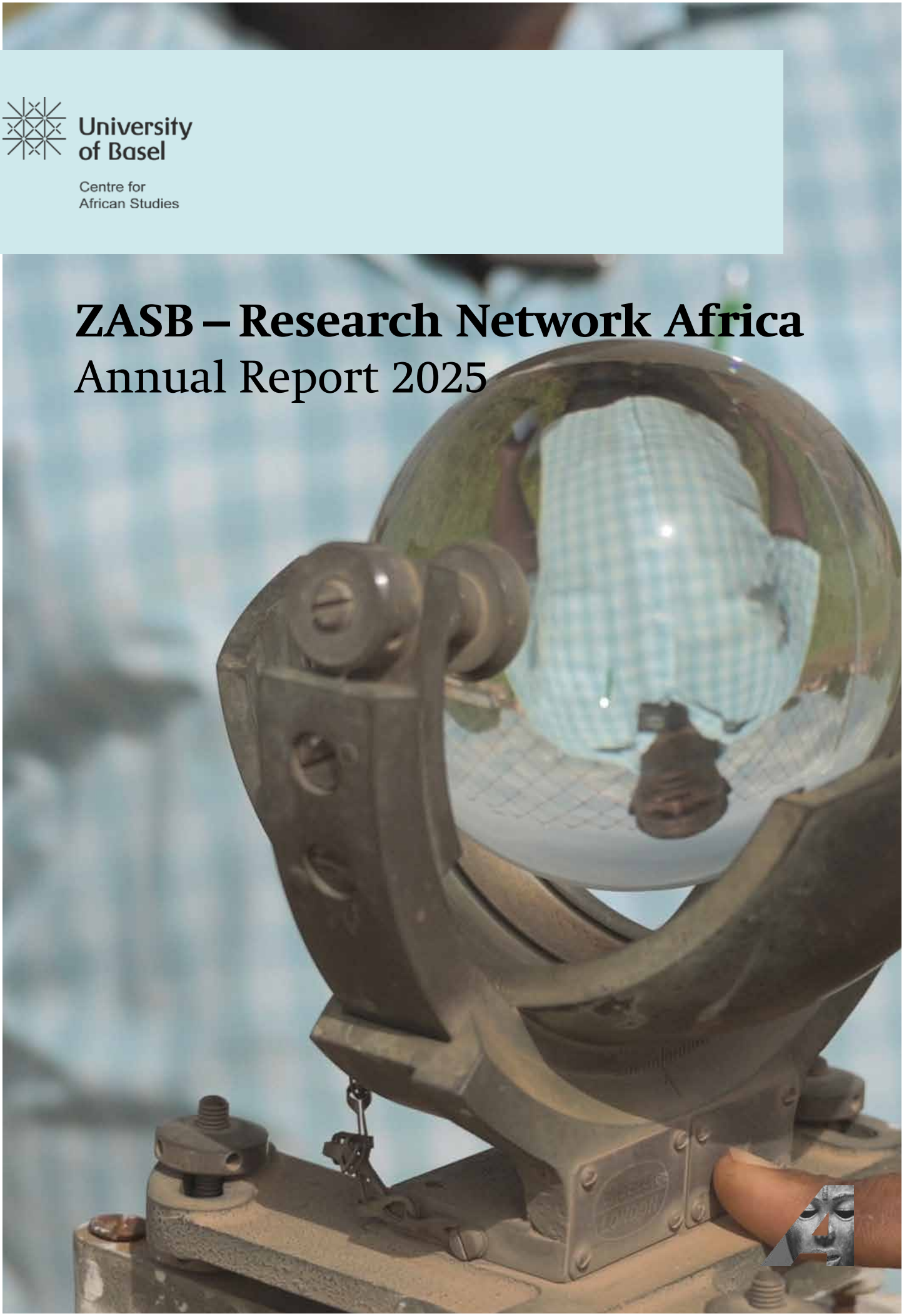
University of Basel

Centre for African Studies

# ZASB – Research Network Africa
## Annual Report 2025



# ZASB – Research Network Africa
## Annual Report 2025

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Cover picture: Inspection of a faulty sunshine recorder at Yendi Meteorological Station. The research project "Grounding Crop Monitoring in Ghana" shows how climate technicians in Ghana operate within a double infrastructure – a nominally digital system that still relies on analogue tools for reliability (photo: James Zimmermann Merron).

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# Executive Office

| Veit Arlt

| Pascal Schmid

The year 2025 was marked by a vibrant program of scientific exchange with numerous conferences, workshops, lectures and graduate events. Activities like these, bringing together network members, students and international academic guests, are essential for a thriving research community, and we would like to express our gratitude to the dedicated colleagues who invested their time and energy in organizing them.

While the Executive Office supported a wide range of events and initiatives, one major undertaking increasingly became the focus of our work: the preparations for the joint conference of the Swiss Society for African Studies and the Association for African Studies in Germany VAD e.V., which we will host in August 2026. Preparations included fundraising and financial planning; developing the conference topic and its thematic streams; preparing and administering calls for panels, papers and grant applications; organizing the reviews, setting up the registration and communication platform and more. Planning and coordinating this large-scale event required – and continues to require – considerable time and resources. At the same time, the planning of the event has generated momentum for new exchange and activities at and around the ZASB. Together with anxiety about the success of the event, excitement is growing steadily.

**International conferences**

In June 2025, the three-day conference "Liquid Urbanisms in Africa: Thinking Climate Adaptation with and through Water" critically examined the urban/water interface in African



**Sunset over the skyline of Dar es Salaam from the Indian Ocean.**
Photo: Adobe Stock

coastal cities, particularly in the context of climate change. The conference, co-organized with the PRECURBICA project (Precarious Urbanism in Coastal Cities in Africa) at the University of Basel and the Swiss Society for African Studies, brought together urban planning and critical social theory by exploring the diverse ways African urban communities are adapting their lives and environments to these challenges.

In September, the conference "The African Genome at the Disciplinary Crossroads: How to Widen the Scope of Genomics' Methods across the Humanities and Social Sciences", masterminded by Henri Michel Yéré and, again, co-organized with the Swiss Society for African Studies, explored how issues of identity and ethnicity play out in genomics research at an interdisciplinary level, discussing ways in which colonial history has affected how the "African genome" is defined and used. It brought together sociologists, anthropologists, political scientists, historians, archaeologists, jurists, bioethicists, medical doctors, and biologists who presented their insights and reflections at the intersection of the natural sciences, the social sciences and the humanities.

In September, the conference "Green Colonialism? Lithium, the Energy Transition, and its Costs", jointly organized with the Apartheid Debt and Reparations Campaign (Kampagne für Entschuldung und Entschädigung im südlichen Afrika KEESA) addressed the consequences for the Global South of the green energy transition and the increasing de-



**Liquid Urbanisms in Africa. Thinking Climate Adaptation with and Through Water (international conference, 12–13 June 2025)**

The three-day conference supported by the Swiss Academy of Social Sciences and Humanities and the Swiss Society for African Studies assembled speakers from universities across Europe, including Switzerland, the UK, Germany, Denmark, and France, as well as from the United States, Senegal and Nigeria. In addition to presenters, chairs and discussants, a total of 27 people registered to attend the conference, bringing the total participation to 50 individuals. The program featured 17 presentations organized into three thematic panels covering a diverse range of topics. Among these were Material Circulations including the transformations of waste into earth, sand into concrete, scrap metal into rebar, or firm into watery ground; Vulnerability, Politics and Infrastructures, including large-scale infrastructure, urban redevelopment projects, building, investment, and social advancement; and Amphibious Ways of Making the City.

One of the conference's standout highlights was Huda Tayob's keynote speech, Watery Archives, Aqueous Methods. Drawing on her research on the vibrant global encounters along East African coastal cities, she delved into the deep historical knowledge of living with and by the sea. Through sites, stories and methodologies, she illuminated coastal pasts and futures – shaped by joyful, perilous, abundant and challenging encounters. Her compelling presentation not only captivated the audience but also underscored water's significance as a source of knowledge, framed through her concept of aqueous methods.

The interdisciplinary nature of the conference allowed participants to explore new methodologies and engage beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries, enriching discussions and fostering innovative approaches to Urban and African Studies. Informal networking opportunities, combined with structured sessions, allowed for deep, meaningful exchanges that extended beyond academic discussions, creating lasting connections among participants. An early result of these networking efforts is the decision to publish an edited volume featuring several of the papers presented.

*www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/liquid-urbanism*

mand for critical raw materials. Together with speakers from Zimbabwean and European civil society, the conference explored questions of justice, global inequalities and enduring colonial power structures.

**Graduate Network**
Another highlight in September 2025 was our Basel Summer School in African Studies. This, the 7th edition of the Summer School, honored the late Valentin-Yves Mudimbe's work and engaged with the contributions of African Studies, not only to knowledge about Africa, but also to the renewal of concepts, theories and methods in the humanities and social sciences.

In the context of the SNSF research project "(In)herited Futures", Kadiatou Diallo, Julia Rensing, and Lorena Rizzo offered a Winter School with the same name, supported by a EUCOR Cross-Border Education Grant from the University of Basel and FAG Basel. PhD and master's students benefited from an exciting faculty consisting of both researchers and artists.

Our graduate program also featured, among others, a transdisciplinary workshop on "Decolonial Research Approaches", co-organized with the World Ethic Forum, and a workshop with Luisa Schneider (VU Amsterdam) on "Bridging the Divide: Reimagining Researchers and Research Practices through Feminist Ethics of Care and Institutional Responsibility", co-hosted by the Centre for Gender Studies, Social Anthropology and the ZASB.

**MA program**
In 2025 we took a major step forward in revising our study program for master's students. A new master's degree subject "African Studies" is planned for introduction in the fall semester of 2027. At the same time, the current interdisciplinary master's degree program "African Studies" is being revised. In this context, a one-week block course organized by Julia Tischler, Kenny Cupers and Elísio Macamo invited network members and students to explore the concepts of planetary health and cosmopolitan flourishing, and how they could be articulated as central elements of the revised master's degree program.

The second edition of our course and lecture series "Africa, Method, Theory", co-organized by Julia Tischler, Kenny Cupers, and George Paul Meiu entailed three all-day conversations with Patience Mususa (Nordic Africa Institute), Charlie Piot (Duke University), and

**Honouring Mudimbe: Rethinking Research through African Thought (7th Basel Summer School in African Studies, 8–12 September 2025)**

The passing of Valentin-Yves Mudimbe in April 2025 marked the end of an extraordinary intellectual journey. Mudimbe's legacy spans literature, philosophy, history, anthropology, and beyond. His concepts – most famously the "Colonial Library" and "The Invention of Africa" – expose the epistemological scaffolding through which Africa has been interpreted, disciplined, and constrained within global knowledge systems. Yet for Mudimbe, critique was not enough. His more profound aspiration was to open intellectual space for African thought to emerge as a resource for global scholarship. The 2025 edition of our Summer School seized the moment of his passing not only to commemorate him, but to respond. It invited a new generation of researchers to grapple with the foundational question Mudimbe raised: How can African Studies contribute not only to better knowledge about Africa, but also to the renewal of the very tools through which we produce knowledge, namely concepts, theories, and methods? The participants explored how African Studies can transform disciplines from within by integrating African epistemologies, worldviews, and critiques in the heart of scholarly practice. Taking Mudimbe and other African thinkers as a starting point, the Summer School encouraged participants to embark on a shift from African Studies as an object of critical inquiry to African Studies as a source of conceptual innovation.

