



PROGRAM

KITONG-KIASS INTERNATIONAL

3RRR-SYMPOSIUM

RESTITUTION, REHABILITATION und RECONCILIATION



Targeting the Austrian Cultural and Political Context
from August 31 August to September 2nd 2022

Locations of the Symposium:

- ❖ **Central European University**
(Quellenstrasse 51, 1100 Wien) C.E.U
- &
- ❖ **AFRIEUROTEXT Buchhandlung**
(Lassallestrasse 20/3, 1020 Wien)

CONCEPTION and ORGANISATION

AFRIEUROTEXT (Cultural Association and Bookstore)

www.afrieurotext.at / www.kilet-kiass.afrieurotext.at/de / www.afrieurotextshop.at

fresh Black Austrian Lifestyle Magazine www.blackaustria.info

Registration for the Kitong Kiass 3RRR-Symposium: office@afrieurotext.at

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Contents

Activities		3
31.08.2022		3
Location: AFRIEUROTEXT Buchhandlung, Lassallestrasse 20 / 3, 1020 Wien		3
1. Press Conference with ACHILLE MBEMBE	10 am	3
2. Presentations		3
2.1 Hawa KEBE	2:00 - 3:30 pm	3
2.2 Sophie Schasiepen	4:00 - 5:30 pm	3
3. Achille MBEMBE ON HIS THINKING AND WRITING	18 - 20 pm	4
01.09.2022		4
4. Opening Speeches	9:30 am	4
4.1 Dr. Daniel Romuald BITOUH		4
Words of Welcome from AFRIEUROTEXT and <i>fresh</i> Magazine (Host, Conception and Organisation)		4
4.2 Rectorate of the C.E.U	10:15 am	4
Central European University		4
4.3 Mrs. Saba KASSAYE	10:35 am	4
Regional Director of Ethiopian Airlines Vienna and Eastern Europe		4
4.4 Ambassador Dr. Suleiman DAUDA UMAR	10:50 am	4
Ambassador of the Republic of Nigeria in Vienna/Austria		4
4.5 Prof. Khadija von ZINNENBURG CARROLL	11:15 - 12:15 am	4
On Properties of Relation: A comparative global history of Austria's attitude to restitution		4
4.6 Dr. Daniel Romuald BITOUH	2:00 - 2:30 pm	5
In light of the complexity of the restitution issue, should Austria bury its head in the sand?		5
4.7 Roundtable Discussion I	2:45 - 4:45 pm	5
5. Prof. Achille MBEMBE	5:00 - 7:00 pm	6
ON RESTITUTION, REHABILITATION AND RECONCILIATION		6
5.1 Interventions		6
5.2 Quinta TEM BIH	7:15 - 7:45 pm	6
<i>Asocio-political analysis of some masks and sculptures from the savannahs of the north- and southwest of Cameroon</i>		6
5.3 Mag. Mara NIANG	8:00 - 8:30 pm	7



“Kumpo”: A mask from the Senegal and Gambia, cultural and socio-political meanings	7
02.9.2022	7
6. Interventions	7
6.1 Dr. Jonatan KURZWELLY	9:30 - 10:30 am 7
Calcified identities and social justice: essentialism as a political strategy for provenance research and restitutions of human remains	7
6.2 Lisa TACKIE	10:45 - 11:15 am 8
Traveling as a form of Resistance	8
6.3 ENOH MEYOMESSE	11:30 - 12:15 am 8
The Mvet/Mvett: A powerful literary genre and a (total) artwork of the Beti-Fang linguistic and cultural communities	8
6.4 Oluyemi Olawale OGUNDELE	12:30 - 1:00 pm 9
Oduduwa-Art and Yoruba-Masks, cultural and socio-political meanings	9
6.5 Núrel Bahí REITZ	1:15 - 1:45 pm 9
"Remembering Genocide in Namibia"	9
6.6 Noomi ANYANWU	2:00 - 2:30 pm 10
Black Voices Volksbegehren	10
6.7 Mag.a Adaora OFOEDU	2:45 - 3:15 pm 10
<i>Schwarze Frauen Community</i> and its intersectional women-empowerment-work	10
6.8 Dr. phil. Daniel Romuald BITOUH	3:20 - 3:35 pm 11
Migration, Economics and Digitalisation from an African Perspective. African Diaspora-Organisations as credible actors (Part 6)	11
6.9 Mag.a Téclaire NGO TAM	3:45 - 4:15 pm 11
6.10 Dr.in Ishraga MUSTAFA HAMID	4:30 - 5:00 pm 12
Diversity- and Antidiscrimination Work: Perspectives of Black Cultural Producers in Vienna	12
6.11 Kweku OKOKROKO / Katharina WEINGARTNER	5:10 - 5:40 pm 12
FIGHT THE FEVER: An appeal to decolonisation of Malaria, Scientific Production and health care	12
6.12 Dipl. Madge Gill BUKASA	5:50 - 6:20 pm 13
African Archives	13
6.13 Roundtable Discussion II	6:30 - 8:30 pm 13
6.8 Pr. Achille MBEMBE	8:30 - 9:00 pm 14
MEETS THE AFRICAN DIASPORA IN AUSTRIA (Questions & Answers)	14



