  
Jon Schubert  
Henri-Michel Yéré  
Piet van Eeuwijk

#### Faculty of Business and Economics

Aleksander Berentsen

#### Faculty of Medicine

Manuel Battegay  
Thomas Klimkait  
Sandra Staudacher

#### Faculty of Theology

Andreas Heuser

### Members of the ZASB Steering Committee (31 December 2024)

Lena Bloemertz (Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz FHNW)  
Kenny Cupers (Department of Social Sciences)  
Dag Henrichsen (Basler Afrika Bibliographien)  
Andrea Kaiser-Grolimund (Swiss TPH)  
Saba Kassa (Basel Institute on Governance)  
*Elísio Macamo (Department of Social Sciences)\**  
George Paul Meiu (Department of Social Sciences)  
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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  
Sindi-Leigh McBride  
James Merron  
Giorgio Miescher  
Julia Rensing  
Lorena Rizzo

#### Swiss TPH

Guéladio Cissé  
Claudia Daubenberger  
Samuel Fuhrmann  
Sebastien Gagneux  
Andrea Kaiser-Grolimund  
Jennifer Keiser  
Sonja Merten  
Christian Nsanzabana  
Daniel Paris  
Christoph Pimmer  
Martin Rösli  
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)  
Gregor Dobler (Universität Freiburg i.Br.)  
Marcel Dreier (Fepa)  
Dag Henrichsen (Basler Afrika Bibliographien)  
Mohomodou Houssouba (songhay.org)  
Susanne Hubler (Basler Afrika Bibliographien)  
Silva Lieberherr (Brot für Alle)  
Mazembo Eddy Mavungu  
Andreas Mehler (Arnold Bergstraesser Institut)  
Barbara Müller (KEESA, Afrika-Komitee)  
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 Artl  
Pascal Schmid



## Budget and Expenditure 2024 (GK4901)

	Budget (CHF)	Expenditure (CHF)
Office	800	788.20
PhD students	4000	6626.06
Cooperation	3500	4625.46
Membership Fees	1200	1155.19
MA course	13,000	20,797.15
Staff	500	426
Publications	4500	4341.96
Student exchange	4000	3958.45
Events	9500	9600.63
Advertisement and Representation	3000	2885.65
Conference Participation	2000	1152
<i>Contributions</i>	-	-9500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,000</b>	<b>46,856.75</b>

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

**PhD students:** Further support for PhD students was provided by the Graduate Network African Studies (CHF 5,617.75 in 2024).

**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 by students to the archives of Mission 21).

**MA course:** The expenditure on the master's program exceeded the amount budgeted owing to the introduction of the new research seminar "Africa, Method, Theory", which included international guests. This excess was covered by the contributions received from the three partners (History, Social Anthropology and Urban Studies).

**Staff:** Most expenses in this budget line are related to the welcoming of new staff members, farewell events and training events.

**Publications:** Publications include the *Afrika-Bulletin*, the *Carl Schlettwein Lecture*, and contributions to publications from our network members, such as the volume *African History between Ghana and Switzerland*, edited by Ernest Sasu Kwame Se-wordor and Anne Beutter.

**Student exchange:** This includes the mobility of students in the framework of master's research and internships and joint teaching projects. It includes the cost of permits for Ghanaian students participating in the joint course "The Mission at Home", which is partly covered by a contribution from the Department of History.

**Events:** These include the CRG African History conference, the book launch for *Reports of Theophilus Opoku*, and the workshop "Le système de migration et d'asile Suisse" held at the Université de Sofonia, Conakry.

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

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

**Contributions:** The subject areas co-organizing the new research seminar "Africa, Method, Theory" (History, Social Anthropology, and Urban Studies) all contributed to the cost.

# 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 key area acknowledges the importance of knowledge that addresses practical issues, especially since these problems and policy concerns are an essential source when identifying theoretical, conceptual and methodological challenges.

## East African Perspectives on Citizenship

Building on ongoing reflection in the key area to reshape the intellectual agenda focusing on citizenship and dignity, the workshop

“Citizenship in Times of Change: East African Perspectives” brought together colleagues from Basel and Freiburg i.Br. to deepen an understanding of the topic and to promote cross-border discussion among colleagues. The workshop took place in April over two sessions, the first in Basel and the second in Freiburg. It was co-organized by the ZASB, the Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (ABI), the Africa Centre for Transregional Research (ACT) of the University of Freiburg and the Basel Institute on Governance.

## Corruption Risks in the Malawian Health System

The Basel Institute on Governance is working with partners on a research project that examines crisis response and corruption in vulnerable sectors. The project incorporates a

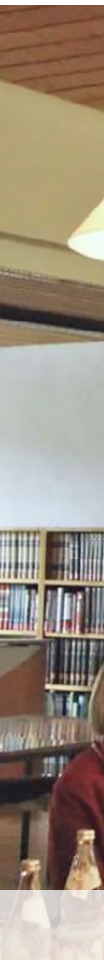
### Citizenship in Times of Change: East African Perspectives (EUCOR cross-border workshop, 22 & 29 April 2024)

The two-day workshop – one day in Basel, one day in Freiburg – offered young scholars the opportunity to present their work and exchange ideas with peers and senior scholars from the convening institutions. It centered on the temporal dimensions of fluctuating citizenship affected by crisis, violent conflict and reconfigurations of polities, which offer opportunities for mobilization (or resistance), but which may also impose new constraints on civil rights. The workshop also explored how the denial of citizenship and civil rights during conflicts or occupation influences migration decisions and experiences, and how citizenship can change because of constitutional revisions or shifts in regional structures.

The first day opened with a keynote address entitled “Citizenship Beyond the Nation-State? Exploring the Prospects of the Envisioned East African Political Federation,” delivered by Alexander Makulilo from the University of Dar es Salaam. He emphasized the role and potential of the East African Political Federation in redefining citizenship. During the workshop, presentations by PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers from the Universities of Basel and Freiburg examined the relationship between citizenship, the state, belonging and agency in diverse contexts, including the African Union Border Program in the Malawi-Mozambique borderland, post-conflict Ethiopia, violent extremism in Northern Mozambique, and migration and communal mergers in Switzerland.

The workshop was funded by a EUCOR Cross-Border Education Grant from the University of Basel and organized jointly by the ZASB, Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (ABI), the Africa Centre for Transregional Research (ACT) of the University of Freiburg, and the Basel Institute on Governance.

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behavioral perspective to understand how behavioral factors can exacerbate corruption in moments of crisis.

