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BASEL NAMIBIA STUDIES SERIES

The Basel Namibia Studies Series is a key publishing platform for essential doctoral theses on current cultural-historical, political and anthropological issues concerning Namibia. The series is transitioning to Open Access, making research widely accessible.

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Ellison Tjirera
 Writing Windhoek
 Multiple Representations of the City
 Foreword by AbdouMaliq Simone



Basel Namibia Studies Series 31

Basler Afrika Bibliographien 2025

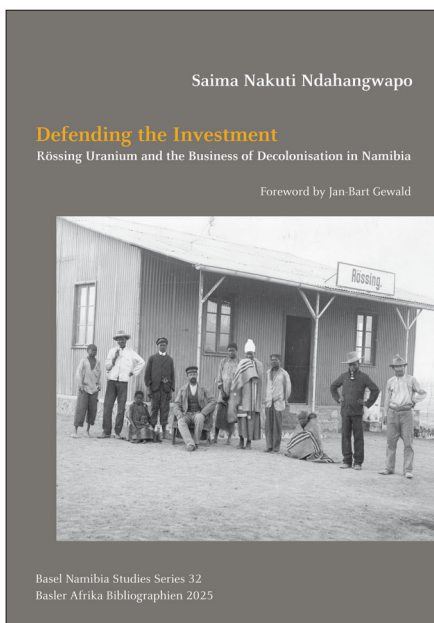
PREVIEW

OPEN ACCESS

Ellison Tjirera
Writing Windhoek
Multiple Representations of the City

Foreword by AbdouMaliq Simone
 Basel Namibia Studies Series 31
 ca. 160p. Illustrations, index
 CHF 35.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-906927-62-6
 eISBN 978-3-906927-63-3
 ISSN 2234-9561
 eISSN 2297-458X
 Open Access (PDF) will be available

“Small” cities have something to offer in terms of theoretical resources and renewing our understanding of urban life. Importantly, no city is reducible to one register in the representation of its essence. In *Writing Windhoek*, 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.


NEW
OPEN ACCESS

Saima Nakuti Ndahangwapo
Defending the Investment

Rössing Uranium and the Business of Decolonisation in Namibia

Foreword by Jan-Bart Gewald
 Basel Namibia Studies Series 32
 209p., illustrations, map, index
 CHF 35.00 Print
 ISBN 978-3-906927-70-1
 eISBN 978-3-906927-71-8
 ISSN 2234-9561
 eISSN 2297-458X

Open Access (PDF) available via <https://doi.org/10.53202/EKTL8913>

In the 1970s, Rio Tinto Zinc's Rössing Uranium mine became a symbol of injustice for Namibian nationalists and international opponents of South African rule. Yet, counterintuitively, the mine survived decolonisation in Namibia virtually unscathed and was re-imagined as part of modern, independent Namibia. This book explores the development of the Rössing Uranium mine during the colonial and early post-colonial period. The book presents a detailed understanding of the strategies adopted by big business in response to changes in the political and economic environment in Namibia. It does so through a case study of big business and diplomacy in the establishment and operations of the Rössing Uranium mine under colonial rule and decolonisation. The focus of the book is ultimately on the public relations campaign which was adopted by Rössing Uranium in anticipation of the impending political change in Namibia.

Willem Odendaal

“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

Basler Afrika Bibliographien 2024

NEW

Willem Odendaal

“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

269p., illustrations, index

CHF 35.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF

ISBN 978-3-906927-60-2

eISBN 978-3-906927-61-9

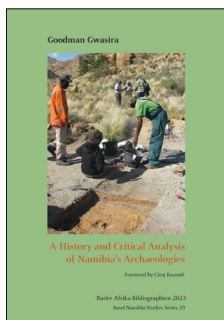
ISSN 2234-9561

eISSN 2297-458X

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. “*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?

“A book that sheds light on the decades-long struggle of the Hai||om people, who were forcibly evicted from Etosha National Park in 1954 by the South African-controlled South West African Administration.”

Johanna !Uri=khos, NBC News

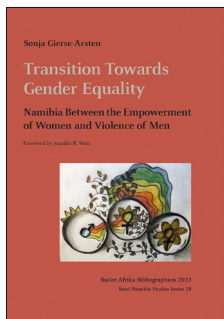


PREVIEW

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

Foreword by Ciraj Rassool
 Basel Namibia Studies Series 29
 ca. 150p., illustrations, index
 CHF 35.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-906927-56-5
 eISBN 978-3-906927-57-2
 ISSN 2234-9561
 eISSN 2297-458X

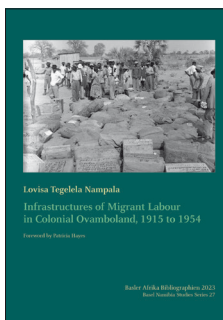
The political, social and institutional settings in which archaeology was introduced in Namibia are examined in this study. The author re-examines the idea of archaeology as a scientific and objective discipline that could be practiced without input from the knowledge systems of local communities. He 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.



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

Foreword by Jennifer R. Wies
 Basel Namibia Studies Series 28, 2023
 488p., illustrations, index
 CHF 38.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-906927-54-1
 eISBN 978-3-906927-55-8
 ISSN 2234-9561
 eISSN 2297-458X

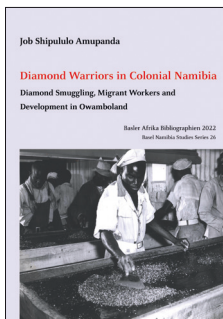
Worldwide, Namibia ranks high regarding gender equality. However, many women are intimidated by violence perpetrated by men. This book is based on a social anthropological field research in the small town of Outjo, situated in Northern Central Namibia, over a period of 14 months. Gender is learnt, lived 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. This study offers inspirations to re-think gender to reach substantive gender equality and to overcome the normalisation of violence.



Lovisa Tegelala Nampala
Infrastructures of Migrant Labour in
Colonial Ovamboland, 1915 to 1945

Foreword by Patricia Hayes
 Basel Namibia Studies Series 27, 2023
 129p., illustrations, index
 CHF 35.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-906927-47-3
 eISBN 978-3-906927-48-0
 ISSN 2234-9561
 eISSN 2297-458X

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 new colonial system such as the postal system.



