

# CERM-ESA

East and South African-German Centre of Excellence  
for Educational Research Methodologies and Management



## Newsletter 1/2019



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## Editorial

When alumni, faculty, project leaders, the international advisory board, Moi University leadership and friends of the East and South African-German Centre of Excellence for Educational Research Methodologies and Management (CERM-ESA) came together on 15 February 2019 in Eldoret, it was to celebrate the first phase and launch the second phase of the CERM-ESA project. The speeches, the singing, the poems and dancing during the ceremony attested to the warmth and joy of togetherness and to the spirit of our wonderful collaboration. Thanks to Moi University for being such a great host and thanks to all who have contributed to CERM-ESA and its success in the last years! We are looking forward to more fruitful collaboration in the second phase and beyond!

Since our last newsletter, CERM-ESA has run two large capacity building programmes for lecturers and supervisors herein referred to as CABLES@EA and CABLES@MU, participated in the 10th anniversary of the Centres of African Excellence in Berlin, carried out its 5th Research School, held workshops and saw the second cohort of Master's scholarship holders submit their theses. The third cohort is well on track writing their proposals and eager diving into the exciting world of research. Janeth Chemeli, PhD scholarship holder at Moi University, graduated with distinction and gave us another reason to be proud!

Enjoy reading our newsletter!

Malve & Susan for the CERM-ESA team



CERMESA! CERMESA! CERMESA!  
It began as a small seed, now a big tree  
Standing on its core pillars  
Yes, promoting excellence in educational research  
Training future educational leaders  
And of course advancing capacity building  
Thank you CERMESA! Thank you DAAD

(excerpt from the poem of CERM-ESA's first Master's alumni group, see page 14)

## Second Cycle of funding for CERM-ESA

By Paul Webb and Kholisa Papu

There were joyful celebrations when news broke in 2018 that CERM-ESA had been awarded a second five-year cycle of funding after a rigorous evaluation by an independent monitoring and evaluation consultancy contracted by DAAD. The evaluation process culminated with an on-site visit at Moi University during CERM-ESA's third annual research school. Questionnaires and focus group interviews were held with the first cohort of Masters and PhD students in order to gain insights into their experiences. CERMESA's short to medium term progress was also interro-

gated through, amongst others, its newsletters, programme evaluation reports, financial reports, a short video documentary about the Centre, maintenance of the websites, interviews with management, administrators and other stakeholders, etc.

During its second funding period CERM-ESA will not only continue to focus on its three major objectives, namely its academic programme for students, capacity building initiatives for members of staff, and collaborative research, but will also expand its ambit to become involved in teacher professional development issues.

Meetings have already been held with the Ministry of Education in Kenya, the Kenyan Institute of Curriculum Development and the Kenyan Teacher Service Commission. A colloquium for broader engagement will be held in Nairobi in August this year.

Twelve PhD and 26 full master's scholarships have been awarded to Education students in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and South Africa and the project has hosted five annual research schools for students on educational research methodologies.

Target areas of the capacity building initiatives for members of CERM-ESA's five

partner universities are university pedagogy, teaching strategies as well as research and management practices towards sustainable institution building. Recognition of our ability to facilitate meaningful capacity building programmes for academics resulted in a request from the DAAD to develop a cross-disciplines Capacity Building Programme for Lecturers and Supervisors (CABLES) in all of the current ten African-German Centres of Excellence on the continent. The first CABLES programme was hosted in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, for the southern African grouping of centres of excellence and the second was held in Zanzibar for East African delegates. Earlier this month, a CABLES programme was run for nearly 100 academic staff members from all of the disciplinary schools at Moi University. CABLES@WA2019 will be held for the West African-German Centres of Excellence in Accra in October later this year.

Our activities have been fully supported by university management at the highest level in all of the participating institutions, as illustrated by the signing of the official Memorandum of Understanding by the Vice Chancellor of Moi University, Professor Isaac Kosgey, during the CABLES@EA2018 workshop held in Zanzibar.



After signing the Memorandum of Understanding for the continuation of CERM-ESA: Moi University's Vice Chancellor Prof. Isaac Kosgey and project leaders of Moi University and Nelson Mandela University.



CERM-ESA Steering Committee at work

## 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Centres of African Excellence – Networking Meeting and Celebration in Berlin

By Malve v. Möllendorff

The Centres of African Excellence initiative by the German Federal Foreign Office and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) celebrated its 10th anniversary with a large networking meeting of all Centres' representatives and selected alumni in October 2018 in Berlin.

