

VAD Tagung 2006 (Frankfurt/Main, 24.-27. Juli)

Panel: Youth in Africa: Creating and Transforming Knowledge

Elisabeth Boesen / Cordula Weißköppel

The anthropology of children and youth emphasizes nowadays that young people should be regarded as active members of society who take part in the production of meaning systems. Within this framework we would like to focus on the role of media in African youth cultures. Different kinds of media are important tools to transmit and transform knowledge. The fact that young people often have better access to new media than older people might challenge notions of social authority and established status relations, especially those structured by age and seniority. On the one hand we are interested in papers dealing with different kinds of media appropriated or created by young people in African societies: i.e. literary and other artistic forms of expression, such as comics/cartoons, graffiti or rap and the like, but also religious instruction (partly through modern communication technologies). Another interesting topic is the transformation of traditional media, that is, the transference of local forms of expression to global contexts (the “world stage”) and the access to new forms of knowledge which may result from this kind of “self-mediation”. On the other hand we are interested in case studies on the transformation of traditional status systems initiated by the use of modern media mainly through young people.

Tribal culture, world culture, youth culture. Young Fulbe-Wodaabe in urban centres (*Dr. Elisabeth Boesen, Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin*)

Revitalizing society: Nuer youth in new religious movements (*Dr. des. Christiane Falge, Max-Planck-Institut für Ethnologie, Halle*)

Searching for ‘True Islam’: Youthful Activity in the *Tablīgh Jamā‘at* in The Gambia
Dr. Marloes Janson (Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin)

Translocal and local knowledge in the francophone youth magazine comics (*Claudia Schulz, Humboldt-Universität Berlin*)

Transformation, Youth and Popular Culture in Post-Banda Malawi: Music and Dance of Male Youths in Northern Malawi (*Jochen Seebode, Institut für Ethnologie, Freie Universität Berlin*)

"Parler comme ça, c'est vachement cool!" or **How dynamic language loyalty can overcome**
"resistance from above" (*Gardy Stein*, Universität Hamburg)

Between victimization and hope for a peaceful future: Sudanese Youth in public discourse
(*Dr. Cordula Weißköppel*, Bremer Institut für Kulturforschung, Universität Bremen)