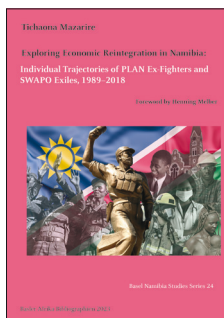
Job Shipululo Amupanda
Diamond Warriors in Colonial Namibia
Diamond Smuggling, Migrant Workers
and Development in Owamboland

Basel Namibia Studies Series 26, 2022
 198p., illustrations, tables, index
 CHF 32.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-906927-45-9
 eISBN 978-3-906927-46-6
 ISSN 2234-9561
 eISSN 2297-458X

Diamond Warriors in Colonial Namibia enters into uncharted 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.

“Amupanda’s work [...] stands as a crucial example that should inspire similar in-depth accounts that uncover clandestine dealing in diamonds in other African contexts.”

E. Sasu Kwame Sewordor

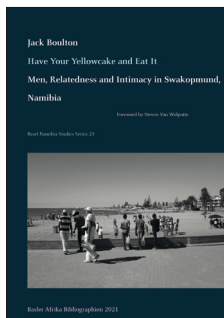


Tichaona Mazarire
Exploring Economic Reintegration in Namibia
 Individual Trajectories of PLAN Ex-Fighters and SWAPO Exiles, 1989-2018

Foreword by Henning Melber
 Basel Namibia Studies Series 24, 2023
 156p., illustrations, index
 CHF 32.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-906927-33-6
 eISBN 978-3-906927-34-3
 ISSN 2234-9561
 eISSN 2297-458X

Exploring Economic Reintegration in Namibia 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.

“Tich Mazarire adds more insights to the limits of liberation as a challenge on the road to build a fairer society.”
 Henning Melber

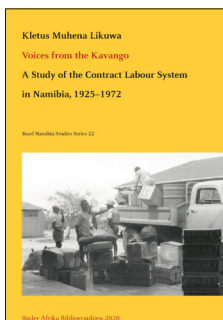


Jack Boulton
Have Your Yellowcake and Eat It
 Men, Relatedness and Intimacy in Swakopmund, Namibia

Foreword by Steven Van Wolputte
 Basel Namibia Studies Series 23, 2021
 214p., illustrations, index
 CHF 32.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-906927-29-9
 eISBN 978-3-906927-30-5
 ISSN 2234-9561
 eISSN 2297-458X

This is a story of men, monsters and uranium in Swakopmund. 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?

“Boulton’s book (...) is an overdue and timely study that contributes immensely to the fields of gender studies, urban studies and to the discipline of anthropology in Namibian and southern Africa at large.”
 Nashilongweshipwe Mushaandja



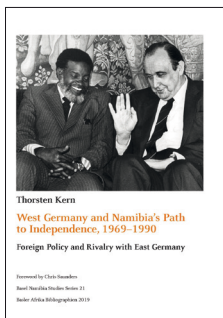
Kletus Muhena Likuwa
Voices from the Kavango
 A Study of the Contract Labour System
 in Namibia, 1925–1972

Foreword by Uma Dhupelia-Mesthrie
 Basel Namibia Studies Series 22, 2020
 218p., illustrations, index
 CHF 32.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-906927-19-0
 eISBN 978-3-906927-20-6
 ISSN 2234-9561
 eISSN 2297-458X

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



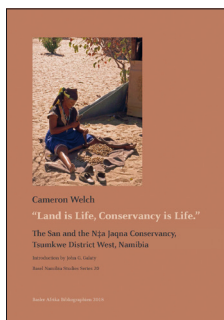
Thorsten Kern
West Germany and Namibia's Path to Independence, 1969–1990
 Foreign Policy and Rivalry with East Germany

Foreword by Chris Saunders
 Basel Namibia Studies Series 21, 2019
 284p., index
 CHF 32.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-906927-16-9
 eISBN 978-3-906927-17-6
 ISSN 2234-9561
 eISSN 2297-458X

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 provides fruitful insights into a topic that has so far only received cursory scholarly attention. [It] is a valuable contribution to the discussion of Germany’s involvement in the lead-up to Namibia’s independence.”

Wanda Rutishauser



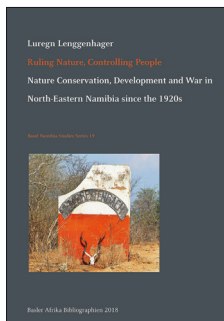
Cameron Welch
“Land is Life, Conservancy is Life.”
 The San and the Nǀa Jaqna Conservancy,
 Tsumkwe District West, Namibia

Introduction by John G. Galaty
 Basel Namibia Studies Series 20, 2018
 277p., illustrations, maps, tables, index
 CHF 32.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-906927-02-2
 eISBN 978-3-906927-03-9
 ISSN 2234-9561
 eISSN 2297-458X

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 Nǀa 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).

“The book is a highly interesting, detailed and well-grounded addition to the popular research topic of San-speaking people in democratic nation states, as well as to the discussion of community-based natural resource management in Namibia.”

Luregn Lenggenhager



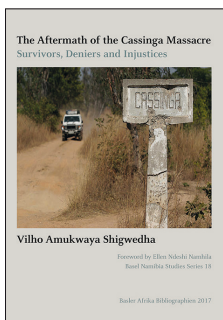
Luregn Lenggenhager
Ruling Nature, Controlling People
 Nature Conservation, Development and
 War in North-Eastern Namibia since
 the 1920s

Introduction by Maano Ramutsindela
 Basel Namibia Studies Series 19, 2018
 266p., illustrations, maps, tables, index
 CHF 32.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-906927-00-8
 eISBN 978-3-906927-01-5
 ISSN 2234-9561
 eISSN 2297-458X

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.

“This book illustrates the reciprocity of science and politics in controlling spaces (nature and culture/society).”