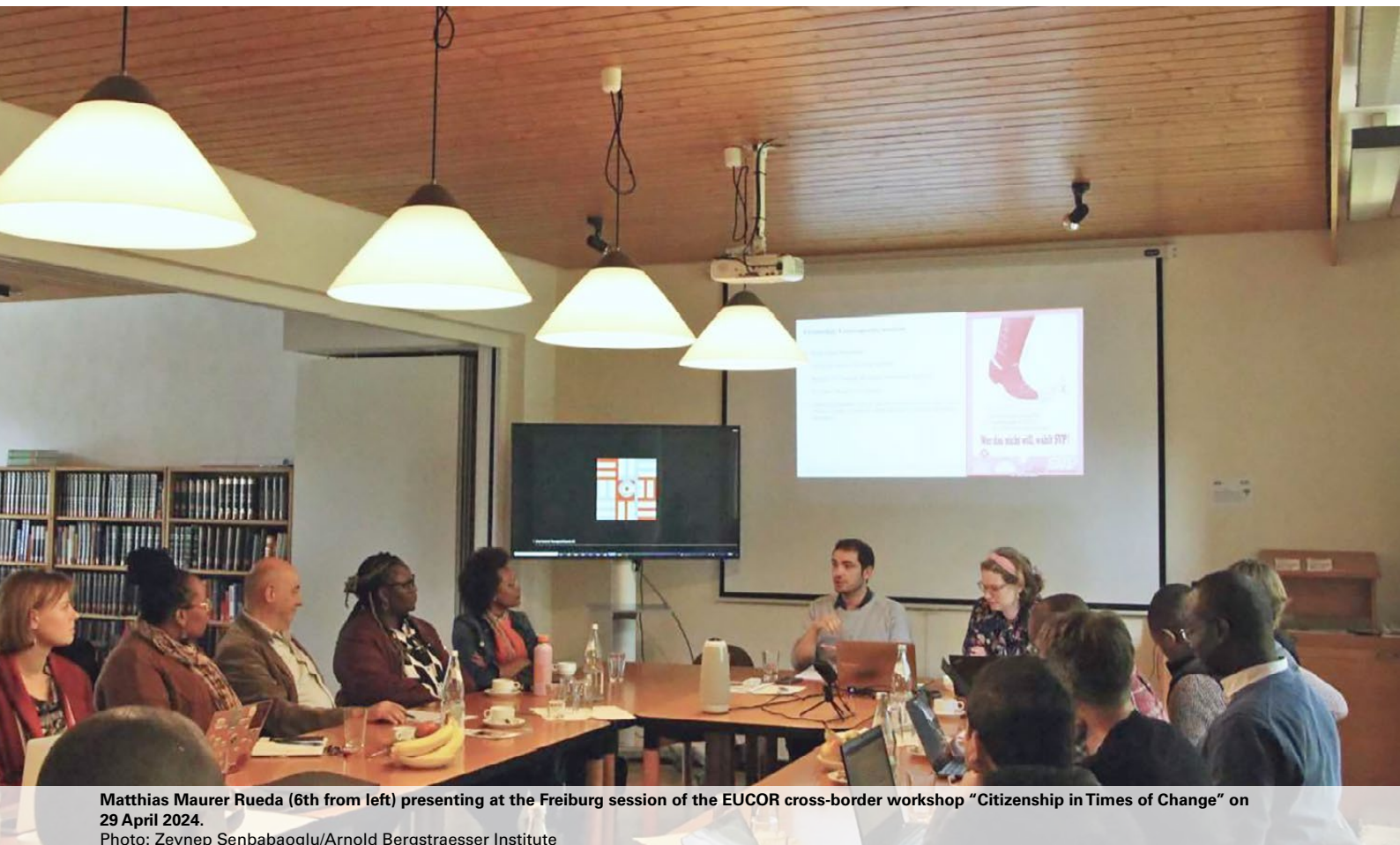
The project maps instances of corruption in the Malawian health sector during various types of crises. The aim is to identify where corruption occurs and the specific form it takes. On this basis, the project explores innovative approaches to preventing and mitigating corruption. On the one hand, this is achieved by applying behavioral insights to enhance the impact of anti-corruption initiatives, for example by correcting misperceptions or addressing perceived social norms, and on the other by recommending technological solutions to increase transparency and accountability. These could include the facilitation of community involvement in moni-

toring and overseeing emergency response efforts, or the incorporation of anti-corruption elements into existing emergency response plans.

### **The Political Lives of Migrants**

To date, migration research has not adequately illuminated or explored the political agency of migrants, especially from the perspective of the Global South and in interaction with state and non-state actors. A new ERC-funded project at the Arnold Bergstraesser Institute in Freiburg i.Br., led by Franzisca Zanker, aims to close this gap, with a commitment to combating global inequalities in knowledge production.

The project focuses on Africa and examines how migrants define political agency which



Matthias Maurer Rueda (6th from left) presenting at the Freiburg session of the EUCOR cross-border workshop "Citizenship in Times of Change" on 29 April 2024.

Photo: Zeynep Senbabaoglu/Arnold Bergstraesser Institute

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is enabled or hindered by the politicization of belonging in postcolonial state contexts. The project promotes an Afrocentric understanding of migrants' political agency and highlights its global relevance. The research will explore the impact of various migratory trajectories (refugee or other migrant, trans-regional or intraregional, in the country of destination, transit or return to the country of origin) on the self-defined understanding of political agency along the intersectional principles of gender, class and ethnicity. The project employs pioneering research methods, including migrant agency diaries and theater workshops.

#### **Peace Agreements and Transitions**

Michael Aeby's postdoctoral research project focuses on how African intergovernmental organizations support the implementation of Comprehensive Peace Agreements and transitions in intrastate conflicts through continued mediation, third-party guarantees, and implementation monitoring. This research serves to prepare the ground for a multi-year project that examines further key aspects of peace agreement implementation, including the design of monitoring mechanisms and public perceptions of implementation processes.

#### **Outlook**

Our key area will continue to find synergies in research collaboration. In particular, we will continue to explore how research on politics and governance can be connected through an intellectual agenda focusing on "citizenship and human dignity" and pursued through research activities and engagements.



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

1 January 2020–31 December 2025

UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

**Addressing Corruption Risks in the Crisis Response of the Malawian Health System**

Principal investigator: Claudia Baez-Camargo

1 February 2024–31 January 2027

Governance & Integrity Anti-Corruption Evidence (GI ACE) research program

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

Principal investigator: Michael Aeby

1 August 2022–30 November 2024

SNSF Postdoc. Mobility Return Grant/ University of Basel

**The Political Lives of Migrants: Perspectives from Africa**

Principal investigator: Franzisca Zanker (Arnold Bergstraesser Institute)

1 November 2024–31 October 2029

ERC Starting Grant

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

Key publications

Aeby, Michael. 2024. "High Expectations: Civil Society Participation in Conflict Early Warning and Response Systems of the AU, ECOWAS and IGAD." *South African Journal of International Affairs* 31 (2): 167-90.

Kassa, Saba. 2024. "Navigating the Political Context. Practice Insights and Adaptive Strategies to Strengthen the Anti-Corruption and Asset Recovery Justice Chain." Working Paper 52. Basel Institute on Governance.

Schubert, Jon. 2024. "'Magical Math Hand-waving': The Coloniality of Political Risk Forecasting." *American Ethnologist* 4 (51): 580-91.

Schubert, Jon. 2024. "Maintaining a City Against Nature: Climate Adaptation in Beira." *Buildings and Cities* 5 (1): 35-49.

Zanker, Franzisca. 2024. "'When There is No Migration, the Whole Region Has a Problem': The Political Priorities of Migration Policies in West Africa." *African Human Mobility Review* 10(2): 9-28.

Selected events**EUCOR cross-border workshop: "Citizenship in Times of Change. East African Perspectives"**

Workshop in the framework of the ZASB key area "Politics and Governance" in collaboration with the Basel Institute on Governance, the Arnold Bergstraesser Institute and the Africa Centre for Transregional Research of the University of Freiburg i.Br.

22 & 29 April 2024 | Workshop

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)

Elisio Macamo (Department of Social Sciences)

Mazembo Eddy Mavungu

Sindi-Leigh McBride (Projects ZASB)

Andreas Mehler (Arnold Bergstraesser Institut)

Mark Pieth (Basel Institute on Governance)

Jon Schubert (Department of Social Sciences)

Franzisca Zanker (Arnold Bergstraesser Institut)

# Health

Andrea Kaiser-  
Grolimund

Danelle van  
Zyl-Hermann

The key area with the broad name “Health” brings together researchers from various disciplines at different stages of their academic careers. A particular focus of this key area is an exchange and critical conceptual and epistemological reflection on health-related themes explored from diverse disciplinary perspectives, including the social sciences and the 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).