The celebratory event was entitled: 'Critical Enablers for Africa's Transformation – Contributions of the Centres of African Excellence to SDG's and the Agenda 2063' and offered space for exchange and networking between all ten Centres of African Excellence that operate in different countries of Sub Sahara Africa. All Centres aim to offer excellent education in their specific subject field and address challenges in their countries and regions. Besides CERM-ESA, there are e.g. the Centre in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which deals with microfinance and innovations in the banking sector and a West African Centre operating in Mali, Niger and



The Steering Committee with H.E. Amb. Magutt at the embassy

Senegal, which addresses issues of local governance. For more information on the other Centres funded in the African Excellence Programme, please visit <https://www.african-excellence.de/>.

The 10th Anniversary culminated in a symposium with a keynote speech by the Minister of Higher Education of South Africa, H.E. Ms Naledi Pandor, who emphasized the importance of the Centres of Excellence as hubs of knowledge and expertise and said that they are foundations with enormous benefits. During the panel discussion following the keynote address, the funders' representatives, politicians and academics agreed that the international cooperation model of the Centres of African Excellence Programme is highly successful with its strong focus on institution and capacity building in relevant areas identified by the African partners.

CERM-ESA's steering committee represented by project leaders Profs Chang'ach, Webb and Siebenhüner as well as coordinators Dr Kurgat and Ms v. Möllendorff attended the networking meeting and used the opportunity between the sessions to discuss upcoming activities in the CERM-



CERM-ESA coordinators explaining the Centre's work to the Minister of Higher Education of South Africa, H.E. Ms Naledi Pandor, and DAAD's president, Prof Margret Wintermantel

ESA project. We also had the chance to make a courtesy visit to the Kenyan embassy and to meet the Kenyan ambassador to Germany, H.E. Mr. Joseph Magutt.

## Sarah's Berlin Experience

Network Meeting from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of October 2018

**Critical Enablers for Africa's Transformation Contributions towards "The Africa we want" (Agenda 2063 by African Union Commission) organized by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Berlin, Germany**

By Sarah Jemutai

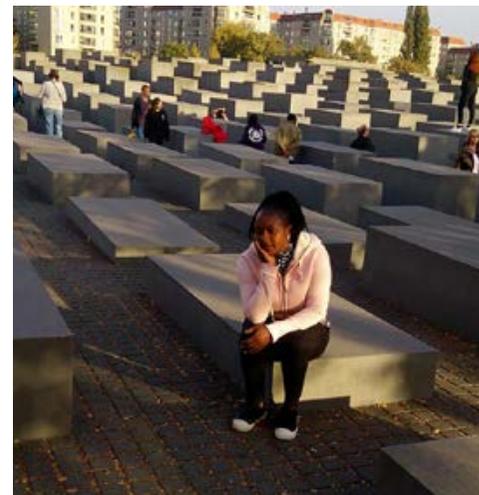
The trip to Germany Berlin was one of its kind. I had never been to Berlin before so I had a lot of excitement traveling from Kenya to Paris and finally to Berlin Tegel Airport. We were accommodated at the Park Inn Hotel Alexander Platz, the tallest hotel in Berlin, located right opposite to the 365-meter-high TV tower featuring the amazing panoramas over the city from its rotating viewing platform. It is in a walking distance from Museum Island, home to 5 world-renowned museums, including the Pergamon Museum, the Alte Nationalgalerie, and the Bode Museum. Alexanderplatz's U-Bahn and S-Bahn train stations are just a short walk from the hotel, giving easy access to the public transport system and to the airports.

Since we arrived safely and in good time, we kept our belongings and took a walk around the city. We saw the monu-

ment in memory of the 6 million Jews of Europe during World War II. The site of the memorial belonged to an area which was created in 1688 by the third baroque extension of the medieval Berlin. The construction of the extension was begun in 1937 in the western part of the garden. Two years later, an underground bunker was added to the villa, which has survived to this day. The building was severely damaged during air-raids in 1944-45. During the construction of the Berlin wall in 1961, the ruins were completely demolished. With the gradual development of the "border security system" the area became part of the so called "death-strip". In August 1988, the journalist Lea Rosh and the Historian Eberhard Jackel made a public proposal for establishing a "high visible memorial for the murdered Jews of Europe" in Berlin. On 25th June 1999 after Germany's reunification and



Berlin TV tower



Memorial for the murdered Jews in Europe

long debate, the German Bundestag finally passed a resolution to build a "memorial of the murdered Jews of Europe" based on the design by the New York Architect Peter Eisenman. On 10th May 2005 the Holocaust memorial comprising 2711 concrete stelae and a subterranean information centre was officially opened to the public. The exhibition provides information on the Holocaust and the authentic sites of remembrance. Moreover, it honours up to 6 million Jewish victims from throughout Europe.

