

**PROGRAM
AND
CONCEPT**

**WEEKEND CULTUREL
DECOLONIAL
2025** 6TH EDITION

**A TRAVELING SYMPOSIUM
TRACING GERMAN COLONIZATION
IN RWANDA**

24TH UNTIL 31ST OF OCTOBER



For Multimedia Heritage



**Ethnologisches Museum und
Museum für Asiatische Kunst**
Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz



**HUMBOLDT
FORUM**



**GOETHE
INSTITUT**

Weekend Culturel DÉCOLONIAL

Programme from the 24th to 31st
of October 2025

Day 1: Friday, 24th of October

Inaugural Conference -
Artistic expression - Cultural
evening in Kigali

Morning at IRIBA Center: Internal meeting
between members of different editions of the
Weekend Culturel DÉCOLONIAL

Afternoon at IRIBA Center: Session open to all.

Opening remarks by the organizing institutions.
Young artists present artistic performances
created or in progress as part of the Weekend
Culturel DÉCOLONIAL.

Evning at Kandt House Museum. Questioning
narratives, storytelling, and the writing of
Rwandan history. Session requires invitation.

What is Richard Kandt's residence in the history of
Rwanda's colonization?

- Lecture: The impact of Richard Kandt's writings on the storytelling of Rwanda's history? (Dr. Stefanie Bognitz)
- Theater performance "Sakwe-Sakwe." Original creation by Mucyo Kanyankore Arnaud, 2023-25. Mobilizing Rwandan heritage and artistic resources to engage in a renewed debate on colonization
- Speeches by elders and intergenerational discussions.

*Organizers of the day: IRIBA Center & Goethe-Institut, Humboldt Forum with
the participation of the Richard Kandt Museum and INGOBE Scop.*

Day 2: Saturday, 25th of October

Trip from **Kigali to Shangi via Rusizi**: A journey of discovery, stories, songs and names. Stops will allow us to share some knowledge.

Between the Mountains:

Kigali-Jali-Shyorongi and **Rebero** from ancient times (Bwanacyambwe) and contemporary times.

Nyabarongo and its stories,

Gitarama - Kabgayi: forge of the civilizing mission, birth of the first republic.

Save: site of the first Christian church in Rwanda.

Nyanza: one of the Umurwa (royal capitals) of Rwanda.

Butare/Astrida (Bwanamukari): first university town, when the pair barbarism/civilization challenges us.

Ibisi bya Huye kwa **Nyagakecuru**: the powerful woman, an idea present and ancient in Rwandan narratives, or the natural forest of **Nyungwe (Kinyaga)** and **tea cultivation**, etc.

Trip led by IRIBA Center: Assumpta Mugiraneza, Emilienne Mukansoro, Mucyo Kanyankore, Kayumba Jean Paul, Pacifique Ndanyuzwe Rwangombwa, Shyaka Rukundo Hubert Kelly and Cyubahiro Sibo Evrard Kenny.

Day 3 & 4: Sunday, 26th and Monday, 27th of October

Workshops in Shangi, in southwestern Rwanda on the shores of Lake Kivu. Site of the former German colonial command post.

These sites contain important architectural and memorial traces of German colonization... What Rwandan heritage had to give way to the "modern/civilized" narrative?

Sunday, October 26 is dedicated to Shangi, a site with a particular presence of German colonization.

- Visits and discoveries of the different surrounding areas.
- Workshops led on site, comparing written and oral traces in the stories and landscapes of this German settlement.
- Discussions & artistic creation exercises

Monday, October 27: World Audiovisual Heritage Day, UNESCO 2025. The issue of audiovisual heritage in a country where several breaks with endogenous sources of knowledge overlap.

- Visits to sites and landscapes that bear witness to the confrontation between the indigenous world and the modern or civilized world.
- Workshop and exchange of experiences in educational and artistic practices, between "fragmented and intertwined" memories. Imagining new avenues of work?

Organizers of the day: IRIBA Center & Goethe-Institut, Humboldt Forum with the participation of INGOBE Scop.

Day 5: Tuesday, 28th of October

Trip from Rusizi to Kibuye:

A journey of discovery,
stories, songs and names.
Stops will allow us to share
some knowledge.

Leave Rusizi, following the contours of Lake Kivu and questioning the choices and practices of German colonization. Above all, try to awaken the traces and memories of the Rwandans. The artistic creation projects currently underway will be unveiled and will fuel discussions between the various stakeholders.

Nyamasheke & Rubengera: sites chosen by the colonizers to establish the Christian religion, between Protestantism and Catholicism. What was the “deal”? Discussions and questions: What happened when the Germans left? What traces of Rwanda, what local memories could be brought into dialogue with the objects present in Germany?

In Mushubati – Ejo Hacu: Session on Reparation: Can we talk about restitution without an effort to think about a framework for dealing with the past, on a psycho-sociological, societal, and political level? How can we deal with the wounds of the past? How can we recreate mechanisms of transmission that take into account social divisions?

Organizers of the day: IRIBA Center & Goethe-Institut, Humboldt Forum . In collaboration with INGOBE Scop and Ejo Hacu, a local NGO dedicated to mental health.

