

Possible subjects MA theses African Studies (African history, anthropology, arts and material culture, museum anthropology):

- customary chieftaincy in the past and the present, including female chieftaincy
- colonial policies of indirect rule
- closed associations (“secret societies”)
- resistance and rebellion, particularly in the colonial era
- cultural politics and policies e.g. pertaining to restitution, UNESCO policy, culture-for-development (culture as a remedy for crisis)
- economic anthropology, anthropology of exchange systems
- critical museology, indigenous/African museology
- ethnography/fieldwork in DRC
- colonial science and decolonisation of knowledge production
- African art history and material culture studies, collection research

Examples of possible subjects of theses I supervised:

- Likelemba: African women’s credit systems
- Digital activism (fees must fall)
- Digital reconnection with distant cultural heritage in colonial collections
- ...

Subjects I would like to suggest to students:

- Colonial law pertaining to the co-optation of customary leaders in indirect rule (study of the Bulletin Officiel du Congo Belge)
- Studies of movements suppressed under colonial rule (so-called “secret societies” or ‘sects’, African churches,) based on study of colonial archives
- Collective healing and
- Study of collections at the Royal Museum for Central Africa, including also provenance research

There also is the possibility to do research in the framework of ongoing research projects, e.g. related to the collections of the RMCA:

<https://research.flw.ugent.be/en/projects/transformative-heritage-customary-governance-community-building-and-digital-restitution>

<https://research.flw.ugent.be/en/projects/congolines-inscribing-lines-weaving-threads-congolese-colonial-paintings-images-and-objects>