



## "The impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on science and research in the partner regions of the Merian Centres".

### Participants / Panelists:

ICAS:MP - Delhi/India -:	Prof. Vidhu Verma & Dr. Laila Abu-Er-Rub
CALAS - Guadalajara/Mexico -:	Prof. Sarah Corona Berkin & Dr. Jochen Kemner
Mecila - Sao Paulo/Brazil -:	Prof. Gloria Chicote & Dr. Jörg Klenk
MIASA - Accra/Ghana -:	Prof. Abena Oduro & Dr. Agnes Schneider-Musah
MECAM - Tunis/Tunisia -:	Prof. Kahled Kchir & Dr. Julius Dihstelhoff

The Merian Centres are an initiative of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) with the overall aim of promoting research in the humanities and social sciences in the Global South by establishing and maintaining International Centres (or: Institutes) for advanced studies for a period of up to 12 years.

### Event Period:

15.07.2021 - 17:00-19:00 (CET)

### Event Résumé:

In their contribution to the Globe21 science festival, the Merian Centres (represented by ICAS:MP - Delhi/India -; CALAS - Guadalajara/Mexico -; Mecila - Sao Paulo/Brazil -; MIASA - Accra/Ghana -; MECAM - Tunis/Tunisia) will contribute from their perspective to a better understanding and a general reflection on the immanent, but also the possible long-term effects of the COVID-19 crisis on research conditions in the Global South and on international scientific cooperation.

*How are science, research and international cooperation (North-South; South-South) shaped by the current global COVID-19 pandemic and what is the significance of the humanities and social sciences in times of crisis? What are the constraints and opportunities in these fields? What are the consequences for the work of the Merian Centers and the international research community?*

The five Merian Centres, all located in different regions of the Global South, have felt the restrictions on international mobility caused by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic on research and exchange conditions to a considerable extent over the past year. At the same time, however, the Merian Centres are extremely well-placed to observe, monitor and explore the impact of the pandemic on research and scholarship in their respective partner regions. The selected representatives of the Merian Centres will provide insights into how the pandemic is currently affecting their respective locations and what impact the resulting restrictions are having on science, research and international cooperation. They will also outline the new forms of solidarity that have emerged as a result of the global crisis. The aim of the event is to present and compare how the handling of the pandemic has changed the work at research institutions

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(constraints and opportunities), and to ask to what extent and in what ways the pandemic has created further visible (in)equalities between the Global South and the Global North. The discussion will include, but not be limited to, financial aspects, bureaucratic burdens, aspects such as differential access to resources, impacts on the economy and society, and finally the issue of knowledge production around the COVID-19 pandemic within the Merian centres.

The idea behind the BMBF's Merian Initiative is that intensive exchange with scientists on the ground in countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, as well as cooperation with foreign universities and non-university research institutions, will make a significant contribution to the long-term networking of top-level German regional science research with the respective partner countries and regions.