AFRICA: ORIGIN OF THE HUMAN RACE

WE ARE ALL AFRICANS

Evening Gala + African Market:
Mensa Ernst-Abbe-Platz,
Ernst-Abbe-Platz 8,
07743 Jena
19pm - 1 am,

Conference on Africa + Children’s Program + African Market:
Mensa Philosophenweg
20 07743 Jena
10 am - 16 pm,

Fee: 5 €
It was mostly through scientific research on genetic variation among and between human populations that the concept of race was finally exposed as a typological construct. Among humans, by far the largest share of genetic differences exists not between geographical populations, but within such groups. The greatest genetic variation is still in people on the African continent, where the roots and most of the branches of the human family tree are located. The people of East Africa and all non Africans are gathered together on one of its branches. Therefore, people outside Africa are more closely related to people from East Africa, such as the Hadza, than the Hadza or non-Africans are to people from South Africa, for example the Khoisan. From a phylogenetic point of view, all people are therefore Africans. In consequence, it is positively paradoxical to talk of ‘the Africans’ or ‘the black Africans’. This is a relic of colonial ways of speaking and thinking, and, once again, it is a case of racism creating races. The skin colour of a Khoisan from South Africa is lighter than that of people who live in South-East Asia or South America along the equator. Skin colour mainly reflects a biological adaptation to the level of solar radiation and consequently varies continuously in line with the intensity of UV-radiation on Earth.”