



PROGRAM

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

- 10:00 - 10:45 am | Introduction to Spring School
Prof. Clarissa Vierke
- 10:45 - 11:00 am | Introduction to Monday Session
Monika Rohmer

MONDAY, MARCH 29

- 10:00 - 11:30 am | "Galsen Hip-Hop"
Monika Rohmer
- 11:30 - 11:45 am | Introduction to Tuesday Session
Prof. Matthias Krings
- 5:00 - 6:00 pm | Discussion Room (Optional)
Students

TUESDAY, MARCH 30

- 10:00 - 11:30 am | "Ambiguity in African Popular Culture: The Case of Albinism"
Prof. Matthias Krings
- 11:30 - 11:45 am | Introduction to Wednesday Session
Prof. Rose Marie Beck
- 5:00 - 6:00 pm | Discussion Room (Optional)
Students

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

- 10:00 - 11:30 am | "Popular Colonization as Subversion in the Postcolony"
Prof. Rose Marie Beck, Dr. Irene Brunotti, Dr. Lara-Stephanie Krause
- 11:30 - 11:45 am | Introduction to Thursday Session
Prof. Anne Storch, Dr. Andrea Hollington
- 5:00 - 6:00 pm | Discussion Room (Optional)
Students
- 7:00 - 8:00 pm | Reading
Zainab Omaki

THURSDAY, APRIL 1

- 10:00 - 11:30 am | "Communicative Repertoires of Protest"
Prof. Anne Storch, Dr. Andrea Hollington
- 11:30 - 11:45 am | Introduction to Friday Session
Nikitta Adjirakor
- 5:00 - 6:00 pm | Discussion Room (Optional)
Students

FRIDAY, APRIL 2

- 10:00 - 11:30 am | "Digital African Literature"
Nikitta Adjirakor
- 11:30 am - noon | Concluding Thoughts
Prof. Clarissa Vierke

POPULAR CULTURE & ARTS IN AFRICA

WHEN
March 29 -
April 2, 2021

WHERE
University of
Bayreuth
(Online)



ABSTRACT

Hiphop verses, graffiti, comics, and comedies – these are all examples of practices of popular culture, which permeate lifeworlds in Africa.

"Popular culture in Africa is a product of everyday life. It is the unofficial, the non-canonical. It is usually taken to mean the culture of the 'ordinary people': not the educated elites, politicians, military top brass and rich businessmen" (Barber in A History of African Popular Culture).

How do we discuss popular culture in Africa, and in what ways does it stand opposed to 'high' art and literature? While on the one hand, not tied to a canon, popular culture is, on the other hand, not unrelated to mass media and consumption: How can popular culture be subversive? What role do African languages play in the formation of popular culture and the dialogues about it?

During this week-long spring school hosted by Bayreuth as part of the research project Recalibrating Afrikanistik, we'll dive into these questions by focusing on a variety of practices through workshops, lectures, and group discussions led by guest speakers from Bayreuth, Leipzig, Mainz, and Cologne.