

International Conference

Towards Humanising the Future. Justice in the Shadow of Colonialism.

A Transformative Learning Approach

Freiburg, 29.9.2022 – 1.10.2022

– Call for Workshops –

The conference aims to connect three important topics whose connection is not often seen. From a **recognition of the lasting issue of Namibian-German reconciliation** in the aftermath of colonialism and genocide, the **impact of the colonial heritage on health and health education in Namibia** will play a central role. Viewed from a holistic perspective, health addresses more than acute illness or healthy behaviours and encompasses challenges as diverse as widespread poverty-related illness and also transgenerational trauma. While the former relates to gross social inequalities that are, at least partly, a sequel of more than 100 years of colonial domination, the destructions wrought by war and, in particular, the genocide perpetrated 1904-08 is a trauma that transcends generations. These events and the trauma directly impact practices of education and parenting (parental attitudes) and on the way everyday conflicts and political controversies are handled. These issues call for a human rights-based approach centred on human dignity that links the aforementioned areas. They should also be held against the principles of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which were proclaimed for the first time for all of humankind and not just regionally defined part of humanity.

Against this backdrop, the conference is not intended to rehearse 'history', but to seek ways in which memory practices, especially in education, can be explored and developed in order to work toward 'repairing the world' (Achille Mbembe), i.e., humanising the future by instilling the necessary sensitivities and how to deal with traumatic heritage, also in confronting victim competition. In this sense, it is also vital to understand the mutual implication of subjects living today as the descendants and heirs of the victims and perpetrators of the past. Such thinking applies to a range of issues related to the current difficult process of searching for a conclusion in the aftermath of the genocide between the two peoples involved or to the everyday relations and conflicts that might arise from inter-communal competition related to the dire legacy.

Against these general considerations, the conference will focus, in particular, on how these issues can be dealt with in the context of school education. In particular, this involves the question of how didactic and educational concepts can be translated into concrete classroom practices. This calls for the involvement of teachers and educational professionals in the relevant fields. One important dimension can be sharing experience and information between Namibian and German perspectives, including knowledge and practice gained in Germany in dealing with the Holocaust. Concepts developed in this context may also help address issues

such as intercommunal conflict that arise when dealing with various forms and experiences of colonial injustice in a country such as Namibia, which is marked by an array of diverse experiences. Such situations also reflect the ways in which the present territory of Namibia was assembled in the colonial partition of Africa, and thus, from a contemporary and forward-looking perspective, require cultural knowledge and sensitivity, besides an active determination to overcome divisions by relating experiences and addressing difference.

Each day of the conference will focus on one of the three main themes. On the first day, we will deal with the question of how to teach history in a postcolonial world? This will focus on didactic issues as well as the relationship between history, human rights education, and peace education. The second day will focus on analysing the current situation in Germany and Namibia, including discussions about struggles for an adequate memory culture, critical exhibitions in museums (such as the current exhibition of the Lindenmuseum in Stuttgart and the exhibition on 'Freiburg and Colonialism' to be staged from June 2022), or historical research on the presence of colonialism at the local level. Finally, on the third day, we will discuss current challenges in both countries, including a variety of topics in education and health.

We would like to invite colleagues (researchers, educational specialists, and teachers) to contribute to this conference by participating in the conference and organizing a workshop. To get a better understanding of the contents of your workshop, we kindly ask you to align your workshop with one or more of the following questions or to similar questions that are in line with the topics:

Colonialism and genocide in schools

- How can schools deal with and discuss the difficult and complex topic of colonialism?
- How can we discuss justice, colonialism, and peace in schools?
- How can history teachers deal with heterogeneity in their classes when talking about colonialism and genocide? What are didactic strategies and consequences when the majority of students are children of immigrants/given the ethnic and regional diversity of learners?
- How can we embed the moral imperative that genocide not be repeated in schools, and what is the contribution of human rights and peace education?
- Is the idea of an inclusive school promising and helpful?
- How can education serve as a platform for reconciliation?

Memory Culture and Activism in Namibia and Germany

- What are conceivable roles of Western and Namibian museums in the discussions about colonialism?
- What about restitution of museum holdings? Should documents and artefacts be returned completely to Namibia (or other countries)? How do museums deal with void spaces thus created and how do didactic concepts take up these issues?
- How can we deal with human remains ethically? Which roles do they play in awareness-raising?

- What are perspectives and topics of current activists? What are their motifs and what are the aims?
- How do everyday experiences linked to the colonial past impact learners' lives?
- How can postcolonial campaigns and offers of information (debate on street names, city walks) help in awareness-raising and how may this be integrated into teaching concepts?

Current challenges of social inequalities and power relations in Namibia and Germany and the path to more social justice

- What is the current status of social and health inequalities in Namibia and Germany?
- How were both countries affected by Covid-19?
- How can schools support health and well-being in Namibia and Germany?
- How can we deal with transgenerational trauma in education?
- How can we build teachers' capacity in overseeing policy implementations?
- How can we establish health-promoting school cultures and structures and how can we systematically implement health education (even in remote areas)?

Workshops aim to increase the capacity and knowledge of participants around the latest scientific research, relevant policies, or innovative programmes to implement and advocate for reducing inequalities and improving health. The focus is on discussing and transferring knowledge as well as the exchange of practical experience through intensive interaction with the audience, collaborative learning and, if possible, developing new ideas. Workshops are 90 minutes in length.

General guidelines for workshops

All workshop proposals should be sent to the following email:

namibiaconference@ph-freiburg.de

The deadline for submission of workshop proposals is **10 July 2022**

Please note: Proposals received afterwards might not be accepted.

The organiser of each workshop proposal agrees that, if the proposal is accepted, the abstract is published in the conference program.

Workshop organisers are responsible for ensuring that all co-organisers and presenters have agreed to be participating in the workshop, if accepted.

The organiser confirms that, if the workshop proposal is accepted, the organiser, co-organisers, and presenters will attend the Namibia Conference 2022. To confirm their attendance, they all have to register for the conference by 1 August 2022. If they have not registered by that date, the workshop will be removed from the conference program.

Guidelines for workshop submitters

All workshop proposals, if accepted, must be presented in English.

Indicate the organiser of the workshop and the chairperson(s) for the workshop and the names and affiliations of all co-organizers. Enter the full first name before the last name,

and indicate affiliation, country, and email address.

Evaluation procedure

All submitted proposals will be reviewed by the Scientific Committee (SC). Each proposal will be reviewed by 2 to 3 reviewers and scored based on the following criteria:

- Is the subject matter appropriate for the Conference?
- Are the workshop objectives clearly stated?
- Can the objectives be achieved in the 90 minutes allotted for this workshop?
- Is the information relevant, new, and innovative?
- Is the overall quality of the proposal sufficient?
- Is there an interactive audience element in the workshop?

Notification

The organiser, chair, and presenters will be notified of the acceptance of their proposal(s) by **10 July 2022**.

Further instructions for authors whose abstracts are accepted will be posted on the website.

You will find more information about the conference at the following website:

<https://www.ph-freiburg.de/soziologie/veranstaltungen/namibia-conference.html>

We will be looking forward to your proposals.

With greetings from Freiburg

Uwe Bittlingmayer, Basilius Kasera, Reinhart Kößler, Stefanie Harsch, Hertha Pomuti, Charmaine Villet, and Marceline Vries