



**Working Group B ‘Multiple Futures through Time’ (Winter 2013-14)**

**Workshop**

**“Changing Futures through Time”**

**16-17 January 2014**

**Abstract**

History and future, rather than being antonyms, draw strongly on each other. In recent years, historians have discarded teleological conceptions of ‘inevitable progress’ in favour of examining the variety of historical possibilities; particularly a new literature has grown around the ‘failure’ of various schemes of the future. Africa and the African diaspora have turned out to be particularly stimulating fields for these much wider debates.

This Workshop takes these debates as its starting point to enquire, across a range of different disciplines, into how to understand the diversity and changeability of narratives of what the future will bring. This entails a number of key questions to be addressed during the Workshop: How do ideas about what the past was, the present is, and the future will be, differ between social and cultural domains? How are they affected by different historical contexts and by different understandings of temporality? How do such ideas change through time? And how do they interact across cultural and temporal divisions, through memory, transfer, and adaptation? This also involves an understanding of how the past is being ‘told’ through stories and images, how it is re-appropriated to create projections of the future as well as an opposition to present realities, and how the future, in turn, is historicised.

This Workshop provides for a second focus of debates of the Working Group “Multiple Futures through Time“, held during this Winter 2013-14 at the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies, as part of its current overall research programme on “Future Africa – Visions in Time”. The aim of the Working Group, drawing on a wide range of disciplines and approaches, is to advance our knowledge on the diversity and changeability of “future”, and provide space for innovative encounters.

Participants of the Workshop are the Fellows of the Working Group, including Guest Fellows and resident researchers of the Bayreuth Academy, and a number of other specially-invited Guests from a variety of disciplines, countries, and institutions. The Workshop, as the Working Group as a whole, is facilitated by one of the Academy’s five Sub-Projects, on “Narratives of the Future in Modern African History”.

## SCHEDULE

Bayreuth Academy  
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African Studies

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### Schedule

Time	Sessions	Speakers, Chairs, Scribes and Discussants
<b>16 JANUARY (Thursday)</b>		
16h	<i>Introduction and welcome</i>	Chair: Christine Whyte (Bayreuth) Scribe: Lena Kroeker (Bayreuth)
16.15h	<i>Art, technology and African cultural futures</i>	Akosua Adomako Ampofo (Accra)
17.15	<i>Translation/Traducture as tools for interrogating the future: The case of knowledge management through insights of the global Africana world</i>	Wangui Wa Goro (London)
18h	<i>Break</i>	
18.15	<i>Social Media and the Future of African Diaspora Identity</i>	Alondra Nelson (New York)
19.30	<i>Dinner at San Marino, Schulstr. 5</i>	
<b>17 JANUARY (Friday)</b>		
9h	<i>Welcome</i>	Annalisa Urbano (Bayreuth) Scribe: Katharina Fink (Bayreuth)
	<i><u>Session: Narratives of the future in East African history</u></i>	Discussant: Susanne Lachennicht (Bayreuth)
9.15h	<i>Middle-class chronotypes and changing self-perceptions in Kenya</i>	Rachel Spronk (Amsterdam)
10h	<i>Maendeleo Mema: Concepts of 'progress' in late colonial East Africa</i>	Emma Hunter (Cambridge)
10.45	<i>BREAK</i>	
11h	<i>Kenyan life stories: Remembering the future, building the present</i>	Christiane Reichart-Burikukiye (Berlin/Bayreuth)

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<b>11.45</b>	<i>Mau Mau Inc.: The privileging of conflict memories and histories in Kenya</i>	Lotte Hughes (Milton Keynes)
<b>12.30h</b>	<i>Lunch</i>	
	<i>Session: Cultures and Futures</i>	Chair: Achim von Oppen (Bayreuth) Scribe: Henriette Gunkel (Bayreuth)
<b>14h</b>	<i>On images for a liberated future and the historical condition of the work of the Instituto Nacional de Cinema de Moçambique (INC)</i>	Luis Patraquim (Maputo)
<b>14.45</b>	<i>Queer Times, Black Futures</i>	Kara Keeling (Los Angeles)
15.30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
<b>15.45</b>	<i>Changing Mobilities, Shifting Futures</i>	Peter Geschiere (Amsterdam)
<b>16.30h</b>	<i>Concluding discussion</i>	Chair: Christine Whyte (Bayreuth)
<b>17h</b>	<i>Close</i>	