Goodman Gwasira



Vilho Amukwaya Shigwedha
The Aftermath of the Cassinga Massacre
 Survivors, Deniers and Injustices

Introduction by Ellen Ndeshi Namhila
 Basel Namibia Studies Series 18, 2017
 170p., illustrations, maps, tables, index
 CHF 32.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-905758-80-1
 eISBN 978-3-905758-92-4
 ISSN 2234-9561
 eISSN 2297-458X

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



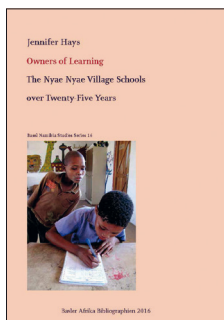
SHORTLISTED FOR THE FAGE & OLIVER PRIZE 2018

Ellen Ndeshi Namhila
“Little Research Value”
African Estate Records and Colonial Gaps in a Post-Colonial National Archive

Introduction by Dag Henrichsen
 Basel Namibia Studies Series 17, 2017
 262p., illustrations, maps, tables, index
 CHF 22.00 PDF
 eISBN 978-3-905758-93-1
 eISSN 2297-458X

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? 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



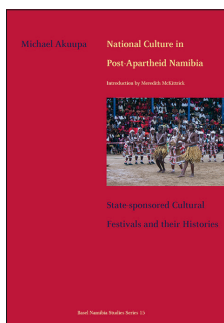
Jennifer Hays
Owners of Learning
The Nyae Nyae Village Schools
over Twenty-Five Years

Introduction by Willemien le Roux
 Basel Namibia Studies Series 16, 2016
 262p., illustrations, maps, tables, index
 CHF 32.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-905758-60-3
 eISBN 978-3-905758-82-3
 ISSN 2234-9561
 eISSN 2297-458X

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?

"The book is well written and highly recommended as a text book in social anthropology, development studies, and education and development."

Birgit Brock-Utne



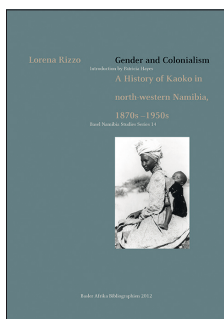
Michael Akuupa
National Culture in Post-Apartheid
Namibia
State-sponsored Cultural Festivals
and their Histories

Introduction by Meredith McKittrick
 Basel Namibia Studies Series 15, 2015
 222p., illustrations, maps, tables, index
 CHF 32.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-905758-42-9
 eISBN 978-3-905758-69-6
 ISSN 2234-9561
 eISSN 2297-458X

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



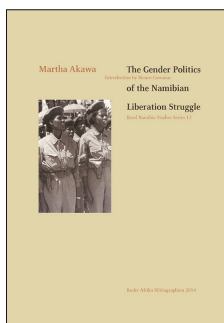
Lorena Rizzo
Gender and Colonialism
 A History of Kaoko in north-western
 Namibia, 1870–1950s

Introduction by Patricia Hayes
 Basel Namibia Studies Series 14, 2012
 331p., illustrations, maps, tables, index
 CHF 32.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-905758-26-9
 eISBN 978-3-905758-49-8
 ISSN 2234-9561
 eISSN 2297-458X

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



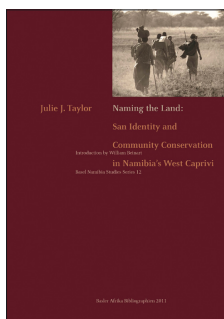
Martha Akawa
The Gender Politics of the
Namibian Liberation Struggle

Introduction by Bience Gawanas
 Basel Namibia Studies 13, 2014
 230p., illustrations, maps, index
 CHF 32.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-905758-26-9
 eISBN 978-3-905758-50-4
 ISSN 2234-9561
 eISSN 2297-458X

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



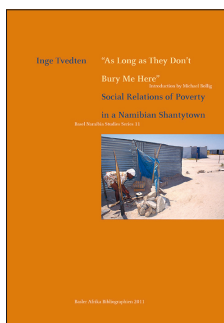
Julie J. Taylor
Naming the Land
 San Identity and Community
 Conservation in Namibia's
 West Caprivi

Introduction by William Beinart
 Basel Namibia Studies Series 12, 2012
 266p., illustrations, maps, tables, index
 CHF 32.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-905758-25-2
 eISBN 978-3-905758-53-5
 ISSN 2234-9561
 eISSN 2297-458X

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



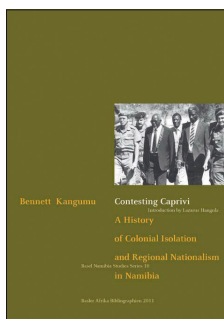
Inge Tvedten
"As Long as They Don't Bury Me Here"
 Social Relations of Poverty in a Namibian
 Shantytown

Introduction by Michael Bollig
 Basel Namibia Studies 11, 2011
 197p., illustrations, maps, tables, index
 CHF 32.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-905758-24-5
 eISBN 978-3-905758-44-3
 ISSN 2234-9561
 eISSN 2297-458X

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



Bennett Kangumu
Contesting Caprivi
 A History of Colonial Isolation and
 Regional Nationalism in Namibia

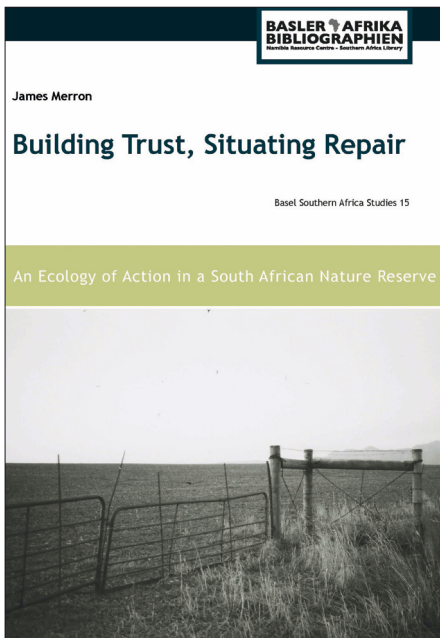
Introduction by Lazarus Hangula
 Basel Namibia Studies Series 10, 2011
 320p., illustrations, maps, tables, index
 CHF 32.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-905758-22-1
 eISBN 978-3-905758-46-7
 ISSN 2234-9561
 eISSN 2297-458X

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

BASEL SOUTHERN AFRICA STUDIES

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.

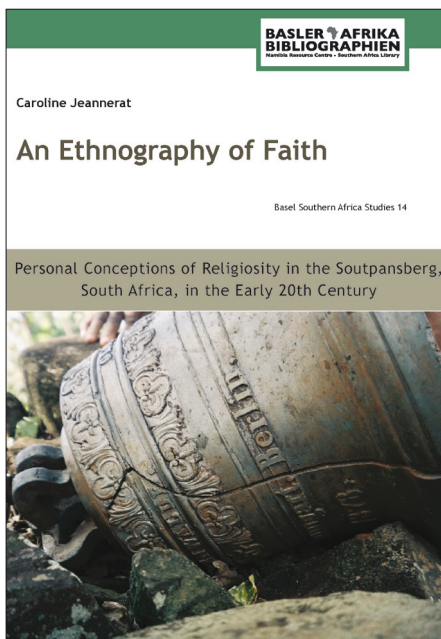


NEW

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, 2024
 122p., illustrations, maps, tables, index
 CHF 35.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-906927-52-7
 eISBN 978-3-906927-53-4
 ISSN 2296-6986
 eISSN 2297-444X

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.



