

# **CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

## **to the Workshop**

### **“Negotiating Culture in the Context of Globalisation”**

**Dakar, April 3–8, 2006**

**Coordinators:**

Francis Nyamnjoh, CODESRIA;  
Till Förster, Universität Basel;  
Brigitte Reinwald, Universität Hannover.

**Date:** April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 2006

**Place:** Dakar, Saly / Senegal

**Participants:** 45 – 50 scholars from Sub-Saharan Africa,  
Germany and partner countries

**Application:** *Abstracts for contributions to be submitted before*  
*→ November 15<sup>th</sup> 2005*

to  
Prof. Till Förster  
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Switzerland

*preferably by e-mail to: [till.foerster@unibas.ch](mailto:till.foerster@unibas.ch)*

**The abstract should not be longer than two pages containing**

- **title of contribution**
- **short description of the topic** (as outlined below)
- **theoretical and methodological framework**
- **CV** (very short)
- **name and address of applicant**
- **audiovisual needs such as PowerPoint, slide projectors, video, etc.**

**Selection:** The coordinators of the workshop together with the advisory board of the Volkswagen Foundation funding initiative “Knowledge for Tomorrow – Co-operative Research Projects in Sub-Saharan Africa” will select the contributions for the workshop.

**Funding:** Travel expenses and accommodation will be fully reimbursed to the invited participants by the Volkswagen Foundation.

**Goals of the Workshop:**

To bring together scholars in the field of the humanities, cultural studies and social sciences from Sub-Saharan Africa and Germany in order to explore:

- Funding strategies for scholars from Sub-Sahara Africa cooperating with German research institutions and, where necessary, associated partners from other countries.
- Define topics for a subsequent “Call for Cooperative Research Projects” within the broader field of “Negotiating Culture in the Context of Globalisation”

**Topics of the Workshop:**

**1. Shifts in Cultural Interaction:  
Narrating and Performing Identity and Difference**

Contributions to the first panel will address new and emerging forms of cultural interaction, participation and representation that shape African societies today. The key question is how these changing modes of interaction emerged in the past, how they emerge today, and how this affects the potentials of social as well as the possibilities of individual participation in public and civil life. The panel thus not only addresses basic aspects of how culture is negotiated in the context of globalisation, but also seeks to distinguish the social agency that shape such processes.

Contributions to this panel may focus on one or several of the following topics:

- the development of new literary forms between the Oral and the Written,
- how multilingual and multicultural contexts inspire the creation of new and innovative language and forms of communication
- how such emerging modes of cultural interaction generate new understandings of social structure, social identity and new interpretations of basic moral and cultural convictions
- how they foster novel forms of participation and representation in civil and public life.
- articulations of resistance and protest related to gender and generation

**2. Locations of Visibility:  
Emerging Norms and Actions in the Public Sphere**

The second panel is dedicated to the discussion of the diverse spheres of public exchange as arenas where new forms of culture gain visibility within or against established norms, values and social practices. They may also be analysed as contexts within which new norms and values are recognised and accepted by other social actors. This panel thus addresses processes of how newly negotiated aspects of culture may become acknowledged by others and maybe by the public in general.

Contributions to this panel could address one or several of the following topics and questions:

- how are the changing societal norms and practices reflected in the arts, in particular in those arts that attract a wider audience

- one arena may be the production, distribution and consumption of video, VCD and DVD, television, etc. as popular media where new norms and practices become visible
- another arena could be the appropriation and/or rejection of such media and commodities in everyday material culture
- a third arena could be the access to and modes of representation in the www, including their impact on public discourse

Other spheres and arenas may be addressed if they are relevant to the general question outlined above.

### **3. Reinterpreting Sociality: Cities, Citizenship, and the Politics of Belonging**

The third panel is concerned with the question of how the emerging norms and actions in African societies lead to new types of sociality and social organisation, as new institutions are one of the major factors of African post-colonial societies. It also raises the reverse question of how such new institutions affect the negotiation of culture. The panel thus deals with processes of institutionalisation in a broad sense.

Papers to this panel should fall into the broad realm of the following or related topics and questions:

- What is the significance of new churches; religious and civil movements as well as other associations for the institutionalisation of basic social and cultural values and norms?
- Do new forms of citizenship and cultural identity emerge and what may be their social, cultural and political relevance?
- How are historical narratives of belonging generated and celebrated in urban space?
- Are there new types of civil society in Africa and what may be their significance for societal integration in general?
- What is the significance of new types of sociality and social integration for the future of African societies?

#### **Transversal Themes:**

Three transversal themes are crosscutting the topics of the three panels and link them to each other and further parts of the Initiative for Africa of the Volkswagen Foundation:

- I. Glocalisation;** i.e. the linkage between local phenomena and transnational, regional and/or global processes.
- II. Intermediality;** i.e. the interaction between the various media in which the negotiation of culture may take place.
- III. Emergence of novel societal structures;** i.e. the specific character of social and cultural change in Africa in the past and present.

Candidates are invited to refer to one or several of these transversal themes in their contributions. The papers may thus fall into one or more squares of the grid below.

	I. Globalisation	II. Intermediality	III. Novel Structures
1. Shifts in Cultural Interaction			
2. Locations of Visibility			
3. Reinterpreting Sociality			

**Dissemination:** Abstracts and the outcome of the workshop will be published on the internet.

**Structure:** ***Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2006***  
Welcome Dinner

***Monday April 4<sup>th</sup> 2006***

Introduction: Keynote Lectures and Discussion

Joyce Nyairo, Moi University, Kenya  
Liz Gunner, University of Kwazulu Natal, South Africa  
Ibrahima Thioub, Université Cheik Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal  
Till Förster, University of Basel, Switzerland

***Tuesday April 5<sup>th</sup> 2006***

**1. Panel: Shifts in Cultural Interaction: Narrating and Performing Identity and Difference**

Individual presentations, each 20 min and subsequent discussion

Working Groups: Discussion of funding strategies and the framing conditions for “true” North-South Cooperation  
Discussion of results within the plenary

***Wednesday April 6<sup>th</sup> 2006***

**2. Panel: Locations of Visibility: Emerging Norms and Actions in the Public Sphere**

Individual presentations, each 20 min and subsequent discussion

Excursion with participants in the vicinity of venue

***Thursday April 7<sup>th</sup> 2006***

**3. Panel: Reinterpreting Sociality: Cities, Citizenship and the Politics of Belonging**

Individual presentations, each 20 min and subsequent discussion

Working Groups: Identification of prospective topics of future research and for “call for proposals”, theoretical and methodological framework. Discussion of groups’ results within the plenary

***Friday April 8<sup>th</sup> 2006 (morning)***

Presentation and final discussion of results and framing conditions of “call for proposal”