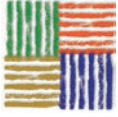


MIASA ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Imprint

MIASA Annual Report 2022

Edited by the
Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa
(MIASA)

University of Ghana
P.O. Box LG 1075
Legon, Accra
Phone: +233 (0) 30-290-7319
Email: miasa@ug.edu.gh

Office Address: 26 Legon Hill, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra, Ghana

Webpage: <https://www.ug.edu.gh/mias-africa/>

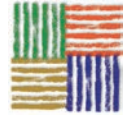
Twitter: @MIASA_UG

Editor: Dr. Susann Baller (MIASA Director 'Germany')

Coordination: Dr. Agnes Schneider-Musah (MIASA academic coordinator)

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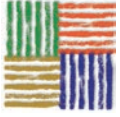


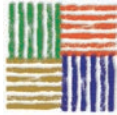
MERIAN INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN AFRICA (MIASA)

University of Ghana – University of Freiburg – Goethe University Frankfurt –
German Institute for Global and Area Studies – German Historical Institute Paris

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2022





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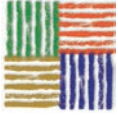
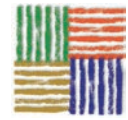


Figure 1: from left to right: Dr. Susann Baller (MIASA Director 'Germany'), Prof. Samuel Nteuwusu (Director Institute of African Studies, UG), Dr. Grace Diabah (MIASA Director 'Ghana'), Prof. Charlotte Wrigley-Asante (former MIASA Director 'Ghana'), August 2022



Welcome note by the MIASA Directors

The Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA) offers time and space for research and academic exchange. The institute has a truly international and interdisciplinary character. In 2022, we welcomed 29 fellows from 10 countries and 13 disciplines, including Interdisciplinary Fellow Groups (IFG), tandem and individual fellows. They contributed to 14 public lectures, 2 roundtables, 17 research seminars and 2 IFG conferences. In addition, MIASA organised 3 further thematic conferences, an annual lecture, and 2 early-career events. Besides, the MIASA team, fellows and alumni participated in external events, such as the German African Studies Association (VAD) conference, which was hosted by MIASA's leading partner in Germany, the University of Freiburg, in June 2022.

Through our fellowship and event programmes we were able to increase the visibility of the institute and to strengthen its research profile. Three thematic fields of MIASA were examined by the IFGs – land governance, African cities and migration. Moreover, MIASA continued its research on restitution of cultural materials. MIASA's main thematic corridors – peace and conflict, democracy as well as sustainability transformation – were equally considered by individual and tandem fellows as well as addressed by MIASA events. Though the covid-19 pandemic still had some impact on our programme, we were able to organise all our events onsite, while offering the possibility to join online.

As MIASA Directors we would like to thank the MIASA fellows and alumni for making MIASA a thriving space, and our Academic Advisory Board for their thoughtful guidance and fellow selection. We are also grateful to our partners. We co-organised numerous events at the University of Ghana together with other institutes and departments, such as the Institute of African Studies (IAS), the Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research (ISSER), the Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy (CEGENSA), the Department of Political Science, the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies and the Department of Geography. We are proud to have organised a major event at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, for the first time in 2022 as well as a conference in a lusophone country, in collaboration with the Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo, Mozambique.

Moreover, we highly appreciate the collaboration with our German partners – the University of Freiburg, the Goethe University Frankfurt, the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA) and the German Historical Institute Paris, as well as the generous sponsorship offered by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research in Germany and the co-funding from the University of Ghana. We are extremely happy to work together with an efficient and very dynamic coordination and administrative team at MIASA. And we wish to extend our special thanks to the former MIASA Director 'Ghana', Prof. Charlotte Wrigley-Asante, and congratulate her for her new position as Head of Department at the Department of Geography and Resource Development.

Dr. Grace Diabah, MIASA Director 'Ghana'

Dr. Susann Baller, MIASA Director 'Germany'

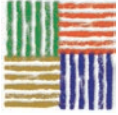
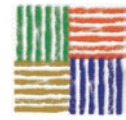


Figure 2: MIASA bungalow on Legon campus, University of Ghana



The Institute: governance and institutional development

The Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA) was founded in 2018 as the fourth institute of the College of Humanities at the University of Ghana (UG), Legon campus, in Accra. The institute is based on a collaboration with four German partners, the University of Freiburg (leading partner), Goethe University Frankfurt, the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), and the German Historical Institute Paris (GHIP). MIASA is sponsored by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF), with co-funding from the University of Ghana. MIASA is part of the Maria Sibylla Merian programme, which promotes long-term cooperation in the humanities and social sciences between Germany and the Global South. The four other Merian centres are ICAS:MP in New Delhi, CALAS in Guadalajara, MECILA in Sao Paolo, and MECAM in Tunis. MIASA's BMBF-funding is comprised of a preliminary, main and final phase (with external evaluations in-between). The main phase started in September 2020.

MIASA has two directors, who are both based in Accra; one representing the University of Ghana and one representing the German partners. In 2022 Dr. Susann Baller (GHIP) served as MIASA Director 'Germany' in her second year. Prof. Charlotte Wrigley-Asante (UG), who had joint MIASA as Director 'Ghana' in 2021, was appointed head of department at the Department of Geography and Resource Development in August 2022. MIASA congratulates her for this new position and is grateful for her contribution to the institute as a co-director as well as for the continuous collaboration with her department. Prof. Wrigley-Asante was succeeded by Dr. Grace Diabah, senior lecturer and former head of department at the Department of Linguistics. Dr. Diabah's research fields include sociolinguistics, language, gender and politics as well as media discourses, which match well with MIASA's research fields.

At the MIASA office on Legon campus, the two directors work together with MIASA's academic coordinator, Dr. Agnes Schneider-Musah (University of Freiburg). At the University of Freiburg, the administrative coordinator Johanna Bichlmaier (50%) left MIASA in July 2022. She was replaced by Luca Hanenberg (75%) in November 2022. In July 2022, the administrative assistant for the MIASA programme (50%) at the University of Freiburg, Zahra Dandani, spent one month at the institute in Accra with the support of the Erasmus mundus programme. Dr. Marko Scholze (50%), affiliated with the Goethe University Frankfurt, organised two of the MIASA events, and in October 2022, Eleonora Marchioni was appointed at the GHIP, in order to support the GHIP's MIASA related activities (25%).

The composition of MIASA's Executive Council (EC) did not change in 2022. However, Prof. Andreas Mehler (University of Freiburg), speaker of the German consortium, became the EC's spokesperson, following an annual alternation between the Universities of Ghana and Freiburg. As in previous years, the EC members, i.e. the representatives from all MIASA partners, together with the directors and the coordination team met at a virtual "jour fixe"

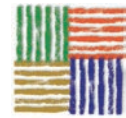


on a monthly basis. The annual meeting of the EC was held in November 2022 in Accra. It included a joint (hybrid) session with MIASA's Academic Advisory Board (AAB). It was the last official meeting for six out of ten AAB members who withdrew from the board after a three-year term. The EC expressed its appreciation to all AAB members for their advice and support, in particular, to the AAB's outgoing most senior members, Prof. Tadesse Zenebework and Prof. Fatou Sow. Furthermore, the EC and AAB chairs together with the MIASA directors had an onsite meeting with UG's Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo as well as with the Provost of the College of Humanities, Prof. Daniel Frimpong Ofori. Both expressed UG's interest in continuing the collaboration with MIASA's German partners.



Figure 3: Executive Council members and MIASA Directors visit the Provost of the College of Humanities, November 2022

Throughout 2022, MIASA and its German partners intensified their reciprocal academic exchange also beyond the BMBF-funding. MIASA principal investigators Prof. Wazi Apoh (UG) and Prof. Simon Bawakyillenuo (UG), alumnus Prof. Kokou Azamede (University of Lomé) as well as two additional UG senior lecturers, Dr. Simon-Peter Kafui Aheto (Department of Distance Education) and Dr. Monica Puoma Lambon-Quayefio (Department of Economics) were invited to the University of Freiburg, while Prof. Harmut Fünfgeld (ACT Executive board) visited the University of Ghana. In April 2022, the BMBF-funded research network "Postcolonial Hierarchies in Peace and Conflict" started. The Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (ABI) Freiburg and three Merian centres (ICAS:MP, MECAM and MIASA) are among its partners. In June 2022, the Africa Centre for Transregional Research (ACT) organised the German African Studies (VAD) conference at the University of Freiburg, which was attended by eleven members of the University of Ghana, eight MIASA principal investigators as well



as nine fellows and alumni. Both directors were among the guests. During their visit, they also met with the upcoming director of the Freiburg Institute of Advanced Studies (FRIAS), Prof. Ralf von den Hoff, who started his term in October 2022.

