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2025

EIMAS Closing Event & First Alumni Meeting

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

African Union Commission & Goethe-Institut



PARTNERS



Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany
Addis Ababa





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HELPFUL ADVICE



1

The weather in Addis Ababa can quickly change. It will not be very warm, especially at night. Wear different layers and better take a rain jacket or umbrella with you.

2

Print out your visa / visa on arrival letter, the invitation letter and the hotel information for the passport control at the airport.

3

Change some money at the airport. ATMs do not always accept all credit cards and there will be no time to visit a bank.

4

You can (and should) get an Ethiopian SIM card at the airport (USD 5.00 for one week unlimited data). It can be paid by credit card.

5

Download the apps *Feres* and *Ride* for local transportation.



<https://feres.et/>



<https://ride8294.com/>

6

Inform the hotel upon arrival if you want to stay longer. Please pay directly for the extra night(s).

7

In many restaurants and bars you can pay by credit card but you will need cash e.g. for taxis or souvenirs. Always take some Birr with you.

8

Tell the hotel on your day of departure when exactly you want to go to the airport. It is recommended to be there 2.5 hours prior to departure.

9

And last but not least:

Do not forget to carry your passport with you to all event venues from Monday to Thursday!





TRANSPORT INFORMATION

We have ordered three minibuses that will carry us around in Addis Ababa. The colour of your lanyard tells you which bus to take. Please always wear your name badge and adhere to this.

Departure Times of the Shuttle Buses:

	from the hotel	from the meeting venue	(to /) from the evening location
Monday	9:00	17:00	(18:30 /) 22:00
Tuesday	8:15	17:00	(19:45 /) 21:30, 22:00, 22:30
Wednesday	8:15	17:00	21:00, 21:30, 22:00
Thursday	8:45	17:00	20:30

[Map of Addis Ababa with all event venues and some recommendations:](#)



VENUES



Monarch Parkview Hotel

Colson Street, close to Tewodros Square



African Union Commission Headquarters NCC Building, Small Conference Room 2

Entrance via the Main Gate



Yod Abyissinia Traditional Restaurant

Cameroon Street / Ring Road, Bole





Fendika Cultural Center

Hyatt Regency, Jomo Kenyatta Street / Bole Road



The Social Addis

Selo Tella Bet, Bole



Goethe-Institut

close to the Addis Ababa University College of Business & Economics, Sidist Kilo



German Embassy

Tsehafi Tiezaz Afewerk Street



AGENDA



Monday, 6 October 2025
Welcome & Introduction Day
African Union Commission Headquarters

10:00 - 11:30	<p>Opening Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>H.E. Ambassador Dr Salah S. Hammad</i>, Head of the African Governance Architecture and the African Peace and Security Architecture (AGA-APSA) Secretariat, African Union Commission• <i>Mirjam Straßer</i>, EIMAS Coordinator, University of Bayreuth• <i>Karin Stanghed</i>, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the African Union• <i>Odunola Alexander Oladeji</i>, EIMAS Alumnus & EMA Programme Representative• <i>Prof. Dr Amélia Polónia</i>, EIMAS Dean, University of Porto• <i>Dr Anne-Marie Meyer</i>, EIMAS Dean, Bordeaux Montaigne University• <i>Dr Franz Kogelmann</i>, EIMAS Dean, University of Bayreuth
11:30 - 12:30	<p>Keynote & Talk: <i>The Importance and Potential of International Alumni Networks</i></p> <p><i>Prof. Dr Masresha Fetene</i>, Co-President of the InterAcademyPartnership (IAP), Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) and Founding Fellow of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences (EAS)</p> <p>moderated by <i>Miguel Filipe Silva</i>, EIMAS Lecturer in History and Political and International Studies, University of Porto</p>
12:30 - 14:30	<p>Lunch Break</p>
14:30 - 16:00	<p>Interactive Session: <i>Steps after EIMAS - What Are the Graduates Doing Now?</i></p> <p>moderated by <i>Dr Helmut Blumbach</i>, Former Director, Regional Office for Africa, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) & Member of the EIMAS Advisory Board</p>



