

RecAf Spring School

Popular Culture & Arts in Africa

Dates: 29 March – 02 April, 2021

Location: University of Bayreuth

Abstract

Hip-hop verses, graffiti, comics and comedies – these are all examples of practices of popular culture, which permeate life worlds in Africa. “Popular culture in Africa is a product of everyday life. It is the unofficial, the non-canonical. It is usually taken to mean the culture of the ‘ordinary people’: not the educated elites, politicians, military top brass and rich businessmen” (Barber in ‘A History of African Popular Culture’). How do we discuss popular culture in Africa, and in what ways does it stand opposed to ‘high’ art and literature? While on the one hand, not tied to a canon, popular culture is, on the other hand, not unrelated to mass media and consumption: How can popular culture be subversive? What role do African languages play in the formation of popular culture and the dialogues about it? During this week-long spring school hosted by the University of Bayreuth as part of the research project *Recalibrating Afrikanistik*, we will dive into these questions by focusing on a variety of practices through workshops, lectures, and group discussions led by guest speakers from Bayreuth, Leipzig, and Cologne.

Registration Procedure

Please note that due to coronavirus restrictions, there will be a limit to how many people may participate in the spring school. Registration does not guarantee you a spot but places you in a queue. Based on restrictions and our capacity leading up to the event, we will email everyone who has registered and inform them whether or not they have a secured spot in the spring school.

Registration Link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfxLnXpwtRuxZ1qa8_Cl_XCErQ0AVajCdPqKSpa9GzKcCpMdA/viewform

If you have any questions or comments, you may contact Brady Blackburn:

brady.blackburn@uni-bayreuth.de

Modules and Credits

For Leipzig students in African Studies (BA) full participation in the Spring School and subsequent participation in a course offered by Bayreuth University in the summer semester 2021 will count for “03-AFR-1305 Afrika in der Forschung” (10 ECTS). Further specifics to be announced.

For Leipzig students in African Studies (MA) full participation plus course work will count for “03-AFR-2114 Migration and Language” (5 ECTS).

Students who would like to be credited for the Spring School should first register with the above form and then contact Berenike Eichhorn (recaf@uni-leipzig.de).