The Goethe University Frankfurt together with Point Sud pursued the Pilot African Postgraduate Academy (PAPA), funded by the Gerda Henkel foundation. Two Point Sud conferences were organized at the University of Ghana (one on “New Approaches to Mobility, Transport, and Infrastructure in Africa” in September 2022 and one on “From Archival Pasts Towards Archival Futures” in November 2022). The last fellowships of the GHIP’s Transnational Research Group (TRG)

in Dakar ended in May 2022. Despite the highly competitive selection, one PAPA member and three alumni from the TRG successfully applied for MIASA fellowships in 2022 (Dr. Laure Carbonnel, Dr. Lamine Doumbia, Dr. Kelma Manatouma, Dr. Mahamadou Bassirou Tangara). Moreover, the GHIP used funds of the Max Weber foundation in order to strengthen its relations with MIASA and the University of Ghana. In September and December 2022, the GHIP organised two conferences on MIASA on two key topics of the institute (restitution and sustainability), to which MIASA fellows and alumni were invited, and it supported a ten-day visit in France and Germany by Dr. Gertrude Aba Mensah Eyifa-Dzidzienyo (UG), co-convenor of MIASA’s Interdisciplinary Fellow Group (IFG) 5 on “restitution”. The deputy director of the GHIP, Dr. Mareike König, visited MIASA in March 2022, and during the external evaluation of the GHIP in October 2022 its important contribution to German-funded programmes based in West Africa was acknowledged.



Figure 4: Keynote Lecture by Akosua Adomako Ampofo at the German African Studies Association conference, June 2022

Academic events, networks and visibility

In 2022, MIASA hosted eleven major events in addition to its Public Lecture Series. The Public Lecture series was comprised of 15 lectures as well as two roundtables with invited guest speakers. The series creates an international public platform for discussing research findings by MIASA fellows. In addition, MIASA continued to run an internal research seminar, at which fellows present their ongoing research based on a short, pre-circulated paper (1500 words).

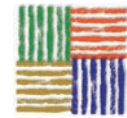


All MIASA events strengthened the institute's research profile. The six thematic conferences in 2022 addressed a broad range of MIASA topics, including the fields of restitution, sustainable rural transformation, and African cities. The topic of African cities was highlighted from very different perspectives, including urban land governance, climate change and religious diversity. In addition, MIASA's second Anton Wilhelm Amo lecture addressed the institute's cross-cutting issue of African knowledge production. Furthermore, MIASA organized two early career events, i.e. its second Writing Workshop and its fifth Female Academic Careers in African Workshop.



Figure 5: the MIASA team visiting ISSER, March 2022

Scholars from the University of Ghana were strongly involved in the planning of these events, together with the respective German partners. The main collaboration partners on campus included the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies, the Department of Geography and Resource Development, the Department of Philosophy and Classics as well as the Department of Political Science, in addition to the Institute of African Studies (IAS), the Institute for Social Statistical and Economic Research (ISSER) and the Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy (CEGENSA). Moreover, for the first time MIASA organized a major event at the second main public university of Ghana, the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi, where MIASA collaborated, in particular, with the Centre for Cultural and African Studies (CeCAST). Equally importantly, for the first time MIASA held an event in a lusophone country, Mozambique, in collaboration with a Point Sud partner, the Universidade Eduardo Mondlane in Maputo, thus going beyond MIASA's existing anglo-francophone networks on the African continent.



All events were held onsite, but provided online access in order to reach out to a broader international audience. Several conferences were characterized by a strong interaction between international scholars and practitioners, and simultaneous translations between English and French were offered at most of these conferences. In June 2022, the GIGA organized its first “Policy Conference” in collaboration with ISSER on “Policies for a sustainable rural trans-formation in Africa”, which included a panel with policy makers from the Ghanaian Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the Executive Director of the Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana, a member of the United Nations Millennium Campaign as well as a delegate from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Ghana. One part of MIASA’s Interdisciplinary Fellow Group’s (IFG 6) conference on urban land governance in August 2022 consisted of a visit at the Regional Lands Commission, Accra. Officers from the regional lands commission of Greater Accra and Kumasi, but also a delegation of dignitaries from La and Gbawe actively participated in the conference. In November 2022, the conference convened by MIASA’s Interdisciplinary Fellow Group’s (IFG 7) conference on religious diversity welcomed around fifty delegates from different religious groups, from Shia Muslim to different Sufi leaders, and from a catholic Priester to a Hindu follower, who all contributed to the discussions during the three-day event.

Moreover, MIASA further increased its visibility on and off Legon campus in Ghana. In March 2022, the MIASA team presented the institute’s programmes at ISSER. It also held a small Workshop on Urban Research at the Department of Architecture, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, which was organized by MIASA fellow Prof. Łukasz Stanek. In June 2022, MIASA contributed to the “Day of Scientific Renaissance in Africa”, which is a major annual event of the College of Humanities at the University of Ghana. MIASA Director ‘Germany’ attended the Ghana Studies conference, which is an important event for scholars doing research on Ghana, which was organized at the University of Development Studies (UDS) in Tamale in July 2022. In addition, MIASA’s directors contributed to two “Science Six” roundtables at the University of Ghana (September 2022) and KNUST (October 2022). “Science Six” was an initiative of the German Embassy in order to bring together the six major German-funded research programmes in Ghana. The first focused on “The prospects and challenges on German-Ghanaian academic cooperation” and the second on “Benefits of Interdisciplinary and International Scientific Research”.



Figure 6: Science 6 event at KNUST with H.E. Daniel Krull, German Ambassador to Ghana, and the Deputy Ambassador, Sivine Jansen, October 2022

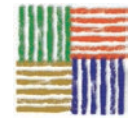


Internationally, MIASA continued to develop its networks also beyond its four German partners. In June 2022, the MIASA director 'Germany' and the spokesperson of the German consortium attended the networking event "Crisis and Reordering", organised by GIGA in Hamburg, which brought together BMBF-sponsored programmes (Maria Sibylla Merian and Käte Hamburger centres). Two additional events contributed to strengthening the Merian network. In April 2022, the MIASA directors participated virtually in a panel on knowledge production at the international conference "Decolonizing knowledge production. Perspectives from the Global South", organised by the Merian Centre for Advanced Latin American Studies (CALAS) in Guadalajara. In October 2022, MIASA was part of an online roundtable at the GLOBE22 Festival of Science, organised by the University of Leipzig in October 2022. The roundtable addressed the effects of climate change in the respective host towns of the Merian centres. For this purpose, MIASA produced a 6-minute documentary on urban heat in Accra, for which the MIASA coordinator had written the script.

Furthermore, MIASA remained member of the University-based Institute of Advanced Studies (UBIAS) network's steering committee. UBIAS had its annual members' meeting online in May 2022. Among the more informal networking, the participation of the MIASA Director 'Germany' in a conference of the German Archaeological Institute at the University of Ghana in February 2022 as well as a meeting with a delegation from the Free University Berlin in December 2022 were particularly fruitful. MIASA also established links with the Humanities Centre for Advanced Studies "Futures of Sustainability: Modernization, Transformation, Control", which is based at the University of Hamburg and funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).



Figure 7: the Merian centres participate with a roundtable at the GLOBE22 Festival of Science, October 2022 © @ReCentGlobe



Fellow selection and experiences

All projects submitted for a MIASA fellowship are evaluated by the institute's Academic Advisory Board (AAB), which, in 2022, was comprised of ten internationally renowned scholars from Europe and Africa. Because the covid 19-pandemic still impacted internal travelling at the beginning of the year, the AAB only met online in January 2022. During this meeting, the main task of the AAB was the selection of fellows for the academic year 2022/23. Out of 37 individual candidates, the MIASA directors had recommended to consider 30. The AAB acknowledged the high quality and originality of projects of the submitted projects. Nine candidates were selected for an individual fellowship, out of whom one did not accept the offer (substituted by one candidate from the waiting list). MIASA had received only two applications for a tandem fellowship, which is always granted to a team of one Germany-based and one Africa-based scholar. One tandem was selected. Moreover, the AAB selected two IFG full proposals out of five. Interdisciplinary fellow groups (IFG) always bring together four to six fellows from different countries and disciplinary background who work together for four months on a shared theme at MIASA.



Figure 8: MIASA Fellows at the Science 6 event at UG, Legon campus, September 2022

While all fellows of the second half of the calendar year 2022 were selected at the January 2022 AAB meeting, most individual, tandem and IFG fellows for the first half of the calendar year had been selected at an AAB meeting in June 2021, with the exception of one individual fellow and one tandem (both due to postponing the start of their fellowship). At the meeting in June 2021, out of 62 formally eligible applications for individual fellowships the MIASA directors considered 38 as promising for the evaluation by the AAB. The AAB selected eight candidates.

The only formally eligible tandem application received by MIASA was equally successful. In addition, one out of two IFG applications was selected.

In total, MIASA welcomed 29 fellows in 2022, covering a total of 121 fellow months. Among the 29 fellows, 14 were individual fellows who spent three to twelve months at MIASA (four continued their stay to 2023). In addition, three tandems were at MIASA, each for three to six months, out of which one tandem had already started the fellowship in 2022, and one continued to 2023. Furthermore, MIASA hosted two Interdisciplinary Fellow Groups (IFGs)



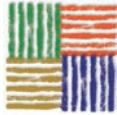
for each four months. IFG 6 on “Land governance in West Africa through interdisciplinary empirical lenses” was comprised of four fellows, who conducted their research at MIASA from May to August 2022. Five fellows were part of IFG 7, which addressed the issue of “Religious Diversity in Urban West Africa: Exploring Modes of Coexistence for Sustainable Governance” from September to December 2022.

At the moment of application, ten fellows were Germany-based, sixteen were Africa-based and one each was affiliated in France, UK and Switzerland, respectively. However, these statistics, although applied by all Merian Centres, do not always correspond with the highly transnational academic career of many fellows: Among those who were not considered as Germany-based, one had spent the longer part of her career in Germany (Prof. Julia Tischler), two had completed their PhD in Germany (Dr. Peter Narh and Dr. Musa Ibrahim), one had graduated and spent various research stays in Germany (Prof. Łukasz Stanek), and two had already been Alexander von Humboldt fellows (Prof. Basile Ndjio and Dr. Oluwayemisi Olusola Adebomi), while one was invited for a research stay to Germany shortly after the MIASA fellowship.

