



Schweizerische Gesellschaft  
für Afrikastudien  
Société suisse d'études  
africaines

# Thèses africanistes en cours ou récemment soutenues dans les universités suisses

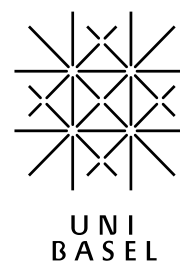
## *Laufende und kürzlich abgeschlossene Dissertationsprojekte an Schweizer Universitäten*

Journées suisses d'études africaines 2010, Université de Berne, 29 - 30 octobre 2010

Schweizerische Tage der Afrika-Forschung 2010, Universität Bern, 29. - 30. Oktober 2010

# History of Health and Health Care Delivery Systems in Africa

Marcel Dreier / Pascal Schmid. Universität Basel, Historisches Seminar



*Two dissertations grow out of this larger research project on the history of rural health systems in Africa. They describe and analyse the historical development of health care based on in-depth studies of former mission hospitals and their peripheral services in Tanzania and Ghana. Using archival sources and oral testimonies, the dissertations link 20th century rural life and health practices to the politics of science and development.*



X-Ray in St. Francis Hospital, ca 1960 (Missionsprokura Schweizer Kapuziner, Olten)

- Thesis M. Dreier: „Health Care, Welfare, and Development in Rural Africa: Catholic health services in Ifakara/Tanzania in the 20th century“
- Thesis P. Schmid: „Medicine, faith and politics in Agogo. A history of rural health care in Ghana, ca 1925 to 2000“
- Supervisor: Prof. Patrick Harries
- Funding: Swiss National Science Foundation; Swiss Network for International Studies
- Collaboration: Centre for African Studies Basel; Prof. Y. Lawi & F. Kaijage, University of Dar es Salaam; Prof. K.A. Senah, Department of Sociology, University of Ghana
- Duration: April 2008 - September 2011
- Keywords: Tanzania, Ghana, history of health care, medicine, development, mission

## Background

Rural health care systems in many parts of Africa developed from mission medical services.

In the course of the 20th century the politics and practice of health service provision were constantly reconfigured in relation to changes in economies, cultures and science. To understand these processes detailed historical accounts integrating colonial and post-independence eras as well as social history and cultural and discursive approaches are very much needed.

## Specific Objectives

These studies describe service provision and use in specific rural areas in Africa where Swiss Missions established extensive health services (Ulanga & Kilombero districts in south-central Tanzania; Ashanti-Akim North District in Ghana). The studies describe historical actors and analyse

the changing character of health care and its rationales. Furthermore the case studies shed light on the long history of development practices.

## Methodology

From the level of institutions and their immediate environment we look at the larger forces that shaped how health systems worked, how they were understood and represented. We use previously unused archival documentation and oral testimony collected in Africa and Europe.

## First Results

Changes in health services provision rarely resulted from straightforward program implementation but depended on configurations of power and their negotiation on local, national and international levels as well as on practices and traditions of specific health institu-



# Photography in Bamenda

René Egloff, Institute of Social Anthropology, Basel (Rene.Egloff@unibas.ch)

**This dissertation project analyses the power of photography in the Cameroonian town of Bamenda. During long-term fieldwork several kinds of power and various genres with powerful meanings in the realm of photography have been examined. A main focus of the project is how material pictures or at least their mental images (eg. meanings) can be transformed.**



.Gay Photo Studio, Bamenda, May 1981.  
("Gay" means "cheerful" in this context.)

## Background

Several exhibitions (eg. Snap me one [1998], L'Afrique elle-même in [2000] etc.) and works on photography in the sub-Saharan area were realized. But certain aspects of the production and especially the ways of distribution and consumption concerning photography, the impact of photography on people's life, empirical examples about the global circulation of pictures and some modes of transformations in the realm of photography have rather been neglected so far.

## Specific Objectives/Research Questions

By using Mitchell's (1986, 1994) distinction of "pictures" as material objects and "images" as mental constructions the work addresses the following questions in the field of photography:

- How does photography act on people and how do people use photography?

- Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Till Förster
- Funding: Swiss National Science Foundation
- Collaboration: Université Yaoundé I
- Duration: autumn 2005 - december 2010
- Keywords: visual culture, photography, image, power, genres, intermediality, production, distribution/proliferation, consumption, globalisation, change, transformation, history
- Link: [www.unibas-ethno.ch/forschung/](http://www.unibas-ethno.ch/forschung/)

*„They [people] like it [photography] too much...  
(young man, Bamenda 2003).“*

- What are the types (genres) of pictures and what are their images?
- How are pictures and images typically (re-) produced and transformed?

## Methodology

Several methods have been applied from (participant) observation, interviews and open-ended talks. As a major cross-cutting methodological approach serves the object-centred and the action-centred perspective.

## Results and Relevance

In a town like Bamenda the kinds of use and the powers of photography are or were in many respects different, though similar compared to Central Europe. The work will fill in a gap by providing an overview on typical pictures (genres), images and their transformations in a sub-Saharan region.

# Youthful Dreams: State Formation Processes at the Margins of Guinea

Michelle Engeler, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Basel

The aim of this doctoral research project is to provide a better understanding of the nexus between youth and state formation processes in Guinée Forestière, a marginal and under-studied region of the West African state Guinea. Research is carried out in the prefecture of Guéckédou, situated in the wider border region of Sierra Leone and Liberia.



Map: <http://www.grid.unep.ch>

Supervisor:	Prof. Dr. Till Förster
Funding:	Kommission für Forschungspartnerschaften mit Entwicklungsländern (KFPE), Freiwillige Akademische Gesellschaft (FAG)
Duration:	2008 - 2012
Keywords:	youth, youth mouvement, state, statehood, power
Publications:	Engeler, M. (2009): Bilder von Staat. In: Tsantsa 14: 158-171. Engeler, M. (2008): Guinea in 2008: The unfinished revolution. In: Politique Africaine 112: 87-98.
Links:	<a href="http://www.unibas-ethno.ch/forschung/">www.unibas-ethno.ch/forschung/</a> <a href="http://www.kfpe.ch">www.kfpe.ch</a>

## Background

Youth is an important social category to understand contemporary transformations on the African continent. As De Boeck and Honwana (2005: 1f) remind us, *"Children and youth are the focal point of many changes that characterize the contemporary African scene, afloat between crisis and renewal"*. This research produces an ethnography of both youth organizations and local state institutions as they are manifested in this particular region of Guinea. Both youth and local state institutions are conceptualized as social actors that express and reproduce material realities and symbolic imaginaries in their daily lives. As Lund writes, *"the state is always in the making and under construction"* (Lund 2006: 687). Thus, of particular interest are the social processes by which youth involves in state making and / or fulfills key state roles.



Picture: Generations, Guéckédou, January 2010

## Objective

The overall objective of this research is a better understanding of how youth are related to state making, negotiating and imagining in Guinée Forestière.

## Approach

Data collection is based on an inductive approach using qualitative research techniques. This research further substantiates the context of the research (youth, local state) through literature review and interviews with key informants in Guinea. Through semi-structured / biographic interviews and informal discussions with young Guineans and with key brokers of youth organizations, an understanding of young peoples' perceptions, aspirations and their social practices will be gained. This will be complemented by group discussions with youth and participant observation in specific events of youth organizations or the everyday practices of selected young people. Semi-structured interviews and discussions will be conducted with state officials, bureaucrats at different levels of the local state machinery as well as with other actors who play a role in the political arena, such as local elders, local politicians, and local business people. Selected interfaces and arenas will be studied where youth practices, state practices and other actors' practices overlap and shape local statehood, for example political rallies, planning meetings, social and sport events. The key method here will be observation and selected informal interviewing with participants of the event.

