
PASSAGES OF CULTURE

CALL FOR PHD APPLICATIONS

TO THE INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP NETWORK ON
MEDIA AND MEDIATIONS OF CULTURE IN AFRICAN SOCIETIES

The Volkswagen Foundation has granted funding of the interdisciplinary research project and partnership network ›Passages of Culture: Media and Mediations of Culture in African Societies‹.

The project aims at a deeper understanding of the significance of media for the rapidly changing culture of African societies. It focuses on medial shifts and how they affect and inform the negotiation of culture. This is of particular importance to the rapidly transforming life-world of African societies, in particular in urban settings. The methodological approach is based on case studies: From live performance to radio, CDs, Video and TV (South Africa), from theatre to film and TV (Cameroon), from live music to multiple media shifts in literary and visual culture (Nigeria), and from face-to-face to mediated interaction through the electronic media (Cameroon/Germany/Switzerland). These passages of media are linked by four transversal themes that are at the centre of our empirical inquiry: the changing modes of perception and the transformation of agency, the transformation of subjectivities and identities, the emergence of transnational spaces and new public spheres, and the question of national imaginations and the politics of belonging.

The Passages Network is looking for applicants with an excellent academic background interested in completing a doctoral degree at one of the Universities of the network. Applicants are required to have graduated at a Master level or equivalent by the time of their application. Ten scholarships are available from November 15, 2008 to both European and African students up to the age of thirty-five. Eight scholarships are reserved for students from Africa.

If you want to apply as a PhD candidate, a short pre-proposal of about five pages is required by **September 30, 2008**. The Pre-proposal will be examined by the PhD advisory committee. If it is accepted, a full proposal of about 20 pages is expected after three months of funding.

The Passages of Culture Network:

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Grants will be approved for up to three years. A yearly progress report is expected. The grant is estimated to cover fees, research expenses and a living allowance.

The pre-proposal should be written in English and within the scope of one of the four case studies on

- I. Medial Shifts and the Constitution of Power: South African Case Studies (directed by Liz Gunner).
- II. The Imaging and Empowerment of Peripheral Cultures in the Era of Globalisation: A case Study of the Identity and Cultural Expression of Anglophone Cameroonian Performance Forms in a Francophone dominated Centre (directed by Bole Butake).
- III. Intertextuality, Intratextuality, and Intermediality in Muslim Hausa Popular Culture (directed by Abdalla Uba Adamu).
- IV. Internet, Mobile Phone and Transnational Space: Africa in the Upper Rhine Valley (directed by Judith Schlehe and Till Förster).

Comprehensive descriptions are available at:

www.unibas-ethno.ch/forschung/forschungsprojekte/passages.php

The PhD pre-proposal should address the following points:

1. Executive summary (½ page)
2. State of research in the field (1 page)
3. Own work in the field (field visits or other enquiries should be mentioned, approx. ½ page)
4. Research question and methodological approach (as explicitly as possible, approx. 2–3 pages)
5. Timetable including planned fieldwork (1 page)
6. Two references, CV, photocopies of academic degrees, postal address, phone and e-mail (this part is not included in the five pages)

Please send your application **by September 30, 2008** as a word or pdf-file by e-mail to:

passages@unibas.ch

All candidates will be informed on the outcome of the evaluation procedure by the proposed supervisor either in person or by e-mail by October 21, 2008.

Participating Scholars:

Prof Dr Abdalla Uba Adamu
Education and Media Studies
Kano, Nigeria

Prof Dr Bole Butake
Performing Arts
Yaoundé, Cameroon

Prof Dr Till Förster
Social Anthropology
Basel, Switzerland

Prof Dr Liz Gunner
Literature and Media Studies
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