



Universität  
Bayreuth

GeQuInDi-Netzwerk  
Iwalewahaus  
Model African Union Bayreuth e.V.  
Studierendenparlament UBT

Universitätstraße 30 ♦ D-95447 Bayreuth

Tel.: +49 921 55 (EXTENSION)

[susan.arndt@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:susan.arndt@uni-bayreuth.de)

Open solidarity letter to Prof. Auma

DATE 18. 01. 2021

Dear Professor Auma,

As students and scholars at the University of Bayreuth, we are writing to thank you for your valuable work in establishing Intersectionality Studies, Gender Studies, Childhood Studies and Critical Race Studies and to pay tribute to your work.

Your theoretical contributions to these fields have been as seminal to our work as your sound argumentation and analyses. Your studies on adultism and discrimination-sensitive education have had an effect have an impact far beyond Germany. We know that you have made these fields of research strong despite fierce strong headwinds, which are repeatedly stirred up, especially by racist parties and their representatives.

We observe that these racists and sexists do not stand up to a scientific dialogue and therefore and therefore avoid it through populist interventions. We think that it contradicts scientific ethics, to show the inability to engage in a sincere scientific discourse through by public-political hate speech and racist attacks on representatives of positions they disagree with and instead to use extremely reductionist and populist means to do so.

We know, however, that this cannot stop you and your visionary science, and we would like to hereby express our solidarity with you.

We read your articles and essays, and we are also very grateful that you have repeatedly contributed to the University of Bayreuth repeatedly through lectures and workshops - and will continue to do so. The Intersectionality Studies in Bayreuth and especially also the work of the Bayreuth Network Gender Queer Intersectionality and Diversity Studies (GeQuInDi), the Model African Union Bayreuth e.V. (MAU) and the student parliament of the University of Bayreuth are based on positions that your work has made possible.

We would like to thank you and would like to recall excerpts of your work on our website. Furthermore, we look forward to working with you in the near future. In particular we look forward to your lecture on 2/18/2021 as part of the VL series on Intersectionality Studies.

Please remain as inspiring and visionary as we know you to be.

Solidarity greetings

On behalf of representatives of GeQuInDi, the MAU Management Board, the Iwalewahaus and the Student Parliament of the University of Bayreuth

Susan Arndt



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### **Statement – ZtG**

On December 18, 2020, Prof. Maisha Maureen Auma rightly criticized the lack of diversity at German universities and the underrepresentation of People of Color in an interview (Tagesspiegel, 18.12.2020 - <https://www.tagesspiegel.de/wissen/struktureller-rassismus-an-deutschen-hochschulen-nur-tagsueber-sind-universitaeten-weisse-institutionen/26730214.html>) as part of the Science Day #4genderstudies. Since then, she has been subjected to racist attacks, including by the AfD parliamentary group of Saxony-Anhalt. We vehemently condemn these attacks.

From 2014 to 2019, Prof. Auma was a visiting professor at the Center for Transdisciplinary Gender Studies (ZtG) and the Department of Education Studies at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Here, she made significant contributions to both diversity and intersectionality studies as well as to critical race studies. She also advocated for critical knowledge production and reflection in teaching. Thereby, she has tremendously advanced both the joint work on the academic critique of racism, sexism, as well as other forms of discrimination and the self-conception of the ZtG as a space critical of discrimination.

We thank her for her multifaceted commitment and express our collegial solidarity with Prof. Auma.

These current events once again show that there is a need for concrete higher education policy measures: both for the academic support of racially marginalized scholars and for their protection against racist attacks.

