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# PROGRAM

## KITONG-KIASS INTERNATIONAL

### 3RRR-SYMPIOSIUM

2nd Edition

**RESTITUTION, REHABILITATION und RECONCILIATION**

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF RESTITUTION IN AFRICA AND FOR THE DIASPORA  
USING THE EXAMPLE OF THE BENIN BRONZES

**15.-17. NOVEMBER 2023**

#### Location:

**AFRIEUROTEXT Buchhandlung**  
(Lassallestrasse 20/3, 1020 Wien)

&

**Weltmuseum Wien**  
(Heldenplatz 1, 1010 Wien)



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CONCEPTION and ORGANISATION:

AFRIEUROTEXT (Cultural Association & Bookstore) [www.afriurotext.at](http://www.afriurotext.at)

fresh Black Austrian Lifestyle Magazin [www.blackaustria.info](http://www.blackaustria.info)

In cooperation with the Weltmuseum Wien <https://www.weltmuseumwien.at/>

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# Activities

15. November 2023

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

## 1. Press Conference

11:00 a.m.

with

Prof. Kum'a Ndumbe III., Phil Otaniyen Omodamwen, Dr. Jonathan Fine, Mag.a. Safira Robens

## 2. INTERVENTIONS

### 2.1 Hawa KEBE

2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

#### SETI: An emergent women Initiative

We are surrounded with talented women, but often fail to acknowledge them and 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 organizing, training 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?**

*Hawa Kebe, born in Senegal and raised in Cote d'Ivoire, has studied and traveled around the world. As a young African woman, Hawa Kebe aims 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 Prof. Walter SAUER

4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

#### SADOCC (Southern Africa Documentation and Cooperation Centre)

In 2007, the Documentation and Cooperation Center Southern Africa ([www.sadocc.at](http://www.sadocc.at)) initiated a process for the repatriation of the human remains of a South African farmworker couple, Klaas and Trooi Pienaar. These remains had been unlawfully exhumed by the Austrian anthropologist Rudolf Pöch in 1909 and shipped to Austria for the purpose of "racial research." In collaboration with South African historians, the Natural History Museum, the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and the relevant authorities on both sides, the handover to South Africa took place in 2012, establishing a new standard for dealing with "human remains" from a colonial context.

*Prof. Walter Sauer, from the Institute for Economic and Social History at the University of Vienna, is a historian with a focus on Austrian-African relations, particularly the Habsburg Monarchy and colonialism. He has authored numerous publications, including "Expeditionen ins afrikanische Österreich" (2014) and essays on colonial travel reports, exotic exhibitions in Vienna, and the history of Namibia. He also serves as the chairman of the Documentation and Cooperation Center Southern*

Africa ([www.sadocc.at](http://www.sadocc.at)). In 2022/23, he is a member of the expert panel appointed by the federal government concerning objects in Austrian federal museums with colonial acquisition contexts.

### 2.3 Question and Answer Meeting

6:00-7:00 p.m.

With Prof. Kum'a Ndumbe and Phil Otaniyen Omodamwen.

## 16. November 2023

Location: Weltmuseum Wien, Heldenplatz 1, 1010 Wien

### 3. Opening Speeches

10:30 a.m.

3.1 Welcome message from Dr. Jonathan Fine, Director of the Weltmuseum Wien

3.2 Welcome message from Dr. Daniel Romuald Bitouh

11:00 a.m.

3.3 Speech by Prof. Kum'a NDUMBE III

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

On the Significance of Restitution in Africa and for the African Diaspora

***INTERMISSION, Enjoy African Cuisine & Networking***

***1:30-2:20 p.m.***

### 4.1 What is Projekt **WIRD**?

2:30 – 2:55 p.m.

**WIRD** stands for **W**ertschätzung (Appreciation) and **I**nclusion against **R**acism and **D**iscrimination

Project **WIRD** aims to strengthen social cohesion within Austrian society and empower individuals, with a particular focus on victims of right-wing extremism, racism, and discrimination. Instruments of our empowerment measures include intergenerational events such as storytelling cafes, readings, film evenings, panel discussions, educational outings, workshops, networking, counseling, media work, and exhibitions. Another goal of the WIRD project is to create increased and greater awareness of the psychological and physical consequences of discrimination and racism in society, thus preemptively addressing and dismantling extremism and radicalism.

