



**UNIVERSITÄT
BAYREUTH**

Bayreuth Academy
of Advanced
African Studies

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Workshop

“Shakespeare and Africa: Literary Entanglements across Space and Time”

University of Bayreuth, 19-20.02.2020

Room: S121 Building: GWI

The culmination of events in the Postdoctoral Working Group “Shakespearean Pasts, African Futurities: Entanglements of Memory, Temporalities and Knowledge(s)” under the auspices of the Cluster of Excellence “Africa Multiple” and the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies, the workshop will reflect (on) contemporary African and African-Diasporic ways of reading Shakespeare, versions of Shakespearean plays and/or adaptations, as well as (comparatively) Shakespearean plays themselves. With double key-notes by Shakespeare/Africa experts Prof Sandra Young (University of Cape Town, South Africa) and Prof Jane Plastow (Leeds University, UK), the workshop will engage emerging re-interpretations of Shakespearean topoi, especially within African nationalist agendas, the (re)framing of prior texts vis-à-vis situated audiences as well as the synergies between various forms of genre-specific mediations. The workshop places especial stress on comparative approaches to reading Shakespeare now. Its spotlight on the complex and multiple factors, contexts, processes, media and agencies that characterize the fictional (un)making of temporalities in emerging versions of Shakespearean narratives, highlights the multiplicity, relationality and reflexivity emphases of the Cluster’s research focus. The workshop, scheduled for the 19th and 20th of February 2020, will be held at the main campus (GWI room S121). The headliner for the closing events on the second day will be a public rehearsed reading of Nigerian writer Femi Osofisan’s adaptation *Wesoo Hamlet!* by the Theatre Duo (Billy Langa and Mahlatsi Mokgonyana) from Johannesburg, South Africa.

19.02.2020	
10:00-10:15	Welcome Address by Cyrus Samimi, Vice Dean of Digital Solutions, Cluster of Excellence “Africa Multiple” & Prof. for Climatology (University of Bayreuth)

10:15-11:15	Keynote 1: Sandra Young (University of Cape Town) Shakespeare's decolonial transformations: <i>Macbeth</i> reimaged in contemporary Africa
11:15-11:30	Coffee/Tea Break
11:30-12:15	Serena Talento (University of Bayreuth): <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> in East Africa between the nation and the self.
12:15-13:00	Ifeoluwa Aboluwade (University of Bayreuth) Re/membering Hamlet: transcultural mnemohistory in Femi Osofisan's <i>Wesoo, Hamlet!</i>
13:00-14:15	Lunch Break
14:15-15:00	Samuel Ndogo (Moi University) A postcolonial perspective on Kenyan comedy shows
15:00-15:45	Olalekan Balogun (University of Lagos) Recreating the 'literature of the Shrine': history, moral epistemology, and Shakespeare in Femi Osofisan's <i>Wesoo, Hamlet!</i>

20.02.2020	
10-11:00	Keynote 2: Jane Plastow (University of Leeds) Shakespeare: an inconvenient irrelevance to black African youth
11:00-11:15	Coffee/Tea Break
11:15-12:00	Pepetual Mforbe Chiangong (Humboldt University Berlin) Ways of retelling Shakespeare's <i>The Tempest</i> across time and space
12:00-12:45	Oliver Nyambi (University of the Free State) "You all did love him once, not without cause": Shakespeare, power and the rise and fall of Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.
12:45-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-14.45	Susan Arndt (University of Bayreuth) tba
14:45-15:00	Concluding remarks
17:00-19:00	Performance: Rehearsed reading of Femi Osofisan's adaptation <i>Wesoo Hamlet</i> by the Theatre Duo, Billy Langa and Mahlatsi Mokgonyana, (South Africa), introduction by Christine Matzke (University of Bayreuth), Iwalewahaus