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AG Critical Geographies of Global Inequalities, University of Hamburg

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Autonomes BIPoC Referat, University of Cologne

Bildung-Macht-Rassismus, student initiative at the University of Hamburg and HAW Hamburg, lecture series on critical racism

Center of Gender Studies of the University of Paderborn



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Center for Postcolonial and Gender Studies (CePoG), University of Trier

Chair of African Legal Studies, Faculty of Law and Economics , University of Bayreuth

Cooperative Research Training Group Neglected Topics in Refugee Research, UHH & HAW Hamburg

Cornelia Goethe Center for Women's Studies and the Study of Gender Relations, Goethe University Frankfurt

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The Federal Conference of Women's and Gender Equality Representatives at Universities (bukof)

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Practice

Practice Research Project on Critical Diversity, Weissensee School of Art Berlin

QUEERFORMAT - Office of Queer Education

State Conference of Women's and Equal Opportunity Officers at Berlin Universities (LakoF)

Student Council Initiative Gender, Intersectionality and Politics at Freie Universität Berlin

Student representatives Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Bayreuth

Student representatives Department of Social and Organizational Pedagogy of the Foundation, University of Hildesheim

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### **Persons:**

Leonie Adams, Practice Research Project on Critical Diversity, Weissensee School of Art Berlin

Sarah Ahmed, Research Associate, University of Bremen

Yalız Akbaba, Academic Staff, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz

Jennifer Adolé Akue-Dovi, Research Associate and Lecturer, University of Hamburg

Dr.Latife Akyuz, Humboldt University Berlin

Katharina Alexi, Research Associate, Universität Rostock

Prof. Ulf Aminde, Practice Research Project on Critical Diversity, Weissensee School of Art Berlin

Prof. Dr. Donja Amirpur, Chair of Migration Education, Hochschule Niederrhein



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Felix Ampoma, Development Studies, University of Bayreuth

Susann Aronsson, staff member of the Equal Opportunities Office of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences

Dipl. Soz.päd. Levent Askar

Jana Asmus, Practice Research Project on Critical Diversity, Weissensee School of Art Berlin

Dr. phil. Fatoş Atali-Timmer, Center for Migration, Education and Cultural Studies (CMC),  
Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg

Yemisi Babatola, Empowerment Officer\*

Annkatrin Babbe, Research Associate, Sophie Drinker Institute Bremen

Seraphina Bader, Universität zu Köln

Raphael Bak, Research Associate, Bergische Universität Wuppertal

Nora Bammer, University Assistant, University of Vienna

Dennis Barasi, Research Assistant and Lecturer, University of Bremen

Céline Barry, Postdoc at the Center for Interdisciplinary Women\* and Gender Studies, TU Berlin.

Prof. Dr. Cornelia Bartsch, Institute for Diversity Studies, Dortmund University of Technology

Dr. Manuela Bauche, Freie Universität Berlin

Prof. Dr. Christine Bauhardt, Department of Gender and Globalization, Humboldt University Berlin

Leonie Baumann, Practice Research Project on Critical Diversity, Weissensee School of Art Berlin

Gerd Bauz, Organizational Consultant IPOS

PD Dr. Johannes M. Becker, University of Marburg, Peace Researcher

Dr. Magdalena Beljan, Managing Director of the Association of Women's and Gender Research Institutions  
at Berlin Universities (afg), TU Berlin

Dr'in Denise Bergold-Caldwell, Philipps-University Marburg



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Friederike Bergstedt, M.A., Zentrale Gleichstellungsbeauftragte / Equal Opportunity Officer, Ruhr-Universität Bochum

Prof. Elise v. Bernstorff, Professor for Performative Arts and Education, Braunschweig University of Fine Arts

Dr. Silke Betscher, Repr. Prof. for Health and Diversity, hsg University of Applied Sciences Bochum

Andrea Bettels, staff member of the Equal Opportunities Office of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences

Dr. Tanu Biswas, Postdoc Department of Philosophy, University of Bayreuth Germany/ Advisory Board Member, Childism Institute Rutgers University USA

Thomas Blum, PhD Student, Universität der Künste Berlin

Prof. Dr. Eva Boesenberg, Humboldt-University Berlin

Dr. Julia Borst, University of Bremen

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Tanja Böhm, staff member of the Equal Opportunities Office of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences

Agnes Böhmelt, Humboldt-University Berlin

Dr. Janne Braband, Research Associate, International and Intercultural Education Research, Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg

Maximiliane Brand, Research Associate, Marie Jahoda Center for International Gender Studies, Ruhr-Universität Bochum