**Melanie Orishebemigho Volgger** is studying African Studies with a focus on African history and is currently working at Afrieurotext.

**Emefa Ama Holl** is a graduate student in Gender Studies at Central European University in Vienna, focusing on restorative justice in the post war on drugs world.

**Anna Starzinger M.A.**, Austrian musician (cellist), actress, composer, and music educator. She studied at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna and Anton Bruckner Private University Linz. Engagements at the Burgtheater Vienna (as a guest from 2009 to 2014), Reichenau Festival, Salzburg Festival, various ORF and TV shows, and commercials. Amadeus Award nomination (Wiener Blond & Original Wiener Salonensemble 2020 - Initiative for the cooperation and arrangements of Anna Starzinger's songs). An activist for diversity in German-speaking media, anti-racism work (especially in the cultural sector), and lived feminism (in terms of gender equality).

## 4.2 Esther-Maria KÜRMAJR

3:00 - 3:35 p.m.

### What is the SFC (Schwarze Frauen Community)?

The Schwarze Frauen Community is an organization that empowers and supports Black women, children, and teenagers, as well as white mothers of Black children. Additionally, we offer workshops on parenting skills, such as nonviolent communication and education. For white women, we provide workshops on the topic of "Critical Whiteness." For schools, organizations, universities, and kindergartens, we offer workshops on "Racism Awareness" since everyone has been influenced by "isms" at some point in their lives. Consequently, another person's behavior can trigger a negative feeling or reaction in us, reflecting learned patterns of stereotypical thinking. At the same time, most people have experienced some form of oppression or have been part of an "outgroup" at some point in their lives. Therefore, each of us has the ability to understand the experience of being an "other." We collectively seek ways to "unlearn" biases instead of maintaining the prejudice system by denying stereotypical thinking, speaking, and acting.

*Esther Maria Kürmayr, Background: Trained pedagogue, social worker, translator for Spanish and English, and discrimination awareness trainer. Professional fields: Director and CEO of the Black Women Community, university lecturer, teacher.*

## 4.3 Amina EL-GAMAL and Ramazan YILDIZ

3:40 - 4:20 p.m.

### What is ZARA? Understanding Racism – Combating Racism - Why We Need a National Action Plan Against Racism

ZARA has supported the Black Voices Citizen's Initiative, which called for anti-racist measures in various areas, and in the Racism Reports of 2020 and 2021, it outlined the need for a National Action Plan Against Racism. This is because, for example, the education system, the job market, and the healthcare system reproduce and exacerbate various forms of inequality, especially those based on racism. However, these are not the only areas affected. Racism is also a significant issue in the police. In Austria, cases of racially motivated police violence regularly come to light, where police misconduct goes unpunished. Similarly, numerous artworks and objects in Austrian museums are looted goods from colonial times. The colonial enterprise was based on a dehumanizing view of the Black African subject.

*Amina El-Gamal is the Coordinator for (trans)national projects and networking at ZARA.*

*Ramazan Yıldız is an Outreach worker at ZARA.*

## 4.4 Phil Otaniyen OMODAMWEN

4:30 – 7:00 p.m.

### Discussion on the Benin Bronzes - Workshop and exchange with Benin Bronzes artist and specialist Phil Otaniyen Omodamwen

Everyone talks about Benin Bronzes. But what are they exactly? What technology, techniques, cosmogonies, and narratives are involved? What is their historical context? Where are the intersections and differences between ancient and modern Benin bronze art? What significance do these artifacts hold in Africa and for the African diaspora? This would also be an opportunity to analyze other less-known artifacts.

*Phil Otaniyen Omodamwen was born into the Omodamwen family, which has been a part of the Benin Bronze Guild since 1504 AD and takes pride in the over 500-year tradition of bronze casting. Visitors to the World Museum Vienna and symposium attendees have the opportunity not only to view Benin Bronze specimens in the World Museum Vienna but also to witness Benin bronze casting experiments and engage in a personal exchange with Phil Otaniyen Omodamwen.*

#### **4.5 Madge Gill BUKASA**

**7:10 - 8:00 p.m.**

##### **Cultural Appropriation**

The discourse on cultural appropriation is dominated by the media and can strongly polarize people. This lecture/workshop is based on an analysis of over 100 articles and 2000 reader posts on the topic of "cultural appropriation." It primarily deals with the response in the media to actions and articles about cultural appropriation. The result is a statistical inventory of how the German-speaking society (Germany/Austria/Switzerland) perceives the concept of cultural appropriation and the emotions it generates. Furthermore, various approaches, valid opinions, and some well-known and unknown examples of cultural appropriation will be presented.