16:00 - 17:00	Guided Tour through the AU Headquarters
19:00	Welcome Dinner at Yod Abyssinia Traditional Restaurant (EIMAS members only)

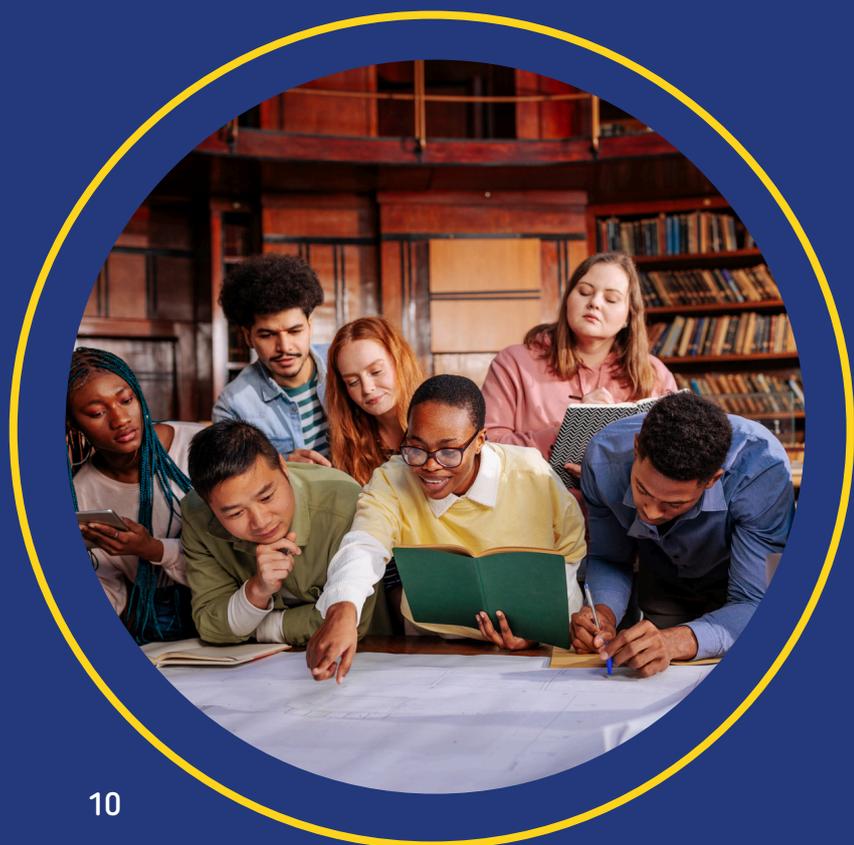
Tuesday, 7 October 2025

Academic & Research Day

African Union Commission Headquarters

09:00 - 10:15	<p>Keynote & Round Table: <i>African Studies in the Past, Present, and Future</i></p> <p><i>Dr Thando Njovane</i>, Senior Lecturer, Rhodes University</p> <p>moderated by <i>Prof. Dr Serawit Bekele Debele</i>, EIMAS Gender & Diversity Representative and Alumna of the University of Bayreuth</p> <p><u>Discussants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr Franz Kogelmann</i>, EIMAS Dean, University of Bayreuth • <i>Prof. Dr Amélia Polónia</i>, EIMAS Dean, University of Porto • <i>Tirsit Yetbarek Seme</i>, Head of the Somaliland Centre for African Studies (SCAS)
10:15 - 10:45	<p>Poster Exhibition: EIMAS MA Projects with coffee</p>
10:45 - 12:45	<p>Short Presentations of EIMAS Master Theses</p> <p>moderated by <i>Dr Mulugeta Bezabih Mekonnen</i>, Chairman of the Center for Population Studies, College of Development Studies, Addis Ababa University and Alumnus of the University of Bayreuth</p>
12:45 - 14:45	<p>Lunch Break</p>

