

Call for Proposals

Programme Point Sud 2015

German scholars and research foundations 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 exchange and 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 for a grant. Until 2013, the activities of the programme have been hosted by the “Point Sud Research Centre for Local Knowledge” in Bamako/Mali. Since 2014, the institutional foundation of the programme has been enlarged through the creation of a network. The members of this network are:

- Point Sud and University of Bamako, Mali,
- African Centre for Research on trade and slavery (CARTE) and University Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal,
- Centre for Democratic Governance (CGD) and University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso,
- Centre for Research on the Politics and Development of the Spaces and Societies in Sub-Saharan Africa (CERGEP) and University Omar Bongo, Libreville, Gabon,
- Laboratory for the Study and Research on Social Dynamics and Local Development (LASDEL) and University Abdou Moumouni, Niamey, Niger,
- Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS) and University of Stellenbosch, South Africa.

The events of the programme will be held at the different institutions of the network. Due to climate conditions in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, the recommended period of activities is between October and March. In Senegal, the period between October and June is possible. In Gabon, the months between June and September are most suitable whereas at STIAS in Stellenbosch, events can be organised all year round.

The programme is open to all researchers based in Germany working on Africa-related themes. Individual events must be initiated by researchers working at German academic institutions. However, there are no restrictions regarding nationality for the participants of individual activities. Co-applicants from Africa, Europe and the rest of the world are welcome. 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 a member of Frankfurt University who is also serving as chair of the programme committee. The DFG will then evaluate the collective application.

Members of the committee are:

- Professor Rose Marie Beck, University of Leipzig,
- Professor Mamadou Diawara, Goethe University Frankfurt,
- Professor Andreas Eckert, Humboldt University of Berlin,
- Dr. Anke Hoeffler, Oxford University,
- Professor Birgit Meyer, University of Utrecht,
- Professor Dieter Neubert, University of Bayreuth,

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.
- A particular concern of the programme is to establish long-term relations with scholars, scientific institutions and networks. In this sense, follow-up workshops by scientists who have already participated in the programme are especially welcomed. Furthermore, the programme offers the possibility for postdoctoral research networks and junior academic groups to apply for two consecutive workshops with the same group of participants (max. 15-20) during the next two rounds of application (2015 and 2016). The funding of the second workshop depend on the success of the first one.
- 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 that the initiative is relevant to Africa.
- Not eligible for support are: internal project meetings, planning meetings, project finding meetings and student field research as part of university course requirements.
- The University of Frankfurt finances an academic coordinator who will support applicants in editing their applications and also coordinate the programme. The university will also assist with travel arrangements, accommodation and the settling of accounts in order to relieve the applicants of most logistic and administrative tasks. 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:

- the innovativeness of the proposal with respect to content and/or format,
- the interdisciplinary approach,
- the extent of cooperation with researchers and institutions from Africa,
- the consideration of young scholars on doctoral or post-doc level,
- the balanced proportion in regards to gender amidst the participants,
- the sustainability of the activity regarding networking between the participants and/or publication of the results,
- the type of linkage to the location/hosting institution of the venue.

The applicants have to state in their proposition at which institution/location they want to hold their workshop. This choice must be justified by a concrete linkage between the planned event and the location. Nevertheless, the final decision about the location of each venue will be made by the programme committee.

This linkage can be realized by different means. One can be already established contacts of the applicants to local researchers and institutions who can be integrated as participants. They are welcome as co-applicants. 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 like hospitals or radio stations as well as through discussions with representatives of private or state bodies. If you do not have the necessary contacts to fulfil this criterion, we will be happy to assist.

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.

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.

The proposals should have the following outline and length:

- Title of the proposal
- Name of the applicants, discipline and their affiliation
- 1.2. The research topic and objectives (max. 2 pages).
- 1.3. Research format and organization (max. 2 pages). This point should include a time schedule and work plan structuring the activity. The applicants are also asked to describe where they want to organize their event, which type of linkage to the location they conceive, how they intend to deal with possible language barriers (anglo-, franco- and lusophone participants), and if they plan a publication or common activities in the future, e.g. joint summer schools.
- 1.4. Participants (max. 1 page). A list of the participants to be invited, including their academic status, discipline and their affiliation is to be included in the proposal. If the applicants wish to work with a call for papers, the prospective number of participants has to be determined. Note that to assure a productive work atmosphere, the average number of participants does not exceed 25 persons. Also, the nationality of the participants to be chosen (how many from Europe, Africa and so on) and how the applicants intend to circulate the call for papers should be made clear.
- 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 12 point, single space

There is no need to include a calculation of the costs since this is done in Frankfurt.

For 2015 the time and work schedule are as follows:

- Deadline for a 6-page proposal is May 30, 2014. Please send your proposal to Dr. Marko Scholze: 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 further advice.
- Eligible programmes will be selected in June, 2014.
- The collective application will be submitted in July, 2014.
- Activities that have been granted support may start from January/February, 2015.

For further information please contact Dr Marko Scholze, scholze@em.uni-frankfurt.de, telephone +49 (0)69 798-33230, 030-80935760 or +49 (0)1601035354. Please also consult our website under: www.pointsud.org