

In cooperation with

Global African Diaspora Studies (GADS) Research Platform



Department of African Studies, University of Vienna

Wiener Institut für Internationale Zusammenarbeit und Dialog (VIDC)



Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o

Public Reading and Discussion

May 4th 2017, 7 pm, Large Reading Room (Großer Lesesaal)
Hauptbibliothek, Universitätsring 1, 1010 Wien



Context

„I entered Makerere University College in July 1959, subject of a British Crown Colony, and left in March 1964, citizen of an independent African state. Between subject and citizen, a writer was born. This is the story of how the herdsboy, child labourer, and high school dreamer in *Dreams in a Time of War* and *In the House of the Interpreter* became a weaver of dreams.“

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o in: *Birth of a Dream Weaver*,
Harvill Secker, London 2016

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o

is a Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Irvine. He is one of Africa’s most important writers and intellectuals and one of the frequent favourites for the Nobel Prize in Literature. He was born in Kenya in 1938 into a large peasant family, attended university in Uganda and in England and started his career as a novelist in the 1960s. His novels include *Weep Not Child* (1964), *Matigari* (1986) and *Murogi wa Kagogo* (transl. *Wizard of the Crow* 2006). He is author of the essay collections *Decolonising the Mind* (1986) and *Something Torn and New: An African Renaissance* (2009). Since the 1970s, he has been a powerful voice in struggles for cultural decolonisation and in the promotion of African languages.

Program

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7 pm

Welcome

Maria Seissl
(Head Librarian, Vienna University Library)

Adams Bodomo
(Head of the Department of African Studies and Head of the
Global African Diaspora Studies Research Platform (GADS))

Franz Schmidjell, Irene Hochauer Kpoda
(VIDC)

Introduction

Martina Kopf
(Senior Lecturer at the Department of African Studies,
University of Vienna)

Reading

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o

Discussion

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o and Martina Kopf

There will be a small reception after the discussion.