Caroline Jeannerat

An Ethnography of Faith

**Personal Conceptions of Religiosity in the Soutpansberg,
South Africa, in the Early 20th Century**

Basel Southern Africa Studies 14, 2023

206p., illustrations, index

CHF 32.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF

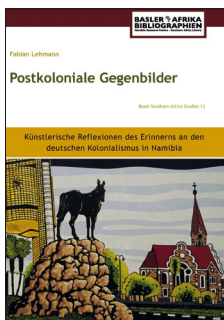
ISBN 978-3-906927-37-4

eISBN 978-3-906927-38-1

ISSN 2296-6986

eISSN 2297-444X

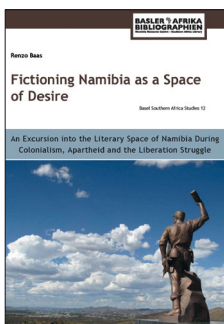
The Ethnography of Faith is a detailed study of the ways in which people engage with and experience the religious in order to recognise and understand this suppressed voice of religiosity. In her analysis of the Lutheran church in the Soutpansberg of early 20th century South Africa, Caroline Jeannerat 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.



Fabian Lehmann
Postkoloniale Gegenbilder
 Künstlerische Reflexionen des Erinnerns
 an den deutschen Kolonialismus in
 Namibia

Basel Southern Africa Studies 13, 2021
 474p., illustrations, index
 CHF 32.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-906927-27-5
 eISBN 978-3-906927-28-2
 ISSN 2296-6986
 eISSN 2297-444X

Die deutsche Kolonialzeit in Namibia war lange Zeit in der bildenden Kunst Namibias kein Thema. Erst vor wenigen Jahren begann sich dies zu ändern. Die koloniale Landnahme, der namibische Widerstand sowie der Genozid sind mittlerweile etablierte Topoi in der Kunstwelt Namibias. Dieses Buch zeigt eine Auswahl zeitgenössischer künstlerischer Arbeiten aus verschiedenen Disziplinen – von der Druckgrafik bis zur Videokunst und von der Performance bis zur Installation –, die das Erinnern und Vergessen der deutschen Kolonialzeit im heutigen Namibia thematisieren. Das Ergebnis ist die erste umfassende kunstwissenschaftliche Forschungsarbeit zur künstlerischen Auseinandersetzung mit der deutsch-namibischen Geschichte.



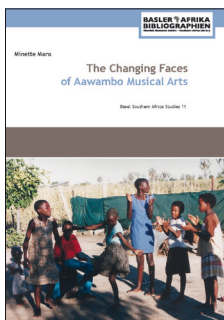
Renzo Baas
Fictioning Namibia as a Space of Desire
 An Excursion into the Literary Space of
 Namibia During Colonialism, Apartheid
 and the Liberation Struggle

Basel Southern Africa Studies 12, 2019
 286p., index
 CHF 32.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-906927-08-4
 eISBN 978-3-906927-09-1
 ISSN 2296-6986
 eISSN 2297-444X

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



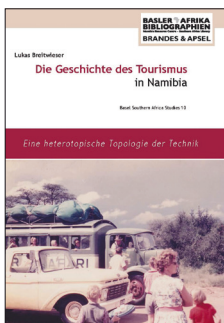
Minette Mans
The Changing Faces of
Aawambo Musical Arts

Basel Southern Africa Studies 11, 2017
 188p., illustrations, map, index
 CHF 32.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-905758-83-2
 eISBN 978-3-905141-94-8
 ISSN 2296-6986
 eISSN 2297-444X

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



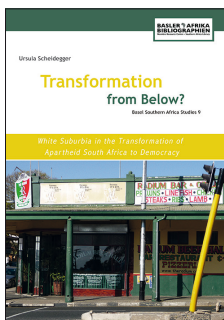
Lukas Breitwieser
Die Geschichte des Tourismus
in Namibia
Eine heterotopische Topologie
der Technik

In cooperation with Brandes & Apsel
 Basel Southern Africa Studies 10, 2016
 368p., illustrations, maps, tables, index
 CHF 32.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-905758-74-0
 eISBN 978-3-905758-85-6
 ISSN 2296-6986
 eISSN 2297-444X

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



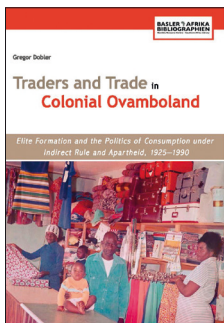
Ursula Scheidegger
Transformation from Below?
 White Suburbia in the Transformation of
 Apartheid South Africa to Democracy

Basel Southern Africa Studies 9, 2015
 158p., illustrations, tables, index
 CHF 32.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-905758-58-0
 eISBN 978-3-905758-71-9
 ISSN 2296-6986
 eISSN 2297-444X

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



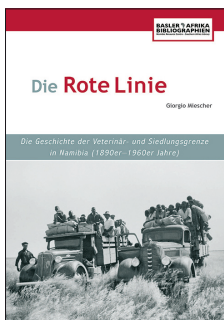
Gregor Dobler
Traders and Trade in Colonial
Ovamboland, 1925–1990
 Elite Formation and the Politics of
 Consumption under Indirect Rule and
 Apartheid

Basel Southern Africa Studies 8, 2015
 248p., illustrations, maps, tables, index
 CHF 32.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-905758-40-5
 eISBN 978-3-905758-56-6
 ISSN 2296-6986
 eISSN 2297-444X

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



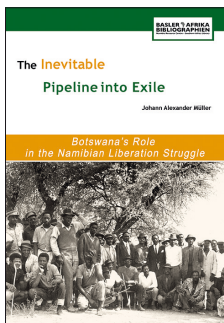
Giorgio Miescher
Die Rote Linie
 Geschichte der Veterinär- und
 Siedlungsgrenze in Namibia,
 1890er–1960er Jahre

Basel Southern Africa Studies 7, 2013
 378p., illustrations, maps, tables, index
 CHF 37.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-905758-28-3
 eISBN 978-3-905758-64-1
 ISSN 2296-6986
 eISSN 2297-444X

Die vorliegende Studie ermöglicht einen faszinierenden und überraschenden Blick auf die Geschichte Namibias, die anhand des historischen Verlaufs einer Grenze erzählt wird. Ziel war es, sowohl Mensch und Vieh beidseits der Grenze zu trennen, als auch Gegensätze zwischen modern und traditionell, gesund und krank, europäisch und afrikanisch zu schaffen.