Activities

31.08.2022

Location: AFRIEUROTEXT Buchhandlung, Lassallestrasse 20 / 3, 1020 Wien

1. Press Conference with **ACHILLE MBEMBE**

10 am

Achille Mbembe: is a Cameroonian historian and political scientist, pioneer, and theorist of postcolonialism and Afropolitanism. Now, he is a professor at the Witwatersrand-University in Johannesburg, South Africa. Achille Mbembe does not only ponder upon the history, present and especially the future of the African continent, but mostly about the contemporary geopolitical (power-) constellations of our world, with the African Continent as a perspective starting point for thought and action. Thereby he highlights the aphoristic imaginative power of Africa as a way of contrapuntally thinking about our world. This aphoristic power finds its phenomenological expression in African art.

2. Presentations

2.1 **Hawa KEBE**

2:00 - 3:30 pm

SETI: An emergent women Initiative

Indeed, we are surrounded with talented women, but often fail to acknowledge them and to learn from their valuable experiences. Because we all need inspiration and role models to reach our full potential. SETI is not only a platform but also a safe space to connect, grow and inspire each other. SETI is aiming at: promoting successful initiatives of African women and its Diaspora; highlighting women's talents impacting their communities and beyond. SETI is also about organising, trainings, workshops, conferences, and talks on topical issues with a purpose to add value, empower and showcase worth mentioning achievements, learn from the valuable experiences of talented African women and experts in their respective fields. **What is the story behind SETI?** Just come, see, and hear more.

Hawa Kebe, born in Senegal and raised in Cote d'Ivoire, studied, and travelled in several places. She is working at the UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organisation) in Vienna. As a young African woman, Hawa Kebe has a strong desire to promote a new narrative about the African continent and its Diaspora. To go beyond all those stereotypes of a stagnant continent and to share the stories of women who are shifting the lines.

2.2 **Sophie Schasielen**

4:00 - 5:30 pm

On the repercussions of racial science: The difficulty of talking about the dead

The histories of racial science and colonialism are painful. They are past and present, they persist. As a researcher, one learns certain vocabulary to address some of these legacies, such as human remains, ancestral remains, violence, colonial context, extraction, museum, and academic collections. People. Persons. Often, we don't know the biographies of those who were stolen out of their graves, sold by their former employers, the same people who exploited



their labour during their lifetimes, given away by magistrates and military, doctors and civilians. We don't know their names or where they came from. But they lived, they were the children of mothers and fathers, they existed, and they exist now, in boxes, shelves, and inventories, in memories and archives, in their descendants. In my presentation, I will give a short overview of the research done on 'human remains from colonial contexts in Austrian collections', discuss possible next steps in a national effort to confront the ongoing violence of keeping these people's remains in Austrian institutions and address the difficulties of talking about these issues.

Sophie Schasiempfen obtained her PhD in history from the University of the Western Cape in 2021. She previously studied Fine Arts and Cultural Studies at the Braunschweig University of Arts and the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. From 2016 to 2018, she was a Junior Fellow at the International Research Centre Cultural Studies Vienna. She is currently a postdoctoral researcher for Action for Restitution to Africa (funded by the Open Society Foundations) and Reconnecting 'objects': epistemic plurality and transformative practices in and beyond museums (funded by the Volkswagen Foundation) at the University of the Western Cape.

3. Achille MBEMBE ON HIS THINKING AND WRITING

18 - 20 pm

Location: AFRIEUROTEXT Buchhandlung, Lassallestrasse 20 / 3, 1020 Wien

01.09.2022

Location: Central European University (C.E.U), QUELLENSTRASSE 51, 1100 Wien

4. Opening Speeches

9:30 am

4.1 Dr. Daniel Romuald BITOUH

Words of Welcome from AFRIEUROTEXT and *fresh* Magazine (Host, Conception and Organisation)

4.2 Rectorate of the C.E.U

10:15 am

Central European University

4.3 Mrs. Saba KASSAYE

10:35 am

Regional Director of Ethiopian Airlines Vienna and Eastern Europe

4.4 Ambassador Dr. Suleiman DAUDA UMAR

10:50 am

Ambassador of the Republic of Nigeria in Vienna/Austria

4.5 Prof. Khadija von ZINNENBURG CARROLL

11:15 - 12:15 am

On Properties of Relation: A comparative global history of Austria's attitude to restitution