While the distribution of junior and senior fellows was very balanced (14 juniors versus 15 seniors), there was a rather uneven representation of female and male fellows (9 female versus 20 male) in 2022. MIASA always aims for a good gender balance, which is consistently considered by MIASA’s AAB in the selection of fellows. However, since the AAB selects fellows for an academic year, the distribution of female and male fellows over the calendar year can be imbalanced. Moreover, among the 30 evaluated individual candidates for 2022/23 only ten had been female. The final selection reflected exactly this proportion, but one of the female candidates did not accept the fellowship offer. Nevertheless, over the academic year 2022/23, the gender balance was re-established, as IFG 8 started with five female members in February 2023.



Figure 9: MIASA Fellows at the Science 6 event at UG, Legon campus, September 2022



The diversity of disciplinary backgrounds slightly increased from 2021 to 2022. In contrast to 2021, political science was dominant in 2022, with eight out of 29 fellows (but two had already started their fellowship in 2021, with only one month left in 2022). Other disciplines included anthropology (5 fellows), religious studies (3), geography, history and (socio-)linguistics (each 2) as well as African studies, archaeology, conflict studies, cultural studies, economics, environmental social science and sociology (each 1). The disciplines also represented a mix of social sciences and humanities.



Figure 10: MIASA fellows going out for lunch, July 2022



Figure 11: MIASA internal seminar with fellows, October 2022



Throughout the year, MIASA organised the MIASA Public lecture series as well as an internal research seminar. Both formats served fellows as a meeting point and an opportunity to intellectually exchange among each other. Fellows highly appreciated the feedback they received at these events, and they generously offered their questions and comments with co-fellows. In order to facilitate social exchange, some fellows created a MIASA WhatsApp-group in March 2022, which has been active since then. Fellows go out together for lunch, dinner or a drink, at times for an event on campus or elsewhere. For alumni, the platform has also allowed to keep in touch with new fellow cohorts.

Fellows benefitted from the academic environment at MIASA as well as from connecting with UG faculty and with other universities in Ghana. Even though opportunities to be part of seminars at other UG Departments and Institutes were limited during the second half of the year because of a university-wide strike, some fellows contributed to the weekly seminar series at the Institute of African Studies (Prof. Stanek, Prof. Hahn), a few were involved in UG-based graduate seminars (Prof. Hahn), many met with UG faculty members, and one junior fellow highly appreciated the possibility of interacting on a regular basis with a UG senior faculty member who served as a mentor, facilitated by MIASA. Moreover, Prof. Stanek and Dr. Dumbe created connections with KNUST in Kumasi. Prof. Stanek organised a research seminar in collaboration with the Department of Architecture and the Department of Planning, and Dr. Dumbe, himself a KNUST faculty member, created the necessary links for organising MIASA's first major event in Kumasi, the IFG 7 conference.

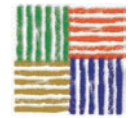
Lotje de Vries @lots2tweet · Jul 12, 2022
It's amazing to be offered some birdwatching right from my desk at @MIASA_UG office. What an amazing green space the Legon Campus is. I never observed a #kingfisher this closely and long.



Figure 12: Twitter-post by a MIASA fellow, July 2022, © @lots2tweet

Most fellows highlighted that the MIASA fellowship had offered them time and space for doing research and writing. Several underlined the value of interdisciplinary discussions and feedback, both at MIASA seminars and through more informal conversations with peers. Some thought that the linguistic mix of researchers was special at MIASA, in particular the way how the institute bridges cultural divides between franco- and anglophone scholars. All fellows appreciated that they had ex-

tended their networks during the fellowship, and sometimes had met also new friends. Fellows from the global North expressed how important it was to change perspectives, to



link with debates in the global South and to spend time with colleagues from African universities and research institutions. Several fellows admired “the beautiful green space of Legon Campus, [...] the birds, flowers and butterflies” (fellow report) and one described the MIASA experience similar to a “writing retreat, because the natural environment was so peaceful and conducive to producing good work” (fellow report).

Thematic fields and research findings

One of the guiding questions of MIASA “bears on how the practice of historically grounded social sciences and humanities in Africa can address sustainable governance as a theoretical and conceptual challenge likely to yield new answers to key societal problems” (quoted from the MIASA application for the main BMBF-funding phase). For this purpose, MIASA focuses on three main thematic corridors (peace and conflict; democracy; sustainability transformation) as well as on five intersectional topics (landownership; migration; restitution; African cities; human rights). In addition, MIASA is committed to three cross-cutting issues, i.e. knowledge production, female scholarship and bridging cultural divides. Research at MIASA does not perceive these topics as thematic boxes, but rather explores them in their interrelatedness. Both the research of MIASA fellows and thematic questions featured by MIASA events in 2022 have been a perfect example for this.

While the research of Interdisciplinary Fellow Groups (IFGs) at MIASA is central for strengthening the institute’s thematic focus, both IFGs in 2022 considered several thematic corridors and intersectional topics at the same time. MIASA understands governance as covering formal and informal rules, including practical norms established by non-state actors. The two IFGs in 2022 made this very explicit, including the basic question of who is setting the rules and following which logic. IFG 6 on “Land Governance in West Africa from Interdisciplinary Empirical Lenses” examined the intersectional topic of landownership. In addition, it emphasised how land issues are shaping African cities, and it demonstrated that the two big questions of how land governance is structured and who can be identified as the owner of land often become the source of conflict, conflicts which are sometimes related to experiences of migration. IFG 7 conducted research on “Religious Diversity in Urban Africa: Exploring Modes of Coexistence”. The focus of African cities was evident. However, IFG 7 also considered issues of migration, landownership, conflict and governance. Individual and tandem fellows contributed to these thematic fields, but also brought in additional topics which are central for MIASA’s research profile, including democracy, sustainability transformation, restitution and Human rights. MIASA events not only offered space for ample discussion of the two IFG themes, but also highlighted some of the other topics, in particular, restitution and sustainability transformation.



Figure 13: Seperewa player (Ghana Dance Ensemble) at the A. W. Amo Lecture, November 2022

African knowledge production

The cross-cutting issue of African knowledge production was highlighted in MIAASA's second Anton Wilhelm Amo Lecture, which was given by Prof. Sylvia Tamale (Makerere University) in November 2022. Prof. Tamale is an academic, author and human rights activist from Uganda, who, in 2024, was elected the first female Dean of the School of Law at Makerere University. Under the title of "Decolonising Knowledge Production in Africa", Prof. Tamale explained that "the Western way of thinking, being and doing" has been spread over the world for centuries and impacted institutions and everyday life. Prof. Tamale underlined that neither "the West", nor "Africa" were homogeneous categories. She argued, however, that knowledge production was at the core of domination. Thus, she asked, "how can we decolonise and democratise the epistemic space". For this purpose, she evoked five different fields: formal education, including the university; the concept of measuring time; the theory of development; gender relations; and the institution of the museum. With regard to these fields, she asked to rethink and to reinvent uncritically inherited knowledge production practices, to dismantle the reproduction of dominant ideologies, to bypass intellectual gatekeepers, and to flatten hierarchies. Prof. Tamale stressed that indigenous ways of knowing had to be valorised, and she acknowledged that, at times, they had been more efficient in explaining the world and protecting the environment than the knowledge provided by "so-called experts". The lecture was attended by a large audience, including members of MIAASA's Executive Council and Academic Advisory Board. The lecture was held at the Great Hall of the University of Ghana and streamlined through its social media channels. The event was opened by UG authorities and the German Ambassador to Ghana, and it was framed by a performance of the Ghana Dance Ensemble.

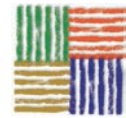


Figure 14: Prof. Sylvia Tamale (Makerere University), A. W. Amo Lecture speaker, November 2022

Some MIASA fellows also explicitly addressed the issue of knowledge production in their research. Prof. Julia Tischler and Prof. Łukasz Stanek examined the role of experts and the circulation of knowledge in their respective fields. Prof. Tischler looked at agricultural history in South Africa during the first half of the 20th century – a period, which was characterised by increasingly restrictive segregationist politics. Prof. Stanek studied the Africanization of the construction industry around Ghana’s Independence, during which the new political elite not only diversified the origin of contracts with foreign suppliers, but also aimed at employing African professionals, yet, facing the dilemma that this group was still small, and getting drawn into conflicts over competing ideas about the concept of “Africanization” itself in terms of racial difference, class conflict, ethnic identity, and gender norms. Other fellows, too, explored the divergent meanings of concepts. Dr. Mahamadou Bassirou Tangara questioned dominant theories on the “market” by analysing interactions and relations of market people at Bamako’s central market. In addition, Prof. Kodzo Gavua and Prof. Hans Peter Hahn, who formed a tandem, asked the conceptual question of “What is restitution?” by entangling perspectives from the South and the North. Furthermore, Dr. Abdul Gafar Oshodi centred his research around non-state actors and Chinese environmental footprints in Ghana with a reflection of research ethics, including the role and positionality of the researcher, the relation with those who share information for the research as well as the formalised procedures of ethical clearance, which can contribute to a more nuanced reflection on research ethics, but may also draw the researcher into a bureaucratic and at times normative process.



