

“Africa Multiple” Cluster of Excellence



Call for Proposals: Postdoctoral Working Groups on “Multiple Futures: Africa and Beyond”

The “Africa Multiple” Cluster of Excellence offers opportunities for postdoctoral academics based at the University of Bayreuth to convene international and interdisciplinary “Working Groups” (WG) under the umbrella of the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies within the cluster. Working Groups convene for one semester and are designed to create space for the joint discussion of research results emerging from ongoing or starting projects. The Working Group programme is particularly committed to promoting and connecting younger postdoctoral scholars at the University of Bayreuth. This call for applications refers to the winter semester 2019-20.

The overarching theme of the next WGs will bring the Academy’s previous research agenda, titled “Future Africa and Beyond – Visions in Time”, into dialogue with the cluster’s theoretical framework captured in the title “Africa Multiple”. We therefore solicit proposals that connect the concepts of multiplicity and relationality in Africa with future, future making and the angle of temporality. Moreover, we particularly invite proposals for WGs that create synergies with one of the cluster’s research sections. Applicants may write to the contact persons listed below to receive detailed information about the cluster’s general theme, its theoretical approach, and the research sections. A short overview is also available under the following link: <https://www.uni-bayreuth.de/en/research/excellence-strategy/africa-multiple/index>

The WGs are expected to relate ideas and representations of future and future-making to the conceptual agenda of the “Africa Multiple” cluster. In particular, they are encouraged to engage with the concept of temporalities. The focus should be on Africa and its diasporas, but we also welcome comparative perspectives involving Europe or other parts of the world that engage with global entanglements and concomitant theoretical perspectives. Proposals should feature interdisciplinary and self-reflexive encounters and preferably build bridges between African Studies and other research areas at the University of Bayreuth.

The WGs will comprise the following elements:

- regular meetings with presentations and discussions, extending over one semester and to be attended by the conveners, visiting fellows invited by the WG, other fellows in the Academy, as well as interested cluster members;
- close involvement of visiting fellows (senior as well as younger scholars, usually postdoctoral, from Germany and abroad), who will be invited to Bayreuth by the members of the WG to participate in their activities over a period of one to three months, complemented by invited guests based at the University of Bayreuth;
- accompanying events on the WG theme with a public impact (e.g., a conference, a workshop, or outreach activities).

We invite applications from groups of postdoctoral scholars based at the University of Bayreuth. The minimum number of conveners is three; they should come from different disciplines in African Studies and may include non-Africanists. At least two conveners need to be based at the University of Bayreuth. We offer financial resources (of up to € 15,000) for the invitation of visiting fellows and the organisation of workshops and public events connected to the WG. Conveners employed at the University of Bayreuth can be granted partial relief from teaching obligations, if applicable (without financial compensation). The activities of the WG should result in some form of publication (edited volume, special issue of a journal, contribution to the University of Bayreuth African Studies Online series, etc.).

If you are interested in applying, please email the contact persons listed below and ask for the application template. The required information includes a statement of the theme and objectives of the WG, details about the working formats and the planned internal as well as external events and activities. Proposals should include plans for preparatory work before, as well as for a wrap-up phase after the semester featuring the main activities; they should also specify how the visiting fellows will be recruited, or, in cases where fellows have already been identified, give the reasons why these fellows are being suggested. You also need to submit a CV for each applicant.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with members of the “Africa Multiple” cluster during the application process and, if selected, during the implementation phase. We also offer support in the identification of competent mentors from within and outside the University of Bayreuth.

Please send your application, based on the template and including the conveners’ CVs, to the Management Board of the “Africa Multiple” Cluster of Excellence by email as a single pdf file: Applications.EXC2052@uni-bayreuth.de. The application deadline is **April 30, 2019**.

The selected WGs will receive support from the Vice Dean of Research and the Vice Dean of Early Career & Equal Opportunity in the “Africa Multiple” Cluster of Excellence. For further information or questions, please contact the Vice Dean of Research, Prof. Dr. Erdmute Alber, erdmute.alber@uni-bayreuth.de, or Dr. Katharina Fink, katharina.fink@uni-bayreuth.de.