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Originally launched by P. Schlettwein Publishing in 1997, the Basel Namibia Studies Series (BNSS) has been released by the BAB Publishing House since 2011. The series addresses current (cultural-)historical, political and anthropological issues related to Namibia.
Diamond Warriors in Colonial Namibia enters into unchartered scholarly territory of illegal diamond smuggling at the largest diamond mining company in colonial Namibia—De Beers’ Consolidated Diamond Mines of South West Africa (CDM). It details the underground activities of the natives (migrant workers) employed by the CDM and how these illicit activities accounted for rapid development in Owamboland. Beyond this account, the book takes on the deterministic ‘natural resource curse’ theory that equates natural resource endowments to a curse resulting in underdevelopment and sometimes conflict. It is argued and proven herein, from a decolonial standpoint, that such an approach is an oversimplification of the political economy of natural resources in Africa in general and Namibia in particular. [It] also provides a contextual account of the contract labour system and details the symbiotic relationship between CDM and the colonial state before highlighting the remaining unanswered questions and areas of further research.
Children’s Understandings of Health and Illness in Northern Namibia
—We Have a Lot to Tell

explores the daily worlds of children in the Ohangewena region, sharing their involvement and eager voices on health and illness in northern Namibia. In particular, this ethnographical study, based on one year of fieldwork, reflects on the openness that is required in giving recognition to the children’s ideas, their knowledge, in providing support to individuals in the homestead and how their agency is best recognised. The study highlights children’s views, presents children as social actors in their own right and documents their perspectives on, and participation in, the social world. This work acknowledges that even though children may not occupy central social, political and economic roles in society, it is important to see that they have agency and can and do make active contributions to society.

Tichaona Mazarire

With a Foreword by Henning Melber

Basel Namibia Studies Series 24
Basler Afrika Bibliographien 2022

Exploring Economic Reintegration in Namibia: Individual Trajectories of PLAN Ex-Fighters and SWAPO Exiles, 1989–2018 draws from life histories to present constraints and possibilities that have shaped former SWAPO exiles’ economic reintegration in post-colonial Namibia from 1989 through 2018. The book advances three arguments, each of which pushes beyond existing scholarship on Namibia and/or economic reintegration broadly. Collectively, these arguments challenge dominant narratives that have generalized former SWAPO exiles’ economic reintegration experiences, highlighting that there is no single narrative that can describe their unique life stories of reintegration in the post-colony.
This is a story of men, monsters and uranium in Swakopmund, a small coastal city in the west of Namibia. Founded by German settlers in the late nineteenth century, Swakopmund remains a popular holiday destination for Namibians and international visitors alike. How do young African men make their home in this peculiar town of pretty beaches and luxury hotels, a brutal colonial history and a large uranium mining industry? Are their close relations affected by global changes in the price of uranium? And how do we describe their life worlds which straddle many homes, neighbourhoods, and establishments – sometimes even existing beyond the limits of the post-colonial city?

“[A] highly sensitive ethnography of men, with their uncertainties, fears and anxieties, an ethnography that always looks sideways, never up or down.”

Steven Van Wolputte
This book explores the contribution that the life histories and the voices of the contract labourers make to our understanding of the contract labour system in Namibia. [...] The study highlights contract labourers engaging in a defeating activity and their disappointment with the little rewards which were non-lasting solutions to their problems. The realization of their entrapment under the contract system and the eventual frustrations led to the political mobilization for independence by SWAPO.

“The scholarship of Namibia is enriched with this new work on the Kavango and the people of this most northern region have secured their rightful place in the country’s history.”

Uma Dhupelia-Mesthrie

Kern shows that German division played a vital role in West Germany’s position towards Namibia during the Cold War. The two states’ deeply diverging policies, characterised in this context by competition for influence over SWAPO, were strongly affected by the Cold War rivalry between the capitalist West and the communist East. Yet ultimately, the dynamics of rapprochement helped to bring about Namibia’s independence.

“Kern’s book is likely to remain the definitive account of the relations between a divided Germany and Namibia during the crucial last two decades of the Cold War.”

