



Vorlesung / Lecture Series

55504

Histories of the Future in Modern Africa and Beyond

V 2st/2hrs, Wed 18.00-20.00, HS H27 (GWII)

Programme

(preliminary, Oct 18th 2018)

- 17.10. **Introduction I: Africa – “continent of the future”?** (Achim von Oppen)
- 24.10. **Introduction II: Historians as futurists?** (Achim von Oppen)
- 31.10. **Aspiring for knowledge and exchange: Precolonial trade and exploration** (Achim von Oppen)
- 07.11. **Imagining territory: Making colonial states through their borders** (Achim von Oppen)
- 14.11. Guest Lecture by **Katharina Fink, Nadine Siegert** (Bayreuth), **Storm J. van Rensburg** (Berlin):
FAVT / Future Africa Visions in Time – an exhibition as process
(In collaboration with Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies)
- 21.11. **Moving towards war and hope: African migrations around World War I** (Achim von Oppen)
- 28.11. **Converting faith: Appropriating “world religion” in modern Africa** (Achim von Oppen)
- 05.12. **Becoming “People of the World”: Multiple mobilisations around Independence**
(Achim von Oppen)
- 12.12. **“African Socialism” and its afterlife: Focus on rural Tanzania** (Achim von Oppen)
- 19.12. Guest Lecture by **Carola Lentz** (Mainz):
2018 Imaging futures: memory and belonging in an African family
(zugleich Vortrag im Rahmen des Bayreuther Historischen Kolloquiums)
- 09.01. Guest Lecture by **Susanne Lachenicht** (Bayreuth):
2019 Future Africa?! - Timescapes and the flattening of time in the modern era
(zugleich Vortrag im Rahmen des Bayreuther Historischen Kolloquiums)
- 16.01. **Histories of “Development”: Focus on rural Zambia** (Achim von Oppen)
- 23.01. Guest Lecture by **Joël Glasman** (Bayreuth):
Die Zukunft der Krise. Beitrag zur Geschichte des humanitären Wissens
(zugleich Vortrag im Rahmen des Bayreuther Historischen Kolloquiums)
- 30.01. Guest Lecture by **Christoph Marx** (Duisburg-Essen):
Building a dam. Hendrik Verwoerd on planning, efficiency and control
(zugleich Vortrag im Rahmen des Bayreuther Historischen Kolloquiums)
- 06.02. **Farewell Lecture: Africa in Bayreuth and Beyond: The Future(s) of History** (Achim von Oppen)

Comments on the course:

The lectures presented in this course will offer insights into the history of 19th and 20th century Africa and its global connections from an unusual perspective. Following theorists of history such as Koselleck and Hölscher, the past is considered here not primarily as a prehistory explaining the present, but as a series of moments of uncertainty and openness, producing expectations, aspirations and anxieties about the future and calling on historical actors to develop categories and strategies to cope with it. Such a perspective appears to be particularly appropriate for Africa, as this continent has been an important screen for projections and interventions addressing protracted disaster or promising future since at least two centuries. This course will offer a series of case studies on particular junctures in the history of Africa and the world in which different ideas about times to come have thrived and related practices emerged. The focus will be on approaches to Africa's future (and past) developed by Africans themselves, including their diasporas, and how they engaged with Western notions of future and time, and with global power relations. The lectures are inspired by a spectacular recent rise in international debates about concepts of 'future' and temporality in history, social and cultural studies, perhaps comparable or even related to the earlier "spatial turn". These debates seem particularly relevant for African and other regional studies. They have been addressed, in particular, in a historical research project conducted over the last few years within the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies. The case studies presented in this course are drawn partly from this project, partly from a re-reading of earlier case studies of the lecturer himself, and partly from interesting researches by guests.

The course and its lectures are open to all interested, both students and guests, from history as well as neighbouring disciplines. However, the course is not suited as a general introduction to modern African history. Those at least who intend to follow the course continuously and receive credit points for it are expected to have some basic knowledge about modern African history. Attendance of the parallel Tutorial/Übung 55508 is a precondition only for those requiring this for their selected module.

Introductory reading:

Koselleck, Reinhart, 2004: "Space of Experience" and "Horizon of Expectation": Two Historical Categories. In: Idem, *Futures past. On the semantics of historical times*. Cambridge, Mass., London: The MIT Press, 255–276. (Deutsch in: Ders., 1984: *Vergangene Zukunft. Zur Semantik geschichtlicher Zeiten*. Frankf./Main: Suhrkamp)

Hölscher, Lucian, 2004: *Zukunft und historische Zukunftsforschung*. In: F. Jäger u.a.(eds.), *Handbuch der Kulturwissenschaften*, vol.1. Stuttgart: Metzler, S. 401–416.

Goldstone, Brian; Obarrio, Juan (eds.), 2016: *African futures: essays on crisis, emergence, and possibility*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Africa, Continent of the Future: An Interview with Achille Mbembe (2014).

Online <http://www.tlaxcala-int.org/article.asp?reference=11071>

Modules for which this course can be used:

MAs: Geschichte – History – Histoire: G5, W1-2 (if combined with 55508); KuGeA C1. –

BAs (advanced students only): Europäische Geschichte: K7-K12, F1 (2013); G9-12, F1 (2017); Kultur und Gesellschaft: GES K5 ; Afrikastudien und Ethnologie: Kombifächer ‚Afrika in der Welt‘ (K4 / K6)

D3, KuGeA (K6) C1; Ethnologie: H1; Lehramt C, D (dto.). –

Others on agreement.