Land governance

The access to and the use of land are at the core of sustainable governance issues, and MIASA's IFG 6 on "Land governance in West Africa through interdisciplinary empirical lenses" (May–August 2022) demonstrated this. Yet, "sustainable" land governance in the sense of achieving simultaneous acceptance by various elites and population of how land access and ownership is organised proves to be a highly controversial field. IFG 6 showed that land ownership and acquisition have often been a multidimensional source of social, political, juridical, and economic tensions and conflicts. Though the territorial surface of most African countries is large and population density often low, arable lands are scarce, urbanisation is fast, and the availability of land suitable for building is limited. Many people do not have access to land, others lose it or have experienced forced resettlements. The four IFG 6 fellows – Dr. Lamine Doumbia, Dr. Peter Narh, Dr. Aly Tounkara and Dr. Austin Ablo – combined four disciplines – social anthropology, environmental social science, conflict studies and geography – and examined case studies in Burkina Faso, Mali, Ghana and Senegal in order to contribute to a better understanding of how urban and rural land in West Africa is distributed and how this may change.



Figure 15: IFG 6 co-convenor at IFG 6 conference with visiting researcher, Prof. Fatou Diop Sall (to the right), August 2022

The research of IFG 6 was accompanied by Prof. Kojo Amanor, Professor of Anthropology at the Institute of African Studies (UG), who has widely published on land, labour and land policy in Ghana and served as a mentor for the group members. Moreover, two visiting researchers, both accomplished experts in the field, one from an anglophone country, and one from a francophone one, guided the fellows in their reflection; Prof. Gaynor Paradza (University of the Witwatersrand) and Prof. Fatou Diop Sall (University Gaston Berger, Saint Louis). In August 2022, IFG 6 organised a final conference on "Land governance and conflict in West Africa", to which additional guests from Burkina Faso, Ghana and Mali were invited, including practitioners from regional lands commissions, delegates from customary institutions as well as representatives of grassroots organisation, which advocate for more equal land access.

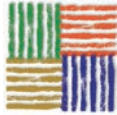


Figure 16: IFG 6 conference, visit at the Regional Lands Commission of Greater Accra, August 2022

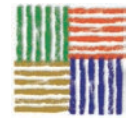
Four aspects were key for the reflection and findings of IFG 6:

1. Land governance in West Africa is characterised by legal pluralism, including state, customary and usufruct land regimes. In her conference keynote Prof. Paradza described that the state is often either absent or behaving inconsistently; law may allow something, customary law not; different land commissions may contradict each other. In practice, each individual understanding of land ownership bears its own challenges and social injustices, while the simultaneity of legal systems is adding numerous conflicts. The legitimacy of state-owned land has often been contested, but rural populations in some African countries also question why customary law should be between them and the state. Some argue that if the state would control the access to and management of land, this may avoid conflicts. Yet, others have observed that state interference has rather increased chieftaincy disputes.
2. IFG 6 compared case studies in Anglophone and Francophone Africa. In all countries, land law and access to land tenure are regulated by both customary and non-customary law, i.e. through a simultaneity of different normative practices and legal provisions. However, the large majority of land in Ghana is defined as customary land (80%, including family and stool land), and only 20% of land are state-owned, of which a large part is covered by the Akosombo Dam. In Burkina Faso, Mali, and Senegal, the state is the principal owner of land, but customary regulations based on communal land ownership have continued to exist in practice.



Figure 17: IFG 6 members during their fieldtrip to Kumasi, June 2022

3. Land disposition and governance have been dominantly legal procedurally oriented, with almost no socio-orientational approach (Dr. Narh). Customary land governance in Ghana has often promoted inequalities and the marginalisation of social groups, but large-scale land acquisition and investments have rather contributed to social conflict than reduced deprivation. Women have been largely marginalised as land owners, as shown by Dr. Aly Tounkara for the case of Mali and Ghana, despite their important role as farmers. Land reforms in Mali have aimed at facilitating women's access to land. However, customary practice has allowed for only very limited impact of legal reforms, in particular, in regard to rural contexts.
4. Independent of how landownership is conceived, commodification of land has become a major issue. IFG 6 considered it as their conceptional framework, underlining that the value of land cannot only be measured in monetary terms, but is embedded in complex socio-cultural contexts and institutions. A result of commodification is the large-scale acquisition of land, the construction of privatised cities, with very limited engagement with community members of whom many lose farmlands, as the example of Appolonia, an urban enclave in the outskirts of Accra, illustrates (Dr. Ablo Austin). At the same time, land claims based on customary concepts of "autochthony", as seen in land conflicts around Dakar's former inner-city airport, are equally informed by commodification, also for those who refer to their "ancestors'" land (Dr. Lamine Doumbia). Yet, monetary compensation has hardly ever met the sociocultural and economic needs of communities, and conflicts have persisted in most instances when compensation was applied (Dr. Peter Narh).



African cities and migration

Africa is still the least urbanised continent in the world, but overall, urbanisation is faster than elsewhere, in particular, in West Africa. Understanding rapidly changing cities is therefore key when reflecting on sustainable governance. Land ownership and access is one significant aspect when studying African cities, as this was demonstrated in 2022 by IFG 6 (see above). Moreover, mobility and migration impact urban contexts, including the experience of those who move to cities – within their home country or across borders – as well as of those who were born as city dwellers, but with a migration background in the second or third generation. IFG 7 examined this in more detail in 2022 (September–December) by focusing on “Religious Diversity in Urban West Africa: Exploring Modes of Coexistence for Sustainable Governance” and taking into consideration different aspects of mobility and migration, majority-minority relations, and urban infrastructures (material, immaterial and human). Research of several individual fellows further contributed to this reflection by exploring the built environment of cities and urban practices of city dwellers.



Figure 18: IFG 7 members, October 2022

The guiding question of IFG 7 addressed how people of diverse religions do co-exist in urban West Africa. IFG 7 was co-convened by two scholars from Ghana, Dr. Yunus Dumbo and Dr. Mariama Zaami, who were joined by three additional fellows, Dr. Issouf Binaté, Dr. Musa Ibrahim and Dr. Nadine Sieveking. The IFG members had different disciplinary backgrounds, including religious studies, geography and social anthropology. The case studies examined by IFG 7 included places known for relative stability (Accra, Dakar), but also regions which have experienced conflict in the last two decades (Northern Nigeria, Côte d’Ivoire). Yet, none



of the studies focused on violent conflicts. IFG 7 rather understood religious practice as one way of structuring people's urban life. Social tensions about the control over urban infrastructures and intersectional differences are part of this. However, the main research focus of IFG 7 was to explore how people negotiate these tensions on an everyday life basis without drawing into major conflicts. This was equally reflected at the IFG 7 conference, which was held in November 2022 in collaboration with the Centre for Cultural and African Studies (CeCAST) at KNUST, Kumasi, and in itself – with the presence of fifty religious leaders from the town – a demonstration of diversity.



Figure 19: IFG 7 conference at KNUST, Kumasi, with IFG members, November 2022

The research findings of IFG 7 addressed two major observations, which offer insights into lived coexistence in urban contexts:

1. IFG 7 insisted on deconstructing religious diversity, on not reducing it to a simplified juxtaposition of Christians, Muslims, and those who believe in African Traditional Religions, and on analysing diversity in a more nuanced way, which also means considering different ways of religious practice within these broad groups. While intra-religious tensions can be as high as inter-religious ones, both can also bear rather unexpected solidarities, as this was shown by Dr. Musa Ibrahim on the example of Shari'a-compliant Kano, where Shia-Muslims invite Christians to celebrate Christmas together, or solidarize with young people with Sunni-background, who define themselves as "cosmopolitan". Moreover, religious diversity is interlacing

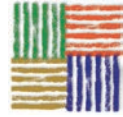


Figure 20: IFG 7 conference at KNUST, Kumasi, group picture of participants, November 2022

with other forms of diversity (ethnic, class, gender etc.). Dr. Yunus Dumbe showed the tensions within a Muslim community in Accra between urban newcomers and long-time urban dwellers. Occasionally, even one and the same person can embody religious diversity, as indicated by Dr. Mariama Zaami, who focused on life-histories of urban migrants who practiced Islam and Christianity, or Christianity and Africa Traditional Religions simultaneously.

2. For understanding how religious diversity works, it is helpful to examine urban sociabilities and religious organisations. Many religious encounters are experienced in everyday life, for example, when working together at the market, meeting at church on Sundays (Dr. Zaami), doing exercises together (Dr. Sieveking), and celebrating religious festivities together (Dr. Ibrahim; Dr. Binaté). Even on this very informal level, they mark the cities' spaces, publicly, or hidden in a closed room, through sound, or through embodied parades and performance. Once these encounters get more formalised in religious organisations, they also become platforms for competing influence and power, either on a very local level, such as within a Muslim community in Accra (Dr. Dumbe), or when involving transnational influence and soft power, such as examined by Dr. Issouf Binaté with the example of Turkish influence in Côte d'Ivoire through religious organisations.