The following morning, we had a joint meeting at the hotel lobby before departure of the alumni at Humboldt's University for our alumni meeting. The meetings took place at Humboldt Carré. The Alumni Meeting started on Wednesday, 10 October at 9:00 with the introductory remarks by the DAAD and the representatives of the "Alumni Association Initiative". This was followed by a session, by Dr Charlton Tsodzo, who spoke about the intended future Alumni Association of the Centres of African Excellence and focused on the status quo and next steps. Following that, the 1st working session was dedicated to the question "Are we critical enablers for the transformation of Africa?" After the joint lunch with the representatives of the Centres of Excellence, scheduled at Café

Weltgeist, the discussion continued, this time centering on the question of the Contribution to the aspirations of Agenda 2063 of the AU commission (and SDGs of the UN). The following day, from 9:00 to 12:00, a cultural visit as well as some individual visits of Berlin for all Alumni was organised. Then a briefing on the Opening Ceremony for the representatives of the Centres. At 16:00 the Official Opening Celebration Critical Enablers for Africa's Transformation – contributions towards "The Africa we want" took place at the Humboldt Carré. It was featured by a Welcome Address by Prof Dr Margret Wintermantel, President of DAAD and Professor Hamadi Boga, Principal Secretary for Agriculture Research, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Kenya, and former Director of CEMEREM as

representative of Centres of African Excellence. An interactive presentation of the 11 Centres of Excellence and a Networking Session preceded the 19:00 Key Note Speech by H.E. Naledi Pandor, Minister of Higher Education of South Africa. A Roundtable Discussion "Contribution of CoE to the Aspirations of Agenda 2063" took place followed by a Reception for all meeting participants at 20:15. Friday, 12 October was dedicated to the Symposium "Critical Enablers for Africa's Transformation?" which was held at the Humboldt University. The registration for the meeting began at 9:00, Plenary Discussion with Alumni followed at 9:30 leaving place to the parallel working sessions throughout the day. A cultural visit of the German Parliament (Bundestag) took place from 17:30 for all the guests.



Janet in front of the Humboldt University



Visiting the German Bundestag



Inside the German Bundestag

During the visit, we spent more than three hours touring round the parliament. Germans have history to tell starting from how the building was to be constructed the way it is i.e. with a dome. Some of the walls inside the parliament are natural as they were originally so many years ago with walls written in charcoal explaining how its citizens were suffering during Hitler's reign. A room inside the parliament has some architectural metallic boxes with names written on them of presidents and members of parliament who have sat in that parliament since time immemorial. We managed to see just at the door the president's room Dr. Angela Merkel MdB Bundeskanzlerin. Inside the parliament room where meetings take place has a logo of an eagle made



Sarah and Janet at the march against racism, for solidarity and human rights together with 240 000 demonstrators through Berlin

of aluminum and weighing several tons as shown in the picture. At the centre of the parliament is a dome constructed with mirrors on its walls for reflection of light. These are only a few highlights of the Bundestag. Berlin City is a very beautiful city, you may think it is a different city at night because of reflection of light that changes the colour of buildings. I was the luckiest African to have travelled to Berlin where the scramble for Africa took place, which was the occupation, division, and colonization of African territory by Western European powers.

The last day came and we felt it was noble for us to join a huge march against racism and for solidarity with Malve von Möllendoff, CERM-ESA coordinator of Oldenburg University.

## Berlin and the Festival of Lights

By Ann Karanja

The DAAD networking meeting was such a life-changing opportunity for me. Being able to interact with successful DAAD alumni from all over Africa, I felt motivated and empowered to become a more critical enabler for positive change in the society. In addition, the meeting was like a 'wake-up call' for one to contribute more as an alumna and an eye-opener in such a way that we were enlightened on additional opportunities for alumni. Through the meeting, the alumni network was strengthened. I was personally able to create and maintain a wider social network with other alumni from all over Africa.