Chris Saunders
Focusing on the experiences of a group of predominantly San communities in the North-East of Namibia, the historical and contemporary situations of the San of the Nǂa Jaqna Conservancy and their engagement with CBNRM are examined. In looking to the future, this work seeks to understand what mechanisms and institutions give indigenous groups, such as the San, a foothold in the State and an avenue through which to navigate and shape their own modernity(ies).

"[This is a] remarkable book, which portrays the history and illuminates the contemporary life of the San peoples of Nǂa Jaqna."
John G. Galaty

Recent nature conservation initiatives in Southern Africa such as communal conservancies and peace parks are often embedded in narratives of economic development and ecological research. They are also increasingly marked by militarisation and violence. These features were also characteristic of South African rule over the Caprivi Strip region in North-Eastern Namibia.

"[The book] confirms that nature conservation does not take place in a political vacuum; ideas and practices of conservation derive their potency from prevailing ideologies and socio-political struggles."
Maano Ramutsindela
It took the former South African Defence Force (SADF) less than four hours to kill more than eight hundred Namibian refugees at Cassinga on May 4, 1978. Thousands of survivors were left with irreparable physical and emotional injuries. In this book, the afterlife of the victims' traumatic memories and their aspiration for justice vis-à-vis the perpetrators’ enjoyment of blanket impunity from prosecution are explored with the aim to create public awareness about the unfortunate circumstances of the Cassinga victims.

“[...] Shigwedha offers us new parameters for oral history.”
Luise White

The author is intrigued by the question: Why can the National Archives of Namibia respond to genealogical enquiries of Whites in a matter of minutes with finding estate records of deceased persons, while similar requests from Blacks cannot be served? Not satisfied with the sweeping statement that this is the result of colonialism and apartheid, she follows the track of so-called ‘Native estates’. This study of memory against forgetting is a call to post-colonial archives to re-visit their holdings and the systemic colonial bias that continues to haunt them.

“This study is a passionate statement on the power of producing and silencing pasts and histories.”
Dag Henrichsen
This book describes the Nyae Nyae Village Schools, an innovative and unique mother-tongue education initiative set in north-eastern Namibia. It examines the enormous paradoxes that schooling presents for the Nyae Nyae community. ‘Owners of Learning’ is the literal English translation of the Ju’hoansi word for ‘teacher’ and it serves to highlight a fundamental question — to whom does education belong?

“[This book] conveys a closely observed and intimately felt perspective, while at the same time amplifying the voices of so many San parents and elders who would otherwise not have had the opportunity to speak.”

Willemina le Roux

This book addresses the challenges of creating a ‘national’ culture in the context of a historical legacy that has emphasised ethnic diversity. The state sponsored Annual National Culture Festival (ANCF) focuses on the Kavango region in north-eastern Namibia. Akuupa critically examines the notion of Kavango-ness as a colonial construct and its subsequent reconstitution and appropriation. He analyses the way in which cultural representations are produced by local people in the postcolonial African context of nation building and national reconciliation.

“One cannot but appreciate Akuupa’s contribution to the academic literary world on Kavango and Namibia.”

Kletus Likuwa
This book deals with colonialism on a Namibian periphery and considers both the German colonial period and the South African rule in the country. The marginality of the Kaoko region within this colonial topography of power is analysed as a dynamic and fractured feature where power relations and constellations remained highly contested.

“[This] is an excellent sample of what can be accomplished by splicing different mediums, genres, traces and even senses in the attempt to convey a multi-faceted history of a region that has only recently been tied into a national historiography.”

Patricia Hayes

Women’s contributions against apartheid under the auspices of the Namibian liberation movement SWAPO and their personal experiences in exile take center stage in this study. Male and female leadership structures in exile are analysed whilst the sexual politics in the refugee camps and the public imagery of female representation in SWAPO’s nationalism receive special attention. The party’s public pronouncements of women empowerment and gender equality are compared to the actual implementations of gender politics during and after the liberation struggle.

“[The book] fills an important gap in literature on Namibia [and] include[s] issues hitherto largely treated as taboos.”