<p>14:45 - 16:15</p>	<p>Round Table: <i>Joint (Research) Projects in International and Interdisciplinary Academic Networks</i></p> <p>moderated by <i>Meliha Nihan Çakır & Oluwayemisi Ojo</i>, EIMAS Alumni</p> <p><u>Discussants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Yenesew Alene Belew</i>, Co-Ambassador Ethiopia, African Students and Alumni Forum (ASAF) • <i>Dr Sabrina Maurus</i>, Scientific Coordination Office Bavaria-Africa, Bavarian Research Alliance (BayFOR) • <i>Dr Constance Perrin-Joly</i>, Director, French Center for Ethiopian Studies (CFEE) • <i>Girma Teshome</i>, DAAD Information Point Addis Ababa, German Academic Exchange Service
<p>16:15 - 17:00</p>	<p>Poster Exhibition: EIMAS MA Projects with coffee</p>
	<p>Optional Evening Programme</p>
<p>18:00</p>	<p>Discussion: <i>Interculturality in EIMAS: Challenges and Conquests</i></p> <p>moderated by <i>Alice Ribeiro</i>, EIMAS Gender & Diversity Representative, University of Porto</p>
<p>20:00</p>	<p><i>Azmari Night at Fendika Cultural Center</i> (self-paid)</p>



Wednesday, 8 October 2025
Political & Practical Day
 African Union Commission Headquarters



09:00 - 10:30	<p>Presentations of Current PhD / Research Projects of EIMASters</p> <p>moderated by <i>Dr Dereje Feyissa Dori</i>, Associate Professor, College of Social Sciences, Addis Ababa University</p>
10:30 - 11:15	<p>Forum: International (Alumni) Institutions with coffee</p>
11:15 - 12:45	<p>Interactive Session: <i>Climate, Peace and Security within the UN-AU Partnership</i></p> <p>moderated by <i>Yosr Khedr</i>, EIMAS Alumna</p> <p><u>Discussants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>H.E. Ambassador Dr Salah S. Hammad</i>, Head of the African Governance Architecture and the African Peace and Security Architecture (AGA-APSA) Secretariat, African Union Commission • <i>Evidence Tendai Kasinganeti</i>, Climate Change, Peace and Security Advisor, United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU)
12:45 - 14:45	<p>Lunch Break</p>
14:45 - 16:45	<p>Round Table: <i>EIMAS Graduates and the Global Job Market</i></p> <p>moderated by <i>Fatima Elmardiya Ahmed & Dalitso Bruno Tobias Tembo</i>, EIMAS Alumni</p> <p><u>Discussants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Vava Angwenyi</i>, Founder & Chief Coffaholic, Vava Coffee Ltd., Kenya & Member of the EIMAS Advisory Board • <i>Dr Biruk Shewadeg</i>, Research Consultant, Amani Africa • <i>Dr Angelika Eder</i>, Director, Goethe-Institut Addis Ababa • <i>Dr Tobias Thiel</i>, Director, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) African Union • <i>Dr Mekdelawit Yeshitila</i>, Head, Bavarian Office for Africa



18:00

Networking Event & Dinner at *The Social Addis / Selo Craft Tella*

Thursday, 9 October 2025
Alumni Work Day
Goethe-Institut

09:30

Welcome at Goethe-Institut

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10:00

Dr Angelika Eder, Director, Goethe-Institut Addis Ababa

10:00

World Café:

-

12:15

The First Steps towards an EIMAS Alumni Network

Moderators:

- *Yenesew Alene Belew*, Co-Ambassador Ethiopia, African Students and Alumni Forum (ASAF)
- *Dr Claudia Gebauer*, Coordinator, afriZert, University of Bayreuth
- *Dr Thando Njovane*, Scholar, Rhodes University
- *Tirsit Yetbarek Seme*, Head of the Somaliland Centre for African Studies (SCAS)
- *Dr Amanuel Tadesse*, Head of Solutions, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- *Girma Teshome*, DAAD Information Point Addis Ababa, German Academic Exchange Service

12:15

-

14:15

Lunch Break & Poster Exhibition: EIMASters' Individual Projects

14:15

-

14:45

Presentation of the Results

14:45

-

15:15

Next Steps of the EIMAS Alumni Network

15:15 - 15:30	Comfort Break
15:30 - 17:00	Closing Session
17:30 - 20:30	Networking Event at the German Embassy

