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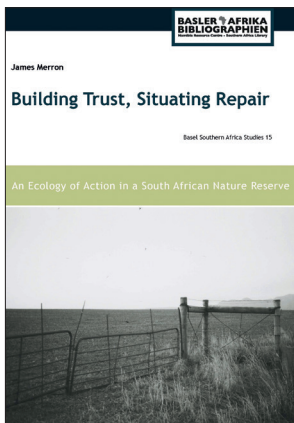
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**James Merron**  
**Building Trust, Situating Repair**  
An Ecology of Action in a South African Nature Reserve

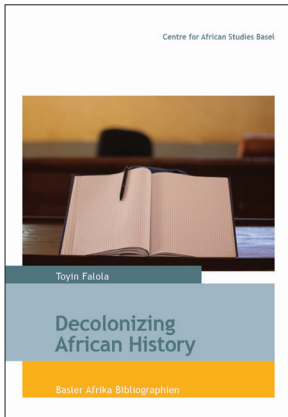
Foreword by Elísio Macamo  
Basel Southern African Studies 15  
Illustrations, maps, tables, index  
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Nature conservation is often framed as an ecological problem in need of repair. With both material and discursive dimensions, repairing things involves 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.

Originally from Makhanda (South Africa), *James Merron* grew up in Botswana and the United States. After his Master's degree, he lectured at Stellenbosch University in 2012. By 2023, he earned a PhD and then postdoc position at the University of Basel. He is associated with the Centre for African Studies Basel (Switzerland) and his work is based on exploring the relationship between science, technology and society.

## CARL SCHLETTWEIN LECTURE



### **Toyin Falola** **Decolonizing African History**

Carl Schlettwein Lecture 15  
CHF 20.00 Print | CHF 10.00 PDF  
ISBN 978-3-906927-50-3  
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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. The overall goal of this lecture is to liberate African knowledge, as well as 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. 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.

Willem Odendaal

„We are beggars on our own land“

*Tsumib v Government of the Republic of Namibia*  
and its implications for ancestral land claims in Namibia

Forewords by Robert K. Hitchcock and James Suzman



Basel Namibia Studies Series 30

Basel Afrika Bibliographem 2024

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Basel Namibia Studies Series 30

Illustrations, index

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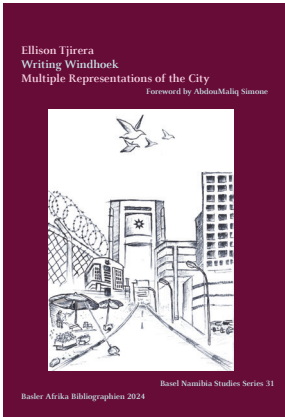
In 1954, the Hai||om people were evicted from Etosha by the South African-controlled South West African Administration. In 2015, the Hai||om filed the case of *Tsumib v Government of the Republic of Namibia* in the High Court of Namibia. “*We are beggars on our own land*” unravels the historical and contemporary socio-legal complexities that led to the *Tsumib* case. At the core of the case lies the legal question, how can the Hai||om people approach the Namibian Courts in order to claim compensation for the loss of their ancestral lands?

Odendaal goes into detail how the *Tsumib* case materialised under the post-independence Namibian constitutional discourse. He assesses the Namibian land reform programme and its oversight in dealing with historical land dispossession. He inspects Hai||om “identity” and how it was used to strengthen their case. He concludes with an examination of Namibia’s outdated and restrictive legal framework, which ultimately denied the Hai||om people their constitutional right to be heard in the Namibian Court.

While the future of ancestral land claims in Namibia depends on the political will of the Namibian government, Odendaal argues that the Namibian courts have a duty to comply with the rights giving nature of the Namibian Constitution that lays the foundation for the Hai||om people’s ancestral claims.

*Willem Odendaal* obtained his PhD in Law from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland. He is an admitted legal practitioner in the High and Supreme Courts of Namibia. He was the project coordinator of the Land, Environment and Development project at the Legal Assistance Centre (LAC) from 2006 until 2019. At present, Odendaal continues working with local communities in Namibia on human, land and environmental rights related topics.

