

Call for Proposals  
Programme Point Sud 2021

Scholars, research institutions and foundations in Germany 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 (France) and the following institutions in Africa:

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

The events of the programme will be held only at the different institutions of the network in Africa.

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, a close collaboration with co-applicants from Africa, but also from other parts of the world, is particularly encouraged. In fact, applications without partners from Africa have only marginal chances to be selected. 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 DFG will then evaluate the collective application. The applicant is Prof. Mamadou Diawara from the Goethe University in Frankfurt/Main who chairs the programme committee. The other members of the committee are:

- Prof Rose Marie Beck, University of Leipzig
- Prof Andreas Eckert, Humboldt University of Berlin
- Prof Anke Hoeffler, University of Konstanz
- 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: Classical formats 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 of scholars and scientific institutions, for example in the form of networks. In this sense, follow-up workshops by scientists who have already participated in the programme are especially welcomed.
- 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. In general, there are no thematic requirements except that the initiative must be relevant to Africa.
- Not eligible for support are: internal project meetings, planning meetings, preparative meetings to generate third party funding and student field research as part of university course requirements.
- The University of Frankfurt finances an academic coordinator who will support applicants in commenting their applications and also coordinate the programme. The coordinator will also lead the organization and the settling of accounts in order to relieve the applicants of most logistic and administrative tasks. For this reason, 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 format
- Interdisciplinary approach
- Cooperation with researchers and institutions from Africa
- Integration of young scholars on doctoral or post-doc level
- Gender balance among the participants
- Sustainability of the activity (networking building; publications etc.)
- Type of linkage to the host location

The applicants have to state in their proposition at which 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 form can be the integration of local scholars as co-applicants or participants. Depending on the subject of the proposal, another form of linkage might be the participation of representatives of the local civil society and/or state officials as well as by visiting local institutions like radio stations, hospitals or art projects. If you do not have the necessary contacts to fulfil this criterion, the coordinator will be happy to assist you in finding the best suited location and contacts. This also holds for African applicants in search of a partner in Germany.

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 convenors 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 organize these activities at the university.

The gender balance is of great importance to the programme. This aspect should be observed by the applicants through a balanced number of female and male scholars as participants. Furthermore, the gender aspect should also be taken into account for the discussions of the chosen topic and should already be highlighted in the proposal.

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 coming from different regions of the world in order to contribute to a critical reflection on global knowledge production.

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). Applicants should underline and clarify why their approach and questions are particularly innovative with regards to the existing literature on the topic. It is not necessary to include a bibliography. It suffices to cite relevant names of scholars for your approach in brackets in the text.
- 1.3 Format and Organization (max. 2 pages). This section should include a time schedule and work plan structuring the activity. The applicants should make clear how they want to tackle their topic and questions in a concrete program. Moreover, 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 number, academic status, discipline and their affiliation has to be included in the proposal. If the applicants wish to work with a call for papers, the prospective number of participants and their provenance (how many from Europe, Africa, etc.) has to be determined. The average number of participants for workshops of our programme is 25 persons (including the applicants). Also, the applicants should explain how they intend to circulate the call for papers.
- 1.5 Profiles and selected publications of the applicants (max. a third of 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 11 point, single space

Please don't include a calculation of the budget since this is done in Frankfurt.

For 2021 the time schedule is as follows:

- Deadline for a 6-page proposal is 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Please send your proposal online 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 for comments.
- Applications will be selected by the steering committee on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2020
- Collective application to the DFG by mid July 2020
- Activities that have been granted support may start from February/March 2021

For further information please contact Dr Marko Scholze under: [scholze@em.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:scholze@em.uni-frankfurt.de). Please also consult our website under: <http://pointsud.org/programme/>