It was so wonderful that the DAAD networking meeting coincided with the Berlin festival of lights, one of the most famous and spectacular light festival worldwide. This is an annual event that takes place in Berlin every October. On 10th October, 2018 we were lucky to witness dazzling lights beaming and dancing all over the buildings and other major landmarks. On that particular night, all the major buildings

around Berlin were transformed using luministic projections and metamorphosed with beautiful and breath-taking light projections. Light fountain showed mind-boggling illuminations in front of the Humboldt University of Berlin that seemed to get more spectacular as the skies got darker. These jaw-dropping illuminations and colourful spectacle of lights seemed to tell a story that was expressive, emotional and very amusing. Having never witnessed something like that before, I was amazed, it was all so sensational and impressive. I am grateful to DAAD and CERM-ESA for the opportunity to witness such a captivating world of art and creativity.

From left to right:  
Janet Ronoh, Sarah Jemutai, Ann Karanja and  
Susan Kurgat at Berlin's Humboldt University



## Networking Among the Alumni in Berlin

By Janet Chepchirchir Ronoh



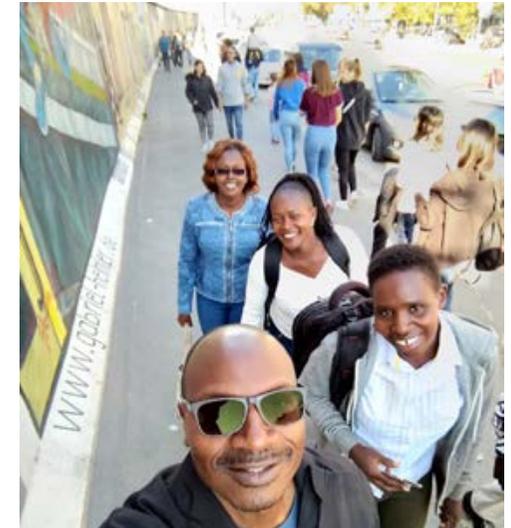
Janet (middle) with her Master alumni colleagues Sarah (left) and Ann (right)

It was with joy and anxiety that I took the opportunity to travel to Berlin to represent CERM-ESA alumni together with my two colleagues, in October 2018. Travelling to Germany this time through Paris and Tegel airports was an adventure of its own.

A walk through the cool streets of Berlin City in Autumn was an amazing experience with its morning breeze refreshing. The leafless trees along the city streets, water transport and boat rides, modern road transport and underground city tour was very fascinating to me. The climax was the meeting and interactive sessions

at the Humboldt University that led to connection, networking and bonding with our brothers and sisters from all over the globe, which portrayed unity in diversity. The drum sound of the African Excellence Network by Charlton, the AEN Chairman, is still vivid in my mind.

I miss the walk along the Berlin historical wall, the colorful night view of Berlin city full of monuments from the rooftop of Park Inn Hotel. This opportunity widened my view – much appreciation to DAAD and the organizers of this event.



The Berlin Wall

## East African capacity building programme in Zanzibar

By Anne Pabel

**CABLES@EA2018**, the second DAAD funded Capacity Building for Lecturers and Supervisors programme run by CERM-ESA, was held in Zanzibar, Tanzania from the 25<sup>th</sup> of November to the 2nd of December 2018. This intensive six-day programme commenced with an official welcome at the new Institute of Marine Sciences (UDSM) in Zanzibar by Professor Isaac Kosgey, the Vice Chancellor of Moi University, and Dr Margareth Kyewalyanga, the Principal of the Institute of Marine Sciences.

Key areas covered at CABLES@EA2018 included developing coherence in postgraduate research, leadership and learning, curriculum development and soft skills in teaching and research supervision. Ample opportunity was provided for practical exercises and constructive discussions.

The programme included 26 academics from all of the East African Centres of Excellence; namely the Tanzanian-German Centre of Excellence for Law in Dar es Salaam, the Kenyan German Centre of Excellence for Mining, the Centre for Environmental Engineering and Resource Management at Taita Taveta University College in Voi, the Centre of Excellence

for ICT in East Africa (CENIT@EA) in Arusha, and East African CERM-ESA partners at Moi University, UDSM and the Uganda Management Institute. This mix generated a diverse constellation of views which provided a framework for constructive and fruitful engagement over a range of issues that these academics face when supervising and teaching at their home institutions.