Henning Melber
This book encompasses a history of identity building amongst Khwe San people and of contestations for authority over land and natural resources in Namibia’s West Caprivi. The politics of authority in this contested borderland area were significantly shaped by state and NGO interventions into local institutions and land use between the late 1930s and 2006.

“This recent history of the Khwe, combining disciplines and extensive fieldwork, provides a wonderful window on the new struggles over land and nature.”

William Beinart

An increasing number of poor Southern Africans live in poverty-stricken urban slums or shantytowns. Focusing on four shantytowns in the northern Namibian town of Oshakati, this book analyses the coping strategies of the poorest sections of such populations. The study is based on fieldwork conducted intermittently during a period of ten years. It combines theories of political, economic and cultural structuration and of the material and cultural basis for social relations of inclusion and exclusion as practise.

“This work provides a valuable anthropological contribution to the study of poverty and social exclusion in the context of the making and remaking of shantytowns in Southern Africa.”

Suzan Ilcan
Caprivi, the remote Namibian strip of land encapsulated by neighbouring Angola, Zambia and Botswana, has a contested colonial and postcolonial history. Neglected by German and South African colonial administrations, its inhabitants were often pushed towards neighbouring territories in spite of not being an integral part of them. Becoming a strategic location in the ensuing liberation wars of the late 20th century, its history is often one of conquest and resistance, plunder, betrayal and rivalry.

“This is a book no one will be able to ignore in any future historiography, not only of the Caprivi and Namibia, but also in the wider context of south-central African history.”

Lazarus Hangula
The series Basel Southern Africa Studies (BSAS) is dedicated to a wide variety of topics in the humanities, encompassing the entire region of southern Africa.
The Ethnography of Faith is a detailed study of the ways in which people engage with and experience the religious in order to recognise and understand this suppressed voice of religiosity. In her analysis of the Lutheran church in the Soutpansberg of early 20th century South Africa, Caroline Jeannerat listens closely to how people describe their own faith and that of others in the archive: in accounts of work done, in texts written for mission publications, in songs composed for church services, in letters and newspaper articles, and in oral memories. A careful reading of this archive—for breaks, for misunderstandings and oppositions, for sentiments of agreement, praise, compatibility and claims of shared experiences—identifies negotiations of meaning which give indications of conceptualisations of faith that stand in distinction to those of the missionaries and their expectations.
As a tool of discursive worldmaking, literature has played a major role in providing a framework in which to ‘dream’ Namibia, first from outside its borders, and then from within. Through the production of myths around whiteness, German and South African authors designed a literary space in which control, destruction, and the dehumanisation of African peoples are understood as a natural order, one that is dictated by history and its linear continuation. These European texts are offset by Namibia’s first novel by an African, offering a counter-narrative to the colonial invention that was (German) South West Africa.

“[This book] not only serves as a study of the creation of space in fictional literature, but also offers a profound starting point for studies of contemporary literature from Namibia.”

Fabian Lehmann
How does a people’s music reflect their history, their occupations, cultural beliefs and values? These are the core questions that this book addresses in relation to the Aawambo people of Namibia. The author brings to the fore the nuanced views of different people, describing their personal musical experiences — past as well as present. This is the first time that the music and stories of contemporary Namibian musicians are shared alongside those of the elderly.

“This book is a ‘must read’ piece of literature that I strongly recommend to all those interested in Aawambo songs in particular and music in general.”

Ervast Mtota

In dieser interdisziplinären Studie untersucht der Autor die Entwicklung des Tourismus in Namibia anhand eines relationalen Raumbegriffs. Angelehnt an Foucaults Begriff der Heterotopie analysiert er die homogenisierende Wirkung von Technik, die touristische Räume infrastrukturell erschließt und Sicherheit vermittelt. Gleichzeitig führt sie zu einer symbolisch-kulturellen Differenzierung, die spezifische Räume zu einzigartigen Sehenswürdigkeiten macht.

“Breitwieser liefert […] eine umfassende Analyse zur Wirkung von Technik zur Erschließung und Konstruktion touristischer Räume in Namibia.”

