

Report of research project at Karlsruhe (Germany) from March 3rd - March 31st 2016

On the invitation of Dr. Petra Roth and my host Professor Andreas Böhn of the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology I have carried out my research project from March 3rd – 31st 2016. The research had two main goals: a) the finalisation of a research project on “Porter’s figures in colonial and postcolonial Africa”, and b) collecting information on the life of authors of colonial poetry in Africa with a view to publishing an anthology of German colonial poetry.

1. Arrival in Karlsruhe, Germany

After arriving in Karlsruhe on March 4th 2016, I was welcomed by Mrs. Christina Strecker, the assistant of my host Professor Andreas Böhn, who guided me to my accommodation in Karlsruhe. The first meeting with authorities of the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology took place on March 7th in the new college building of the Institute of Mathematics. On this occasion I was welcomed by my Mr. Dominik Schrey, a Ph.D student of my host. From now on, my research programme had started.

2. Realisation of research project on “Porter’s figures in colonial and postcolonial Africa” and biographic data collection on colonial poets

After I settled in at the university, the next meeting with my host, Professor Andreas Böhn, on March 8th has helped me to gain an overview of the activities of the ongoing GIP and other projects in progress, particularly the publication of an anthology of German colonial poetry. I have particularly carried out research on the websites of colonial archives, especially that of the Goethe University of Frankfurt, which has an important collection of original colonial photographs. I have thus collected some shots for my project and forthcoming teachings. The excellent internet connection has helped me to download electronic versions of some travel narratives in relation with the question of colonial portage, just as bio bibliographic data of some colonial poetry authors. At the end of my stay, my work on “Porter’s figures in colonial and postcolonial situation” was completed. A contract of publication for the said anthology was concluded with Röhrig editions at St. Ingbert.

3. Research-Alumni Seminar “KIT in Innovation” on March 17th – 18th 2016

Another highlight of my stay was the participation to the Research-Alumni Seminar “KIT in Innovation” held on March 17th- 18th on Campus South and Campus North. It was for me an occasion to meet not only with authorities of the university, but also with other research alumni coming from all over the world. This seminar has particularly enlightened me on how the transfer of new results of research through the process of innovation management, on the free market can be established and to contribute to the well-being of humans. From this perspective, I was specifically impressed by research infrastructures and mostly Dr. Thomas Kröner’s presentation (KIT, License Manager, Innovation Management Office) on the topic: *How does research turn into innovation?*

4. End of my research project and return

My research at KIT finished on March 31st 2016. Besides my research project and the participation to the research alumni seminar “KIT in Innovation” I also received the interest of some young colleagues of KIT who desire to come to Dschang within the GIP (“Germanistische Institutspartnerschaft”) – an exchange programme for researchers between the Departments of German of the University of Dschang and Karlsruhe.

5. Thanks

This research’s stay in Germany has only been possible on the basis of the support of some personalities and institutions at KIT to whom I really want to express my gratitude here: It is firstly about Dr. Petra Roth, in charge of International Scholars and Welcome Office (ISCO) who has provided up to 2,500 Euros for the funding of this stay in the frame of the Research Alumni Initiative. Secondly I would like to thank the German Institute of KIT, namely Prof. Andreas Böhn who has offered a pleasant environment for the realization of my research projects.