

[Research mobilities in the Covid-era: A Southern African perspective](#)

Discussion published by Daniela Atanasova on Thursday, December 1, 2022

Dear colleagues,

We are happy to invite you to our **13th Mobility Lecture**, which will take place on **6 December 2022, at 17.15**, at Seminar room 1, Department of African Studies, University of Vienna and **ONLINE**.

Marja Hinfelaar from the Southern African Institute for Policy and Research in Lusaka, Zambia, will speak about "**Research mobilities in the Covid-era: A Southern African perspective**". Please find the lecture abstract and speaker's bio below.

The link for online participation will be posted [on our website](#) on the day of the event. Please help us spread the word and we hope to see many of you there! ([Facebook event](#))

Research mobilities in the Covid-era: A Southern African perspective

The COVID-19 pandemic hastened a process that was already under debate, namely the reshaping of north-south cooperation in the academic world. The lack of physical mobility led to a virtual academic mobility, in which physical presence was no longer a requirement to take part in conferences, seminars and journal board meetings. It reignited the debate on knowledge co-production, knowledge construction and the role of the local research assistant. The increased research demands on the south during the pandemic to fill the fieldwork void led to an increased competition on the ground, but also resulted in an enhanced regional cooperation.

Moving toward the post-COVID 19 era, patterns of uneven mobility and cooperation are reemerging, as they are still fundamentally steeped in matters of access to resources and consequent power/influence. This lecture uses the pandemic-era experience of a research institute in Zambia to add on a Southern African perspective to illuminate these dynamics.

Marja Hinfelaar, PhD, is Director of Research and Programmes at the Southern African Institute for Policy and Research (SAIPAR), Lusaka, Zambia. Marja received her PhD in History in 2001 from the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands, where her dissertation focused on the history of women's organisations in Zimbabwe. She is the co-editor of *One Zambia, Many Histories. Towards a History of Post-colonial Zambia* (Brill, Leiden 2008), *Living the End of Empire. Politics and Society in Late Colonial Zambia* (Brill, Leiden, 2011), co-author of *Governing Extractive Industries: Politics, Histories, Ideas* (Oxford University Press, 2018) and co-editor of *Democracy and Electoral Politics in Zambia* (Brill, 2020). For 10 years, she was based at the National Archives of Zambia. She is a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Southern African Studies* and *Zambia Social Science Journal*. Marja has been resident in Zambia since 1997.

The lecture is hosted in cooperation with the Department of African Studies at the University of

Vienna and is also part of their Afrika Kolloquium series.

Yours,

Research Platform Mobile Cultures and Societies, University of Vienna