“Diese Arbeit, verankert in einer aussergewöhnlichen Geschichtskennntnis Namibias, stellt den Entwicklungsprozess einer Binnengrenze in das Zentrum der Geschichte von Kolonialismus und Herrschaft im südlichen Afrika.”

David William Cohen



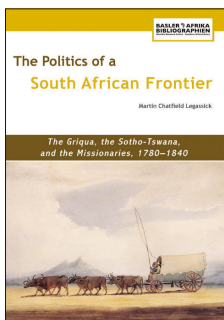
Johann Alexander Müller
The Inevitable Pipeline into Exile
 Botswana's Role in the Namibian
 Liberation Struggle

Introduction by Reinhart Kössler
 Basel Southern Africa Studies 6, 2012
 274p., illustrations, maps, index
 CHF 35.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-905758-29-0
 eISBN 978-3-905758-52-8
 ISSN 2296-6986
 eISSN 2297-444X

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



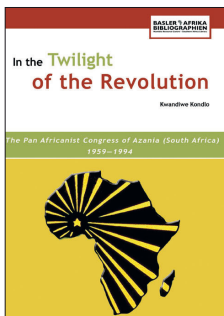
Martin Chatfield Legassick
The Politics of a South African Frontier
 The Griqua, the Sotho-Tswana and
 the Missionaries, 1780-1840

Introduction by Robert Ross
 Basel Southern Africa Studies 4, 2010
 394p., maps, tables, index
 CHF 45.00 Print | CHF 35.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-905758-14-6
 eISBN 978-3-905758-55-9
 ISSN 2296-6986
 eISSN 2297-444X

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



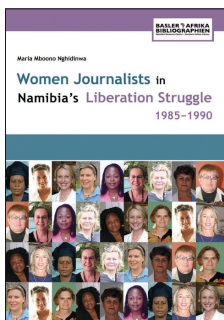
Kwandiwe Kondlo
In the Twilight of the Revolution
 The Pan Africanist Congress of Azania
 (South Africa) 1959-1994

Introduction by Patrick Harries
 Basel Southern Africa Studies 3, 2009
 340p., illustrations, maps, index
 CHF 36.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-905758-12-2
 eISBN 978-3-905758-51-1
 ISSN 2296-6986
 eISSN 2297-444X

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.”

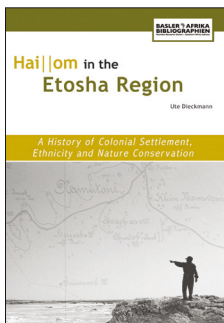
Patrick Harries



Maria Mboono Nghidinwa
Women Journalists in Namibia's
Liberation Struggle Women, 1985-1990

Introduction by Henning Melber
 Basel Southern Africa Studies 2, 2008
 152p., map, index
 CHF 36.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-905758-07-8
 eISBN 978-3-905758-57-3
 ISSN 2296-6986
 eISSN 2297-444X

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-profile 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.



Ute Dieckmann
Hai||om in the Etosha Region
A History of Colonial Settlement, Ethnicity
and Nature Conservation

Introduction by Robert Gordon
 Basel Southern Africa Studies 1, 2007
 398p., illustrations, maps, tables, index
 CHF 45.00 Print | CHF 35.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-905758-00-9
 eISBN 978-3-905758-63-4
 ISSN 2296-6986
 eISSN 2297-444X

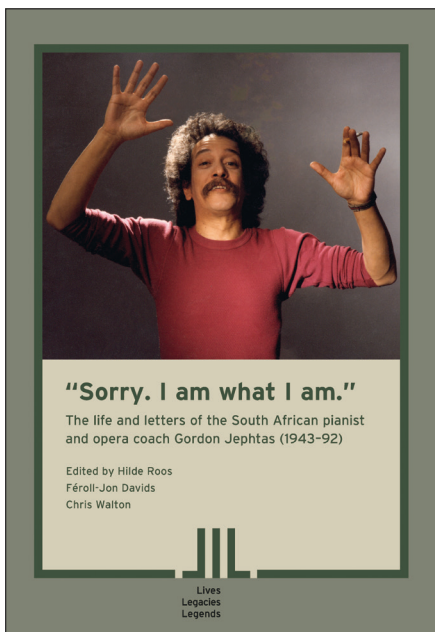
The Etosha Region in Namibia, comprising the famous Etosha National Park and its adjacent communal and commercial farm lands, has been a contested region since the advent of colonial settlement. The centenary of the Etosha Park in 2007 provides an opportune moment for critical reflection on its history, 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

LIVES LEGACIES LEGENDS

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.”



OPEN ACCESS

Hilde Roos, Férol-Jon Davids, Chris Walton (eds.)

"Sorry. I am what I am."

The life and letters of the South African pianist and opera coach Gordon Jephtas (1943–92)

Lives Legacies Legends 16, 2023

210p., illustrations, index

CHF 28.00 Print

ISBN 978-3-906927-58-9

eISBN 978-3-906927-59-6

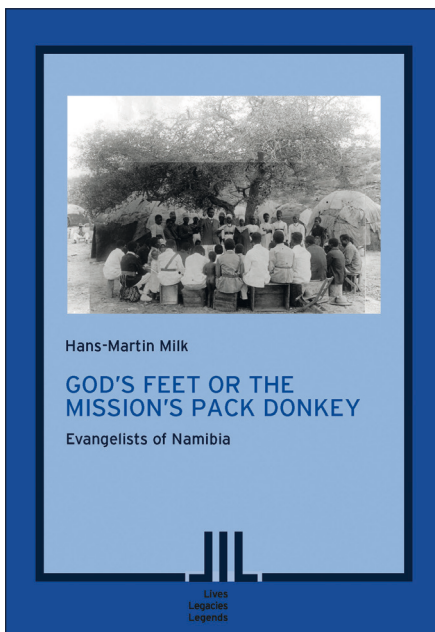
ISSN 1660-9638

eISSN 2297-641X

Open Access (PDF) available via <https://doi.org/10.53202/BWFA5651>

Gordon Jephtas (1943–1992) was born into an impoverished, coloured, single-parent family in South Africa, who managed to establish an international reputation as a vocal coach for Italian opera. Both in Switzerland and later in the USA, Jephtas worked with the biggest names in the opera world, from Renata Tebaldi to Plácido Domingo, Montserrat Caballé and Luciano Pavarotti.