The first two days consisted of an intensive workshop on roles in supervision and the development of coherence in postgraduate research facilitated by Prof Michael Samuel. Subsequently, two one-day workshops were held by Prof Laban Ayiro and Anne-Mart Olsen, respectively. Prof Ayiro targeted soft skills in the area of leadership and interpersonal pedagogical competencies for excellent teaching while Ms Olsen focused on the development and assessment of university curriculum development and course design. Thereafter, a two-day workshop, facilitated by Prof Naydene de Lange, focused on aspects of postgraduate supervision such as power relations in supervision, supervisory practices, policies and roles, as well as models of supervision and the development of writing and feedback.



Participants and Facilitators of the Capacity Building Programme in Zanzibar

There was some time for the delegates to experience some of the rich history and nature of Zanzibar during a half-day excursion to either Prison Island or the Jozani Forest. Quantitative and qualitative evaluations of the programme were conducted on the last day and the participants used this opportunity for an in-depth reflective discussion on the week. During this discussion a shared sentiment around the personal and professional benefit of the programme emerged, namely that they felt that the programme contributed meaningfully to the expansion of their skills and will have a positive effect on both their teaching and their research supervision.

These positive responses, both in the formal evaluations and during informal discussions, paralleled the responses to the first CABLES@Mandela2018 programme held in Port Elizabeth, and confirms the potential of this capacity building programme to improve teaching and research supervision across contexts and academic disciplines. The positive feedback on both iterations of CABLES, coupled with some constructive suggestions for minor alterations of the programme, will allow for further refining of the curriculum for CABLES@WA2019, which will be held for the DAAD funded West African Centres of Excellence in Ghana in October 2019.

## CERM-ESA at the South African Science Forum

By Paul Webb

The South African Science Forum, which emphasised Pan-African cooperation, took place on the 13-14th of December 2018. A team of presenters consisting of Dr Anja Hallacker (Director DAAD Information Centre Southern Africa); Professor Laban Ayiro (Moi University); Dr Proscovia Namubiru (Uganda Management Institute),

and Professor Paul Webb (Nelson Mandela University) represented the DAAD and CERM-ESA.

The aims, objectives and activities of CERM-ESA, as well as its successes and new initiatives, were presented as an example of what is being attained by one of the 11 DAAD sponsored Centres of Excel-

lence in Africa. Our longer-term aim of providing opportunities for academics and students in universities across the continent was aired and discussed. The approximately 50 participants showed a great deal of interest and a number of new networking contacts were made.

Other highlights were invitations to the CERM-ESA team to a joint cocktail reception at the 'Residence of Switzerland' hosted by the Swiss, German and Italian Embassies, and a more intimate dinner hosted by the German Embassy the following evening.



Dr Anja Hallacker, director of DAAD South Africa in Johannesburg, introducing the Centres of African Excellence Programme



Prof Paul Webb discussing with a participant about possible ways of collaboration across Africa



Dr Proscovia Namubiru, Prof Webb, Prof Ayiro and Dr Hallacker ready for their presentation

## 5<sup>th</sup> CERM-ESA Research School and Launch of CERM-ESA II Moi University, 4-15 February 2019

By Malve v. Möllendorff



Participants of the 5<sup>th</sup> Research School after a long day of learning about creative research methodologies in education

This year's Research School centred on the first year Master's and Scholarship holders who took up their studies in September 2018 (at Moi University and Ugan-

da Management Institute) and January 2019 (at Mandela University, University of Dar es Salaam). Being in the early stages of their research, the two-week intensive

learning phase included sessions on how to get started with proposal development, research questions and methodology but it also provided space for exchange and peer learning. First ideas for research projects were shared and developed further together in a very cooperative manner. Time was allocated for meetings between the students and their newly appointed supervisors and CERM-ESA co-supervisors in order to get to know each other and start working on the student's research project.

The 2017 Master's cohort, who were busy writing up their last chapter and refining their theses before submitting in March, also joined some of the sessions and had the opportunity to present the results of their research.

All international visitors were invited to visit Moi University Primary school to meet the principal, teachers and learners and even observe a lesson in a grade two. We had the chance to see how the new competence based curriculum is taught and the

very engaged teacher explained what has changed for her as a teacher in the new curriculum. We piloted our questionnaires on the competence based curriculum with six teachers in order to get a first feedback on what they think about them. We left the school very impressed and say a bit THANK YOU to the teachers, the principals and learners for their warm welcome and willingness to meet us!