*www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/summer-school*





**Participants and faculty of the 7th Basel Summer School in African Studies.**
Photo: Tirivashe Jele

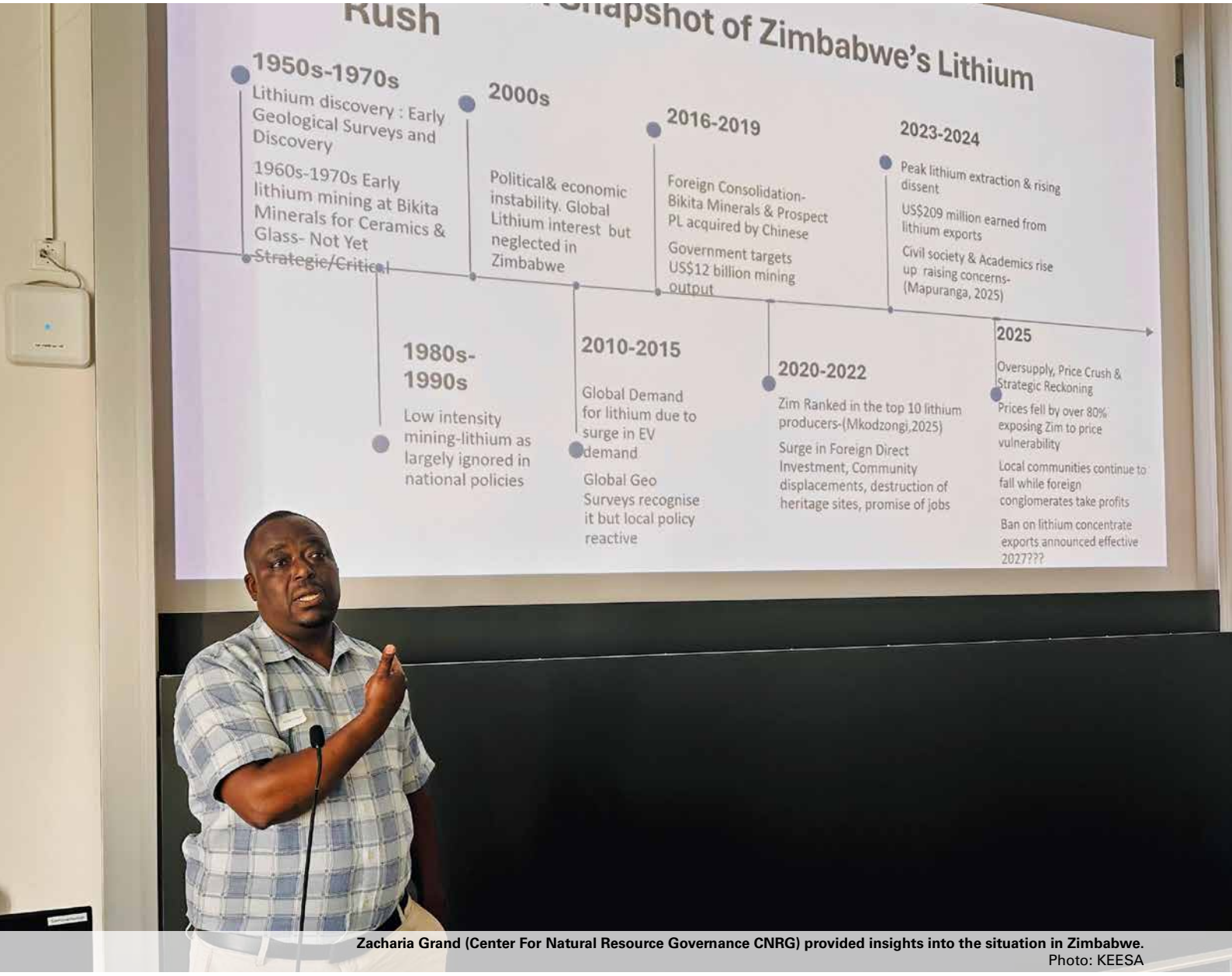
Frank Matose (University of Cape Town). This course facilitates in-depth engagement with an invited scholar's research-in-progress and explores how current research grounded in Africa decenters the perspectives from which we understand knowledge production.

The lecture series "Languages and Literatures in Africa – Plural Forms of Living-Together" convened by Isabelle Chariatte and Sandra Schlumpf-Thurnherr – provided a space for transdisciplinary exploration of the creative innovations emerging from Africa's rich linguistic and literary landscapes.

Our course offerings were also shaped by recent global developments. The war and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the impli-

cations for society and academia in Switzerland resulted in an urge among students to understand and engage with the situation by applying concepts from African Studies and Southern Epistemologies in general. In the fall semester of 2025, Lorena Rizzo and Luregn Lenggenhager's seminar "The University on the Barricades: Student Protest, Subcultures and Solidarity in Southern Africa and Switzerland" addressed this urge and also led to public events such as the film series "Cinematic Counter-Archives of Palestine: Memory, Erasure, and Resistance".

Also in the fall semester, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the independence of the lusophone African countries, Jon Schubert and Elísio Macamo convened the lecture series "Switzerland and the Struggle for Independence in Lusophone Africa".




**Zacharia Grand (Center For Natural Resource Governance CNRG) provided insights into the situation in Zimbabwe.**
Photo: KEESA

## Outreach

In June, the ZASB supported the public exhibition and intervention "Life between Ebb and Flow: Mangrove Ecologies" at the botanical garden, based on a creative residency and research project funded by the Swiss arts council Pro Helvetia. Selected Kenyan and Swiss artists explored mangrove ecologies collectively through experimental research and engaged in innovative visions for the future through intercontinental collaboration at the nexus between art, science, and technology.

Also in June, Africa Basel, the new, dedicated art fair taking place during the week of Art Basel, provided an exciting platform for many of our students and researchers to engage in numerous events, be it as volunteers or as experts.

The 2025 edition of the festival Culturescapes with a focus on the Sahara provided many opportunities for network members and students to engage, not least thanks to Henri Michel Yéré's engagement on the board of the festival. Among the many events, the theatre company Group 50:50 with several partners – among them the ZASB – invited the public to witness and to engage in the development of their new piece "Wax Encounters" via a series of talks, film screenings, and workshops.

Last but not least, Suren Pillay (AC Jordan Chair and director of the Centre for African Studies at the University of Cape Town) presented last year's distinguished Carl Schlettwein Lecture with the title "At the Rendezvous of Anti-Colonial Freedom: Predicaments of Knowledge within Apartheid's Universities, Today".

## Outlook

As we look ahead to 2026, our focus is of course on the SGAS-VAD 2026 Conference and the anticipation of what we hope will be a successful and memorable milestone for the ZASB. We also look forward to new projects starting in our network such as the Swiss National Research Fund project "Feeding the Earth: Synthetic Fertilizers and the Remaking of Agriculture in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries" (Corey David Ross and Julia Tischler), and to other exciting events, especially the next edition of the CODESRIA-ZASB Summer School in African Studies and Area Studies in Africa, which will take place in Dakar in July 2026.



**Green Colonialism? Lithium, the Energy Transition, and its Costs (conference, 20 September 2025)**

Mineral resource-rich Zimbabwe has in recent years experienced a veritable lithium boom. Driven particularly by electromobility and the increasing need for batteries, the growing demand for lithium has led to an expansion of the mining sector. In Zimbabwe, this development is highly politicized and carries far-reaching consequences for the local population.

While technologies like electro mobility are becoming more common in Europe, many Zimbabweans face a different reality: access to electricity is not a given, owning a car is a luxury, and driving an electric vehicle almost utopian. The increasing demand for raw material caused by technology, economic growth and consumption in the Global North continues to maintain colonial patterns and the exploitation of the resource-rich Global South—this time under the guise of climate protection.

This conference, co-organized by KEESA and the ZASB, addressed the broader question of the consequences of our energy transition, which stretch all the way into the daily lives of people in Zimbabwe through lithium supply chains. Together with speakers from Zimbabwean and European civil society, the conference explored questions of justice, global inequalities and enduring colonial power structures.

*www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/green-colonialism*

## Graduate Network African Studies

PhDs awarded in 2025

*Subject area and first supervisor in brackets*

**Samuel Bachmann (African Studies; Julia Tischler)**
A History of African Heritage in Swiss Museums. Provenances, Protagonists, Prospects

**Jung Yeon (Jacqui) Cho (Political Science; Laurent Goetschel)**
Situating Peacemaking in Politics: Contestations over Peace Mediation at the Domestic, Geopolitical, and World Order Levels

**Tolulope Esther Fadeyi (History; Julia Tischler)**
Engendering the Colony: Maternal Health, Indigenous Knowledge and European Medicine in Southwest Nigeria, 1925–1960

**Samantha Gamez (Political Science; Laurent Goetschel)**
Reverberations of Reform: How Kenya's New Constitution Affects Local Peacebuilding

**Jennifer Giroux (Anthropology; Till Förster)**
Petro-Peace in the Niger Delta: Exploring the Production and Sustainability of Peaceful Spaces within the Context of Oil-Related Violence

**Franziska Jenni (Anthropology; Till Förster)**
Making Space – Contemporary Photography in Bamako, Mali

**Eva Kocher (History; Martin Lengwiler)**
Development through Insurance? Postcolonial Insurance Cooperation and the Formation of the Insurance Industry in West Africa

**Simone Markoff (Environmental Sciences; Ruth Delzeit)**
Reconciling Biodiversity Conservation and Food Security: A Multi-method Case Study of Tanzania

**Lotte Nielsen (Anthropology; Till Förster)**
A Pan-African Arts Centre Reopens in Colonial Heritage House and other Urban Formations: Towards an Urban Linealogy through Johannesburg Inner City

**Nesisa Analisa Nyathi (Environmental Sciences; Klaus Kuhn)**
Ecosystem Services and Human Wellbeing Indicators in the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area: An Integrative Approach

**Peter Ssekkadde (Epidemiology; Samuel Furihmann)**
Evaluation and Optimization of an Educational Intervention to Mitigate Pesticide Exposure through Behavior Change among Ugandan Smallholder Farmers: A Cluster Randomized Controlled Trial

New members

**Mamadou Oury Balde (African Studies; Elisio Macamo)**
Pan-Africanism in Practice: Guinean Solidarity with Post-Independent Mozambique (1975–1984)

**Angelinah Maponya (African Studies; Luregn Lenggenhager)**
Ecological Palimpsests: Healing Landscapes and the Material Legacies of Extractive Industries in the Global South

**Lesly Neema Nassila (Sustainability Studies; Janina Grabs)**
EXPECT-AGRI - Expectations vs. Reality: How European Legislation Reshapes Value Chains and Power dynamics? The Case of Cocoa, Coffee, and Palm Oil in Côte d'Ivoire

**Anita Sackyi (African Studies; Elisio Macamo)**
Teacher Educators' Research and Teaching Practices: A Comparative Study of the Ghana-Switzerland Relationship

**Bayron van Wyk (African Studies; Luregn Lenggenhager)**
From Homeland to Eco-Estates, Land and Racial Capitalism in Rehoboth, Namibia

**Sophie Zimdars (African Studies; Luregn Lenggenhager)**
Conserving Colonialism? Funding of Nature Conservation and Land Distribution in Namibia

