

The symposium marks the retirement of our highly reputed colleague, Thomas Bierschenk. He has been a Professor at the Institute for Anthropology and African Studies (ifeas) in Mainz since 1997 and has served as Dean of the Faculty (07 - History and Cultural Studies) since 2014. For sure, it is not a farewell from university life, but more so an occasion to discuss and debate - issues, ideas and concepts - both old and new.

Where?

Linke Aula
Alte Mensa 1312
Johann-Joachim-Becher-Weg 5
55128 Mainz

Contact

To ease planning, we ask those interested in participating to send a confirmation to: bureaucracy@uni-mainz.de by **10 January 2019**.

Organisers

Heike Drotbohm
Eva Riedke
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Annalena Kolloch
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Bureaucracies Blueprints in Practice

15 FEBRUARY 2019

Department of Anthropology
and African Studies (ifeas)
Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz



JGU

ZIS

Zentrum für
Interkulturelle
Studien MAINZ

Freunde
der Universität
Mainz e.V.



Bureaucracies. Taken literally, bureaucracy is the rule by public office ('bureau'). Understood so, it is yet not limited to state authorities, but also alive in private organisations. The symposium focuses on encounters that unfold with bureaucrats and bureaucracies, the practices of public servants and the delivery of public services. The routine, mundane, everyday seemingly inconsequential practices are very much part thereof and seen as essential for the functioning of bureaucratic apparatuses.

Blueprints. The symposium connects debates spun by the anthropology of bureaucracies and those spun by the anthropology of development. Latter has for long engaged with the production of development policy models, developed and put into practice in one context, and then taken up, implemented, adapted and transformed in another context. Responding to the unboundedness that the notion of 'models' quickly acquires, Thomas Bierschenk offered the notion of 'blueprints' with its connotation of a (technical or organizational) plan (of action).

Practice. Anthropologists for long had the tendency to treat the formalism that characterizes bureaucracy as a structural given that lies beyond the realm of human agency. There is now a far keener awareness of the manner in which this is constantly made and remade, questioned, confirmed, constructed and re-constructed. The symposium engages, so the title, with 'blueprints in practice'. How blueprints travel through multinational, state and private bureaucracies, state apparatuses and NGOs, are unpacked and repacked by experts, development brokers, street level bureaucrats and eventually also the 'bureaucratic subjects' themselves.

WE ASK

- How does the study of travelling blueprints enrich our study of bureaucrats and bureaucracies, allowing important and hitherto ignored aspects to come into view?
- How do such studies still work to complicate the monolithic image of the 'failed state' commonly associated with bureaucracies of the Global South?
- How do contemporary blueprints differ from past forms?
- And methodologically, what new approaches are gaining currency in the field? How are materiality, affect and emotion providing new vantage points from which to study travelling blueprints and bureaucracies?

PROGRAM

9:00 – 9:20 | Welcome

Head of Department & Symposium Organisers

9:20 – 09:40 | Reflections

Thomas Bierschenk

09:40 – 10:00 | Travelling blueprints and the challenge of pragmatic implementation contexts

Jean-Pierre Olivier de Sardan

10:00 – 10:30 | coffee & tea break

10:30 – 10:50 | Fragments de vie partagée: administrer le travail scientifique au quotidien

Mahaman Tidjani Alou

10:50 – 11:10 | Spanner in the Works

Nikolaus Schareika

11:10 – 12:00 | Open Discussion

12:00 – 13:30 | lunch break

13:30 – 14:15 | Round Table Discussion

Pierre-Yves Le Meur

Andrea Behrends

Amanda Hammar

Jean Pierre Chauveau

Peter Geschiere

14:15 – 15:00 | Open Discussion

16:00 | Festive Reception

Linke Aula, Alte Mensa 1312

20:00 | Party

Lomo Bar/Restaurant

Ballpl. 2, 55116 Mainz