*Madge Gill BUKASA, Chairwoman of the Association "Die Bunten", Editor-in-Chief of The Global Player Magazine, law studies at the University of Vienna, presents the archival work carried out by the Die Bunten association. She is the Editor-in-Chief of The Global Player – Medium for Dignity, Justice, and Democracy, and she has been involved in various sponsored social projects. She is also the Chairwoman of ICAP – International Center for African Perspectives. Numerous publications in The Global Player (formerly known as Die Bunte Zeitung).*

## **17.November 2023**

Location: Heldenplatz 1, 1010 Wien, Weltmuseum Wien

### **5. INTERVENTIONS**

#### **5.1 Lena FANKHAUSER**

**10:00 - 10:45 a.m.**

##### **Deconstruction of Classical Music**

The significance of diversity in the field of classical music is becoming increasingly evident. The idea that the concert stage should also reflect the demographics of the population is a topic that is frequently discussed within and outside the music scene. Music connects. From the past, many composers are being discovered who were overlooked over the years due to their diverse backgrounds. It is crucial to incorporate these composers into the classical repertoire and support living composers of diverse ethnic origins to pave their way into history.

*Lena Fankhauser is a violist with Trinidadian-Swiss roots, born in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. She began playing the violin at the age of 4. She attended the Yehudi Menuhin School in England, studied violin with David Cerone in the Young Artists Program at the Cleveland Institute of Music, and later at McGill University in Montreal before switching to the viola. She received both her bachelor's and master's degrees on a full scholarship from the Juilliard School of Music in New York City. As a passionate chamber musician, Lena Fankhauser founded a chamber music festival in Bad Ischl for 10*

years and (CH)AMBER, an association for new chamber music. She is the music curator of the Salon Souterrain, a platform that focuses on interdisciplinary art forms and the representation of diversity in Vienna, collaborating with various institutions such as the Contemporary Museum Vienna and the Kunsthalle.

## **5.2 Hawwa Ozotu OSHAFU MSc**

**11:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

### **African Women and Their Significance in Empowerment**

Promoting a dialogue on the importance of African women for community empowerment. Reclaiming narratives through the perspective of descendants and the impact of colonialism on current generations. Oshafu's aim is to enhance awareness and understanding of our history within the community and to strengthen it.

***Hawwa OSHAFU**, born in Vienna, holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in pharmaceutical biotechnology and currently works as a Senior Technician in animal vaccine production. Oshafu's research focuses on the contribution of salt to the empowerment (social and economic) of women in northern Nigeria (Keana, since 1232). Other areas of interest include gender equality, inclusion, diversity, and history.*

## **5.3 Simon INOU**

**11:45 a.m. -12:15 p.m.**

### **What is FRESH VIBES?**

Within the presentation, freshVibes is introduced as an empowerment tool for the Black diaspora. Since 2019, the radio show freshVibes has been following the motto "Not about us, but from and with us" to document and record the realities, achievements, and diversity of Black people in Austria and beyond. Serving as a media counter-narrative to the often stereotypical, discriminatory, and racist portrayal of Black individuals, freshVibes serves as an empowering counterpart by allowing Black people to speak for themselves and share their own stories. It's about capturing the present to shape the future and not repeat the past, as well as not forget it.

## **5.4 DI. Ing. Oluyemi Olawale OGUNDELE**

**12:30 - 1:00 p.m.**

### **Oduduwa Art and Yoruba Masks, Cultural and Socio-Political Meanings**

The Yorubas are a linguistic and cultural community in southwestern Nigeria. The Yoruba diaspora is scattered worldwide. What particularly distinguishes the Yorubas is their art and mythology. The current presentation aims to describe selected artworks of the Yorubas and delve into their cultural and socio-political significance.