*"L'avenir, c'est aujourd'hui"* (young man, Guéckédou, 2010).



# The use of internet and mobile phone and anxieties of mobility in urban Cameroon

Bettina Frei, Institute of Social Anthropology (Bettina.Frei@unibas.ch)

**This dissertation project aims at making a contribution to an understanding of intersections of New Media use and mobility/migration. The focus lies on transforming patterns of sociality and solidarity, related to interpersonal social relations mediated through internet and mobile phone. Main attention is directed to urban youth in Bamenda, in Cameroon's North West Province.**



Cybercafé interior in Bamenda, Cameroon

- Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Till Förster
- Funding: VW Foundation, Germany
- Collaboration: University Freiburg, Germany; Yaoundé I, Cameroon; Kano, Nigeria; Witwatersrand, South Africa.
- Duration: November 2008-October 2011
- Keywords: New Media, migration, sociality, solidarity, social transformation
- Links: [www.unibas-ethno.ch/forschung/](http://www.unibas-ethno.ch/forschung/)

## Research questions and background

New Media technologies offer opportunities of sociality in physical absence, negotiated between desire for closeness or distance, under constraints of economic drawbacks, access to communication technologies and related skills. Patterns of solidarity are negotiated relating to claims for financial support and facilitating migration, vis-à-vis relatives and friends abroad - negotiations, which are as well shaped by images of a promising realm of „the West“. Research questions therefore relate to how practices of New Media use among youth in Bamenda contribute to their aspirations and notions of „a good life“ and „success“, which can guide as orientation for social practices of networking, linking up and reaching out to opportunities. Through the lens of the concept of „liveness“ (Auslander 1999, Couldry 2003, 2004), it will be addressed, how internet and mobile phone are used in the setting in order to negotiate positionality vis-à-vis imagined potentials, how they reproduce and transform notions of sociality and solidarity, and how New Media communication is adding to overall sociality in the setting.

## Methodology

Narrative interviews and informal conversation with New Media users were conducted, background information about the development of ICT in the setting was collected and participa-

tory observation was systematically carried out in youth's social spaces related to their use of internet and mobile phone. Additionally, prevalent „narratives“ related to youth's aspirations on a local level were collected and analysed. Interviews were also conducted with Cameroonian migrants in Switzerland. The collaboration with a „PhD-tandem partner“, asking similar questions from a different perspective, offers opportunities for exchange and reflection.

## First Results

Enhanced opportunities of taking part in each other's lives and involvement of migrants on a local level, enable negotiations of contested forms of sociality and solidarity, which are reflected again in local appropriation of New Media, various social practices and narratives.

## Relevance

Aims are to better understand migrant's social relations to their communities of origin, and impacts of mediated social relations and New Media use on youth in urban social spaces. In the view of the exceptional growth of New Media in many African countries, and the ongoing importance of migration issues, it will be interesting to examine the role of internet and mobile phone related to these dynamics of mobility from a local perspective.

# From Cure to Care

## Care practices among elderly people in urban Tanzania

Jana Gerold, PhD student, Institute of Social Anthropology (Jana.Gerold@unibas.ch)

**In medical anthropology the focus has long been on health and illness in relation to curative practices. This research project however, tries to deepen the knowledge on care practices with a special focus on elderly people. Long-term research was conducted in Dar es Salaam in a neighbourhood with a high burden of diseases. The initial findings suggest that elderly people not only receive care but actually are the main care providers.**



Photo: Old man calling his son who is in the hospital (JG 2010)

- Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Brigit Obrist
- Head of Project: Dr. Piet van Eeuwijk
- Collaboration: University of Dar es Salaam, Ifakara Health Institute, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute
- Funding: Swiss National Science Foundation
- Duration: 2009-2011
- Keywords: health, illness, care, elderly people
- Links: [www.unibas.ch/forschung/](http://www.unibas.ch/forschung/)  
[www.socialresilience.ch](http://www.socialresilience.ch)

*„My mobile phone connects me and my children“*  
(man, 72 years, Dar es Salaam, 2010)

### Background

This research project looks at elderly people, illness and care practices. The main interest lies in the analysis of care relationships and care practices of elderly people in the context of health vulnerabilities.

### Specific Objectives/Research Questions

The main aim in this research project is to understand the local context of care practices around illness with a special focus on elderly people, living in an urban rather poor neighbourhood in Dar es Salaam. How do actors perceive, judge and represent old age and the ageing process? How is the household composition related to the provision of care during illness? What are the care practices as well as capacities of older care givers? What are the dimensions of rural-urban relations in the context of care?

### Methodology

The research approach consists of four separate but consecutive steps. The focus is narrowed from the mapping of actors to the community to the households (N 50) and to the individual elderly (N 25). The qualitative data is based on practice as well as discourse analysis.

### Expected/First Results

When experiencing illness elderly people are still highly mobile; either providing or receiving care.

### Relevance

To better understand lay care provision among elderly people during illness and its impact for public health service provision. The findings are presented to policy makers and interested organizations throughout the research project.

# Access to malaria prophylaxis and antenatal care in south-eastern Tanzania

## The role of institutions and livelihoods

### Karin Gross

Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, University of Basel, Switzerland, [karin.gross@unibas.ch](mailto:karin.gross@unibas.ch)

### Background

Malaria-infection during pregnancy may lead to adverse consequences or even the death of the woman and her child. In Tanzania, where malaria is highly endemic, malaria prevention strategies are integral elements of antenatal care (ANC). Thus, pregnant women should receive two doses of Sulphadoxine-pyrimethamine (SP) as intermittent preventive treatment during pregnancy (IPTp). However, ANC attendance is often irregular and IPTp uptake is still low. Little is known about socio-cultural and legal factors influencing access to IPTp and ANC services among pregnant women.

### Objectives

This PhD project aims at a better understanding of pregnant women's access to IPTp and ANC services. It investigates how institutions such as informal norms and rules and formal regulations at the household, community and health facility level affect pregnant women's access to ANC and malaria prevention services.

### Methods

The study area encompasses the Demographic Surveillance System (DSS) sites of the Ulanga and Kilombero districts in south-eastern Tanzania. To allow for data triangulation a mixed-method approach was applied combining different qualitative (in-depth interviews, FGDs and observation of health worker practices and patient-provider interactions) and quantitative (cross-sectional study) methods.



Poster recommending an early ANC start  
(Photo: Karin Gross, 2008)

### Results

IPTp coverage at the selected ANC clinics improved between 2006 and 2008 due to better availability of SP at the health facilities. Yet, IPTp uptake is still low, especially for the second dose due to health worker practices and restrictive IPTp guidelines.

Women's access to services recommended by the national guidelines varied widely. Health-workers' performance was influenced by health workers' lack of training and absenteeism, inconsistencies between the guidelines and practical working tools such as the ANC cards, and shortages of work supplies. In order to cope with difficult work conditions health-workers created informal organizational rules and routines that were not fully compatible with the guidelines.

At the household and community level, socio-cultural factors regulate women's access to ANC services. Men play a significant role in supplying their pregnant women with necessary resources (transport, financial, human and social resources). However, gender roles and changing structures of marriage and family as well as the fact that men's involvement at the ANC clinics has only recently been encouraged, constrain male involvement during pregnancy.



Woman with children (Photo: Karin Gross, 2007)

### Relevance

Identifying and understanding institutions at the household, community and health facility level is of high relevance for informing and improving policy implementation in the field of maternal health care.

