

On Analysing New Forms of African Christian Life Where and Whereto?

Topic:

This international workshop inspects new forms (and the analysis of new forms) of African Christian life, which are the result of interactions between European and African Christianities both “beyond” or “trans” and amidst their specific contexts due to processes of glocalization and transnational migration. While geographically focussing on Africa, there will be an inbuilt attentiveness to the impact of impulses from these interactions in the global North.

Guiding question:

What are the most significant discourses, constellations, and conflicts arising from competing claims for the power of interpretation, with the aim of explaining, interpreting, defining – and even assessing or legitimizing – new forms of Christian life in Africa and the most significant factors shaping them?

Proposition/Thesis:

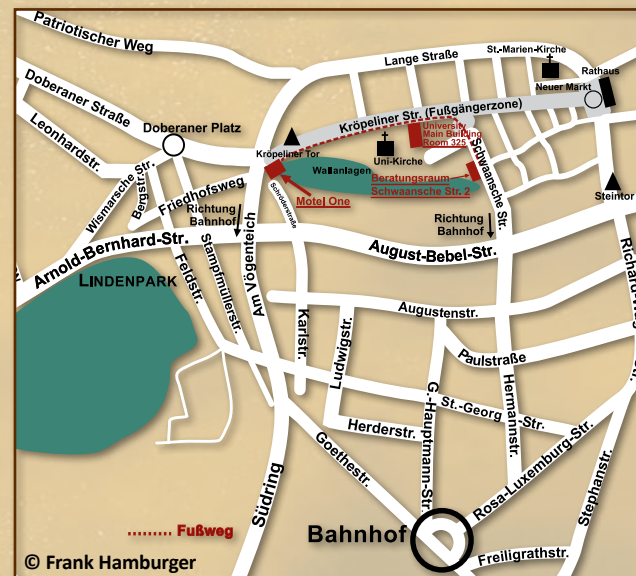
The analysis of new forms of Christian life can no longer successfully claim the power of interpretation by simply holding on to hitherto established hegemonic discourses emphasizing the advancement of “African” traditions or of plain Africanization processes or of the rejection of “European” ones in combination with a revitalization of “African” religious practices, institutions, beliefs, etc. Rather, this analysis may achieve new power of interpretation by taking into account the impact of new hermeneutic orders as a result of complex transconfigurations whereby new forms of Christian life in Africa are created in the image of a new African vision beyond essentialist and dichotomic cultural discourses.

Contact:

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Venue:

04.12.
Main Building, Room 325 (left wing, 4th. floor/
3. Etage), Universitätsplatz 1, 18055 Rostock
05.12. – 06.12.
Beratungsraum, Schwaansche Straße 2, 18055 Rostock



The Power of Interpretation: Imagined Authenticity – Appropriated Identity *Conflicting Discourses on New Forms of African Christianity*

International Workshop of the
Guided Research Group
Power of Interpretation
[GRK Deutungsmacht]
Religion and Belief Systems
in Conflicts of Interpretational Power
04.12. – 06.12.2014

DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft

Universität
Rostock  Traditio et Innovatio



Programme

Thursday, 4 December

18:15–19:45

Prof. Dr. Klaus Hock; Prof. Dr. Martina Kumlehn
Welcome and Introduction

Prof. Dr. em. Paul Gifford

Keynote Address/Public Lecture:

A Modern Nigerian Pentecostal Interpretation of the Bible: and Some Issues Arising

Friday, 5 December

I. Genealogical Dispositions: The Power of Interpretation in and of African Christianities in Historical Perspective

09:30–10:00

Prof. Dr. Klaus Hock

Conflicting Discourses on New Forms of African Christianity: Rationale and Context of the Workshop

10:15–11:15

Dr. Davide Dainese

Oikoumene as Globalization. Conflicts in Forms of Christian Life in Africa (III–IV century)

11:45–12:45

Dr. Silvia Christofori

Christianity and New Identities in Buganda during the Scramble for Africa: The Clash of Interpretations of a Conflicting Phase of Globalization

| **Lunch Break** |

15:00–16:30

Prof. Dr. Dr. Frieder Ludwig

The West African Christian Elite, the West African Press and the Power of Interpretation, ca. 1880–1930: Contested Public Spheres

Emily Phuti Mogase

The West African Christian Elite, the West African Press and the Power of Interpretation, ca. 1880–1930: Gendered Representation – Gendered Strategies

17:00–18:00

Michel Nana

L'Église catholique et les mouvements prophétiques africains en Côte d'Ivoire: choc ou rencontre? (1913–1995)

Saturday, 6 December

II. Transconfigurations: The Power of Interpretation in and of New Forms of African Christianities

09:00–10:00

Prof. Dr. Andreas Heuser

“Prisms, Mirrors, and Refractions”: Insiders’ Perceptions of Basel Mission History in Ghana

10:30–12:00

Charlotte Eisenberg

German-Ghanaian Encounters in the Church – an Empirical View on Power Structures in Ecumenical Relationships

Christine Gühne

“From Victim to Victor” – New Christian Identities in Africa and Their Effect on Development

12:30–13:30

Dr. Claudia Jahnel

„This is my Body Broken for You“. Entangled Discourses on the Body in African Theologies

| **Lunch Break** |

14:30–15:30

Dr. Afe Adogame

Towards Digital Divination? Modes of Negotiating Authenticity and Knowledges in Indigenous African Epistemologies

16:00–17:00

Prof. Dr. Werner Kahl

Mother-tongue Biblical Hermeneutics – Reclaiming Interpretive Power in Ghana: Miracles and Homosexuality as Case Studies

17:30–18:30

Prof. Dr. Klaus Hock

Reflection and Final Discussion; Prospects

Speakers

Dr. Afe Adogame

Senior Lecturer; World Christianity & Religious Studies/Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh

Dr. Silvia Cristofori

Researcher; Fondazione per le scienze religiose Giovanni XXIII, Bologna/International University of Rome

Dr. Davide Dainese

Researcher; Fondazione per le scienze religiose Giovanni XXIII, Bologna/University of Bologna

Charlotte Eisenberg

Doctoral Student, Leipzig/University of Rostock

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Christine Gühne

Doctoral Student, Wittlingen/University of Rostock

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