

Call for Application

Programme Point Sud 2025

Scholars, research institutions and foundations in Germany have long worked successfully beyond the Anglo-Saxon and Francophone research traditions established by the former leading colonial powers in Africa. Not only have they succeeded in overcoming geographical and linguistic boundaries themselves, but they have also fostered dialogue between these different research traditions. In this capacity, German scholars are in a particularly well placed to play an important role in promoting the establishment of a truly postcolonial academic community in Africa.

Based on an agreement between the Goethe University Frankfurt/Main and the German Research Foundation (DFG), the "Programme Point Sud" funds events in the humanities and social sciences related to Africa. Financial support from the DFG will cover travel and accommodation costs for participants in accepted activities. The programme is organised by a network that includes the Goethe University and the Institute for Advanced Studies in Nantes, as well as nine 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 National Centre for Scientific and Technological Research, 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 programme's events are held exclusively at the network's sites in Africa.

The programme is open to all researchers based in Germany working on Africa-related topics. Leading applicants and responsible for the proposed events must be researchers working at German academic institutions. However, close cooperation with co-applicants from Africa is a prerequisite for funding. Applications can also be initiated by researchers from Africa. In this case, it is also necessary to submit the application with cooperation partners from Germany. If no such scientific contacts exist, the coordinator and the steering committee will be happy to assist in the search for potential partners. There are no restrictions regarding the nationality of the participants. The individual activities will be selected by a programme committee and submitted for funding to the DFG as a package proposal. The package proposal will then be reviewed by the DFG. The proposal is submitted by Prof. Mirco Goepfert of the Goethe University Frankfurt/Main, who chairs the steering committee.

Members of the steering committee are:

- Prof. Rose Marie Beck, University of Leipzig,
- Prof. Mamadou Diawara, Goethe University Frankfurt/Main,
- Prof. Andreas Eckert, Humboldt University of Berlin, (voluntary temporary retreat)
- Prof. Mirco Goepfert, Goethe University Frankfurt/Main,
- Prof. Bernard Lategan, STIAS Stellenbosch,
- Prof. Birgit Meyer, University of Utrecht,
- Prof. Dieter Neubert, University of Bayreuth,
- Dr. Nadine Siegert, Goethe Institute in Lagos.

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

- The types of activities eligible for funding are activities such as conferences, seminars, workshops, summer schools and writing schools of various sizes. Applications that integrate innovative elements into the conference program, e.g. interactive discussion formats such as *world café* and *fishbowl* and/or visits to thematically relevant institutions on site, are particularly welcome.

- The criterion of innovative quality (see below) is also a priority in the selection of topics and questions for summer schools and writing schools. Events for young researchers must therefore also aim to generate new scientific knowledge. Applicants should therefore make clear in their application how they intend to contribute to specific debates and theories.
- Digital formats such as videoconferencing can also be submitted.
- The following are not eligible for funding: internal project and network meetings, planning meetings, project identification meetings and student fieldwork as part of university course requirements.
- A particular concern of the programme is to establish long-term relationships with scholars and academic institutions. For this reason, *follow-up workshops* can be organised by researchers who have already participated in the programme. However, there are specific challenges associated with this format. Therefore, contact with the programme coordinator should be made at an early stage. The same applies to the *resubmission of applications* that weren't selected by the steering committee in the previous year.
- Although the programme is primarily oriented towards the social sciences and humanities, initiatives that aim to promote interdisciplinary collaboration with the natural sciences and medicine are particularly welcome. There are no thematic requirements other than relevance to Africa.
- The University of Frankfurt is funding an academic coordinator to assist applicants with their applications and to coordinate the programme. The University will also take care of travel arrangements and accounting in order to relieve applicants of most of the logistical and administrative tasks. This means that the third-party funding is paid to and directly administered by the University of Frankfurt.

The steering 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.

All submitted proposals will be reviewed by all members of the LG. The DFG's rules on bias are strictly adhered to in the selection of proposals.

Scholars must indicate in their application at which institution/location of the Network in Africa they wish to hold their workshop. This choice must be justified by a concrete link between the planned event and the location. However, the steering committee will make the final decision on the location of each venue. For digital formats, applicants should indicate the location of the network partner institution that will act as virtual host.

This linkage can be achieved in different ways. One form can be the involvement of local researchers and institutions as co-applicants or participants. Depending on the topic of the proposal, another form of linkage could be the participation of local civil society representatives and/or visits to local institutions relevant to the topic.

It is also encouraged to include public lectures or panel discussions in the conference programme. This will allow students and other interested parties to benefit from the programme at the venue.

Gender balance is very important for the programme. This aspect should be taken into account by the applicants through a balanced number of participants. Furthermore, the gender aspect should also be taken into account in the discussions on the chosen topic and should already be highlighted in the proposal.

In addition, proposals involving a South-South dialogue with scholars from Anglophone, Francophone or Lusophone countries in Africa, Latin America or Asia are particularly welcome. A central aim of the programme is to bring research perspectives from the South into dialogue with the North.

Proposals should have the following structure and length:

- Title of the proposal
- Name of the applicants, academic title, discipline and their affiliation
- 1.2 Topic and Objectives (max. 2 pages). Applicants should emphasise and clarify why their approach/questions are particularly innovative in relation to existing research/literature on the topic. It is not necessary to include a bibliography. It is sufficient to cite the names of scholars relevant to your approach in brackets in the text.
- 1.3 Format and Organization (max. 2 pages). This section should include information on the number of working days and the format of the activity. Applicants should make clear how they intend to address their topic and issues in a concrete programme. Applicants should also indicate and justify their choice of location in Africa, how they intend to deal with any language barriers (Anglophone, Francophone and Lusophone participants) and whether they plan to produce a publication, set up a network or undertake joint activities in the future.
- 1.4 Participants (max. 1 page). The proposal must include a list of participants to be invited, including their number, academic status, discipline and affiliation. If applicants wish to work with a call for papers, the expected number of participants and their provenance (how many from Europe, Africa, etc.) must be determined. The average number of participants for workshops in our programme is 25 (including applicants). Applicants should also explain how they intend to publicise the call for papers.
- 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 11 point, single-spaced

Please don't include a budget calculation as this will be done by the scientific coordinator in Frankfurt.

For 2025 the timetable is as follows:

- The deadline for a 6-page proposal is 6th June 2024. Please submit your proposal to Dr. Marko Scholze: scholze@em.uni-frankfurt.de
- It is strongly recommended to contact Mr. Scholze as early as possible and to send him a preliminary draft for comments.
- Applications will be selected on the 28th June 2024
- Joint application to the DFG in July 2024
- DFG review and funding decision expected by autumn 2024
- Funded activities can start from March 2025

For further information please contact Dr Marko Scholze, scholze@em.uni-frankfurt.de, Ph: +49 (0)69 798-32013 or Homeoffice: +41-7804006609. Please also consult our website under:

<http://pointsud.org/programme/>