

# Interdisciplinary Symposium at the Walter Benjamin Kolleg University of Berne

## Call for Participation

In association with the *Swiss Society for African Studies*, the *Walter Benjamin Kolleg of the University of Bern* will host an interdisciplinary Symposium about “**Language and language use in Africa: issues in research and everyday situations**” at the 11 May 2017.

Africa is known as the continent where one can find the highest concentration of languages worldwide. This fact should make the continent one of the most interesting places for linguists and other scholars.

Unfortunately, research on Africa, whether in the social sciences or in the humanities, generally does not show much awareness of language as a determining variable, whereas research that does, even at a global level, tends to ignore African studies involving language as relevant to their inquiry.

Trying to counter this apparent lack of interest, the symposium will touch on several topics including inter- and multidisciplinary approaches. Thus, it will focus on a number of issues that Researchers and practitioners face in the field while conducting research in Africa, such as the lack of databases and technological means that could facilitate their job, as well as practical communicational issues with the local populations. However, there are projects that attempt to overcome these difficulties in innovative ways and with creative technologies.

Moreover, the African diaspora contributes to the solution with different approaches and ideas to increase the interest in language research on the continent. The congress will provide the opportunity to discuss projects dealing with the participation and the role of African languages in different interdisciplinary contexts. It will also address questions of language equity and sustainability as a follow-up to the Research Fair on sustainable development goals (SDGs) organized by KFPE in collaboration with the Swiss Agency of Development and Cooperation in November 2016 ; see the fact sheet on

[https://naturalsciences.ch/organisations/kfpe/workshops\\_seminars/81805-research-and-innovation-as-drivers-in-achieving-the-sustainable-development-goals](https://naturalsciences.ch/organisations/kfpe/workshops_seminars/81805-research-and-innovation-as-drivers-in-achieving-the-sustainable-development-goals)

Designed to discuss several of the points mentioned above, the symposium will provide scholars from different disciplines of the social sciences, such as literature, linguistics, sociolinguistics (including language policies), sociology, social anthropology, philosophy, among others, with the opportunity to share reflections from different perspectives. The definition, relevance and contribution of language-related good practice, of research on language use, and of language-sensitive digital resources for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals will be major foci of the symposium and of an open panel (see separate invitation).

**Paper proposals** (English or French) should include full contact details (email address, full mailing address, and affiliation) and an abstract of up to 250 words. Please send your proposals to the following address:

[djouroukoro.diallo@wbkolleg.unibe.ch](mailto:djouroukoro.diallo@wbkolleg.unibe.ch). The deadline for the proposals is 30 April 2017.



# Interdisciplinary Symposium at the Walter Benjamin Kolleg University of Berne

## Formulaire d'inscription / Registration form

**Nom et prénoms / Name and surname :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Institution :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Autres / Others :** \_\_\_\_\_

Le panel est ouvert à tou(te)s les participants. Nous vous prions de mentionner vos centres d'intérêt ou vos questions au comité d'organisation dans le formulaire ci-dessous.

**Propositions de thèmes pour le panel / topic propositions for the panel :**

**Lieu:** Universität Bern, UniS, Schanzeneckstrasse 1, Raum A 301

Pour toute information contactez M. Djouroukoro Diallo au numéro : +41 79 405 46 60  
ou par mail : [djouroukoro.diallo@wbkolleg.unibe.ch](mailto:djouroukoro.diallo@wbkolleg.unibe.ch)

Pour avoir plus d'information sur le colloque, consultez le lien suivant :

[http://www.gsh.unibe.ch/veranstaltungen/partner\\_kooperationen/index\\_ger.html](http://www.gsh.unibe.ch/veranstaltungen/partner_kooperationen/index_ger.html)

**Vous êtes priés d'envoyer vos formulaires d'inscription au plus tard le 5 mai 2017.**

Nous nous réjouissons de votre participation.



# Interdisciplinary Symposium at the Walter Benjamin Kolleg University of Berne

## Anmeldeformular

**Name und Vorname:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Institution:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sonstiges:** \_\_\_\_\_

Die Teilnahme an der Paneldiskussion steht allen SymposiumsteilnehmerInnen offen. Bitte nutzen Sie die auf dem Anmeldeformular dafür vorgesehene Rubrik, um Ihr Interessensgebiet oder Ihre Fragen zu Händen der Organisatoren zu formulieren.

## Interessensgebiet / Fragen

**Ort: Universität Bern, UniS, Schanzeneckstrasse 1, Raum A 301**

Bei Fragen wenden Sie sich bitte an Herrn Djouroukoro Diallo, Telefonnummer: +41 79 405 46 60 oder per E-Mail: [djouroukoro.diallo@wbkolleg.unibe.ch](mailto:djouroukoro.diallo@wbkolleg.unibe.ch)

Mehr Informationen zur Tagung sind unter dem folgenden Link erhältlich:

[http://www.gsh.unibe.ch/veranstaltungen/partner\\_kooperationen/index\\_ger.html](http://www.gsh.unibe.ch/veranstaltungen/partner_kooperationen/index_ger.html)

**Wir bitten Sie Ihre ausgefüllten Anmeldeformulare spätestens am 5. Mai 2017 zu schicken.**

Wir freuen uns auf Ihre Teilnahme.

