

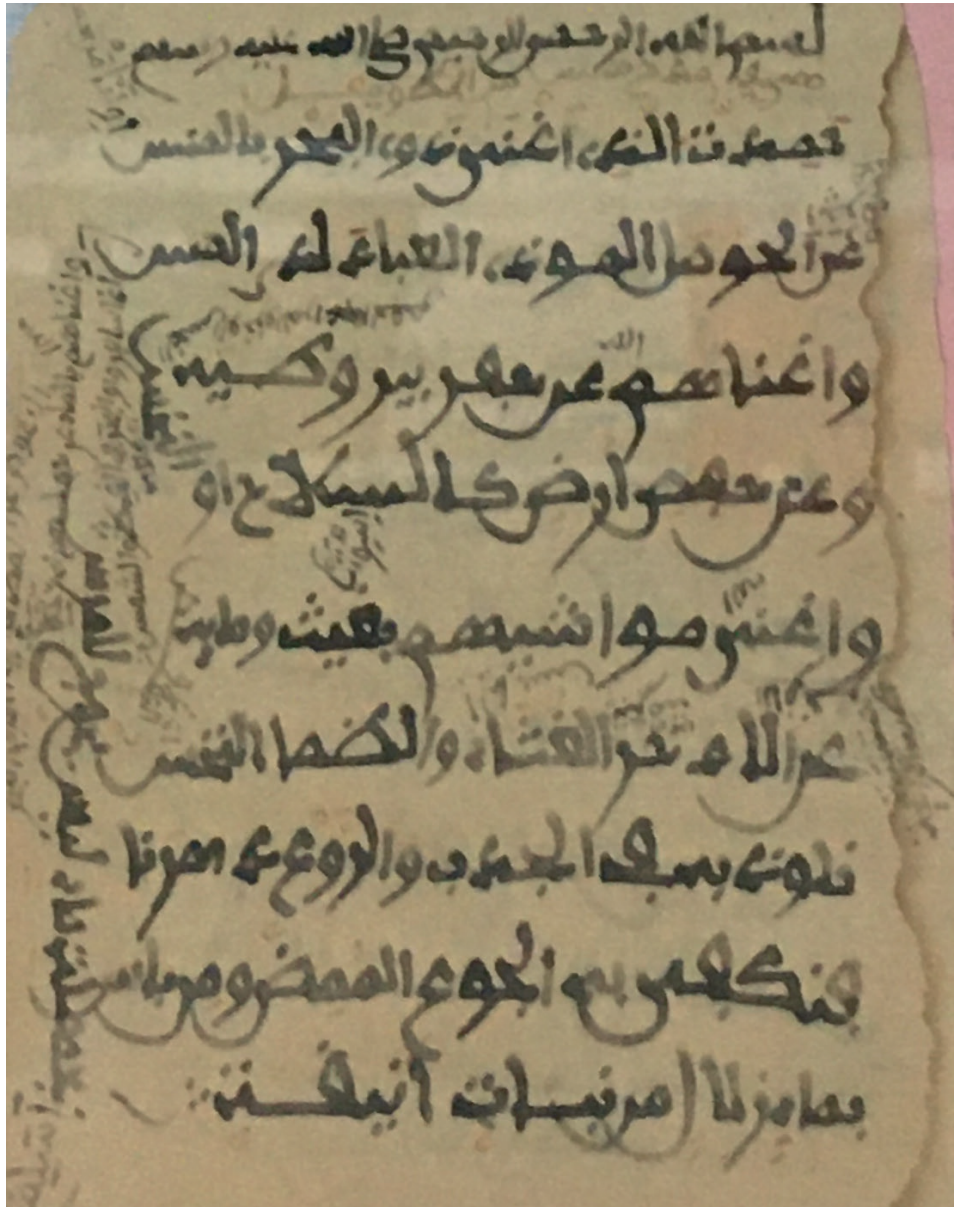
Languages and Literatures in Africa: Plural Forms of Living-Together

Langues et littératures en Afrique :
formes plurielles du vivre-ensemble

Fall term 2025

Tuesdays 16.15-18.00

Alte Universität, Hörsaal -101
Rheinsprung 9, 4051 Basel



Poem by Abaka written in Suqî with annotations in Tamashek, n.d., Timbuktu
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The intersection of diverse languages and cultures on the African continent is both a source of conflict and a catalyst for innovation. This Ringvorlesung asks key questions: How do national literatures evolve when they are rooted in colonial languages? What kinds of power struggles emerge through language and art? How do complex dynamics of multilingualism shape everyday communication? What new language codes are currently emerging, especially in urban areas? Which linguistic, literary and cultural innovations are unfolding? And how might African perspectives challenge and enrich our academic paradigms?

This Ringvorlesung provides a space for transdisciplinary exploration of the creative innovations emerging from Africa's rich linguistic and literary landscapes. Experts in linguistics and literary studies from English, French, Hispanic, Middle Eastern Studies, Department of Ancient Civilizations, African Studies and Swiss TPH will offer insights and impulses for further thoughts. Invited writers, philosophers and scholars from the African continent will also share their conceptual and artistic perspectives.

16.9.	Introduction Isabelle Chariatte and Sandra Schlumpf-Thurnherr (Universität Basel)
23.9.	Littérature en langues africaines : la voie de la traduction et de l'écriture bilingue Mohomodou Houssouba (Universität Basel)
30.9.	Speaking from within: On writing a spoken language Henri Michel Yéré (Universität Basel)
7.10.	Self-translation, multilingualism and postcolonial identities in Maghrebi literature Wolfgang Trimmel (Universität Basel)
14.10.	Major African novels in English: From Chinua Achebe to Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie Therese Steffen (Universität Basel)
21.10.	L'importance du multilinguisme dans la recherche en santé publique internationale Jakob Zinsstag (Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute)
28.10.	Les littératures francophones comme lieux de construction des savoirs Romuald Fonkoua (Sorbonne Université)
11.11.	La dynamique du français en Afrique sub-saharienne Martina Drescher (Universität Bayreuth)
18.11.	What is happening with colonial languages in African literature? Yarri Kamara (writer and translator) and Edwige-Renée Dro (writer and translator)
25.11.	Living-together in a multilingual and multicultural community. Negotiations of politeness via English in urban Namibia Anne Schröder (Universität Bielefeld)
2.12.	The spread of Arabic language and script: A kaleidoscope across the Mediterranean and beyond Monika Winet (Universität Basel)
2./3.12.	Title, exact date and place forthcoming Souleymane Bachir Diagne (Columbia University)
9.12.	Ancient Egyptian: A linguistic crossroads between Africa and the Near East Marwan Kilani (Universität Basel)