

# 5th Biennial Network Conference

Münster, 16. - 19. September 2015

## Call for panellists: Fishbowl discussion

### **“African European Studies: Aims, scope and disciplinarity”**

Saturday, 19 September, 11-12:30pm

What is ‘African European Studies’ supposed to mean? What are its research aims, scope, uses, and limitations? Which methodologies are being/should be used? Which discipline(s) does/should it connect with?

In order to discuss these foundational questions in an open forum, we are soliciting panellists. During this fishbowl discussion, the panel of active speakers will consist of five people at any one time. Three of these are permanently on the panel, for the entire length of the discussion. The other two places on the panel will be filled with members of the audience who join as active speakers for part of the time and will be replaced by other audience members on a rotating basis.

We are looking for three permanent panellists. You are invited to prepare a statement (c. 5–10 minutes) which outlines your position on one or several of the following issues:

- Does ‘African European’ refer to one or several socio-cultural formations? If so, to which one(s)? Demographic? Political? Aesthetic? Consumerist? What are the implications of the term?
- Where can it be located: In Africa, Europe, or both? What is the ‘Africa’ in ‘African European,’ and what is the ‘Europe’ in ‘African European’? How are the two connected? If the term evokes a multiplicity of locations, how do these different locations – and their different languages – shape the way we understand ‘African European’? Do we also need to look beyond these locations, e.g. to global political alliances, global popular culture, cyberspace?
- Who gets to define ‘the African European’? How, and for which purposes? How are power imbalances and conflicting political agendas played out here?
- Inasmuch as ‘African European Studies’ is a distinct academic research field, what is its methodology and scope? How does it connect with various relevant academic disciplines? How does the term ‘African European’ interact with ‘Afropolitanism’, ‘Afrofuturism’, ‘cosmopolitanism’, ‘postcolonialism’, and ‘diaspora’?
- If ‘African European’ questions go beyond academic inquiry, what exactly is their relationship to activism, politics, and everyday life?
- Are there concrete examples where the concept ‘African European’ can be particularly meaningful or problematic? E.g. for the understanding of certain activist projects, films, literary texts, musical works?

If you are interested in becoming one of the three permanent panellists, please send us an email ([afroEuropeans2015@gmail.com](mailto:afroEuropeans2015@gmail.com)) detailing your name and/or field of practice (e.g. social activism, art, academia, school teaching...) and, where applicable, affiliation (e.g. organization in case of social activists, institution & discipline for academics/school teachers). Panellists will be confirmed on a rolling basis, so it would be best to declare your interest early – and no later than 15 August 2015. Submitting an abstract or similar written statement in advance is not required. It is enough if panellists prepare their 5–10 minute oral statement in time for the actual discussion.

Those who are interested to participate as rotating audience members do not need to write to us in advance, but may just turn up. Their statements do not need to be as long or as formalized, but should touch on similar (or related) issues.

Those who want to know more about the Fishbowl format can find information on: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fishbowl\\_\(conversation\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fishbowl_(conversation))

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[www.wwu.de/afroeu2015](http://www.wwu.de/afroeu2015)

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