Friday, 10 October 2025

Cultural Day

09:30 - 15:30	Discovering Addis Ababa: City Tour with EIMAS Alumni & Members <i>with Abdifatah Mohamed Abdi, Saba Abraha Tsegaye & Dr Serawit Bekele Debele</i>
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SPEAKERS

in order of appearance



Amb. Salah Siddig HAMMAD

Amb. Salah S. Hammad, is the Head of the African Governance Architecture and the African Peace and Security Architecture (AGA-APSA) Secretariat and the Senior Human Rights Expert within the Governance and Conflict Prevention Directorate of the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the African Union Commission.

Originally from Sudan, Amb. Hammad studied political science and human rights law in the United States of America. Mr. Hammad was voted as Ambassador for Human Rights by the Arab Council for Human Rights in 2013 and has been appointed an Ambassador within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sudan in 2016 and for the past 25 years, he has dedicated his life to promote democracy, good governance, human rights and peace and security. He also worked in global development and the empowerment of youth and women across the continent.



Mirjam STRASSER



Mirjam Straßer has always been focusing on African Studies in her academic career. After finishing her BA in Applied African Studies: Culture and Society of Africa (2011) and earning her MA in Cultural and Social Anthropology (2014) at the University of Bayreuth (UBT), she worked as academic assistant at the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS) for more than four years. In 2019, she joined the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence – Reconfiguring African Studies and UBT's Institute of African Studies (IAS) as project coordinator, focusing on (alumni) projects funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

Since 2020, and from the very first minute of this distinguished Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree (EMJMD) programme, she has been the academic and administrative coordinator for the European Interdisciplinary Master African Studies (EIMAS) with passion.

Karin STANGHED

Karin Stanghed is Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to the African Union and deputy Ambassador.

Before coming to Addis, she worked in EEAS HQ in Brussels on Peace and Security Partnerships with Africa and the United Nations. Karin is a career diplomat from the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and has in that capacity served at the Permanent Mission to the UN in New York and the Embassy in Ethiopia also covering the AU.

Karin Stanghed has a law degree from the University of Stockholm and a Master of European Law from the College of Europe in Bruges.



Prof. Dr Amélia POLÓNIA

Amelia Polónia is a full professor at the Department of History, Political and International Studies of the University of Porto. She is the EIMAS Dean at the U. Porto and the coordinator of the PhD programme in Global and Development Studies at the same university.

She was a member of the scientific board, at U. Porto, of the Erasmus Mundus PhD program TEEME - Text and Event in Early Modern Europe, and of the monitoring committee of MOVES - Migration and Modernity: Historical and Cultural Challenges, a Marie Skłodowska-Curie European Joint Doctorate.

Awarded with a *honoris causa* PhD in Maritime History by the University of Bretagne Sud, she is currently the chairperson of the History & Archaeology Section of the Academia Europaea.

Her research focuses on post-colonial studies, global studies, gender and environmental studies.



Dr Franz KOGELMANN

Franz Kogelmann has been a researcher in Islamic Studies (specialising in Islam in Africa) at the University of Bayreuth since 1992. Before taking up the position of Managing Director of the Cluster of Excellence 'Africa Multiple' - the largest research cluster for African Studies in Europe - in 2019, he had been Academic Coordinator of the Institute of African Studies since 2013. He also developed the EIMAS programme as part of an international team and is its dean at his university. Throughout his academic career, he has led a number of international research projects. He has more than 30 years of teaching experience and has supervised numerous bachelor's, master's and doctoral theses. He is a founding member and principal investigator of the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies.



Miguel Filipe SILVA

Miguel Silva lectures political history and IR at Forward College - degrees awarded by the University of London - and at the Portuguese Catholic University (UCP). For 15 years, he served as an Assistant at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Porto (FLUP). He is a PhD candidate in Contemporary History at NOVA University, Lisbon. He has completed doctoral coursework in African Studies at FLUP and holds a MBA from UCP. He is a researcher at the Institute of Contemporary History at NOVA. His research focuses on contemporary political history and on African history. He has worked for 17 years on development programmes across Africa. In this capacity, he has served as CEO of Engineers Without Borders, Portugal. Nowadays he is a strategy consultant for YouthMakers Hub (YMH), Greece and as a consultant on projects funded by the EU, UNDP and the WB, for CESO International Consultants.



