



FROBENIUS-INSTITUT
FÜR KULTURANTHROPOLOGISCHE FORSCHUNG
AN DER GOETHE-UNIVERSITÄT FRANKFURT

Call for applications

Masterclass with Francis B. Nyamnjoh (Cape Town) Incompleteness and mobility, reflexivity and anthropology

June 29th – 30th 2023, Frankfurt a.M.

Masterclass

Francis B. Nyamnjoh is this year's guest to deliver the renowned Ad.E. Jensen Memorial Lectures at the Frobenius Institute for Research in Cultural Anthropology (Frankfurt a.M.), under the title "Incompleteness, mobility and conviviality". In tandem with this lecture series, this masterclass held by Francis B. Nyamnjoh, will give young researchers the opportunity to present their work and discuss it with him. The masterclass is free of charge, but places are limited, and registration is required. We invite young researchers (Master's and PhD students) to apply.

Outline

It is fascinating how central to anthropological perspectives and theorizing are incompleteness and mobility as universal attributes of peoples, cultures and communities. By incompleteness, I mean how anthropology can only generate a partial view of its subject. By mobility, I mean the mobility of both the anthropologist and his or her subject in our increasingly mobile world. How anthropologists write about identities can be very insightful about the assumptions they make or share regarding incompleteness, mobility, encounters and representation. The history of the discipline is nourished with myriad examples of theorizing as if completeness were possible and attainable, and mobility and encounters just the preserve of an elite few. In this seminar, you are invited to explore questions such as:

- To what extent has social anthropology been shaped by the emergence of the mobile anthropologist as the authoritative outsider?
- How has that authoritative grip been renegotiated by the changing acceptance of the reality of the mobile 'native' as an anthropological subject?
- To what extent have anthropologists been open and accommodating of the anthropological gaze from within the ranks of their mobile 'others', which the privileged anthropological gaze used to study as already mapped out and frozen in particular field locations or 'cultural areas'?
- To what extent is reflexivity accepted in anthropology and by anthropologists, and with what implications?
- Do authors such as Arjun Appadurai, Achille Mbembe, Mwenda Ntarangwi or Faye Harrison contribute anything useful to theorizing the centrality of incompleteness, (im)mobility and reflexivity in social anthropology?

Application details

Please send an abstract of your research (250 words maximum) and the questions you would like to discuss to Holger Jebens (Jebens@em.uni-frankfurt.de) by 30 April 2023.

This masterclass is being organized by the Frobenius Institute with support from the Hahn-Hissink'sche Frobenius Foundation.



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