

“Recalibrating Afrikanistik”

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: 2019-2020 FELLOWSHIPS

Application Deadline 1 Nov 2019

The “*Recalibrating Afrikanistik*” (*RecAf*) project invites young researchers and lecturers working in the field of African Studies to apply for three-month fellowships at the participating universities (University of Bayreuth (Germany), University of Cologne (Germany), University of Leipzig (Germany), Moi University (Kenya), Stellenbosch University (South Africa), Federal University of Wukari (Nigeria)).

The aim of “*Recalibrating Afrikanistik*” is to thematically and strategically set the ground for the future of the study of African languages and literatures, in order to realize its full potential by bringing in its unique contribution to academia, African studies, at large as well as the humanities and to reach out into German society: African languages and texts provide unique access to a heterogeneous and heterotopic body of knowledge and conceptualizations which are only accessible in and through the languages. Also, in a decentralizing academia, the inclusion of southern epistemologies has become an urgent demand, which *RecAf* is answering to. Our vision of *RecAf* lies in moving away from an emphasis on linguistic structures, still prevalent in *Afrikanistik* today, to a focus on linguistic, literary and media practices in Africa as well as to engage in a critical reflection on existing modes of knowledge production.

In this project, the six afore-mentioned universities aim to foster academic exchange and support and promote young scholars from German and African universities, to give them the opportunity to develop their own ideas and to engage in dialogues that can shape the future of the discipline.

RecAf offers a total of nine fellowships, lasting for up to three months, at one of the German and African universities. Fellows are fully funded with a modest scholarship (travel, accommodation, daily allowance, health insurance, visa). The fellowship should take place between November 2019 and August 2020.

Fellows just finishing their PhD thesis or already with a PhD thinking about the postdoctoral research and in rare cases also students finishing their MA theses will be given the unique opportunity to work on or develop their own future research project at the respective university. Each fellow will work on his/her individual project and will be matched with a mentor from one of the six universities. Fellows might be asked for a modest teaching contribution, dependent on their thematic and conceptual specialisation. They can be included in workshops for application preparation at Leipzig University in cooperation with the Graduate School Global and Area Studies (GSGAS).

Eligible for the fellowships are graduate and doctoral students and post-doctoral researchers, as well as advanced MA students.

The proposal must clarify how it addresses interdisciplinarity with African/ Area Studies and show innovative potential for a *Recalibrated Afrikanistik*. The proposal should address one of the following themes:

- 1) **Language and text (in a broad sense) as knowledge practice**
- 2) **Linguistic and textual practices** (incl. orature, translation, media, popular culture)
as access to heterogenous and heterotopic bodies of knowledge
- 3) **Critical approaches to language and literature**

How to apply

All applications/ proposals should clearly reflect the applicants research profile and must demonstrate the candidate's proposed contribution to the project. Please specify which would be your preferred university for the fellowship. However, we reserve the right to advise on your choice, according to which context suits your proposal best.

Application requirements (in English):

- a cover letter explaining how your project is relevant for *Recalibrating Afrikanistik*
- an outline of not more than 800 words (2 pages) of the research project you are proposing as a fellow
- an academic CV

Please send all documents by e-mail as a single pdf file to recaf@uni-leipzig.de

Application deadline is **1 November 2019**.

For further information and questions contact Berenike Eichhorn: recaf@uni-leipzig.de



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