

## Personal Profile

### Portrait

I am a professor in anthropology with a focus on aesthetics. I studied cultural anthropology, philosophy and psychology at the universities of Tübingen and Mainz, then did my PhD on consumption and scarcity in rural Niger. Since 2006, I strongly engage in research on popular music, with Madagascar being my main fieldwork site.

In my ongoing research, I try to understand aesthetic dimensions of music experience within the framework of “existential anthropology”, asking how what is experienced in music is rendered meaningful in relation to everyday life. With this, I am striving to better understand how music and aesthetic experience more generally interrelate with individual as well as social practices. The regional foci of my work are Africa and the Indian Ocean, with a special focus on Madagascar.

### Academic Career

#### ACADEMIC CAREER

**since 4/2017** “Vertretungsprofessor“ („substitute professor“) at Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz

**2015 - 2017** “Vertretungsprofessor“ („substitute professor“) at the anthropology departments of the universities of Freiburg, Köln and Bayreuth

**6/2014 – 3/2017** “Akademischer Oberrat“ (‘advanced’ assistant professor) at the department of anthropology, University of Bayreuth

**1/2014** “Habilitation“ in anthropology, with a thesis on *Heavy Metal in Madagascar. Anthropology, Aesthetics, and Popular Music*, University of Bayreuth

**11/2010 - 10/2012** Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellow, European Union (IOF/FP7 People), at the Department for Ethnomusicology, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)/USA and Fachgruppe Ethnologie, University of Bayreuth, Germany

**7/2006 - 5/2014** “Akademischer Rat“ (assistant professor) at the department of anthropology, University of Bayreuth

**11/2005** PhD in anthropology, with a thesis on consumption, culture and scarcity in a Hausa village in southern Niger (*Der Mangel an Mitteln. Konsum, Kultur und Knappheit in einem Hausadorf in Niger*), University of Bayreuth

**7/2000 – 6/2006** Research assistant in a research project on consumption in Westafrica entitled *Local Consumption in Global Contexts: Consumption and Acquisition of Goods in Three Westafrican Societies*, in the context of the Collaborative Research Center (SFB 560) *Local Action in Africa in the Context of Global Influences*, University of Bayreuth (financed by the German Research Council, DFG)

**8/1999 – 3/ 2000** Research assistant in a research project on the history of anthropology in Germany entitled *Tact and Taboo. Constructing Selves and Others in Germany*, in the context of the Collaborative Research Center (SFB 511) *Anthropology and Literature*, University of Konstanz (financed by the German Research Council, DFG)

**7/ 1999** MA in anthropology, with a thesis on magic and sorcery in southern Niger (*Alltägliche Zauberei. Über Sinn und Symbolik magischen Handelns bei den Hausa in Niger*), University of Tübingen

**1991 – 1999** Studies in cultural anthropology, philosophy, psychology, geography, musicology, and african languages at the universities of Tübingen and Mainz