

Call for Proposals  
*Programme Point Sud 2024*

Scholars, research institutions and foundations in Germany have long been successfully working beyond the Anglo- and Francophone research traditions established by the former leading colonial powers in Africa. Not only have they been successful in overcoming geographic and linguistic boundaries themselves, but they have also encouraged dialogue between these different research traditions. In this capacity, German academics are in a particularly favorable position to play an important role in promoting the establishment of a truly postcolonial academic community in Africa.

In 2009, the Goethe-University of Frankfurt/Main and the German Research Foundation (DFG) have established the “Programme Point Sud” in order to fund Africa-related workshops and conferences in the humanities and social sciences. Financial support by the DFG will cover the costs of travel and accommodation for participants of activities that have been accepted. The activities of the programme are organized through a network. Within this network, the Goethe University cooperates with the Institute for Advanced Studies in Nantes and the following institutions in Africa:

- African Centre for Research on Trade and Slavery (CARTE) at the University Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal,
- Centre for African Studies at the University Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo, Mozambique,
- Centre for Democratic Governance (CGD), Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso,
- Institute for Research on Societies (INSS) at the National Centre for Scientific and Technological Research, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso,
- Institute for African Studies at the University of Ghana, Legon, Accra, Ghana,
- Faculty of Humanities of the Omar Bongo University Libreville, Gabon,
- Laboratory for the Study and Research on Social Dynamics and Local Development (LASDEL), Niamey, Niger,
- Point Sud – Centre for Research on Local Knowledge, Bamako, Mali,
- Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS), Stellenbosch, South Africa.

The events of the programme will be held at the different institutions of the network in Africa without exception.

The programme is open to all researchers based in Germany working on Africa-related themes. Leading applicants and responsible for the proposed events must be researchers working at German academic institutions. However, close cooperation with co-applicants from Africa is a prerequisite for funding. Applications can also be initiated by scientists from Africa. In this case, it is also necessary to submit the application with cooperation partners from Germany. If no such scientific contacts exist, the coordinator and the steering committee will be happy to assist in the search for potential partners. There are no restrictions regarding the nationality of the participants. The individual activities will be selected by a programme committee and submitted for funding to the DFG as a single collective application. The applicant is Prof. Mirco Goepfert from the Goethe University in Frankfurt/Main who chairs the programme committee. The DFG will then evaluate the collective application.

Members of the committee are:

- Prof. Rose Marie Beck, University of Leipzig,
- Prof. Mamadou Diawara, Goethe University Frankfurt/Main,
- Prof. Andreas Eckert, Humboldt University of Berlin,
- Prof. Mirco Goepfert, Goethe University Frankfurt/Main,
- Prof. Bernard Lategan, STIAS Stellenbosch,
- Prof. Birgit Meyer, University of Utrecht,
- Prof. Dieter Neubert, University of Bayreuth,
- Dr. Nadine Siegert, Goethe Institute in Lagos.

Requests for funding will be assessed according to the following general principles:

- Types of activity eligible for funding are: Traditional activities such as conferences, seminars, workshops, graduate schools, summer schools, and field schools of various scales. Furthermore,

innovative formats such as project development workshops and forums to promote kickoff meetings for new research endeavors and themes will be given privileged consideration.

- Digital formats can now also be submitted! These include pure video conferences, but also hybrid formats in which some of the participants meet at the conference venue in Africa, while other participate virtually.
- Not eligible for support are: internal project and network meetings, planning meetings, project finding meetings and student field research as part of university course requirements.
- A particular concern of the programme is to establish long-term relations with scholars and scientific institutions. In this sense, follow-up workshops by scientists who have already participated in the programme are especially welcomed.
- Although the programme is primarily oriented towards the social sciences and humanities, initiatives that aim to promote interdisciplinary cooperation with the natural sciences and medicine are particularly welcome. There are no thematic requirements except the relevance to Africa.
- The University of Frankfurt finances an academic coordinator who will support applicants in commenting their applications and coordinate the programme. The university will also take over travel arrangements and the accounting in order to relieve the applicants of most logistic and administrative tasks. Hence, third-party funding will be paid to the University of Frankfurt and directly managed from there.