## Sexual and Reproductive Health Focus in 2024

PhD and MA students from several faculties and disciplines who are working on health-re-

lated topics formed a student group to create a space for mutual support and exchange. In previous meetings, this group identified questions concerning sexual and reproductive health, especially maternal health as a common interest and/or concern. In 2024, the key area “Health” organized two events related to these areas of interest.

Together with the student group, the key area organized a (hybrid) workshop, “Knowledge Production in Sexual and Reproductive Health” with Richard Sambaiga from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and in collaboration with the Medical Anthropology Research Group (MARG) at the University of Basel and the Society, Gender and

## Gender-based Violence Experience among Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Nigeria (dissemination activities, January 2024)

This PhD study conducted by Olutoyin Opeyemi Ikuteyijo investigates sexual and gender-based violence experienced by adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in the low-income communities of Lagos and Ibadan in southwest Nigeria. The dissemination of the study findings took place in Lagos in January 2024, and brought together both state and non-state stakeholders. These included the ministries of Health, Women Affairs, and Justice. Also included were law enforcement agencies, NGOs, community and religious leaders, academics and adolescent girls. The findings revealed that although the primary healthcare center was the first place that young victims or survivors of violence would be expected to visit, providers were not well equipped to attend to them. The study also concluded that it was necessary to end the culture of silence among victims, and reconsider ways of punishing perpetrators, who in most cases are the breadwinners in the family.

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The PhD study reveals the need to debunk the culture of silence among victims and reconsider ways of punishing perpetrators who are mostly the breadwinners of the family.  
Photo: Ayobami/pexels.com

Health Unit at the Swiss TPH. This half-day workshop took place at the Centre for African Studies on 7 June 2024 and commenced with a keynote address by Richard Sambaiga entitled “Sexual and Reproductive Health as a Contested Terrain: Reflections from Tanzania”. This was followed by a round-table discussion on “Knowledge Production in Sexual and Reproductive Health in Interdisciplinary Perspective”, in which invited guests Andrea Buhl, Sonja Merten, Andrea Graf, Chiara Carrara, Margareth Somba, Tolulope Esther Fad-eyi, Naomi Chi Ndum and Bernice Maima Kromah provided insights into ongoing research activities at the University of Basel.

The second event relating to sexual and reproductive health was a workshop with the title “Trajectories of Gender in Global Health: Where are We Going?”, hosted by the ZASB and organized as a joint venture with Medical Anthropology Switzerland (MAS) and the Society, Gender and Health Unit at the Swiss TPH. The workshop was held on 21 November 2024 as a side-event to the previous day’s Swiss TPH symposium on “Women and Gender in Global Health”. The workshop comprised two rounds of discussion: the first session entitled “Revisiting Critical, Engaged, and Action Research: Insights from Feminist Approaches in Global Health” included inputs from Nolwenn Bühler and Lucy Khofi. In the second session, the discussion focused on “Intersections of Global discourses and Local Problems: Research Gaps and Priorities” with input from Sandra Condori, Piet van Eeuwijk and Sandra Staudacher.

### **Bilateral South Africa and Swiss Research Chair in Global Environmental Health**

The National Research Foundation of South Africa has renewed the Bilateral South Africa and Swiss Research Chair in Global Environmental Health for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2029 at Tier 1 level. This extension of the Research Chair will enable it to continue the epidemiological research on chemical exposure, air pollution, water pollution and climate change and translate results into public health actions. Current core activities of the chair include the Child Health Agricultural Pesticide Study (CapSA), a pro-

spective cohort study on cognitive and reproductive development among rural children and adolescents in the Western Cape. Initiated in 2017, a follow-up data collection is taking place during the period 2024 to 2025. Given the active engagement of Samuel Fuhrmann in this collaboration, he has been awarded an Honorary Associate Professorship by the University of Cape Town.

### **Trade-offs between Food Safety and Food Security**

The Swiss National Science Foundation has funded a new project, “Trade-offs between Food Safety and Food Security and their Impact on the SDGs for Children in South Africa, Sweden and Switzerland” in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Collaborative Funding Call. Based on established cohorts, the study aims to advance human biomonitoring of food toxins (pesticides and mycotoxins) and several food quality biomarkers among children from rural areas in South Africa, Switzerland and Sweden. The project will provide evidence for policy recommendations to enhance food safety and accelerate progress towards sustainable development.

### **Outlook**

In 2024, a working group from the key area continued to exchange knowledge to extend the discussions on ontological, epistemological, methodological and political (dis)connections between the social and natural sciences. In 2025, we plan to conduct follow-up meetings to continue discussions on interdisciplinarity in the health fields.



Selected projects**Bilateral South Africa and Swiss Chair in Global Environmental Health**

Project leaders: Aqiel Dalvie, Martin Röösl, Guéladio Cissé  
2015–2029, State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), National Research Foundation (NRF) South Africa

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

Project leader: Hannah Brown (Durham University, UK)  
Co-investigator, Basel: Andrea Kaiser-Grolimund  
2021–2026, European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program

**Reducing Violence against Health Care in DRC and Iraq via Citizen Science and De-escalation Training**

Principal investigators: Sonja Merten, Giovanfrancesco Ferrari (Switzerland), Ghislain Bisimwa (DRC), Rhyad Lafta (Iraq)  
2021–2025, Elrha

**African Pesticide Intervention Project (APSENT)**

Principal investigators: Martin Röösl, 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 (Switzerland), Sally Mtenga (Tanzania)  
2022–2025, SNSF SPIRIT

**The Pesticide Exposome and its Impact on Health and Well-being of Farmer Families along Sustainable Food Production Systems**

Principal Investigator: Samuel Fuhrmann  
2023–2028: SNSF Starting Grants

**Improving Menstrual Health for All - IMVAHA**

Principal investigators: Sonja Merten, Monica Ticlla (Switzerland), Livo Esemu (Cameroon), Sandra Condori (Peru)  
2024–2025, SNIS

PhD and MA projects**Somali Pastoralists and Pain**

PhD thesis: Eleonore Arrer

**Covid-19 and the Eritrean Community in Switzerland**

MA Thesis: Rahel Erhardt

**Understanding Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescent Girls and Young Women's Experiences of Gender-Based Violence in Low-Income Communities in Nigeria**

PhD thesis: Olutoyin Opeyemi Ikuteyijo

**Antimicrobial Resistance in Humans, Animals, and the Environment in Somali Region in Ethiopia**

PhD thesis: Abdifatah Muktar Muhammad

**The Effect of Climate Change on Cardiovascular Diseases: What the Future could look like for India and South Africa**

PhD thesis: Shreya Shrikhande

**When Faith moves more than Mountains: Religious Ontologies of Health and Illness Impact Health Outcomes – A Mixed Methods Study among Young People Living with HIV in Zimbabwe**

PhD thesis: Ursula Wüthrich

**Intersecting Vulnerabilities: Sexual and Reproductive Health Disparities among Eritrean Refugee Women and Local Pastoralist Residents in Ethiopia**

PhD Thesis: Nejimu Zepro

Selected events**Dissemination of study findings on GBV experience among adolescent girls and young women in Nigeria**

Event in Lagos disseminating PhD results by Olutoyin Opeyemi Ikuteyijo, SwissTPH  
25 January 2024 | Workshop

**Workshop: "Knowledge Production in Sexual and Reproductive Health"**

Hybrid workshop with Richard Sambaiga, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Dar es Salaam  
7 June 2024 | Workshop

**Symposium: "Women and Gender in Global Health"**

SwissTPH Symposium  
20 November 2024 | Symposium

**Bilateral South Africa and Swiss Research Chair in Global Environmental Health (research program, 2015–2029)**

The Research Chair in Global Environmental Health will be renewed for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2029. It is a bilateral research collaboration between the University of Cape Town and Swiss TPH under the umbrella of the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI). The overall goal of the Research Chair is to increase the knowledge of diseases of local and global relevance that are caused by environmental exposure, and to translate results into public health actions. The main focus is on chemical exposure, air pollution, water pollution and climate change.