M.A. phil. Manfred Brink, Educational Referent

Professor Dr. Sabine Broeck, Universität Bremen

Dr. Anja Brunner, Institute for Musicology, University of Vienna

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Dr. Ines Budnik, Research Associate, Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg

Mart Busche, scientific staff, Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences Berlin

Susanne Bücken, PhD Student and lecturer, Aachen

Fallon Cabral, Freie Universität Berlin

Cane Çağlar, student at the University of Hamburg and research assistance of the initiative Bildung-Macht-Rassismus

Gülay Caglar

María Cárdenas, M.A. Peace and Conflict Studies, PhD student at the Institute for General Sociology, Justus Liebig University Giessen

Mariama Ceesay, Student, Education and Educational Science, University of Hamburg

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Dr. Jeanette Ehrmann, Substitute Professor of Political Science, University of Koblenz-Landau

Dr. Jennifer Eickelmann, Faculty of Social Sciences, TU Dortmund University

Friederike Eickhoff, staff member of the Equal Opportunities Office of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences

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Danja Erni, KontextSchule

Danja Erni, Practice Research Project on Critical Diversity, Weissensee School of Art Berlin

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Dr. Germerdonk, Forum Alma Rosé

Camilla Goecke, student at the UdK, staff member KontextSchule

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DATE 18. 01. 2021

Dr. Astrid Henning-Mohr, Department: Elementary School Didactics German/Aesthetic Education, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg

Dr. Jutta Hergenhan, Academic Manager, Center for Media and Interactivity, Justus Liebig University Gießen

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Mira Hörauf, Police University Baden-Württemberg

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Lilian Hümmler, Research Associate, Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt am Main

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Julian Ibrahim Jusuf, PhD Student Pedagogy, Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg

Prof. Dr. Eva Kalny, Faculty of Social Work, Health and Nursing, Esslingen University of Applied Sciences

Aylin Karabulut, PhD Student at the University Duisburg-Essen

Prof. Dr. Yasemin Karakaşoğlu, Intercultural Education, University of Bremen

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Andrea Karimé, Writer, Poetry educator

Katja Kinder, Managing Director, RAA Berlin

Wibke Kleina, Research Associate, TU Dortmund

Birte Klemm, Research Associate, Institute for Rehabilitation Education, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg

Martin Klepper, Professor, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

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Dr. Mike Laufenberg, Institut für Soziologie, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena

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Nina Lawrenz, Deputy Central Women's Representative of Freie Universität Berlin

Jana Leben, learning companion, European Ethnology and Gender Studies, Humboldt-University Berlin

Prof. Dr. Ulrike Lembke, Critical legal studies & gender studies, Humboldt University Berlin

Yumin Li, Research Associate; Institute for Cultural Studies, Humboldt University of Berlin

Prof. Dr. Manfred Liebel, University of Potsdam, M.A. Childhood Studies and Children's Rights (MACR)

Sabine Linn, Student MA Kultur und Gesellschaft Afrikas, University of Bayreuth

Tobias Linnemann, PhD Program Migration-Societal Border Formations, University of Oldenburg

Silvia Eleonora Longo, journalist and MA student African Studies, Humboldt University, Berlin

Prof. Dr. Maren Lorenz, Department of History, Ruhr-Universität Bochum

Dr. Christine Löw, Political Science, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main

Esther van Lück, Research Associate, Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel

Prof. Dr. Nanna Lüth, Junior Professor Art Didactics/Gender Studies, UdK Berlin

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Lynn Mecheril, staff member of the Equal Opportunities Office of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences



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Prof. Dr. Paul Mecheril, Universität Bielefeld

Friederike Mehl, Alice Salomon Archiv der ASH Berlin

Paweł Mehring, Phd Student, University of Oldenburg/University of Hamburg  
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Matthias Mergl, Humboldt University Berlin / Johanniter Unfallhilfe Berlin Ambulanter Pflegedienst

Johannes Mertens, M.A. Social Work, Aachen

Prof. Dr. Astrid Messerschmidt, Educational Science with a focus on Gender and Diversity, Bergische Universität Wuppertal