Graduate events

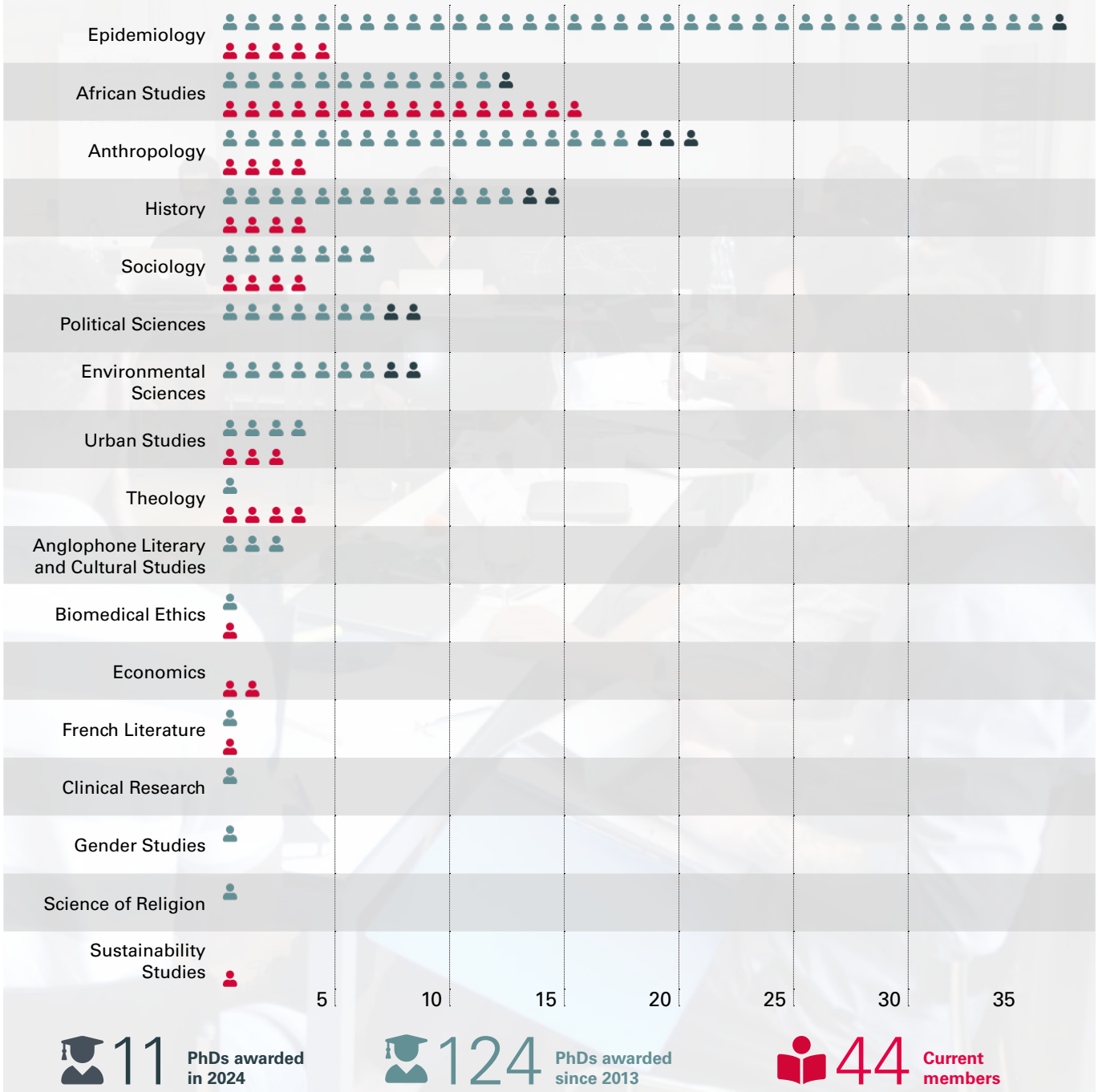
**Winter School: "Inherited Futures: Ruptures and Contestations"**
EUCOR cross-border graduate event in collaboration with the Universities of Strasbourg and Freiburg i.Br.
1–5 December 2025 | Graduate workshop

**Workshop: "Still 'Vexing' for Care in Neoliberal Universities"**
Workshop for Early Career Researchers with Luisa Schneider (VU Amsterdam)
25 April 2025 | Workshop

**Workshop: "Decolonial Research Approaches"**
Workshop in collaboration with the World Ethic Forum
13 June 2025 | Workshop

**Summer School: "Honoring Mudimbe: Rethinking Research through African Thought"**
Basel Summer School in African Studies
8–12 September 2025 | Workshop

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




In 2013, together with the Research Priority Program Asia and Europe at the University of Zürich, the ZASB 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 2025 a total of 124 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*

## MA African Studies

**MA African Studies graduates**

148
since 2006

4
in 2025

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 2025, 148 students had graduated from the African Studies program.

*www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/ma*

Graduates 2025

**Gelila Berhanu**
The Murid Brotherhood: Identity and Belonging in Europe – A Narrative and Ethnographic Research in the Basel Tri-Border Region

**Luisa Fernanda Cardenas Ramirez**
Pathways to Activism: A Historical Study of Sahrawi Women's Activism

**Aileen Diewald**
Intimate Partner Violence in South Africa: Re-Thinking Justice: A Survivor-Centered Approach to Exploring Justice and Healing after Trauma

**Esther Mulamba**
Representation and Experiences of Women with Disabilities in Leadership Positions in Egypt



**Cash remains a key medium of exchange in the informal economy – here in the context of a microfinance and saving group in Tohoue, Benin.**
Photo: Adobe Stock

**Africa, Method, Theory (course and lecture series, fall semester 2025)**

The course and lecture series "Africa, Method, Theory" explores how current research grounded in Africa decenters the perspectives from which we understand knowledge production. The format facilitates in-depth engagement with an invited scholar's research-in-progress, and through it, a discussion of theoretical and methodological approaches by the participants. In the second edition, three scholars discussed their research with students:

Patience Mususa's (The Nordic Africa Institute) presentation examined the practices and perspectives of urban planners in Zambia's Copperbelt during a period of mining resurgence driven by the demand for critical minerals. It explored how these planners manage land for mining and industrial purposes, address environmental issues and deal with the needs of local residents seeking land for agriculture, housing, and infrastructure. Patience Mususa's research on the vital yet often overlooked role of practitioners in implementing industrial policies and regional development emphasizes the importance of technical expertise and cross-sector collaboration, and how these elements interact at the intersection of local and global politics.

The study presented by Charles D. Piot (Duke University) draws on key themes and debates in the literature on informal economies to design a project that enables an empirically based theorization of burgeoning African informality while paying special attention to vernacular economic understandings and practices. This presentation introduced a decolonial reading of informality and suggested that the persistence and ubiquity of informal work on the continent represents a critique of colonial modernity and an alternative to capitalist labor and accumulation practices.

Frank Matose's (University of Cape Town) presentation, based on his recent book, examined the politics of conservation in southern Africa through the lens of chronic liminality, a "state of in-betweenness" or "waiting", to explain the status quo in local people–state forest relationships and why progress has been so slow.

*www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/africa-method-theory*

## Outreach

**WAX ENCOUNTERS (talks, films and performances, 28–29 November 2025)**

In talks, films and installations, designers, artists and researchers from Africa and Europe engaged with the colonial history of 'African wax prints' and Switzerland's pivotal role in spreading these fabrics in West Africa. In the mid-19th century, a Dutch company copied an Indonesian printing technique, and the trading company of the Basel Mission (United Trading Company, UTC) created a market for it on the Gold Coast (in present-day Ghana).

WAX ENCOUNTERS was produced by GROUP50:50, a collective of artists from Congo, Switzerland and Germany, in collaboration with various organizations based in Basel and beyond – among them the ZASB.

In the session on "Highlife in Basel! Listening to the UTC archives", Veit Arlt and Serena Dankwa presented their work on music recorded and distributed by the UTC in Ghana in the 1930s and 1950s.

*www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/wax*



**Wax prints have become an integral part of West Africa's fashion world..**
Photo: Ivan Okyere-Boakye/Adobe Stock

Events

**Mondli Hlatshwayo: "The so-called Government of National Unity of South Africa and the Implications for the Working Class and its Organizations"**
Lunch talk at the Centre for African Studies
13 February 2025 | Public event

**Book Club: "Alles zerfällt/ Things Fall Apart" (1958)**
The monthly Reading Sahara Book Club is organized in cooperation with Culturescapes
24 March 2025 | Public event

**Exhibition: "Mangrove Ecologies – Life between Ebb and Flow"**
Multi-sensory exhibition in the Botanical Garden Basel
16–22 June 2025 | Exhibition

**Suren Pillay: "At the Rendezvous of Anti-Colonial Freedom: Predicaments of Knowledge within Apartheid's Universities, Today"**
Distinguished Carl Schlettwein Lecture 2025
25 September 2025 | Public lecture

**Talks, films and performances: "Wax Encounters"**
Theatre and fashion project by GROUP50:50, in co-production with Kaserne Basel, Culturescapes and Vorarlberger Landestheater and in collaboration with 4TheKultur, TaDA, Mission 21, Museum of Cultures Basel and the ZASB
28–29 November 2025 | Public event

In the media

**"Western Cape children show impaired brain function from pesticide exposure, new study finds."**
Article on the Child Health Agricultural Pesticide Study in South Africa (CapSA) led by Aqiel Dalvie and Martin Röösli in Mail & Guardian (19.11.2025)

**"Zurück zur Natur? Wie Naturschutz mit Vergangenheit Politik macht"**
Artikel von Luregn Lenggenhager auf Geschichte der Gegenwart (16.11.2025)

**"Sénégal: à Dakar, une Conférence-Festival Afrique-Asie pour 'raviver l'esprit de Bandung'"**
Podcast "Invité Afrique Midi" with Mohomodou Houssouba (11.06.2025)

# 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

**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 Meiu
Project members: Julia Rensing, Zainabu Jallo, Nadia Bellardi, Kadiatou Diallo
1 February 2024–31 January 2027, SNSF (Projects)

**Enfants de migrant-es ouest-africain-es entre deux mondes**
Principal investigator: Nicolas Mabillard
1 February 2025–31 January 2026, SNSF Postdoc.Mobility Return Grant

**Curated Escapes and Derelict Landscapes in Times of Climate Change**
Principal investigator: Luregn Lenggenhager
Postdoc: Bernard C Moore
PhD candidates: Angelinah Maponya, Bayron van Wyk and Sophie Zimdras
1 September 2025–31 August 2030, SNSF (Starting Grant)

## Visiting scholars

**Fenozo Andriamisandratsoa**
Ravelojaona University/University of Antananarivo, Madagascar
Oumou Dilly visiting PhD candidate (März 2025–August 2025)

**Femi Johnson**
Museum of West African Art (MOWAA), Nigeria
Fellowship sponsored by The Travellers' Archive (October 2025–June 2026)

**Nicolas Mabillard**
SNSF Postdoc.Mobility Return fellowship (February 2025–January 2026)

**Rufino Sitoe**
Joaquim Chissano University, Mozambique
ESKAS visiting PhD candidate (ESKAS PhD candidate, September 2023–August 2026)

**Fenozo Andriamisandratsoa (visiting PhD student, March 2025–August 2025)**

Fenozo Andriamisandratsoa is pursuing a PhD in Social Anthropology at Ravelojaona University (Madagascar), while simultaneously completing a medical degree at the University of Antananarivo. Her interdisciplinary research focuses on health systems in African contexts, exploring how socioeconomic, cultural and political factors affect healthcare choices. She was a visiting scholar at the ZASB from the Ravelojaona University, Madagascar.

*"Basel is usually a quiet city, but it is a hub for events. In six months, I saw the flags on the Mittlere Brücke change with every major event in the city. Art Basel, the Eurovision Song Contest, the UEFA Women's European Football Championship and Swiss National Day offered a variety of experiences in a short period of time."*

*"The Centre for African Studies always had a calm and supportive atmosphere, allowing me to focus fully on my research projects and make progress. I am leaving Basel feeling that I have had an enriching experience in many ways. My goal was to focus on writing my dissertation. At the end of my stay, however, I left Basel not only with good progress on my dissertation, but also with many new ideas in my head, many memories in my heart and new friends."*

*(Excerpts from Fenozo Andriamisandratsoa'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*



Events

**Conference: "Liquid Urbanisms in Africa: Thinking Climate Adaption with and through Water"**
PRECURBICA project conference/SGAS annual conference
12–13 June 2025 | Conference

**Workshop: "Decolonial Research Approaches"**
Workshop in collaboration with the World Ethic Forum
13 June 2025 | Workshop

**Conference: "The African Genome at the Disciplinary Crossroads: How to Widen the Scope of Genomics' Methods across the Humanities and Social Sciences"**
Organized by the ZASB and the Department of Social Sciences at the University of Basel on behalf of the Swiss Society for African Studies
1–3 September 2025 | Conference

**Conference: "Green Colonialism: Lithium, the Energy Transition and its Costs"**
Jointly organized by KEESA and the ZASB
20 September 2025 | Conference

**Patience Mususa: "Invisible Voices: Planners' Perspectives on Zambia's Copperbelt Mining Resurgence"**
Graduate course and public lecture in the framework of "Africa, Method, Theory"
10 October 2025 | Seminar/public event

**11th Namibia Research Day**
Basler Afrika Bibliographien
17–18 October 2025 | Congress / Conference / Symposium

**Charles D. Piot: "Is the African Informal Economy Decolonial?"**
Graduate course and public lecture in the framework of "Africa, Method, Theory"
17 October 2025 | Seminar/public event

**Frank Matose: "Forests and the Power of Marginalised People in Southern Africa: Politics of Chronic Liminality"**
Graduate course and public lecture in the framework of "Africa, Method, Theory"
28 November 2025 | Seminar/public event

**Karina Simonson: "Between Privileges and Ideologies – Baltic Jewish Photographers in South Africa's Racial Landscape"**
Lunch talk at the Centre for African Studies
8 December 2025 | Public event




**Fenozo Andriamisandratsoa at the Rhein riviera in Kleinbasel.**
Photo: Rufino Sitoe

## Network

Members

**Basel Institute on Governance**
Claudia Baez-Camargo
Jacopo Costa
Saba Kassa
Mark Pieth

**Department Arts, Media, Philosophy**
Ute Holl

**Department of Environmental Sciences**
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**Department of History**
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**Department of Social Sciences**
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Serena Dankwa
Michelle Engeler
Till Förster
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Alexandra Hofmänner
Zainabu Jallo
Elisio 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

**Members of the ZASB Steering Committee (31 December 2025)**

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Andrea Kaiser-Grolimund (Swiss TPH)
*Elísio Macamo (Department of Social Sciences)**
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Natalie Tarr
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Mirko Severin Winkler
Jakob Zinsstag

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Dominik Balthasar
Laurent Goetschel

**Partner institutions**
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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)
Franzisca Zanker (Arnold Bergstraesser Institut)

**President's Office**
Erich Thaler

**Executive Office**
Veit Arlt
Pascal Schmid

## Budget and Expenditure 2025 (GK4901)

| | Budget (CHF) | Expenditure (CHF) |
|---|---|---|
| Office | 800 | 1407.10 |
| PhD students | 4000 | 5455.30 |
| Cooperation | 3500 | 2350.25 |
| Membership Fees | 1200 | 1160.15 |
| MA course | 13,000 | 15829.27 |
| Staff | 500 | 192.40 |
| Publications | 4500 | 0.00 |
| Student exchange | 4000 | 1438.60 |
| Events | 9500 | 8608.75 |
| Advertisement and Representation | 3000 | 2955.53 |
| Conference Participation | 2000 | 1107.95 |
| **Total** | **46,000** | **40505.30** |

**Office:** This budget item consists mainly of costs of office supplies. The budget was exceeded owing to the repair of the Centre's coffee machine.