In December 2024 a delegation from South Africa headed by Anneline Morgan, Chief Director of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSTI) visited the Swiss TPH to meet with the Swiss-based collaborators of the Research Chair.

[www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/sa-swiss-chair](http://www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/sa-swiss-chair)

Members

Partnerships/major collaborations

**Workshop: “Trajectories of Gender in Global Health: Where are we going?”**

Co-organized by the ZASB Key Area of Activities “Health”, Medical Anthropology Switzerland (MAS) and the Society, Gender and Health Unit of the Swiss TPH  
21 November 2024 | Workshop

**Visit of Anneline Morgan, Chief Director of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSTI), South Africa**

Meeting with Bilateral South Africa and Swiss Chair in Global Environmental Health, Swiss TPH  
11 December 2024 | Workshop

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

| University of Cape Town, School of Public Health and Family Medicine  
| University of Pretoria  
| South African Medical Research Council  
| Durham University  
| Semera University, Ethiopia  
| Université Catholique de Bukavu, DRC  
| Ifakara Health Institute, Tanzania  
| Maseno University, Kenya



**A delegation from South Africa (Anneline Morgan, Jacqueline Friedenthal, Kgomo Austin) visits collaborators of the Bilateral South Africa and Swiss Chair in Global Environmental Health and Leading House Africa from Swiss TPH.**  
Photo: Swiss TPH

## Key publications

Bapolisi, Wyvine Ansimba, Jean Makelele, Giovanfrancesco Ferrari, Lenneke Kono-Tange, Ghislain Bisimwa, Christian Schindler, and Sonja Merten. 2024. "Engaging Men in Women's Empowerment: Impact of a Complex Gender Transformative Intervention on Household Socio-Economic and Health Outcomes in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo Using a Longitudinal Survey." *BMC Public Health* 24 (1).

Bapolisi, Wyvine Ansimba, Mari Dumbaugh, Selina Felber, Ghislain Bisimwa, and Sonja Merten. 2024. "Family Planning in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo: Personal Beliefs, Intimate Partner Negotiations and Social Pressure." *Culture, Health and Sexuality* 26 (11): 1365-79.

Baum, Eleonore, Sied Abdi, Jan Hattendorf, Peter van Eeuwijk, Rea Tschopp, Birgit Vosseler, Jakob Zinsstag, and Nicole Probst-Hensch. 2024. "Burden of Chronic Pain among Adult Pastoralists in Ethiopia: A Cross-Sectional Household Survey." *Pain* 165 (11):2629-2643.

Davies, E., C. Stamm, S. Fuhrmann, and R. Chow. 2024. "Mixed Pesticide Sources Identified by Using Wastewater Tracers in Rivers of South African Agricultural Catchments." *Science of the Total Environment*, 177206.

Ekou, Franck Kokora, Ikenna C Eze, Joseph Aka, Marek Kwiatkowski, Sonja Merten, Felix Kouamé Acka, Günther Fink, Jürg Utzinger, Nicole Probst-Hensch, and Nicole Probst-Hensch. 2024. "Randomised Controlled Trial on the Effect of Social Support on Disease Control, Mental Health and Health-Related Quality of Life in People with Diabetes from Côte d'Ivoire: The SoDDiCo Study Protocol." *BMJ Open* 14 (1).

Erhardt, Rahel M., Kristen Jafflin, Nejimu Zepro, Charles Abongomera, Afona Chernet, Daniel Henry Paris, and Sonja Merten. 2024. "Obstetric Outcomes of Eritrean Immigrants in Switzerland: A Comparative Study." *International Journal of Public Health* 69.

Fuhrmann, Samuel, William Mueller, Aggrey Atuhaire, Ruth Mubeezi, Johan Ohlander, Andrew Povey, Ioannis Basinas, et al. 2024. "Occupational Exposure to Pesticides and Neurobehavioral Outcomes. Impact of Different Original and Recalled Exposure Measures on the Associations." *Annals of Work Exposures and Health* 68 (6): 657-64.

Ikuteyijo, Olutoyin Opeyemi, Adriane Martin Hilber, Adesegun Olayiwola Fatusi, Akanni Ibukun Akinyemi, and Sonja Merten. 2024. "Stakeholders' Engagement with Law to address Gender-Based Violence in Southwest Nigeria: A Qualitative Study using Normalisation Process Theory to Explore Implementation Challenges." *BMJ Public Health* 2 (2): e001326.

Ikuteyijo, Olutoyin Opeyemi, Akanni Ibukun Akinyemi, Lanre Olusegun Ikuteyijo, Babatunde Samuel Owolodun, and Sonja Merten. 2024. "Sexual Negotiation and Power Imbalance Influencing Intimate Partner Violence Among Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Nigerian Urban Slums." Posted-content. Research Square Platform LLC.

Kaiser-Grolimund, Andrea, Bettina Schwind, Laura Kämpfen, Anna Lea Morgan, Giovanni Spitale, Nikola Biller-Andorno, and Sonja Merten. 2024. "Soliciting Diaries for 'Real-Time' Insights into the COVID-19 Pandemic: Methodological Reflections on Using Digital Technologies to Engage the Public." *International Journal of Public Health* 69.

Makgoba, Lethabo, Amber Abrams, Martin Rössli, Guéladio Cissé, and Mohamed Aqiel Dalvie. 2024. "DDT Contamination in Water Resources of Some African Countries and its Impact on Water Quality and Human Health." *Heliyon* 10 (7).

Nebie, Eric I, Peter van Eeuwijk, Hélène N. Sawadogo, Elisabeth Reus, Jürg Utzinger, and Christian Burri. 2024. "Operational Differences Between Product Development Partnership, Pharmaceutical Industry, and Investigator Initiated Clinical Trials." *Tropical Medicine and Infectious Disease* 9 (3).

Nyabundi, Agnetta Adiedo, Erick Otieno Nyambedha, Sonja Merten, and Stephen Okumu Ombere. 2024. "Contextual Challenges Experienced by CHVs in the Informal Use of Mobile Phones within Integrated Community Case Management (ICCM) in Nyaguda Sub-Location, Western Kenya." *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* 11 (1).

Owolodun, Babatunde, Desiree Gmür, Selina Felber, Camille Ollier, Tobias Haller, and Sonja Merten. 2024. "From Diversity to Uniformity: Comparing Nutritional Transition of Food Consumption in Four Regions in Senegal." *Food, Culture and Society* 28(3), 503-527.

Savilaakso, Sini, Andrea Kaiser-Grolimund, Silviu Petrovan, Gracian Chimwaza, Richard Ssenono, Alison Annet Kinengyere, Marcia Mabhula, et al. 2024. "What are the Critical Factors which Support or Inhibit the Effective Implementation of the One Health Approach in Africa? A Systematic Map Protocol." *agRxiv* 2024 (February):20240078351.



Ssekkadde, Peter, Vica Marie Jelena Tomberge, Curdin Brugger, Aggrey Atuhaire, Mohamed Aqiel Dalvie, Hanna-Andrea Rother, Martin Rössli, Jennifer Inauen, and Samuel Fuhrmann. 2024. "Evaluating and Enhancing an Educational Intervention to Reduce Smallholder Farmers' Exposure to Pesticides in Uganda Through a Digital, Systematic Approach to Behavior Change: Protocol for a Cluster-Randomized Controlled Trial." *JMIR Research Protocols* 13.

Veludo, Adriana Fernandes, Martin Rössli, Mohamed Aqiel Dalvie, Petra Stuchlíková Fišerová, Roman Prokeš, Petra Příbylová, Petr Šenk, et al. 2024. "Child Exposure to Organophosphate and Pyrethroid Insecticides Measured in Urine, Wristbands, and Household Dust and its Implications for Child Health in South Africa: A Panel Study." *Environmental Epidemiology* 8 (1): E282.