Informationsstelle Bildungsauftrag Nord-Süd
South Africa is an example of a relatively successful political transition. Nevertheless, the first democratic elections in 1994 did not change the systemic and structural inequalities, the socio-economic legacies of discrimination or the alienation of the different population groups. At the centre of this study is the transformation potential of two formerly white neighbourhoods in Johannesburg: Norwood and Orange Grove.

“A significant contribution to our understanding of how different ‘communities’ at local level have reconfigured their relationships and social, political and economic interests in South Africa since 1994.”
Sheila Meintjes

Taking the history of trade and of traders as its subject matter, this book offers the first economic history of northern Namibia during the twentieth century. It traces Namibia’s way from a rural, largely self-relying society into a globalised economy of consumption.

“Based largely on archival as well as oral sources, the book presents a wealth of new insight.”
Reinhart Kößler


David William Cohen

The role played by Botswana in various southern African liberation struggles has previously been neglected in historical studies. The country’s politics of support and mobilisation early on in Namibia’s struggle for independence from South Africa proved crucial for the formative period of both nation states.

“[This book] fills a gap in our knowledge and deserves a respected place in the ever-growing literature on the history of Namibia.”

Henning Melber
The impressive formation of the Griqua states in the first half of the nineteenth century outside the borders of the Cape Colony and their relations with Sotho-Tswana polities, frontiersmen, missionaries and the British administration of the Cape take centre stage in the analysis. The Griqua, of mixed settler and indigenous descent, secured hegemony in a frontier of complex partnerships and power struggles.

“It remains by far the best account of what is a crucial, and fascinating, episode in Southern African history […], constructed on the impressive basis of documentary and other forms of primary source material.”

Robert Ross

This book is a long-overdue history of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) and the rise of the Africanist ideology in South Africa. Kondlo analyses the radical traditions, the structural contradictions and the internal conflicts of this rival to the African National Congress (ANC), South Africa’s dominant liberation organisation. The role of the PAC in the power-sharing negotiations leading to the historic 1994 elections in South Africa round off the narrative.

“The first academically reputable history of the PAC from its turbulent beginning in 1959 to the twilight years of the revolution that ended in 1994.”

Patrick Harries
This study investigates the experiences of women journalists during the last phase of Namibia’s liberation struggle against South African rule. Black or white, women journalists in Namibia made significant contributions to the liberation cause — including the founding of a high-profiled newspaper — whilst others worked for media sympathetic to the apartheid government. Maria Mboono Nghidinwa pays close attention to the gendered power relationships in the newsrooms of newspapers and radio stations at the time. She looks at the intense political intimidations which targeted women and, in particular, the constraints experienced by black women journalists.

The Etosha Region in Namibia, comprising the famous Etosha National Park and its adjacent communal and commercial farm lands, has been a contested region since the advent of colonial settlement. The centenary of the Etosha Park in 2007 provides an opportune moment for critical reflection on its history, a much-needed appraisal achieved by this book through its multiple perspectives. At the centre of this book are the Hai||om San and their long history of dispossession and discrimination.

“Dieckmann has made an impressive contribution to Namibian ethnography and history. The book […] will form a cornerstone for further writing and discussion of Hai||om circumstances, identity and history.”

Nigel Crawhall
The book series Lives, Legacies, Legends (LLL) presents personal narratives and written histories related to life in southern Africa. The majority of titles involve biographies from southern Africa, but others focus on the topic of “Swiss in Africa.”
African evangelists of the Rhenish Mission Society (RMS) played a crucial but mostly overlooked role in shaping the spiritual and social networks that transformed indigenous communities from the early nineteenth century. The author draws from a wide range of German, Namibian and South African archival sources that have been supplemented with a large number of interviews, to explore the history of the indigenous evangelists of the RMS. [...] By interweaving mission and church history between 1820 and 1990 with a biographical approach, the author brings a hidden chapter in Namibian history to life.

“This carefully researched study makes an important contribution to Namibian historiography by giving names and, where possible, faces to those Africans whose work changed the fabric of indigenous Namibian communities.”