**PhD students:** The increased expense was owing to travel costs in connection with a defense. Further support for PhD students was provided by the Graduate Network African Studies (CHF 5,184.55 in 2025).

**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 students' access to the archives of Mission 21).

**MA course:** The expenditure on the master's program exceeded the amount budgeted owing to the cost of the survey conducted in connection with the revision of the program.

**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 *Carl Schlettwein Lecture* and contributions to publications from our network members. In 2025, there was no expenditure under this budget item owing to a delay incurred with the publication of the *Carl Schlettwein Lecture*.

**Student exchange:** This includes the mobility of students in the framework of master's research and internships and joint teaching projects.

**Events:** These included the conferences "The African Genome", "Green Colonialism", "Liquid Urbanisms" and "Namibia Research Day", as well as the course and lecture series "Africa Method Theory".

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

**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.

*The funds saved against the budgeted amount were balanced against higher expenditures for salaries (student assistant in the context of the SGAS-VAD 2026 conference).*

# Politics and Governance

| Elìsio Macamo

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, this 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.

Since 2024, we have explored how research on politics and governance can be connected by an intellectual agenda focusing on "citizenship and human dignity" and pursued through research activities and engagements.

**Human remains in university collections**

The research project "Human Remains in University Collections – Comparison and Entanglements" is a collaboration between researchers at the Universities of Basel, Freiburg and Strasbourg, funded by seed money from the EUCOR Research, Innovation and Transfer funds. Universities in the Upper Rhine region have been involved in the collection of "human remains" since the 19th century. While origins, scope and historical trajectories vary, they all face similar challenges in reassessing and refiguring these ethically and otherwise sensitive collections. Collections in Basel, Freiburg and Strasbourg reflect global – and thus also colonial – trajectories of origins and knowledge production. The project builds on extensive prior work and focuses both on comparison and entanglement of collections at primarily these three, but also other sites.



**Participants from around the world met in Freiburg i.Br. to discuss approaches to handling "human remains" in the collections of universities.**
Photo: Carla Bube/ACT

### Corruption risks in the crisis response of the Malawian health system

The Basel Institute on Governance is collaborating with partners on an ongoing research project that examines crisis responses and corruption in vulnerable sectors. The project seeks to understand how behavioral factors can exacerbate corruption in times of crisis. It maps corruption in the Malawian health sector during various types of crises. Based on this, the project explores innovative approaches to preventing and mitigating corruption. Firstly, it applies behavioral insights to enhance the impact of anti-corruption initiatives by correcting misperceptions and addressing perceived social norms. Secondly, it recommends technological solutions to increase transparency and accountability. For example, it facilitates community involvement in monitoring and overseeing emergency response efforts or incorporates anti-corruption elements into existing emergency response plans.

### The political lives of migrants

In 2025, the ERC-funded research project "The Political Lives of Migrants: Perspectives from Africa" (PolMig), led by Franzisca Zanker at the Arnold Bergstraesser Institute, brought together its core team. Focusing on Africa, PolMig considers how migrants define political agency as enabled or disabled by politicization processes of belonging in postcolonial state contexts. In July, the PolMig team hosted an authors' workshop for a special issue of *Comparative Migration Studies*, "Categorizing People on the Move in Africa". Over two intensive days, the participants, scholars from Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, the UK, South Africa and Germany, presented, discussed and developed their work.



**Global Perspectives on "Ancestral Remains" in University Collections (author workshop, 27–28 October 2025)**

Hosted by the Africa Centre for Transregional Research (ACT) at the University of Freiburg, this workshop brought together scholars from different disciplines and regions of the world to discuss current research and conceptual approaches to the handling of "human remains" in university collections, and to prepare a joint publication.

The workshop was introduced by the editors Tricia Close-Koenig (University of Strasbourg), Andreas Mehler (University of Freiburg), Marie Muschalek (University of Basel) and Ciraj Rassool (University of the Western Cape). They presented the overarching aims of the planned edited volume and outlined key questions: How did "ancestral remains" historically enter university collections? What epistemic, institutional, and political contexts shape their status today? And which ethical, legal, and transregional processes of negotiation inform current debates on restitution and repatriation?

During eight sessions over two days, the participating authors presented their research projects and conceptual approaches to their chapters. The constructive and lively discussions brought together historical, anthropological, museological and legal perspectives, as well as postcolonial and decolonial approaches.

More than 35 guests from around the world – from South Africa to Greenland and from Canada to New Zealand – participated in person or online. The workshop formed part of the project "Human Remains in University Collections – Comparison and Entanglements", funded with seed money from the EUCOR Research, Innovation and Transfer funds and involving the universities of Basel, Freiburg, and Strasbourg.

*www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/ancestral-remains*

Key publications

Aeby, Michael. 2025. *Untangling Africa's World War: Mediation in Regionalised Intrastate Conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (1998–2003).* Kroc Institute of International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame; Peace Research Institute Oslo; XCEPT.

Aeby, Michael, and Sara Rich-Dorman. 2025. "Navigating the Transition: Zimbabwean Churches and the Global Political Agreement, 2008–2013." In *Ecumenical Christianity and Political Transitions in Zimbabwe*, edited by David Maxwell, David Kaulemu, and Munetsi Ruzivo, 91–116. Harare: Arrupe Jesuit University Press.

Baez-Camargo, Claudia. 2025. *Political Economy in the Weeds: Embracing Complexity in Anti-Corruption Work—Lessons Learned from an Anti-Corruption Programme in Malawi*. Basel Institute on Governance.

Baez-Camargo, Claudia, V. Gadenne, V. Mkoji, D. Perera, R. Persian, R. Sambaiga, and T. Stark. 2025. "Addressing Bribery and Associated Social Norms in Healthcare: Results of a Behaviour Change Intervention in Tanzania." *European Journal of Social Psychology* 55: 424–39.

Karar, H., and S. Kassa. 2026. "When You Have Corrupt Friends Abroad: The Impact of Strategic Corruption on Sudan's Democratic Collapse." *Public Integrity* 28 (2): 217–30.

Nathan, Laura, Michael Aeby, Pavel Baev, Ana Sastre Bel, Kristian Berg Harpviken, Jørgen Jensehaugen, Johanne Palik, Øystein Rolandsen, Camila Suárez, and Peter Tank. 2025. *Taking the Bull by the Horns: Policy Report from the Project on Mediation in Regionalized Intra-State Conflicts: Lessons from Peace Processes*. Kroc Institute of International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame; Peace Research Institute Oslo; XCEPT.

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

**The Political Lives of Migrants: Perspectives from Africa**
Principal investigator: Franzisca Zanker (Arnold Bergstraesser Institute)
1 November 2024–31 October 2029
ERC Starting Grant

**Human Remains in University Collections – Comparison and Entanglements**
Freiburg: Andreas Mehler, Anika Becher
Basel: Marie Muschalek, Veit Arlt, Dag Henrichsen
Strasbourg: Déborah Dubald, Sébastien Soubiran, Tricia Close-Koenig
2025–2027
EUCOR Research, Innovation and Transfer funds

**Mastering Today's Anti-Corruption Challenges (continuing education program)**

The Basel Institute on Governance, in conjunction with the University of Basel, now offers advanced postgraduate qualifications in anti-corruption and asset recovery. The two Certificate of Advanced Study (CAS) programs combine advanced research, real-world insights, practical examples and hands-on activities.

The CAS program on "Mastering Today's Anti-Corruption Challenges", is led by Claudia Baez Camargo, Saba Kassa, and Jacopo Costa and focuses on real-life corruption and governance issues. It:

- adopts a holistic approach to understanding corruption challenges affecting governance at various levels;
- is tailored to individuals working in the public and private sectors, civil society and the international community;
- will help you to understand and equip yourself with tools and approaches to promote anti-corruption and integrity in your daily work.
- helps individuals working in the public and private sectors, civil society and the international community to equip themselves with tools and approaches to promote anti-corruption and integrity in their daily work.

The course combines insights from political science, behavioral science, law and economics with experience derived from actual projects and cases. Participants explore both established tools and cutting-edge approaches to counter corruption in diverse contexts.

*www.baselgovernance.org/study*



Selected events

**Mondli Hlatshwayo: "The So-called Government of National Unity of South Africa and the Implications for the Working-Class and its Organizations"**
Lunch talk at the Centre for African Studies
13 February 2025 | Public event

**Authors' workshop: "Categorizing People on the Move in Africa"**
In the framework of the research project "The Political Lives of Migrants: Perspectives from Africa"
9–10 July 2025 | Workshop

**Authors' workshop: "Global Perspectives on 'Ancestral Remains' in University Collections"**
In the framework of the research project "Human Remains in University Collections – Comparison and Entanglements"
27–28 October 2025 | 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)

Partnerships/major collaborations

- Arnold Bergstraesser Institute/University of Freiburg i.Br.
- University of Ghana/Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA)



**The CAS "Mastering Today's Anti-Corruption Challenges" is offered by the Basel Institute on Governance in conjunction with the University of Basel.**
Picture: Basel Institute on Governance

# Health

**Andrea Kaiser-Grolimund**

**Danelle van Zyl-Hermann**

The key area with the broad name "Health" brings together researchers from different disciplines at different stages of their academic careers. A particular focus of the key area is on the exchange and critical conceptual and epistemological reflection of health-related themes explored from different disciplinary perspectives, including both 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.

The student group in the key area "Health" consists of PhD and MA students from various faculties and disciplines who are working on health-related topics to create a space for mutual support and exchange. A small working group from the key area continues to exchange ideas occasionally to drive the discussions around ontological, epistemological,



**Henri Michel Yéré speaks at the international conference "The African Genome at the Disciplinary Crossroads" at the University of Basel.**
Photo: James Merron

**The African Genome at the Disciplinary Crossroads (international conference, 1–3 September 2025)**

The conference "The African Genome at the Disciplinary Crossroads: How to Widen the Scope of Genomics' Methods across the Humanities and Social Sciences" brought together sociologists, anthropologists, political scientists, historians, archaeologists, jurists, bioethicists, medical doctors, and biologists from universities in the US, South Africa, the UK, the Netherlands, China and Switzerland. The range of participants reflected the intention to draw from the skills and the analytical power of different disciplines engaging with the topic of genomics, and with the specific ways in which it concerns Africa and its diaspora. Over three days, they discussed a total of 13 papers organized into three panels.

The contributions explored themes as diverse as possibilities for collaboration within the genomic research community across the natural and the social sciences; differences between genomics research and microbiome research and their consequences; the role of the socio-political history of patients in the field of genomics research; genomics' role in identity and historiography; the relationship between colonialism and ethics of scientific practice; the education of geneticists in Africa and Europe; and power imbalances in research relationships between Europe and Africa.