Prof. Dr Masresha FETENE

Professor Masresha Fetene, who received a PhD from the University of Darmstadt in Germany, is a Professor of Plant Ecophysiology at Addis Ababa University (AAU) and served as its Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies. He initiated and oversaw the growth and expansion of graduate studies at AAU through the introduction of new programmes as well as quality improvement programmes such as visiting scholarship schemes and the formation of research consortia.

Professor Fetene is a Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences and a Founding Fellow and former Executive Director of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences. He has made significant contributions to professional and institutional building as co-founder of societies such as the African Forestry Network, the Natural Products Network for East and Central Africa, and the Biological Society of Ethiopia.



Dr Helmut BLUMBACH



Dr Helmut Blumbach is a sociologist. His doctoral thesis had a focus on African social history. He worked as a researcher and university lecturer in Germany and Ghana, and as an organizer of vocational training programmes for refugees in Zambia. He joined the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in 1994 and held various positions including Director of Programmes, Global South. Between 2014 and his retirement in 2019, he was the Director of DAAD's Regional Office for Africa in Nairobi. He now lives in Bonn, Germany. As much as he is enjoying the freedom of retirement, he takes a continuing interest in international academic collaboration, especially with regard to equitable access to higher education and its relevance for social and economic development.

Prof. Dr Serawit BEKELE DEBELE

Serawit Debele is a Junior Research Group Leader at the Africa-Multiple Cluster of Excellence at the University of Bayreuth. Her work focuses on moments of socio-political change in Africa asking what possibilities these moments might open up for non-normative sexualities and genders. Her ongoing project focuses on Ethiopia, Tunisia and Sudan. She is the author of the book "Locating Politics in Ethiopia's Irreecha Ritual" which was a finalist for the Albert J. Raboteau book prize for best book in African Religions. She is currently working on her second book on sex in postsocialist Ethiopia and the politics of sexual freedom. Together with Stephanie Laemmert, she is the editor of the book Black(ness) in German African Studies. Her articles have appeared on journals such as History of the Present, The Journal of African History, African Identities, Journal of African Cultural Studies and African Studies.



Dr Thando NJOVANE



Thando Njovane is a Senior Lecturer and Andrew Mellon scholar at Rhodes University, where she teaches literature. She is currently working on her first monograph titled Trauma and Childhoods in African Fiction, a project for which she has been awarded the prestigious Iso Lomso fellowship by the Stellenbosch Institute of Advanced Study (STIAS). Her research interests include postcolonialisms, trauma theory, childhoods, psychoanalysis, and higher education. Thando Njovane, who is also the Africa Multiple early career coordinator at the Rhodes African Studies Center, has published in top international journals such as the Journal of Commonwealth Literature and Research in African Literatures, and has contributed to edited collections published by established publishers like Cambridge University Press, Brill, and Wits University Press, to name but a few.

Tirsit YETBAREK SEME

Tirsit Yetbarek Seme is a distinguished leader and academic, currently serving as the Head of the Somaliland Centre for African Studies (SCAS) in Hargeysa, Somaliland. She leads the international academic forum, the Academic Dialogue in Hargeysa (ADIH), which brings together regional and global scholars to address critical social issues. Through strategic partnerships in education, she has effectively connected African Studies institutions across the Western world and the Horn of Africa, promoting collaboration and knowledge exchange. Moreover, she is a dedicated political analyst and expert in regional peace and security. Her academic background encompasses foreign languages, journalism, communication, peace and security, and social inclusion, reflecting her diverse expertise and dedication to meaningful change.



