

The Maria Sybilla Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA)

University of Ghana, Legon, Accra

With the aim of working towards a reduction of global asymmetries in knowledge production, the *Maria Sybilla Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa* (MIASA) will serve as a hub for exchange, collaboration and networking amongst leading researchers from Ghana, the African continent and beyond. MIASA will also target early career researchers in its programmes.

MIASA's programmes are funded for a preliminary phase (2018- 2020) by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, while its local staffing, administrative and operational costs are borne by the University of Ghana. German funding on an even more substantial scales set to continue for another ten years of operation and transition (2020-2030), after which the University of Ghana will take over full financial responsibility for the Institute.

The Institute is dedicated to the topic of 'sustainable governance' from the vantage point of three research foci: sustainability transformation, sustainable conflict management and sustainable democracy. We define governance as the interplay of informal and formal rules for steering public affairs, embedded in social, material and cultural practices of everyday life.

Activities

Sustainable Governance: Environment, Democracy and Conflict Management

The preliminary phase will be launched with a kick-off conference in Accra in September 2018 on "**Africa's Institutions for Sustainable Governance**" with notable keynote speakers and contributors from across the globe.

In addition, the preliminary phase will launch four Interdisciplinary Fellow Groups, where a group of 8-12 scholars will convene in Accra for a period of approximately four months to work on a joint pertinent and innovative research question. The four groups, all linked to the sustainable governance topic are:

- Fellowship Group 1: Migration, Mobility and Forced Displacement (*February to May 2019*)
- Fellowship Group 2: Parliaments and Democracy in Africa (*September to December 2019*)
- Fellowship Group 3: Sustainable Rural Transformation in the context of increased commercialisation and resource scarcity (*February - May 2020*)
- Fellowship Group 4: Sustainable Energy Transitions in Africa (*September to December 2020*)

A number of additional conferences, workshops, summer schools and public lectures are also planned. During the core phase MIASA (2020-2026) will offer a comprehensive individual fellowship programme.

Contact

For more information please contact: miasa.abi@abi.uni-freiburg.de

Location



MIASA will be based at the University of Ghana, Legon, Accra (UG) one of the leading research universities in Africa. A secondary site will be in Dakar at the Centre de Recherche sur les Politiques Sociales (CREPOS), Dakar.

People



Dzodzi Tsikata is the (acting) Co-Director Ghana. She is Research Professor and Director of the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana and the President of CODESRIA. Her research interests include agrarian change and rural livelihoods, gender and development issues, and work conditions in the informal economy.



Gordon Crawford is the Co-Director Germany. He is an honorary professor at Albert-Ludwig-University of Freiburg and a research professor at Coventry University. His research interests include global development; struggles for human rights and social justice, democracy and democratisation

Academic Advisory Board

- **Elisio Macamo** (Professor of African Studies, Centre for African Studies, Basel University)
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- **Björn Wittrock** (Director, Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study (SCAS)).

Partners

MIASA is supported by five consortium partners in Germany:

1. **Albert-Ludwig-University of Freiburg** (in particular Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies and Arnold Bergstraesser Institute)
2. **Centre for Interdisciplinary African Studies, Goethe-University of Frankfurt**
3. **German Historical Institute in Paris**
4. **German Institute of Global and Areas Studies (GIGA) in Hamburg**
5. **University of Konstanz**