Zepro, Nejimu Biza, Araya Abrha Medhanyie, Nicole Probst-Hensch, Afona Chernet, Rea Tschopp, Charles Abongomera, Daniel H. Paris, and Sonja Merten. 2024. "Navigating Challenges: A Socioecological Analysis of Sexual and Reproductive Health Barriers Among Eritrean Refugee Women in Ethiopia, Using a Key Informant Approach." *BMJ Open* 14 (4).

Zinsstag, Jakob, Andrea Kaiser Grolimund, Engin Tulay, and Reinhold Bernhardt. 2024. "Transhumanism and One Health." *CABI One Health* 3 (1).

# Arts, Culture and Urbanism

**Kenny R. Cupers**

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

## Urban Studies

Nancy Odendaal joined the Critical Urbanisms program in August 2024 as a joint professor in urban studies at the University of Basel and the University of Cape Town's African Centre for Cities. Trained as an urban planner, Nancy has a keen academic interest in infrastructure and space in cities of the Global South. Her research focuses on new technologies and livelihoods, as captured in her 2023 book *Disrupted Urbanism: Situated Smart Initiatives in African Cities*, published by Bristol University Press.

Dipesh Chakrabarty, Lawrence A. Kimpton Distinguished Service Professor of History, South Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago, joined Urban Stud-

ies in our Distinguished Lecturer position this fall semester. A leading scholar of postcolonial theory, subaltern studies, and the planetary humanities, Dipesh taught a course entitled "From the Global to the Planetary Turn in the Humanities".

In Spring 2024, the Urbanism across Geographies study track engaged with infrastructure, decolonization and ecology in Lamu (Kenya). Guided by Maren Larsen, students learned and researched collaboratively in a dynamic urban setting for six weeks. Divided into different groups, students examined how communities in this ancient Indian Ocean port city cope with rapid ecological and economic change through practices that seek to transform certain ways of life while maintaining others. Students from the University of Basel teamed up with the Lamu Youth Alliance and the National Museums of Kenya to develop research questions around infrastructure, ecology and culture on Lamu Island. Using different research methods and modes of representation, research teams explored how various groups of people work with, relate to and understand mangrove forests, plastics, octopus fishing,

## Inherited Futures – Objects, Time, Knowledge (SNSF research project, 2024–2027)

The interdisciplinary project "Inherited Futures? Objects, Time, Knowledge" investigates inheritance as a process of passing down objects to reproduce collectives and institutions into the future. It does so against the backdrop of an historical paradox: between growing investments in inheritance predicated on liberal conceptions of political subjecthood, genealogical continuity, and durable attachment to land, territory, and identity on the one hand, and an increasing sense of futures displaced and threatened by climate change, technological transformation, the fragility of the global political order, and large-scale migration on the other. The project ties inheriting and futuring together, and turns towards the problem of time and temporality by way of understanding struggles over inherited things as struggles over epochal ruptures, moments of crisis, (re)orientation in space and time, and being and becoming. The research foregrounds objects, understood as knots of social practice and social knowledge, to shed light on the complexities of inherited futures across social terrains, temporalities, cultural imaginaries, epistemologies, scales of inquiry and affective economies. Grounded in ethnographic and archival research in Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe, and negotiating approaches from anthropology, history and African studies, the project pursues a strategy of thinking across disciplinary, epistemological, historical and cultural spaces to decenter established modes of knowledge production. It likewise interrogates inherited paradigms of regional boundedness to attend to the shifting material grounds of subjectivity, belonging and historical imagination.

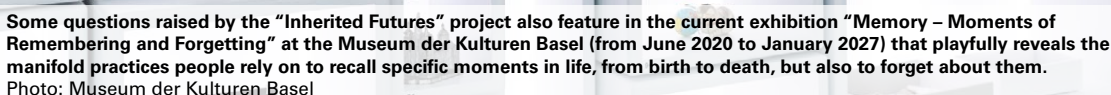
[www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/inherited-futures](http://www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/inherited-futures)

The SNSF-funded Sinergia project “Governing Through Design”, led by Claudia Mareis (Humboldt University), Orit Halpern (TU Dresden) and Kenny Cupers (Urban Studies), concluded with an international conference in Berlin in October. Under the heading of “Planetary Design: Reclaiming Futures”, the organizing team, led by Urban Studies lecturer Laura Nkula-Wenz put together an exciting program of panel discussions, roundtables and artistic interventions. The event brought together critical thinking and doing on the role of design in making, unmaking and remaking worlds. Keynote addresses by Andrea Ballesterio (USC) and Noortje Marres (Warwick) were streamed live to the public.

In February 2024, the SNSF funded research project “Inherited Futures – Objects, Time, Knowledge” was launched, led by Lorena Riz-

zo. It investigates inheritance as a process of passing down objects to shape futures of political, social and cultural collectives and institutions. This interdisciplinary project attests to the renewed interest in questions of futuring, especially in view of the ways in which climate change, technological transformation, large-scale mobility and displacement, and the fragility of global political orders require us to imagine futures of a different kind.

The ongoing project “The (In)Audible Past” critically explores sound archives located in South Africa and Namibia, as well as collections in Basel which connect Switzerland to Southern Africa, its political cultures and colonial pasts. This interdisciplinary research in the areas of history, African studies, sound studies and media theory is a collaboration by the University of Basel, the University of Fort Hare and the University of Namibia with the Basler Afrika Bibliographien and the International Library of African Music (ILAM).





Selected projects**PRECURBICA — Precarious Urbanisms in Coastal Africa**

Principal investigator: Jon Schubert  
 Project members: Ambre Alfredo, Vinicio Altmann, Semhar Haile, Lion Henri Tautz, Dany Franck Tiwa  
 1 April 2022–31 March 2027  
 SNSF (Eccellenza)

**The (In)Audible Past**

PI investigator (Switzerland): Ute Holl  
 Principal investigators: Ute Holl, Lorena Rizzo, Gary Minkley (South Africa), Helena Pohlandt-McCormick (South Africa/USA)  
 Project members: Raffaele Perniola, Ulrike Kiessling, Emanuel Welinder  
 1 April 2022–31 March 2026  
 SNSF/NRF (South Africa)

**Inherited Futures – Objects, Time, Knowledge**

Principal investigator: Lorena Rizzo  
 Co-investigator: George Meiu  
 Project members: Julia Rensing, Zainabu Jallo, Nadia Bellardi, Kadiatou Diallo  
 1 February 2024–31 January 2027  
 SNSF (Projects)

**Governing through Design: An Interdisciplinary Phenomenon**

Principal investigators: Kenny Cupers, Claudia Mareis (Humboldt Universität), Orit Halpern (Concordia University)  
 Project member (University of Basel): Laura Nkula-Wenz  
 1 March 2020–28 February 2025  
 SNSF (Sinergia)

Key publications

Cupers, Kenny, and Makau Kitata. 2024. "Kamĩrĩthũ." In *Decolonising the Built Environment*, 1st ed., 187-98. New York: Routledge.

Schubert, Jon. 2024. "'Magical Math Hand-waving': The Coloniality of Political Risk Forecasting." *American Ethnologist* 51 (4): 580-91.

Larsen, Maren, Alke Jenss, Benjamin Schuetze, and Kenny Cupers. 2024. "Elsewheres of the Unbuilt: The Global Effects of Transnational Energy Infrastructure Projects." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 48 (5): 916-35.