Day 6: Friday, 31st of October

Trip from Kibuye to Gisenyi,
the other German colonial
command post, scene of
German-Belgian clashes.

Leave Kibuye, continuing along the shores of Lake Kivu, observing and questioning the landscapes and local stories, particularly those related to Lake Kivu. Mountain pastures, crops, Gishwati Forest, etc.

World War I in Rwanda: the role of the Rwandans, between tribute and exploitation by the colonial powers.

Mount Rubavu: what symbolism does it hold in the history of World War I? Thinking about lasting peace beyond the European Union and the Western powers? A peace museum or an international peace center?

Gisenyi-Nyundo: Dialogue on the establishment of the Christian church in relation to Rwandan culture and practices since then. “The legacy of Bishop Aloys Bigirumwami and the duty to pass it on to new generations.”

Cultural and artistic evening with elders who will speak in their own way. Another approach to intergenerational transmission.

Organizers of the day: IRIBA Center & Goethe-Institut, Humboldt Forum . In collaboration with INGOBE Scop and Vision Jeunesse Nouvelle (VJN).

Day 7: Thursday, 30th of October

Return to Kigali. Sharing experiences from the tour – evening at the residence of the German ambassador.

Morning: Return to Kigali, passing through the volcano and gorilla region, Rwandan landscapes, their potential and challenges.

Evening at the German ambassador's residence: Summary, feedback/sharing by the group; through cultural and artistic expression.

Organizers of the day: IRIBA Center & Goethe-Institut, Humboldt Forum with the participation of INGOBE Scop.

Day 8: Friday, 31st of October

Special session at Goethe - review with organizers.

Morning: Feedback and summary meeting: strengths and areas for improvement, good and bad surprises. Agree on a plan for future collaborative projects.

2:00 pm: Round table and experience sharing with guests. Session open to the public.

4:00 pm: Closing of the 2025 Decolonial Cultural Weekend.

Organizers of the day: IRIBA Center & Goethe-Institut, Humboldt Forum.

Context:

In 2018, the IRIBA Center for Multimedia Heritage designed a program called *Young Artists in the City of Rwanda*, led for, with, and by young artists.

The concepts of “Citizenship - Youth Arts” are at the heart of the program and combine interdisciplinarity, transculturality, and peer learning.

Since 2020, the IRIBA Center and Young Artists have been organizing an annual event, the *Weekend Culturel DÉCOLONIAL*, around October 27, UNESCO World Audiovisual Heritage Day.

This weekend features public performances and presentations of original works created during the year. It is a powerful moment of reflection and artistic co-creation led by young people who question Rwanda's past and the impact of colonization on contemporary identities and cultural expressions.

The 2025 Weekend Culturel DÉCOLONIAL will mark a new turning point in the commitment of the Humboldt Forum, whose educational program “Intertwined/ Interwoven Memories” will be rolled out in Rwanda on this occasion.

Thanks to an ambitious partnership with the IRIBA Center and the Goethe-Institut Rwanda, the program will last eight days. It will take place at three sites in Kigali (the IRIBA Center, the Kandt House Museum, and the Goethe-Institut) and will include a traveling component in the provinces. It will explore sites marked by German colonization in Rwanda, from Kigali to the southwest and northwest, with a strong connection to Lake Kivu.

The 2025 Weekend Culturel DÉCOLONIAL aims to embed an artistic, heritage-based, and decolonial quest into the Rwandan cultural landscape. The event will be held in several symbolic locations linked to German colonial history in Rwanda—between tangible/intangible remains, local memories, and contemporary dynamics. It will involve revisiting these places, conducting co-creation workshops, sharing knowledge, and promoting a lasting dialogue between Rwandan and German heritage.

Rwanda has both a colonial experience and a unique experience of a *génocide de proximité*, the roots of which lie, in part, in the racial theories introduced to Rwanda by colonization at the beginning of the last century... What work can be envisaged with educators and researchers working on the Holocaust? The presence of the “Intertwined/ Interwoven Memories” program will make the sharing of experiences in history, education and remembrance work more concrete.

Participants:

Scientists from the Humboldt Forum:



Kathrin Kollmeier is a historian and has been director of the Humboldt Forum Academy since 2017. She has worked in museums and research institutes, exploring the history of dictatorship, migration, exile, and statelessness in the 20th century.



Andrea Scholz is a curator for cross-cultural cooperation in Berlin. As an anthropologist, she has been conducting projects with indigenous communities in the Amazon and Latin America for 10 years.



Caroline Assad is Head of International Relations and Diversity at the Humboldt Forum. She has worked on diversity, memory, and cultural cooperation at HKW, UNICEF, and the German Research Center for Integration and Migration.



Marc Wrasse is the Education and Outreach Curator at the Humboldt Forum Academy. He develops formats on colonial heritage and has worked at the Jewish Museum Berlin on German Jewish history.



Patrick Helber is a scholar in history and political science. He is the author of *Dancehall und Homophobie*. He works at the Ethnological Museum in Berlin in the field of education and mediation and hosts a program on Caribbean popular culture.