Tilman Dedering in Journal of Namibian Studies, 28 (2020)
Sonja Speeter-Blaudszun
Die Linie
Ethnografisches Feldtagebuch einer Namibia-Forschung im Jahr 1996

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Alan Cohen, Tanja Hammel, Jasmin Rindlisbacher (eds.)
Mary Elizabeth Barber
Growing Wild
The Correspondence of a Pioneering Woman Naturalist from the Cape

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Mary Elizabeth Barber (1818–1899) has been perceived as “the most advanced woman of her time,” yet her legacy has attracted relatively little attention. She was the first woman ornithologist in South Africa, one of the first who propagated Darwin’s theory of evolution, an early archaeologist, keen botanist and interested lepidopterist. In her scientific writing, she propagated a new gender order, positioned herself as a feminist avant la lettre without relying on difference models, and at the same time made use of genuinely racist argumentation. This is the first publication of her edited scientific correspondence.
“My family did the unthinkable: after getting away with ‘playing white’ for some years, we went one step further and ‘jumped the colour line.’ By various obscure and not well-documented processes, we changed our ‘racial classification’ from ‘coloured’ — as defined by the apartheid policy of the day — to that of ‘white.’”

With these words the fascinating story of Ulla Dentlinger’s life history begins. Growing up in poor, rural Apartheid-Namibia in the early 1950s, Ulla Dentlinger soon learns that her parents are not prone to reminisce about their family’s past. The most mundane information about their background is guarded much like a state secret. As a child, she begins to panic at being asked the question so normal to others: Where are you from?

A child of a Jewish family fleeing Nazi-Germany and settling in apartheid South Africa in the 1930s, Ruth Weiss starts her journalistic career in Johannesburg of the 1950s. Peasants and national leaders in southern Africa — Weiss met them all, travelling through Africa at a time when it was neither usual for a woman to do so, nor to report for economic media as she did. Her writing gained her the friendship of diverse and interesting people. Her life-long quest for tolerance and understanding of different cultures shines through the many personalized stories which her astute eye and pen reveals in this book.
The Swiss ophthalmologist Erika Sutter was born in Basel in 1917. Together with her African colleague and friend, Selina Maphorogo, she founded the Care Groups, village self-help groups working for better health in their communities. The movement is still active after more than 30 years, and now has around 2,000 members, mostly women, in over 200 villages. For the creation of this biography, Erika Sutter spent many hours with the author, telling the story of her long life — vividly, with a sharp eye for social issues and dry wit.

“This is an excellent read for health professionals [and] a lesson on how ordinary people can do amazing things with perseverance and commitment to serving others.”

Kevin Naidoo
Windhoek in the early 1960s: the 34-year-old politician Clemens Kapuuo knocks at the door of the senior advocate Israel Goldblatt to solicit advice regarding the myriad of difficulties encountered by Africans daily under the apartheid regime.

Israel Goldblatt’s notes on these meetings were discovered after his death and form the core of this book. They are complemented by additional biographical information about his interlocutors, and annotations that place his notes in their historical and political context.
The Swiss salesman, Hans Buser, experienced at close quarters the political, social and economic ups and downs of a young Ghana in the period immediately following independence. His stories and reminiscences of those turbulent years between 1956 and 1965 are characterized by sharp observation, technical know-how, insight and humour. Together they create a book that conveys a personal but also historically informative account of one man’s experiences of West Africa.
Kaxumba kaNdola, alias Eliaser Tuhadeleni, a political activist and founding member of SWAPO, spoke up for the rights of his people. In this book, Ellen Namhila takes us to northern Namibia during the apartheid era and follows Eliaser Tuhadele- ni, who, as a leader of the early nationalist movement, was persecuted by the South African Government and eventually sentenced to life imprisonment on Robben Island.

“For those who wish to understand the political dynamics of the liberation struggle from the point of view of people at the grassroots, and the mass mobilisation of the people to support and join the struggle for liberation, I urge you to read this book.”