*www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/african-genome*

methodological and political (dis)connections between the social and natural sciences.

**Bilateral South Africa and Swiss Chair in Global Environmental Health**
The current core activity of the Bilateral South Africa and Swiss Chair in Global Environmental Health is the Child Health Agricultural Pesticide Study (CapSA), a prospective cohort study on cognitive and reproductive development among rural children and adolescents in the Western Cape, initiated in 2017. In 2025, several new results from this study were published: a study (Molomo et al., 2025) investigating spaciotemporal variability of urinary pesticide biomarker levels in 201 South African children, sampled five times over two years, found high temporal variability and regional exposure contrasts. This highlighted the need for repeated urinary biomarker measurements across locations in epidemiological studies of rural children to accurately assess pesticide exposure. Strikingly, the study found exposure levels exceeding safety thresholds for organophosphates, pyrethroids and triazoles, which warrants further investigation.

Using urinary pesticide exposure biomarker data, the study investigated pesticide exposure and executive function in 443 children. It found that postnatal exposure to specific organophosphates, pyrethroids and triazoles were negatively associated with executive function domains. This underlined the need for biologically informed exposure assessment and targeted interventions in agricultural populations. In another analysis, urinary pesticide biomarkers were not associated with behavioral problems. However, farm residence, agricultural area and socio-demographic factors did underscore the need for longitudinal context sensitive research, integrating context-sensitive and environmental exposure (Viglietti et al., 2025; 2026).

**Pesticide exposure**
To better understand how educational interventions change knowledge, attitudes, practices, exposure, and health, 539 Ugandan smallholder farmers were enrolled in this study and randomly allocated to one of three groups: (1) educational training, (2) educational training complemented by SMS text message reminders, or (3) the control group. Twelve months later, both education and education plus text message interventions had significantly increased the use of personal protective equipment and gloves. Delivering text messages improved the effectiveness of educational intervention. This study supports scalable, cost-effective behavior-change strategies to reduce pesticide exposure among smallholder farmers.

**Animals, Livelihoods, Health**
A two-day colloquium organized by the ERC-funded project "ALIVEAfrica: Animals, Livelihoods and Well-being in Africa" (led by Hannah Brown, Durham University, UK) at Durham University brought together researchers from four different continents to explore the problem space at the intersection of multispecies ethnography, economic anthropology and medical anthropology. Wahab Lawundeh (African Studies, University of Basel) and Andrea Kaiser-Grolimund (Swiss TPH) gave presentations based on their current research projects.

Generally speaking, aspects of "more-than-human health" as well as integrated approaches to health paying attention to inter-species interdependencies were a significant issue in the key area and were, in 2025, the subject of various outputs and activities (see also box on page 23).

**The African Genome**
The conference "The African Genome at the Disciplinary Crossroads: How to Widen the Scope of Genomics' Methods across the Humanities and Social Sciences" examined how issues of identity and ethnicity play out in genomics research at an interdisciplinary level. The event was convened by Henri Michel Yéré at the University of Basel and brought together scholars from universities in Europe, Africa, North America and Asia who presented their insights from several disciplines and reflected on the intersection of the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities.

Selected projects

**Bilateral South Africa and Swiss Chair in Global Environmental Health**
Project leaders: Aqiel Dalvie, Martin Röösli, 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 Röösli, Samuel Fuhrimann, 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 Fuhrimann
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



**A herd of thirsty cattle at a trough during the dry season in northern Senegal.**
Photo: Xavier/Adobe Stock

PhD and MA projects

**Out of Sight? Bilharzia in Madagascar as a Global History of "Neglected Tropical Diseases", 1950s to the present**
PhD project: Andrea Graf

**Reproductive Health Effects of Pesticides Exposure on Boys and Girls in the Rural Western Cape, South Africa**
PhD project: Regina Molomo

**Prospective Cohort Study on Early Life Household Air Pollution Exposure in Ghana and Cardiovascular Disease Risk in Childhood**
PhD project: Seyram Kaali

**The Impact of Interventions and Farming Practices on the Health and Well-being of Smallholder Farmer Families in Uganda**
PhD project: Peter Ssekkadde

**Climate Change Impacts on Malaria: From Risk Assessment to Health Adaptation in Rwanda**
PhD project: Felix Rubuga

**Foodways in West Africa: Time Trends and Diversity of Food Consumption in Senegal**
PhD project: Babatunde Owolodun

**Measuring and Understanding Workplace Violence in Frontline Immunization Healthcare Workers in Zambia**
PhD project: Suzanne Powell

**Individual and Psycho-social Factors that Influence Early detection of Cervical Pre-cancer Screening and Treatment Adherence among Patients in Kilombero district**
PhD project: Magreat Somba

**Is it Feasible? Leaving No One Behind in Achieving the 90% of Human Papillomavirus (hpv) Vaccine Uptake towards Cervical Cancer Elimination by 2030 in Tanzania.**
PhD project: Debora Yesaya

**Health Impacts of Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining in Sierra Leone: Socio-Economic Barriers to Public Health Interventions**
MA project: Wahab Lawundeh



**EcoHealth, One Health and Planetary Health: All the same?**

A group of researchers reflected on integrated approaches to health and corresponding concepts (Zinsstag et al., 2025). They aimed to clarify their respective definitions, philosophical foundations and methodological positions. Such clarification is important because it shapes research, teaching methods and the translation of these into policy and practice. Integrated approaches focus on humans in their socio-cultural and ecological environment and their mutual interdependencies, paying attention to inter-species interdependencies. Various approaches have emerged since the beginning of the 21st century, such as ecosystem approaches to health (EcoHealth), One Health and Planetary Health. While these approaches share systems thinking and transdisciplinarity, they differ in focus: EcoHealth and One Health adopt more ecosystem-based perspectives, whereas Planetary Health remains arguably more anthropocentric. Of them, One Health is currently the most operationalized at global, regional and national policy levels, while the others are more rooted in academic and NGO networks. The researchers emphasize that all three approaches are complementary rather than competing, and their integration is crucial to addressing complex global challenges such as pandemics, climate change, biodiversity loss, and antimicrobial resistance. Ultimately, the paper calls for stronger implementation, methodological development, and policy integration of these approaches, stressing that coordinated action across sectors and governance levels is essential for effective health and sustainability outcomes.

*Zinsstag, Jakob, Andrea Ford, Saana Jukola, Salome Bukachi, Chris Degeling, Maxine Whittaker, Hugo Mantila Meluk, Kristina Pelikan, Martin Röösli, Christina Zinsstag, Kathrin Heitz-Tokpa, Dominique Charron, and Andrea Kaiser-Grolimund. 2025. Integrated approaches to health: A paradigmatic, methodological and operational comparison of EcoHealth, One Health and Planetary Health. CABI One Health.*

*doi.org/10.1079/cabionehealth.2025.0029*

Key publications


Bapolisi, Wyvine, Jean Makelele, Lenneke Kono-Tange, Ghislain Bisimwa, Sonja Merten. 2025. "Exploring the Impact of Combining Women's Empowerment through Village Savings and Loans Associations with Men's Sensitization on Gender Equity on Socio-Economic, Maternal, and Children's Health Outcomes". *Community Development Journal* 60 (1): 181-99.

Cambaco, Olga, Curdin Brugger, Khátia R Munguambe, Jürg Utzinger, Christoff Galvão, Astrid M Knoblauch, Mirko S Winkler. 2025. "Understanding Stakeholders' Perceptions of the Impact of Extractive Industries on Adolescent Health and Well-being in Mozambique: A Qualitative Study". *BMJ Open* 15: e088207.

Clarke-Deelder, Emma, Pablo Amor Fernandez, Salome Drouard, Eeshani Kandpal, Günther Fink, and Gil Shapira. 2025. "Know-do Gaps in the Clinical Management of Childhood Illness: Evidence from Three Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa". *BMC Public Health* 25(1), 3601.

Kaiser-Grolimund, Andrea, Salome A. Bukachi, Julia Karuga, Laura Kämpfen, Frédéric Keck, Jakob Zinsstag, Hannah Brown. 2025. "Does One Health need an Ontological Turn?". *Critical Public Health* 35 (1): 2497358.

Koné, Siaka, Nicole Probst-Hensch, Daouda Dao, Jürg Utzinger, Martial Laubet, Abou Marie-Chantal Tobo, Günther Fink. 2025. "Taabo Multigenerational Birth Cohort in Côte D'Ivoire: Protocol for Establishing a Longitudinal Multigenerational Birth Cohort to Guide Health Policy". *JMIR Research Protocols* 14: e70771-e70771.

Locks, Lindsey M., Mpela Chembe, Tamara Billima-Mulenga, Jacqueline M. Lauer, Dorothy Sizakawe, Savanna Henderson, Peter C. Rockers, Doug Parkerson, and Günther Fink. 2025. «Predictors of Stunting and Pathway Analysis for Linear Growth among Children Aged Two to Three Years after a Trial of Small-Quantity Lipid-Based Nutrient Supplements and Home-Installed Growth Charts in Three Districts in Zambia.» *J Nutr* 155(2), 589-601.

Mapesi, Herry, Martin Rohacek, Fiona Vanobberghen, Ravi Gupta, Herieth Ismael Wilson, Blaise Lukau, Alain Amstutz, et al. 2025. "Treatment Strategies to Control Blood Pressure in People with Hypertension in Tanzania and Lesotho: A Randomized Clinical Trial". *JAMA Cardiology* 10: 321-33.

Molomo, Regina Ntsubise, Adriana Fernandes Veludo, Paola Viglietti, Hannah Wey, Anouk Petitpierre, Christian Lindh, Martin Röösli, Mohamed Aqiel Dalvie, Samuel Fuhrimann. 2025. "Spatiotemporal Variability of Urinary Pesticide Biomarker Levels in 201 South African Children Sampled Five Times over Two Years". *Environment International* 202: 109651.

Nandi, Joubert, Bhandari Buna, Adams Larissa, Hattendorf Jan, Degen Jan, Dolley Danielle, Gresse Annelie, et al. 2025. "Predictors of Metabolic Syndrome among Teachers in Under-resourced Schools in South Africa: Baseline Findings from the KaziHealth Workplace Health Intervention". *PLOS Global Public Health* 5 (6): e0004681.

Ndum, Naomi Chi, Lydia Trippler, Ulfat Amour Mohammed, Mohammed Nassor Ali, Jan Hattendorf, Shaali Makame Ame, Fatma Kabole, Jürg Utzinger, Said Mohammed Ali, Stefanie Knopp. 2025. "Effect of Behavioral Interventions on Schistosomiasis-Related Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of Schoolchildren in Pemba, Tanzania: A 4-Year Repeated Cross-Sectional Study". 19: e0013462.

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Viglietti, Paola Gabriela, Lena Jäggi, Hannah Wey, Anouk Petitpierre, Christian Lindh, Kim-Louise Rousseau, Jade Mac Donnell, et al. 2025. "Postnatal Pesticide Exposure and Behavioural Outcomes in Children and Adolescents: Findings from South Africa". *Science of the Total Environment* 1004: 180782.

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## Selected events

**Animals, Livelihoods, Health**
Colloquium at Durham University organized by the ERC Project ALIVEAfrica
12–13 June 2025 | Workshop

**Conference: "The African Genome at the Disciplinary Crossroads: How to Widen the Scope of Genomics' Methods across the Humanities and Social Sciences"**
Organized by the ZASB and the Department of Social Sciences at the University of Basel on behalf of the Swiss Society for African Studies
1–3 September 2025 | Conference/ Symposium

**Jakob Zinsstag: "L'importance du multilinguisme dans la recherche en santé publique internationale"**
Lecture Series "Languages and Literatures in Africa – Plural Forms of Living-Together"
21 October 2025 | Public lecture

## Members

Guéladio Cissé (Swiss TPH)
Aqiel Dalvie (University of Cape Town)
Samuel Fuhrimann (Swiss TPH)
Andrea Kaiser-Grolimund (Swiss TPH)
Sonja Merten (Swiss TPH)
Christian Nsanzabana (Swiss TPH)
Martin Röösli (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)

## Partnerships/major collaborations

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

# 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.

**Critical Urbanisms**
Over the course of six weeks in spring 2025, the "Urbanism across Geographies" study track convened University of Basel students and Lamu Youth Alliance volunteers to conduct research on the rapid and ongoing urban transformation of Lamu (Kenya). Guided by Maren Larsen (University of Basel) and Lilian Salama (Lamu Youth Alliance), students formed teams to explore three specific spaces in the city that raise key questions about accessibility in its ongoing urban transformation. Student research teams practiced and learned through a range of methods, including guided visits, interviews, participation in everyday life, observations, autoethnography, and focus group discussions. Installations reflecting these key accessibility issues facing the communities in question and visions of the citiy's future were presented at the exhibition "Ufunguzi wa Mustakbali Mpya // Unlocking New Futures" held at the Lamu Fort in May, and research results were published on the website lamufutures.net (see box on page 27).