Dr Mulugeta BEZABIH MEKONNEN

Dr Mulugeta Bezabih is an assistant professor and the chairman of the Center for Population and Gender Studies, School of Development Studies, Addis Ababa University. His academic journey began with a Bachelor of Arts in Geography and Environmental Studies (with very great distinction) from Addis Ababa University. He subsequently obtained an MPhil in Development Studies from The Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway, and MA in Global Studies (Erasmus Mundus) from London School of Economics and Political Science, UK, and University of Vienna, Austria. Mulugeta obtained his PhD in Development Studies from the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies, University of Bayreuth. His areas of expertise include Transnational Migration, Diaspora and Development, Remittance and Knowledge Transfer, African Mobility, and Cross-Border Migration.



Dr Dereje FEYISSA DORI

Dereje Feyissa Dori is an Associate Professor at the College of Social Sciences, Addis Ababa University. He holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany. Over the years, he has held prestigious research fellowships at institutions such as Osaka University (Japan), the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (Bayreuth University), and currently serves as a guest professor at the University of Tübingen, Germany. In addition to his academic career, Dereje has held several leadership and advisory roles. He is a member of the Governing Board of Addis Ababa University and the Social Science Research Council. He also serves as a senior research and policy advisor at the Life & Peace Institute, where he contributes to peacebuilding initiatives in the Horn of Africa, as well as consults international development organizations.



Dr Sabrina MAURUS

Sabrina Maurus, PhD, is Scientific Coordinator at the Bavarian Research Alliance (BayFOR) and its Scientific Coordination Office (WKS) Bavaria-Africa. In this job, she supports researchers based in Bavaria and Africa in identifying suitable (EU) funding programmes for joint research and innovation (R&I) projects and in writing successful grant proposals. She is an alumnus of the University of Bayreuth and worked in research projects on education, childhood, and youth in Africa, with fieldwork in Ethiopia and Benin.



Dr Constance PERRIN-JOLY

Constance Perrin-Joly holds a PhD in Sociology from Université Paris Descartes (2009) and has been an Associate Professor of Sociology at Université Sorbonne Paris Nord since 2011. Between 2022 and 2024, she led a research institute in Burkina Faso (ISFRA), and since 2024, she has been the director of the French Centre for Ethiopian Studies (CFEE). Her work focuses on sustainable development and the moral dimensions of the economy, as seen through the lens of organisations and labour. She also investigates how these issues intersect with more intimate aspects of life, such as ages, intergenerational transmission and life trajectories. She is the principal investigator of a Marie Curie Staff Exchange Project, which brings together around twenty partner institutions across Africa, the Americas, and Europe. She is deeply interested in the sensory dimensions of research and integrates socio-photographic methods into her fieldwork.



Yenesew Alene BELEW



Yenesew Alene Belew is an assistant professor at the Department of Tourism and Hotel Management at the University of Gondar since 2008, and an adjunct professor at Debarq University, Ethiopia. He holds two Master's degrees in Tourism and Heritage Management, and Marketing Management from the University of Gondar. He attended various training and fellowships on hospitality management, leadership, project management, destination development, Tourism and Peace, and Destination marketing in Japan, Austria, Spain, India, Kenya, Romania, Senegal, Tanzania, Australia, Greece, Sweden, Russia, and South Africa. Currently, apart from his full-time work at the University of Gondar, he works at the Cultural Protection Fund, British Council, as a specialist assessor, project coordinator for EU funded '3is' project, and Co-Ambassador Ethiopia of the African Students and Alumni Forum (ASAF).

Girma TESHOME

Girma is an economist by training and served as Office Manager of the Association of Ethiopians Educated in Germany (AEEG) for five years before joining the Information Center of DAAD in Ethiopia in the year 2012 which he still serves as a Team Leader. The DAAD is providing support and disseminating information on German and local universities fostering study, research collaborations and exchange. Over the past twenty years, he had extensive contacts with alumni from all walks of life. He witnessed undertakings by alumni from German universities augmenting their role in society as change agents. These days, creative ways of engaging young and vibrant alumni are imperative.



