

**ANJA OED** wrote evaluation reports and references for the DAAD and acted as an external examiner for a Ph.D. thesis submitted to the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

**UTE RÖSCHENTHALER** is a member of the coordinating committee of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Völkerkunde and involved in the organisation of the next biennial conference taking place in September 2011 at Vienna. She held a replacement professorship at the Institut für Ethnologie, Free University Berlin, for the winter semester of 2009/2010 and at the Institut für Ethnologie, Goethe University Frankfurt, for the winter semester of 2010/2011. She also co-supervised the projects of six African doctoral students (from Cameroon, Mali and Ghana) affiliated with the cluster of excellence "The Formation of Normative Orders". She has been a research fellow in the project "Media in Africa" (directed by Mamadou Diawara) of the cluster of excellence 243 "Formation of Normative Orders" at the Goethe University Frankfurt since May 2008.

**KATJA WERTHMANN** is a member of the executive committee of the African Studies Association Germany (Verein für Afrikawissenschaften, VAD e.V.).

## EXCURSIONS AND STUDENT FIELD RESEARCH



Doing research on an island ... , September 2010  
Photo: Eva Spies

From August till October 2010 a group of five M.A. students, supervised by Eva Spies, did field research in Antananarivo, Madagascar, on **CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANITIES IN MADAGASCAR**. The students did their fieldwork in contexts such as a Lutheran revival movement, a faith-based non-governmental organisation and a Pentecostal church.

Since the winter semester of 2009/2010 a group of nine students had been preparing research on the upcoming '**GOLDEN JUBILEE**' **CELEBRATIONS OF AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE**. In the course of 2010, the students conducted fieldwork on the independence celebrations in **BENIN**, the **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**, **MADAGASCAR**, **MALI** and **NIGERIA**. As participant observers among organising committees, media representatives, artists, and civil society organisations, they were able to gain remarkable insight into the preparation and realisation of the independence celebrations on a comparative basis. The project is co-ordinated by Carola Lentz and cooperating closely with the doctoral research group on "The Poetics and Politics of National Commemoration in Africa". In cooperation with the public relations department of the JGU, the students regularly published first-hand reports on their findings on a special website of the university (<http://www.uni-mainz.de/36193.php>). A book-length publication of research findings is intended for autumn 2011.



Celebrating Independence Day in Cotonou, Benin, June 2010. Photo: Marie-Christin Gabriel