In the City Research Studio 2 held at the University of Cape Town during spring 2025, students used embodiment practices to engage the sea-land interface of Cape Town, and to formulate alternative cartographies based on the data they collected. Starting with an understanding of Cape Town as a port city with a particular colonial significance, students worked in pairs, one walking and one swimming, to gain experiential knowledge of a number of sites through embodiment practice, and by engaging multiple stakeholder groups. The project culminated in a podcast series, where the swimmer and walker from each pair interviewed one another, in individual critical reflections and in alternative maps of each of the four districts covered. The conclusion of the project was celebrated with an exhibition, and a rather sad farewell from the Basel group.

**Liquid Urbanism**
Using water as a way of seeing through, with and about climate-related urban issues, the international conference "Liquid Urbanisms in Africa" offered a critical examination of the urban/water interface in African coastal cities. Such cities stand at the sharp edge of water-borne climate change. They are forecast to attract the highest urban growth and investment but are also persistently scripted as the least well equipped to deal with climate-related disasters, making manifest the tension between the imperatives of economic growth and sustainable urban development. The conference was organized in the context of the research project "PRECURBICA – Precarious Urbanisms in Coastal Africa" and brought together architecture, urban planning and critical social theory to explore the diverse ways African urban communities are adapting their lives and environments to climate change-induced transformations in coastal areas.

**Anthropological Imagination**
The new online course "Anthropological Imagination" on *tales*, the University of Basel's online course platform, invites participants to explore how anthropology examines human practices. The course was developed by George-Paul Meiu, Michael Stasik, Zainabu Jallo and Serena Dankwa from the Institute of Social Anthropology (see box on page 28).

**Inherited Futures**
In the fall semester 2025, the ZASB hosted the winter school "Inherited Futures: Ruptures and Contestations" in cooperation with the Universities of Strasbourg (France) and Freiburg (Germany), supported by a EUCOR Cross-Border Education Grant from the University of Basel and the Freiwillige Akademische Gesellschaft (FAG) Basel. This week-long winter school for master's students and PhD candidates explored how individuals and communities imagine and build their futures through processes of inheriting, linking these processes to material heritage and

the passing down of objects, a continuation of rituals and practices, and a negotiation of the burdens and voids of inheritance. These include the legacies of debt, loss, violence and the absence of what was once passed down. Foregrounding creative and artistic practices, the winter school explored how artists and cultural practitioners conceive and negotiate (im)material inheritances and engage these in various forms of future-making. Artists joined the conversation and offered creative interventions. Their work and practice link questions of inheritance and future to the body and forms of embodiment, and the media they work in – performance, video and sound – also prompt fresh interrogations of temporalities, multiple meanings, materialities and immaterialities of inheritance. An edited volume with 18 academic and creative contributions based on the discussions in the Winter School will be published.

**African Photography Initiatives**

In January 2025, the African Photography Initiatives launched Congolese photographer Arsène Mpiana's photo book "Le parcours de l'eau". This publication, edited by Jürg Schneider and Rosario Mazuela, comprises the expanded catalogue accompanying the photographic exhibition of the same name, which was on display at the Academie des Beaux-Arts in Kinshasa in October 2024. In November 2025, the exhibition opened in Kisangani, the capital of Tshopo Province on the Congo River, some 1,800 km upstream from Kinshasa. It was accompanied by a training program for young photographers from Kisangani. For 2026, the African Photography Initiatives plan a photo exhibition with the title "Le temps des promesses : être jeune dans les années 80" in collaboration with Congolese photographer Gosette Lubondo at the Academie des Beaux-Arts Kinshasa/DRC.

**Lamufutures (research and teaching project)**

The website lamufutures.net has been updated to include three new projects that emerged from the 2025 cohort of the Urbanism Across Geographies study track in Lamu, Kenya, with Critical Urbanisms students from the University of Basel and Lamu Youth Alliance volunteers. "Urbanisation at the Margins" explores incremental urban development in the growing settlements of Kandahari and Kashmiri on the outskirts of Lamu. "Women, Migration, and Everyday Life in Wiyoni" looks at how social and physical infrastructures shape livelihood opportunities and daily life for women in a rapidly growing neighborhood, while "The Space Between Work and Prayer" highlights shifting labor demographics in Lamu and their implications for Muslim women's spiritual practice. The website also includes updated reflections on field-based methods, highlighting the linguistic context in "(Mis) Communication", shifting relationships and roles within host families in "Home – Field", and the multiple layers and significance of "Partnership".

*www.lamufutures.net*



**Street in Lamu Old Town.**
Photo: Adobe Stock

## 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 2024–31January 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 Wangui Kimari. 2025. "Die Afrikanische Stadt Und Die Plantage". *Arch+. Zeitschrift Für Architektur Und Städtebau* 262 African Spatial Thinking | Denkraum Afrika: 182-93.

Cupers, Kenny. 2025. "Making Mainland: Settlement Designs in/against Archipelagic Kenya". *Journal of Eastern African Studies* 19 (1): 160-85.

Larsen, Maren. 2025. *Worlding Home: An Urban Ethnography of Peacekeeping Camps in Goma, DRC*. Bloomington Indiana: Indiana University Press.

Schubert, Jon. 2025. "Contact Zones of Climate Preconstruction in Coastal Africa". *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 49 (5): 1263-75.

Cupers, Kenny. 2025. "Anticipation by Redress: Transforming African Mega-Infrastructure Futures". *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 43: Online ahead of print.

Larsen, Maren. 2025. "'Peace-Kept' Urbanism: Ephemerality and Endurance in Eastern DRC". *Urban Studies* 62 (11): 2293-2308.

Sasu Kwame Sewordor, E. 2025. "Upending Coloniality: Race and Infrastructure from Ghana's Urban Gold-Mining Hinterlands". *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 43: 686-701.

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Schubert, Jon, and Jason Sumich. 2026. "Unseeing Urban Divides in Luanda and Maputo". *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 44: 02637758251344823.


## Selected events

**Kenny Cupers and Nancy Odendaal: "Modes of Experimental Pedagogy"**
Workshop in the framework of the CRG African Urban Dynamics series Teaching African Cities
30 May 2025 | Workshop

**Conference: "Liquid Urbanisms in Africa: Thinking Climate Adaption with and through Water"**
PRECURBICA project conference/SGAS annual conference
12–13 June 2025 | Conference

**Stefan Ouma: "Centering Accumulation in the Study of African Cities"**
Lecture Series "Critical Urbanisms – Current Debates"
30 September 2025 | Colloquium

**Anthropological Imagination (online course)**

A new online course created by members of the Institute of Social Anthropology invites participants to explore how anthropology examines concrete human practices, while employing imagination to question common-sense assumptions and the categories we use to understand the world. The course introduces the modes of questioning, analyzing, contextualizing and comparing that anthropologists use to better understand the world in which we live. Combining ethnographic observation with creative inquiry, anthropologists – as the old saying goes – seek to make the familiar strange and the strange familiar, showing how knowledge is situated and open-ended. Through case studies on security, loneliness, masking, and the Afro-Atlantic, this course offers several entry points into linking everyday practices to broader social and political contexts – ultimately transforming how participants perceive and engage with the world.

*www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/imagination*



**Winter School: "Inherited Futures: Ruptures and Contestations"**
EUCOR cross-border graduate event in collaboration with the Universities of Strasbourg (France) and Freiburg (Germany)
1–5 December 2025 | Graduate 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 (Languages and Literatures)
- Kenny Cupers (Social Sciences)
- Serena Dankwa (Social Sciences)
- Zainabu Jallo (Social Sciences)
- Sindi-Leigh McBride (Projects ZASB)
- George Paul Meiu (Social Sciences)
- James Merron (Projects ZASB)
- Julia Rensing (Projects ZASB)
- Lorena Rizzo (Projects ZASB)
- Christiane Schlote (Languages and Literatures)
- Sandra Schlumpf-Thurnherr (Languages and Literatures)
- Jürg Schneider (African Photography Initiative)
- Jon Schubert (Social Sciences)
- Danelle van Zyl-Hermann (History)




**Still from the online course "Anthropological Imagination" featuring Serena Dankwa.**
Film still: University of Basel

# Knowledge Production, Forms and Platforms

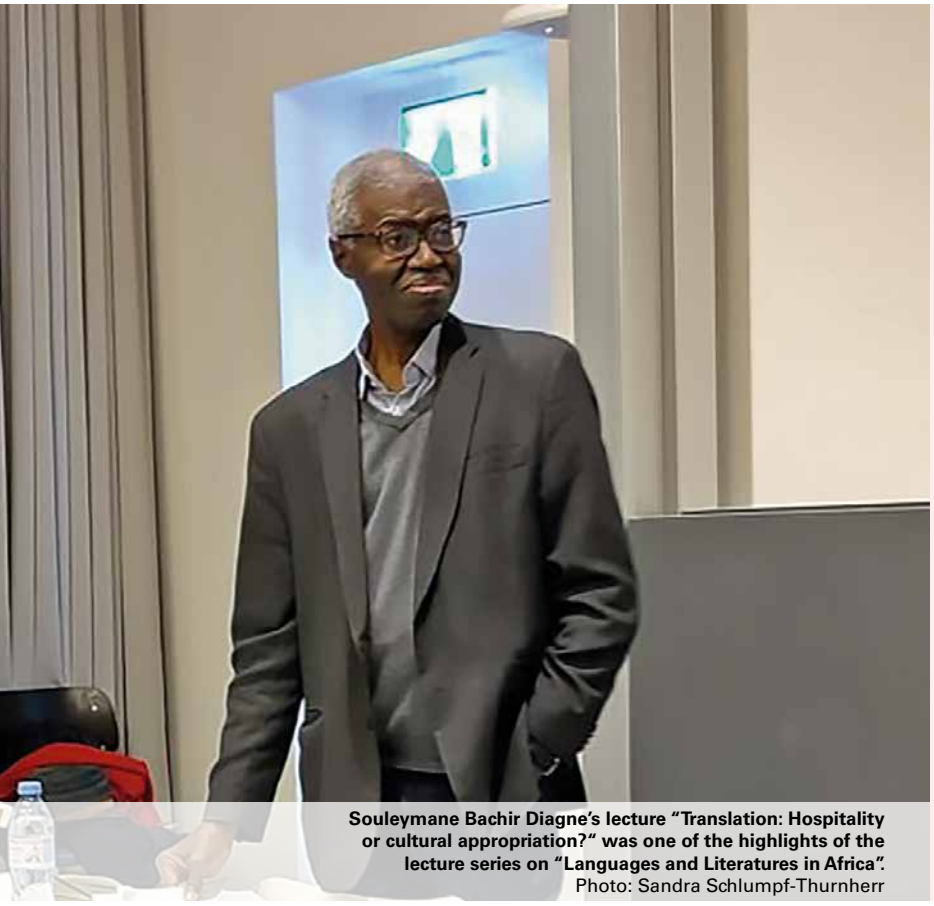
| Julia Tischler

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?

**Languages and Literatures**

The lecture series "Languages and Literatures in Africa: Plural Forms of Living-Together" organized by Isabelle Chariatte and Sandra Schlumpf-Thurnherr engaged with the diverse languages and cultures on the African continent as both a source of conflict and a catalyst for innovation. Speakers in the series explored national literatures and colonial languages, power struggles emerging through art and language, the dynamics of multilingualism, and literary innovation, among many other subjects. The series provided a space for transdisciplinary exploration of the creative innovations emerging from Africa's rich linguistic and literary landscapes. Experts in linguistics and literary studies from English, French, Hispanic, Middle Eastern Studies, Department of Ancient Civilizations, African Studies and Swiss TPH offered insights and impulses for further debates.