- **Supervision:** Prof. Dr. Brigit Obrist
- **Funding:** Commission for research partnerships in developing countries (KFPE), Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development, Rudolf-Geigy Stiftung, Freiwillige Akademische Gesellschaft
- **Collaboration:** Ifakara Health Institute, Tanzania
- **Duration:** January 2007 – December 2010



# *A History of the Visualization of “Secret Societies” in Historical Photographs from West Africa, ca. 1890 - 1950*

Ph.D Project of Nanina Guyer

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Supervisor: Prof. Patrick Harries

## 2. Aim

To produce a “thick description” of two image worlds of secrecy created in colonial West Africa:

- The secret societies of the Cameroonian Grassland, and
- The Poro/Sande secret societies of the Mende-speaking people.

## 3. Central Questions

- Who was taking part in the formation of these photographs, in which contexts were they taken, what were the motives of the photographers and of the photographed?
- Did Europeans have access to secretive knowledge? If so, how did they obtain it?
- What different paths did pictures follow from the point of being taken to being published or remain silent in archives?
- What was African secrecy and how was it influenced by the photographic encounter?

## 4. Methodology

Taking photographs as its starting point, the project explores the production, dissemination and reception of the image world of secrecy.

I use photographs, postcards, slideshows, travel reports, ethnographies, popular magazines, missionary publications as well as oral testimony.

## 5. First results

The female societies are pictured more frequently than its male counterpart. Women were more skillful in modes of self-representation.

Swiss missionaries and travelers were instrumental in the production and dissemination of both image worlds.



In applying pictures. The bodies of these girls, after being covered by a thin coating of clay, are seized by the fingers of a female in an attitude being known even today within the region of a



Butt-Thompson 1929: 143.

A BUNDU TUTOR OF FIFTY YEARS AGO.



Butt-Thompson 1929: 99.

THE LUBUKU SNAKE DANCE

## 1. Picturing Secrecy

*There is an awkward tension in the fact that the danger of looking at secretive things is inherent in many concepts of African secrecy – even more, sometimes an uninitiated onlooker is believed to die immediately. Yet at the same time, there is a considerable number of historical photographs, made by missionaries, colonial staff, ethnographers as well as African photographers showing – according to their captions – secretive phenomena such as “secret societies”. How did the photographers have access to secretive sites and associations? Or did they just pretend to have? The critical examination of the intersection of secrecy and photography offers a completely new perspective on the history both of western relations with Africa and the images of Africa in the West.*





# Exploring the Public - A Comparative Ethnography of Public Space in Maputo and Johannesburg

Barbara Heer, Institute of Social Anthropology and Centre for African Studies Basel  
(Barbara.Heer@unibas.ch)

**This dissertation project aims at analysing public life in two Southern African cities after transition to democracy. It pays special attention to the historically inherited structure of the cities and privatisation of public space. Long-term field research is being conducted in Maputo, Mozambique, and Johannesburg, South Africa.**

- Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Till Förster
- Funding: Humer-Foundation, Janggen-Pöhn-Stiftung
- Collaboration: Universidade Eduardo Mondlane
- Duration: January 2010 - Dec 2013
- Keywords: public life, public space, privatisation, segregation, urban governance, Southern Africa
- Links: <http://zasb.unibas.ch/research/phd-projects/>

*„I don't go to the CBD [Central Business District].  
You don't know whether someone is just gonna  
smash your window any second or how they  
operate in town I don't know.“  
(resident of Orange Grove, Johannesburg)*



Photo: Market in front of a shopping mall in Soweto

## Background

New forms of urban space governance (gated communities, shopping malls, public-private partnerships), often related to discourses of fear, are a challenge to our concepts of public space and urbanity. In the academic discussion, a narrative of loss equates privatisation with a loss of urban public sphere and sees it as a threat to democracy. This project questions this deterministic view assuming urban residents' agency and creativity in appropriating urban space.

## Specific Objectives/Research Questions

With an actor-oriented approach avoiding normative concepts this project wants to generate new insights in how the built environment and urban public life are related. Taking on a comparative approach, this study investigates how urban residents meet and interact within the fragmented cityscapes of Johannesburg and Maputo. Special attention will be given to how social differentia-

tion influences participation in public life. A link to citizenship and political participation might emerge.

## Methodology

In each city, public life in two urban districts with different socio-economic conditions will be investigated. The project adopts the Emic Evaluation Approach (EEA), which circulates the three complementary methods i) the mapping of public life, ii) practice analysis and iii) discourse analysis. These proceedings include a combination of different standard methods, i.e. construction of mental maps, photographic documentation, systematic observation, participation and interviewing.

## Relevance

A better understanding of the relationship between privatisation of public space and public life will be of relevance to urban planning and management.

# Post-conflict orders in western Côte d'Ivoire

## Power, Security and Trust

Kathrin Heitz, Institute of Social Anthropology (K.Heitz@unibas.ch)

**This dissertation project aims at analysing the reconfiguration of socio-political orders in a post-conflict society paying special attention to the military-civil nexus. Long-term field research was conducted in Man, the major rebel stronghold in western Côte d'Ivoire. First findings have revealed that violent non-state actors have successfully produced security and public order in negotiation with the population.**



Figure: Roadblock of the Forces Nouvelles in Man.

- Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Till Förster
- Funding: Swiss National Science Foundation
- Collaboration: Université de Bouaké
- Duration: July 2008 - June 2012
- Publication: Heitz, K. (2009), Power-Sharing in the Local Arena: Man – a Rebel-Held Town in Western Côte d'Ivoire, in: Africa Spectrum, 44 (3): 109-131.
- Keywords: post-conflict phase, statehood, social orders, security, trust, legitimacy

*„The rebels have given us a hard time, but they are not as bad as one might think.“ (young man, 2008)*

### Background

In the academic discussion of statehood, new political orders have been observed "beside the state" (Bellagamba and Klute 2008). This study looks at the reconfiguration of socio-political orders under rebel domination *in statu nascendi*. New power-sharing orders have emerged in the city of Man, before and after the partial redeployment of the state administration.

### Specific Objectives/Research Questions

For a more comprehensive understanding of the reconfiguration of socio-political orders, the study links power, security and trust to explore hybrid orders.

Who do people trust in times of crisis? How have daily routines and social relationships been affected by conflict? In what ways do these orders differ from the pre-war orders under state control? When do people address and trust institutions created by violent actors?

### Methodology

The project applies a triangulation of qualitative methods which allows the evaluation of data from cross-cutting perspectives: identification and description of the actors who engage in the production of security and social orders; discourse analysis based on interviews and practice analysis with observation and participation.

### Expected/First Results

Trust does not just fade in a crisis, but shift to other trustees and therefore plays an important role in the reconfiguration of post-conflict orders. For ex.: Some people address and trust rebel institutions for security issues and to resolve disputes.

### Relevance

This project provides knowledge about strategies of populations in and after violent conflicts which may be used by institutions offering support in post-conflict contexts.

# LA CERAMIQUE DU TELL DE SADIA (MALI)

CHRYSTEL JEANBOURQUIN

## Programme de recherche

Débuté en 1997 sur le site d'Ounjougou (Plateau de Bandiagara, Mali), le programme international et interdisciplinaire « Peuplement humain et paléoenvironnement en Afrique de l'Ouest » s'intéresse aux interactions Homme-environnement en Pays dogon, du Pléistocène à l'époque actuelle. Centrées sur le Plateau, puis sur la Falaise de Bandiagara, les recherches s'étendent actuellement à la plaine du Séno, zone encore peu documentée du point de vue archéologique. Pour atteindre ces objectifs, le programme concentre désormais la majeure partie de ses activités sur un important site d'habitat situé à proximité du village de Sadia.

