



Swiss Society for African Studies  
Société suisse d'études africaines  
Schweizerische Gesellschaft  
für Afrikastudien

Swiss Researching Africa Days 2024  
Journées suisses d'études africaines 2024  
Schweizerische Tage der Afrikaforschung 2024

Lieu | Ort | Venue: Universität Bern, Unitobler, Lerchenweg 36, Bern

## Programme | Programm | Program

Vendredi | Freitag | Friday 25.10.2024

8h30–9h00 **Accueil et café | Anmeldung und Kaffee | Welcome and coffee**

9h00–9h15 **Mot de bienvenue | Begrüssung | Opening**  
DIDIER PÉCLARD, TOBIAS HALLER & VEIT ARLT

9h15–10h45 **Session 1: three parallel panels**

**Panel 1a: Epistemologies, Plural Knowledges, and Narratives of Sustainability and Transformations**  
**CONVENORS:** LISE LANDRIN (UNIVERSITY OF BERN) & MOUHAMADOU EL HADY BA (UNIVERSITÉ CHEIKH-ANTA DIOP, DAKAR)

**Panel 2a: Is China's presence in Africa sustainable?**  
**CONVENORS:** ANTOINE KERNEN (UNIVERSITÉ DE LAUSANNE), GÉRARD AMOUGOU (UNIVERSITÉ DE YAOUNDÉ II) & FABIEN NKOT (UNIVERSITÉ DE YAOUNDÉ II)

**Panel 3a: Land Use and Land Cover across Africa – present, dynamics and futures**  
**CONVENORS:** CHINWE IFEJKA SPERANZA (UNIVERSITY OF BERN) & PAULE PAMELA TABI ECKEBIL (UNIVERSITY OF BERN)

*10h45–11h15: Pause café | Kaffeepause*

**Postersession: Vorstellung von laufenden Dissertationsprojekten an Schweizer Universitäten**

**Session posters: Présentation de projets de thèse en cours dans des universités suisses**

**Poster Session: Presentation of ongoing PhD projects at Swiss universities**



**11h15–12h45 Session 2: three parallel panels**

**Panel 1b: Epistemologies, Plural Knowledges, and Narratives of Sustainability and Transformations**  
**CONVENORS:** LISE LANDRIN (UNIVERSITY OF BERN) & MOUHAMADOU EL HADY BA (UNIVERSITÉ CHEIKH-ANTA DIOP, DAKAR)

**Panel 2b: Is China's presence in Africa sustainable?**  
**CONVENORS:** ANTOINE KERNEN (UNIVERSITÉ DE LAUSANNE), GÉRARD AMOUGOU (UNIVERSITÉ DE YAOUNDÉ II) & FABIEN NKOT (UNIVERSITÉ DE YAOUNDÉ II)

**Panel 3b: Land Use and Land Cover across Africa – present, dynamics and futures**  
**CONVENORS:** CHINWE IFEJKA SPERANZA (UNIVERSITY OF BERN) & PAULE PAMELA TABI ECKEBIL (UNIVERSITY OF BERN)

*12h45–14h00: Buffet déjeuner | Stehlunch | Lunch*

**Postersession: Vorstellung von laufenden Dissertationsprojekten an Schweizer Universitäten**

**Session posters: Présentation de projets de thèse en cours dans des universités suisses**

**Poster Session: Presentation of ongoing PhD projects at Swiss universities**

**14h00–17h30 Special Plenary Session: Celebrating 50 years of African Studies in Switzerland**

**Part I: Features of Equitable and Effective Swiss-African Research Collaborations for Sustainability Transformations**

**CONVENOR:** FABIAN KÄSER (KFPE)

14h00 **Introduction** (FABIAN KÄSER)

14h15 Presentation of the **"Initiative Afrique" of the University of Bern**

14h30 Institutional Collaboration between Fourah Bay College in Freetown, Sierra Leone, and the Lucerne University of Applied Studies, Switzerland