Isabelle Chariatte organized several lectures and talks on African literature, including a public reading and discussion at Literaturhaus Basel with Véronique Tadjo who won the "Prix Amadou Kourouma 2025" for her novel *Je remercie la nuit* (ed. Mémoire d'Encrier,



**Souleymane Bachir Diagne's lecture "Translation: Hospitality or cultural appropriation?" was one of the highlights of the lecture series on "Languages and Literatures in Africa".** Photo: Sandra Schlumpf-Thurnherr

**Languages and Literatures in Africa (lecture series, fall semester 2025)**

The lecture series "Languages and Literatures in Africa: Plural Forms of Living-Together" was organized by Isabelle Chariatte and Sandra Schlumpf-Thurnherr. It addressed the intersection of diverse languages and cultures on the African continent as both a source of conflict and a catalyst for innovation. Experts in linguistics and literary studies from English, French, Hispanic, Middle Eastern Studies, African Studies and Global Health shared their perspectives on Africa's rich linguistic and literary landscapes. The guest speakers included: Souleymane Bachir Diagne (Columbia University), Martina Drescher (University of Bayreuth), Romuald Fonkoua (Sorbonne Université), Anne Schröder (University of Bielefeld), Mohomodou Houssouba, Marwan Kilani, Therese Steffen, Wolfgang Trimmel, Monika Winet, Henri Michel Yéré, Jakob Zinsstag (all from the University of Basel) as well as the translators and writers Edwige-Renée Dro and Yarri Kamara.

*www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/languages-literatures*

2024). Isabelle Chariatte also served as curator for the festival Culturescapes, which held public readings and discussions with writers from North Africa, and she and Wolfgang Trimmel also organized a workshop on gender representations and social transformations in North African literature with Mohamed Alnaas (Libya) and Amira Ghenim (Tunisia).

Sandra Schlumpf-Thurnherr has initiated a new collaboration agreement with the Afrouniversidad Politécnica Intercultural, Oaxaca, in Mexico. This agreement seeks to promote education, joint research, and protection of black populations in the Costa Chica, Oaxaca.

Mohomodou Houssouba has managed the fourth release of the *Songhay Online* platform. The website (songhay.org), first launched in 2010, underwent major overhauls in 2016 and 2021. It is a key access point for multiple resources, including research documentation, bilingual dictionaries, digital tools, and online community projects like Wikipedia.

**Basel Summer School in African Studies**
The 7th Basel Summer School in African Studies in September 2025 honored Valentin-Yves Mudimbe's work and engaged with the contributions of African Studies, not only to knowledge about Africa, but also to the renewal of the very tools through which we produce knowledge, namely concepts, theories and methods. It brought PhD students from universities in Switzerland, Germany, France and the UK together with senior scholars.

**Africa, Method, Theory**
In the fall semester, the second edition of 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 course and lecture series is 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 2025, the course and lectures featured Patience Mususa (The Nordic Africa Institute), Charles D. Piot (Duke University) and Frank Matose (University of Cape Town).

**Namibia Research Day**
In October, the Basler Afrika Bibliographien held the 11th Namibia Research Day, in conjunction with the ZASB and the Department of Geography, History, Environmental Studies and Tourism Management of the University of Namibia. This annual event brings together graduate students, early-career researchers, scholars and cultural workers from diverse disciplines and practices to share their work, engage in dialogue and connect across fields and institutions. It is a unique opportunity to present ongoing or recently completed research and projects in an open, social and interdisciplinary environment.

More than just a series of presentations, the Namibia Research Day was conceived as a vibrant social gathering. The BAB places strong emphasis on informal exchange, personal encounters, and network building; the program includes ample time for discussion, joint *apéros*, and lively conversations around the presented projects. In 2025, it even included the workshop "Inherited Testimonies: Retracing the Namibian Genocides" with Forensic Architecture Researcher Agata Nguyen Chuong.

**Reversing the Gaze**
In 2025, research activities in the SNSF Sinergia project "Reversing the Gaze: Towards Post-Comparative Area Studies" were completed. This project brought 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). It "reverses the gaze" by testing the analytical hold of concepts developed in the Global South on political crisis phenomena in Europe. While the various work groups have published several journal articles and special editions, the publication of a joint edited volume by Bristol University Press is scheduled for spring 2027.

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 2026
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 July 2025
SNSF (project funding)

**The Contested Politics of Global Sisterhood: Race, Sex, and the Young Women Christian Association in Africa (1878–1971)**
Principal investigator: Claire Nicolas
1 November 2024–31 October 2028
SNSF (Ambizione)

Selected events

**Summer School: "Honouring Mudimbe: Rethinking Research through African Thought"**
7th Basel Summer School in African Studies
8–12 September 2025 | Workshop

**Book launch and discussion: "Transnational Histories of Rural Reform, 1900–1950"**
Book launch and discussion with authors Julia Tischler and Amalia Ribi Forclaz, and Juri Auderset as commentator
22 September 2025 | Public event

**Patience Mususa (The Nordic Africa Institute): "Invisible Voices: Planners' Perspectives on Zambia's Copperbelt Mining Resurgence"**
Workshop and public lecture in the framework of the course "Africa, Method, Theory"
10 October 2025 | Public event, Lecture series

**Charles D. Piot (Duke University): "Is the African Informal Economy Decolonial?"**
Workshop and public lecture in the framework of the course "Africa, Method, Theory"
17 October 2025 | Lecture series

**Frank Matose (University of Cape Town): "Forests and the Power of Marginalised People in Southern Africa: Politics of Chronic Liminality"**
Workshop and public lecture in the framework of the course "Africa, Method, Theory"
28 November 2025 | Public event, Lecture series



**Mrs Madie Hall Xuma, leader of the South African YWCA, speaks to members of the Accra Branch of the Ghanaian YWCA, 12 June 1957.**
Photo: World YWCA Archives (Box Photographs - Africa I).

**The Contested Politics of Global Sisterhood (SNSF Ambizione project, 2024–2028)**

The SNSF Ambizione project "The Contested Politics of Global Sisterhood: Race, Sex, and the Young Women Christian Association in Africa (1878–1971)" is led by Claire Nicolas in the Department of History. The project examines how the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) operated across Africa from the late nineteenth century through to the early postcolonial period, and explores the tensions between the ideals of global Christian sisterhood and the realities of race, gender, colonial power, and inequality.

This project argues that African women were not simply recipients of missionary or international influence but, rather, active participants who challenged,

Members

Isabelle Chariatte (Languages and Literatures)
Colin Courtney-Mustaphi (Environmental Sciences)
Laurent Goetschel (swisspeace)
Dag Henrichsen (Basler Afrika Bibliographien)
Andreas Heuser (Faculty of Theology)
Alexandra Hofmänner (Social Sciences)
Mohomodou Houssouba (songhay.org)
Zainabu Jallo (Social Sciences)
Elisio Macamo (Social Sciences)
Mazembo Eddy Mavungu
Sindi-Leigh McBride (Projects ZASB)
George Paul Meiu (Social Sciences)
Claire Nicolas (History)
Nancy Odendaal (Social Sciences)
Christoph Pimmer (Swiss TPH)
Julia Rensing (Projects ZASB)
Sandra Schlumpf-Thurnherr (Languages and Literatures)
Julia Tischler (History)
Danelle Van Zyl-Hermann (Institute for European Global Studies)
Ralph Weber (Institute for European Global Studies)
Franzisca Zanker (Arnold Bergstraesser Institut)
Jakob Zinsstag (Swiss TPH)

reshaped and sometimes resisted the YWCA's agendas. By tracing relationships among African activists, Western missionaries and international YWCA leaders, the project shows how debates over race, sexuality, leadership and decolonization transformed the organization over time. Ultimately, the study presents the YWCA as a contested transnational space where women negotiated competing visions of feminism, Christianity and international solidarity, and reveals how global networks both reproduced and challenged colonial hierarchies.

The project is funded by the Swiss Natioanal Science Foundation via an Ambizione Grant and runs from November 2024 to October 2028.

*www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/global-sisterhood*

Key publications

Carriço Reis, Bruno, Elísio Macamo, and Nuno Amaral Jerónimo. 2025. "Os Desafios da Ciência para Lá da Querela Positivista." In *Metodologias de Investigação em Comunicação Organizacional e Institucional: Desafios e Tendências*, edited by José Gabriel Andrade and Ana Raposo, 21–32. Covilhã: LabCom, Universidade da Beira Interior.

Heuser, Andreas, Claudia Hoffmann, Stefan S. Jäger, and Eckhard Zemmrich, eds. 2025. *BildWelt Mission: Ästhetische Perspektiven christlicher Transkulturationsgeschichte*. Vol. 1. Horizonte Interkultureller Theologie. Berlin: J. B. Metzler.

Macamo, Elísio. 2025. "Weaving the Local into University Knowledge in Africa." In *Negotiating the Fabric of the African University. Volume 1: Global Narratives and Local Models*, edited by Patrício Langa and David Kaldewey, 35–45. African Higher Education: Developments and Perspectives 19. Leiden: Brill.

Nicolas, Claire. 2025. "On the Field: Race, Gender and Sports in Colonial Ghana." *Gender and History* 37 (2): 621–35.

Posholi, Lerato. 2025. "On the Idea of Post-Comparative Philosophy." *Philosophy East and West* 75 (1): 43–55.

Rensing, Julia. 2025. *Troubling Archives. History and Memory in Namibian Literature and Art*. Bielefeld: transcript Verlag.

Schlumpf, Sandra. 2025. "Between the Local and the Global: Language Ideologies in Post-Colonial Equatorial Guinea." In *Language, Borders and Bordering Practices: Sociolinguistic Perspectives*, 435–66. Berlin and Boston: De Gruyter.

Schlumpf, Sandra. 2025. "Usos, valores y transmisión del español en Guinea Ecuatorial: valoraciones y actitudes de sus propios hablantes." *Revista de estudios africanos* 6: 159–99.

Schlumpf, Sandra, and Sara Carreira. 2025. "El español en África en pasado, presente y futuro: una visión panorámica." *Revista de estudios africanos* 6: 1–24.

Schlumpf, Sandra, and Sara Carreira. 2025. "Pronominalización, Des-PronominalizaciónY Duplicación Pronominal en El Español de Guinea Ecuatorial." *Revista de Filología Española* 105 (2): 1481.

Schlumpf, Sandra, and Katrin Pfadenhauer. 2025. "(Neo-)Koloniale Sprachbeschreibung: Eine komparative Analyse eurozentrischer Praktiken am Beispiel des Spanischen in Äquatorialguinea und Mexiko." In *Romanistisches Kolloquium*, 51–87. Romanistisches Kolloquium. Tübingen: Narr.

Tischler, Julia. 2025. *Cultivating Race: Transatlantic Agricultural Reform in South Africa, c. 1900–1950*. Oxford University Press.

Van Zyl-Hermann, Danelle. 2025. "Visions of (tuberculosis) Control: Medical Photographs in Mau Mau-Era Kenya." *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*.

Van Zyl-Hermann, Danelle, and Rosa Williams. 2025. "Photographs as Sources for Writing Histories of Health and Healing in Colonial and Postcolonial Africa." *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*.

Weber, Ralph. 2025. "Global Philosophy, Positionality, and Non-Relativist Perspectivism." *Philosophy East and West* 75 (1): 6–22.

# 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 metaphysical) 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 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.

## Curated Escapes and Derelict Landscapes in Times of Climate Change

From private islands in the Pacific to luxury bunkers in the Alps to eco-estates bordering national parks in southern Africa, land is being transformed into "curated escapes" for the wealthy fleeing the social and ecological effects of climate change. Simultaneously, ordinary people face often disastrous results of climate change, having to re-imagine their own escapes from (or even to) such landscapes deemed "derelict" and incapable of sustaining life and livelihoods. Declarations of dereliction can be as powerful as truly degraded lands, leading to forced displacement and dispossession. The new SNSF Starting Grant Project "Curated Escapes and Derelict Landscapes in Times of Climate Change" (CEDEL), led by Luregn Lenggenhager, investigates how – amidst socio-economic inequalities – climate change is transforming land tenure and the relationship of ordinary people and elites to the land.

