

## Personal Profile

Carola Lentz is professor of social anthropology at the Department of Anthropology and African Studies at Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz. Her research focuses on West Africa (Ghana and Burkina Faso), and she is particularly interested in the relations between ethnicity and nationalism, the symbolic construction of nations, the politics of memory, elite biographies and the emergence of African middle classes. She is currently fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin) and leading a focus group “Family history and social change in Africa” (2017-18); together with Isidore Lobnibe she is writing a book on changing memories in a Ghanaian extended family of which both authors are members. Furthermore, she is member of the interdisciplinary research group “Un/doing differences: Practices of human differentiation” (coordinator: Stefan Hirschauer), heading the research project “Performing the nation and sub-national differences in African national days”. After conducting PhD fieldwork in Ecuador, on labour migration and ethnicity, she has been engaged, since 1987, in research in Ghana and Burkina Faso on ethnicity, the history of chieftaincy and colonial history, land rights, labour migration, the politics of belonging, and middle-class and elite biographies.

In June 2014, she has been appointed member of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities. Since January 2016, she is secretary of the Academy’s Social Science Class. From 2011 to 2015, she has been president of the German Anthropological Association.

Her recent publications include the co-authored monograph *Remembering Independence* (London: Routledge 2018, with David Lowe) and *Land, Mobility and Belonging in West Africa* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press 2013) for which Lentz has received the Melville J. Herskovits Award from the African Studies Association as best English-language scholarly work on Africa published in 2013; *Ethnicity and the Making of History in Northern Ghana* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2006) as well as several edited volumes: *Ethnologie im 21. Jahrhundert* (edited together with Thomas Bierchen and Matthias Krings, Berlin: Reimer, 2013); *Staatsinszenierung, Erinnerungsmarathon und Volksfest. Afrika feiert 50 Jahre Unabhängigkeit* (edited together with Godwin Komes, Frankfurt/Main: Brandes & Apsel, 2011); and *Landrights and the Politics of Belonging in West Africa* (edited with Richard Kuba, Leiden: Brill, 2006). She has published numerous articles in leading international journals. She was, during many years, co-editor of the “African Social Studies” series at Brill Publishers, and is currently member of the editorial boards of *Africa* and *Paideuma*.

Before coming to Mainz in 2002, Carola Lentz held assignments at Free University Berlin (1987-93) and Goethe University Frankfurt/Main (1995-2002). She was awarded fellowships at the Institute for Advanced Study and Research in the African Humanities at Northwestern University (USA) (1993), the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences (Wassenaar) (2000-1) and the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University (USA) (2008-9). In 2012–13 she was fellow of the International Research Centre “Work and Human Life Cycle in Global History” at Humboldt University (Berlin); in 2015, she had a three-month fellowship at the Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg/Hanse Institute for Advanced Study in Delmenhorst (Germany), and 2017-18 she is fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. Furthermore she taught as part of the ERASMUS-Program at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Marseille and at Roskilde University in Denmark.

Carola Lentz received her PhD in sociology from the University of Hannover in 1987, and her habilitation in anthropology in 1996 from the Free University of Berlin.