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The Role of the Artist in Processes of Transformation. Conference on Cultural Policy and Sustainable Development

July 8-9, 2019, Bundesakademie Wolfenbüttel

Culture is often attributed a major role in sustainable development. Task of cultural policy is therefore to create and support structures that promote mobilization of creativity of people and thus ensure welfare, innovation and pluralism. Societies in Africa are facing challenges like ethnic and religious conflicts, social marginalisation and displacement, among others. In this context, artistic practices can contribute in fostering social cohesion and participation which leads to more peaceful coexistence and the creation of pluralistic societies. Artists are social commentators to channel but also to defuse conflicts, which can be a model for an aesthetic transformation of conflicts contributing to sustainable development.

The conference investigates the role of arts and culture for sustainable development by addressing the following questions:

- What are the definitions of an arts and culture based sustainable development?
- In which way can artists provide solutions for societies in transformation and fragile contexts?
- What new mechanisms of international cultural relations and policies are needed for a change in European-African cooperation?

The conference offers insights and exchange on the above-mentioned topics with scholars of the Graduate School 'Performing Sustainability' from West-Africa as well as researchers of the Master's program 'Cultural Policy and Cultural Management' from the Arab Region and academics from Germany.

Prof. Raija Kramer (University Hamburg, Germany), Chairwomen Fachverband Afrikanistik will speak about current debates and her critical view on the German Africa policy. Amos Asare Darkwa (Ghana) and El Houcine Rabhi (Morocco) will introduce concepts of innovating cultural policy from the perspective of the Global South, Alasambom Nyingchuo (Cameroon) and Naoures Rouissi (Tunisia) will debate on the role of film in processes of transformation, Zainab Musa Shallangwa (Nigeria) and Meryem Ghalib (Morocco) will speak about cultural expressions in contexts of identity and cultural developments. Prof. Bosoma Sheriff of the University of Maiduguri (Nigeria) will give a lecture on Coping Strategies of Musicians in Northern Nigeria. Other sessions will cover aspects of music and social cohesion, theatre policies and socio-culture for sustainable development.

The interdisciplinary Graduate School '**Performing Sustainability. Cultures and Development in West Africa**' focuses on innovative research that brings together approaches from performance, arts and culture to bear on sustainable development as defined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A specific focus lies on issues of peace and conflict resolution. The Graduate School is a cooperation of the University of Hildesheim (Germany), the University of Maiduguri (Nigeria) and the University of Cape Coast (Ghana).

The **Master's in Cultural Policy and Cultural Management** at the Hassan II University in Casablanca, Morocco is the first of its kind in the Arab region. It aims to develop a new generation of researchers, cultural managers, policy makers, and academics capable of contributing to cultural practices in the Arab region, and working with a strategic approach in the public cultural sector, creative industries, and the independent non-profit cultural sector. The program seeks to build capacities that would enable the students to play an active role in promoting and supporting freedom of expression, wider access to culture, intraregional and international cultural collaboration and professionalism.

The Conference is hosted by the UNESCO Chair in Cultural Policy for the Arts in Development at the Department of Cultural Policy of the University of Hildesheim and the Center for World Music in cooperation with the Bundesakademie für Kulturelle Bildung Wolfenbüttel.

Programme directors

Prof. Wolfgang Schneider | Prof. Raimund Vogels | Prof. Vanessa-Isabelle Reinwand-Weiss | Meike Lettau

Program

Monday, 8th July 2019

- 2.30 pm – 3.15 pm Artistic Welcome & Introduction. *Edgar Wendt (Germany)*
- 3.15 pm – 4.15 pm 'The German Discourse on Africa in the Context of Colonial Legacies'
Prof. Raija Kramer (University Hamburg, Germany).
- 4.15 pm – 4.45 pm Creative Coffee Break
- 4.45 pm – 6.15 pm World Cafe 'The Art of Sustainability'
Moderated by Meike Lettau (Germany)
- Group 1) Innovating Cultural Policy from the Perspective of the Global South
Input: Amos Asare Darkwa (Ghana), El Houcine Rabhi (Morocco)
Moderated by Prof. Wolfgang Schneider (Germany)
- Group 2) Towards new Policies for European-African Cooperation
Input: Marwa Hassan Eladly (Egypt), Lydia Amoah (Ghana)
Moderated by Prof. Raija Kramer (Germany)
- Group 3) Music Practices reflecting Cultural Knowledge and fostering Community Building
Input: Marouane Sibari (Morocco), Eyram Fiagbedzi (Ghana)
Moderated by Dr. Eric Otchere (Ghana)
- Group 4) Beyond the artistic Performance: The Role of Film and Theatre in Processes of Transformation
Input: Alasambom Nyingchuo (Cameroon), Naoures Rouissi (Tunisia)
Moderated by Dr. Dorothea Lübbe (Germany)
- Group 5) Cultural Expressions in Contexts of Identity and Cultural Developments
Input: Zainab Musa Shallangwa (Nigeria), Meryem Ghalib (Morocco)
Moderated by Dr. Christopher Mtaku (Nigeria)

- Group 6) Socio-Culture as a Key for Sustainable Development
 Input: Mohamed Badreddine (Morocco), Fatima Zahra Khayrat (Morocco)
Moderated by Dr. Christian Müller Espey (Germany)
- 6.30 pm – 7.00 pm Presentation of Results
Moderated by Prof. Vanessa-Isabelle Reinwand-Weiss
- 7.00 – 8.00 pm Dinner
- 8.30 pm – 10.00 pm Evening Reception
- Input #1: Arts Education between Africa and Europe
Prof. Vanessa-Isabelle Reinwand-Weiss (Germany) & Marwa Hassan Eladly (Egypt)
- Artistic Input #2: Marouane Sibari (Marokko), Christoph Matenaers (Germany)
 & Prof. Wolfgang Schneider (Germany)
- Input #3: An African Cultural Institute in Germany
Prof. Raimund Vogels (Germany) & Prof. Bosoma Sheriff (Nigeria)

Tuesday, 9th July 2019

- 8.00 am – 9.00 am Breakfast
- 9.00 am – 10.00 am Music & Conflict 'Coping Strategies of Musicians in Northern Nigeria'.
Prof. Bosoma Sheriff, University of Maiduguri (Nigeria)
- 10.00 am – 10.45 am African Dance Performance Workshop: 'Between War Dance and Reconciliation'.
Eyram Fiagbedzi (Ghana), Dr. Eric Otchere (Ghana), Amos Darkwa Asare (Ghana)
- 10.45 am – 11.15 am Creative Coffee Break
- 11.15 am – 12.15 pm Working groups 'What new Agendas and Frameworks for Culture do we really need?'
Moderated by Michele Brand (Germany)
- 12.15 pm – 1.00 pm Concluding statements
Moderated by Prof. Wolfgang Schneider (Germany)
- 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm Lunch break

Conditions of participation

costs 45.- Euro including meals, 98.50 Euro including accommodation (en suite room) and meals. A reduction for temporary participation is not possible.

application We are looking forward to your taking part in »The Role of the Artist in Processes of Transformation«. Please register by sending an e-mail message to the conference office.

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