As Austria prepares to respond to the global movement to repatriate colonial loot and gather advice from leaders around the world, this paper offers a case study of the past century of debate in Vienna. Certain historical attitudes about restitution form the basis for Austria's position on restitution today and offer insights into future policy. By weaving a theory on the properties of relation in the process of repatriation, it will present the concrete proposals that



have been made already for an anticolonial museology. Placing special focus on the contemporary stakeholder's community and artistic strategies of museopiracy, counter-appropriation and collaboration, it analyses how these operate in different contexts within the *Repatriates* project. By studying long term responses to repatriation this artistic research project (Horizon 2020) offers different models of property, law, museology, cosmology, and epistemology that accompany returned belongings.

Khadija von Zinnenburg Carroll is an artist and historian, leading the project *REPATRIATES: Artistic Research in Museums and Communities in the process of Repatriation from Europe*. She is Associate Professor of History at the Central European University and Honorary Professor and Chair of Global Art at the University of Birmingham. She is the author of the books *Art in the Time of Colony* (2014); *The Importance of Being Anachronistic: Contemporary Aboriginal Art and Museum Reparations* (2016), *Botanical Drift: Protagonists of the Invasive Herbarium* (2017); *Mit fremden Federn: El Penacho und die Frage der Restitution* (2022); *The Contested Crown: Repatriation Politics between Mexico and Europe* (2022). She is the co-author of *Bordered Lives: Immigration Detention Archive* (2020) and co-editor of *Third Text* journal. www.kdja.org

4.6 Dr. Daniel Romuald BITOUH

2:00 - 2:30 pm

In light of the complexity of the restitution issue, should Austria bury its head in the sand?

This contribution focuses on the significance of a sustainable engagement with the complexity of the restitution issue in the cultural and political context in Austria. Austria presents itself as a country without colonial history. The cellars of Austrians Federal Museums, however, are filled with stolen artefacts from African countries. Museum Directors as well as politicians compete with defensive arguments against restitution. But the question of restitution presents an interdisciplinary issue, as it is not only about the restitution of objects, but above all, about the equity towards in Austria/Europe living communities of origin, i.e., towards African Diasporas in Austria/Europe. A form of justice, which forms the basis of sustainable reconciliation.

Dr. phil. Daniel Romuald Bitouh is a literary and cultural scholar and founder and head of *AFRIEUROTEXT*, a literary-, cultural-, artistic- and socially critical organisation, which is concerned with local and global asymmetries and which provides a peace-, educational- and developmental political participation on an Austrian, European and African level, through different projects and events www.afrieurotext.at. Through education it is possible to free oneself from the claws and clutches of structural violence. In that respect, many projects have already been successfully completed, among them the founding and commissioning of a vocational training bakery for women in Yaounde/Cameroon <https://kiletkiass.afrieurotext.at/de/>. As a primary occupation Dr. Bitouh works as a lecturer for African, German, Austrian and French literature, German Teacher in the adult education sector.

4.7 Roundtable Discussion I

2:45 - 4:45 pm

On 28 November 2017 president Macron held a keynote speech at the Joseph-Ki-Zerbo-University in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso, in front of an assembly of students and in the presence of Roch Marc Kaboré, the former president of Burkina Faso, who was overthrown in a coup from his throne on 24 January 2022. During this speech, the aim of which was, among other things, to re-shape relationships between France and Africa, respectively



between Africa and France, he promised the restitution of African stolen artifacts, which are being held hostage by and displayed in French museums. Therefore, he gave impetus to the discourse, which has been a topic of discussion in Africa since the 40s and the 50s, i.e., since the fight for independence.

Macron commissioned the French art historian Bénédicte Savoy and the Senegalese economist Felwine Sarr with the task to write a report, the purpose of which was not only to take an inventory, but also to make suggestions for the restitution of stolen art from Africa. The Sarr-Savoy-report was and still is responsible for updating and illuminating the debate about the restitution of African artifacts, not only in Europe but also in Africa. On 10 November 2021 E. Macron fulfilled his promise by returning 26 pieces of Benin-Bronze-Art from the kingdom of Abomey, today Benin.