Ali, Nura, Margarita Garfias Royo, Kenny Cupers, George Arabbu Ndege, Jack Campbell-Clause, and Jhono Bennett. 2024. "How can Africa's Urban Majority Reframe Sustainability Agendas?" *Environment and Urbanization* 36 (1): 13-32.

Schubert, Jon. 2024. "Maintaining a City against Nature: Climate Adaptation in Beira." *Buildings and Cities* 5 (1): 35-49.

Cupers, Kenny. 2024. "Anticipation by Redress: Transforming African Mega-Infrastructure Futures." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, Online ahead of print.

Schneider, Jürg. 2024. "Photo George, in Douala. One of the Earliest Photo Studios in Cameroon." *Visual Anthropology* 37 (3): 265-82.

Schneider, Jürg. 2024. "Douala – Bruyères Vosges Mountains. Where Family Photographs can Lead." *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*, no. forthcoming.

Rizzo, Lorena. 2024. "The Materiality and Visuality of Intimacy in a South African Colonial Archive." In *Family and Justice in the Archives: Histories of Intimacy in Transnational Perspective*, edited by P. Gossage and L. Moore. Montreal: Concordia University Press.

Cupers, Kenny. 2024. *The Earth that Modernism Built: Empire and the Rise of Planetary Design*. Lateral Exchanges: Architecture, Urban Development, and Transnational Practices. University of Texas Press.

Schneider, Jürg. 2024. "La Photographie Africaine Dans l'espace Visuel Atlantique. Photographes itinérants, Circulation Des Images." *Photographica*, no. 9: 125-39.

Selected events**Book Roundtable: "Material Culture in Transit: Theory and Practice"**

Anthropological Crossroads Colloquium,  
Institute of Social Anthropology  
20 March 2024 | Colloquium

**Book Roundtable: "Queer Objects to the Rescue: Intimacy and Citizenship in Kenya"**

In the framework of the Anthropological  
Crossroads Colloquium  
24 April 2024 | Colloquium

**Workshop: "Feeling, Memorializing, Knowing: Queer\*ing Research Practices"**

Public Hybrid Workshop with Anima  
Adjepong (University of Cincinnati)  
in collaboration with Basler Afrika  
Bibliographien  
16 May 2024 | Workshop

**Summer School: "Black Figuration"**

eikones/ZASB Summer School in  
collaboration with Kunstmuseum Basel  
Gegenwart  
3–7 June 2024 | Graduate workshop

**"When You Meet Us – A Collective Speed Dating"**

In the framework of the exhibition  
"When We See Us" at the Kunstmuseum  
Basel, with Keabetswe Boccomino, Elisa  
Valentina da Costa Policarpo, Kadiatou  
Diallo, Dembo Jobarteh, Larissa Tiki  
Mbassi, Sindi-Leigh McBride and Lorena  
Rizzo  
3 October 2024 | Public event

**Ademide Adelusi-Adeluyi (Howard University): "Lagos Life: Streets, Maps, History"**

Carl Schlettwein Lecture 2024 in the  
framework of the course "Africa,  
Method, Theory"  
22 November 2024 | Public lecture

**Work-in-progress workshop "The Afterlives of Things"**

In cooperation with the University  
of Namibia and The Project Room,  
Windhoek, Namibia  
23 November 2024 | Workshop

Partnerships/major collaborations

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

Members

Isabelle Chariatte (Department of  
Languages and Literatures)  
Kenny Cupers (Department of Social  
Sciences)  
Serena Dankwa (Department of Social  
Sciences)  
Zainabu Jallo (Department of Social  
Sciences)  
Sindi-Leigh McBride (Projects ZASB)  
George Paul Meiu (Department of Social  
Sciences)  
James Merron (Projects ZASB)  
Julia Rensing (Projects ZASB)  
Lorena Rizzo (Projects ZASB)  
Christiane Schlote (Department of  
Languages and Literatures)  
Sandra Schlumpf-Thurnherr  
(Department of Languages and  
Literatures)  
Jürg Schneider (African Photography  
Initiative)  
Jon Schubert (Department of Social  
Sciences)  
Danelle van Zyl-Hermann (Department  
of History)

# Knowledge Production, Forms and Platforms

| Julia Tischler

Scholars collaborating in this key area address the question of the production of knowledge 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?

## Africa, Method, Theory

In the fall semester, the course and public lecture series “Africa, Method, Theory” examined the ways in which current research grounded in Africa decenters the perspectives from which we understand knowledge production in the social sciences and humanities. This

new format will be offered on an annual basis to facilitate in-depth engagement with prominent scholars’ research-in-progress, and with current discussions about theory and method. In 2024, the course and lectures featured Grace Adeniyi-Ogunyankin (Queen’s University), Nancy Rose Hunt (University of Florida), Ademide Adelusi-Adeluyi (Howard University) and Jacob S. Dlamini (Princeton University). Come and join us in the fall term of 2025!

## Basel Mission and its Legacy

A joint teaching project with the Akrofi-Christaller Institute and the University of Ghana brought a multinational group of students and instructors first to Ghana (January) and then to Switzerland. Together they explored the legacy of the Basel Mission in Ghana and in the regions of Basel and southern Germany. The output from these excursions was presented in short blog posts on the web-



Aerial view of Lagos Town photographed on 6 November 1929.

Photo: Anonymous/Flickr; part of the Colonial Office photographic collection at The National Archives UK (CO 1069-62-101)

## Lagos Life: Streets, Maps, History (Carl Schlettwein Lecture by Ademide Adelusi-Adeluyi, 22 November 2025)

Trained as both historian and computer engineer, Ademide Adelusi-Adeluyi’s research into the history of Lagos, Nigeria, combines a set of interdisciplinary interests in urban studies, map-making and technology. In November 2024, Adelusi-Adeluyi delivered the ZASB’s annual Carl Schlettwein Lecture in the framework of the newly introduced course and lecture series “Africa, Method, Theory”. By mapping the history of these streets, and the encounters that Lagosians had in them, her presentation demonstrated how digital tools can be used when reading the urban fabric of Lagos Island as an archive of its own history. Old Lagos — the city, its waterways and island — is never more visible in the archival record than when it is marked for destruction, division or “civilization”; thus, Adelusi-Adeluyi uses these maps, documents and indigenous sources to reconstruct the past, in place.

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



site baselfo.ch, which will host individual and collaborative works produced by students.

### **Reversing the Gaze**

The SNSF Sinergia project “Reversing the Gaze: Towards Post-Comparative Area Studies” brings together researchers from the Department of Social Sciences (Elísio Macamo) and the Institute for European Global Studies (Ralph Weber) at the University of Basel with colleagues from the University of Zurich (Department of Geography) and the University of Edinburgh (School of Law). The project “reverses the gaze” by testing the analytical hold of concepts developed in the Global South on political crisis phenomena in Europe.

In 2024, the project team completed the main part of the research in the various work groups. In May, the team met for a research workshop in Zurich and in September, the final research workshop took place in Basel. Also in September, the project partners organized an international conference in Basel as the concluding milestone. The project period was extended into 2025 to enable the completion of all research activities and the finalization of the last publications.

### **African history**

In June, the ZASB hosted the 6th Biennial AEGIS CRG African History Conference. The Collaborative Research Group (CRG) African History is an association under the umbrella of the African Studies in Europe network AEGIS, seeking to connect scholars of African history at various career stages across Europe. To facilitate conversation, the biennial conferences are organized as roundtables (rather than paper presentations) on current thematic and methodological debates. The key lecture on “Intuiting the Archive: When the Women are Unidentified” was delivered by Athambile Masola (Cape Town).

### **Spanish in Africa**

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 the framework of the project, an international conference on “Spanish in Africa – Past, Present, and Future” was hosted in Basel in June 2024. While the project is dedicated exclusively to Equatorial Guinea, this conference opened up the geographical horizon and included all regions in Africa with a historically conditioned presence of the Spanish language.