Dr. Beatrice Michaelis, Science Manager, Berlin

Karin Michalski, Lecturer, Curator, Berlin

Dr. Elisabeth Militz, Postdoc of Social and Cultural Geography, University of Bern

Sofia Mintre, staff member of the Equal Opportunities Office of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences

Dr. Noemi Molitor, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Emory University, Class of 2020

Mirko Moll, General Inclusion Education and Physical Education, Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg

Prof. Dr. Vera Moser, Kathrin and Stefan Quandt Endowed Professorship for Inclusion Research, Goethe University Frankfurt

Prof. Dr. Mona Motakef, Sociology of Gender Relations, TU Dortmund University

Prof. Dr. Carmen Mörsch, Art Education, Mainz Art Academy

Michaela Maria Müller, Author

Prof. Dr. Andrea Nachtigall, Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences Berlin



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Anneliese Niehoff, University of Bremen, Department of Equal Opportunities/Anti-discrimination, Director of bukof e.V.

Eunice Njoki, Sociologist, University of Kassel

Anika Noack, Student, University of Iceland

Dr. Onur Suzan Nobrega, Institute for Sociology, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main

Vanessa Ohm, Research Associate, RWTH Aachen University

Rena Onat, Women\* representative, Practice Research Project on Critical Diversity, Weissensee School of Art Berlin

Alexander Ossia, Language Trainer and Author

Heike Overberg, Practice Research Project on Critical Diversity, Weissensee School of Art Berlin

Prof. Dr. Nicolle Pfaff, Educational Science, University Duisburg-Essen

Peggy Piesche

Prof. Dr. Anne Piezunka, Chair of Social Work: Gender, Diversity, Inclusion, Berlin University of Applied Pedagogy

Jovita Pinto, PhD Student, Gender Studies, University of Bern

Dr. Vanessa Plumly, Assistant Professor of German Affiliate Faculty, Ethnic Studies, Lawrence University

Kathrin Pollow, historian and freelance lecturer

Dr. Lee Pratchett, Institute for Asian and African Studies, Humboldt University Berlin

Prof. Dr. Patricia Purtschert, Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies, University of Bern

Nils Ranft, Student Assistant Sachunterricht und seine Didaktik, Humboldt University of Berlin

Matthias Rangger, University of Bielefeld

Prof. Dr. Michael Rappe, Cologne University of Music and Dance

Stefanie Rau, Practice Research Project on Critical Diversity, Weissensee School of Art Berlin

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Dr. Susanne Richter, Research Associate, Center for Gender Studies, University of Hildesheim

Dr. med. Heide Richter-Airijoki

Alexander Riedmüller, Research Associate, Hamburg University of Music and Drama

Anne Rimbach, M.A. Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel

Prof. Dr. Encarnación Gutiérrez Rodríguez, Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen

Prof. Peter Rösel, Practice Research Project on Critical Diversity, Weissensee School of Art Berlin

Pauline Runge, Research Associate HAW Hamburg and PhD student in the Cooperative Research Training Group of UHH and HAW Hamburg

Prof. Dr. Uta Ruppert, Focus Global South, Institute for Political Science, Goethe University Frankfurt

Liesa Rühlmann, PhD student and lecturer, University of Hamburg

Saman A. Sarabi, Research Associate\*, University Bremen

Prof. Maja Katharina Schachner, Educational Psychology – Culture and Socialisation, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg

Prof. Klaus Schäfer, Chair of Urban Planning and Design, Bremen University of Applied Sciences

Dr. Marianne Schmidbaur, Scientific Director CGC, Goethe University Frankfurt

Fiona Schmidt, PhD Candidate, Zentrum für transdisziplinäre Geschlechterstudien, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

PD Dr. Ulrike Schmieder, Leibniz University of Hanover, Department of History/ Centre for Atlantic and Global Studies

Dr. Sigrid Schmitz, Guest Lecturer GeStiK (Gender Studies in Cologne), University of Cologne

Dr. Carla Schriever

Prof. Dr. Jenny Schrödl, Junior Professor of Theater Studies, Freie Universität Berlin

