



Invitation

Tuesday, 20 October 2009, 6.30 pm

Terms of Analysis in African Studies: Do we need ‚Conceptual Decolonisation‘?

Roundtable Discussion

‘Partnership’ has become a central keyword for research within Area Studies and African Studies in particular. Nevertheless, the question has been raised whether in some ways the study of Africa is still colonised. If conceptual approaches and analytic language in research follow key concepts of the former colonial languages rather than African ones, there is at least reason for concern. Taking this up for discussion, we also have to acknowledge that a range of studies has been working fruitfully with African languages and concepts from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. Overall, there remains an important field for debate.

The Ghanaian philosopher Kwasi Wiredu has repeatedly pointed at the need for conceptual decolonisation in African philosophy, pressing the point that African languages should provide more conceptual input and shape the terms of analysis for academic philosophical discourse in Africa. In this discussion, Kwasi Wiredu will address these points with special reference to philosophy and religion. Each of the panellists – all established Africanists – will discuss from their particular research perspectives whether and to what extent these points – or indeed others – may be fruitfully applied to the multi-disciplinary scope of African Studies. How do scholars from different disciplinary backgrounds and with different regional and conceptual foci deal with such matters in their research, and how do they approach such matters in teaching?

The discussion aims at reassessing African Studies’ terms of analysis. It will be relevant to students and researchers in African studies and beyond, and of particular interest to regions where related historical echoes may similarly continue to challenge scholarship.

Speakers:

Prof. Kwasi Wiredu, University of South Florida, Tampa
Prof. J.D.Y. Peel, SOAS, London
Prof. Ute Luig, FU-Berlin
Prof. Andreas Eckert, HU-Berlin
PD Dr. Katrin Bromber, ZMO

Conception and Introduction:

Dr. Kai Kresse, ZMO

Venue:

Conference Hall
Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin

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