In addition, several individual fellows addressed the topic of African cities, connecting it with the thematic field of mobility and migration. Dr. Eleanor Higgs analysed the interrelationship between Christian faith, feminism and transnational networks through the global Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) in the two cities of Johannesburg and Accra. Dr. Laure Carbonnel asked how (West) African migrants organise their everyday life in Accra. This question had been already raised in 2021 by Dr. Michael Stasik in a different way, but Dr. Carbonnel offered a new approach by focusing on nightclubs and dance parties in Accra which have been set up by and for the West African diaspora in the town. Dr. Carbonnel's research thus also related to IFG 7, as she, too, adopted the framework of sociability in order to better understand a fast-growing city. Dr. Basile Ndjio was interested in the impact of Chinese migrants in Douala, Cameroon's economic capital. His approach, however, was different, as he explored the architectural environment and how this has been increasingly influenced by Chinese building practices in recent times.



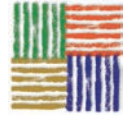
Finally, three other individual fellows contributed to the topic of African cities, but did not make the link with the thematic field of migration. Dr. Mahamadou Bassirou Tangara focused on Bamako through the lens of the market, thus linking up with the research of IFG 7 co-convener Dr. Zaami on Madina Market in Accra. In his largely conceptual work on the meaning of the market (see above), Dr. Tangara argued that economic theories were hardly adapted to explain the multiple social interactions at Bamako's main market. Prof. Eyo Mensah presented his research on female tricycle drivers in Lagos. Moreover, Prof. Łukasz Stanek examined the history of the building sector in Ghana. Apart from his interest in the transformation of knowledge in this field (see above), his study also showed how African elites in Accra imagined the city in new ways in the 1960s and 70s. Urban planners created new housing projects, which retrospectively can still serve as examples for how to build in a sustainable and climate-friendly way. In April 2022, Prof. Stanek organised a roundtable on the "Africanisation of Ghanaian Architecture, 1950s–2020s", to which he invited three Ghanaian architects from different generations, who discussed not only the aesthetics of architecture, but also the materiality of buildings and their adaptation to the environment. The intersection of environment and cities was equally addressed, but in a broader sense, by MIASA's international conference on "African Cities: Climate Change and the Search for Resilience" in Maputo in October 2022 (see further details below).



Figure 21: Łukasz Stanek at the Urban Research Workshop in Kumasi, March 2022

Restitution of cultural materials

The topic of restitution has become a central field within MIASA's research profile. Already in 2021, MIASA had hosted IFG 5, which had conducted research on this topic. In June 2022, MIASA organised a follow-up symposium together with MIASA's Principal Investigator Prof. Wazi Apoh. Prof. Bénédicte Savoy (Technical University Berlin) served as keynote speaker. She was staying at MIASA as a visiting researcher during that time. While IFG 5 had focused on a specific restitution claim from Kpando (Ghana), this symposium addressed the broader debate on how to put restitution into practice and which additional claims are related to it. For this purpose, the symposium allowed for a conversation between one of the leading



scholars in this field, Prof. Savoy, and central institutional stakeholders in Ghana, in particular, the UNESCO representative in Ghana, Abdourahamane Diallo, and the chair of the Ghanaian Focal Team for Reparation and Restitution, Prof. Kodzo Gavua (University of Ghana). In September 2022, the German Historical Institute Paris organised a workshop on “Epistemologies of Restitution – Transcultural Aphasia? Contradictions in the discourse about the restitution of African cultural material” with funding from the Max Weber Foundation, to which former IFG 5 members, visiting researchers and principal investigators were invited. In October 2022, Prof. Gavua and Prof. Hans Peter Hahn started a six-month tandem fellowship at MIASA, during which they reflected about the notions of restitution and reparation. Moreover, based on site-visits and meetings with museum directors in Accra, Abidjan, Lomé, Cotonou and Ouida, they drew the attention to the role of West African museums and cultural policies for restitution.



Figure 22: Symposium on "Restitution and Reparation Issues in Ghana" with Prof. Wazi Apoh, Prof. Bénédicte Savoy, Prof. Kodzo Gavua and Abdourahamane Diallo (from left to right)

Peace and conflict

MIASA fellows continued to explore the institute’s main thematic corridor on peace and conflict in 2022. While IFG 6 (land governance and conflict) and IFG 7 (religious diversity and coexistence in African cities) touched on this issue within their research (for both see above), three individual fellows explicitly studied the topic of peace and conflict in the context of borderlands. Dr. Nene-Lomotey Kuditchar examined the “Western Togoland” secessionist movement in Ghana’s Volta Region. Dr. Kelma Manatouma analysed the conflict in the Central African Republic in 2013, during which ten-thousands refugees crossed the border

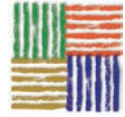


to Chad. Many of them had a Chadian migration background, but had lived in the Central African Republic for a long period or were even born there. In Chad, these refugees became politicised as “returnees” by national and regional elites, playing around identification politics and using them as potential voters for national elections. Dr. Lotje de Vries analysed centre-periphery dynamics by considering state-building, cross-border cooperation and transnational insecurities as well as military intervention in the borderlands of South Sudan, Senegal and Central African Republic. Her aim was to develop alternative approaches to understand conflicts from a people’s everyday life perspective, going beyond an only security framework.



Figure 23: MIASA Roundtable "From Maghreb to the Sahel" at the Department of Political Science, June 2022

Other fellows worked on geographic areas which recently have been marked by conflict. In a context where national laws and policies do not protect sexual minorities, Prof. Eyo Mensah described the discrimination, torture and killings of homosexual men in rural South-eastern Nigeria in terms of conflict and cultural violence, raising awareness of human rights deficits and social justice violations in the area. Dr. Aly Tounkara was a member of IFG 6, but also an expert in the Sahel conflict. In June 2022, he contributed to a roundtable on “From the Maghreb to the Sahel: Transnational Terrorism – New Trends and Dynamics”, which was organised by MIASA in collaboration with the Department of Political Science at UG. The roundtable allowed for a conversation between two anglophone scholars, based at the University of Ghana, MIASA principal investigator Dr. Seidu Alidu and Dr. Jalilu Ateku, and two francophone scholars, Dr. Tounkara from Bamako (Mali) and Prof. Ludovic Ouhonyioué Kibora (Institut des Sciences des Sociétés, Ouagadougou). They discussed the impact of French influence in many Sahel countries, the issue of military coups as well as contested perceptions of people affected by the conflict surrounding them, but also how Ghana



positioned itself in regard to its Northern neighbours and what could possibly contribute to drawing the conflict into the conflict or protect it. The discussion made clear that Ghana had to take the happenings in Burkina Faso and Mali seriously.



Figure 24: MIASA fellows, October 2022

Democracy

Democracy is the another one of three main thematic corridors at MIASA. In 2022, the topic was not addressed by an IFG, but by a tandem team and by several individual fellows. Dr. Anja Osei and Dr. Gbensuglo Alidu Bukari spent the last month of their three-month tandem fellowship at MIASA in January 2022. They focused on party primaries in Ghana and observed that party delegates consider a whole “package” of what a candidate can offer. Overall, people prefer candidates who are expected to serve the community. Usually, the social status and wealth of a candidate are important elements in this choice. Dr. Oluwayemisi Adebomi studied female political leaders in Ghana and Nigeria from a linguistic point of view. She was particularly interested in those women who had already run for president, which for both countries are very few with limited chances to get elected. Using critical discourse analyses, Dr. Adebomi examined their speeches, writings and social media posts and analysed how they express confidence and power.

Moreover, two fellows examined political ideologies and party programmes. Dr. Sa’eed Husaini criticised that literature has often reduced the discussion on political parties in Africa to the role of ethnicity, while he argued that it is worth to reflect on the multiparty system of Nigeria’s Fourth Republic in terms of party ideologies, studying different notions of “pro-



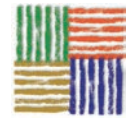
gressivism”, either in “Awo-style” (Obafemi Awolowo, early independence political leader known for his views on social welfare) or its “Buhari-ist” meaning (Muhammadu Buhari, Nigerian president from 2015–2023, stressing agricultural entrepreneurship). Dr. Sipiwe Dube examined recent trends of Black Conservatism in South Africa that parties for a Christian-centred restoration project in response to the country’s multiple crises. This New Right is mainly appealing an aspiring black middle-class in post-apartheid South Africa, offering a neo-liberal and politically conservative programme, based on religious convictions and inspired by neo-Pentecostalism. While Dr. Dube’s research focused on South Africa, he also raised the question of what the ideologies of the New Right may mean in practice for politics in contemporary Africa.



Figure 25: Poster presentation at the MIASA policy conference on “Policies for a Sustainable Rural Transformation in Africa” at ISSER, June 2022

Sustainability transformation

The third main thematic corridor of MIASA considers sustainability transformation, the interlinkage between environmental, societal and technological change. As a tandem Dr. Diana Ayeh and Dr. Tongnoma Zongo explored the politics of mine closures and the consequences of extractive activities in Burkina Faso and Guinea. The fast-growing mining sector in West Africa has also increased the number of abandoned mine site, which imply different challenges, including the loss of jobs for local communities and groundwater contamination. The tandem pointed to the need to address these issues beyond a purely legal approach and to understand the social dynamics around mine closures. Dr. Abdul-Gafar Oshodi analysed the ecological footprint of Chinese entrepreneurs, in particular, in the gold mining sector in Ghana, but also in other sectors such as fishing and mining of bauxite. In a context where government action has been weak to achieving sustainable environmental



governance, Dr. Oshodi was mainly interested in the response of non-state actors, who have become an important voice to make people aware of environmental threats. Contributing to the field of environmental history, Prof. Julia Tischler studied agricultural education in the first half of the 20th century in South Africa (see also above on experts and African knowledge production).



