Prof. Dr. Lena Partzsch

BA "Africa Uprising: Power, Protest and Movements" (in English)

Students can contact Ms. Lazo via email for the Moodle access code (angelika.lazo_marchena@uni-erfurt.de).

WebEx live stream sessions - https://uni-erfurt.webex.com/meet/lena.partzsch

- Monday, 4 May, 10:15-11:45h
- Fri, 12 June, 12:15-13:45h (extra session in German with Knud Vöcking, Urgewald)
- Mon, 15 June, 14:15-15:45h (Daniel May, GIZ)

Course assignments

1. 1st brief on case selection due on Friday, Friday, 15 May (100-200 words)
2. Moodle chat on Doherty and Doyle (2018), question on Monday, 18 May, at least two comments until Friday, 22 May
3. 2nd brief on narratives due on Monday, 25 May (100-200 words)
4. 3rd brief on (un-) fair trade and ethical consumption due on Monday, 8 June (100-200 words)
5. Moodle chat on Jansen (2004)/three questions for Daniel May, upload before 12 June
6. 4th brief on definition of Sub-Saharan civil society due on Monday, 22 June (100-200 words)
7. Moodle chat on Bush (2010), question due on Monday, Friday, 22 May, at least two comments Friday, 3 July
8. 5th brief on postcolonial protest and theory due on Monday, 13 July (100-200 words)

Description:

Africa has been, and still is, often ignored within mainstream debates over power, protests and movements. This silence derives in part from long-standing Western narratives on Africa as too rural, too traditional, and too bound by ethnicity for modern political protest to arise. Although the continent’s long absence from the debate is not surprising, it is entirely unjustified. In this course, in a first block, we study how global civil society is constituted and how international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as Friends of the Earth International (FoEI), have started reorienting themselves more towards the global South. We deal with charity and fair trade initiatives on behalf of Africa, and reflect these efforts against existing narratives on the continent in the global North. In a second block, we look at protests, movements and NGOs in a range of African countries (Ethiopia, South Africa). Finally, we bring global movements and African protest back together again by studying recent postcolonial movements in Germany. We will do a city tour with ‘Decolonize Erfurt’ and discuss the need and adequacy for German Political Science to deal with Africa.

Participation in this seminar requires the willingness to actively contribute, for example, in small online group work and discussions. All texts provided for the course need to be read. Each student is asked to prepare a case study of a movement or NGO either dealing with, or being based in, Africa (Pruefungsleistung) in parallel to the course (see more details below).
# Schedule (preliminary)