By considering diverse case studies in Namibia, South Africa, Switzerland, Sierra Leone, Mauritius, the Chagos Archipelago, Tuvalu and Antarctica, the project looks at how rhetoric and realities of land degradation and human displacement often go hand-in-hand with the elite capture of the sometimes very same lands. The team investigates these questions from the past to the present, showing that these contemporary challenges are rooted in historical processes. The project explores historically-developed "escapes", such as private nature conservation and eco-estates in southern Africa; contemporary dilemmas of dereliction and escape, often related to debates around "sinking" islands and melting permafrost and how to make use of lands (and waters) facing imminent ecological change; and future visions of escape, rooted in eco-fiction (cli-fi) but with real-world proponents – from proposals to build digital clones of the nation of Tuvalu to escapes into outer space.

## The Political Economy of Expectations in Agri-Food Sustainability Transformations

The production of agricultural commodities such as coffee, cocoa and palm oil is associated with persistent environmental and social problems, including deforestation, forced and child labor, and smallholder poverty. Transforming agri-food systems is therefore a major sustainable development challenge. European governments are currently seeking to advance this transformation through mandatory supply-chain sustainability legislation, including due diligence regulations and import restrictions.

The new research project "EXPECT-AGRI: The Political Economy of Expectations in Agri-Food Sustainability Transformations" led by Janina Grabs uses this example of transformational public policy implementation to investigate how regulators can successfully foster sustainability transformations. It focuses on how expectations of the future – particularly regarding regulatory compliance, the stringency of rules, and their enforcement – are negotiated between regulators and economic actors, and how these expectations shape present-day decisions about preparatory actions. In other words, the project examines the political economy of expectations. The project adopts a triple comparative perspective. It compares policy implementation across three sectors (coffee, cocoa, palm oil), three issue areas (deforestation, forced and child labor, and living incomes), and two producing countries (Colombia and Côte d'Ivoire).

**Povanhu History and Heritage Tours**
Initially enabled by a start-up grant from the Innovation Office of the University of Basel, the Swiss-Namibian start-up Povanhu History and Heritage Tours explores the potential of postcolonial 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. After a pilot tour in 2024, Povanhu History and Heritage Tours entered a new partnership with the Reisehochschule Zürich and extended the portfolio to include individual travel advice. The next tour is planned for November 2026.

**Grounding Crop Monitoring in Ghana**
The research project "Grounding Crop Monitoring in Ghana" led by James Zimmermann Merron together with Emmanuel Proven-Adzri (Ghana Space Science and Technology Institute) examined infrastructures in Ghana that produce environmental data used for agriculture, disaster preparedness and climate adaption. The one-year collaborative project, funded by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation's Leading House Africa program, developed an innovative multimedia "repair database" documenting the everyday work of engineers, technicians, and maintenance workers responsible for keeping climate-monitoring systems operational.

**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 2025, 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.

**Happy Retirement to Giorgio Miescher!**
For many decades, Giorgio Miescher has been an integral part of the ZASB network. He played a key role in establishing Namibian and Southern African Studies as a vibrant field of academic engagement and remains deeply committed to both research and collaboration. Giorgio Miescher successfully initiated and led numerous research projects, contributed to a wide range of student exchange initiatives, and collaborated with colleagues in Southern Africa on several publications, exhibitions, and other ventures. His commitment, solidarity, and spirit of collegial comradeship have greatly enriched the ZASB and its wider academic community. We thank him warmly for his tremendous contributions and – while he will remain with the ZASB as an affiliated researcher– wish him all the very best for the many new projects that lie ahead.

**Outlook**
With many changes and new people and projects in our key area, we are looking forward to reorientation and reorganization in the coming year.

Main Projects

**Curated Escapes and Derelict Landscapes in Times of Climate Change**
PI: Luregn Lenggenhager (
Postdoc: Bernard C Moore
PhD candidates: Angelinah Maponya, Bayron van Wyk and Sophie Zimdras
09.2025–08.2030, SNSF Starting Grant

**EXPECT-AGRI: The Political Economy of Expectations in Agri-Food Sustainability Transformations**
PI: Janina Grabs
04.2025–03.2030, SNSF

**PACSMAC - the Paradoxes of Climate-Smart Coffee**
PI: Janina Grabs
01.2025-03.2026, other funds

**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

**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 (research project, 2024/25)**

"Grounding Crop Monitoring in Ghana" was a collaborative research project undertaken by the Centre for African Studies Basel in partnership with the Ghana Space Science and Technology Institute, the Ghana Meteorological Agency, and stakeholders in northern Ghana. Funded through the Leading House Africa program, the project examined the infrastructure that supports climate and weather monitoring in Ghana and its role in producing environmental data used for agriculture, disaster preparedness, and climate adaptation.

Combining interviews, focus groups, technical demonstrations, and audiovisual documentation, the project developed an innovative multimedia "repair database" that documents the everyday work of engineers, technicians, and maintenance workers responsible for keeping climate-monitoring systems operational. Despite ongoing investments in automated weather stations and remote sensing technologies, technicians frequently rely on older instruments, locally developed workarounds and improvised repair practices to ensure the continuity and reliability of climate data. The project also identified significant challenges related to data accessibility, digital connectivity and the delivery of weather information to smallholder farmers, underscoring the importance of adapting technological solutions to local conditions. Findings from the study demonstrate how technicians "work the seams" between analogue and digital infrastructures.

Beyond its practical relevance for climate services and sustainable development, the project contributed to broader debates in Science and Technology Studies on infrastructure, maintenance and environmental knowledge production. This research builds on Merron's wider work on technoscientific infrastructures in Ghana, including a 2025 article co-authored with Siri Lamoureaux on the repurposing of an old satellite dish in Ghana as a radio telescope in the context of a collaboration with the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory.

Merron, James, and Siri Lamoureaux. 2025. "Electromagnetic economies of worth: Repurposing a radio dish and debating technoscientific modernity at the equator." Environment and Planning D: Society and Space 43 (2): 262-82.

*www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/crop-monitoring*



Members

- Lena Bloemertz (Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz FHNW)
- Ruth Delzeit (Department of Environmental Sciences)
- Samuel Fuhrimann (Swiss TPH)
- Janina Grabs (Sustainability Research)
- 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



**Felix Owusu and Henry Ayuk Agbor, technicians and project collaborators in the research project "Grounding Crop Monitoring in Ghana", conducting repairs and diagnostic work on the Environmental Monitoring System (EMS) at the Ghana Space Science and Technology Institute, Accra, Ghana.**
Photo: James Zimmermann Merron

## Selected events

**Ndamian Hangula: "The Historical Valueness of Omwele Gwoshipika amongst the Aawambo Community"**
Namibian and Southern African Studies Research Colloquium
26 February 2025 | Colloquium

**Film Screening: "Village under the Forest"**
Namibian and Southern African Studies Research Colloquium
05 March 2025 | Colloquium

**Ellison Tjirera: "Regimes of Legal & Spatial Reproduction in Contemporary Windhoek"**
Namibian and Southern African Studies Research Colloquium
02 April 2025 | Colloquium

**Film Screening: "Anatomy of a Bribe"**
Namibian and Southern African Studies Research Colloquium
16 April 2025 | Colloquium

**Libita Sibungu: "Restorying/Restoring of Memory to Place and Body"**
Lunch Talk in the framework of the Namibian and Southern African Studies Research Colloquium
07 October 2025 | Colloquium

**Project launch: "Curated Escapes and Derelict Landscapes in Times of Climate Change"**
Launch of the SNSF Starting Grant project by Luregn Lenggenhager, followed by an apéro
09 October 2025 | Public event

**11th Namibia Research Day**
Basler Afrika Bibliographien
17–18 October 2025 | Congress / Conference / Symposium

**Kavena Hambira: "Nuhmibeeuhn – Colonial Memory and the Politics of Repair"**
Namibian and Southern African Studies Research Colloquium
22 October 2025 | Colloquium

## Key publications

Courtney Mustaphi, Colin J., Sandra O. Camara-Brugger, Nathan J. Chellman, Samuel Muñoz, Rebecca W. Kariuki, Maja Damber, Anna Shoemaker, et al. 2025. "Multiple paleofire proxy metrics from tropical lake sediment and soil in the Greater Serengeti Ecosystem". *Holocene* 35 (9): 926-36.

Lenggenhager, Luregn, Emmanuel Mogende. 2025. "Nature Conservation, Borders and Violence Along the Chobe River Between Botswana and Namibia in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Century". *Journal of Borderlands Studies* 40.

Lenggenhager, Luregn, Giorgio Miescher, Saima Nakuti Ndahangwapo, Raffaele Perniola, eds. 2025. *Histories and Legacies of Migrant Labour in Namibia and Switzerland*. Basel: Basler Afrika Bibliographien.

Lenggenhager, Luregn. 2025. "Zurück zur Natur? Wie Naturschutz mit Vergangenheit Politik macht". Geschichte der Gegenwart.




**Bernard C. Moore and Luregn Lenggenhager launched their book *Space is the Ultimate Luxury – Capitalists, Conservationists and Ancestral Land in Namibia* in Windhoek .**
Photo: Angelinah Maponya

Megerssa, Guta Regasa, Weyessa Garedew, Adugna Eneyew Bekele, Janina Grabs, Kristjan Jespersen. 2025. "How Do Institutions Shape the Resilience of the Ethiopian Coffee Sector Amidst the Pressures of Climate Change?". *Sustainable Development* 33.

Megerssa, Guta Regasa, Weyessa Garedew, Kristjan Jespersen, Janina Grabs, Adugna Eneyew Bekele. 2025. "Impact of Climate Change on Ethiopian Arabica Coffee Production and Current Challenges It Poses to Coffee Value Chain". *Sustainable Futures* 10: 101459.

Merron, James, Siri Lamoureaux. 2025. "Electromagnetic Economies of Worth: Repurposing a Radio Dish and Debating Technoscientific Modernity at the Equator". *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 43 (2): 262-82.

Moore, Bernard C., Luregn Lenggenhager. 2025. *Space is the Ultimate Luxury: Capitalists, Conservationists, and Ancestral Land in Namibia*. Vol. 49. African Social Studies Series. Leiden: BRILL.

Nyathi, N. A., W. Musakwa, J. Krenz, N. J. Kuhn. 2025. "Spatio-Temporal Dynamics of Habitat Quality Explored with InVEST: The Case of the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area". *Sustainable Environment* 11 (1): 2520642.

Nyathi, Nesisa A., Ntlakala B. Selamolela, David M. Azilagbetor. 2025. "Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity Conservation amid a Global Pandemic: Insights from the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area". In *Biodiversity Conservation – Ecological, Environmental and Societal Aspects [Working Title]*, 1-33. IntechOpen.

Courtney Mustaphi CJ, Platts PJ, Willcock S, Timberlake JR, Osborne J, Matimele H, Summer Osgood H, Muiruri V, Gehrels M, Bayliss J, Marchant R. 2025. Tree Demographics and Soil Charcoal Evidence of Fire Disturbances in an Inaccessible Forest atop the Mount Lico Inselberg, Mozambique. *Plants, People, Planet* 7(1): 229-244.



**Space is the Ultimate Luxury. Capitalists, Conservationists, and Ancestral Land in Namibia**

This book, co-authored by Bernard C. Moore and Luregn Lenggenhager, explores the history, ecology, and society of a seemingly inhospitable stretch of land along the Orange River in southern Namibia. Here, a group of African farmers have succeeded against all odds in staying in their ancestral homeland through decades of colonialism and apartheid. The twenty-first century, however, has brought with it different people attempting to evict them: nature conservationists. These farmers face off against billionaire gemstone mine owners, rhinoceros veterinarians and carbon finance executives, and seek to prove their legal and moral claims to their ancestral lands. This book reveals what is at stake if they fail.

The authors are part of the project team "Curated Escapes and Derelict Landscapes in Times of Climate Change" (CEDEL) that examines how climate change is transforming land tenure and the relationship both of ordinary people and of elites to the land.

*Moore, Bernard C., and Luregn Lenggenhager. 2025. Space is the Ultimate Luxury: Capitalists, Conservationists, and Ancestral Land in Namibia. Bd. 49. African Social Studies Series. Leiden: Brill.*

*www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/space*

# 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.

**Educating**
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