

Further Events Summer Term 2021

Wednesday, 5 May
Cancelled

Golden Age of Piracy and Pirates in the Atlantic World

Tuesday, 1 June

Im Schatten von Nürnberg – das Tokyo Tribunal

Wednesday, 9 June

Erlesene Szenen: Wie lesen wir (Literatur)?

Wednesday, 23 June

Japan through the lens of the Tokyo Olympics

Wednesday, 30 June

The Care Crisis – Causes and Solutions

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Erlesenes Erforschen

Unter dem Motto „*Erlesenes Erforschen*“ präsentieren Forscher*innen aus unterschiedlichen Disziplinen am Campus der Universität Wien ihre aktuellen Neuerscheinungen einer breiten Öffentlichkeit.

Bitte beachten Sie die aktuellen COVID-19-Maßnahmen der Universität Wien und achten Sie auf Ihre Gesundheit!

Pictures

Title: Iconic statue of the late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, Kenya's first president. It is located at the heart of KICC grounds. The Monument has the wmke-identifier number 203 © Dexxe via Wikimedia commons | Inside: Book cover with photo: Mau Mau leader of Kenya African National Union (KANU), Jomo Kenyatta, holds the official document of Kenyan independence, 13 December 1963 in Nairobi as he becomes President of Kenya. At the left is Prince Philip of Edinburgh representing Queen Elisabeth for the ceremonies. © Photo by AFP via Getty Images

Imprint

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Power and the Presidency in Kenya

Book presentation & Discussion **English**

Wednesday, 5 May 2021, 17:00

Online Event broadcasted via Livestream

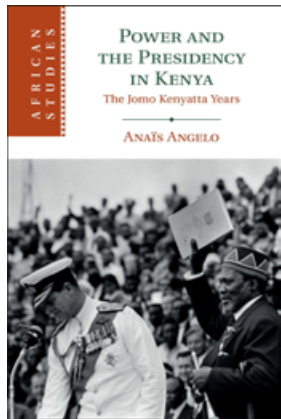


**ERLESENES
ERFORSCHEN**



Livestream

About the Book



Whenever an African president is elected, re-elected, leaves power or dies in office, the almost unlimited scope of presidential powers in African countries is, once again, on the agenda. Media reporters regularly publish lists of the longest-serving African presidents and political scientists have offered a myriad of tools to explore presidential systems in African countries. But why did, upon independence, almost all African states adopt a presidential system of rule? Put differently: what are the historical origins of presidential power in postcolonial African countries?

Based on extensive archival research, *Power and the Presidency in Kenya: The Jomo Kenyatta Years* retraces how Jomo Kenyatta became the first president of independent Kenya (in 1963) and shaped the most powerful state institution: the Office of the President. Few expected Kenyatta to become president; even fewer expected Kenya to become a presidential republic with almost unlimited power allocated to the president, while the national assembly and provincial administration were deprived of any significant power. Kenyatta knew he had more enemies than friends; he also knew he could use state resources to hold an extremely divided political elite together.

Kenyatta's role was to hold a fragile presidential system together while staying aloof from popular discontent. Far from the myth of the omnipotent father of the nation, big man or dictator, the strength of the Kenyan presidential system was built on divisions and uncertainty. This book shows that African presidencies have their own history, one that calls for reconstructing the actors' agency in negotiating presidential powers, for the worse or the best of their interest, yet always with a refined political intelligence.

[Power and the Presidency in Kenya. The Jomo Kenyatta Years. Cambridge University Press, 2020.](#)

Programme

Wednesday, 5 May 2021, 17:00

Online Event

Broadcasted via Livestream: go.univie.ac.at/buch

Welcome

[Birgit Athumani Hango](#)

Head of the African and Middle Eastern Studies Library, University of Vienna

Discussion

[Anaïs Angelo](#)

Post-Doc at the Department of African Studies, University of Vienna

with

[Kirsten Rüter](#)

Professor at the Department of African Studies, University of Vienna

About the Author

Anaïs Angelo is a post-doctoral researcher at the Department for African Studies, University of Vienna. Originally trained as a political scientist in Sciences Po Paris, she specialized in African studies at the University of Michigan and completed her Ph.D. at the Department of History and Civilization at the European University Institute.

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