

# Burundi in East Africa: opportunities and challenges

November 18 & 19, 2024

Online participation  
Registration by November 14

## Programme November 18

9.00	Arrival and welcome coffee
9:30- 9.40	Opening and introduction
9.40- 11.10	<p><b>Panel 1: German colonialism in East Africa and colonial remembrance: looking back, looking forward</b></p> <p><i>Interest in the German colonial past in East Africa has grown substantially in the recent past, both in Tanzania and Burundi, but also in Germany. Some direct links can be traced to today's Baden-Württemberg, e.g. via the biography of colonial officers. The panel looks into blind spots and existing practices within cultural, economic and political dimensions of colonialism.</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Alexandre Hatungimana, Université du Burundi</li> <li>● Nancy Rushohora, University of Dar es Salaam</li> <li>● Astrid Jamar, University of Antwerp</li> </ul>
11.10- 11.30	Coffee break
11.30- 13.00	<p><b>Panel 2: Perspectives on Repatriation and Restitution from Germany to former German East African colonies</b></p> <p><i>Cultural objects, human remains, results of paleontological excavations "acquired" during colonial times are mostly kept in depots – including in Baden-Württemberg -, with only some exhibited in museums. Calls for repatriation / restitution plus eventually reparations have been spurred by the recent visit of German Federal President Steinmeier to Tanzania (2023). The panel investigates such calls and chances of realisation.</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Thomas Laely, Völkerkundemuseum der Universität Zürich</li> <li>● Valence Silayo, University of Dar es Salaam/Linden-Museum</li> <li>● Jean Berchmans Ndiokubwayo, Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen</li> </ul>
13.00- 14.00	Lunch
14.00- 15.30	<p><b>Panel 3: Current political developments in Burundi</b></p> <p><i>Burundi's thorny experience of multiparty politics degenerating into a protracted and brutal civil war created the basis of a new start based on consociational devices in its constitution – quite distinct of what other East African states have adopted. This did not preclude authoritarian practices at the beginning of the 21st century. Which adaptations are necessary to guarantee inclusive participation, fair representation and empirical legitimacy of state institutions?</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Julia Grauvogel, GIGA Institute of African Studies</li> <li>● Denis Banshimiyubusa, Université du Burundi</li> <li>● Antea Pavlotti, Université libre de Bruxelles</li> </ul>

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<p>9.00- 10.30</p>	<p><b>Panel 4: Peace, conflict and refugees – Burundi and its neighbors</b></p> <p><i>Effects of extreme violence since independence were never fully confined to one country and have generated waves of refugees in East Africa (with Burundi providing an important share of the total refugee population). Their integration within host countries (mostly in East Africa, only some in Germany or Baden-Württemberg) or possible return is a constant theme of debate, while diaspora politics are at times overlooked.</i></p> <p><i>Moreover, the perennial question is how the prevention of conflicts will be sustainably handled, for example through the institutional engineering of conflict resolution and prevention.</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nadine Nibigira, Université libre de Bruxelles</li> <li>● Daniella Niteka, Université du Burundi</li> <li>● Stef Vandeginste, University of Antwerp</li> </ul>
<p>10.30- 11.00</p>	<p><b>Coffee break</b></p>
<p>11.00- 12.30</p>	<p><b>Panel 5: Burundi, Germany and the EAC relations</b></p> <p><i>In a multipolar world East Africa is increasingly turning towards the Indian Ocean with heavyweights China and India plus states on the Arab peninsula returning on the centre of the stage (arguably renewing precolonial linkages). The EAC is trying to reinvent itself and to create a solid economic bloc that could renegotiate its relationship with the outside world, including Germany. What are the actors, factors, interests, perceptions and expectations in this current situation of redefinition?</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Alène Ngarua Kaneza, Université libre de Bruxelles</li> <li>● Alexander Makulilo, University of Dar es Salaam</li> <li>● Christof Hartmann, Universität Duisburg-Essen</li> </ul>
<p>12.30- 13.00</p>	<p><b>Concluding remarks</b></p>
<p>13.00- 14.00</p>	<p><b>Optional lunch</b></p>

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