### **Outlook**

From April 2025, a Eucor-funded project involving the ZASB (with Dag Henriksen, Marie Muschalek and Veit Arlt), the University of Strasbourg and the University of Freiburg i.Br. will examine the origins, scope and historical trajectories of human remains in university collections in the Upper Rhine region.

Selected projects**Reversing the Gaze: Towards Post-Comparative Area Studies**

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  
 1 October 2020–30 September 2025  
 SNSF (Sinergia)

**Improving the Visibility of Equatorial Guinea as a Spanish-speaking Country**

Principal investigator: Sandra Schlumpf-Thurnherr  
 Project member: Sara Carreira  
 1 February 2021–31 January 2025  
 SNSF (project funding)

Key publications

Henrichsen, Dag. 2024. "Koloniale Kapitalisierung Von Afrikanischem Kulturgut: Jan Und Fritz Gaerdes." In *Stadt Der Kolonien*, edited by Norman Aselmeyer and Virginie Kamche, 91-95. Freiburg: Verlag Herder.

Macamo, Elísio. 2024. "African Studies, or how to make the Canon Apocryphal." In *Knowing – Unknowing. African Studies at the Crossroads*, edited by Sabelo J. Ndlovu-Gatsheni and Katharina Schramm, 4:31-45. Africa Multiple. Leiden, Boston: Brill.

Macamo, Elísio. 2024. "Die Anwesenheit der Abwesenheit. Die intellektuelle Agenda des globalen Südens am Beispiel Afrikas." *Interkulturelle Theologie*, no. 2: 31-46.

Schlumpf, Sandra, and Sara Carreira. 2024. "Presentación De Un Corpus Para El Estudio Del español Actual En Guinea Ecuatorial." *Boletín De Filología* 1 (59): 403-36.

Schlumpf, Sandra. 2024. "Asymmetrical Power Relations between Languages of Equatorial Guinea: Views from the Migration Context in Madrid." In *Global and Local Perspectives on Language Contact*, edited by Katrin Pfadenhauer, Sofia Rüdiger and Valentina Serreli, 215-41. Berlin: Language Science Press.

Selected events**Hein Willemsse (University of Pretoria): "Afrikaans Poets on the Mandelas"**

Lunch talk at the Basler Afrika Bibliographien  
 2 May 2024 | Public event

**Workshop: "Feeling, Memorializing, Knowing. Queer\*ing Research Practices"**

One-day hybrid workshop with scholar and writer Anima Adjepong  
 16 May 2024 | Workshop, colloquium

**Marc Epprecht: "Accidental Queer – Critical Masculinity Studies in Southern Africa and Canada"**

Lunch Talk at the Basler Afrika Bibliographien  
 20 June 2024 | Public event

**6th Biennial AEGIS CRG African History Conference**

Conference of the Collaborative Research Group (CRG) African History of the European African Studies association AEGIS  
 20–21 June 2024 | Conference

**Athambile Masola: "Invisibility, Hyper-visibility, Erasure, and Elsewhereness: Working with Black Women's Life-Stories"**

Exciting Lecture in African History of the CRG African History Conference 2024  
 20 June 2024 | Guest lecture

**| Spanish in Africa – Past, Present and Future (international conference, 28–29 June 2024)**

This conference brought together a group of international experts from different theoretical and methodological approaches, who are dedicated to several African regions with a specific connection to the Spanish language. Their contributions offered an overview of the position of Spanish in Africa at present, taking into account its past, and opened a conversation about its potential and its challenges in the future. In this way, the conference was an excellent opportunity for personal encounters and meaningful scientific exchange across national borders. The individual presentations, both by PhD candidates and well-established researchers from different countries, provided highly valuable insights into ongoing research projects relating to Spanish in regions with a historically conditioned presence of the language: Northern Morocco, Western Sahara, Equatorial Guinea, and the Spanish ex-claves of Ceuta and Melilla.

Both conference days ended with a roundtable in which important results were summarized and conclusions relevant to the overall topic of the conference were reached. Some of these findings will be discussed further in a special issue of the *Revista de Estudios Africanos*, to be published in 2025. A major issue was the controversial positioning of Spain and the Royal Academy of the Spanish Language vis-à-vis Africa, and the necessity of a move from an outside, top-down approach to a local, bottom-up perspective in our description of African realities.

[www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/spanish-in-africa](http://www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/spanish-in-africa)

**Conference: "Spanish in Africa, past, present and future"**

International conference in the framework of the SNSF project "Improving the Visibility of Equatorial Guinea as a Spanish-speaking Country" 28-29 June 2024 | Conference

**Conference: "Reversing the Gaze: Using Concepts Across Borders"**

International conference in the framework of the research project "Reversing the Gaze" 12-13 September 2024 | Conference

**Shalini Randeria: "Postcolonial Perspectives: Quo Vadis"**

Public keynote address of the conference "Reversing the Gaze: Using Concepts Across Borders" 12 September 2024 | Guest lecture

**Grace Adeniyi-Ogunyankin: "Future Matters: Youth and (In)Concrete Time in Lagos"**

Public lecture in the framework of the course "Africa, Method, Theory" 11 October 2024 | Guest lecture

**Willemien Froneman: "Boeremusiek's Heart-Speech: Postdisciplinary Reflections on Race Formation"**

Lunch Talk at the Basler Afrika Bibliographien 1 November 2024 | Public event

**Nancy Rose Hunt: "Traces or Cases?"**

Public lecture in the framework of the course "Africa, Method, Theory" 1 November 2024 | Guest lecture

**Book Launch "African History between Ghana and Switzerland. Essays Honouring Paul Jenkins"**

With a reflection by Nana Opare Kwakye (University of Ghana/Presbyterian Church of Ghana) 8 November 2024 | Public event

**Ademide Adelusi-Adeluyi (Howard University): "Lagos Life: Streets, Maps, History"**

Carl Schlettwein Lecture 2024 in the framework of the course "Africa, Method, Theory" 22 November 2024 | Guest lecture

**Jacob S. Dlamini (Princeton University): "The Archive Machine: The Truth Commission and the Archaeology of Apartheid"**

Public lecture in the framework of the course "Africa, Method, Theory" 6 December 2024 | Guest lecture

Members

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)  
 Elisio Macamo (Department of Social Sciences)  
 Mazembo Eddy Mavungu  
 Sindi-Leigh McBride (Projects ZASB)  
 George Paul Meiu (Department of Social Sciences)  
 Nancy Odendaal (Department of Social Sciences)  
 Christoph Pimmer (Swiss TPH)  
 Lerato Posholi (Institute for European Global Studies)  
 Julia Rensing (Projects ZASB)  
 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)  
 Franzisca Zanker (Arnold Bergstraesser Institut)  
 Jakob Zinsstag (Swiss TPH)



The participants of the Conference "Spanish in Africa – Past, Present and Future" in Basel.  
 Photo: Anonymous



# 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 considered in both the social and the natural 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.

## Space in Time

Since 2017, researchers from the fields of the social sciences, humanities and natural sciences based in South Africa, Namibia and Switzerland have worked together on the tri-national SNSF research project “Space in Time: Landscape Narratives and Land Management Changes in a Southern African Cross-Border

Region”. The purpose of this project was to understand the changing landscape along the Lower Orange River/!Garib from various disciplinary angles and it brought together key area members from different disciplines. After the project came to an end in 2023, the project team organized dissemination activities in Namibia in February and March 2024. Giorgio Miescher and Luregn Lenggenhager curated a small traveling exhibition that was displayed in churches, schools, museums, and public squares along the !Garib/Orange River. They also launched the edited volume *The Lower !Garib – Orange River. Pasts and Presents of a Southern African Border Region* and distributed copies.

