



UNIVERSITÄT
BAYREUTH



Announcement of 2 PhD-positions

Within the framework of the DFG Research Group 2757 *Local self-regulation in the context of weak statehood in antiquity and modernity* (LOSAM) at the Julius-Maximilians-University of Würzburg in sub-project F (Human Geography) ***Urban shadow spaces in the postcolonial state: Self-organisation of land and water resources in peri-urban areas of Maputo, Mozambique*** (Project-Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Eberhard Rothfuss). 2 PhD positions (academic staff) on 65% of the regular weekly working time) are announced for a period of three years from 1 April 2019. The remuneration is based on TV-L E13.

Social sciences and classical/ancient studies collaborate in various subprojects of the Research Group 2757. Categorically structured case studies in the Global South (Brazil, Burkina Faso, Mozambique and China) of the present as well as greco-roman antiquity allow a comparative analysis of various socio-spatial arrangements and the typological research of local, autonomous regulatory patterns (further information on the DFG Research Group 2757 see: <https://www.bevsozgeo.uni-bayreuth.de/de/news/2018/Neue-DFG-Forschungsgruppe/index.html>).

The main task of the two PhD projects is the preparation of a case study in the form of a dissertation. The sub-project in human geography aims empirical research on two self-organising collectives in Maputo's dynamically developing urban society and asks about their socio-technical practices as informal 'service providers' of water on the one hand and food production in community gardens on the other.

Prerequisites for admission are an outstanding university degree in geography, sociology or social anthropology and the willingness to prepare a PhD thesis within the research field outlined below. Portuguese language skills is desired. In addition, teamwork and committed cooperation in the interdisciplinary research network are highly expected.

The University of Bayreuth and the Julius-Maximilians-University of Würzburg are aiming for an increase in the proportion of women in research and teaching and therefore urge suitably qualified female scientists to apply. Severely handicapped applicants will preferably be employed if they meet the eligibility criteria.

Please send your application (letter of application including 1-page conceptual research idea for the research topic, CV, university and high-school diploma) as pdf-file to eberhard.rothfuss@uni-bayreuth.de by 31.1.2019.

Abstract of sub-project F (Human Geography)

Urban shadow spaces in the post-colonial state: Self-organisation of land and water resources in peri-urban areas of Maputo, Mozambique

Since 1992, the young post-colonial state of Mozambique has been undergoing a profound political transition process: i.e. from a formerly socialist state to a democratic nation-state, which is increasingly taking neo-patrimonial traits. The influence of the party *Frente da Libertação de Moçambique*, FRELIMO-led unions and cooperatives are dwindling and complemented by the activities of civil society actors, often supported by (international) NGOs.

The capital of Maputo with its densely populated peripheral districts plays a crucial role in the socio-political transition process. The peri-urban spaces lead a self-organized 'shadowy existence' in many spheres of life to secure the material as well as socio-cultural foundations. They can be understood as a laboratory in which a catching-up democratic transition 'from below' and from the 'social edge' take place and development processes interacting with 'customary authorities' and (non-)state actors create a specific form of governance of a post-colonial civil society.

An ambivalence is revealed here: on the one hand, there is a lack of state willingness and/or the possibility of granting urban infrastructures and services to all citizens, but on the other hand, this involves options for self-determination and gains of autonomy for vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Therefore the sub-project aims its empirical research on two self-organising collectivities in the peri-urban quarters of *KaMabukwana* and *Katembe* and asks about their 'logic of practice' as informal 'service providers' of water supply and food production in community gardens. Hence, two important forms of practices of resource-based and welfare-oriented *urban commons* are at stake, which are still constitutive of many African urban life-worlds. Due to their existential practices, the self-organising groups are closely embedded in the social space of their respective *barrios* and *comunidades*.

The overarching research question of this project is twofold: Does self-organisation of both essential services undermine (or enhance) the authority of state institutions in the provision of these public goods/services in the periphery, or does this rather provide an avenue for efficiency in the delivery of these services in the long-run?

Conceptually, the project refers to the governance and actor-centered institutional approach of the 'shadow of hierarchy' and uses the heuristic approach of *social entrepreneurship* on the practice level. This concept identifies innovative bottom-up strategies to alleviate social problems such as poverty and exclusion, in which solidarity principles are constitutive.