

THE WI-FI TREE

Intercultural topologies of multilingualism in West Africa

What is a Wi-Fi tree? And why is an institutional partnership named like this? The Wi-Fi tree is indeed a Baobab tree under which Internet reception is excellent and where the participants of the partnership spent their free time during a workshop in Lomé to stay in touch with the rest of the world. The Wi-Fi tree is a perfect symbol of a networked, modern and intercultural world under an analogue African tree, traditionally a place of encounters and exchange.

The trilateral cooperation between the Chair of Intercultural German Studies at the University of Bayreuth (Germany), the Department of German Studies at the University of Abomey-Calavi (Benin) and the German Department at the University of Lomé (Togo) has been funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) as Institutional German Studies Partnership since 2017. The focus of the partnership is on research into intercultural topologies of multilingualism with special emphasis on the German language in African contexts.

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This includes the study of historical and recent relationship structures (“networks”) including their implications and potentials related to language policy, social, economic and religious aspects as well as corresponding competitive and conflictual situations from an African and a German perspective.



Do you have any questions, proposals or suggestions for cooperation, joint research or the development of new networks? Please do not hesitate to contact us.



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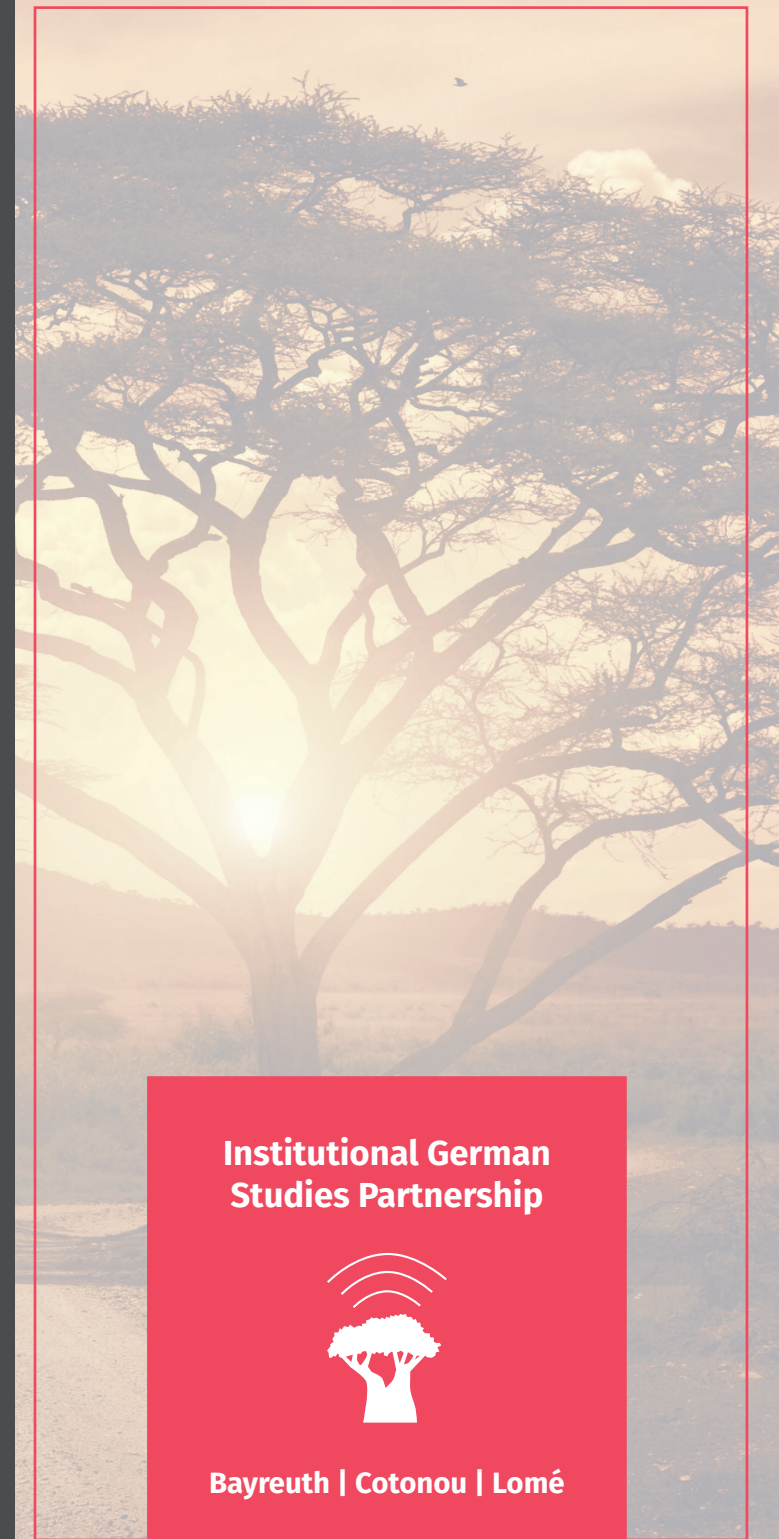
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Institutional German Studies Partnership



Bayreuth | Cotonou | Lomé

ABOUT US



UNIVERSITÄT
BAYREUTH



Research and studies – three countries in exchange

- Bayreuth (Germany, Europe)
- Cotonou (Benin, West Africa)
- Lomé (Togo, West Africa)

Main emphasis: Interculturalism in a trilateral cooperation

- To establish strong Intercultural German Studies in teaching and research with a social impact
- To offer multiple perspectives
- To foster intercultural communication between German, French and English speaking societies
- To create an understanding for concepts of work ethics and organisation in different societies

GOALS

- Promotion of the mutual exchange of experiences
- Enhancing intercultural competences
- Research on questions relating to African contexts in the frame of German linguistics and literary studies
- Strengthening research and teaching of Intercultural German Studies
- Transfer of knowledge through the exchange of teaching material
- Organisation of joint international events
- Training of cultural mediators



MEASURES

- Ongoing development of the curricula in the German departments with regard to the labour market
- Implementation of a labour market analysis in Benin and Togo
- Development of a virtual library for teaching and research in Benin and Togo
- Guest lecturers and research visits
- Joint scientific colloquia and publications

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

- "Challenges at the age of globalisation / nationalisms for German Studies in West Africa"
- "Intercultural linguistics and literary studies in multilingual African contexts"
- "Germany - (West) Africa: Cultural encounters in the colonial and postcolonial age"