

Program “Critique in Africa”, 5-7 October 2022

Location: University of Nairobi, university towers, 4th floor, room 05 and online (pre-registration required with a.bauer@fu-berlin.de)

Organizers: S. Calkins (FU), K. Kresse (FU/ZMO), O. Nyarwath (UNairobi), T. Zoanni (UBremen), funded by the Volkswagen Foundation

DAY 1: 5 October

optional visit: National Museum of Kenya (focus i.e. critiques of British colonialism, early Independence periods, MauMau)

1:30-2:30 *lunch*

2:30-3:00 Opening remarks & introductions

3:00-4:20 Session 1: **Sages & folk critiques** (Chair: Karori Mbugua)

Bekele Gutema: “Critique in Oromo Wisdom Literature/Philosophy”

Kai Kresse: “Critique in Africa”

Abdoulaye Sounaye: “Sunna Matters: Sheick Albani and Salafi Critique in West Africa”

Oriare Nyarwath: “Language and Traditional Culture as Critical Issues in Postcolonial Africa”

Discussant: Serawit Debele and Dismas Masolo

4:20-4:50 *coffee break*

4:50-5:50 Session 2: **Aesthetics and power** (Chair: Donna Pido)

Reginal Oduor: “Critique in the Pop Music of D. Owino Misiani”

Patrick Otim: “Checks and Balances: Criticisms of Chiefs in Late Precolonial and Early Colonial Acholiland”

Chidi Ugwu: “Populism and its discontents in a prebendal landscape”

Discussant: Suleyman Bachir Diagne and Tyler Zoanni

5:50-6:30 Session 3: **Humor** (Chair: Cassandra Mark-Thiessen)

Sandra Calkins: “Joking as Critique”

Sagal Farah: “What's laughable is subjective until the subjugated laugh – comedy as critique and resistance”

Discussant: Oriare Nyarwawth and Mingwei Huang

6:30–6:45 Discussion

Dinner: Kilimanjaro tbc

DAY 2: 6 October

11:00–11:30 am: Multimedia works in progress (from workshop participants)

11:30–12:00 am Wrap-up discussion/questions/resume from Day 1

12:00–1:00 pm Session 1: **Self-critique & beyond critique** (Chair: Francis Okawah)

Serawit Debele: “Introspections of an accomplice: How African Studies formed me as a subject”

Naminata Diabate: “Notes on (Self) Critique: – Equivalence-ism + Homework”

Dismas Masolo: “An Outline of a History of Critique”

Discussant: Yala Kisukidi and Bekele Gutema

1–2 pm *lunch*

2–3:10 pm Session 2: **Embodied critiques** (Chair: Joseph Situma)

Jasmin Mahazi: “Embodied critique: Bajuni ritual and poetic performance on the Swahili coast”

Billy Fowo: “On weaving sonic fabrics. A listening journey through agitation and resilience”

Kitso Lelliot: “Imaging Embodied Critique”

Discussant: Reginal Oduor and Sandra Calkins

3:10–3:20 *break*

3:20–4:50 Session 3: **Spirits of critique** (Chair: Dikirr Patrick Maison)

Tyler Zoanni: “The Many Lives of Death”

Sarah Balakrishnan: “Sacred Boundaries, Violent Ecologies: The Spiritual Emergence of Borders and Private Property in Precolonial Gold Coast, c. 1500–1800”

Nana Osei Quarshie: “Spiritual Pawning: Theorizing Mental Healing in Atlantic-era West Africa”

Doreen Baingana: “Weapons of the Weak”

Discussant: Steven Feierman and Patrick Otim

4:45-5:15 *coffee break*

5:15-6:15 Session 4: **TBD** (Chair: Prince Guma)

Nadia Yala Kisukidi “Art and extinction : an intimate and subjective story of a contemporary art biennale in Kinshasa”

Sabelo J. Ndlovu-Gatsheni: “Decolonial Critique in Africa”

Suleyman Bachir Diagne TBD

Discussant: Kai Kresse and Vivien Lu

6:15-6:40 Discussion

Dinner at Ranalo

DAY 3: 7 October

1pm *lunch*

2:00-2:30 Discussion/open questions/resumé

2:30-3:00 Session 1: Elisabeth Ault: “Writing a collaborative volume”

3:00-3:10 Break

3:10-3:50 Session 2: **Narrating pasts & futures** (Chair: Chidi Ugwe)

Vijaya Teelock: “Personal reflections the TJC and the search for historical justice”

Cassandra Mark-Thiesen: “The Impact of Africa-based African Studies of 1960s/1970s/1980s on Educational Thought: the Perspective of Historians and Historical Societies”

Discussant: Naminata Diabate and Nana Osei Quarshie

3:50-4:20 *coffee break*

4:20-5:20 Session 3: **Collaboration, infrastructure & imagination** (Chair: Abdoulaye Sounaye)

Prince Guma: “Beyond critique: Of countering completist pursuits and calibrating collaborative infrastructures”

Mingwei Huang: “Critique in the Time of China”

Vivian Chenxue Lu: “The Counterfactual, the economic would-have-beens, and postcolonial political critique”

Discussant: Sabelo Ndlovu-Gatsheni and Sarah Balakrishnan

5:20-6:20 wrap-up/final discussion

Dinner at Hera Aqua Garden