## Povanhu History and Heritage Tours

From early 2023, a start-up grant from the Innovation Office of the University Basel enabled the Swiss-Namibian project “Povanhu – An Inclusive Future of Tourism in Namibia” to establish Povanhu History and Heritage Tours in Namibia and Switzerland. This is a start-up that explores the potential of post-colonial tourism in the market and brings together academic knowledge and practical entrepreneurship. The project also offers theoretical and hands-on experience in the field of history and heritage tourism for students at the University of Basel and the University of Namibia. In November, Povanhu History and Heritage Tours conducted its pilot tour, laying the foundation for a new way of traveling in Namibia. Shaped by genuine encounters and local perspectives, the approach demonstrates that tourism can be more than just visiting places – it can foster critical engagement with history and society. We consider it a tremendous success that this message was not only understood but also deeply appreciated by the first guests. Now, the aim is to build on these experiences and continue on this ambitious path, ensuring that tourism becomes an enriching experience not only for visitors but also for hosts.

## Ghana Meteorological Agency

James Zimmermann Merron together with Emmanuel Proven-Adzri (Ghana Space Science and Technology Institute) received a

Leading House Africa consolidation grant. In September 2024, they collected data in Ghana and developed a “repair database” using video interviews and demonstrations by Ghana Meteorological Agency engineers to examine the material causes of data gaps and uncertainty in weather forecasting and climate modeling.

### **Teaching and Exchange**

The weekly Namibian and Southern African Studies research colloquium continues to be an important platform for interdisciplinary work in our key area. In 2024, the colloquium included presentations by scholars from Switzerland, Namibia, South Africa, Germany, the UK and the USA. The colloquium allows international scholars from various disciplines to come to Basel, offering students and faculty the opportunity for regular interdisciplinary exchange and debate. Since 2020, the colloquium has been organized jointly with the University of Namibia as a hybrid online/on-site event and has become an important platform for regular academic exchange at student and faculty level.

### **Outlook**

Since the completion of two major projects in this key area in the last two years, we are now looking forward to launching the SNSF Starting Grant project “Curated Escapes and Derelict Landscapes in Times of Climate Change” at the ZASB in 2025. This innovative and interdisciplinary project led by Luregn Lenggenhager is situated at the intersection of environmental history, environmental humanities and African studies. At a time of dramatic change in climate, the project breaks new ground by interweaving two notable outcomes of the climate crisis: curated escapes for the wealthy, and (soon-to-be) uninhabitable derelict landscapes. Luregn Lenggenhager and his research group hope to enrich the area with new approaches and perspectives, giving a welcome impetus to the reorientation and reorganization of the key area.

## 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 Angula  
1 February 2019–31 December 2024  
Stiftung Mercator Schweiz

### Povanhu History and Heritage Tours

Project members: Ndapewoshali Ashipala (UNAM), Martha Akawa (UNAM), Gelsomina Bertaccini, Luregn Lenggenhager, Giorgio Miescher  
1 April 2023–31 March 2025  
Innovation Office of the University of Basel (Propelling Grant)

### Grounding Crop Monitoring in Ghana

PI (Switzerland): James Zimmermann Merron  
PI (Ghana): Emmanuel Proven-Adzri (Ghana Space Science and Technology Institute)  
1 May 2024–31 May 2025  
Leading House Africa/SBFI

## Key publications

Lenggenhager, Luregn, and Giorgio Miescher. 2024. "Dividing, Connecting, and Complicating the Hinterland: The Lower !Garib/Orange River" In *Planetary Hinterlands : Extraction, Abandonment and Care*, edited by Pamila Gupta, Sarah Nuttall, Esther Peeren, and Hanneke Stuit, 65-80. Cham: Springer International Publishing.

Lenggenhager, Luregn, Giorgio Miescher, Romie Nghitevelekwa, and Martha Akawa. 2024. "Crossing Etosha: A History of Donkeys in Namibia's Central North." In *Anthropology Southern Africa* 47 (2): 167-82.

Lenggenhager, Luregn and Emmanuel Mogende. 2024. "Nature Conservation, Borders and Violence along the Chobe River between Botswana and Namibia in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Century." *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, October, 1-19.

Merron, James. 2024. *Building Trust, Situating Repair: An Ecology of Action in a South African Nature Reserve*. Basel Southern Africa Studies 15. Basel: Basler Afrika Bibliographien.

Merron, James, and Siri Lamoureaux. 2024. "Electromagnetic Economies of Worth: Repurposing a Radio Dish and Debating Technoscientific Modernity at the Equator." *Environment and Planning D*, April. SAGE Publications Ltd STM, 02637758241233901.

Miescher, Giorgio, and Raffaele Perniola. 2024. "Reclaiming South African Railway Spaces: Ruination and Remembrance in De Aar and Usakos." In *In Whose Place? Confronting Vestiges of Colonialism and Apartheid*, edited by Arianna Lissoni, Ali Khangela Hlongwane, and Hilton Judin, 259-77. Auckland Park, South Africa: Jacana Media.

### Space in Time: The Lower !Garib/Orange River's Pasts and Presents (exhibition, February/March 2024)

As the research project "Space in Time" came to an end, a mobile exhibition was curated as part of the project's dissemination activities. The exhibition "Space in Time: The Lower !Garib/Orange River's Pasts and Presents" ("!n Plek in Tyd: Die !Garib/Oranjerivier se Verlede en Hede" in Afrikaans) was launched on 17 February 2024 in Keetmanshoop and displayed in churches, schools, museums and public squares in various places in Namibia. Topics included the pre-colonial networks along and across the river, the river as an international border, irrigation and farming, and diamonds and mines.

[www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/space-in-time](http://www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/space-in-time)



Josef Rooi, Chairperson of the Elders of the Bondelswart (!Gami-#nun) speaks at the launch of the exhibition at the Community Hall in Gabis, Namibia, on 26 February 2024.  
Photo: Gelsomina Bertaccini



Selected events**Launch: Povanhu History and Heritage Tours**

Launch and information event  
11 April 2024 | Public event

**Luregn Lenggenhager & Giorgio Miescher: "The Lower !Garib – Orange River. Pasts and Presents of a Southern African Border Region"**

Book launch in the framework of the  
Namibian and Southern African Studies  
Research Colloquium  
8 May 2024 18:15 | Public event

**Nancy Odendaal: "Networking Towards Shifting Academic Geographies"**

Lecture in the framework of the  
Namibian and Southern African Studies  
Research Colloquium  
25 September 2024 | Colloquium/  
Seminar

**James Zimmermann Merron: "Building Trust, Situating Repair: An Ecology of Action in a South African Nature Reserve"**

Book launch at the Basler Afrika  
Bibliographien  
18 October 2024 | Public event

Members

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

Partnerships/major collaborations

University of Namibia, Faculty of  
Humanities and Social Sciences  
Museums Association of Namibia  
Ghana Space Science and Technology  
Institute



# 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, and 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 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 of "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 an interdisciplinary MA program in African Studies in 2002. Since 2011, doctoral students at the ZASB have had the option of enrolling for a PhD in interdisciplinary African Studies, and since 2017, the Basel Graduate Network African Studies has provided 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

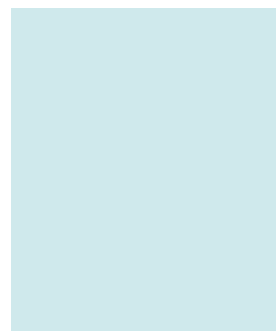
Promoting and supporting exchange and collaboration with scholars and institutions on both a national and an international level is one of the ZASB's central tasks. We work closely with the Swiss Society for African Studies (SSAS) in the areas of training, academic exchange and publications. The ZASB 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. It 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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