

Call for Applications **DFG-Programm Point Sud 2027**

In accordance with an agreement between Goethe University Frankfurt and the German Research Foundation (DFG), the Point Sud programme supports events in the humanities and social sciences that facilitate academic exchange across linguistic, disciplinary, and national boundaries, as well as encouraging critical engagement with the question of how knowledge is produced and which perspectives are considered in this process. Funding covers the travel and accommodation costs of participants. The programme is organised by a network of ten African institutions in addition to Goethe University.

- Centre for African Studies, University Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo, Mozambique,
- Centre for Democratic Governance (CGD), Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso,
- Institute for Research on Societies (INSS-CNRST), National Centre for Scientific and Technological Research, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso,
- College for Humanities and Social Sciences, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda,
- Fundamental Institute for Black Africa (IFAN-UCAD), Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar, Senegal,
- Institute for African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra, Ghana,
- Laboratory of Anthropology (LABAN), Omar Bongo University Libreville, Gabon,
- Laboratory for the Study and Research on Social Dynamics and Local Development (LASDEL), Niamey, Niger,
- Point Sud – Centre for Research on Local Knowledge, Bamako, Mali,
- Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS), Stellenbosch, South Africa.

The programme's events are held exclusively at the network's sites in Africa.

The programme is open to all researchers working at German academic institutions, ranging from post-doctoral researchers to professors. To be eligible for funding, applications must be developed and submitted jointly with co-applicants from institutions in Africa. Applications may also be initiated by researchers from Africa, provided they collaborate with partners from Germany. The coordinator will be happy to assist with finding suitable partners for collaboration. Additional co-applicants from Europe, Asia, North- or Latin America may be included.

The individual applications are selected by the steering committee and submitted to the DFG as a single application for review. Prof. Mirco Goepfert of Goethe University Frankfurt, who chairs the committee, is the applicant for the single application.

The members of the steering committee are:

- Dr Aoua Carole Bambara Congo, Institute for Sciences of Societies (INSS) of the CNRST, Ouagadougou,
- Prof Rose Marie Beck, Hochschule Karlsruhe (University of Applied Sciences),
- Dr Chikouna Cissé, University Felix Houphouët Boigny, Abidjan,
- Prof Mamadou Diawara, Point Sud in Bamako,
- Prof Mirco Goepfert, Goethe University Frankfurt/Main,
- Prof Birgit Meyer, University of Utrecht,
- Prof Dieter Neubert, University of Bayreuth,
- Dr Christoff Pauw, STIAS Stellenbosch,
- Dr Nadine Siegert, Goethe Institute in Lagos.

Requests for funding will be assessed according to the following general principles:

- Funding is available for a variety of event formats, including conferences, workshops, summer schools and writing schools, of various sizes. Applications that demonstrate a well-considered methodological approach to the conference programme, such as through suitable formats and integration/visits of relevant local institutions, are particularly welcome.
- The selection of summer and writing schools by the steering committee is also guided primarily by academic and conceptual quality (see below), in relation to the chosen topic and research

questions. Events for early-career researchers should also make a genuine academic contribution. Applicants must clearly state in their application what contribution they aim to make to existing debates and theories.

- Digital formats such as videoconferencing can also be submitted.
- The following are not eligible for funding: internal project and network meetings, planning meetings, project identification meetings and student fieldwork as part of university course requirements.
- The programme places great emphasis on fostering long-term relationships between researchers and institutions. Follow-up workshops led by scholars who have previously participated in the programme are expressly permitted, as is the resubmission of applications rejected in the previous year. In both cases, it is advisable to contact the coordinator at an early stage.
- The programme has its roots in the social sciences and humanities, and welcomes interdisciplinary links to the natural and life sciences.
- There are no thematic requirements other than relevance to Africa.
- The workshops are organised and administered by Goethe University, which means that applicants are largely relieved of logistical tasks. Third party funding is therefore transferred to the Goethe University and managed there.

The steering committee will evaluate the applications according to the following criteria:

- The scientific and conceptual quality of the research questions and the format;
- Interdisciplinarity: the composition of the participants should reflect the thematic scope of the proposal and include disciplines that can make a genuine contribution to the research question;
- Involvement of early-career researchers;
- Gender balance both in the composition of applicants and participants and in the substantive engagement with the respective topic;
- Sustainability of the event (networking, publications);
- Link to the location: Applicants must specify their desired network location and justify their choice, demonstrating the project's thematic connection to that location. The final decision on the location rests with the steering committee. The linkage can take various forms, such as the involvement of local co-applicants or participants, the participation of civil society representatives, or visits to local institutions. Public lectures or panel discussions that allow students and other interested local parties to access the programme are particularly welcome;
- Applications involving South-South exchanges with researchers from Africa, Latin America or Asia will be given special consideration. The dialogue between research perspectives from the Global South and the Global North is a key objective of the programme.

Applications are evaluated by the members of the steering committee; the DFG's rules on conflicts of interest are strictly adhered to.

Applications may be written in English or French and should include the following sections (six pages in total, plus a bibliography):

- Section 1: Title of the proposal
- Section 2: Name of the applicants, academic titles, disciplines and their affiliations
- Section 3: Theme and objectives of the event (max. 2 pages). This section should clearly outline the genuine academic potential of the event. To what extent does the chosen theoretical approach or empirical focus go beyond existing research and literature on the subject? Which research gap is to be addressed? The bibliography of works cited in the text should not exceed one page.

- Section 4: The format and organisation of the event (max. 2,5 pages). This section should include details of the project's duration and format. How will the thematic focus be translated into a specific programme? Further details should cover the rationale for the chosen network location and how language barriers will be addressed for Anglophone, Francophone and Lusophone participants. It should also state whether any publications, network-building initiatives or future joint activities are planned, and if so, which ones. The application should also include a provisional programme in table format.
- Section 5: Participants (max. 1 page). The application must include a list of the proposed participants. Applicants must specify the number of participants, their academic status, their discipline and their institutional affiliation. If a call for papers is used, the application and selection strategy must be outlined (e.g. with regard to the career stage and institutional affiliation of prospective participants). Please bear in mind that, on average, 25-30 people take part in the programme's events.
- Section 6: Profiles and selected publications of the applicants (max. half or three-quarters of a page). Information should clarify the applicants' current institutional affiliation and the relevance of their work to the event's theme, and list their publications on the subject matter.
- Formatting: Times New Roman, type size 11 point, single-spaced

Please don't include a budget calculation as this will be done by the scientific coordinator in Frankfurt.

For 2027 the timetable is as follows:

- The deadline for submitting the proposal is 5th June 2026. Please submit your proposal to Dr. Marko Scholze: scholze@em.uni-frankfurt.de
- It is strongly recommended to contact Mr. Scholze as early as possible and to send him a preliminary draft for comments.
- Applications will be selected on 2nd July 2026
- Joint application will be submitted to the DFG by Mid-July 2026
- DFG review and funding decision expected by the End of 2026
- Funded activities can start from March 2026

For further information please contact Dr Marko Scholze, scholze@em.uni-frankfurt.de.