Alice RIBEIRO



Alice Ribeiro, Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages and Literatures - English|German and with a Specialization Course in Information Sciences, both from the Faculty of Arts of the University of Porto (UP), works in the area of diversity inclusion. Since 1997, she is a team member of the Inclusion Office at UP. She has served as coordinator in BAES - Open Library of Higher Education, an online database of accessible information, and PLACES, a webpage with tutorials in text and video that teaches in a simple and practical way how to produce accessible information for everyone. She collaborates on other projects representing UP such as EUNI4ALL - European Network of Inclusive Universities and EUGLOH - European University Alliance for Global Health, and coordinated, during several years, in collaboration with other Universities, the GTAEDS, a national working group to support students with disabilities in higher education.

Prof. Dr Alexander STROH-STECKELBERG

Dr Alexander Stroh-Steckelberg is Professor of African Politics and Development Policy at the University of Bayreuth. He serves as deputy head of the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS) and vice-dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. He received his MA from the University of Heidelberg and his PhD from the University of Hamburg, both in political science. His research interests focus on West and East Africa and include comparative democratic institutions, political parties, judicial politics as well as the relationship between national politics and regionalisms. He has taught several courses in the EIMAS programme related to various political processes in Africa and across African countries (democratization, development, regional integration) and has supervised several EIMAS Master theses.



Evidence Tendai KASINGANETI

Tendai is the Climate, Peace and Security Advisor at the United Nations Office to the African Union, where he provides strategic advice on integrating climate-related peace and security risks into UN-AU frameworks on peace, human rights, and sustainable development. He also serves as the continental node for the United Nations Climate Security Mechanism. Tendai works closely with continental actors, regional bodies, and Member States to advance Africa's climate, peace and security agenda. Previously, he served as Climate Security Advisor at the African Union, where he coordinated efforts on continental priorities in climate, peace, and security. He has also worked with UNDP, international NGOs, and the governments of Zimbabwe and Namibia on climate policy, climate finance, and natural resources governance. Tendai holds an MSc in Geoinformation Science and Earth Observation and a BSc Honours in Geography and Environmental Studies.



Vava ANGWENYI

As a seasoned social entrepreneur with over 15 years of experience in the coffee industry, Vava Angwenyi specializes in empowering coffee communities, particularly women and youth, through sustainable practices and market access. She is passionate about creating inclusive value chains and has worked extensively to improve the profitability of coffee producers while driving gender equity and youth involvement in coffee production.

Vava Angwenyi is the founder of Vava Coffee, a social enterprise committed to supporting smallholder farmers in East Africa, and co-founder of Gente Del Futuro, which amplifies the voices of youth and women in Kenya, Tanzania, and Colombia. She has a proven track record of working with international partners, roasters, and producers to build long-term, transparent, and mutually beneficial relationships.



Biruk SHEWADEG

Dr Biruk Shewadeg, a research consultant at Amani Africa and Assistant Professor of African Studies, is a dedicated pan-Africanist with a profound interest in state-society relations. His research spans peace and security in Africa, emphasizing the crucial role of local institutions in fostering sustainable peace. Dr Biruk is particularly committed to reimagining African epistemologies by grounding them in the continent's unique realities, especially in areas of peacebuilding and security.

Dr Biruk holds a Bachelor in Philosophy, a Master in African Studies and a PhD in African Studies from Addis Ababa University. He has published extensively in reputable academic journals, reflecting his commitment to addressing the continent's challenges and opportunities. His work underscores the importance of aligning theoretical frameworks with Africa's local realities to promote innovative solutions in peace and security.



Dr Angelika EDER

Angelika Eder is Director of Goethe-Institut Ethiopia since October 2024 and covering cultural activities in Ethiopia, South-Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea. From 2017 to 2024 she was Director of Genshagen Foundation, active in the "Weimar Triangle" (France, Germany, Poland) and Head of the department "Arts and Cultural Mediation in Europe". Before that she worked already 15 years with the Goethe-Institut, a.o. Director of the Goethe-Institut in Saint Petersburg, Russia (2013-2017), Head of the Cultural Program Department, Goethe-Institut in Prague (Head office of Central Europe), Czech Republic (2009-2013), Director of the Goethe-Institut in Krakow, Poland (2005-2009). She initiated and directed many European and international cultural projects. Now she enjoys working in Africa and exploring new fields. She is convinced of the power of culture and education and wants to contribute to open up opportunities. She holds a PhD-degree in history.