REBBECA EHRET (HS LUZERN) & MOSES FULLAH (FURAH BAY COLLEGE)

14h45 **Roundtable discussion: Researching and Teaching African Studies in Switzerland. Experiences and Challenges**

*15h30–16h00: Pause café | Kaffeepause*

**Part II: African Studies and the Decolonization of Knowledge**

16h00–17h30 Keynote Address by PROFESSOR DIVINE FUH, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Introduction and moderation: HENRI YÉRÉ (UNIVERSITY OF BASEL)



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Part III: **50<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Swiss Society of African Studies**

17h30–18h15 Looking back at 5 decades of African Studies in Switzerland

18h30–19h30 General Assembly

20h00 Dinner & Party

**Samedi | Samstag | Saturday 26.10.2024**

8h45–9h00 **Accueil et café | Anmeldung und Kaffee | Welcome and coffee**

**9h00–10h30 Session 4: three parallel panels**

**Panel 4: Transforming West African Cities in the mid-20th Century**

**CONVENOR:** PEDRO CERDEIRA (UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA)

**Panel 5a: African Innovations for Sustainable Peace?**

**CONVENORS:** MICHAEL AEBY (UNIVERSITY OF BASEL) & SAMANTHA MARIE GAMEZ (UNIVERSITY OF BASEL)

**Panel 6a: Food and Nutrition in Africa facing Transformations: Past, Present and Future**

**CONVENORS:** SONJA MERTEN (SWISS TPH), TOBIAS HALLER (UNIVERSITY OF BERN) & ANNE MAYOR (UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA)

*10h30–11h00: Pause café | Kaffeepause | Coffee break*

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**Session posters: Présentation de projets de thèse en cours dans des universités suisses**

**Poster Session: Presentation of ongoing PhD projects at Swiss universities**

**11h00–12h30 Session 5: three parallel panels**

**Panel 5b: African Innovations for Sustainable Peace?**

**CONVENORS:** MICHAEL AEBY (UNIVERSITY OF BASEL) & SAMANTHA MARIE GAMEZ (UNIVERSITY OF BASEL)

**Panel 6b: Food and Nutrition in Africa facing Transformations: Past, Present and Future**

**CONVENORS:** SONJA MERTEN (SWISS TPH), TOBIAS HALLER (UNIVERSITY OF BERN) & ANNE MAYOR (UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA)

**Panel 7: Women of Faith: Women's Rights and Religious Associations in and beyond Africa**

**CONVENOR:** CLAIRE NICOLAS (UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA)

*12h30–13h15: Buffet déjeuner | Stehlunch | Lunch*



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**13h15–14h45 Session 6: two parallel panels**

**Panel 8: Towards sustainable language policies in Africa**

**CONVENORS:** DJOUROUKORO DIALLO (UNIVERSITY OF BERN) & BERT VAN PINXTEREN (UNIVERSITY OF BERN)

**Panel 9: Building the Sustainable African City**

**CONVENORS:** PHILIPA AKUOKO (UNIVERSITY OF BERN) & FANNY VOÉLIN (CDE/UNIVERSITY OF BERN)

*14h45–15h00: Pause café | Kaffeepause | Coffee break*

**15h00–16h30 Session 7: two parallel panels**

**Panel 10: Urban commons in Africa: sustainable city development beyond market and state?**

**CONVENORS:** SAMUEL AGYEKUM (UNIVERSITY OF BERN) & TIMOTHY ADAMS (UNIVERSITY OF BERN & OXFORD UNIVERSITY) & JEAN-DAVID GERBER (UNIVERSITY OF BERN)

**Panel 11: Impact is the precursor to Sustainability and Transformation**

**CONVENORS:** MICHEL JANET (SWISS TPH) & JULIUS MUGWAGWA (UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LONDON) & ELEANOR T KHONJE

**16h30–16h45 Mots de clôture | Schlussworte | Closing remarks**

**16h45 Fin des journées | Ende der Tagung | End of conference**