



Academy for African Urban Diversity (AAUD)

Frequently Asked Questions:

Do participants have to bear any costs (flights, accommodation etc.) or are they expected to secure their own funding?

The AAUD provides all travel related costs for those selected to attend.

When does the second workshop (in Göttingen) take place?

It will take place approximately one year after the first workshop, this means in October/November 2018.

Do I have to participate in both workshops?

Yes, it is obligatory for the participants to attend both workshops.

Will I get any support for the visa processing?

Yes, once participants have been selected the AAUD will provide invitation letters and other support to assist with obtaining the required visas.

What is the selection process?

Participants will be selected by a multidisciplinary selection committee.

When will applicants receive an acceptance or rejection message?

Applications will be reviewed in May and decisions communicated as soon as they have been reached, but not later than 6 weeks after the call for application closes.

I have not yet completed the period of empirical research. Can I apply?

Before the academy begins, applicants must have completed their period of empirical research.

If you are still in your research process you can apply for the second cohort.

The call for applications for the second cohort should be available in early 2018. Please check the website regularly for updates.

Which goals/objectives does AAUD pursue?

This initiative is designed to further four mutually reinforcing objectives:

- Fostering more theoretically informed work on mobility and socio-political diversity in African cities;
- Incubating a network of scholars across Africa working on (or sympathetic) to MPI – ACMS –ACC priorities, themes, and approaches;
- Encouraging professional partnerships and exchange among African and Euro-American educated scholars;
- Increasing the visibility of African scholars in the scholarly/theoretically informed literature on mobility and urbanization in Africa.

How is the workshop structured?

The workshop will take place on 5 days in one week.

It will be structured around the following components:

- In depth seminars on theoretical approaches to understanding diversity, migration, and urban life;
- Peer-workshopping of dissertation plan;
- Master-classes offered by senior scholars on the state of their field, on the research/writing process, and on positioning African urban/diversity studies within broader area studies and disciplinary formations;
- Professional development and support

What concrete kind of support does the initiative offer to participants?

The specific mode of capacity, theory, and network building will come from:

- Providing critical support and orientation during the immediate post-fieldwork phase as students consider their focus and outline their arguments. This intervention will help identify the most potent and practical uses of their data and encourage students to frame their work in ways speaking to debates over socio-politics of diversity.

- Supporting African cities scholars to embrace theory building and engagement with urban/social theory.
- Offer practical professional advice on
 - drafting a book length project in ways that are suited to publishing (as a book or articles);
 - organizing and managing data;
 - consulting colleagues and others in the field;
 - and the risks and benefits of interdisciplinary work.

After the first year, is there any follow-on support available?

In the second year, fellows will present their work and the best will be selected for a prize.

We hope to develop a network comprising all of the alumni of the academy.

In the sixth year, there will be a conference to showcase the body of scholarship developed by academy participants. All costs of attendance will be provided by the AAUD.

We also hope to provide some assistance and mentorship with publication strategies for work coming out of the academy.