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<td><strong>Mon, 4 May</strong>&lt;br&gt;WebEx online meeting!</td>
<td>10:15-11:45</td>
<td><strong>Introduction, Case Studies &amp; Organizational Issues</strong>&lt;br&gt;Please join the first session to understand the rationale of the course!&lt;br&gt;There will a recording available on Moodle.&lt;br&gt;<strong>Optional:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Flyvbjerg, Bent. 2006. „Five misunderstandings about case-study research.” <em>Qualitative Inquiry</em> 12 (2): 219–45.&lt;br&gt;<a href="https://ssrn.com/abstract=2230464">https://ssrn.com/abstract=2230464</a></td>
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<td><strong>Mon, 11 May</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Power, Politics and Global Civil Society</strong>&lt;br&gt;Please read and work with at least one of the following texts:&lt;br&gt;Chandhoke, Neera. 2005. „How global is global civil society?“. <em>Journal of World-Systems Research</em> 11 (2): 355–71. doi:10.5195/JWSR.2005.388&lt;br&gt;Gereke, Marika und Tanja Brühl. 2019. „Unpacking the unequal representation of Northern and Southern NGOs in international climate change politics.“ <em>Third World Quarterly</em> 40 (5): 870–89.&lt;br&gt;doi:10.1080/01436597.2019.1596023&lt;br&gt;<strong>Guiding questions for both groups:</strong>&lt;br&gt;• How is global civil society defined in each article? (Which typologies are introduced?)&lt;br&gt;• Why do North-South asymmetries exist and matter?&lt;br&gt;(1) Please select one movement or NGO (or particular campaign or project) in Africa, or working on Africa, for several exercises in class and your written assignment (‘your case’). Take notes and prepare a small brief answering the ‘wh questions’ (who, what, why, when etc.) with 100-200 words! Upload it to Moodle before Friday, 15 May (“Case studies and written assignments”)!</td>
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<td><strong>Mon, 18 May</strong>&lt;br&gt;Chat in Moodle</td>
<td>10:15-11:45</td>
<td><strong>International Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Africa</strong>&lt;br&gt;Please read and prepare a question to the following text (answer should be provided by the text but can be controversial):&lt;br&gt;Doherty, Brian und Timothy Doyle. 2018. „Friends of the Earth International: Agonistic politics, modus vivendi and political change.” <em>Environmental Politics</em> 27 (6): 1057–78.&lt;br&gt;doi:10.1080/09644016.2018.1462577&lt;br&gt;(2) Assignment for 18 May (only d) until 22 May):&lt;br&gt;a) Write down your question in the chat section in Moodle (“Case studies and written assignments”)!&lt;br&gt;b) Formulate the answer provided by the text (ca. 2 sentences)!&lt;br&gt;c) Tell us if you agree or disagree, and why you do so (ca. 2 sentences)!&lt;br&gt;d) React to at least two other questions and comments until Friday, 22 May.&lt;br&gt;Please make sure that you indicate your name after your entries in the Moodle chat!</td>
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| Guiding questions: |               | • What are narratives, and why do they matter?  
• Which narratives are reproduced in the context of the DRC (and Liberia), and why are they problematic?  
(3) Please research which narratives are reproduced in your case study!  
Take notes and prepare a small brief with 100-200 words! Revise your first assignment (find comments on Moodle) and upload both the first and this second brief in one file to Moodle until Monday, 25 June! |
| Mon, 1st June   | No Course     | Public Holiday (Pentecost)                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Mon, 8 June     | 10:15-11:45   | Africa and Fair Trade Movements  
Please read and prepare:  
| Guiding questions: |               | • What is “fair trade” (definition)?  
• What is the problematic relation between developed and developing countries in global trade? And does fair trade provide a solution?  
(4) Please research if there is a (un-) fair trade and ethical consumption component in your case study! Take notes and prepare a third small brief with 100-200 words! Revise your previous assignments (find comments on Moodle) and upload altogether in one file to Moodle until Monday, 8 June! |
| (Extra session in German)  | (Friday) 12:15-13:45 | [Extra session in German]  
NGOs als Agenda-Setters  
GAST: Knud Vöcking, Urgwald e.V.  
Please check out the NGO’s homepage for preparation: www.urgewald.org  
Optional:  
| Mon, 15 June    | WebEx online meeting! 14:15-15:45 | Action Alliance for Sustainable Bananas (ABNB)  
GUEST: Daniel May, GIZ  
Please check out the ABNB website: https://www.bananenbuendnis.org/en/  
(5) Please prepare three questions based on the following text(s) for the discussion with Daniel May. Write down your questions in the Moodle chat, before 12 June (so that we have time to sort and categorize the questions before the online meeting):  
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| **Mon, 22 June** | 10:15-11:45 | **Civil Society in Sub-Saharan Africa**  
Please read and prepare at least one of the following texts:  
**Guiding questions:**  
1. How do the authors define ‘civil society’?  
2. How and why is civil society special in Sub-Saharan Africa?  
3. Does this apply to your case study too? Take notes and prepare a small brief with 100-200 words! Revise your previous assignments (find comments on Moodle) and upload altogether in one file to Moodle until Monday, 22 June! |
| **Mon, 29 June** | 10:15-11:45 | **What Feeds Protest Participation in Sub-Saharan Africa?**  
Please read and prepare three questions to the following text (answers should be provided by the text but can be controversial):  
**Optional:**  
(7) Assignment for 29 May (only task d) until 22 May):  
a) Write down your question in the chat section in Moodle (“Case studies and written assignments“)!  
b) Formulate the answer provided by the text (ca. 2 sentences)!  
c) Tell us if you agree or disagree, and why you do so (ca. 2 sentences)!  
d) React to at least two other questions and comments until Friday, 3 July. |
| **Mon, 6 July**  
*City walk (on your own)!* | | **Africa-related Protest in Germany**  
Please check out the website of “Decolonize Erfurt!” and take the physical city walk alone, or if allowed at the time being, with another student:  
https://decolonizeerfurt.wordpress.com  
https://decolonizeerfurt.wordpress.com/physischer-stadtrundgang/  
**Please read and prepare:**  
While walking through the city, reflect upon the course topics and think about what should change in African-German relations and research! |
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<td>Mon, 13 July</td>
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<td>Take some notes! If you like, you can share your thoughts on this website: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/decolonizeef/">https://www.facebook.com/decolonizeef/</a></td>
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<td>Social Movements and/in the Postcolonial &amp; Final Reflection</td>
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<td>Please read the following text and compare it to your notes from last week:</td>
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Exam and grading (case study as written assignment/homework)

Please select one movement or NGO (or particular campaign or project) in Africa, or working on Africa, for several exercises in class and for your written assignment/homework. There are eight assignments during the course. For 3 pt., you need to only upload these assignments to Moodle (you pass with 50%; no grade). For 6 pt., please research additional literature and write an assignment/homework of 2,500-3,000 words (ca. 12 pages, including references). This written assignment/homework should build upon and include the briefs prepared in parallel to the course. Please elaborate on the themes discussed in the course, i.e. constitution of global civil society, inclusion of Southern perspectives by international NGOs, reproduction of narratives on Africa, (un-) fair trade and ethical consumption, specificities of civil society and origins of protest in Sub-Saharan Africa, and postcolonial protest and theory. Use the texts provided for the course as well as additional secondary literature (research articles etc.) and primary sources (homepages, interview transcripts etc.) and provide references! You can find a scientific reference style here: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/%28ISSN%291748-5991/homepage/ForAuthors.html (under “References”).

Please upload the written assignment/homework and send it to lena.partzsch@uni-erfurt.de, until 10 August 2020 (preferably as word document, or as pdf file otherwise)!

References