Austria always presents itself as a country without colonial history. The cellars of Austrians Federal Museums, however, are filled with stolen artifacts from African countries. Museum Directors as well as politicians compete with defensive arguments against restitution. But the question of restitution presents an interdisciplinary issue, as it is not only about the restitution of objects, but above all about the equity towards in Austria/Europe living communities of origin, i.e., towards African diasporas in Austria/Europe. A form of justice, which forms the basis of sustainable reconciliation. *The 3RRR-Symposium takes place in a context, where the Austrian BMKOES formed a committee unilaterally to develop policy recommendations. The African Diaspora of Austria and its organisations, however, are being strategically excluded from this committee. Memories of the Berlin Conference 1884 – 1885 are brought back. The top of African thought meets from August 31st to September 2nd, 2022, with Austrian politicians, cultural producers from the African diaspora in Austria and the broader civil society of Vienna to design solution approaches. During the symposium, a position paper with recommendations for European and Austrian decision-makers from the perspectives of the African diaspora in Austria will be developed.*

Mireille Ngosso, Austrian doctor, politician, and activist. Member of the Vienna municipal council the state parliament

Faika El-Nagashi, Austrian politician, activist, and member of the national parliament (Die Grünen)

Tina Leisch, works with film, text and theatre, political Activist

Henrike Brandstötter, Austrian politician, author, and member of the national parliament (NEOS)

NN: Representatives of the Weltmuseum as well as other federal museums have been requested

5. Prof. Achille MBEMBE

5:00 - 7:00 pm

ON RESTITUTION, REHABILITATION AND RECONCILIATION

5.1 Interventions

5.2 Quinta TEM BIH

7:15 - 7:45 pm

Asocio-political analysis of some masks and sculptures from the savannahs of the north- and southwest of Cameroon

The peoples of the north-west and south-west of Cameroon have a powerful mythology and therefore a socio-political imagination that is reflected in their masks and sculptures. In its presentation, Quinta Tem Bih aims to make this socio-political imagination visible in an illustrative way.



Quinta Tem Bih, studied African and English literature at the University of Yaoundé I in Cameroon and at the Institute for English and American Studies at the University of Vienna. Research focus: art and literature of north and south-west Cameroon.

5.3 Mag. Mara NIANG

8:00 - 8:30 pm

“Kumpo”: A mask from the Senegal and Gambia, cultural and socio-political meanings

Through his interventions, the artist and art-theorist Mara Niang presents the **Kankourang** to us, a mask from Senegal, also called “Kumbo” in Gambia, a neighbouring country, which has been separated arbitrarily from Senegal, as a consequence of the Berlin-Conference 1884-1885. The choice of this mask is not hazardous, as the artist himself has worked on it as a garment and as an accessory at the same time, after his final paper at the art school in Dakar, which was engaged in textile-design. This presentation will be supported by a performance and by the projection of video sequences about this mask, which is very beloved in both countries, as it is directly connected to the circumcision ritual of young people.

Mara Niang was born in Thiès in Senegal. He graduated in 2002 from the national art school in Dakar. He studied at Art University in Linz and graduated at the Kunstakademie in Vienna in 2009. In 2006 he participated at the Dak’Art (Biennale of Dakar) as an official representative of Senegal. He drafted multiple contributions for the “Mozartjahr” in 2006. Niang works in the fields of design, fashion, video, photography, painting, and installation. His works reference historical, political, and societal phenomena, which the artist places into new contexts. In 2013 he founded the KunstOrdination Art im Dienst in Vienna, an art ordination for emergencies, difficult cases, hopeless cases, and extraordinary cases in the arts. The KunstOrdination promotes environment protection and fights against the wrongdoings of consumerism. Currently he works on his dissertation at the Universität für Angewandte Kunst in Vienna.

02.9.2022

6. Interventions

Location: QUELLENSTRASSE 51, 1100 Wien, Central European University (C.E.U)

6.1 Dr. Jonatan KURZWELLY

9:30 - 10:30 am

Calcified identities and social justice: essentialism as a political strategy for provenance research and restitutions of human remains

The last decade has witnessed increasing numbers of “provenance research” projects investigating the histories of human remains in academic collections and leading to their restitution. Such projects explicitly and implicitly address the historical injustices and their continuities of amassing people’s mortal remains and their subsequent use by those who have appropriated them. In this talk I consider which historical wrongdoings provenance research and restitutions attempt to address and how effective they are in doing so. Firstly, the talk points towards the relatively effective recognition of spiritual and emotional injustice. Secondly, it discusses the limited recognition of “race science’s” history and legacies and of its logic’s persistence in a social essentialism that inheres in contemporary handling of such human remains. Thirdly, it discusses how recognition of past oppression, dispossession and exploitation ties to broader political goals and attempts at redistribution.



Dr. Jonatan Kurzwelly is a socio-cultural anthropologist. He is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the University Göttingen, Germany and a research associate at the University of Free State, South Africa. His research examines different aspects of personal and social identities, essentialism, nationalism, radicalisation, identity politics and varying experimental and collaborative research methods. His publications include "Migrants, Thinkers, Storytellers: Negotiating Meaning and Making Life in Bloemfontein, South Africa" (HSRC Press), and a special journal issue on "Ethnographic Encounters with Essentialism", in *Anthropology Southern Africa* journal.