***DI Ing. Oluyemi Olawale OGUNDELE** is a mechanical and multimedia engineer, born in Lagos, Nigeria. He studied mechanical engineering and multimedia engineering in Ogun State, Nigeria, and Vienna, Austria. Ogundele also studied peace and conflict resolution at the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR). He began his professional career as a technician at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in Vienna, Austria, before transitioning to the private sector, where he worked as a quality controller for Niedermeyer AG Austria. After eleven years in the private sector, he returned to the international arena by joining the International Atomic Energy Agency as a mechanical and multimedia engineer, a position he still holds. Ogundele was the president of the Yoruba community in Austria. He is the organizer of the well-known Adire Carnival in Austria, an*



*event aimed at promoting the famous Adire fabrics from the western part of Nigeria and the rich heritage of Yoruba culture.*

## **INTERMISSION, Enjoy African Cuisine & Networking** **1:00-1:50 p.m.**

### **6.1 Audrey KODJO** **2:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

#### **What is Diaspora Creative?**

Audrey's journey is proof of the power of the African diaspora to transcend boundaries and make a global impact. In her effort to promote cultural exchange and celebrate the rich diversity of the diaspora, she founded "Diaspora Creatives", a platform dedicated to showcasing the talent, creativity, and ingenuity of diaspora communities. With a vision that knows no bounds, this initiative serves as a beacon for artists, creators, and entrepreneurs, providing a stage for their incredible works. By promoting cultural and creative projects, Audrey aims to transform the narrative of the diaspora into a tapestry of positivity, innovation, unity, and cultural richness.

During the 3RRR Symposium, Audrey's presentation will focus on the #PositiveNarratives of African arts in building connections between the continent, its diaspora, and host countries, emphasizing the profound influence of African art in "Restitution, Rehabilitation, and Reconciliation."

***Audrey Kodjo**, a dynamic member of the African diaspora, has been living in Europe for over a decade. Audrey hails from the vibrant country of Benin and is passionately inspired by the works and talents of the diaspora. She is dedicated to creative and cultural initiatives that connect, inspire, and empower diaspora communities in Austria and around the world.*

### **6.2 Samson OGIAMIEN** **2:45 – 3:15 p.m.**

#### **Iyagbon's Mirror**

#### **A Mirror Game in the Postcolonial Era**

"Iyagbon's Mirror" is a multidisciplinary exhibition. The question of the origin and return of thousands of artifacts displayed in museums across Europe is at the center of a significant debate today. This artistic proposal aims to be a powerful trigger for reflections across cultures, spaces, and art forms.

**Objectives:** A poetic intervention on current attempts at historical realignment; raising public awareness about the issues of African cultural heritage in European museums; an artistic exploration of the diverse layers of meaning within a ritual object turned museum piece; the creation of a hybrid artwork and a contemporary, transcultural artistic ritual.

***Sculptor Samson Ogiamien** was born in the capital of the Benin Kingdom, Nigeria, and now lives and works in Graz, Austria. He belongs to the Ogiamien dynasty and the guild of royal bronze casters through his family line. Trained in Benin City and Graz, he blends African tradition with Western reality in his performative, process-oriented art. In the outreach process, including workshops, he sees his art as a bridge between cultures. In collaboration with Cie Onyrikon, Ogiamien initiated the "Iyagbon's Mirror" project in 2018, focusing on provenance and restitution. He is an exceptional artist who learned traditional bronze casting in Benin City, Nigeria, and later studied in Austria. He lives and works in Graz.*

*In his over 10-year commitment to the return of looted artworks, he uses art itself to drive the process of restitution in a contemporary way. See: <https://vimeo.com/503813771>.*

### **6.3 Mag.a. Marie-Edwige HARTIG**

**3:20- 3:50 p.m.**

#### **What is Jaapo?**

The term "Jaapo" comes from the West African Wolof language and means to be united, to hold hands. The Jaapo Association, through its cultural projects, promotes a positive approach to Blackness in a white majority society. It provides courage and confidence, creates safe spaces, enables cultural participation, and fosters participation in Austrian society. The main goals of the association are to expand the sociopolitical and cultural presence of BIPOC, promote equal participation of Black women and Women of Color in cultural, social, and economic life through equal access to resources, engage with the current relationship of Austrian society with Black & Women of Color, and promote intercultural dialogue, including within various population groups from Africa, Asia, and South America. It aims for self-organization and networking of Women of Color for empowerment and the reduction of all forms of racist and sexist violence, discrimination, and exploitation. The association conducts projects in education, public and cultural work, research, and works with second and third-generation migrants.