The research school culminated in a happy reunion with all scholarship holders, alumni and Faculty during the Launch of CERM-ESA II on 15 February. CERM-ESA's second funding phase was officially launched with speeches, music, food and poems in a very creative and moving way. Besides the CERM-ESA family, Moi University leadership was present and impressed with CERM-ESA's students as well as its programme achievements presented by Susan Kurgat.

## Kenya – Excerpt from my Travel Notes

By Lian Seibold

In February 2019, I was granted the opportunity to travel to Eldoret (Kenya) to participate in the CERMESA Research School. These are some of the travel notes I made about my experiences:

### Day 1

I'm so overwhelmed from all the impressions. I get this feeling, all the time, that I don't really understand what is going on. And I'm so curious about everything. So many people are walking down the streets here, everybody seems to be outside, talking to each other, standing in groups or running small shops.

### Day 4

When I walk on the university campus, people are looking at me, sometimes even shouting things after me. I can literally feel the attributions made on me by complete strangers because of my skin colour. It feels weird.



### Day 8

When I get in our conference room in the morning, everyone is saying "Hello", "Good morning", giving me a smile and handshake, asking how I am. I like this warmth in the group, even though we've only known each other for a week.

### Day 13

I'm happy to be back soon in my familiar surroundings, but I also feel a bit weird about going home. The last two weeks made me very thoughtful, as I had to question so many things, which I always perceived as 'normality'.

I'm very thankful for all the nice people I met and the nice talks we had, about our different and yet sometimes so similar experiences and thoughts. Thank you CERM-ESA for giving me this great opportunity.

The first group of CERM-ESA Master alumni wrote a poem for the launch of CERM-ESA II and performed it during the celebrations on 15 February 2019:

## CERM-ESA Poem

Thank you CERMESA! Thank you DAAD!  
CERMESA! CERMESA! CERMESA!  
It began as a small seed, now a big tree  
Standing on its core pillars  
Yes, promoting excellence in educational research  
Training future educational leaders  
And of course advancing capacity building  
Thank you CERMESA! Thank you DAAD!

It brings together diverse countries and communities  
East and Southern Africa here, Germany there  
Kenya here, Tanzania there  
Uganda here, South Africa there  
A well coordinated community.  
Thank you CERMESA! Thank you DAAD!

And now the first Cohort came  
We all came as amateurs in research  
We did not know this! We did not know that!  
And the journey began  
Yes, a thousand miles begin at one  
Thank you CERMESA! Thank you DAAD!

And now the connoisseurs came  
Full of knowledge and expertise  
Distinguished professors and doctors  
They sandwiched us with knowledge  
And the panel-fitting began  
Thank you CERMESA! Thank you DAAD!



And now they place things to their positions  
Background this way, problem statement that way  
Literature this way, methodology that way  
Results and findings this way, summary and  
recommendation that way  
The things we never knew! Now we know!  
Thank you CERMESA! Thank you DAAD!

And it wasn't only about research  
But CERMESA made us all-rounded  
It was travel and conferences  
Now we can appreciate humanity  
Now we can interact well with the world  
Now we are better people than before  
Now we can say: Thank you CERMESA!  
Thank you DAAD!

# Using Desire and Pleasure to Promote Safer Sex in South African Schools

## Public Lecture by Prof Mathabo Khau

By Lian Seibold

In family context, as well as in school education, sexuality is often reduced to taboos and prohibitions. However, this approach of dealing with existing feelings of desire and pleasure does not lead to abstinence among young people, but to misinformation about their bodies, methods of contraception and, as a consequence, to a high spread of sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV infections.

In her presentation, Mathabo Khau illustrated the necessity of a so-called “Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)” approach. She claims that we need to speak openly about our sexuality and teach safe handling of sexuality so that people can make informed decisions with the right information.

After the presentation, the participants from different countries talked about sexual taboos in their home countries and also about how we sometimes felt irritated by Mathabo’s direct language about sexuality (e.g. saying “vagina” and “penis” instead of avoiding these terms). All in all, it was a successful thought-provoking lecture. Thank you Mathabo!