Anna So-Shim Schumacher

Universität Bayreuth, Gebäude GW I, Zi. 1.09, Universitätsstraße 30



Universität  
Bayreuth

GeQuInDi-Netzwerk  
Iwalewahaus  
Model African Union Bayreuth e.V.  
Studierendenparlament UBT

Universitätstraße 30 ♦ D-95447 Bayreuth

Tel.: +49 921 55 (EXTENSION)

[susan.arndt@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:susan.arndt@uni-bayreuth.de)

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Silke Cecilia Schultz, Screenwriter - Dramaturg – Lecturer

Dirk Schulz, GeStiK, Gender Studies in Cologne, University of Cologne

Dr. Miriam Schwarzenthal, Diversity in Education and Development, University of Potsdam

Prof. Dr. Dorothee Schwendowius, International and Intercultural Education Research, OVGU Magdeburg

Dr.in Saphira Shure, Research Associate, University of Bielefeld

Martin Siebach, Research Associate, Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg

Dr. Nina Simon

Dr. Toni Simon, Research Assistant at the Institute for School Pedagogy and Elementary School Didactics at the Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg

Prof. Dr. Sarah Speck, Institute for Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Goethe-University Frankfurt

Dr. Maria Stehle, Professor of German and Cinema Studies, University of Tennessee Knoxville

Prof. Dr. Nora Sternfeld, Professor for Art Education, HFBK Hamburg

Olaf Stuve, PhD Student, Leibniz University

Daniel Suer M.A., Research Fellow, University of Siegen

Katharina Sufryd, research assistant at the University of Duisburg-Essen

Daniela Tews

Dr. Vanessa E. Thompson, Research Associate, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Comparative Cultural and Social Anthropology, European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)

Helga Thorson, Associate Professor für Germanistik, University of Victoria (Kanada)

Tobias Tillmann, Research Associate, Catholic University of Applied Sciences NRW, Department Aachen

Constanze Tinawi, PhD student, TU Dresden

Melina Voulgaridou Toelle, student and academ. Tutor UHH

Universität Bayreuth, Gebäude GW I, Zi. 1.09, Universitätsstraße 30





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[susan.arndt@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:susan.arndt@uni-bayreuth.de)

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Kristof Trakal, Critical Pedagogy Reading Group, Berlin

Canan Turan, film scholar and filmmaker

Dr. Pinar Tuzcu, Sociology of Diversity, University of Kassel

Günter Unterburger, Practice Research Project on Critical Diversity, Weissensee School of Art Berlin

Franziska von Verschuer, Institute for Sociology, Goethe University Frankfurt

Prof. Dr. Constantin Wagner, Junior Professor for Educational Science, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz

Prof. Dr. John Wall, Professor of Philosophy, Religion, and Childhood Studies, Director of the Childism Institute, Rutgers University, United States

Prof. Dr. Gudrun Wansing, Director of the Center for Inclusion Research Berlin (ZfIB), HU Berlin

Stephanie Warkentin - Doctoral student at the Freiburg University of Education

Tom Wappler, PhD student, Institute of Music, Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg

Prof. Dr. Gabriele Werner, Practice Research Project on Critical Diversity, Weissensee School of Art Berlin

Dipl. Päd. Nina Westerholt, Research Associate, Department of Social Work, Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences

Susanne Wilkens, staff member of the Equal Opportunities Office of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences

Carolin Wohlert, Catholic University of Applied Sciences NRW

Dr.in Anna Aleksandra Wojciechowicz, Research Associate, University of Potsdam

Ernst Wolf, Practice Research Project on Critical Diversity, Weissensee School of Art Berlin

Dr. Eske Wollrad, Executive Director of the Protestant Centre of Women and Men

Sid Wolters-Tiedge, University of Bayreuth

Dr. Michelle M. Wright, Augustus Baldwin Longstreet Professor of English

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Prof. Dr. Elahe Haschemi Yekani, Humboldt-University Berlin, Department of English and American Studies

Prof. Dr. Aysel Yollu-Tok, Professor of Economics, Berlin School of Economics and Law, Lichtenberg Campus