Foreword

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The collaboration between scholars of the University of Bayreuth (UBT) and Moi University spans more than three decades and while this cooperation is to be found concretized in institutional Memoranda of Understanding signed between the two universities, this exciting volume testifies not only to the actual productive engagement between researchers of the two universities but it also focuses on a topic that recalls the initial beginnings of this cooperation. The topic of this volume, “‘Power to the People?’—Patronage, Intervention and Transformation in African Performative Arts”, recalls a series of workshops and summer schools initiated by Prof. Eckhard Breitingner, then based at Bayreuth’s Institute of African studies. Dubbed “Cultural Production and Performance in Africa”, one such workshop was hosted by Moi University in 2002 and was the beginning of a collaboration with Bayreuth that has persisted to this day.

I am happy to note that the 2018 workshop hosted by Moi University was part of the scholarly engagements that gave birth to the essays in this volume. Indeed, it is also gratifying to note that Moi University is part of the new platform of research cooperation with UBT under the “Africa Multiple” Cluster of Excellence initiative. As one of the African Cluster Centres, Moi will serve as a node for joint research initiatives and networks with University of Bayreuth as it participates in the overarching aim of the “Africa Multiple” Cluster which is to reconfigure African studies, on both the conceptual and the structural levels. With this cooperation platform in place one can only look forward to a robust research environment ahead.