

About us

The **Maria Sibylla Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA)** is dedicated to the topic of 'Sustainable Governance'. MIASA's main interdisciplinary research foci are: sustainable environmental transformation, sustainable conflict management, and sustainable democracy.

MIASA's overarching aims are working towards a reduction of global asymmetries in knowledge production and bridging the cultural divide between anglophone and francophone Africa. MIASA will serve as a hub for exchange, networking and collaboration amongst leading researchers from Germany, Ghana, the African continent and beyond. It will also offer funding opportunities for early career researchers.

MIASA is located at the **University of Ghana**, Legon, Accra, with a secondary site located at the **Centre de Recherches sur les Politiques Sociales (CREPOS)** in Dakar, Senegal. It is thus the first Institute for Advanced Studies in Sub-Saharan Africa outside of South Africa.

MIASA's programmes are funded by the **German Federal Ministry of Education and Research**, while its local staffing, administrative and operational costs are borne by the University of Ghana.



University of Ghana

Team



Abena D. Oduro is the Co-Director Ghana. She is Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Ghana. Her main areas of research are poverty analysis, gender and assets, international trade policy, WTO issues, and economics of education.



Gordon Crawford is the Co-Director Germany. He is Research Professor in Global Development at Coventry University. His research interests include issues of human rights and democratization in development processes.



Andreas Mehler is the President of the Executive Council of MIASA. He is Director of the Arnold Bergstraesser Institute and Professor at the University of Freiburg. His research interests include post-conflict power sharing and security beyond the state.

Academic Advisory Board

Elísio Macamo, Professor of African Studies, University of Basel

Birgit Meyer, Professor of Religious Studies, Utrecht University

Paul Nugent, Professor of Comparative African History and African Studies, University of Edinburgh

Francis Nyamnjoh, Professor of Anthropology, University of Cape Town

Zenebework Tadesse, Principal Vice-President, Ethiopian Academy of Sciences

Björn Wittrock, Founding Director, Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study, Uppsala University

6 additional members to be announced by the end of 2018

Events & Fellow Groups

MIASA will be launched with an international conference at the University of Ghana, Accra, on **27 & 28 September 2018**. The topic of the conference is **Africa's Institutions for Sustainable Governance**.

In the preliminary phase (2018-2020), MIASA will host four Interdisciplinary Fellow Groups (IFGs). The groups will convene for a period of two to four months at its University of Ghana location, each group consisting of eight to twelve scholars who will collaborate on a research question linked to the sustainable governance topic:

IFG 1: Migration, Mobility, and Forced Displacement
(February to May 2019)

IFG 2: Parliaments and Democracy in Africa
(September to December 2019)

IFG 3: Sustainable Rural Transformation in the Context of Increased Commercialization and Resource Scarcity
(February to May 2020)

IFG 4: Sustainable Energy Transitions in Africa
(September to December 2020)

Additional conferences, workshops, summer schools, and public lectures are planned from December 2018 onwards. During the core phase (2020-2026), MIASA will offer an individual fellowship and policy fellowship programmes.

Partners

Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (ABI), University of Freiburg, Germany

Centre de Recherches sur les Politiques Sociales (CREPOS), Dakar, Senegal

Centre for Migration Studies (CMS), University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana

Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Konstanz, Germany

Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), Accra, Ghana

Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS), University of Freiburg, Germany

German Historical Institute Paris (DHIP/IHA), France

Max Weber Foundation, Bonn, Germany

Institute of African Affairs, German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg, Germany

Institute of African Studies (IAS), University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana

Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana

Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), Accra, Ghana

Point Sud, Center for Research on Local Knowledge/Centre for Interdisciplinary African Studies, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany



Contact

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Cover photo: Official signing of the joint MIASA declaration (12 December 2017) in the presence of German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Ebenezer Odum, Vice Chancellor of the University of Ghana. In the front: Andreas Mehler, University of Freiburg and Francis Dodoo, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Ghana.

MIASA

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Institute
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