Migrants, Thinkers, Storytellers: Negotiating Meaning and Making Life in Bloemfontein, South Africa

<https://www.hsrcpress.ac.za/books/migrants-thinkers-storytellers>

Ethnographic Encounters with Essentialism <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rasa20/43/2?nav=to-clist>

6.2 Lisa TACKIE

10:45 - 11:15 am

Traveling as a form of Resistance

If it is a wellness vacation at the beach, a city-trip or half a year of backpacking, traveling is part of everyday-life. Especially on social media - with the right algorithm - more and more Black travellers are out and about. In spite, or maybe because of the visibility of Black People traveling, they are exposed to exclusion and exoticism, for also away on travel Black People cannot vacate from racism. This is why I want to pose some questions, inspired by Nanjala Nyabolas book "Travelling while Black - Essays Inspired by A Life On The Move": „What does it feel like to move through a world designed to limit and exclude you? [...] What are the joys and pains of holidays for People of colour, when guidebooks are never written with them in mind?" How, to formulate it differently, does racism reflect a global system in the ways we move and travel in the world? With this question, I want to provide insight into my current research about Black Women in Austria and travelling as a form of resistance.

Lisa Tackie studies African Studies as well as International Development on a Masters-programme at the University of Vienna. She has been employed as student assistant for the anti-racist AG at the University of Vienna since 2021. Furthermore, she works as a trainer for workshops in schools about Anti-Racism and civil courage by the Asylkoordination Österreich and the Verein Disrupt. The focus of her studies as well as her work is on research of diasporas and racism with an intersectional approach.

6.3 ENOH MEYOMESSE

11:30 - 12:15 am

The Mvet/Mvett: A powerful literary genre and a (total) artwork of the Beti-Fang linguistic and cultural communities

When talking about African art, it is a (thinking) mistake to overlook African literature, since both social fields and disciplines are intertwined, and just as in the field of African art, looting, expropriation, and misjudgment happened and still happens, distortion and trivialization of what constitutes "African textualities". This is happening in particular in the endeavor of Western European academic, historiographical and literary institutions to define African literature. Just as literature manifested itself through writing in Europe, orality/orality shaped and still shapes the literary and poetic in Central Africa, among the Fang, a people living in southern Cameroon, northern Gabon, in the continental part of Equatorial Guinea, in the north of the Congo and on the island of Sao Tome and Principe. Literature manifested itself through the Mvett, a trivial optical stringed musical instrument that is also exhibited in Austrian museums. Mvett's epics are declaimed by social poets (mbômo mvett) and contain historical, romantic, socially critical and fictional varieties at the same time. Finally, their declamation takes



place in the style of a poetry recital. The mbômo mvett draws on the Beti Fang mythologies of the Central African region and the Congo Basin.

Dieudonné Enoh Meyomesse is a Cameroonian poet, author, historian and political activist. The fight for more democracy, transparency and freedom of expression is the focus of his writing. For Enoh Meyomesse, literature, poetry and thinking always function as a means of dealing with and denouncing socio-political grievances or conditions. His letter could be construed as a counter-letter; a letter against oppressive and exploitative powers, a letter against those powers that want to wipe away or eradicate the subject struggling for survival. Enoh's writing is political engagement through and through. Because of this, he was arrested several times in Cameroon. In 2011, Enoh Meyomesse ran unsuccessfully as a candidate in the last presidential election against President Paul Biya, who had been in office for three decades. He then ended up in Cameroon's central prison, Kodengui, in the capital, Yaoundé, where he was tortured and humiliated in many ways. The PEN centers worldwide and the PEN center Germany in particular as well as international associations vehemently advocated his release. On April 27, 2015, Enoh Meyomesse was released from the Kodengui prison. He has lived as a writer in exile in Darmstadt (Germany) since October 2015 with an Elsbeth Wolffheim grant from the Darmstadt City of Science.

6.4 Oluyemi Olawale OGUNDELE

12:30 - 1:00 pm

Oduduwa-Art and Yoruba-Masks, cultural and socio-political meanings

The Yorubas are a linguistic and cultural community in Nigeria. The Yoruba-diaspora is spread all over the world. What makes the Yorubas stand out is their art and religiosities. The presentation has the aim to illustratively portray chosen masks and to discuss their cultural and socio-political meanings.