Prof Mathabo Khau lecturing about comprehensive sexuality education

Poster announcement  
Public Lecture



The poster features a green header with the logos of Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg and CERM-ESA. Below the header is a green bar with the text 'Africa ↔ Oldenburg' and 'Academic Encounters – Pathways – Perspectives'. The main title of the seminar is 'Using desire and pleasure to promote safer sex in South African schools' by Professor Mathabo Khau from Nelson Mandela University, South Africa. The date and time are 'Donnerstag, 14. März 2019 - 16 bis 18 Uhr - Raum A04 5-513'. A summary of the lecture is provided, along with a photo of Prof. Khau and a short biography. The footer contains logos for the Niedersächsisches Ministerium für Wissenschaft und Kultur, DAAD, and Auswärtiges Amt, along with the website www.cermesa.uol.de.

## Postgraduate Workshop

By Susan Kurgat

After four successful research schools at Moi University, the School of Education, where the CERM-ESA is hosted, asked the Centre to help organize a postgraduate workshop in research methodology for all Master's and PhD students enrolled at Moi University's School of Education. CERM-ESA took up the challenge and the first School of Education postgraduate workshop was run at the Moi University Senate Chambers and the CERM-ESA Auditorium on the 25th of April, 2019. 126 academics from the School of Education took part in the workshop. During the one-

day workshop, the participants were taken through: (i) the introduction and procedures for postgraduate programmes in the School of Education (by Dr. Sammy Chumba); (ii) proposal and thesis writing (by Prof. Khaemba Ongeti and Dr. Kyalo Wambua); (iii) qualitative research methodologies (by Dr. Joyce Kanyiri); (iv) quantitative research methodologies (by Dr. Daniel Korir) and (v) publications and power-point presentations (by Dr. Njeri Kiaritha).

The participants were happy with the workshop and expressed the need for such workshops on a regular basis during their re-

search journey. From the report, most of the participants were keen to mention that they most especially experienced challenges in writing the proposal and literature review, choosing a research design, discussing and analyzing findings, and journal writing. Some expressed a weakness in weaving a theoretical framework with a study as well as identifying sampling methods. Workshops and forums for exchange like the postgraduate workshop are highly appreciated.

The strong level of agreement by the participants to remain linked to CERM-ESA as associate students became most evi-

dent in recurring statement that they "were glad to be referred to as associate students and would gladly attend future workshops as the workshops were very helpful". In terms of the shared perception that the programme was too packed, it was suggested that the overall length of the workshop can be done for a period of a week or each facilitator be assigned their individual full day session so as to achieve the desired objectives of the workshops. Each of these suggestions confirms the participants' interest in remaining part of the CERM-ESA postgraduate workshop programme.



Postgraduate workshop in the CERM-ESA auditorium



Dr. Chumba doing his presentation

## The African Excellence Alumni Network Meeting in Bonn

By Janet Chepchirchir Ronoh

After deliberations at the Ghanaian Alumni conference in 2018, it was agreed that African Excellence Network (AEN) Centre representatives meet at DAAD's headquarters in Bonn, Germany, in the month of February 2019. Representing CERM-ESA alumni in Kenya, I travelled to Bonn for a meeting that lasted five days.

The meeting begun with each center representative giving a report of their centers of excellence regarding their progress on AEN members' database and other activities. The AEN steering committee then embarked on interactive discussions on AEN annual conferences and proposed research areas. We also finalized AEN strategic documents such as the constitution. Election of AEN executive office bearers and the appointment of AEN advisory board members was done as well.

We also visited the DAAD headquarters offices where we met Dorothy Weyler and

the steering committee presented their requests and way forward for the AEN. We also had an interactive session with some of the officials of the DAAD German alumni. I truly appreciate the hospitality that we received throughout in Bonn, courtesy of DAAD.



Touring the city of Bonn



Janet with Dr Dorothee Weyler, DAAD

## CERM-ESA Capacity Building Programme for Lecturers and Supervisors – CABLES@MU2019

At the Moi University PDN Complex, 3 - 7 JUNE, 2019

By Lily Yego



CABLES@MU participants

The 3<sup>rd</sup> offering of CERM-ESA Capacity Building Programme for Lecturers and Supervisors (CABLES) was held at Moi University, PDN Complex in Eldoret town. The CABLES programme is designed to support lecturers and supervisors and pro-

vide them with valuable skills and knowledge on university pedagogy, strategies of teaching and learning, research coherence and supervision.