Dr Tobias THIEL



As Director of GIZ African Union, Dr Tobias Thiel oversees GIZ's longstanding partnership with the AU, the AU Development Agency AUDA-NEPAD, as well as the AU's organs and specialised agencies with the goal of advancing sustainable development on the African continent in accordance with the AU's Agenda 2063.

Dr Thiel previously served as Deputy Country Director of GIZ in Egypt as well as Head of Project of GIZ in Yemen. Throughout his career, he held several leadership, advisory and research positions with GIZ, the European Parliament and research institutions related to governance, public sector reform, digital transformation, human rights, women and youth empowerment as well as aid effectiveness in Africa, the Middle East and Europe. Tobias Thiel holds a PhD in International History from the LSE (UK) and an MA in International Relations and International Economics from the SAIS, Johns Hopkins University (US).

Dr Mekdelawit YESHITILA

Dr Mekdelawit Yeshitila is a project manager, researcher, advisor, and consultant with several years of teaching experience at Jimma University, Ethiopia. She earned a PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics from Kasetsart University in Bangkok, Thailand; an MSc. in Agricultural Economics from Hohenheim University in Stuttgart, Germany, and a BSc. in the same discipline from Jimma University, Ethiopia.

Since June 2024, Mekdelawit Yeshitila has been serving as the Head of the Bavarian Office for Africa in Addis Ababa to promote collaboration between Germany's Free State of Bavaria and African countries across the continent. Previously, she worked as a Youth and Education Advisor at the German Development Cooperation (GIZ), focusing on projects that enhance youth employability.



Dr Claudia GEBAUER



Since 2022, Dr Claudia Gebauer is the coordinator of the supplementary study programme afriZert at the University of Bayreuth. afriZert is being funded by the Bavarian Ministry of Science and the Arts and designed to enable students at all Bavarian universities and universities of applied sciences to gain a minimum level of Africa-related knowledge regardless of their main study programme. After having earned a BA in European Studies and an MA in Cultural Geography, Dr Claudia Gebauer finished her doctoral studies at the University of Bayreuth with a dissertation on "Changing Climates: Translating adaptation in|to Rwanda". She has many years of experience in teaching, research and academic management at different German universities.

Dr Amanuel TADESSE

Amanuel Tadesse is an urban geographer and development researcher committed to advancing inclusive urban transformation and climate resilience in African cities. He currently serves as Head of Solutions Mapping at UNDP Ethiopia's SDG Accelerator Lab, where he leads analytical research, data modelling, and evidence-based co-design of solutions to inform sustainable development policy and practice. A Yale Urban Climate Fellow and Three Cairns Scholar, he holds a PhD in Geography from KU Leuven, where his research examined socio-spatial change, slum gentrification, and urban land dynamics in Addis Ababa. He has authored peer-reviewed publications on urban transitions and spatial justice and brings over 15 years of experience across UNDP, the Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Institute, and World Vision.





EIMAS GRADUATES

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In most cases, the stated examiners from Bayreuth, Bordeaux and Porto also acted as their supervisors.

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Mohamed
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Somalia



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Abiud
Maosa
Bosire
Kenya



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University of Porto

Alexander
Schwerdt
Germany



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Bordeaux Montaigne University

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Iglar
Austria

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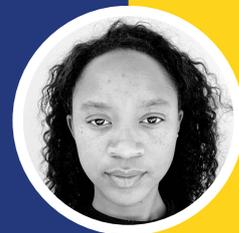
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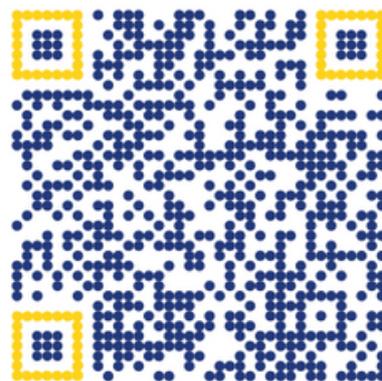
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