Oluyemi Olawale OGUNDELE is a mechanical and multimedia engineer born in Lagos/Nigeria. He studied Mechanical and Multimedia Engineering in Ogun State/Nigeria and Vienna/Austria. Studied Peace and conflict resolution at the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR). He started his professional career as a Technician with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in Vienna Austria, before joining the private sector, where he worked with Niedermeyer AG Austria, as a quality control officer. After eleven years in the private sector, he returns to the international arena by joining the International Atomic Energy Agency as a Multimedia/Electronic Engineer a position he holds till date. He was the president of the Yoruba community in Austria. He is the organizer of the popular Adire Carnival in Austria. An event organised to promote the popular Adire fabric from western part of Nigeria and the rich Yoruba Cultural heritage.

6.5 Núrel Bahí REITZ

1:15 - 1:45 pm

"Remembering Genocide in Namibia"

This paper seeks to provide an overview of memory politics in Namibia. Most of the German media and political debates addressing the genocide committed against the Herero, Nama, Damara, and San by the German Schutztruppen during the 1904-1908 counterinsurgency in the former German Southwest Africa are focused on possible legal implications. Consequences of 'our' ways of dealing with the past for 'their' domestic relations and memory cultural struggles in Namibia tend to be overlooked. Our paper intends to foster a more thorough understanding of foreign policy decisions' implications for the target societies' struggle for recognition. To that end, we first outline key actors in the Namibian memory politics and present contested historical narratives that can be found in the different actor groups. In a second step, practices surrounding three physical memory sites in the Namibian memoscape are analysed, and memorialisation through commemoration is discussed. We also examine the issue



of the repatriation of skulls from Germany and contentions around land ownership in southern Namibia. Finally, the paper draws attention to the necessity of including hitherto marginalized societal actors and controversial topics in memory culture debates to create an arena for productive contestation.

Núrel Bahí Reitz is currently Doctoral Researcher at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF). Her research tasks are focussed on the interpretations of historical violence in postcolonial contexts and on the “Transformations of Political Violence” (TraCe). Research on memory politics in Namibia, focused on the 1904-8 genocide of the Herero, Nama, Damara, and San populations, committed by the German colonial power. She also undertook research on genocides, particularly on disputes over recognition, apology, and the payment of reparations, as well as activism from the diaspora - Research and transcription of interviews on local perceptions of regional conflict interventions in West Africa.

6.6 Noomi ANYANWU

2:00 - 2:30 pm

Black Voices Volksbegehren

Since over 2 years the referendum Black Voices has been working on a national plan of action against racism and has established itself as an anti-racist organisation for many communities. Structural racism concerns everybody in this country, but what are the challenges when it comes to getting to the roots of racism? This and more will be discussed here.

Noomi Anyanwu is a student of Romance- and African Studies, an activist and speaker for the Black Voices Anti-Racism referendum. Since the age of 15 she has been politically active in the form of workshops, Austria-wide campaigns in youth organisations, her school paper or now through her online-activism as @thisisnoomi. Furthermore, she acts as a trainer and consultant for the topic of Anti-Racism for organisations and companies, individuals or in adult education. Her last publication as an author she dedicated to her Blackness in Austria. In general, her main focus is on Feminism and Anti-Racism.

6.7 Mag.a Adaora OFOEDU

2:45 - 3:15 pm

Schwarze Frauen Community and its intersectional women-empowerment-work

Learn more about the SFC. We officially founded the *Schwarze Frauen Community* in 2003, because we did not feel reflected in Austrian Society and had to build our own “Safe Space”. In the *Schwarze Frauen Community* we support Black Women and children in differing life circumstances and create a protected space, by empowering them to freely develop their potential. We have an intercultural group for women, which provides workshops and talks about different topics. Furthermore, we have groups for girls and for boys in different age-groups, as we are aware that young women and men, in their development and their day-to-day life, are concerned with different topics, depending on their gender identities. We meet at least once a month in our different groups. The Team of the *Schwarze Frauen Community* is made up of women and men, who can support and attend to the women, children and the youth, according to their varying expertise. The team includes social education workers, psychotherapists, doctors, life coaches, mediators and body- and movement therapists. The *Schwarze Frauen Community* had to realize in the last years that there is a big demand for Black therapists and attempts to contact therapists known to us.

Adaora Ofoedu is the cofounder of the Schwarze Frauen Community (SFC) and assisting chairwomen of the association. She is active in numerous Nigerian Organisations and is the co-organizer of the first African Culture festival in Vienna, afriCult and she designs the projects “Yes She Can”, “CapExchange”



and “afrikanischer Literaturtag” together with her sister Ifeoma Melissa. Furthermore, she is the chancellorship candidate Dr. Brückenbauer of the AVP campaign (Africa networking platform). This campaign was an appeal to diversity in politics. As her main occupation she is a medical student and works at the Red Cross.