## Contexte géographique et chronologique

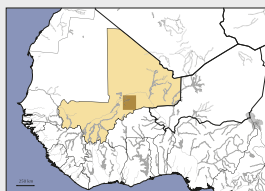
Le site archéologique de Sadia, dans la plaine du Séno, est un habitat de type « tell » composé de cinq buttes anthropiques distinctes. Quatre sondages ont été réalisés au début de l'année 2010 afin d'élaborer une première séquence chronostratigraphique de référence pour l'ensemble du site. Les prochaines campagnes seront quant à elles consacrées à la fouille extensive de l'une des buttes principales. A ce jour, les résultats des premières datations <sup>14</sup>C signalent deux périodes distinctes, soit au 2<sup>e</sup> siècle ap. J.-C. et entre le 8<sup>e</sup> et le 12<sup>e</sup> siècle ap. J.-C.

Bien que de nombreux tells soient connus en Pays dogon et dans d'autres régions du Mali, aucun n'a fait l'objet de fouilles d'envergure et seuls quelques uns ont été sondés. La fouille programmée du site de Sadia constitue ainsi une opportunité de mener un projet ambitieux et novateur.

## Projet de thèse

Notre projet de thèse, débuté en septembre 09 et dirigé par Eric Huysecom (professeur des Universités de Genève et Bamako), consiste à caractériser le matériel céramique produit et/ou consommé par les populations de Sadia par le passé.

Il s'agit concrètement d'établir une typo-chronologie des formes et des décors, d'identifier les techniques de façonnage des récipients et de mettre en évidence des changements ou, au contraire, des continuités tant sur le plan spatial que temporel. La céramique, trouvée en très grande quantité sur les sites archéologiques, constitue un très bon indicateur culturel. Utilisée depuis le 10<sup>e</sup> millénaire av. J.-C. au Mali, elle a joué de tout temps un rôle économique et social non négligeable au sein des populations.



Localisation du site de Sadia  
(plaine du Séno, Pays dogon, Mali)



## Méthodologie

Lors de la première campagne de fouille, une approche globale du matériel céramique a été privilégiée. La totalité des tessons mis au jour lors des sondages ont été comptés et pesés, puis un inventaire des décors a été effectué. La variabilité des motifs, leur fréquence, ainsi que leur association sur un même récipient donnent en effet des indications sur l'identité des producteurs de cet artisanat. L'étude d'un tel matériel permet ainsi de définir des zones de production, de consommation et de diffusion.

## Perspectives

Les résultats obtenus seront comparés aux données récoltées dans les régions périphériques. Nous tenterons ainsi d'établir des liens entre cultures matérielles et identités dans la plaine du Séno.

D'après les traditions orales, les Dogon sont arrivés dans la région entre le 13<sup>e</sup> et le 15<sup>e</sup> siècle de notre ère. Nous nous intéressons aux périodes antérieures à leur apparition afin d'accéder à une meilleure compréhension de l'histoire globale du peuplement en Pays dogon, entre la fin du Néolithique vers 400 av. J.-C., et le 13<sup>e</sup> siècle ap. J.-C. La complexité de cette histoire résulte notamment d'assujettissements, d'alliances et de migrations de populations au sein desquelles des phénomènes d'hybridation et d'emprunts ont pu avoir lieu.

## Financements

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Faculté des sciences UniGE (COAN 2)  
Bourse Augustin Lombard  
Fondation Schmidheiny

Site du programme de recherche  
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SSEA/octobre 2010

Récipients complets  
(sondages 2010)



FONDS NATIONAL SUISSE  
DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE



UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE

FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES  
Département d'anthropologie

Mission Archéologique et Ethnoarchéologique  
Suisse en Afrique de l'Ouest

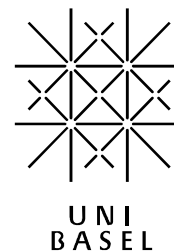
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# Informal Land Transactions in Peri-Urban Villages, Malawi

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**This dissertation project aims at analysing practices taking place in the peri-urban villages of Blantyre City, Malawi. Preliminary findings from a 10 month fieldwork indicate an increase in both the practice of selling land and the price of land. Most people buying the land are from the city, and the major reason is for residential development. While selling land brings instant money, the actual dynamics are partially appreciated.**



Figure: Advertisement for land, Blantyre (Malawi)

- Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Till Förster
- Funding: Amt für Ausbildungsbeiträge - Basel Stadt
- Duration: August 2008 - Jun 2011
- Keywords: customary land, custom, commoditization, peri-urban village, governance
- Links: [www.unibas-ethno.ch/forschung/](http://www.unibas-ethno.ch/forschung/)

*Ever since land became a commodity it is not possible to acquire land free of charge*

## Background

Selling customary land implies a state of permanent loss of the immovable property in land, and also of the means of earning a living. The question is how are the transactions initiated and concluded given that both custom and law on land do not permit the selling of such land. Relevant are questions about who participates in the transactions, on what terms, and what are the effects over time.

## Specific Objectives/Research Questions

1. How are 'informal' land transactions initiated, mediated and consolidated or concluded?
2. How are land owning patterns transforming over time?
3. How are the transactions embedded in social and legal/power relationships?

## Methodology

The project relies on a triangulation of qualitative methods (participant observation, interviewing, collecting documents) which allows for the analysis of the phenomenon from multiple perspectives.

## Expected/First Results

Increase in the practice of selling land, emergence of landlessness or near landlessness, proliferation of alternative ways of earning a living, and disputed claims given that custom and law do not permit such transactions, reconfiguration of how access and control is defined and contested.

## Relevance

Learning more about land ownership transformations/transformations in the governance of peri-urban land.



# The Work of State Imageries: Coping with Intricacies of the Everyday in Liberia's Post-Conflict Context

Andrea Kaufmann, Institute of Social Anthropology (Andrea.Kaufmann@unibas.ch)

**Aim of this project is to understand how imageries of governance and the state are shaped and how they influence everyday practice of the local population in a post-conflict setting. The field of enquiry is the urban and peri-urban space of Liberia, a country that had suffered 14 years of conflict. The devastation of infrastructures and poorly functioning public services still create challenges to the local actors and their livelihoods.**



Figure: Creating Social Order in Central Monrovia, Liberia.

- Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Till Förster
- Funding: Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF 100012-124528)
- Collaboration: University of Liberia
- Duration: June 2009 - June 2012
- Keywords: Liberia, post-conflict, statehood, social orders, collective action
- Links: [www.unibas-ethno.ch/forschung](http://www.unibas-ethno.ch/forschung)

*"The police (...), the security are working. But they are not working according to... like normal days."*  
(Interview in West Point, Monrovia, 2010)

## Background

Imageries of governance and the state have a vast impact on actors and how they arrange their everyday life. This project looks at how ordinary people cope with the difficult social and economic conditions in the aftermath of the West African Conflict. Expectations towards the state are enormous, the state itself is weak and limited.

## Specific Objectives/Research Questions

The aim of this project is to examine what imageries of governance and the state exist, if and how new imageries emerge and how they are negotiated and shaped. How do ordinary people in a peri-urban and urban setting try to make a living? How do they cope with the precarious delivery of common and public goods such as security or access to resources such as water, food, education or medical services? How do new forms of governance emerge in the context of a post-conflict society?

## Methodology

The Emic Evaluation Approach (EEA) triangulates three components 1) Mapping the Actors; 2) Social Discourse Analysis including interviews, non-verbal statements or media; and 3) Practice Analysis. The EEA enables evaluating data from cross-cutting perspectives.

## Expected/First Results

Actors respond to the malfunctioning public institutions by forming groups of collective action. This project focuses on local groups reestablishing social order and the provision of public and common goods, such as security by youth groups or health by collaboration of women.

## Relevance

Gaining insights on how actors evaluate and cope with a post-conflict situation and how the international community could deliver efficient and adequate support.

