
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 inter-disciplinary 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 project started on November 2008, but there are still three scholarships available for African students up to the age of thirty-five. The Passages Network is looking for applicants with an excellent academic background interested in completing a doctoral degree at the University of Yaounde or at the Bayero University in Kano. Applicants are required to have graduated at a Master level or equivalent by the time of their application.

If you want to apply as a PhD candidate, a short pre-proposal of about five pages is required by October 31, 2009. 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 two case studies on

- 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).
- Intertextuality, Intratextuality, and Intermediality in Muslim Hausa Popular Culture (directed by Abdalla Uba Adamu).

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 October 31, 2009 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.

Participating Scholars:

Prof Dr Abdalla Uba Adamu
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Yaoundé, Cameroon

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