

Workshop

„African Studies – Mobility Studies: bringing two transdisciplinary fields into closer dialogue“

When:

31 May, 2017, 1:30 – 6:15 pm

Afterwards: dinner at a venue close to the Campus

Where:

Seminarraum 4, Department of African Studies

University of Vienna

Spitalgasse 2-4, Hof 5.1.

1090 Vienna

The aim of this workshop is to reflect on the relation between two transdisciplinary fields, i.e. African Studies and Mobility Studies. The latter emerged as a field from the mid-2000s on and brought thinking about mobilities on the agenda. However, research on various forms of mobilities obviously has a much longer history – also within African Studies.

Nevertheless, only last year did the Mobility Studies Journal „*Transfers*“ start a special portfolio section on „*African Mobilities*“, claiming that these have not been adequately considered in Mobility Studies so far. At the same time, it can be stated that much theoretical work by scholars of Mobility Studies has not yet been taken into account by scholars of African Studies working on themes related to mobilities in one way or another. Rather, within African Studies mobilities are often framed with the concepts of diaspora and, more recently, of transnationality and translocality.

What could be gained on both sides by bringing African Studies and Mobility Studies into closer dialogue? Given the transdisciplinarity of both fields: what different foci and approaches are there after all and how can a productive debate between them be encouraged? These are some of the questions that we want to discuss at this workshop on the basis of selected texts and with reference to our own research projects.

Further, there will be space to connect with other scholars and to reflect about possible future cooperations in form of new research projects and/or joint-publications.

All are welcome – especially also interested students and younger scholars.

There is no need for previous experiences with issues of mobilities, however willingness to prepare for the workshop by reading the articles for discussion is expected.

Preliminary Schedule:

1:30 – 2:00 pm:	Introduction of the aims and format of the workshop, introduction of all participants
2:00 – 3:30 pm:	Discussion of texts I ¹
3:30 – 4:00 pm:	<i>Coffee break</i>
4:00 – 5:30 pm:	Discussion of texts II
5:30 - 6:15 pm:	Discussion of possible cooperations ➔ <i>might be continued during the following dinner or at follow-up meetings which can be organised on demand</i>
From 6:30 pm on:	Dinner in a restaurant in or around the Campus (details to be announced)

Key texts as input for discussion

- Akyeampong, Emmanuel. 2010. "Diasporas," Mobility and the Social Imaginary: Getting Ahead in West Africa. In: *Journal of Third World Studies* 27(1): 11-24. ➔ **HISTORY**
- Mavhunga, Clapperton Chakanetsa; Cuvelier, Jeroen; Pype, Katrien. 2016. "Containers, Carriers, Vehicles" Three Views of Mobility from Africa". In: *Transfers* 6(2): 43–53. ➔ **MOBILITY STUDIES, ANTHROPOLOGY**
- Nyamnjoh, Francis. 2013. Fiction and reality of mobility in Africa. In: *Citizenship Studies* 17(6-7): 653-680. ➔ **LITERATURE**
- Warne Peters, Rebecca . 2013. Development Mobilities: Identity and Authority in an Angolan Development Programme. In: *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 39(2): 277-293. ➔ **DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

Further possible reading:

- Materoke, Kudzai. 2016. "Africa, Are We There Yet?" Taking African Mobilities Seriously - Concluding Remarks. In: *Transfers* 6(2): 112–119.

As there is limited space in the seminar room, please register until 22 May, 2017 by sending an email to birgit.englert@univie.ac.at.
The texts will then be send to you via email.

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the research project „**Popular Culture in Translocal Spaces**“ funded by the *Austrian Science Foundation (FWF)*
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In cooperation with the **Department of African Studies**, University of Vienna.

¹ Please note: depending on the number of participants, discussion in the first slot might take place in small groups which will then report to the plenum in the second slot. In case of not too many participants, discussion might take place in the plenum straight from the beginning. Depending on language skills of the participants, discussion will take place either in German or English or both.