6.8 Dr. phil. Daniel Romuald BITOUH

3:20 - 3:35 pm

Migration, Economics and Digitalisation from an African Perspective. African Diaspora-Organisations as credible actors (Part 6)

*How can **the entrepreneurial potential, the experience of territory and the expertise** of African Diaspora-Organisations in Austria in this post-networking-time be utilized for the implementation of employment projects, initiatives or investments of African countries?*

On December 18 the EU African summit took place in Vienna, where African and EU-citizens planned on engaging at eyelevel with African countries as economic partners. There the topic of digitalisation played the role of a leitmotif: “Taking cooperation to the digital age”. The topic of migration from Africa to Europe did not seem to be paramount, it still shone through in the discussions from time to time, since they dealt, after all, with the creation of employment for the growing number of African youth and to substantiate their perspectives. The gathered European policy makers hence reached an agreement to raise and stimulate economic investments in Africa and to create a legal framework to make this happen non-bureaucratic. Nevertheless, to realize these resolutions of a differentiated partnership with African Countries, the consideration of African Diaspora-Organizations in Austria and their inclusion is essential and a must. It should not be the one-sided undertaking of small and large Austrian enterprises. It is not only appropriate that African Diaspora-Organizations in Austria be part of a project environment but shall be the focus as necessary partners for the implementation in the future. Isn't it time to promote employment projects, which are initiated and implemented in African countries from African Diaspora-Organizations? It opens win-win partnerships between small and large Austrian enterprises and African Countries.

6.9 Mag.a Téclaire NGO TAM

3:45 - 4:15 pm

Masks of the Bassáá people of southern Cameroon: cultural and socio-political significance

The Bassáá people are native to Southern Cameroon and have a rich mythology that is also expressed in their art. In her presentation, Téclaire Ngo Tam aims to analytically present some formative works of art by the Bassáá people.

***Mag.^a Téclaire Ngo Tam** is an education officer and moderator. After completing her studies in business administration at the Douala University Center, she completed her master's degree in journalism and communication science at the University of Vienna. She has been working for the Südwind-Association for Development Policy and Global Justice in Austria for over 20 years.*



6.10 Dr.in Ishraga MUSTAFA HAMID

4:30 - 5:00 pm

Diversity- and Antidiscrimination Work: Perspectives of Black Cultural Producers in Vienna

I am concerned with the question of diversity, respectively diversity-management: What does diversity mean from the perspective of Black cultural producers in Vienna? What do gender and diversity mean? Is there diversity in Vienna? Black People are no strangers. They are part of the structures in the fields of education, habitation, participation in society, political participation and the labour market, which impede equal access. Diversity requires the same distribution of resources, where everybody has the same rights. There is a special focus on the possibilities of cultural producers and their societal perception as well as recognition of their work. Thereby, Black People and People of Colour can speak for themselves, whereas their varied perspectives on diversity politics will be addressed. The integration debate assumes a uniform society and culture. The reality is different however, as our societies are becoming more colourful and with people have differing identities. This fact makes diversity politics useful for everybody, whereas Black People and migrants in general are not seen as the primary target group for socio-political measures, but as active citizens. This includes the process of identity politics which offers great opportunities for implementing diversity politics. But diversity politics requires accomplishments of antidiscrimination work. The question is how this process is perceived by society. Thereby, it is about being able to pose questions like: in what kind of society do I want to live? What kind of future do I want? This should encourage imaginations of the seemingly impossible under the hegemonial conditions and to dare to think outside of constricting, hierarchical structures. Furthermore, the process of reflecting desires and utopias can give room to the question of how democracy as a political community, where everybody participates and makes decisions together, could be organized.

Ishraga Mustafa Hamid, born in Kost-Sudan 16.09.1961. She has been living in Vienna since 1993. She studied communication in Sudan as well as at the University of Vienna and obtained her PHD in political science in 2006. She works as author, translator, and cultural producer. She has published eight books in German and Arabic. She conducted multiple research projects, especially about Black Women and migration in Austria. She received many prizes, for example the Erwachsenen Bildung award 2007 (Adult Education Award 2007), the "Herta Pammer Preis" of the "katholische Frauenbewegung Österreich" (catholic women's movement Austria) and in 2020 she received the golden medal of service of Vienna.

6.11 Kweku OKOKROKO / Katharina WEINGARTNER

5:10 - 5:40 pm

FIGHT THE FEVER: An appeal to decolonisation of Malaria, Scientific Production and health care

This presentation deals with **Fight the Fever** as Non-Governmental-Organisation and its contributions to the goal of rebuilding the foundations of a postcolonial Africa in the areas of knowledge, medicine, and health. Through positive measures and the coordination of simple, local solutions against Malaria we help communities to resist powerful western organisations, businesses, and institutions, which are still profiting from the deadly disease.

