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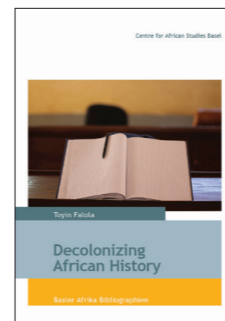
James Zimmermann Merron
Building Trust, Situating Repair
 Ecology of Action in a South African
 Nature Reserve

Foreword by Elisio Macamo
 Basel Southern African Studies 15
 Illustrations, maps, tables, index
 CHF 35.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
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Nature conservation is often framed as an ecological problem in need of repair. With both material and discursive dimensions, repairing things involves repairing people's orientation to those things. As such, nature conservation can be understood as a negotiation between different orientations to ecological problems.

This publication seeks to understand the negotiation through trust, the analysis of which situates repair in a particular setting. Empirically, the book is structured around an encounter that unfolded over the course of a single day between white commercial farmers and experts belonging to various government departments, universities and an NGO working in a South African nature reserve. By moving through the situation sequence-by-sequence the author captures the relationship between trust and repair vis-à-vis the material forces that structured the situation, and the discursive methods that actors used to repair a degraded ecology.

James Merron is a postdoctoral research associate at the Center for African Studies Basel, Switzerland. He works collaboratively as part of the Aesthetics from the Margins project, which explores how people on the geopolitical periphery sense and make sense of the world. James utilizes science studies and ethnomethodology to frame his research.



Toyin Falola
Decolonizing African History

Carl Schlettwein Lecture 15
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Decolonizing African history is based on the premise that Africa must look inside and apply an alternative multidisciplinary approach to developing ideas for solutions to Africa's developmental problems, drawing inspiration from its own culture, history, and creative imaginations.

In this lecture Falola seeks to liberate African knowledge, his goal is the adoption and adaptation of traditional African modes of knowing and knowledge creation. Hence, the lecture attempts to awaken Africans to set the records right in terms of African history and unlock Africa's hitherto suppressed immense potentials. It conveys the essence of decolonization in African history: its origins and nature, reasons, methods, goals, and expected outcomes. It also argues for the development of an indigenous knowledge-based system in sync with African realities and capable of carving out autonomous models to alleviate Africa's political, economic, sociocultural, and innovative leadership overdependence on the "developed world". Finally, it submits that if African societies can be shown to be on par with other major societies throughout the world, there is no reason they should not be able to control their own destiny. It rekindles the belief that Africans will be proud of their identities one day, having freed themselves and their past from crippling colonial notions.

Toyin Falola is professor of African Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. He is one of the most eminent and widely published historians of Africa. His academic career started at the University of Ife, Ile Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University) where he earned his PhD in 1981. He then joined the University of Texas, which has since been his academic home with shorter teaching appointments at universities in Canada, England, USA, Australia and Nigeria. His important contribution and service to the field of African Studies and History earned him many distinctions, awards and honorary doctorates. Falola edited numerous influential volumes. His most recent monographs deal with the decolonization of African Studies and African History.

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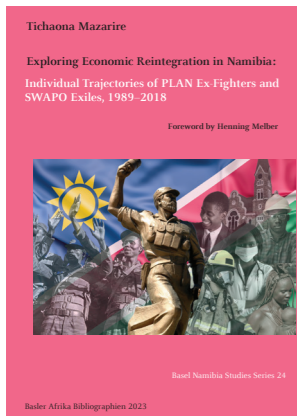
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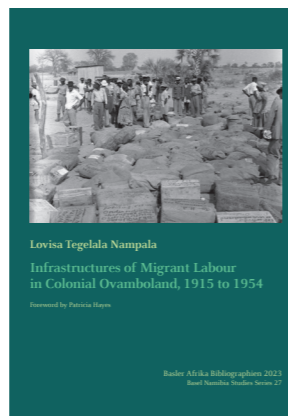


Tichaona Mazarire
Exploring Economic Re-integration in Namibia
 Individual Trajectories of PLAN Ex-Fighters and SWAPO Exiles, 1989–2018

Foreword by Henning Melber
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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.

Tichaona Mazarire obtained his PhD in Africa Studies (trans-disciplinary doctorate degree) from the University of the Free State (2020). He is currently a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the School of Government Studies at North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus, South Africa. His research interests include African politics, public policy and socio-economic inequalities. This book is based on his doctoral thesis.