Figure 26: Poster presentation at the "African Cities" conference at the Eduardo Mondlane University, Maputo, October 2022

Two major events equally considered MIASA's thematic area of sustainability transformation. In June 2022, MIASA organised its first policy conference on "Policies for a Sustainable Rural Transformation in Africa" in collaboration with the Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research (ISSER) and the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA). The conference aimed at discussing policy-relevant insights into rural land-labour rela-

tions, small-holder farming, large-scale investments, commercialisation, and supply chains. In October 2022, the Eduardo Mondlane University of Maputo hosted a MIASA conference on "African Cities: Climate Change and the Search for Resilience", convened by three geographers from Ghana and Mozambique (Prof. Alex Barimah Owusu, Prof. Charlotte Wrigley-Asante and Prof. Ines Macamo Raimundo). The conference drew attention to numerous challenges which African cities face in the context of climate change, including inner-city floods, coastal erosion and heat waves, facing the challenge that the more urban areas will grow, the more they accelerate these problems, because of reducing permeable and green surfaces, poor water management systems and increasing emissions from transport. Prof. Owusu mentioned that for Accra alone, average surface temperature has increased at 6°C within the last thirty years.

Early career development

One of MIASA's overarching goals is to support early career scholars in the social sciences and humanities who are based in Africa. Two annual events serve this purpose. In April 2022, the Goethe University Frankfurt organised its second MIASA Writing Workshop for which Prof. Akosua Darkwah (Department of Sociology, UG) served as the convener. Her team of mentors and editors was comprised of mostly Ghanaian scholars from UG (Dr. Seidu Alidu, Prof. Abdulai Abdul-Gafaru, Prof. Simon Bawakyillenuo) and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) (Prof. George Meyiri Bob-Milliar) as well as one scholar



from Babcock University, Nigeria (Prof. Olajumoke Yacob-Haliso). The workshop addressed the topic of “Governance, Conflict Resolution and Climate Change” and brought together early career scholars from seven African countries. One of them was MIASA fellow (Dr. Tangara), who later successfully applied for a fellowship. The workshop focused on the question of “what makes a strong paper?” (identifying a gap in the literature, making an original contribution, using data that support the argument), but also introduced to the “world of publishing” (local versus international journals, rankings, impact factors as well as publishing process and peer-reviews).



Figure 27: MIASA Writing Workshop, MIASA Director 'Ghana', Prof. Charlotte Wrigley-Asante, presenting the institute, April 2022

In September 2022, the German Historical Institute Paris conducted its fifth MIASA Female Academic Careers in Africa Workshop, which for the first time took place at the University of Ghana and was organised in collaboration with the Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy (CEGENSA). The call attracted an extremely high response with more than 700 applications from all over Africa, of who twenty were selected. The workshop included a coaching seminar, a public roundtable and the presentation of a documentary film “When Women Speak” by Aseye Tamakloe (2022) on the Ghanaian women’s movement of the 1960s and 70s. Naa-Aku Acquaye-Baddoo, who has over 25 years of international experience as an Organisation and Relationship Systems Coach, animated the coaching workshop, which included a reflection on individual working landscapes, relationships, analysis and networks, the way how power relations interfere with this and how to address them, an exercise on work-life balance and a roadmap for future milestones. A public roundtable focused on “Women’s Leadership in Academia: Perspectives from Social Sciences and Humanities in Africa”, allowing for a discussion on leadership in academia and creating work-life-family balance.



Figure 28: MIASA Female Academic Careers in Africa Workshop, September 2022



Figure 29: Female Academic Careers in Africa Workshop, public roundtable with Dr. Aidas Sanogo, Dr. Georgina Owusu, Prof. Adobea Yaa Owusu and Dr. Sharon Omotoso (from left to right), September 2022



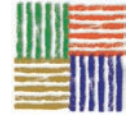
Figure 30: MIASA Female Academic Careers in Africa Workshop, participants and conveners, September 2022



Figure 31: Participants of the MIASA policy conference on "Policies for a Sustainable Rural Transformation in Africa" at ISSER, June 2022



Figure 32: Participants of IFG 6 conference on land governance, August 2022



Events: overview

MIASA Public Lecture Series

Date: 8 March to 12 July and 20 September to 15 November 2022

Total of 15 lectures in 2022

Format: Lecture Series

Venue: MIASA seminar room and online

Responsible partner institution (budget): University of Freiburg

Objectives: Highlighting MIASA's residential fellows, discussing research of fellows with a broader (international) audience; see detailed programme below

Internal seminar ('jour fixe')

Date: 17 February to 15 December 2022

Total of 21 sessions in 2022, including 17 seminar sessions, 3 sessions on MIASA and campus tour, 1 session with Dr. Mareike König (GHIP) on research data management

Format: Research seminar, only onsite

Venue: MIASA seminar room

Objectives: MIASA fellows present their ongoing research based on a pre-circulated, very short paper; only with fellows; at times inviting additional guests; discussing preliminary findings; at times general sessions

Urban Research Workshop: The KNUST Campus and its Environs

Date: 18 March 2022

Format: Workshop with invited guests and students

Venue: Department of Architecture, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST)

Organizer: Prof. Łukasz Stanek (MIASA Senior Fellow, University of Manchester)

Responsible partner institution (budget): University of Freiburg (research funds)

Extern: Decolonizing Knowledge Production: Perspectives from the Global South

Date: 2 to 4 April 2022

Format: International conference

Venue: Guadalajara and online

Organizer: Merian Centre for Advanced Latin American Studies (CALAS), Guadalajara

Objectives: MIASA participated virtually in a panel on "Knowledge Production" together with representatives of other Merian Centres; networking with Merian Centres

MIASA Writing School: Governance, Conflict Resolution and Climate Change

Date: 25 to 29 April 2022

Format: workshop

Venue: Yiri Lodge, UG, only onsite



Responsible partner institution (budget): Goethe University Frankfurt
Convener: Prof. Akosua Darkwah (Department of Sociology, UG)
Objectives: Accompanying early career postdoctoral researchers and lecturers based in Africa in how to develop efficient writing strategies, strengthening writing skills, developing Africa-based academic networks, enhancing submission success rate

African Studies Association Germany Conference (VAD)

Date: 7 to 10 June, 2022

Venue: University of Freiburg, Germany

Organizer: Africa Centre for Transregional Research (ACT), University of Freiburg

Responsible partner institution (budget): University of Freiburg

Objective: MIASA directors, fellows and alumni participated in several panels and organized a display table during the conference

Restitution and Reparation Issues in Ghana: Experiences from the Past – Perspectives for the Present and Future

Date: 16 June 2022

Format: Symposium

Venue: Nketia Conference Hall, Institute of African Studies, and online

Responsible partner institution (budget): University of Freiburg

Conveners: Prof. Wazi Apoh (Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies, UG) and Dr. Susann Baller (GHIP/ MIASA)

Collaboration: School of Arts, UG

Objectives: Follow-up event of IFG 5 on “Restitution”, special guest speaker Prof. Bénédicte Savoy (Technical University Berlin), visiting researcher at MIASA; interacting with Ghana Focal Team of Restitution and Reparation; continuing cooperation with Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies and MIASA principal investigator Prof. Wazi Apoh

From the Maghreb to the Sahel: Transnational Terrorism – New Trends and Dynamics

Date: 21 June 2022

Format: Roundtable

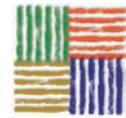
Venue: Kofi Drah Conference room, Department of Political Science, and online

Responsible partner institution (budget): University of Freiburg

Conveners: Dr. Susann Baller (GHIP/ MIASA) and Dr. Maame Adwoa Appiaah Gyekye-Jandoh (Department of Political Science, UG)

Speakers: Dr. Aly Tounkara (Université des Lettres et des Sciences Humaines de Bamako), Prof. Ludovic Ouhonyioué Kibora (Institut des Sciences des Sociétés, Ouagadougou), Dr. Seidu Alidu (Department of Political Science, UG) and Dr. Jalilu Ateku (Department of Political Science, UG)

Collaboration: Department of Political Science, UG



Objectives: Continuing cooperation with Dept. of Political Science and MIASA principal investigator Dr. Seidu Alidu, creating a forum for an anglo-francophone academic exchange on the issue of the Sahel conflict

Policy Conference: Policies for Sustainable Rural Transformation in Africa

Date: 22 to 23 June 2022

Format: International conference

Venue: ISSER conference room and online

Responsible partner institution (budget): GIGA

Conveners: Prof. Jann Lay (GIGA), Dr. Fred Dzanku (ISSER, UG)

Collaboration: ISSER, UG

Objectives: Event within the MIASA policy conference series, aims at bring academic research and practitioners together for discussing topical issues within the thematic frame of MIASA

Extern: Day of Scientific Renaissance in Africa

Date: 27 June 2022

Format: External onsite event with MIASA participation

Responsible partner institution (budget): University of Freiburg

Organizer: College of Humanities, UG

Venue: University of Freiburg

Objectives: MIASA organized a roundtable discussion in recognition of the Day of Scientific Renaissance in Africa and had a display table at the main event on 27 June 2022

Interdisciplinary Fellow Group (IFG 6): Land Governance and Conflicts in West Africa