Katharina Weingartner produces political documentaries for film and radio at pooldoks in Vienna and is part of the initiative "Fight the Fever"



Kweku Okokroko is a ghanian author and painter, who lives and works in Vienna as a member of the “Fight the Fever Association”

6.12 Dipl. Madge Gill BUKASA

5:50 - 6:20 pm

African Archives

Cultural Archives in an African Context appear to be a task for future generations. Because the objective scientific history of Africa, the „collective memory“ (Jan and Aleida Assmann) in an African context has been contaminated by historians and is very eurocentric (such as liberation instead of fight for freedom). Moreover, there is a lack of a deliberate conservation in African spaces of remembrance and in the cultural memory of Africa, to serve as a contribution for the historical heritage of the future generations of the continent. Taking the inventory of African Archives and their meaning for the cultural identity of Africa as a starting point, the lecture will introduce some Best-of-examples of African archives. Finally, practical, and technical insights about the possibilities of archiving African collections and about the cultural commemorations will be discussed and compared through the example of archiving of the journal “Die Bunten” (today: The Global Player), a “revolutionary” immigrant-journal from Vienna. This lecture is dedicated to the pioneer work of the editor-in-chief Dr. Di-Tut-Bukasa, who, in times of massive extreme right-wing resentments against immigrants, debated at eye-level with political decision-makers in Austria about political change.

Madge Gill Bukasa, *Legal Studies at the University of Vienna, Chairlady of the association “Die Bunten” introduces and illustrated the archive work that the association achieves, editor-in-chief of The Global Player – Medium for dignity, justice and democracy and implementation of varying funded social projects. Chairlady of ICAP – International Center for African Perspectives. Numerous publications in The Global Player (formerly: Die Bunten).*

6.13 Roundtable Discussion II

6:30 - 8:30 pm

On 28 November 2017 president Macron held a keynote speech at the Joseph-Ki-Zerbo-University in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso, in front of an assembly of students and in the presence of Roch Marc Kaboré, the former president of Burkina Faso, who was overthrown in a coup from his throne on 24 January 2022. During this speech, the aim of which was, among other things, to re-shape relationships between France and Africa, respectively between Africa and France, he promised the restitution of African stolen artifacts, which are being held hostage by and displayed in French museums. Therefore, he gave impetus to the discourse, which has been a topic of discussion in Africa since the 40s and the 50s, i.e., since the fight for independence.

Macron commissioned the French art historian Bénédicte Savoy and the Senegalese economist Felwine Sarr with the task to write a report, the purpose of which was not only to take an inventory, but also to make suggestions for the restitution of stolen art from Africa. The Sarr-Savoy-report was and still is responsible for updating and illuminating the debate about the restitution of African artifacts, not only in Europe but also in Africa. On 10 November 2021 E. Macron fulfilled his promise by returning 26 pieces of Benin-Bronze-Art from the kingdom of Abomey, today Benin.



Austria always presents itself as a country without colonial history. The cellars of Austrians Federal Museums, however, are filled with stolen artifacts from African countries. Museum Directors as well as politicians compete with defensive arguments against restitution. But the question of restitution presents an interdisciplinary issue, as it is not only about the restitution of objects, but above all about the equity towards in Austria/Europe living communities of origin, i.e., towards African diasporas in Austria/Europe. A form of justice, which forms the basis of sustainable reconciliation. **The 3RRR-Symposium takes place in a context, where the Austrian BMKOES formed a committee unilaterally to develop policy recommendations. The African Diaspora of Austria and its organisations, however, are being strategically excluded from this committee. Memories of the Berlin Conference 1884 – 1885 are brought back. The top of African thought meets from August 31st to September 2nd, 2022, with Austrian politicians, cultural producers from the African diaspora in Austria and the broader civil society of Vienna to design solution approaches. During the symposium, a position paper with recommendations for European and Austrian decision-makers from the perspectives of the African diaspora in Austria will be developed.**

Prof. Achille MBEMBE, Cameroonian historian and political scientist and theorist of Postcolonialism and Afropolitanism. Professor at the Witwatersrand-University in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Prof. Khadija von ZINNENBURG CARROLL, artist and professor for global art history at Central European University

Botschafter Dr. Suleiman DAUDA UMAR, Ambassador of the Republic of Nigeria in Austria

Mireille NGOSSO, Austrian doctor, politician, and activist. Member of the Vienna municipal council the state parliament

Faika EL-NAGASHI, Austrian politician, activist, and member of the national parliament (Die Grünen)

Henrike BRANDSTÖTTER, Austrian politician, author, and member of the national parliament (NEOS)

NN: Representatives of the Weltmuseum as well as other federal museums have been requested

6.8 Pr. Achille MBEMBE

8:30 - 9:00 pm

MEETS THE AFRICAN DIASPORA IN AUSTRIA (Questions & Answers)