

### **Venue**

Senatssaal  
Naturwissenschaftliches Institutsgebäude  
Anselm Franz von Bentzel-Weg 12  
55128 Mainz

### **Dinner**

Restaurant Ludwigsbahn  
Mainzer Straße 62  
55124 Mainz-Gonsenheim

### **Convenors**

Katja Werthmann  
Ute Röschenthaler

### **Organization committee**

Afra Schmitz  
Mareike Späth  
Konstanze N'Guessan  
Jan Budniok

## **Ways of Belonging in Africa: The Dynamics of Differentiation**

**A symposium for and with  
Carola Lentz**



**Friday, May 2, 2014  
Johannes Gutenberg University  
Mainz**

## Theme

The symposium deals with an acute and politicized topic: the definitions of belonging in Africa. Current dynamic processes of differentiation bring about new social formations such as emerging middle classes or global diasporas, but also political fragmentation and antagonisms. Individuals or groups can use ways of belonging in order to legitimate claims to material or immaterial resources, but not every form of belonging is relevant in every social situation. Plural membership is the normal case and can engender dilemmas. The symposium aims at reflecting on the entanglement of various forms of collective identities and the claims and delimitations they entail. The construction of ethnicity, for instance, is based both on historical forms of belonging and on the „invention of tradition“; it can serve as self-identification as well as for legitimizing claims to land or political participation in the local and national arena; the borders of these arenas are results of processes of inclusion and exclusion that are in turn based on constructions of ethnicity and nationality; access to those arenas is related to knowledge and power resources; the respective actors compete with one another through strategies of distinction such as education or consumption preferences etc. The symposium brings together several research strands that have been intensively pursued at the Department of Anthropology and African Studies at Mainz University, especially in projects initiated by Carola Lentz.

## Programme

Time	Roundtable	Participants	Chair
14:00	Welcome	Andreas Dafinger, Budapest; Marie-Christin Gabriel, Mainz; Richard Kuba, Frankfurt/M., Konstanze N'Guessan, Mainz; Katja Werthmann, Leipzig	Achim von Oppen, Bayreuth
14:30-16:00	Land rights, property and ethnicity		
16:00-16:15	Coffee Break		
16:15-17:45	State, nation and memory politics	Erdmute Alber, Bayreuth; Jan Beek, Mainz; Sebastian Bemile, Accra; Anna-Maria Brandstetter, Mainz; Godwin Kornes, Mainz	Thomas Bierschenk, Mainz
17:45-18:00	Coffee break		
18:00-19:30	Emerging elites, middle classes, and consumption	Andrea Behrends, Halle/Saale; Jan Budniok, Mainz; Andrea Noll, Mainz; Paul Nugent, Edinburgh; Ute Röschenhaler, Frankfurt, M./Mainz	Matthias Krings, Mainz
19:30	Conclusion	Ute Röschenhaler, Frankfurt, M./Mainz; Katja Werthmann, Leipzig	
20:00	Dinner	Restaurant „Ludwigsbahn“	
	Laudatio	Peter Geschiere	