Date: 18 to 19 August 2022

Format: Conference, onsite at UG and online

Responsible partner institution (budget): University of Freiburg

Collaboration with: Institute of African Studies

Conveners: Dr. Lamine Doumbia and Dr. Peter Narh

Objectives: Final workshop on IFG 6 research outcomes and discussion with external specialists; interaction with practitioners, including a visit at the Ghana Land Commission

Female Academic Careers in Africa Workshop

Date: 7 to 9 September 2022

Format: Workshop

Venue: Yiri Lodge, UG

Responsible partner institution (budget): German Historical Institute Paris

Convener: Dr. Susann Baller, (DHIP/ MIASA), Prof. Charlotte Wrigley-Asante (MIASA/ UG),

Dr. Grace Diabah (MIASA/ UG) und Dr. Deborah Atobrah (CEGENSA, UG)



Collaboration: Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy (CEGENSA), UG

Objectives: Building academic networks among early career female academics, inter-generational transmission of experiences, reflection on work environment and self-positioning

Extern: Epistemologies of Restitution – Transcultural Aphasia? Contradictions in the Discourse on the Restitution of Cultural Materials

Date: 12 to 13 September 2022

Format: Workshop, onsite and online

Venue: German Historical Institute Paris

Convener: Dr. Stefanie Michels (Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf), Dr. Gertrude Aba Mansah Eyifah-Dzidzienyo (UG), Dr. Robert Heinze (GHIP), Dr. Susann Baller (GHIP/ MIASA)

Collaboration: German Historical Institute Paris, funded by Max Weber Foundation

Objectives: bringing the reflections of IFG 5 (restitution) to the GHIP and creating further exchange also with other MIASA partner, in particular, from the University of Freiburg, supporting the process of finalising the IFG 5 working paper

Extern: Science Six Meeting Accra (University of Ghana)

Date: 13 September 2022

Format: Roundtable discussion

Organizer: Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Accra

Venue: School of Law, UG

Responsible partner institution (budget): University of Freiburg

Objectives: MIASA Director Dr. Susann Baller participated in a roundtable discussion on prospects and challenges on German-Ghanaian academic cooperation; MIASA organized a display table

Extern: GLOBE22

Date: 10 to 15 October 2022

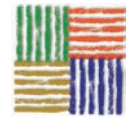
Format: Science market with presentations and roundtables

Organizer: Wissenschaftsfestival Leipzig

Responsible partner institution (budget): University of Freiburg

Venue: University of Leipzig and virtual

Objectives: MIASA participated virtually in a presentation on the effects of climate change in the cities/countries of the Merian centres together with other Merian centres; MIASA showed a 6-minute documentary on urban heat in Accra



Extern: Science Six Meeting Kumasi (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology)

Date: 20 October 2022

Format: Roundtable discussion

Organizer: Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Accra

Venue: Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST)

Responsible partner institution (budget): University of Freiburg

Objectives: MIASA Director Dr. Grace Diabah participated in a roundtable discussion on prospects and challenges on German-Ghanaian academic cooperation; MIASA organized a display table

African Cities: Climate Change and the Search for Resilience

Date: 24 to 26 October 2022

Format: Conference, onsite and online

Venue: Eduardo Mondlane University Maputo and online

Responsible partner institution (budget): Goethe Univ. Frankfurt

Conveners: Prof. Alex Barimah Owusu (Department of Geography and Resource Development, UG), Prof. Charlotte Wrigley-Asante (Department of Geography and Resource Development, UG), Prof. Ines Macamo Raimundo (Eduardo Mondlane University, Maputo)

Collaboration: Eduardo Mondlane University, Maputo and Point Sud

Objectives: MIASA's "roadshow" conferences take place at different sites in Africa by using the already established networks of Point Sud; each conference addresses one of MIASA's key topics

Interdisciplinary Fellow Group (IFG 7): Religious Diversity in Urban Africa: Exploring Modes of Coexistence

Date: 2 to 4 November 2022

Format: Conference

Venue: Kwame Nkrumah Univ. of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi

Responsible partner institution (budget): University of Freiburg

Collaboration: Centre for Cultural and African Studies (CeCAST), KNUST

Conveners: Dr. Yunus Dumbo and Dr. Mariama Zaami

Objectives: Final workshop on IFG 7 research outcomes and discussion with external specialists; interaction with practitioners, including around fifty representatives of different religious groups in Kumasi



Anton Wilhelm Amo Lecture: Decolonizing Knowledge Production in Africa

Date: 23 November 2023

Format: Annual lecture

Venue: Great Hall, UG, and online

Responsible partner institution (budget): University of Freiburg

Collaboration: Department of Philosophy and Classics and Institute of African Studies (UG)

Organising committee: Dr. Grace Diabah (UG/ MIASA), Dr. Susann Baller (GHIP/ MIASA), Dr.

Richmond Kwesi (Department of Philosophy and Classics, UG), Dr. Chika Mba (Institute of

African Studies, UG), Prof. Charlotte Wrigley-Asante (Department of Geography and

Resource Development, UG), Prof. Abena Oduro (Department of Economics, UG), Prof.

Dzodzi Tsikata (Institute of African Studies, UG)

Objectives: annual major event at UG, reflection on African knowledge production

Sustainability in Use: Bureaucratic Processes and Technology Use in Africa

Date: 12 to 13 December 2022

Format: Workshop

Venue: German Historical Institute Paris and online

Convener: Dr. Robert Heinze (GHIP)

Collaboration: German Historical Institute Paris, funded by Max Weber Foundation

Objectives: bringing together research fields from the Transnational research group, Dakar, the GHIP and MIASA; creating networks and interconnections



Figure 33: MIASA fellows honouring Prof. Dzodzi Tsikata, MIASA Executive Council chair, at her Inaugural Lecture, May 2022



Public lecture series

Date	Name	Title
8 March	Dr. Anja Osei & Dr. Gbensuglo Alidu Bukari	Party Primaries in Ghana: A Conjoint Survey Experiment
15 March	Dr. Nene-Lomotey Kuditchar	Ablode! The Axis of Extremist Discontent of the Western Togoland Secessionist Movement in Ghana: The Old, the New and the Grey
29 March	Prof. Julia Tischler	The Kingdom of Mealies – Agriculture, rural reform, and the «race question» in South Africa, c. 1900-1940s
12 April	Dr. Tongnoma Zongo & Dr. Diana Ayeh	Negotiating Mine Closure in West Africa
19 April	Chair: Prof. Łukasz Stanek	Round Table: Africanisation of Ghanaian Architecture, 1950s-2020s With the participation of Emmanuel Oko Adjetey, Kojo Derban & Ruth-Anne Richardson
26 April	Dr. Oluwayemisi Olusola Adebomi	Power Expressions in the Computer-Mediated Political Discourses of Select Ghanaian and Nigerian Female Politicians
24 May	Dr. Eleanor Higgs	Narrative, identity, and ethics: Theoretical considerations informed by decolonial feminisms
31 May	Dr. Mahamadou Bassirou Tangara	Processus marchands au marché de Bamako au-delà des théories économiques
28 June	Dr. Lamine Doumbia, Dr. Peter Narh, Dr. Aly Tounkara & Dr. Austin Dziwornu Ablo	Round Table: Land Governance in West Africa Through Interdisciplinary Empirical Lens

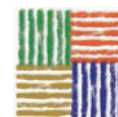


5 July	Dr. Sipiwe Dube	Economic Ascendance is/as Moral Rightness: The New Religious Political Right in Post-apartheid South Africa
12 July	Prof. Lotje de Vries	Appropriating the frontier; Securing development

20 September	Dr. Sa'eed Hussaini	A case of convergence? Rethinking governing party ideology in Nigeria's Fourth Republic
4 October	Dr. Abdul Gafar Oshodi	Between (and beyond) Stonebwoy and Aisha Huang: Towards understanding non-state actors (NSA) and Chinese environmental footprints in Ghana
18 October	Prof. Basile Ndjio	Sino-African urbanism: Chinese architecture of capital and the mercantilist spirit in the city of Douala
15 November	Dr. Kelma Manatouma	Maintaining order in everyday life: Sociology of identity control at roadblocks in Chad



Figure 34: MIASA internal research seminar with fellows, May 2022



Fellows and guests: overview

Individual fellows

Name	Senior/ Junior	Fellow- months	Discipline and Project title	Country at the moment of application and affiliation
Dr. Oluwayemisi, Adebomi	J	5	Linguistics	Nigeria: Federal University of Technology, Akure
			A Corpus-based Exploration of the Computer-mediated Political Discourses of Select Nigerian and Ghanaian Female Politicians	
Dr. Stanek, Łukasz	S	4	History	United Kingdom: University of Manchester
			The Africanization of Ghanaian Construction Industry, 1952-1966	
Dr. Kuditchar, Nene-Lomotey	J	4,5	Political Sciences	Ghana: University of Ghana
			Reciprocity and Extremism in the Context of a Stable African Democracy: The Ghana Western Togoland Secessionist Movement in Perspective	
Prof. Tischler, Julia	S	3	History	Switzerland: University of Basel
			'The Kingdom of Mealies': Agricultural Progressivism in Segregationist South Africa, 1900-1950	
Dr. Tangara, Mahamadou Bassirou	J	5	Economics	Mali: Institut Universitaire de Développement Territorial (IUDT), Bamako
			Comportements des agents économiques au marché de Bamako: au-delà des théories économiques	
Dr. Higgs, Eleanor	J	3	Religious Studies	Germany: Bayreuth Academy (University of Bayreuth)
			Christianity and Feminism in YWCA Discourse: Perspectives from Accra and Johannesburg	



