






AFRIKA UND ÜBERSEE

Trilingual Journal of African Languages and Cultures
Revue trilingue des langues et cultures africaines
Dreisprachige Zeitschrift für afrikanische Sprachen und Kulturen

Volume 93

Editorial

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DOI: 10.15460/auue.2021.93.1.220

Editorial

Submitted: 29.12.2020

Accepted: 30.12.2020

Published: 31.12.2020

Recommended citation:

Kießling, Roland, Viktoria Kempf, Ludwig Gerhardt & Henning Schreiber. 2020. Editorial. *Afrika und Übersee* 93. 1–2.

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Published by Hamburg University Press

Editorial

The present 93rd issue of *Afrika und Übersee* marks the journal's first open-access online appearance in a long series of print publications ranging back to the first issue of 1910. Indeed this debut in the online world marks the latest break in the journal's history that has seen many breaks before, most of them marked by onomastic corrections reflecting major geopolitical and ideological changes, as from the initial *Zeitschrift für Kolonialsprachen* (vol. 1–9) to *Zeitschrift für Eingeborenen-Sprachen* (vol. 10–35) and *Afrika und Übersee* (vol. 36–present). While the current name of the journal eliminates all pejorative connotations of the prior ones, it might again seem outdated to some – the *Übersee* component being restricted to Madagascar. However, *Afrika und Übersee* has been retained as a brand name, in order to avoid overdoing the breaks and disrupting a long-standing tradition.

The transition to an online format and the launch of this issue is marked by a temporal gap of more than three years since the print publication of issue 92 in 2018. This long delay has been caused by a culmination of adverse developments, the most dramatic one being the cancellation of the post of the journal's managing editor which had been filled by Dr. Hilke Meyer-Bahlburg from 1981–2000 and Theda Schumann, M.A. from 2000–2013, resulting from university budget cuts which came down on the *Asien-Afrika-Institut* in 2013.

In its new appearance *Afrika und Übersee* will continue its established academic program for the dissemination of research on African languages within their social and historical contexts.

The present issue contains three sections: the first one is dedicated to articles from the symposium “Endangered languages in contact: Nigeria's Plateau languages” which took place on the 25th and 26th of March 2004 in honor of Prof. Ludwig Gerhardt on the occasion of his retirement. The authors explore various phenomena of contact shared by Niger Congo languages of the Plateau branch and Afroasiatic languages of the Chadic branch.

The second section contains selected papers from the 23rd Afrikanistentag which took place on the 25th and 26th of May 2018 in Hamburg. The conference spawned a set of thematically diverse contributions including a semantic analysis of the lexeme *juju* in Cameroonian English and a group of papers on different aspects of the Amharic language.

The third section finally presents papers recently submitted to *Afrika und Übersee*. Two papers provide primary data on little researched languages of Western and Central Africa, i.e. Saba (East Chadic) and Akum (Southern Jukunoid). One paper is dedicated to the expression of diminutivity in Central Ring Grassfields Bantu languages with a focus on Babanki.

The editors of *Afrika und Übersee* wish to express their sincere gratitude to a number of institutions and individuals. We thank the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (DFG), the *Hamburgische Wissenschaftliche Stiftung* and Andreas Siemers for supporting the transition of *Afrika und Übersee* with dedicated grants and a generous donation, respectively. Without their financial backing, the transition would not have happened.

We are very grateful to Dr. Doreen Schröter and Dr. Viktoria Kempf for their most assiduous and dedicated commitment as managing editors in the crucial transitional phase. A very special thanks goes to Dr. Doreen Schröter for her initiative, her perseverance and her patience during the preparatory phase, generously contributing her expertise in online publishing and passing it on to Dr. Viktoria Kempf who has taken over since 2020 and continues as managing editor. The new face of *Afrika und Übersee* has been designed by Annalena Weber, for which we are grateful.

We also thank the *Dietrich Reimer Verlag* for having hosted *Afrika und Übersee* for the past decades and especially Beate Behrens for her cooperative spirit and assistance in making the transition from the *Dietrich Reimer Verlag* to the *Hamburg University Press* as smooth as possible.

Last but not least, sincere thanks go to Isabella Meinecke and Dr. Tim Boxhammer of *Hamburg University Press* for their support in navigating *Afrika und Übersee* into the online world.

The editors

(Ludwig Gerhardt, Viktoria Kempf, Roland Kießling, Henning Schreiber)