# The South African Movement for Reparations and its Legal Interventions

Rita Kesselring, Institute of Social Anthropology (Rita.Kesselring@unibas.ch)

**Globally, social concerns are increasingly taken to court with the hope of social change being instituted through legal institutions. This study is an ethnographic work on victims of gross human rights violations committed under the apartheid regime. It focuses on the formation of subjectivities during legal processes that followed from the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission.**



Figure: Members of the South African victims organization

- Supervisor: Prof. Till Förster, Prof. Patrick Harries, Associate Prof. Fiona Ross
- Funding: Researcher in the Swiss South African Joint Research Project „Safeguarding Democracy“ and Fellowship for Prospective Researcher, Swiss National Science Foundation
- Collaboration: University of the Witwatersrand and University of Cape Town, South Africa; Human Rights Institute, University of Connecticut, US
- Duration: November 2008 - December 2011
- Keywords: gross human rights violations, law, victims, post-conflict societies.

The research project seeks to understand the impact of legal thinking and legal practices on personhood and on the formation of subjectivities during processes of legalization of social conflicts.

The study draws on legal processes which have followed from the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the mid-1990s, thus looking at the effects of a truth commission and other measures of 'transitional justice' in the aftermath of a transition to a democracy.

The work is informed and stimulated by the effects of a class action suit filed by victims of gross human rights violations committed under the apartheid regime. The plaintiffs sue companies abroad that did not disinvest from business with the apartheid regime. They have also instituted legal action against the current democratically elected South African government in cases addressing questions of impunity for perpetrators under the apartheid regime.

The project seeks to examine empirically, firstly, the ways in which victims/plaintiffs are rendered – or render themselves – to testifiers and/or witnesses of past atrocities and to social activists fighting societal issues such as poverty and crime, and, secondly, the ways in which ideals of dignity and the restoration of the self are attempted to be lived up to and practiced by members of an organization claiming reparations for past abuse.

Doing so, the project looks at the notion of 'victimhood' beyond its narrow sense of bodily integrity but grounded in everyday practicalities.

# Theology in Transition. Public Theologies in Post-Apartheid South Africa

Katrin Kusmierz, Faculty of Theology

Theology has played an ambivalent role in South Africa's history, but, besides a theological legitimization of racial segregation and apartheid by the white Dutch Reformed Churches, various theologies critical of apartheid were developed since the late seventies and have strongly influenced a church based opposition movement. The thesis traces the changes these "critical political theologies" underwent in the wake of the political transition in South Africa and analyses contemporary theological thought on the public role of churches (and religions in general) in a democratic society. Using the political debate on same sex marriage (2006) as a case study it reflects on problems and possibilities of religious involvement in public discourse.

## Outline of Research

South African churches entered the area of democracy with a distinct legacy: whether critical or supportive of apartheid, churches and theology have inevitably engaged with the socio-political sphere. So called "Black theology", "contextual" and "prophetic theology" have contributed to building a critical consciousness within churches, that formed the basis for the involvement of faith based organisations, church groups, church bodies as well as individuals in the anti-apartheid movement.



After 1994, churches and theologians began to reflect anew upon the role religious communities could and should (or should not) play within a now democratic society. Some theologians do so in discussing the concept of "public theology". According to South African theologians religious communities do have a distinct contribution to make to the shaping of democracy. Central to such a "democratic vision" is a human rights culture, based on justice, equality, and human dignity. Churches and faith based organisations are therefore seen as members of a civil society that sustains democracy, critically monitors the actions of those in government and participates in public discourse and policy formation.

The legitimacy of religious participation in public discourse, however, depends on a set of conditions such as the acceptance of the separation of religion and state and of the constitution as the founding document for society. It also depends on the acceptance of a set of basic rules that govern such discourse within a democracy: acknowledging difference in opinion, respect for others and a readiness to offer intelligible arguments for one's position for example.

## Case Study

The analysis of the debate on same sex marriage legislation in South Africa in 2006 serves well to show that these basic conditions and values for democratic public discourse, tested against reality, are also contested among some church communities.

## Relevance

In many contemporary societies the question of the relation of religion and politics is an imminent issue. From an ethical/theological point of view it is critical to reflect upon the ways religion may contribute to the functioning of democratic societies in ways that are non-detrimental at worst and constructive at best.

## Methodology

The research is based on academic theological texts as well as historical and contemporary "church" documents as main sources. For the case study submissions of various churches to the Public Hearings on the Proposed Civil Union Bill organised by the National Assembly's Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs were analysed and a range of (expert) interviews were conducted.

## Context

The thesis was written within a comparative research project on the public role of churches in societies undergoing political transition, steered by Proffs Christine and Wolfgang Lienemann. Other case studies included Brazil, Mozambique, South Korea, the Philipines and Indonesia.

**Publications:** Kusmierz, Katrin; Cochrane, James R. (2006): Öffentliche Kirche und öffentliche Theologie in Südafrikas politischer Transformation, in: Lienemann-Perrin, Christine; Lienemann, Wolfgang (eds.): Kirche und Öffentlichkeit in Transformationsgesellschaften, Stuttgart 2006, 195-226.

Kusmierz, Katrin (2004): Öffentlichkeit als Referenzrahmen kirchlichen Handelns in Südafrika; in: Schneider, Jürg; Roost Vischer, Lilo; Péclard, Didier (eds.): Werkschau Afrikastudien 4 - Le forum suisse des africanistes 4, Münster, S. 309-325.

Kusmierz, Katrin (2002): Kirchen als Akteurinnen im öffentlichen Raum. Religion, Staat und Gesellschaft im demokratischen Südafrika, in: Kusmierz, Katrin; Lienemann-Perrin, Christine; Müller-Clemm, Julia; Walz, Heike, (eds.): Theologie unterwegs II. Eindrücke, Bilder und Nachgedanken einer Studienreise nach Südafrika; Basel, 193-209.

**Picture:** Church and other religious and political leaders at a march in 1989. Photo by Benny Gool.

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**Supervisor:** Christine Lienemann

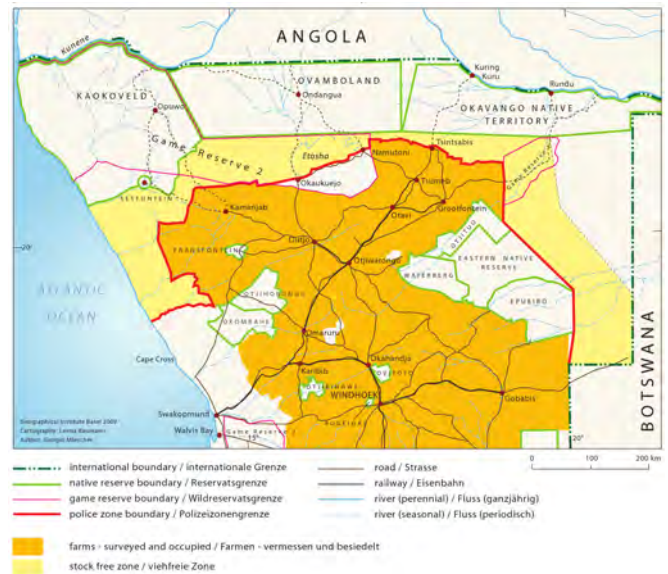
**External examiner:** Jim Cochrane, University of Cape Town

**Funding:** Swiss National Science Foundation



## Giorgio Miescher, Historisches Seminar

Based on archival sources and on oral history the thesis reconstructs a border building process which spanned over sixty years. The process started with the establishment of a temporary veterinary defence line against Rinderpest by the German colonial power in the late 19th century and ended with the construction of continuous two-metre high fence by the South African colonial government sixty years later. This 1250 kilometres long fence separates northern from central Namibia up to date.



