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Hello and a warm welcome!

This new ACT newsletter is published once a quarter and provides information on current developments in ongoing research projects, highlights exciting events and gives an insight into the people behind the topics.

Yes, I want to receive the ACT newsletter four times a year!

Liebe Leserinnen und Leser,

ich freue mich sehr, Sie zur ersten Ausgabe des neuen Newsletters vom Africa Center for Transregional Research begrüßen zu dürfen.

Mit diesem Format möchten wir Sie nicht nur über die neuesten Aktivitäten, kommende Veranstaltungen, interessante Publikationen sowie die Arbeit unserer Kolleg*innen und Partner*innen informieren - sondern auch Geschichten zu den Menschen hinter den Kulissen teilen!

Egal ob Sie nun Wissenschaftler*in, Student*in oder einfach an der Arbeit des ACT interessiert sind, hier finden

Dear Readers,

I'm delighted to welcome you to the first issue of the newsletter from the Africa Center for Transregional Research. It's my pleasure to introduce this platform for sharing more about ACTs work, and the people and stories behind the scenes!

Through this newsletter, we aim to keep you informed about the latest activities, upcoming events, publications, and the work of our colleagues and partners.

Whether you're an academic, student or otherwise interested in ACTs work,

Sie mit Sicherheit etwas Spannendes für sich.

there's something here for you.

Warm regards,

Mit herzlichen Grüßen,



Anika Becher

Geschäftsführerin/Managing Director

Africa Centre for Transregional Research (ACT)

Research

Behind The Scenes at the Video Set



As part of the newly launched project “Restitution of Dignity? Human Remains - Colonialism - Humanity”, funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, Prof. Dr. Albert Gouaffo and Prof. Dr. Nadja Germann, member of the ACT Directorate, will talk about the colonial ties between Freiburg and Cameroon and their complex effects to this day. Dr. Balz Alter and Richard Plankenhorn accompany the process with film and media ethnology.

In March, one of three video shooting days took place during Albert Gouaffo's two-month stay in Freiburg. One of the topics discussed was the theft of cultural goods and its influence on society and the question of dignity.

Nadja Germann's next step will be a trip to Cameroon. Albert Gouaffo will welcome her at the University of Dschang to continue the project together. At the same time, the collected film material will undergo an initial evaluation.

Soon, a project website will be launched, containing more information about the research process and results!

Read more about the new project!

Events

Freiburg Africa Talks

As part of the “Freiburg Africa Talks” series of events organized jointly with the Colloquium Politicum of the University of Freiburg, an exciting lecture by Prof. Dr. Akosua Adomako Ampofo on the topic of International Partnerships: Reciprocity and Academic Freedom took place on February 05. (Picture: Helga Dickow)



On April 18, Ambassador Christoph Retzlaff and Prof. Dr. Alexander Makulilo spoke about the future of Germany-Africa relations: *Germany and Africa - quo vadis?* A panel discussion with Prof. Dr. Isabelle Ihring and Prof. Dr. Gökçen Yüksel is planned for June 13. The topic will be: *Racism and deportation plans - (How long) is Germany still worth living in?*

Watch the recordings of previous Africa Talks!

Research

“Reciprocal Provenance Research” project completed

The resulting video was produced in connection with the project on reciprocal research into the Alexander Ecker Collection, funded by the German Lost Arts Foundation (DZK). Albert Gouaffo's speech on the occasion of the presentation of policy recommendations to the Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts (Baden-Württemberg) and to the Rector of the University of Freiburg was held in the anatomy

lecture hall of the FRIAS, whose entrance is headed with the words “Mortui vivos docent” (the dead teach the living) - a motto that continues to inspire reflection on colonial violence and the collection of “human remains”.



Watch the video “Mortui Vivos Docent” in the university’s media portal!

Cooperations

Exchange with Ghana goes on!

In August 2023, Prof. Dr. Hartmut Fünfgeld, Member of the ACT Directorate, and Friedrich Neu, ACT Member, organized an excursion to the southern parts of Ghana for students of the M.Sc. Geography of Global Change of the University of Freiburg (UFR). Thirteen additional students of the graduate program in geography of the University of Ghana (UG) made it an intercultural co-learning experience. From its beginning, the field trip was conceptualized – and later also implemented – in collaboration with senior lecturers of the Department of Geography and Resource Development of the UG, namely Dr. Austin Ablo, Dr. Ernest Agyemang, and Dr. Bismark Asitoakor. Following the excursion, a website with detailed information on the field trip was set up, also



involving critical reflections of UFR students, both on the personal experience and content-wise. (Picture: Friedrich Neu)

Visit the students' website: ghanapostkolonial.wordpress.com



From 27. - 29.02.2024, Andreas Mehler, Director of the ACT, visited the University of Ghana (UG) in Accra together with the Rector and a delegation of members of the Rectorate, professors and the Head of the International Office. UG has been a partner university of the UFR since the founding of the joint Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA) in 2018. The talks on site focused on expanding cooperation, particularly on the topic of sustainability, but also in the fields of medicine and African studies/digital humanities. (Picture: MIASA)

People

Three Questions to Alexander Makulilo

Which topics are you researching during your stay?

During my stay in Freiburg, I am researching on election and technology in Africa, regional integration, and Africa's colonial past.

What do you associate with ACT?

I associate with ACT through scientific exchanges on African studies. For example, within the scope of the "Freiburg Africa Talks", I gave a talk on 18 April 2024 on "Germany and Africa - quo vadis?" at the University of Freiburg.

What do you like most about Freiburg?

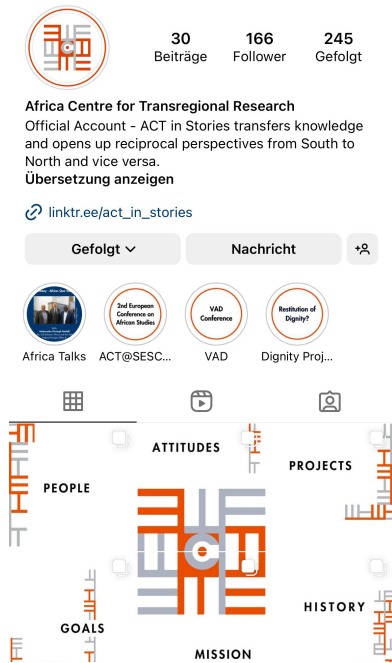
I like Freiburg's temperate climate and the Black Forest most.



Prof. Dr. Alexander Makulilo

Senior Research Fellow at the Arnold-Bergstraesser-

Institute (Picture: ABI)

ACT Science Communications**Relaunching the ACT Instagram Account**

In the previous months, the institute's Instagram profile has undergone a revamp and will provide deeper and more frequent insights into current projects and upcoming events from now on.

Beside informing about news, events and providing some insights behind the scenes, the focus will lie on the presentation as well as documentation of recently finished and ongoing research like the "Reciprocal Provenance Project" or the "Restitution of Dignity?" dialogue.

We aim to bring themes and questions from the field of transregional Africa Studies to the public discourse, thus prompting critical reflections on postcolonial heritage.

Visit the new Instagram account!



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