



Universität  
Bayreuth

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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.

### **Further supporters:**

#### **Organizations:**

Allgemeiner Studierendenausschuss (AStA), University of Potsdam

AK Queer, University of Bayreuth

Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Frauen- und Geschlechterforschungseinrichtungen Berliner Hochschulen (afg)

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

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

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Konfetti-Kollektiv Bayreuth

KontextSchule, Berlin

M.A. Childhood Studies and Children's Rights, Potsdam University

Marie Jahoda Center for International Gender Studies, Ruhr-University Bochum

Network for (Racism) Critical Migration Research: Representation, Community & Empowerment,  
University of Bremen

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

Student representatives Faculty of Languages and Literatures, University of Bayreuth

The Diversity Officers of the Faculty of Humanities of the Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel

### **Persons:**

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Raphael Bak, Research Associate, Bergische Universität Wuppertal



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