

Postgraduate School Call
Recalibrating Afrikanistik Summer School 2026
Theme: Creativity in Language, Performance and Digital Media
Venue: Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya — 14-18 September 2026

We at the Recalibrating Afrikanistik project continue our commitment to rethinking African Studies by engaging with creativity beyond traditional boundaries. We begin by building upon the foundation of our earlier international schools (Abuja and Stellenbosch), which explored intersections of language, culture, and education. It is in this spirit that the 2026 Summer School at Moi University provides a forum to critically examine the interplay between performance and digital media platforms. During the exciting week in September, students from all over Africa and Europe will have the chance to present and discuss their own research, attend lectures as well as performances.

Additionally, the 2026 Summer School endeavours to foreground theoretical and methodological approaches that interrogate how African expressive cultures are being reshaped, performed, and disseminated in contemporary contexts. We invite contributions by PhD and advanced MA students that engage with frameworks such as performance theory, media, postcolonial critique, cultural memory studies, and digital ethnography, while also considering interdisciplinary methodologies that bridge anthropology, literature, linguistics, media studies, and cultural studies.

The theme Creativity in Language, Performance and Digital Media seeks to explore:

- a) Performance and Identity: The role of theatre, music, ritual, spoken word, storytelling, and comedy in shaping cultural memory and contemporary identity, analysed through performance studies, identity theory, and cultural semiotics.
- b) Digital Media Platforms: How social media, podcasts, YouTube, TikTok, and other digital spaces are redefining African expressive cultures, with attention to platform studies, algorithmic cultures, and audience reception theory.
- c) Hybrid and Experimental Forms: Cross-disciplinary approaches that connect performance studies, media studies, anthropology, and cultural studies, employing comparative methodologies, multimodal analysis, and practice-based research.
- d) Recalibrating Afrikanistik: Critical reflections on how African Studies can respond to these transformations in theory and practice, engaging with decolonial frameworks, and methodological innovation.

Important Dates

- Deadline for Abstract Submission: 19th April 2026
- Summer School Dates: 14th September 2026 -18th September 2026

Venue

The Summer School will be hosted at Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya, in collaboration with the Recalibrating Afrikanistik project, Moi University African Multiple Research Centre, and Factory of Ideas Doctoral School.

Who can apply:

Doctoral students and advanced MA students from all six partner universities: Bayreuth, Moi, Leipzig, Naples, Stellenbosch and Wukari.

How to apply:

Please submit an abstract of your presentation along with a brief biographical note. The abstract should be 400–500 words, and it should be accompanied by a short bio of no more than 150 words.

Contact

Please send your submissions and inquiries to the RecAF coordinator Ojo Blank (recaf@uni-leipzig.de) and our partner and representative at Moi University, Samuel Ndogo (samndogo@mu.ac.ke)

Further details will be available on the Recalibrating Afrikanistik project website: <https://recaf.de/project>