Academic English Writing Workshop for Non-Anglophone Scholars
“The Challenge of Sustainable Governance in Interdisciplinary Perspective”

March 2-6, 2020
Dakar

Merian Institute for Advanced Studies Africa (MIASA)
German Historical Institute Paris
GIRCI (Groupe Interdisciplinaire de recherché sur les Cultures et les Identités) (UCAD)
Funded by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research

Workshop organizing team: Susann Baller (IHA Dakar), Babacar Mbaye Diop (UCAD)
Lecturer: Stephan Meier (University of Basel)

We invite young researchers in the humanities and social sciences to apply for this “Academic English Writing Workshop for Non-Anglophone Scholars” which will be held in Dakar, March 2-6, 2020. We consider applications from postdocs, assistant or associate professors (postdoctorants, maîtres assistants, enseignant-chercheurs) as well as advanced doctoral students who are based in Senegal and who have a minimum English level of B2 (upper-intermediate). The selection will consider the quality and originality of the research project, the academic profile of the candidate as well as English language skills. Please submit by January 17, 2020 a * motivation letter, * a CV, and * a 500 words summary of a short paper on which you intend to work during the workshop to sballer@dhi-paris.fr. The whole application has to be in English. The application has to be submitted as one PDF-file, named: SURNAME_FIRST NAME_English Workshop 2020. Only complete applications will be considered.

Thematic field

MIASA is exploring the thematic field of “Sustainable governance” from a broad and interdisciplinary perspective. Its three main research axes focus on environmental transformation, conflict and democracy. MIASA discusses topics related to these fields as well as those at their intersections, such as migration and mobility, landownership and restitution of colonially acquired cultural objects. MIASA aims at engaging in an interdisciplinary discussion, which does not examine “sustainable governance” from a solely social sciences point of view, but also takes into consideration its historical and cultural dimension as well as its philosophical and theoretical implications. MIASA promotes a critical debate on the terms it uses and juxtaposes its research questions with three cross-cutting issues, knowledge production, female scholarship and bridging cultural divides.

The Academic English Writing Workshop in March 2020 will be offered in collaboration with the Interdisciplinary Research Group on Cultures and Identities (Groupe Interdisciplinaire de recherché sur les Cultures et les Identités: GIRCI) at the Université Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD) in Dakar. GIRCI is bringing together professors, researchers and doctoral students from the humanities, who aim at animating interdisciplinary academic activities which mainly address doctoral students and postdocs. Its main research axes consider “culture and politics”, “identities, societies and migration” as well as “knowledge production and memories”. It thus contributes to debates also addressed by MIASA. GIRCI discusses the dynamics of how politics are produced and which impact they have on cultural and social practices, how societies transform in contexts of migration and how knowledge is framed, conceptualized and (re)produced in a longue durée perspective.
The Writing Workshop welcomes paper proposals which address one or several major issues raised by MIASA and GIRCI. Papers may be based in social sciences or the humanities. We are particularly interested in original approaches on the issue of “sustainable governance”, taking into consideration its historical, cultural, social, political, environmental and/or philosophical dimensions. We are interested in papers which go beyond a rather narrow understanding of sustainability as “sustainable development”, and invite proposals which explore the deeper meanings, histories, institutional settings and/or social actors of power relations, conflict and/or peace, environment, migration/mobility, ownership (land, cultural objects et al.) and/or knowledge production. The major aim of the workshop will be the production of a 5-pages paper in well-written Academic English which can be subsequently published on the academic blog of the transnational research program “The bureaucratization of African Societies” (IHA-CREPOS). The workshop will combine writing sessions as well as discussions with invited scholars on publishing requirements, procedures and experiences.

Learning objectives:

- Writing and revising a 5-pages short paper to be published on the ihacrepos academic blog in English.
- Learning different steps and strategies how to write an academic paper in English (getting started, structuring ideas, producing a draft, feedback from peers, proofreading and polishing)
- Discussing openly about tools which may help or not, being aware of pitfalls during the writing process
- Exchanging with experts about publishing requirements, procedures and experiences
- Learning about MIASA fellowships and application requirements

Lecturer: Stephan Meyer (University of Basel) is deputy director of the Language Center of the University of Basel as well as and programme coordinator for English. He studied philosophy and gender studies at the universities of Johannesburg, South Africa and Basel and is member of the Centre for African Studies at the University of Basel (CASB). His research is examining writing instructors’ attitudes to what best develops learners’ writing competence. His earlier work was on narrative identity and on care. Stephan Meyer has been teaching since 2003 Academic English seminars in Switzerland and has developed more recently an academic English writing workshop offered at the University of Johannesburg. As member of the CASB, he is also in charge of coaching African Studies PhD students from different countries at the University of Basel.

Application process:

- Deadline: January 17, 2020
- Submit a * motivation letter, * a CV, and * a 500 words summary of a short paper on which you will work during the workshop to sballer@dhi-paris.fr. The whole application has to be in English. The application has to be submitted as ONE PDF-file, named: SURNAME_FIRST NAME_English Workshop 2020
- Applications from all disciplines within the humanities and social sciences are welcome
- Call open for postdocs, assistant or associate professors (postdoctorants, enseignant-chercheurs, maîtres assistants) as well as advanced doctoral students
- Further requirements: minimum English Level: B2 (upper intermediate), publishing experience in French or other language (at least one article accepted for publication)
- We will inform selected candidates by January 31, 2020.
- The workshop will be five days, March 2-6, 2020. Selected candidates will be expected to participate during the whole length of the workshop.
- We will cover travel costs and accommodation for selected candidates coming from outside of Dakar.