

afriBIAN

Africa-Bayreuth International Alumni Network

PROGRAMME

Religion in Times of Transition: The Case of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Africa

17 to 18 December 2021

**University of Bayreuth
and on Zoom**

as part of the conference series

Rolling Religion on the African Map
Beliefs, Practices and Contentions in Times of Transition

AGENDA

17 December 2021

- 09:00—09:30 **Welcome**
Dr. Franz Kogelmann
University of Bayreuth, Germany
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- 09:30—10:00 **Keynote “*Virus Became a God: COVID-19 Pandemic and Religious Legitimacy Crisis in Africa*”**
Dr. Leo Igwe
University of Cape Town, South Africa
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- 10:00—10:30 **Discussion with the Keynote Speaker**
moderated by Dr. Serawit Bekele Debele
University of Bayreuth, Germany
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- 10:30—11:00 **Coffee Break**
- 11:00—12:45 **Panel 1: The *Importance of Religion in Times of COVID-19***
moderated by Dr. Lamine Doumbia
MIASA, Accra, University of Ghana
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- 11:00—11:15 ***Performing the “Online Pulpit”: Alternative Church Platforms in Times of COVID-19 in Kenya***
Dr. Samuel Ndogo
Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya
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- 11:15—11:30 ***Religion and Commodification: The Ghanaian Churches' COVID-19 Economy***
Dr. Genevieve Nrenzah
University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana
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- 11:30—11:45 ***Beliefs and Uncertainty: Consequences of COVID-19 on Everyday Religious Life in Zimbabwe***
Dr. Ivan Marowa
University of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe

11:45—12:00 ***COVID-19 and the Deconstruction of the Concept of 'Church'***

Dr. Magdaline Wafula
Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya

12:00—12:15 ***The Growing Importance of Religion and Challenged Role of the State in Times of COVID-19: The Case of Goma (DR Congo)***

Dr. Blaise Muhire
DR Congo

12:15—12:45 **Round Table with the Speakers**

12:45—14:00 **Lunch Break**

14:00—14:45 **Panel 2: *The Influence of COVID-19 in Everyday Religious Life***
moderated by Dr. Chikas Ishaku-Tsilpi
University of Jos, Nigeria

14:00—14:15 ***Religion in the Times of Pandemic: The Tunisian Case***

Dr. Ramzi Ben Amara
University of Sousse, Tunisia

14:15—14:30 ***“Save the Lord Our Saviour!” The Plague, Collective Panic and the Crisis of Judgment in the Times of “Everything Goes”***

Dr. Moulay Driss El Maarouf
Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Fès, Morocco

14:30—14:45 ***COVID-19 and Church Attendance Behaviour Trends: Evidence from Ghanaian Pentecostal Churches***

Dr. Justice Arthur
Pentecost University, Accra, Ghana

14:45—15:00 ***Religion Meets COVID-19: Analyzing Language Use in Online Mass***

Dr. Simon Nganga
Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya

15:00—15:30 **Round Table with the Speakers**

15:30—16:00 **Coffee Break**

16:00—17:30 **Panel 3: *Spirituality, Prayer and Healing in Times of COVID-19***
moderated by Dr. Jane Ayeko-Kümmeth
Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany

16:00—16:15 ***“No Evil Shall Befall Me and No Disease Shall Come Near My Homestead”*: Religious Construction of Disease and Aladura Response to COVID-19 in Nigeria**

Dr. Timothy Baiyewu
Jos, Nigeria

16:15—16:30 ***The COVID-19 Pandemic and Religion in Nigeria: The Vaccine Myth***

Dr. Lohna Bonkat-Jonathan
National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies, Abuja, Nigeria

16:30—16:45 ***“Compulsory Vaccination Is from the Pit of Hell”*: Content and Discourse Analysis of Religious Sermons on COVID-19 in Nigeria**

Dr. Baba Mai Bello
University of Maiduguri, Nigeria

16:45—17:00 ***Finding COVID-19 Cure: The Orisa Devotees’ Response to a Global Pandemic in Yoruba Society***

Dr. Adeyemi Balogun
Osun State University, Nigeria

17:00—17:30 **Round Table with the Speakers**

17:30—18:00 **Summary of the Conference Day**
moderated by Dr. Samuel Ndogo
Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya

18 December 2021

10:00—10:15 **Opening: The Future of afriBIAN (with or “without” COVID-19)**
Mirjam Straßer, M.A.
University of Bayreuth, Germany

10:15—11:45 **Working Groups**
with participants on site and online

- Collecting data of alumni / Not losing track
- Attracting new afriBIAN members
- Developing project ideas
- Strengthening the feeling of community
- Encouraging members to initiate projects
- Finding funding opportunities

WG 1: With COVID-19

Virtual (Networking) Events

Dr. Lamine Doumbia
MIASA, Accra, University of Ghana

WG 2: With(out) COVID-19

Hybrid (Networking) Events

Dr. Louis Ndong
Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar,
Senegal

WG 3: Without COVID-19

Physical (Networking) Events

Dr. Ramzi Ben Amara
University of Sousse, Tunisia

11:45—12:30 **Presentation of the Working Groups’ Results**

12:30—14:00 **Lunch Break**

14:00—15:30 **Letting afriBIAN Grow: Alumni Meet Future Alumni**
moderated by Edidiong Charles Ibanga and Mirjam Straßer
University of Bayreuth, Germany

15:30—16:00 **Coffee Break**

16:00—17:30 **Allocation of Tasks / Preparations for the Next Conference in Fes**
moderated by Dr. Ramzi Ben Amara
University of Sousse, Tunisia

17:30—18:00 **Closing Words**
Dr. Franz Kogelmann
University of Bayreuth, Germany