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**Cameroon:**

**Legacies of violence and prospects for peace.**

**New impulses from research**

Arnold-Bergstraesser-Institut Freiburg

16/17 June 2021

Webinar, updated version 07 June 2021

The envisaged webinar / workshop takes a long-term view on the current political violence bordering civil war in Cameroon. We will investigate a) the precolonial to German colonial period, b) British and French mandate rule until decolonization/reunification (1961), and c) the Ahidjo and Biya years until today.

These historically informed views on the actual situation are made possible by a renewed interest in Cameroonian history AND today’s crisis, not least in Germany. A good number of Ph.D. and larger research projects are underway, and we are able to draw on a long experience with both the topic and relevant research communities.

**Questions and perspectives**

We have identified a number of gaps in the academic literature on Cameroon’s legacy of violence:

* A lack of a gender-lens on all highlighted issues: female activists, female organisations and female victims of violence including in the contemporary period.
* A lack of comparative studies embedding Cameroon in larger debates on violence, conflict-mitigating institutions or “state failure”.
* While historical studies are generally rich, there is relatively little academic production on the British UN mandate period.
* There is a lack of up-to-date analysis, e.g. of the security apparatus.
* The current focus (in academia, diplomacy and NGO practice) on the Anglophone – Francophone conflict needs historical perspective (while it is also side-lining attention to localised examples of structural, and also physical violence).
1. **Aims of the workshop**

The envisaged workshop aims at bringing together both seasoned experts and younger researchers in their doctoral or post-doctoral phase, coming from different disciplines, mostly with a background in political, historical, anthropological, peace and conflict, and legal studies. Younger researchers stand to profit from comments of more experienced researchers. The current renewed interest in Cameroon in Germany’s research scene is equally reflected. While participants will provide presentations on topics they already work on, they are invited to reflect additionally on one or more of the presented loopholes (see above and below: provisional timetable). We expect the workshop to provide new evidence, a development of cooperative research agendas, but also avenues for practice-relevant approaches in fostering peace.

As one tangible output the organisers will write a substantive workshop report to be published in an open access journal (e.g. Africa Spectrum). The participants will discuss the prospects for a special issue, edited volume or online collection of proceedings.

1. **Participants**

**Participants with papers**

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| **Name, academic grade, affiliation** | **Discipline** | **Title** | **Status** |
| Nicodemus Fru Awasom, Prof. Dr. (University of Ghana) | History | Double Standards Operation of United Nations Trusteeship System in the British and French Cameroons  | confirmed |
| Tristan Oestermann, Dr. cand.(HU Berlin) | History | The Double Colony: Pre-colonial and Colonial Trade Patterns and the Roots of Division | confirmed |
| Maria Ketzmerick, Dr., Akad. Rätin(Universität Bayreuth) | Political Science | The Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon: Local Conflict, Global Competition, and Non-State Actors | confirmed |
| Michaela Pelican, Prof. Dr.(Universität zu Köln) | Anthropology | Mbororo perspectives on the Anglophone Crisis: the role of Ambas and the military | confirmed |
| Kiven James Kewir, Prof. Dr.(African Leadership Centre, Nairobi) | Peace and Conflict Studies | Gender and the 'Anglophone' Conflict in Cameroon | confirmed |
| Roxana Willis, Dr. (University of Oxford) | Law | Law, order, and the moral economy of violence among Ambazonian separatist fighters in Cameroon. | confirmed |
| Kerstin Stubenvoll, Dr. cand.(HU Berlin) | History | Violence and the Cameroonian labor movement(s) during the French UN Mandate period | confirmed |
| Denis Tull, Dr.(SWP Berlin) | Political Science | Political dialogue in Cameroon and Mali compared | Confirmed |

**Discussants**

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| Name | Discipline, affiliation | Accepted invitation |
| Peter Geschiere, Prof. Dr. | Anthropology, University of Amsterdam | Confirmed |
| Andreas Eckert, Prof. Dr. | History, HU Berlin | Confirmed |
| Gordon Crawford, Prof. Dr.  | Political Science, University of Coventry | Confirmed |
| Andreas Mehler, Prof. Dr. | Political Science, ABI | (host) |

1. **Adjusted Timetable**

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| **Conference DAY I (16 June)** |
| 10:45 –11:00 | Welcome |
| 11:00 –13:00 | **Block I: New research on under-researched periods** Tristan Oestermann: The Double Colony: Pre-colonial and Colonial Trade Patterns and the Roots of Division (30min)Nicodemus Fru Awasom: Double Standards Operation of United Nations Trusteeship System in the British and French Cameroons (30min)Discussant: Andreas Mehler (10-15min) |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | Break |
| 14:00 – 16:00 | **Block II:** **Gender and Moral Economy**Kiven James Kewir: Gender and the 'Anglophone' Conflict in CameroonRoxana Willis: 'Law, order, and the moral economy of violence among Ambazonian separatist fighters in CameroonDiscussant: Andreas Eckert |
| 16:00 – 17:30 | Conclusion day I: What did we learn? Options for joint research and publication, more formal network |
| **Conference Day II (17 June)** |
| 9:00 – 11:00 | **Block III:** **Cameroon’s violent history** Maria Ketzmerick: The Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon: Local Conflict, Global Competition, and Non-State ActorsKerstin Stubenvoll: Violence and the Cameroonian labor movement(s) during the French UN Mandate periodDiscussant: Gordon Crawford |
| 11:00 – 11:15 | Break |
| 11:15 – 13:15 | **Block IV**: **Security and peace, local and comparative perspectives**Michaela Pelican: Mbororo perspectives on the Anglophone Crisis: the role of Ambas and the militaryDenis Tull: Political dialogue in Cameroon and Mali compared Discussant: Peter Geschiere |
| 13:15 – 14:15 | Break |
| 14:15 – 15:30 | Conclusion: Prospects for Conflict Transformation and the Way Forward in Research  |
|  | End of the webinar |