

Acknowledgements

This volume originated from a series of three workshops and panels in 2019 (at the University of Cologne, the European Conference of African Studies in Edinburgh, and the conference of the German Anthropological Association in Konstanz) that brought together anthropologists and Africanist scholars from universities in Africa and Germany. They jointly discussed and reflected upon the relevance, challenges and potentials of social and cultural anthropology as a discipline at African universities, teaching and research collaborations within and beyond the continent, and the production of actionable knowledge and job opportunities. The workshops and panels' primary aim was to share experiences and visions of how to decolonise the academy and to learn from each other's practices and collaborations. The participants included: Munzoul Assal, Heike Becker, David Bogopa, Michael Bollig, Pierre Boizette, Rosabelle Boswell, Daniele Cantini, Yntiso Deko Gebre, Ayodele Jegede, Erik Mutisya Kioko, Thomas Kirsch, Patience Mutopo, Romie Nghitevelekwa, Isaac K. Nyamongo, Sung-Joon Park, Michaela Pelican, Ciraj Rassool, Claudia Rauhut, Nikolaus Schareika, Kira Schmidt, Antoine Socpa, Cordula Weißköppel, Ulrike Wesch, Karim Zafer. While not all participants contributed to this volume, the chapters certainly profited from in-depth discussions throughout the workshops.

It took a while to complete the volume. After the workshops and panels in 2019, most authors were confronted with the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic. During 2023, we succeeded in bringing all contributions together, commented upon them as an editorial team and sampled the final versions of the papers. Taking the volume forward to its final, publishable state, a number of people assisted. Carola Jacobs and Jonna Bienert helped organise the workshops and panels early on. Kim Crowder copy-edited all the chapters. Through the latter stages of the publication Sarah Mund, a researcher at the University of Cologne, accompanied the becoming and finalisation of the volume.

Painstakingly, Sarah worked on the proofread and references and facilitated the final layout of the volume. She was assisted by Juliana Hagmann when controlling the bibliography for completeness and style.

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This edited volume is the result of these ongoing conversations. In addition to the authors in this volume, we thank all the colleagues who participated in the workshops and panels and enriched our discussions with their insightful contributions.

The editorial team: Michaela Pelican, Karim Zafer, Michael Bollig