The CABLES@MU2019 workshop which ended on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2019, targeted

all the PhD holders in the School of Education and representatives from the other 14 schools of Moi University, who were selected by the deans. It was an intensive 5-day programme for the 90 participants that targeted key areas in proposal and thesis reports, the nature of teaching and learning and the pedagogy of supervision. The workshop was facilitated by international experts namely: Prof. Michael Samuel from University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa, who facilitated on The Research Wheel: Designing a coherent research proposal and designing a coherent thesis report; Prof. Naydene de Lange from Nelson Mandela University, SA, who facilitated on The Pedagogy of Supervision, and Dr. Noluthando Toni from Nelson Mandela University who facilitated on The Nature of Teaching and Learning.

Guided by these excellent facilitators,

the delegates representing the different schools exchanged ideas on issues that affect their research supervision, teaching and research. On the last afternoon of the programme, an evaluation of the week's event was administered. The evaluation provided immense feedback that will be useful in future reviews of the programme. From the feedback received, there is undisputed sensation that the programme was beneficial to the delegates for personal and professional developments.



Profs Michael Samuel and Naydene de Lange co-presenting

## CERM-ESA calendar of events

### January 2019 – October 2019

Date	Activity	Location
1 January	Start of CERM-ESA's second funding phase (2019-2023)	
4-17 February	5 <sup>th</sup> CERM-ESA Research School for Master's/ PhD students and their supervisors	Centre / Moi-U
14-15 February	Advisory Board and Steering Group meetings	Centre / Moi-U
15 February	Official Launch of CERM-ESA II	Centre / Moi-U
16 February	Scholarship selection committee meeting: DAAD In-Region/In-Country Scholarships	Centre / Moi-U
31 March	2017 cohort of Master's scholarship holders submit their theses	Moi-U
20-21 May	Research Workshop at Oldenburg University	UOL
23-25 May	CERM-ESA represented at the World Undergraduate Research Congress	UOL
3-8 June	Capacity Building for Lecturers and Supervisors (CABLES) at Moi University	Centre / Moi-U
30-31 August	Workshop with experts and stakeholders: Curriculum at the Crossroads in Kenya – The role of universities?	Moi-U / Nairobi
1 September	Six Master's and two PhD in-country/ in-region scholarship holders start their study programmes at the Centre/ Moi University Four additional CERM-ESA Master's scholarship holders join the group and start their studies at the Centre	Centre / Moi-U
18-22 September	Networking meeting of the Centres of African Excellence in Dakar and official opening of the 'West-African-German Centre of Excellence for Local Governance in Africa'	Dakar
14-19 October	Capacity Building for Lecturers and Supervisors (CABLES) for the West African Centres of African Excellence in Accra	Accra
28-30 October	In-service teacher professional development days	Centre / Moi-U

## CERM-ESA in brief

Funding period:  
2014 – 2023  
(first phase)

Funding volume: 3,3 Mio Euro

Funding Agency:

### DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) with support of the Federal Foreign Office (AA)



New homepage:  
[www.cermesa.uol.de](http://www.cermesa.uol.de)

## Project Partners



**Moi-University, Eldoret and Nairobi**  
[www.mu.ac.ke](http://www.mu.ac.ke)

The Moi University School of Education is based in Eldoret and offers various undergraduate and postgraduate courses. It plays a vital role in educational development in the region.



**The Nelson Mandela University**  
[www.nmmu.ac.za](http://www.nmmu.ac.za)

The Mandela University is one of the leading universities in the field of teacher education and education research in South Africa. It cooperates with universities all over Africa and beyond.



**University of Oldenburg**  
[www.uni-oldenburg.de](http://www.uni-oldenburg.de)

The University of Oldenburg builds on an almost 200-years long tradition in teacher education and is known for excellent, research-oriented study programmes in initial teacher education and the professional development of teachers.



**Networking Partners**  
<http://www.umi.ac.ug/>  
<https://udsm.ac.tz/>

The Uganda Management Institute and the University of Dar es Salaam complement CERM-ESA research, teaching and staff development with specific expertise in educational and management sciences.



## CERM-ESA programmes

CERM-ESA has three major programmes that run concurrently.

The first is the **research programme** whose objective is to build research capacity in the partner schools of education for sustainable institution building and excellent, innovative educational research in, about and for Africa.

The second is the **academic programme** which focuses on teaching and training of future leaders in terms of research methodologies, innovative management solutions and instruction techniques on Master's and Doctoral levels.

The third is the **staff development programme** where academic, teaching and administrative/management staff of the partner schools of education and schools in the region are offered opportunities for further education and development.

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