## BASEL NAMIBIA STUDIES SERIES



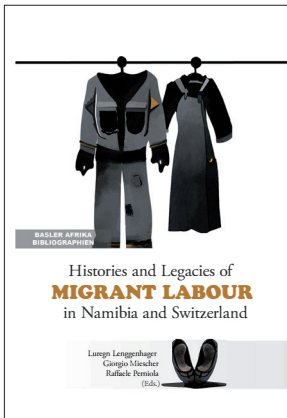
### **Ellison Tjirera** **Writing Windhoek** Multiple Representations of the City

Foreword by AbdouMaliq Simone  
Basel Namibia Studies Series 31  
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“Small” cities have something to offer in terms of theoretical resources and renewing our understanding of urban life. In other words, all cities do matter and are therefore worthy of drawing from. Condemning “insignificant” cities to oblivion is a travesty that will leave urban studies poorer. Importantly, no city is reducible to one register in the representation of its essence.

In *Writing Windhoek*, Ellison Tjirera makes an attempt to revivify the Capital city of Namibia and treat it as an idea meriting a closer examination and reflection. In illuminating the essence of Windhoek’s cityness, this book traces its history of spatial segregation, an imprint that continues to define contemporary city life. The cultural memory of Windhoek is analysed as a way of accessing what is otherwise a not so obvious strand through which to understand a city that has escaped a sustained scholarly rendition. In his further layering of the city, Tjirera provides a portrait of Windhoek through urban fantasies, regimes of the legal, and how migration is implicated in shaping social heterogeneity and concatenations of various urban rhythms.

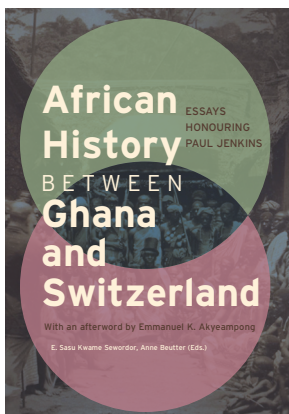
*Ellison Tjirera* teaches Sociology at the University of Namibia, Windhoek. For over a decade as a researcher, Tjirera has been associated with the Windhoek-based think tank the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) as well as the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. He holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. His academic interests include urban studies, social movements, gender studies, governance and post-apartheid societies.



**Luregn Lenggenhager,  
Giorgio Miescher, Raffaele  
Perniola (Eds.)**  
**Histories and Legacies of  
Migrant Labour in Namibia and  
Switzerland**

Illustrations  
CHF 35.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF  
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This edited volume shows surprising similarities in labour history and its legacy in two different contexts: South African occupied Namibia and Switzerland in the second half of the 20th century. Both the apartheid state and post-war Switzerland established an exploitative migrant labour system. In the Swiss case migrant labourers came on seasonal contracts from poorer southern-European countries such as Italy and Spain and later Turkey or the Balkan states. In the Namibian case the sending areas of the migrant labour were defined as African reserves and later “independent” homelands, allowing the workers to be treated as foreigners by the state. The systems aimed at fast-tracking economic growth and safeguarding the nations from crises by setting quotas of “imported” cheap labour to be lowered or increased according to the needs of the economy. In both cases migrant labourers had only very limited rights and they were marginalised or outright excluded from participation in public life and society in their places of work.



**E. Sasu Kwame Sewordor,  
Anne Beutter (Eds.)**  
**African History Between Ghana  
and Switzerland**  
Essays Honouring Paul Jenkins

Afterword by  
Emmanuel K. Akyeampong  
Illustrations, index  
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This collection of essays documents the formative decades of African history across two countries by following the career of a British historian-cum-archivist Paul Jenkins (born 1938 in Sutherland) from West Africa to Central Europe. It retraces his academic path from Ghana to Switzerland while engaging his curiosities in, contributions to, and impact on the development of African history since the 1960s. The volume reflects on Paul's academic services throughout the 1960s and 1970s, mainly at the University of Ghana (1965–1972) and subsequently at the Basel Mission Archive and University of Basel (1972–2003) in Switzerland – as key sites where he established himself as a teacher and promoter of African history.

These episodes led to lasting bonds of intellectual friendships between Paul and an array of inter-/national and -generational scholars of Africa, several of whom are contributing to this volume. Significantly too, the volume highlights the importance of resources Paul curated during the early 1970s, notably his “Abstracts of the Basel Mission’s Gold Coast Correspondences”, through which he increased access to the rich collections of the Basel Mission Archive for scholars of Africa. Altogether, the essays celebrate, engage, interrogate, and push beyond Paul’s numerous past publications and ongoing academic work.

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