Dr. Dube, Siphiwe	S	3	Political Studies	South Africa: University of the Witwatersrand
			Economic Ascendance is/as Moral Rightness: The New Religious Political Right in Post-apartheid South Africa	
Prof. de Vries, Lotje	S	3	Sociology	Germany: GIGA & Wageningen University, Netherlands
			Appropriating the frontier; Securing development	
Dr. Manatouma, Kelma	J	6,5	Political Science	France: Université des Antilles
			Dynamics of the re-composition of national and transnational identities in the Central African crisis in Chad	
Dr. Husaini, Sa'eed	J	5	Political Science	Nigeria: Center for Democracy and Development, Abuja
			Progressivism and Mobility in Nigeria's Fourth Republic	
Dr. Oshodi, Abdul-Gafar	J	6 (1 in 2023)	Political Science	Nigeria: Lagos State University
			Governance from below? Non-state actors and Chinese environmental footprints in Africa – The case of Ghana	
Prof. Ndjio, Basile	S	6 (1 in 2023)	Anthropology	Germany: FRIAS & University of Douala, Cameroon
			Orientalising African urban space: Chinese property development and architectural innovations in the city of Douala, Cameroon	
Prof. Mensah, Eyo	S	12 (7 in 2023)	Sociolinguistics	Germany: FRIAS & University of Calabar, Nigeria
			Ritual cleansing practices of homosexual men in rural Nigeria: Discourses of violence and discrimination	



Dr. Carbonnel, Laure	S	12 (8 in 2023)	Anthropology	Germany: GHIP
			Arts in the making of pan African collectives. Malian diaspora cultural practices in Accra	
		61		

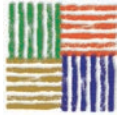
Tandem fellows

Name	Senior/Junior	Fellow-months	Discipline	Country at the moment of application and affiliation
Dr. Osei, Anja	S	3 (2 in 2021)	Political Sciences	Germany: University of Konstanz
Dr. Bukari, Gbensuglo Alidu	J	3 (2 in 2021)	Political Sciences	Ghana: University of Education Winneba
	Project title:		Candidate Selection in Ghana: An Experimental Study of Delegates: Preferences in Party Primaries	
Dr. Ayeh, Diana	J	4	African Studies	Germany: Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ)
Dr. Zongo, Tongnoma	J	4	Political Sciences	Burkina Faso: Institut des Sciences des Sociétés (INSS), Ouagadougou
	Project title:		Negotiating Mine Closure in West Africa	
Prof. Hahn, Hans Peter		6 (3 in 2023)	Anthropology	Germany: Goethe University of Frankfurt
Prof. Gavua, Kodzo		6 (3 in 2023)	Archaeology	Ghana: University of Ghana
	Project title:		What is restitution? Entangled perspectives from the South and the North	
		16		



Interdisciplinary fellow group (IFG)

Name	Senior/ Junior	Fellow- months	Discipline	Country at the moment of application and affiliation
Dr. Doumbia Lamine	J	4	Anthropology	Germany: GHIP
Dr. Narh, Peter	J	4	Environmental Social Science	Ghana: University of Ghana
Dr. Ablo, Austin	S	4	Geography	Ghana: University of Ghana
Dr. Tounkara, Aly	S	4	Conflict Studies	Mali
			IFG 6: Land Governance in West Africa through interdisciplinary empirical lenses	
Dr. Dumbe, Yunus	S	4	Religious Studies	Ghana: Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi
Dr. Zaami, Mariama	S	4	Geography	Ghana: University of Ghana
Dr. Sieveking, Nadine	S	4	Anthropology	Germany: University of Leipzig
Dr. Ibrahim, Musa	J	4	Cultural Studies	Ghana: Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi
Dr. Binate, Issouf	S	4	Religious Studies	Côte d'Ivoire: Université Alassane Ouattara, Bouké
			IFG 7: Religious Diversity in Urban West Africa	
		44		



Fellow statistics

Total number of fellows

Total 29

Total number of fellow months

Total: 121

Countries of current or last institutional affiliation of fellows

Germany:	10	Nigeria:	3
Ghana:	8	Côte d'Ivoire:	1
South Africa:	1	Switzerland:	1
Mali:	2	UK:	1
Burkina Faso:	1	France:	1

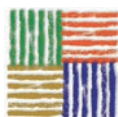
Germany-based: 10
 Africa-based: 16
 Other: 3

Junior / Senior Fellows:

Junior Fellows: 14
 Senior Fellows: 15

Female/ Male Fellows:

Female: 9
 Male: 20



Main disciplines of fellows:

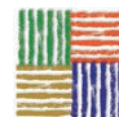
Political Science:	8	African Studies:	1
Anthropology:	5	Archaeology:	1
Religious Studies:	3	Conflict Studies:	1
Geography:	2	Cultural Studies:	1
History:	2	Economics:	1
(Socio)linguistics:	2	Environmental Social Science:	1
		Sociology:	1

Visiting researchers

Name	Institutional affiliation	Dates of the visit
Prof. Savoy, Bénédicte	Technical University Berlin, Germany	15.06.–28.06.2022
Prof. Diop Sall, Fatou	Université Gaston Berger, Saint Louis, Senegal	08.08.–20.08.2022
Dr. Paradza, Gaynor	University of Witwatersrand, South Africa	08.08.–20.08.2022
Prof. Tayob, Abdulkader	University of Cape Town, South Africa	29.10.–13.11.2022
Prof. Sarr, Assan	Ohio University, Athens, USA	28.10.–11.11.2022

Mentors

UG Faculty	School/ department	Period	'Mentee'
Dr. Lomotey, Benedicta Adokarley	Department of Modern Languages	March–May 2022	Junior fellow
Prof. Amanor, Kojo	Institute of African Studies	May–August 2022	IFG 6



Team and governance bodies

Academic Advisory Board (AAB)

Name	Affiliation
Prof. Catherine Boone	London School of Economics
Prof. Andreas Eckert	Humboldt University Berlin
Prof. Ruth Hall	University of the Western Cape
Prof. Elisio Macamo	Basel University
Prof. Birgit Meyer	Utrecht University
Prof. Francis Nyamnjoh	University of Cape Town
Prof. Paul Nugent	University of Edinburgh
Prof. Fatou Sow	Dakar, Senegal
Prof. Bjorn Wittrock	Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study
Prof. Tadesse Zenebework	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Executive Council (EC)

Name	Affiliation	Comments
Prof. Dzodzi Tsikata	University of Ghana	To July 2022
Prof. Abena Oduro	University of Ghana	
Prof. Andreas Mehler	University of Freiburg	EC spokesperson and speaker for the German consortium in 2022
Prof. Bernd Kortmann	University of Freiburg	
Prof. Mamadou Diawara	Goethe University Frankfurt	
Prof. Jann Lay	German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA)	



Prof. Thomas Maissen	German Historical Institute Paris (GHIP)	
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Directors

Name	Position	Affiliation	Comments
Prof. Charlotte Wrigley-Asante	MIASA Director 'Ghana'	University of Ghana	To July 2022
Dr. Diabah, Grace	MIASA Director 'Ghana'	University of Ghana	From August 2022
Dr. Susann Baller	MIASA Director 'Germany'	German Historical Institute Paris (GHIP)	Based in Accra

Team

Name	Position	Affiliation	Comments
Dr. Schneider-Musah, Agnes	Academic Coordinator	University of Freiburg	Based in Accra
Bichlmaier, Johanna	Administrative Coordinator	University of Freiburg	To July 2022
Hanenberg, Luca	Administrative Coordinator	University of Freiburg	From November 2022
Dr. Scholze, Marko	Goethe University of Frankfurt MIASA event support	Goethe University of Frankfurt	
Adu, Rebecca	Senior Administrative Assistant	University of Ghana	
Adamtey, Ophelia	Cleaner and messenger	University of Ghana	

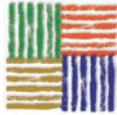
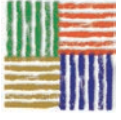


Figure 35: MIASA directors and academic coordinator, administration and fellows, 2022





Abbreviations

AAB	Academic Advisory Board
ABI	Arnold Bergstraesser Institute
ACT	Africa Centre for Transregional Research
BMBF	Federal Ministry for Education and Research, Germany
CALAS	Maria Sibylla Merian Center for Advanced Latin American Studies
CeCAST	Centre for Cultural and African Studies
CEGENSA	Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy
DFG	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation)
EC	Executive Council
FRIAS	Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies
GHIP	German Historical Institute Paris
GIGA	German Institute for Global and Area Studies
ICAS:MP	R. Tagore International Centre of Advanced Studies 'Metamorphoses of the Political
IAS	Institute of African Studies
IFG	Interdisciplinary Fellow Group
ISSER	Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research
KNUST	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi
MECILA	Maria Sibylla Merian Centre Conviviality-Inequality in Latin America
MECAM	Merian Center for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb
MIASA	Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa
PAPA	Pilot African Postgraduate Academy
STIAS	Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies
TRG	Transnational Research Group
UBIAS	University-based Institute of Advanced Studies
UDS	University of Development Studies, Tamale
UG	University of Ghana
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
VAD	German African Studies Association