The programme committee will evaluate the applications according to the following criteria:

- Innovativeness of the proposal with respect to content and format,
- Interdisciplinary approach,
- Cooperation with researchers and institutions from Africa,
- Integration of young scholars on doctoral or post-doc level,
- Gender balance among the participants,
- Sustainability of the activity (networking building; publications etc.),
- Type of linkage to the host location.

The scholars have to state in their application at which institution/location of the network in Africa they want to hold their workshop. This choice must be justified by a concrete linkage between the planned event and the location. Nevertheless, the programme committee will make the final decision about the location of each venue. When applying for digital formats, the applicants should name the location of the partner institution of the network, which will act as virtual host.

This linkage can be realized by different means. One form can be the integration of local scholars and institutions as co-applicants or participants. Depending on the subject of the proposal, another form of linkage might be the participation of representatives of the local civil society and/or by visiting local institutions, which are relevant for the topic. If you do not have the necessary contacts to fulfil this criterion, the coordinator will be happy to assist you in establishing new contacts.

An integral part of the programme is the linkage to the local universities. Hence, the participants are asked to hold public lectures or panel debates at the faculties concerned. In this way we open up the programme to students or other locals interested in the subject. To make this possible, we offer to the organisers of the workshops and/or selected participants the opportunity to extend their stay for two or three days before or after the workshop in order to organise these activities at the university.

The gender balance is of great importance to the programme. This aspect should be observed by the applicants through a balanced number of participants. Furthermore, the gender aspect should also be taken into account for the discussions of the chosen topic and should already be highlighted in the proposal.

Moreover, proposals that include a South-South-dialogue with scientists from Anglophone, Francophone or Lusophone countries in Africa, Latin America or Asia as well as workshops which address especially young scholars are particularly welcome. A central aim of the programme is to

confront research perspectives of the South with the North in order to contribute to a critical reflection on the production of knowledge.

The proposals should have the following outline and length:

- Title of the proposal
- Name of the applicants, academic title, discipline and their affiliation
- 1.2 Topic and Objectives (max. 2 pages). Applicants should underline and clarify why their approach/questions are particularly innovative with regards to the existing research/literature on the topic. It is not necessary to include a bibliography. It suffices to cite relevant names of scholars for your approach in brackets in the text.
- 1.3 Format and Organization (max. 2 pages). This section should include information about the number of working days and the format of the activity. The applicants should make clear how they want to tackle their topic and questions in a concrete program. Moreover, applicants should name and justify the chosen location in Africa, how they intend to deal with possible language barriers (Anglo-, Franco- and Lusophone participants), and if they plan a publication, the creation of a network or joint activities in the future.
- 1.4 Participants (max. 1 page). A list of the participants to be invited, including their number, academic status, discipline and their affiliation has to be included in the proposal. If the applicants wish to work with a call for papers, the prospective number of participants and their provenance (how many from Europe, Africa, etc.) has to be determined. The average number of participants for workshops of our programme is 25 persons (including the applicants). In addition, the applicants should explain how they intend to circulate the call for papers.
- 1.5 Profiles and selected publications of the applicants (max. half a page for each applicant). The details and references should be chosen according to their relevance for the content and type of activity planned.
- Formatting: Times New Roman, type size 11 point, single space

Please don't include a calculation of the budget since this is done in Frankfurt.

For 2024 the time schedule is as follows:

- Deadline for a 6-page proposal is 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Please send your proposal to Dr. Marko Scholze: [scholze@em.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:scholze@em.uni-frankfurt.de)
- It is highly recommended to contact Mr. Scholze as soon as possible and to send him a preliminary draft in order get comments.
- Applications will be selected in the end of June 2023
- Collective application to the DFG in July 2023
- Evaluation and funding decision by the DFG presumably until autumn 2023
- Activities that have been granted support may start from June 2024

For further information please contact Dr Marko Scholze, [scholze@em.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:scholze@em.uni-frankfurt.de), Ph: +49 (0)69 798-32013 or Homeoffice: +41-7804006609. Please also consult our website under: <http://pointsud.org/programme/>