This book examines the life and career of Gordon Jephtas through the letters that he wrote home to May Abrahamse, a coloured singer with whom he had worked since his teens. They reveal in unique detail the life and achievements of a remarkable musician, but also the psychological damage wrought upon him by apartheid. Jephtas provides a fascinating case study of a gifted South African abroad, struggling with issues of race and sexuality at the height of the AIDS epidemic.

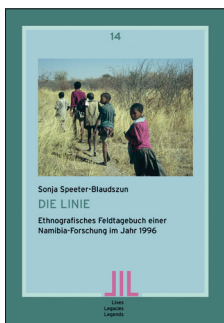


Hans-Martin Milk
God's Feet or the Mission's Pack Donkey
 Evangelists of Namibia

Lives Legacies Legends 15, 2023
 401p., illustrations, index
 CHF 35.00 Print | CHF 25.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-906927-35-0
 eISBN 978-3-906927-36-7
 ISSN 1660-9638
 eISSN 2297-461X

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 Dederig



Sonja Speeter-Blaudszun

Die Linie

Ethnografisches Feldtagebuch einer Namibia-Forschung im Jahr 1996

Lives Legacies Legends 14, 2019

144p., illustrations, map

CHF 25.00 Print | CHF 15.00 PDF

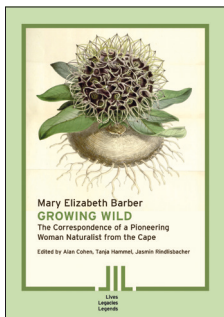
ISBN 978-3-906927-06-0

eISBN 978-3-906927-07-7

ISSN 1660-9638

eISSN 2297-461X

Die Linie ist das private Tagebuch der Ethnologin Sonja Speeter-Blaudszun, das sie während ihrer Feldforschung 1996 in Namibia führte. Es wurde nicht mit der Absicht einer späteren Veröffentlichung geschrieben; vielmehr verfasste sie es als Quelle und kritische Reflexion ihrer Forschungsreise, die sie zu den Ju|'hoansi in der Nyae-Nyae-Region in der Kalahari durchführte. Insbesondere interessierte sie sich für die Expeditionen der amerikanischen Forscherfamilie Marshall. Diese Forschungsreisen waren und sind für die Ju|'hoansi wie auch für die allgemeine San-Forschung bis heute von grundsätzlicher Bedeutung.



Alan Cohen, Tanja Hammel, Jasmin Rindlisbacher (eds.)

Mary Elizabeth Barber

Growing Wild

The Correspondence of a Pioneering Woman Naturalist from the Cape

Lives Legacies Legends 13, 2020

303 p., illustrations

CHF 25.00 Print | CHF 20.00 PDF

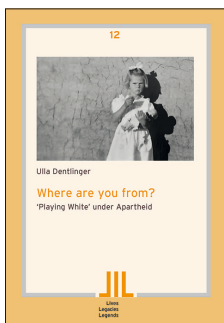
ISBN 978-3-906927-04-6

eISBN 978-3-906927-05-3

ISSN 1660-9638

eISSN 2297-461X

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.

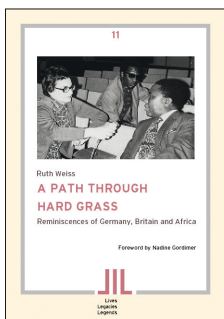


Ulla Dentlinger
Where are you from?
'Playing White' under Apartheid

Lives Legacies Legends 12, 2016
 140p., illustrations, map
 CHF 25.00 Print | CHF 15.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-905758-79-5
 eISBN 978-3-905758-97-9
 ISSN: 1660-9638
 eISSN 2297-461X

“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’.”

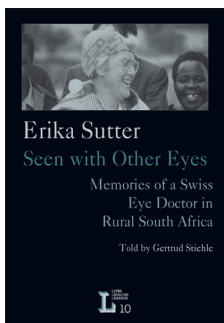
With these words the fascinating story of Ulla Dentlinger’s life history begins. Growing up in poor, rural Apartheid-Namibia in the early 1950s, Ulla Dentlinger soon learns that her parents are not prone to reminisce about their family’s past. The most mundane information about their background is guarded 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?



Ruth Weiss
A Path through Hard Grass
A Journalist’s Memories of Exile and Apartheid

Introduction by Nadine Gordimer
 Lives Legacies Legends 11, 2014
 276p., illustrations
 CHF 25.00 Print | CHF 15.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-905758-39-9
 eISBN 978-3-905758-54-2
 ISSN 1660-9638
 eISSN 2297-461X

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.



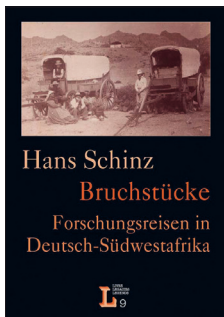
Gertrud Stiehle
Erika Sutter: Seen with Other Eyes
 Memories of a Swiss Eye Doctor
 in Rural South Africa

Foreword by Mamphela Ramphele
 Introduction and one chapter by Frances Lund
 Lives Legacies Legends 10, 2014
 124p., illustrations, map
 CHF 25.00 Print | CHF 15.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-905758-33-7
 eISBN 978-3-905758-47-4
 ISSN 1660-9638
 eISSN 2297-461X

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



Dag Henrichsen (Hg.)
Hans Schinz
Bruchstücke
 Forschungsreisen in
 Deutsch-Südwestafrika

Lives Legacies Legends 9, 2012
 188p., illustrations, maps, index
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 ISSN 1660-9638
 eISSN 2297-461X

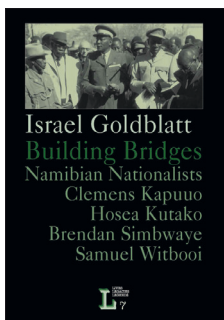
Als erster Wissenschaftler bereiste der Zürcher Botaniker Hans Schinz von 1884 bis 1886 die lediglich auf dem Papier bestehende Kolonie Deutsch-Südwestafrika von Süden nach Norden, von Osten nach Westen. Mit scharfem Blick, spitzer Feder und imperialem Habitus schildert er seiner Mutter, seinem Bruder und Kollegen in Zürich und Berlin seine Eindrücke.