The thesis combines a macro and a micro-perspective and differentiates between a cartographic and a physical reality. The analysis explores both the colonial state's agency with regard to veterinary and settlement policy as well as strategies of Africans and Europeans living close to the border. The analysis also includes the different perceptions of people living in a distance north and south of the border and their experiences in crossing the border as migrants workers, African traders, European settlers or colonial officials.

The Red Line's history is understood as a gradual process of segregating stock and people, and also of constructing dichotomies of modern and traditional, healthy and sick, European and African. Seen in the logic of a South African Empire the Red Line conceptually functioned as a 'barbarian border' against the danger of inner-Africa and physically marked the limits of the 'white' settler South Africa.

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**Funding:** Max Geldner Stiftung, Freiwillige Akademische Gesellschaft Basel, Theodor Engelmann Stiftung



# Le peuplement d'Afrique de l'Ouest sub-saharienne entre 2500 et 500 av. J.-C.: cadre chrono-culturel, économique et environnemental de la fin du Néolithique en zone soudano-sahélienne.

Sylvain Ozainne

Cette thèse a pour objectif d'établir un cadre chrono-culturel pour le Néolithique récent du pays dogon (Mali), puis de l'intégrer dans un scénario de peuplement retraçant les interactions entre environnements et sociétés à l'Holocène récent en Afrique de l'Ouest subsaharienne. Elle est effectuée dans le cadre du programme de recherche international "Peuplement humain et évolution paléoclimatique en Afrique de l'Ouest", initié en 1997 par E. Huysecom après la découverte sur le plateau de Bandiagara du gisement d'Ounjougou, constituant un témoin privilégié des grands phénomènes humains et environnementaux affectant l'Afrique de l'Ouest sub-saharienne pendant l'Holocène récent. Les sites étudiés dans le cadre de cette thèse permettent d'établir un transect archéologique est-ouest recoupant le plateau de Bandiagara (zone d'Ounjougou), la falaise de Bandiagara (zone de Yawa) et la plaine du Séno (zone de Béréli) (fig. 1 et 2).

Ce travail constitue la facette archéologique d'une approche pluridisciplinaire dont le but est de retranscrire l'évolution des interactions homme – environnement de la région au cours de l'Holocène récent, afin d'évaluer le rôle des modifications climatiques sur les comportements culturels et économiques, et, réciproquement, de décrire l'impact des sociétés humaines sur les paysages. Une première partie s'attache d'abord à proposer une séquence chrono-culturelle pour l'occupation du pays dogon entre 2500 et 500 av. J.-C., un intervalle couvrant le Néolithique récent et la transition vers l'Âge du Fer ancien de la région (fig. 3). L'ensemble de ces données archéologiques est connecté à la séquence environnementale et climatique élaborée par les géographes et archéobotanistes œuvrant au sein du projet.

La seconde partie confronte la séquence du pays dogon à une zone de compréhension correspondant au domaine soudano-sahélien d'Afrique de l'Ouest. Pour opérer ce changement d'échelle, les informations issues des travaux de terrain sont intégrées sous forme synthétique dans une base de sites constituant un bilan des ressources bibliographiques disponibles, couplée à un SIG. Cet outil est destiné à produire des cartes thématiques constituant une base pour la construction d'un scénario général du peuplement, intégrant les ruptures climatiques et environnementales de l'Holocène récent.

Financements

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Faculté des Sciences de l'Université de Genève  
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Programme EDOCSA

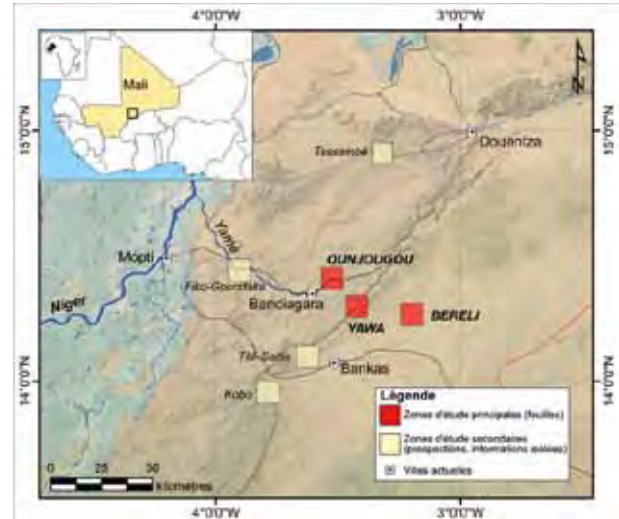


Fig. 1. Localisation du pays dogon et des zones étudiées.



Fig. 2. Fouilles sur le site de Kélisogou (Ounjougou)

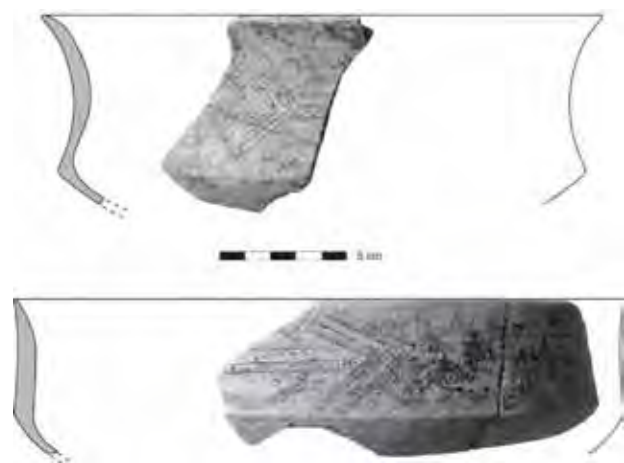


Fig. 3. Céramiques de la transition Néolithique -Âge du Fer, datées du 1er millénaire av. J.-C.



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## Gender and Colonialism. A History of Kaoko (north-western Namibia) between the 1870s and the 1950s

Lorena Rizzo, Historisches Seminar

The dissertation deals with colonialism in a Namibian periphery and considers both the German colonial period as well as South African rule in the country. The main is to develop an understanding of the dynamics and vectors of change in the Kaoko's African societies gradually being placed under colonial rule. With a focus on socio-economic processes the thesis explores the continuous reconstitution of gender roles and relations and anchors its argument on an integrated analysis of archival written and visual sources as well as on oral knowledge. In its theoretical and methodological outline, the thesis is concerned with developing a narrative beyond ethnic and tribal categories and hence to critically revise most of the ethnography and historiography on the region available up to date.

### Background and Aim of Research

Namibia gained independence from South African occupation in 1990. Only then could a critical historiography establish itself in the country and many areas and issues, which could not be considered for research, came into focus. Kaoko is a former reserve which is considered to be one of the most marginal areas in Namibia. The region has been given particular attention by the tourism industry and by anthropologists, both showing a keen interest in the Ovahimba population in Kaoko, which is considered to represent par excellence indigenous African life beyond the disruptions of colonialism and modernity. The thesis seriously questions such static and a-historical visions of the era and contrasts them with reconstructing dramatic changes between the late 19th and the mid-20th century.

### Methodology

The main sources for the thesis are the archival documents and historical photographs kept in the National Archives of Namibia in Windhoek. Furthermore mission archives in Namibia and Germany were considered. Besides these sources, all of which emerge from a colonial archival discourse, oral knowledge about Kaoko's past has been extensively collected. Interviews done in Kaoko in various languages and later transcribed and translated into English helped blurring some of the biases suggested by the archives.



### Relevance

In contrast to most historical work on former Namibian reserves the thesis tried to link Kaoko's history to developments in its neighbouring regions, both in northern Namibia and southern Angola. This has helped placing the argument into a broader regional frame and has allowed to adjust some of the scholarly assumptions about Kakoko's past and present.

