

Press Release

German Studies experts from Africa and Germany meet in South Africa

DAAD Conference: 25 - 29 March in Stellenbosch

Bonn, 13 March 2012

From 25 to 29 March, a conference for German and African experts in German Studies will take place at the STIAS conference centre in Stellenbosch, South Africa. The conference is entitled “German language and culture in an African context” and is organized by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in cooperation with its advisory council for German Studies and Stellenbosch University. During the three days, about 80 German language and culture experts – teachers and researchers alike – will exchange views and ideas concerning the situation and perspectives of their discipline.

From 16 countries, representatives of just about every German department in Sub-Saharan Africa will travel to Stellenbosch to attend the event. In about 60 podia, lectures, study groups and poster presentations they will discuss German-African relations from a subject specific perspective and present the latest contributions to research and teaching in various fields of German Studies, including translation, interpreting, and German cultural studies. The wide variety of topics ranges from images of Africa in German literature to concepts of multilingualism and the relation between German Studies and development policy. On a departmental level, models of cooperation for the training of German teachers, the qualification of young scholars as well as for professionally oriented teaching programs will also be presented.

The conference will take place at the STIAS conference centre of Stellenbosch University and will be opened by, among others, the Rector of US and the German Consul-General in Cape Town on 25 March at 18:00 during a festive dinner held at “De Oewer” garden restaurant. Guests will be welcomed by Professors Klaus-Michael Bogdal (chair of DAAD’s advisory council for German Studies) and Eva Neuland (DAAD board member).

On 27 March, a public panel discussion in Cape Town will address questions pertaining to the practical use of learning German in Africa, and to what exactly motivates learners. The podium discussion will take place in German.

Venues:

- Opening dinner on 25 March 25 at 18:00 at the garden restaurant “De Oewer” (www.volkskombuis.ca.za/oewer/intro.php) in Stellenbosch (on invitation only)
- Academic program from 26 March to 29 March, all-day from 9:00, at the STIAS Conference Centre Stellenbosch (www.stias.ac.za) (on invitation only)
- Panel discussion “Why German” in cooperation with the Goethe Institute on 27 March at 20:00 at the “Centre for the Book”, 62 Queen Victoria Street, Cape Town

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