

BRIAS members and invited speakers Melanie Habelitz-Wollgam, Martin Schüssler, Melanie Schulte, Sabrina Maurus and Charlotte Griesse at the Campus of HSWT in Weihenstephan



Text EBERHARD ROTHFUSS

Founded in 2014, BRIAS seeks to strengthen academic expertise on Africa in Bavaria and to carry out joint interdisciplinary research projects with other academic institutions in order to generate synergy effects.

The Bavarian Research Institute of African Studies (BRIAS) was founded in 2014 as a cooperation network by the Institute of African Studies (IAS) at the University of Bayreuth, the Institute for New Energy Systems (InES) at Ingolstadt University of Applied Sciences, the Africa Institute at Neu-Ulm University of Applied Sciences, and the Forum Africa Center at Julius Maximilian University of Würzburg. Weihenstephan

Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences (HSWT) has also been part of BRIAS since 2023.

The aim of BRIAS is to pool scientific expertise on Africa in Bavaria and to carry out joint interdisciplinary research projects in order to combine the strengths of the different academic institutions. At the core of the joint research are the Research Fields Mobility – Energy – Resources – Agriculture and Food – Health. In addition to the focus on collaborative research, BRIAS is proactive as a network in the Transversal Fields Cooperation/Network – Teaching – Policy Advice – Transfer.

After years of successful joint research projects (e.g., PROCEED/SEED/

STAIRE), the Bavarian network is increasingly seeking to provide scientific advice to civil society actors and political decision-makers.

On 2 to 3 May, 2024, BRIAS cooperation partners came together at HSWT to celebrate their annual meeting, which was hosted by Eberhard Rothfuß, Chairman of BRIAS, and Carsten Lorz of HSWT. Over the two days, all project partners were informed about current topics and projects at the partner universities. Representatives of various Bavarian ministries and the Bavarian Research Alliance (BayFOR), represented by Melanie Schulte and Sabrina Maurus, were also invited to provide information on the project work and the collaborative research of the BRIAS partners.

Melanie Habelitz-Wollgam, Head of International Relations, Development Cooperation, Africa and the Middle East at the Bavarian State Chancellery, was a guest from Munich along with Martin Schüssler from the Bavarian State Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism, and Charlotte Griesse from the Bavarian State Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regional Development and Energy.

BRIAS PARTNERS

-  University of Bayreuth (lead)
-  University of Würzburg
-  THI Ingolstadt
-  Hochschule Neu-Ulm
-  HSWT Weihenstephan and Triesdorf