Andimba Toivo yaToivo
Dr. h.c. Carl Schlettwein (1925–2005), founder of the Basler Afrika Bibliographien, played an important role in the development of African Studies in Basel. The annual Carl Schlettwein Lecture, held by internationally recognised researchers at the Centre for African Studies Basel’s invitation, is a contribution in memory and honour of the generous and far-sighted patron. Since 2016, the BAB Publishing House publishes each presentation.
The scarcity of conviviality in universities, within and between disciplines, and among scholars suggests that the position in and production and consumption of knowledge are far from neutral, objective, and disinterested processes. They are socially and politically mediated by webs of humanity, hierarchies of power, and instances of human agency. Given the resilience of colonial education in Africa and among Africans, endogenous traditions of knowledge are barely recognised and grossly underrepresented. Conviviality in knowledge production would entail not just seeking conversations and collaboration with and across disciplines in the conventional sense but also the integration of sidestepped popular epistemologies informed by popular universes and ideas of reality. Such scholarship is predicated upon recognising and providing for incompleteness as a necessary attribute of being, from persons to disciplines and traditions of knowing, and knowledge making.
Urbanization in Africa also means rapid technological change. At the turn of the 21st century, mobile telephony appeared in urban Africa. Ten years later, it covered large parts of rural Africa and — thanks to the smartphone — became the main access to the internet. This development is part of technological transformations in digitalization that are supposed to bridge the urban and the rural and will make their borders blurred. They do so through the creation of economic opportunities, the flow of information and by influencing people’s definition of self, belonging and citizenship.

Civil society is one of several Western political and social concepts that have not traveled successfully to Africa. Revived in response to the search for democracy in Eastern Europe during the late Soviet era, Western donors promoted and funded new civil society organizations in subsaharan Africa, regarding them as an essential grounding for African democratization. Most of these new civil society organizations had little in common with African associational activity. One candidate worth serious investigation is the Buganda Kingdom Government. This organization violates most distinctions central to Western notions of civil society. Yet it continues to behave like a civil society organization. Its political and conceptual collisions offer guidance toward a useful notion of African civil society and understanding Ugandan politics.
In many instances, the colonial state has left a strong imprint on the postcolonial archive. In the National Archives of Namibia (NAN), for instance, it is difficult to locate pre-independence person-related records of the Black majority, while the same type of records of their light-skinned compatriots are easily accessible. This lecture discusses a substantial corpus of about 11,000 so-called “native estates,” which previously was not accessible through finding aids. Furthermore, a substantial amount of estate files of migrants from other African countries were discovered. A more holistic view of the impact of labour migration might be achieved by digitising and linking such records across the boundaries.

The most extensive urban demographic transitions ahead will take place in Africa and Asia. These transitions occur in regions where the majority of inhabitants remain trapped in vulnerable employment, which limits the capacities to plan, save, invest, and afford critical amenities, as well as the horizons of what is considered possible. Yet, the aspirations for mobility, security, consumption, and attainment are enormous. How can different rationalities and practices of everyday sociality be more effectively connected to the prevailing concepts informing formal political and policymaking projects? How can incommensurable facets of urban life be folded into each other as a matter of an enlarged political practice?
MONOGRAPHS
European archives hold historical voice recordings that were produced by linguists, ethnologists and musicologists during colonial rule in African countries. [...] Several recordings collected by the anthropologist Rudolf Pöch in August 1908 have been retranslated for this book. [...] By attending to the spoken texts on the recordings and reconnecting them to photographs, ethnographic objects, archival documentation and Pöch’s travelogue, Hoffmann offers a different reading of this research trip into a war zone.

“Hoffmann’s work provides a detailed analysis of the significance of historical sound recordings for challenging the colonial archive. Whilst her analysis is presented from a historical archive studies perspective, her ideas deserve to be taken up by anthropologists who are engaged in historical ethnography and may even inspire any decolonial-minded researcher in anthropology, and beyond.”