Roey Zeevi is a scholar in International Relations and Communication, specializing in cinema and gender studies. He led teacher training at Yad Vashem and now serves as Pedagogical Advisor at the Ghetto Fighters' House Museum, while teaching History and Civics.

Participants from IRIBA Center and partners:



Assumpta Mugiraneza is a Franco-Rwandan academic. Since 1994, her research has focused on Genocide and extreme violence through discourse analysis. She cofounded and directs the IRIBA Center for Multimedia Heritage.



Rose Mukankomeje (PhD) in Biology. She is a former member of Rwanda's first post-genocide parliament. She is a CEO of REMA and HEC and stands for long-standing commitment to the issue of transmission and preservation of historical and cultural heritage.



Kayumba Jean Paul is a Rwandan researcher and cultural heritage professional pursuing a PhD at Wageningen University. With experience at IRIBA, CELHTO-UA, Africalia, and Rwanda Avenir, he bridges research, community engagement and archival practice.



Aline Usanase is a ULK graduate with a background in Accounting and Finance. She currently serves as the Head of Finance for a project at the IRIBA Center. She is an environmental and cultural activist with a focus on psychology.



Stefanie Bognitz (PhD) is a social anthropologist interested in epistemologies shaped by political, legal, ethical, and everyday dimensions after Genocide. She is currently a Senior Fellow at the Merian Institute in Ghana.



Émilienne Mukansoro is the founder of Ejo Hacu, a Rwandan educator and psycho-therapist.



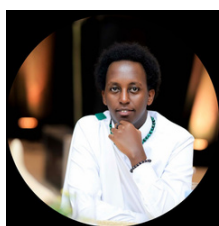
Fabiola Rutamu Uwera is a lawyer, multidisciplinary artist, and Associate Director at Certa Foundation. Her work blends law, investigative research, and creative advocacy, with a focus on cultural identity and healing through mother tongue and visual art.



Micomyiza Kareb is a linguistics and literature graduate with a strong foundation in cultural studies, gained through an internship at the Iriba Center for Multimedia Heritage.



Songa Teta Gaëlle is a finance and analytics masters graduate. After seven years in Poland, she returned to Rwanda and is currently interning at the IRIBA Center while exploring her cultural heritage.



Bwimba Shema Eloi is trained in international trade and economics. He has worked as content creator and digital marketing expert with various Rwandan companies. As a curator and producer, he uses his entrepreneurial skills to support Rwanda's cultural and creative industries.

Participants from Goethe-Institut:



Anisha Helen Soff-Ochieng is the Director of the Goethe-Institut Rwanda. She has an academic background in architecture, art and curatorial studies, as well as cultural anthropology.



Mathilde Franc de Pommereau is a social anthropology and German language student at University of Münster. She assists the Goethe-Institut Kigali with the organization of the Weekend Culturel DÉCOLONIAL.

Participating artists:



Kanyankore Mucyo Arnaud (Mucyo w' icyogere) is a Rwandan artist blending arts and technology to preserve cultural heritage. He is the artistic creator of performances such as Isha n'Ishyo and Sakwe sakwe.



Jean Luc Usabwimana is a visual artist. His work reflects themes of nature, identity, and everyday life in Rwanda.



Marie Grace UWIZEYE (Chockie Grace) is a Rwanda-based interdisciplinary artist and project manager. Her work blends film, poetry, theater, and dance to explore identity, freedom, and healing.



Ndanyuzwe Pacifique (Rwigema Rwangombwa) is a bachelor's student in International Relations. He enjoys singing and dancing traditional Kinyarwanda songs, and works with communities to engage youth in civic initiatives.



Cyubahiro Kenny Evrard is a Computer Science graduate passionate about merging technology with cultural preservation. He organizes cultural events, teaches traditional dance, and aims to use digital tools to promote Rwanda's heritage.



SHYAKA RUKUNDO Kelly Hubert is a computer and software engineering graduate. As a traditional dancer and Ingoma drummer, he teaches and performs to keep heritage alive.



Aubaine HIRWA is a cultural manager, computer scientist, and multidisciplinary artist. As production manager at Ishyo Arts Center and contributor at Iriba Center, she has shaped Rwanda's cultural scene.

Scientific and organizational committee:

A group from Rwanda and Germany prepared and organized the program in terms of both science and logistics

1. Assumpta Mugiraneza/ Kayumba Cyitatre Jean Paul (IRIBA Center)
2. Rose Mukankomeje (expert: education, environment, heritage, IRIBA)
3. Patrick Helber/Andrea Scholtz and Marc Wrasse (Humboldt Forum)
4. Anisha Soff-Ochieng and Ceke Mathenge (Goethe-Institut)
5. Mucyo Kayankore, Bwimba Shema Eloi, Emilienne Mukansoro, Yvan. (Organization: IRIBA and partners)
6. Mathilde Franc de Pommereau (Organization: Goethe-Institut)
7. Songa Teta Gaelle (Intern IRIBA)

Program designed and organized by:



With the kind support of:



Brochure designed by Goethe-Institut Rwanda
Kigali, 2025