

DoGES graduate gets a PhD scholarship to the University of Bonn, Germany

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Antony Ogolla has been awarded a scholarship to study for his PhD at the University of Bonn, Germany – under a collaborative research project “Future Rural Africa: Future-making and social-ecological transformation”. Antony graduated from University of Nairobi in 2017 with a MA degree in Environmental Planning and Management – offered at the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. The scholarship has been made possible courtesy of several years of cooperation and collaboration between Prof. Detlef Müller-Mahn (University of Bonn), Dr. Boniface Kiteme (CETRAD, Kenya) and Dr. Samuel Owuor (University of Nairobi).

The Collaborative Research Centre 228 (CRC 228) addresses the intricate relationship between future-making and social-ecological transformation and combines expertise from different academic disciplines, ranging from geography, anthropology, and agronomy to political science, vegetation ecology and virology. With a focus on “future-making”, the members of this large-scale project adopt a perspective that is different from previous approaches to social-ecological research: priority will be given to African actors and their ideas, wishes and expectations in respect of the shaping of future-oriented developments. The general concept of the project is inspired by recent debates in future theory. It distinguishes between concepts of the future based on probabilities, forecasts and models, and concepts which consider future in the form of visions, imaginations and aspirations. While the

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former approach is common in the natural sciences, the latter is preferred by researchers in the social sciences. CRC 228 focuses on the Kenyan Rift Valley, the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT), and the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area in southern Africa.

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