***Mag. Marie-Edwige Hartig** is an activist and adult education trainer. She is a co-founder and leader of the Jaapo association, promoting the equal participation of Black women and Women of Color in cultural, social, and economic life through equal access to resources.*

### **6.4 Dr. phil. Daniel Romuald BITOUH**

**3:55 - 4:15 p.m.**

#### **Viewing Migration, Economy, and Digitalization from an African Perspective. African Diaspora Organizations in Austria as Significant Actors.**

How can the entrepreneurial potential, on-the-ground experience, and expertise of African diaspora organizations in Austria be utilized for the implementation of job-creating projects, initiatives, or investments in African countries? On December 18, 2018, the EU-Africa Summit took place in Vienna, where African and EU heads of state pledged to consider African countries as equal economic partners in the future. Digitalization played a central role, "Taking cooperation to the digital age." While the issue of migration from Africa to Europe may not have been at the forefront, it was a topic that occasionally surfaced in the discussions. The goal is to create jobs for the steadily growing number of African youth and thus provide concrete prospects. The assembled European policy makers agreed to increase and boost European economic investments in Africa and create a legal framework for this to happen smoothly. However, for these intentions of a differentiated partnership with African countries to become tangible reality, the inclusion of African diaspora organizations in Austria in the practical implementations is essential and a must. It should not be a unilateral effort by Austrian small or large businesses. African diaspora organizations in Austria not only offer themselves as components of a project environment but should be placed at the center as necessary partners in the implementation. Is it not time to more actively support job-creating projects initiated and implemented in African countries by African diaspora organizations in Austria? Win-win partnerships between Austrian small or large businesses and African countries are emerging.

**Dr. phil. Daniel Romuald Bitouh** is a literature and cultural scientist, founder, and director of AFRIEUROTEXT, an organization that deals with local and global asymmetries through various projects and events, contributing to peace, education, and development policy participation on Austrian, European, and African levels. Education is a means to break free from the grip of structural powers. In this context, numerous projects have been successfully completed, **including the establishment and operation of a women's vocational training bakery and the opening of a high-end tourism and gastronomy area in Yaoundé, Cameroon** <https://kilet-kias.afrieurotext.at/de/>. AFRIEUROTEXT Austria is also a bookstore with a focus on AFRICA, located in the heart of Vienna. Dr. Bitouh's main profession is lecturing in African, German, Austrian, and French literature, as well as teaching German in adult education.

## **6.5 Fatima SIDIBE**

**4:30 – 5:00 p.m.**

### **How do Reels manage to create new narratives about the African continent?**

My content is easy to understand, condensing a lot of information into a short time, reaching a large number of people, especially young individuals. Young people are the future of tomorrow. It's even more important for my generation to ensure that Africa is recognized by non-Africans as equal and full-fledged. In my opinion, this is the first step to finding sustainable solutions to end neocolonialism. As the saying goes, knowledge is power, and my videos also aim to raise awareness among the African diaspora that it's worth exploring their roots and standing up for them.

***Fatima Sidibe**, born in Senegal, lives and works in Vienna. Fatima Sidibe is better known by her content creator name "AfricaanDivaa." Sidibe's mission is to provide education on the topics of Africa and "being black." For example, through Instagram Reels that reflect the cultural diversity and beauty of the continent. With this content, Africaan Divaa aims to counteract the predominantly negative images about Africa prevalent in the educational and media landscape. Since last October, Sidibe has been regularly posting on Instagram (Account @africaandivaa) and now has over 50 thousand followers. Her philosophy is: if you don't know your own story, others will write it for you!*

## **6.6 Dr.in Ishraga MUSTAFA HAMID**

**5:10 - 5:45 p.m.**

### **Diversity and Anti-Discrimination Work: Perspectives of Black Cultural Creators in Vienna**

The question of diversity and diversity management concerns me: What does diversity mean from the perspectives of Black cultural creators in Vienna? What does gender and diversity mean? Is there diversity in Vienna? Black people are not strangers. They are part of the structures in the areas of education, housing, participation in society, political discourse, and the job market, which hinder equal access. Diversity necessitates equal distribution of resources, where all people have the same rights. Special emphasis is placed on the possibilities of cultural creators and their societal perception and recognition of their work. Black and People of Color themselves have a voice in this, and their diverse perspectives on diversity politics are discussed.