**Publications:** Rizzo, Lorena: „The Elephant Shooting—Inconsistencies of Colonial Law and Indirect Rule in Kaoko (north-western Namibia) in the 1920s and 1930s“, in: *The Journal of African History*, Vol. 48, No. 2, July 2007, pp. 245-266.  
Rizzo, Lorena: „A Glance into the Camera. Gendered Visions of Historical Photographs on Kaoko (north-western Namibia)“, in: *Gender and History, Special Issue Visual Genders*, Vol. 17, No. 3, November 2005, pp. 682-713.

**Picture:** National Archives of Namibia, 2984, “Woman with child (Herero), on donkey”, photographer: Heinz Roth, 1951.

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**Supervisors:** Patrick Harries, Josef Mooser, Patricia Hayes

**Funding:** Swiss National Science Foundation, Freiwillige Akademische Gesellschaft



# Transitional Justice and the dynamics of State (Re-)Construction in Burundi

Sandra Rubli, MA lic rer soc, [sandra.rubli@swisspeace.ch](mailto:sandra.rubli@swisspeace.ch), swisspeace & University of Basel, PhD candidate  
Start date of PhD study: 01.01.2009

After years of civil war, Burundi went through a transition phase which officially ended in 2005. Five years later, the country is still struggling with the legacy of violent conflicts. The project studies how mechanisms of transitional justice and dealing with the past are appropriated by state and non-state actors in their power strategies.

## Context

The history of Burundi is marked by several cycles of violence and an 11-year long civil war. Although the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement signed in 2000 contains provisions on transitional justice mechanisms, neither the Truth and Reconciliation Commission nor the Special Tribunal have been established to this day. The government, political parties, civil society organisations and the United Nations do not agree on the process, the form and the content of the different transitional justice mechanisms. This allegedly neutral juridical process is more about power politics and it is used to negotiate state authority and legitimacy in the post-conflict phase.

Figure 1



Memorial "plus jamais ça" ("never again") commemorating the high school students who were abducted from school, locked in a gas station and burnt alive on October 21, 1993, Kibimba.

## Research Questions

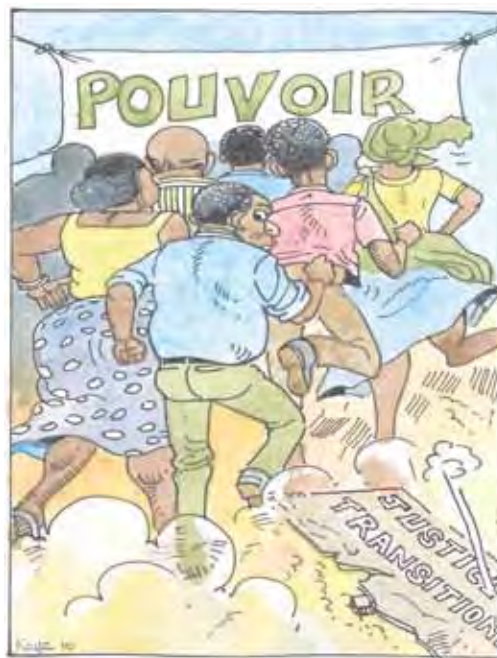
This research project focuses on how mechanisms and processes of dealing with the past contribute to state-formation processes in Burundi by analyzing the different conceptions of transitional justice that national and international state and non-state actors have at their disposal and how they implement them. More specifically, the objectives of the research are to:

- study the dominant model of transitional justice and its applicability to the Burundian context;
- contribute to ongoing theoretical and practice-oriented debates on the contribution of transitional justice to the establishment of the rule of law and state-building.

## Methodology

This research project is based on an empirical approach with a strong emphasis on field research in Burundi. Information gained in interviews with important actors will be triangulated with official documents and reports, news articles and public statements.

Figure 2



## Objectives

This research project will show how different perceptions and understandings of truth, reconciliation and justice influence state-formation processes in Burundi, and thereby providing an original contribution to the understanding of the role of transitional justice in a state-formation process and on different models of dealing with the legacies of a violent conflict.

## Progress

In 2009 preliminary field research was conducted to substantiate the guiding questions and to develop a research strategy which is serving as a basis for the current research in Burundi. Currently, national consultations on transitional justice mechanisms have been held. Although the final report should have been released in April, the Burundian president still needs to approve it. However, he states that he would publish the document after the electoral process is terminated. This delay might be due to the fear that political actors will take over the allegedly neutral process and use the content for their own political purposes.

# Adolescents, Sex and the City in Southern Tanzania

Richard F. Sambaiga, Institute of Social Anthropology (Richard.Sambaiga@unibas.ch)

This PhD project aims at examining what dimensions of urban sexuality youth experience as risks, whether this experience is gendered and whether young women and men develop ways of anticipating, avoiding or overcoming and thus building resilience to these risks. A one year ethnographic fieldwork is underway in Mtwara town, a rapidly growing district capital in Southern Tanzania.



Photo: Adolescent girls in Mtwara

- Supervisor: Prof. Brigit Obrist
- Head of Project: Dr. Constanze Pfeiffer
- Funding: Humer Foundation, Center for African Studies, University of Basel
- Collaboration: University of Dar es Salaam
- Duration: March 2010 - February 2013
- Keywords: adolescence, sexuality, resilience, creativity, representation
- Links: [www.unibas-ethno.ch/forschung/](http://www.unibas-ethno.ch/forschung/)

*"In town what matters is money not love."*  
 (A male adolescent in Mtwara town, 2010)

## Background

Young people constitute the majority of African societies. They are at the centre of many societal interactions and transformations. Promoting the reproductive health of African youth has moved to the top of the international development agenda. However, surprisingly little is known about how young people live their sexuality, particularly in rapidly changing urban contexts.

## Specific Objectives/Research Questions

Exploration of young people's city life and learning about the dimensions of urban sexuality youth experience as risks and how they deal with them. How does Mtwara town shape adolescents' sexuality? What is the interplay between lived sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and interventions in Mtwara town?

## Methodology

The study will concentrate on young people in adolescence (aged 15-19 years) in Mtwara town. It employs a mixed methods approach combining quantitative and qualitative methods such as semi-structured interviews, in-depth interviews, observation and participation.

## Expected/First Results

Different ways through which adolescents in urban contexts conceptualize and live their sexuality.

## Relevance

Understanding creativity of adolescents in dealing with their sexuality and their sexual and reproductive health.



# Dynamics of social relations and sexual practices in the context of HIV/AIDS in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Patricia Schwärzler, MA, medical anthropologist

Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH), Basel, Switzerland, patricia.schwaerzler@unibas.ch

## Background

Although West Africa has remarkably low prevalence rates, AIDS is a burning issue to the population in Ouagadougou, capital of Burkina Faso (national HIV prevalence 1.6%). National HIV/AIDS prevention campaigns are based on Euro-American representations of the body and society with the corresponding biomedical terminology and social and moral concepts. Due to a multitude of additional actors (NGOs, religious communities, media) providing information, interpretations of HIV/AIDS are manifold and influence the thinking, speaking and acting of people about this illness.

## Objective

This PhD project<sup>4</sup> aims at a better understanding and contextualisation of the generation- and gender-specific narratives on social and heterosexual relationships of women and men in their confrontation with HIV/AIDS. An emphasis is placed on adolescents.

## Methodology

We have been working with residents of *secteur 29*, a peri-urban neighborhood of Ouagadougou. We opted for a triangulation of qualitative methods combining focus group discussions and in-depth interviews with members of the general population, interviews with representatives of religious communities and health facilities, and observation of and participation in social life in the neighborhood.