Gertrud Stiehle
Erika Sutter: Mit anderen Augen gesehen
 Erinnerungen einer Schweizer Augenärztin

Introduction and one chapter by Frances Lund
 Lives Legacies Legends 8, 2011
 125p., illustrations, map
 CHF 25.00 Print | CHF 15.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-905758-30-6
 eISBN 978-3-905758-66-5
 ISSN 1660-9638
 eISSN 2297-461X

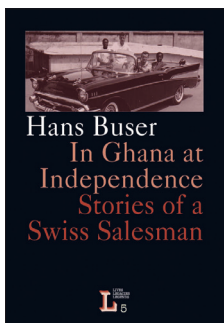
Als eine der letzten lebenslangen „demoiselles missionnaires“ engagierte sich die Schweizer Augenärztin Erika Sutter über 30 Jahre während der Apartheidszeit in Südafrika und baute dort gemeinsam mit afrikanischen Mitarbeiterinnen dörfliche Selbsthilfegruppen auf. Für dieses Buch hat die 1917 geborene Baslerin ihrer Freundin, der Ethnologin Gertrud Stiehle, ihre Lebenserinnerungen erzählt — anschaulich, mit einem scharfen Blick für soziale Fragen, mit feiner Selbstironie und trockenem Humor.



**Dag Henrichsen, Naomi Jacobson
 and Karen Marshall (eds.)**
Israel Goldblatt
Building Bridges
 Namibian Nationalists Clemens Kapuuo,
 Hosea Kutako, Brendan Simbwaye, Samuel
 Witbooi

Lives Legacies Legends 7, 2010
 138p., illustrations, maps, index
 CHF 25.00 Print | CHF 15.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-905758-16-0
 eISBN 978-3-905758-45-0
 ISSN 1660-9638
 eISSN 2297-461X

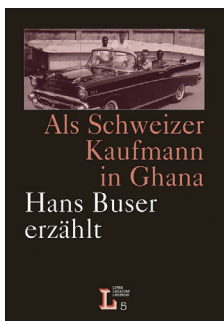
Windhoek in the early 1960s: the 34-year-old politician Clemens Kapuuo knocks at the door of the senior advocate Israel Goldblatt to solicit advice regarding the myriad of difficulties encountered by Africans daily under the apartheid regime. Israel Goldblatt's notes on these meetings were discovered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



Hans Buser
In Ghana at Independence
Stories of a Swiss Salesman

Preface by Ruedi Suter
 Lives Legacies Legends 6, 2010
 85p., illustrations, map
 CHF 25.00 Print | CHF 15.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-905758-19-1
 eISBN 978-3-906927-18-3
 ISSN 1660-9638
 eISSN 2297-461X

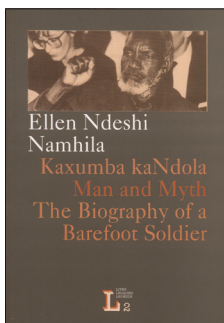
The Swiss salesman, Hans Buser, experienced at close quarters the political, social and economic ups and downs of a young Ghana in the period immediately following independence. His stories and reminiscences of those turbulent years between 1956 and 1965 are characterized by sharp observation, technical 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.



Hans Buser
Als Schweizer Kaufmann in Ghana
Hans Buser erzählt

Preface by Ruedi Suter
 Lives Legacies Legends 5, 2009
 90p., illustrations, map
 CHF 15.00 PDF
 eISBN 978-3-905758-65-8
 eISSN 2297-461X

Hautnah hat der Schweizer Kaufmann Hans Buser die politischen und wirtschaftlichen Extreme im noch jungen Ghana erlebt. Scharfe Beobachtungen, viel Sachkenntnis und Humor charakterisieren seine Geschichten und Erinnerungen an die turbulenten Jahre von 1956 bis 1965. Entstanden ist ein persönliches Buch, das afrikanische Erfahrungen vermittelt.



Ellen Ndeshi Namhila

Kaxumba kaNdola

Man and Myth. The Biography of a Barefoot Soldier

Lives Legacies Legends 2, 2002

157p., illustrations, map, index

CHF 25.00 Print

ISBN 987-3-905141-86-3

ISSN 1660-9638

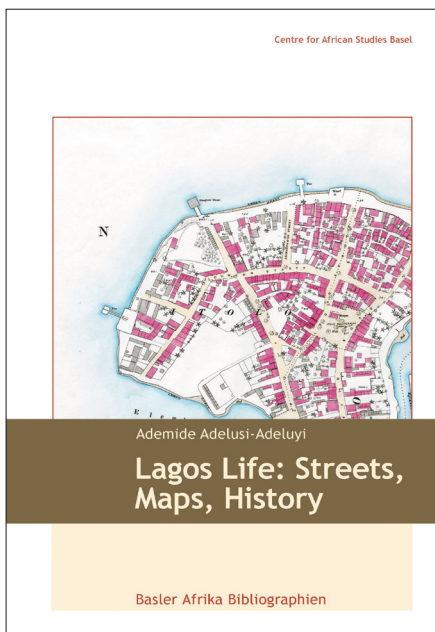
Kaxumba kaNdola, alias Eliaser Tuhadeleni, a political activist and founding member of SWAPO, spoke up for the rights of his people. In this book, Ellen Namhila takes us to northern Namibia during the apartheid era and follows Eliaser Tuhadeleni, who, as a leader of the early nationalist movement, was 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

CARL SCHLETTWEIN LECTURE

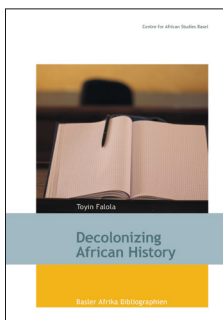
Dr. h.c. Carl Schlettwein (1925–2005), founder of the Basler Afrika Bibliographien, played an important role in the development of African Studies in Basel. The annual Carl Schlettwein Lecture, held by internationally recognised researchers at the Centre for African Studies Basel's invitation, is a contribution in memory and honour of the generous and far-sighted patron. Since 2016, the BAB Publishing House publishes each presentation.