***Dr. Ishraga Mustafa Hamid**, born in Kosti, Sudan on September 16, 1961, has been living in Vienna since 1993. She studied communication science in both Sudan and at the University of Vienna, followed by a doctoral program at the Institute of Political Science. Dr. Hamid is a writer, translator, and cultural creator. She has published 8 books in German and Arabic. Dr. Hamid has conducted several studies, especially on Black women and migration in Austria and has received several awards, such as the Adult*

*Education Award in 2007, the Herta Pammer Prize from the Catholic Women's Movement in Austria, and in 2020, she was awarded the Golden Medal of Merit from the City of Vienna.*

### **6.7 Poetry Performance by Gawdesque**

**5:50 - 6:05 p.m.**

Gawdesque (she/they) primarily writes lyrical texts, a practice she\* has engaged in since approximately the age of 13. Through her\* writing, she processes her\* emotional inner world and aspires to convey a collective understanding of the human condition. Existential thoughts and the journey of the individual often find expression in her\* texts. The majority of her\* work is written in English, but she\* also writes in both German and English. Previous events where her poetry has been heard include, among others, Wanda Löw's "Full of Feeling" exhibition, Art Against Depression, and the Glitch4 Voting Ball at Dschungel Wien.

### **6.8 DR. Graciela FAFFELBERGER**

**6:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

#### **Cultural Heritage Protection and Restitution of Cultural Goods from Non-European States in Austria and at the EU Level – Lessons from the Restitution Process of the Benin Bronzes**

Cultural goods are defined as objects under the Austrian Cultural Property Return Act, which are classified or defined as national cultural property according to the regulations of a European Union member state, either before or after their unlawful removal, in terms of Article 36 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). Alternatively, they may be protected as part of the cultural heritage under the regulations of a contracting state in accordance with the UNESCO Convention and can be identifiable as such without unreasonable effort.

Based on this definition, the presentation's first part aims to provide an overview of the current legal framework for cultural heritage protection in Austria and at the EU level. The second part intends to address the question of the lessons learned from the restitution process of the Benin Bronzes. Laws are the result of negotiation processes, and it is important that the legal subjects affected by them have equal negotiating power and can voice their concerns during the negotiation process. Therefore, a dialogue should be initiated to provide participants in the presentation with the opportunity (anonymously) to share their own experiences, suggestions, and improvement ideas regarding legal protection at the EU level for cultural heritage and to collectively discuss solutions on how cultural heritage protection and restitution can be better designed.

***Dr. Graciela Faffelberger, Bakk.phil. BA LL.M.** is a jurist working independently in the fields of economic and art law in Vienna. In addition to her legal background, she has studied art history and sociology in Vienna and conducts research on socio-cultural topics and legal issues with a focus on Cultural Heritage, social marginalized groups, and approaches to sustainable self-empowerment in the global South. She is also involved in voluntary intercultural youth and school prevention work in collaboration with nonprofit organizations and schools.*

## 6.9 Round Table – A Talk

7:20 - 8:30 p.m.

### Should Austria, in view of the complexity of the restitution issue, bury its head in the sand?

This roundtable discussion draws attention to the significance of a sustained engagement with the complexity of the restitution issue in the Austrian cultural and political context. Because the question of restitution is a cross-cutting issue, in that it concerns not only objects of art but also, and especially, justice for the original communities living in Austria/Europe, specifically the African diaspora in Austria/Europe. The goal is to promote and strengthen an inclusive and nuanced dialogue between Austrian federal museums, state institutions, and the African diaspora in Austria, to work towards sustainable and inclusive collaboration with the African diaspora in Austria, to address the complexity of the restitution issue, and to shape the present and future together.

**Prof. Kum'a Ndumbe III.**, Historian, Political Scientist (Douala, Cameroon)

**Sir Phil Otaniyen Omodamwen**, Benin-Bronzeartist and Expert (Benin City, Nigeria)

**Dr. Jonathan Fine**, Scientific Director WMW (Vienna Austria)

**Isabel Termini-Fridrich**, Head of Educational Programs Wien Museum (Vienna Austria)

**Mag.a. Safira Robens**, Artist (Angola, Germany, Portugal)

**Dr. Graciela Faffelberger**, Lawyer (Vienna, Austria)

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## 7. Conclusion & Networking