



Vortrag im Rahmen des Afrikakolloquiums

09. Januar 2013

Prof. Kelly Askew

(University of Michigan/
Wissenschaftskolleg Berlin)

Swahili Newspaper Poetry: Articulating Politics in Postsocialist Tanzania

Since its emergence as a genre over a hundred years ago, Swahili newspaper poetry—strophic verse by ordinary citizens published in both private and government-run newspapers in Tanzania—has privileged political themes. Opinions on the activities of government officials or policies of the ruling party, diatribes about international events, commemorations of national holidays, poems of praise and poems of critique all arise in a review of Tanzanian newspaper poetry since independence. These can be found alongside poems concerning personal relationships, honoring deceased kin, posing moral dilemmas and other conundrums facing the poet. They can also be found alongside letters to the editor, which tend to be the reserve of complaints about inadequate government services (electricity shortages, for instance, or lack of sufficient public sanitation workers). What defines newspaper poetry, *mashairi ya magazeti*, as a genre in terms both of form and content? And what themes predominate in the the last twenty years since free markets and multiparty democracy were introduced in Tanzania? This presentation will argue for the significance of this poetic form as an archive of popular analysis of and reactions to the changes occurring in postsocialist Tanzania.

Prof. Kelly M. Askew leitet das Institut für Anthropologie und Afroamerikanische/ Afrikanische Studien an der Universität von Michigan. Außerdem ist sie Gründerin und Direktorin des African Studies Centers. Sie promovierte 1997 an der Harvard Universität. Neben ihren Veröffentlichungen über Performance, Nationalismus, Medien, Postsozialismus und Privatisierung in Ostafrika arbeitet Prof. Askew an Film- und Videoprojekten zu Rhythmen in Afrika sowie zu Poesie in Bewegung.

**Ort: Institut für Asien- und Afrikawissenschaften,
Invalidenstr. 118, Raum 410**

Zeit: 18.00 Uhr s.t.

Alle Interessierten sind herzlich eingeladen!