

Call for Proposals  
*Programme Point Sud 2019*

German scholars and research foundations have long been successfully working beyond the Anglo- and Francophone research traditions established by the former leading colonial powers in Africa. Not only have they been successful in overcoming geographic and linguistic boundaries themselves, but they have also encouraged exchange and dialogue between these different research traditions. In this capacity, German academics are in a particularly favorable position to play an important role in promoting the establishment of a truly postcolonial academic community in Africa.

In 2009, the Goethe-University of Frankfurt/Main and the German Research Foundation (DFG) have established the “Programme Point Sud” in order to fund Africa-related workshops and conferences in the humanities and social sciences. Financial support by the DFG will cover the costs of travel and accommodation for participants of activities that have been accepted. The activities of the programme are organized through a network. Within this network, the Goethe University cooperates with the Institute for Advanced Studies in Nantes and the following institutions in Africa:

- African Centre for Research on trade and slavery (CARTE) and University Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal
- Centre for African Studies, University Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo, Mozambique
- Centre for Democratic Governance (CGD), Institute for Research on Societies (INSS) and University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
- Institute for African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra, Ghana
- Faculty of Humanities of Omar Bongo University Libreville, Gabon
- Laboratory for the Study and Research on Social Dynamics and Local Development (LASDEL) and University Abdou Moumouni, Niamey, Niger
- Point Sud, Centre for Research on Local Knowledge and University of Bamako, Mali
- Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS) and Stellenbosch University, South Africa

The events of the programme will be held at the different institutions of the network in Africa without exception.

The programme is open to all researchers based in Germany working on Africa-related themes. Leading applicants and responsible for the proposed events must be researchers working at German academic institutions. However, co-applicants especially from Africa, Europe and the rest of the world are particularly welcome. There are no restrictions regarding nationality for the participants of individual activities. The individual activities will be selected by a programme committee and submitted for funding to the DFG as a single collective application. The applicant is Prof. Mamadou Diawara from the Goethe University in Frankfurt/Main who chairs the programme committee. The DFG will then evaluate the collective application.

Members of the committee are:

- Prof Rose Marie Beck, University of Leipzig
- Prof Mamadou Diawara, Goethe University Frankfurt
- Prof Andreas Eckert, Humboldt University of Berlin
- Dr Anke Hoeffler, Oxford University
- Prof Bernard Lategan, STIAS Stellenbosch
- Prof Birgit Meyer, University of Utrecht
- Prof Dieter Neubert, University of Bayreuth

Requests for funding will be assessed according to the following general principles:

- Types of activity eligible for funding are: Traditional activities such as conferences, seminars, workshops, graduate schools, summer schools, and field schools of various scales. Furthermore, innovative formats such as project development workshops and forums to promote kickoff meetings for new research endeavors and themes will be given privileged consideration.

- A particular concern of the programme is to establish long-term relations with scholars, scientific institutions and networks. In this sense, follow-up workshops by scientists who have already participated in the programme are especially welcomed. Furthermore, the programme offers the possibility for postdoctoral research networks and junior academic groups to apply for two consecutive workshops with the same group of participants (max. 15-20) during the next two rounds of application (2019 and 2020). The funding of the second workshop depends on the success of the first one.
- Although the programme is primarily oriented towards the social sciences and humanities, initiatives that aim to promote interdisciplinary cooperation with the natural sciences and medicine are particularly welcome. There are no thematic requirements except that the initiative is relevant to Africa.
- Not eligible for support are: internal project meetings, planning meetings, project finding meetings and student field research as part of university course requirements.
- The University of Frankfurt finances an academic coordinator who will support applicants in editing their applications and also coordinate the programme. The university will also assist with travel arrangements, accommodation and the settling of accounts in order to relieve the applicants of most logistic and administrative tasks. Third-party funding will be paid to the University of Frankfurt and directly managed from there.

The programme committee will evaluate the applications according to the following criteria:

- innovativeness of the proposal with respect to content and/or format
- interdisciplinary approach
- cooperation with researchers and institutions from Africa
- consideration of young scholars on doctoral or post-doc level
- balanced proportion in regards to gender amidst the participants
- sustainability of the activity regarding networking between the participants and/or publication of the results
- type of linkage to the location/hosting institution of the venue

The applicants have to state in their proposition at which institution/location of the network in Africa they want to hold their workshop. This choice must be justified by a concrete linkage between the planned event and the location. Nevertheless, the final decision about the location of each venue will be made by the programme committee.

This linkage can be realized by different means. One can be already established contacts of the applicants to local researchers and institutions who can be integrated as participants. They are also welcome as co-applicants. Depending on the subject of the proposal, another form of linkage might be the participation of representatives of the local civil society and/or by visiting local institutions like hospitals or radio stations as well as through discussions with representatives of private or state bodies. If you do not have the necessary contacts to fulfil this criterion, we will be happy to assist.

An integral part of the programme is the linkage to the local universities. Hence, the participants are asked to hold public lectures or panel debates at the faculties concerned. In this way we open up the programme to students or other locals interested in the subject. To make this possible, we offer to the organisers of the workshops and/or selected participants the opportunity to extend their stay for two or three days before or after the workshop in order to organise these activities at the university.

Moreover, proposals that include a south-south-dialogue with scientists from Anglophone, Francophone or Lusophone countries in Africa, Latin America or Asia as well as workshops which address especially young scholars are particularly welcome. A central aim of the programme is to confront research perspectives of the South with the North in order to contribute to a critical reflection on the production of knowledge.

The proposals should have the following outline and length:

- Title of the proposal
- Name of the applicants, discipline and their affiliation
- 1.2 Topic and Objectives (max. 2 pages).
- 1.3 Format and Organization (max. 2 pages). This point should include a time schedule and work plan structuring the activity. The applicants are also asked to describe where they want to organize their event, which type of linkage to the location they conceive, how they intend to deal with possible language barriers (anglo-, franco- and lusophone participants), and if they plan a publication, the creation of a network or joint activities in the future, e.g. summer schools.
- 1.4 Participants (max. 1 page). A list of the participants to be invited, including their academic status, discipline and their affiliation is to be included in the proposal. If the applicants wish to work with a call for papers, the prospective number of participants has to be determined. Note that to assure a productive work atmosphere, the average number of participants does not exceed 25 persons. Also, the nationality of the participants to be chosen (how many from Europe, Africa and so on) and how the applicants intend to circulate the call for papers should be made clear.
- 1.5 Profiles and selected publications of the applicants (max. half a page for each applicant). The details and references should be chosen according to their relevance for the content and type of activity planned.
- Formatting: Times New Roman, type size 12 point, single space

Please don't include a calculation of the costs since this is done in Frankfurt. Likewise, it is not necessary to include a bibliography on the current state of research.

For 2019 the time schedule is as follows:

- Deadline for a 6-page proposal is 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Please send your proposal to Dr. Marko Scholze: [scholze@em.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:scholze@em.uni-frankfurt.de)
- It is highly recommended to contact Mr. Scholze as soon as possible and to send him a preliminary draft in order get further advice.
- Applications will be selected on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018
- Collective application to the DFG in July 2018
- Activities that have been granted support may start from February 2019

For further information please contact Dr Marko Scholze, [scholze@em.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:scholze@em.uni-frankfurt.de), Ph: +49 (0)69 798-33230 or +49 (0)1601035354. Please also consult our website under: <http://pointsud.org/programme/>