**Keywords:** medical anthropology, urban anthropology, social change, gender, HIV/AIDS

**Funding:** employment in the NCCR North-South at the Swiss TPH, Basel; private funds and donation; scholarships from the Swiss National Science Foundation, Bern, the Max Geldner Foundation, Basel, and the Graduate School Gender Studies, Basel

**Supervision:** Prof. Dr. Brigit Obrist<sup>1,2</sup>, Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Zemp<sup>1</sup>, Prof. Dr. Marcel Tanner<sup>1</sup> (<sup>1</sup> Swiss TPH, Basel, <sup>2</sup> Institute of Social Anthropology, Basel)

## Publications

1. Schwärzler Patricia. 2010. Sex and the City: Erzählungen alter Männer und Frauen über jugendliche Sexualität und AIDS in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. In: H. Dilger & B. Hadolt, Hg., *Medizin im Kontext: Krankheit und Gesundheit in einer vernetzten Welt*. Frankfurt am Main, Peter Lang: 389-409. French translation: Schwärzler Patricia (2010). *Sex and the City: Récits des vieilles et des vieux sur la sexualité des jeunes citadins et le sida à Ouagadougou*, Burkina Faso. (working paper, available from author)
2. Schwärzler Patricia (et al.). 2010. Modèles et pratiques multiples de multi-partenariat des jeunes citadins à Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. (working title, in progress)
3. Schwärzler Patricia (et al.). 2010. Mythes et discours autour du préservatif à Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. (working title, in preparation)
4. Schwärzler Patricia (2011). Dynamiques des relations sociales et pratiques sexuelles dans le contexte du VIH/sida à Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (working title, PhD thesis in preparation)

## Results

Sexual practices are social activities and thus are subject to social change and to negotiations of differing positions between both old and young and men and women. In *secteur 29* different models of relationships and various discourses on and practices of sexuality coexist.

Elderly people refer to pre-colonial 'traditional' institutions controlling premarital adolescent sexuality. They complain about their decay when talking about current sexual practices of adolescents in the city. Most old people believe this decay is responsible for the spread of HIV, while especially blaming young girls.<sup>1</sup>

For young girls and boys, their narrated models and practices of multiple partnerships are an expression of the quest for new representations of femininity and masculinity. Those are, partially, related to the social and customary context that encompasses polygamy and specific forms of socially acceptable extramarital relationships.<sup>2</sup>

The reluctant use of condoms by the population is due to various reasons, among others, to myths built around this main instrument of HIV prevention.<sup>3</sup>

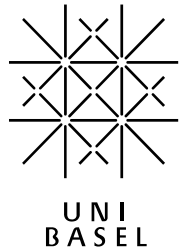


## Perspectives

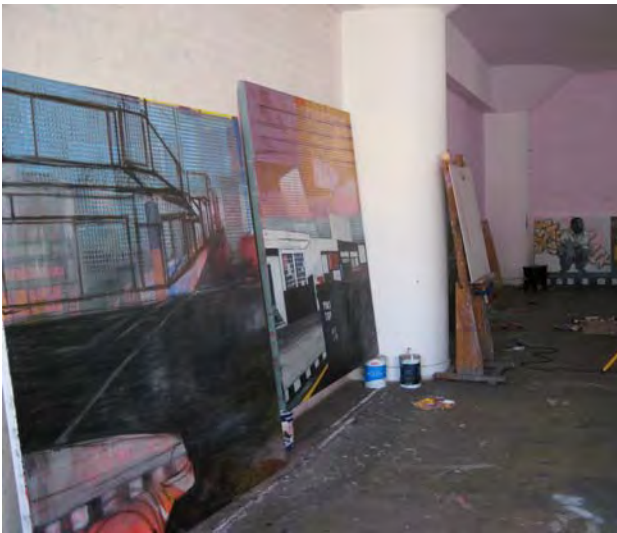
The issues addressed can be adapted for applications in development projects. This study is further able to inform public health efforts in regards to family planning, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS, as well as sex education for adolescents and even the application of the new family law in Burkina Faso.

# Visualizing Transformation Contemporary Art in Johannesburg

Fiona Siegenthaler, Institute of Social Anthropology (Fiona.Siegenthaler@unibas.ch)



**This PhD thesis asks how contemporary visual artists in the city of Johannesburg perceive, reflect, and represent urbanity and social change. Focusing on the last 15 years of transition, it analyzes works in diverse artistic media including painting, photography, and performance in public space. First findings show that engaging with the city is relevant in diverse art traditions and that not only the urban space, but also the artists' strategies and the visual aesthetics have changed in the years of post-apartheid.**



Visit at the studio of Kudzanai Chiurai, 31.7.2008

- Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Till Förster
- Funding: Swiss National Science Foundation
- Duration: April 2009 - September 2011
- Selected Publication: Siegenthaler, F.: *Schichten des Transitorischen: Oberflächen und Reflexionen in der zeitgenössischen Fotografie in Johannesburg*, in: [www.kunsttexte.de](http://www.kunsttexte.de), Sektion Gegenwart, August 2010
- Keywords: Contemporary Art, Johannesburg, Urban Change, Visual Culture, Performance, Photography, Art in public space, Installation, Painting
- Link: [www.unibas-ethno.ch/forschung/](http://www.unibas-ethno.ch/forschung/)

## Background

Urban change is a dominant theme, not only strongly experienced but also debated in the big cities of many African countries. Much has been written about these urban transformations, but only little research has been done about the way in which these transformations are perceived and reflected by visual artists. Johannesburg as a city has experienced a great change from an urban and cultural perspective since the end of apartheid and the introduction of democracy in 1994. The inner city of Johannesburg is an intriguing space for many artists, fascinated by its unique history, its social tensions and its urban myths.

## Objectives/Research Questions

The central question is: How do the artists perceive and reflect urbanity and social change in Johannesburg within their work, and to what extent is transformation not just visually represented but also identifiable in terms of aesthetic changes in the contemporary development of visual arts in Johannesburg? How are the imageries related to so-called local, urban, national or global art histories?

## Methodology

The approach is based on a combination of perspectives and methods from art history and anthropology such as work analysis, interviews, and participatory observation.

# Care, Vulnerability and Resilience among Elderly in Tanzania

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This research project reflects on the theoretical and empirical debates on an ageing population. It contributes to the ongoing discussion on the importance of the shift from “cure to care” where in an ageing society care becomes crucial. It elicits how elderly carry agency by establishing and maintaining different social networks to receive and provide care in Rufiji district, South East of Tanzania.



Photo: Hadija and her sister-in-law living together during old age.

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- Project leader: Dr. Piet van Eeuwijk
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*“...when you receive care during old age you basically enjoy every bit of a day, but if you dont, life becomes a nightmare and you suffer“*  
(woman, 102 years, Rufiji 2010)

## Background

The ageing population has brought a dilemma to the world. While it is seen as a major achievement to live longer, it has also brought challenges when more people are becoming old and in need of care. This calls for a major shift from the notion of providing cure to giving and receiving care. However, little is known on different care practices among the elderly with the main assumptions that they are care receivers.

## Specific Objectives/Research Questions

Six questions were developed: how is old age perceived, judged and represented? How do household compositions influence care relations? What are the resources that strengthen elderly people's resilience in relation to receiving and providing care? What is the burden of care to carers and how does the rural-urban mobility enhance the elderly receiving or providing care? Lastly, how can care practices be improved for the elderly?

## Methodology

Qualitative methods such as focus group discussions, in-depth interviews and observations were used to capture the social practices among the people in Rufiji district, Tanzania. Rufiji DSS provided the socio-demographic information of the study population.

## Expected/First Results

Care among the rural elderly is a social process and public good produced and maintained through social relations and networks. Through care we see the agency that elderly carry and this challenges the dominant discourse, that becoming or being old means being frail and vulnerable.

## Relevance

Gaining insights on means through which elderly stand against vulnerability and enhance resilience in relation to old age care.