

Lecture series

Part of the GGS Teaching Assistantship Program 2014/15

Development, Migration and Human Rights *in Europe, Africa and the Arab Countries*

Target group

Everyone interested is welcome.

Course language

English

A Seed of Hatred and War: A Revisit of the Berlin West Africa Conference of 1884-85

Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 12:15 – 13:45

Dekanatssitzungssaal FB 01, Licher Str. 72, 35394 Giessen

Julius Toh Timngum (Chair of Public Law, International Law and European Law, JLU)

The majority of the African nations achieved independence in the 60s. Since then, millions of Dollars from aid funds have been injected into funding developmental projects in Sub-Saharan Africa in order to support the continent economically, socially as well as politically. Despite this support, the African economy has been declining constantly. According to the UNICEF report of 2004, 22,000 children die each day due to poverty – mainly in Africa. In fact, according to the World Bank study of 2005, the majority of the citizens in Africa live on less than one dollar a day. At the same time African leaders claim that the west, especially the former European colonizers, is responsible for the continuous economic decline in Africa. During the lecture the two main questions that will be discussed are: Is Africa a poor continent? And if so, why?

Basic Introduction to Transitional Justice

Tuesday, October 28, 2014, 12:15 – 13:45

Dekanatssitzungssaal FB 01, Licher Str. 72, 35394 Giessen

Prosper Simbarashe Maguchu (Chair of Public Law, International Law and European Law, JLU)

The lecture will focus on how states adopt a range of processes which may include both judicial and non-judicial mechanisms - prosecutions, reparations, truth-seeking, institutional

reforms – or a mix of some or all of these as strategies to face massive human rights and humanitarian law violations and abuses. During the lecture we will interrogate the traditional measures that emerged first as practices and experiences in post-authoritarian settings, such as in Latin American countries, before spreading to the rest of the world. Moreover, we will briefly discuss how the concept of transitional justice has been changing ever since. Basis for the discussion will be the current state of research such as the recent report by the first United Nations Special Rapporteur on Transitional Justice. The measures defined under the mandate have been progressively transferred from their “place of origin” in post-authoritarian settings to post-conflict contexts and even to settings in which conflict is ongoing or to those in which there has been no transition. These include examples such as Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Syria and Ukraine.

From a Forgotten to a Rising Continent: Why Africa cannot be ignored in the 21st Century’s global Development Architecture

Tuesday, November 4, 2014, 12:15 – 13:45

Dekanatssitzungssaal FB 01, Licher Str. 72, 35394 Giessen

Emmanuel Ametepah (Institute of Political Science, JLU)

In 2000, Africa was termed as ‘a hopeless continent’ by the ‘Time Magazine’. At that time also ‘Zeit-Online’ asked: ‘Africa – a lost continent?’ Almost 10 years later, media refer on Africa as a ‘Rising Continent’ and a continent of hope and opportunities, e.g. the ‘Time Magazine’ rebranded Africa as ‘a hopeful continent’.

What is the reason behind the u-turn from hopelessness to hopefulness within just a decade? The lecture will seek to answer the question why Africa has become a ‘sought-after-continent’ within a short period of time and proceed to discuss why the continent cannot be ignored in the 21st century development agenda, given its massive natural resource endowment, economic potentials, and its crucial possible role in dealing with the climate change problem in the 21st century. The lecture shall then touch on why and how African governments should harness related opportunities of the growing importance of the continent on the world stage and the policy instruments essential to achieve this to the benefit of the majority of its population still living in poverty.

The Clash of Rights: Human or Environmental? The Case of Sub-Sahara Africa

Tuesday, November 11, 2014, 12:15 – 13:45

Dekanatssitzungssaal FB 01, Licher Str. 72, 35394 Giessen

Emmanuel Ametepah (Institute of Political Science, JLU)

The proper functioning of the ecological system is essential to human functioning and well-being. This is because human thriving is supported by the natural environment. In the backdrop of increasing environmental destruction and climate change, environmental and climate experts are beginning to initiate the debate that since the absence of sustainable environment and climate can severely deform human thriving opportunities and the need to extend justice to nature in order to preserve the environment for today and future generations. Furthermore, global policy makers are beginning to initiate policies and

strategies for minimum environmental and climate standards for all countries. What are the related implications for the majority of people in Sub-Sahara Africa who depend on the environment for their survival? What are the prospects for development, given that the developmental stage of every country has its own adverse implications for the environment and the climate? Which of these sides should be prioritized– human or environmental? Or is there means to bridge these two?

Trends and Drivers for Inequality

Tuesday, November 25, 2014, 12:15 – 13:45

Dekanatssitzungssaal FB 01, Licher Str. 72, 35394 Giessen

Hosnieh Mahoozi (Chair of International Economics, JLU)

High and growing inequality is not only unfair, it also jeopardizes economic progress, weakens democratic life and threatens social cohesion. It also has been stalling the progress in education, health and nutrition for large parts of the population, hence undermining the very human capabilities necessary for achieving a good life. During this lecture the students will become familiar with the concept of inequality, inequality trends and drivers of inequality and some policies which addressing inequality. The lecture will be presented under these headlines:

- Inequality concept (inequality of what? Inequality between whom?)
- Inequality trends (trends in household income and non-income inequality, drivers of income inequality.)
- An overview of policies addressing inequality