Anthropology Southern Africa
Writing Namibia. Coming of Age presents research of senior academics as well as emerging scholars from Namibia. The book includes wide-ranging topics in literature written in English and other Namibian languages such as German, Afrikaans and Oshiwambo. Almost thirty years after independence, Namibian literature has come of age with new writers experimenting with different genres and varied aspects of literature. As an aesthetic object and social phenomenon, Namibian literature still fulfills the function of social conscience, and as new writers emerge, there is ample demonstration that, pluri-vocal as they are, Namibian literary texts relate in a complex manner to the socio-historical trends shaping the country. The Namibian literary-critical tradition continues to paint some versions of Namibia, and what we find in this new and highly welcome volume is a canvas of rich voices and perspectives that demonstrate an intricate diversity in terms of culture, language, and themes.
This book contains the facsimile reprint of the first African newspaper published in Namibia, *South West News/SuidWes Nuus*. Issued in 1960 in Windhoek, it has to be regarded as the earliest example of independent African journalism in Namibia. *South West News* was the only newspaper in Namibia at the time with a non-racial and nationalist concept. It was also a community paper for the Old Location, the African township in Windhoek, whose residents were threatened with forced removals. The paper was launched shortly after the shootings at the Old Location in December 1959. [...] *South West News* was one of the few public documents representing African issues to Africans themselves, and to the colonial society in Namibia at large. Today, the newspaper is largely forgotten. This book makes *South West News* accessible again and examines its history and contents.
This book is a collection of essays written by emerging scholars at the University of Basel on the basis of their subjective encounters with a specific archival collection housed in the Basler Afrika Bibliographien in Basel. The Ernst and Ruth Dammann collection consists of around 8,100 images, 750 audio recordings and numerous manuscripts, diaries and notes. The German couple conducted research on Namibian oral literatures and languages as they were spoken and performed across the country in the early 1950s. Based on in-depth engagement with the textual, visual and audio records assembled in this intricate collection, the authors in this book critically interrogated the implications of opening a colonial archive, exploring alternative ways of reading and understanding the historical material. As unique examples of close reading and listening, the essays propose creative ways of attending to the politics of race, gender, famine, ethnography, biography and fiction in colonial knowledge production.
This rich volume is dedicated to the astounding South African writer and literary critic Lewis Nkosi (1936–2010). In this book, Nkosi’s celebrated one-act play *The Black Psychiatrist* is published together with its unpublished sequel *Flying Home* on the satirically fictionalized inauguration of Mandela as South African president. Critical appraisals, tributes and recollections by scholars and friends reflect on the beat of his writing and life. An ideal volume for those encountering Lewis Nkosi for the first time, and a substantial enrichment for those already devoted to his work.

“Much has happened to me that is worth narrating, worth celebrating, in spite of the regrets and sorrows of exile. My life began under Apartheid until I attained the age of 22, and then I subsequently lived in many places and societies, in Central Africa, Britain, the United States, Poland, and during a brief sojourn, in France and, finally, in Switzerland.”

Lewis Nkosi in “Memoirs of a Motherless Child”
Why does Namibia’s economy look the way it does today? Was the reliance on raw materials for exports and on the service sector for employment an inevitability? And for what reasons has the manufacturing sector [...] seen its growth held back? With these questions in mind, this book offers an extensive analysis of industrial development and economic change in Namibia since 1900, exploring their causes, trajectory, vicissitudes, context, and politics. [...] This work is the first in-depth economic study covering both the colonial and independence eras of Namibia’s history and provides the first history of the country’s manufacturing sector.

Namibian beer is widely celebrated as an inextricable part of Namibian nationalism, both within its domestic borders and across global markets. But for decades on end, the same brew was not available to the black population as a consequence of colonial politics. This book aims to explain how a European style beer has been transformed from an icon of white settlers into a symbol of the independent Namibian nation. The unusual focus on beer offers valuable insight into the role companies play in identity formation and thus highlights an understudied aspect of Namibian history, namely business–state relations.

“This is a tale, lovingly told, of an unlikely success built on the most fragile foundations.”
Paul Nugent
This book brings together recent and ongoing empirical studies to examine two relational kinds of politics, namely, the politics of nature, i.e. how nature conservation projects are sites on which power relations play out, and the politics of the scientific study of nature. These are discussed in their historical and present contexts, and at specific sites on which particular human-environment relations are forged or contested. This spatio-temporal juxtaposition is lacking in current research on political ecology while the politics of science appears marginal to critical scholarship on social nature.

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2015, 144p., illustrations, map
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