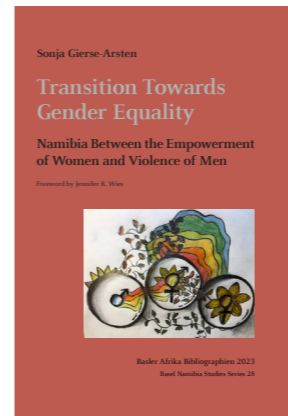


Lovisa Tegelala Nampala
Infrastructures of Migrant Labour in Colonial Ovamboland, 1915 to 1954

Foreword by Patricia Hayes
 Basel Namibia Studies Series 27
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Most research on the migrant labour system in Namibia under South African colonial rule emphasises its dehumanising aspects. In a complete contrast, this study highlights the social and ritual resources that contract workers and their families in colonial Ovamboland mobilised to provide forms of support and connection across great distances and absences. Based on extensive oral research, this study peels back the layers of intangible infrastructure that sustained migrant workers through all the stages of their contract, including observances around workplace deaths. This thesis vividly demonstrates the persistence of older practices that sustained the bonds of life, fellowship and family under stress, as well as adaptation to a new colonial system such as the postal system.

Lovisa Tegelela Nampala works as a teacher and is currently the Principal of the Uukelo Combined School, Otunganga Circuit in the Ohangwena Region. She holds a PhD in History from the University of the Western Cape, South Africa for the thesis which comprises this book.

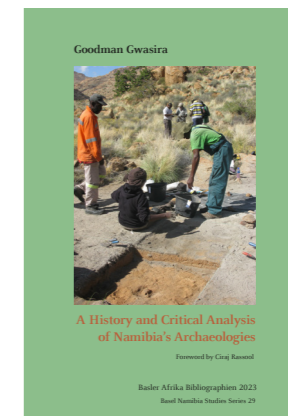


Sonja Gierse-Arsten
Transition Towards Gender Equality
 Namibia Between the Empowerment of Women and Violence of Men

Foreword by Jennifer R. Wies
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Worldwide, Namibia ranks high regarding gender equality. However, many women are intimidated by violence perpetrated by men. This book is based on a social anthropological field research in the small town of Outjo, situated in Northern Central Namibia, over a period of 14 months. Gender is learnt, lived and reproduced in a societal frame. Violence against women, too, is perpetrated by men in a societal context. By using mainly qualitative research methods Sonja Gierse-Arsten looks at male and female perspectives to reach a holistic understanding and to provide a basis for sustainable changes towards equal gender relations. She traces the transition from a hierarchical gender system during colonial times to the aspired equal gender relations in present Namibia. Current challenges characterised by poverty and great economic inequalities form the framework in which gender is performed and violence perpetrated. This study offers inspirations to re-think gender, to reach substantive gender equality and to overcome the normalisation of violence.

Sonja Gierse-Arsten started the research within the multi-disciplinary research centre ACACIA at the University of Cologne (Germany). She obtained her PhD in Social and Cultural Anthropology by the University of Marburg (Germany) for the thesis which comprises this book.



Goodman Gwasira
A History and Critical Analysis of Namibia's Archaeologies

Foreword by Ciraj Rassool
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The political, social and institutional settings in which archaeology was introduced in Namibia are examined in this study. The Author re-examines the idea of archaeology as a scientific and objective discipline that could be practiced without input from the knowledge systems of local communities. He further problematises the use of archaeology as a discipline of knowledge of the land, as part of the extension of empire and governance over the people, in settings of deep and multiple colonialisms. The author therefore argues that archaeological practice was a form of ordering and governing people in a settler colony, thus, the decolonisation of archaeology must involve the work of undoing the structures of colonialism and include local knowledge. This book is a contribution to the fields of archaeology, history and heritage studies in Namibia.

Goodman Gwasira is an archaeologist and a senior lecturer of archaeology and heritage studies at the University of Namibia. He holds a PhD in History from the University of the Western Cape (UWC). He was a Post-Doctoral researcher for the Remaking Societies, Remaking Persons (RSRP) Forum in the Department of History at the UWC (2021). He was a curator of archaeology at the National Museum of Namibia (1998–2003). His research interests include museum anthropology, decolonial studies, history of archaeology, restitution of cultural property and Stone Age archaeology.