**PREVIEW****Ademide Adelusi-Adeluyi**
Lagos Life: Streets, Maps, History

Carl Schlettwein Lecture 17, 2025
ca. 40p., illustrations
CHF 20.00 Print | CHF 10.00 PDF
ISBN 978-3-906927-76-3
eISBN 978-3-906927-77-0
ISSN 2297-7058
eISSN 2297-704X

Urban questions have taken on a new urgency in Africa, as cities like Lagos continue to grow faster and more intensely, seemingly every day. Most often, engagement with these cities is framed in terms of their problems: too crowded, too disorganized, too frenetic. But how should we understand the ways the past shaped and produced this present? “Lagos Life” explores the histories of Lagos’s streets as markers of the moments of placemaking, identity, freedom, and displacement in the nineteenth century. It begins with the premise that Lagos’s streets offer important clues and cues to the ways to ask, analyze and frame the historical and contemporary narratives of the city.

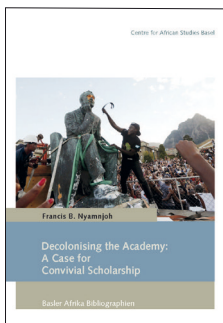
By mapping the history of these streets, and the encounters that Lagosians had in them, this presentation demonstrates how digital tools can be deployed in reading the urban fabric of Lagos Island as an archive of its own history.



Toyin Falola
Decolonizing African History

Carl Schlettwein Lecture 15, 2024
 ca. 40p., illustrations
 CHF 20.00 Print | CHF 10.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-906927-50-3
 eISBN 978-3-906927-51-0
 ISSN 2297-7058
 eISSN 2297-704X

Decolonizing African history involves efforts toward ending European intellectual hegemony over Africa's political, economic, historical, and cultural ways. As an intellectual undertaking, decolonizing African history emphasizes the study of African history from an African perspective. The acknowledgment of marginalized peoples or groups as agents of their own histories and experiences is a critical component in decolonizing African history. 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.



Francis B. Nyamnjoh
Decolonising the Academy
 A Case for Convivial Scholarship

Carl Schlettwein Lecture 14, 2020
 36p., illustrations
 CHF 20.00 Print | CHF 10.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-906927-25-1
 eISBN 978-3-906927-26-8
 ISSN 2297-7058
 eISSN 2297-704X

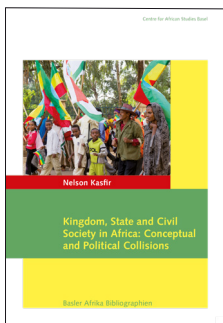
The scarcity of conviviality in universities, within and between disciplines, and among scholars suggests that the position in and production and consumption of knowledge are far from neutral, objective, and disinterested processes. They are socially and politically mediated by webs of humanity, hierarchies 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.



Mirjam de Bruijn
Digitalization and the Field of African Studies

Carl Schlettwein Lecture 12, 2019
 44p., illustrations, maps
 CHF 20.00 Print | CHF 10.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-905758-98-6
 eISBN 978-3-905758-99-3
 ISSN 2297-7058
 eISSN 2297-704X

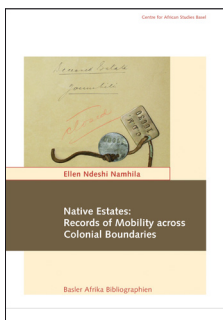
Urbanization in Africa also means rapid technological change. At the turn of the 21st century, mobile telephony appeared in urban Africa. Ten years later, it covered large parts of rural Africa and — thanks to the smartphone — became the main access to the internet. This development is part of technological 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.



Nelson Kasfir
Kingdom, State and Civil Society in Africa: Conceptual and Political Collisions

Carl Schlettwein Lecture 11, 2017
 45p.
 CHF 20.00 Print | CHF 10.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-905758-89-4
 eISBN 978-3-905758-96-2
 ISSN 2297-7058
 eISSN 2297-704X

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 sub-Saharan 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.



Ellen Ndeshi Namhila
Native Estates:
Records of Mobility across Colonial
Boundaries

Carl Schlettwein Lecture 10, 2017

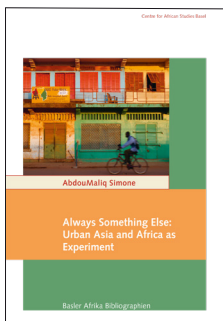
42p., illustrations, tables

CHF 10.00 PDF

eISBN 978-3-905758-91-7

eISSN 2297-704X

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.



AbdouMaliq Simone
Always Something Else:
Urban Asia and Africa as Experiment

Carl Schlettwein Lecture 9, 2016

49p.

CHF 20.00 Print | CHF 10.00 PDF

ISBN 978-3-905758-81-8

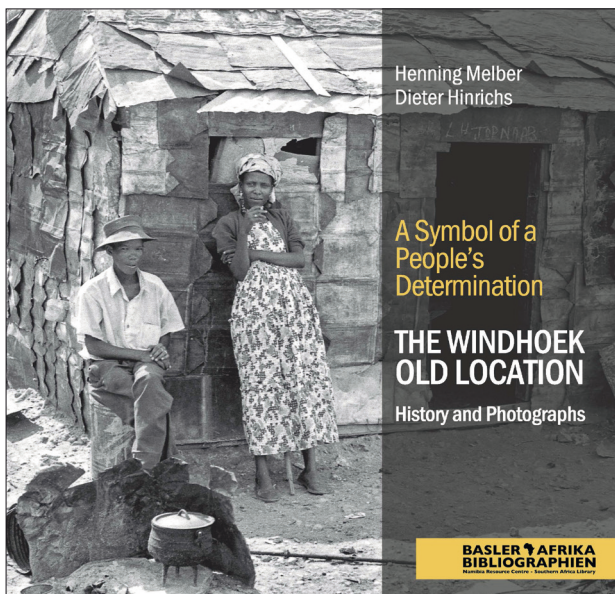
eISBN 978-3-905758-86-3

ISSN 2297-7058

eISSN 2297-704X

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



PREVIEW

OPEN ACCESS

Henning Melber, Dieter Hinrichs
A Symbol of a People's Determination
The Windhoek Old Location
History and Photographs

Preface by Bience Gawanas

Postscript by Uazuvara Ewald Kapombo Katjivena

ca. 130p., illustrations, maps, index

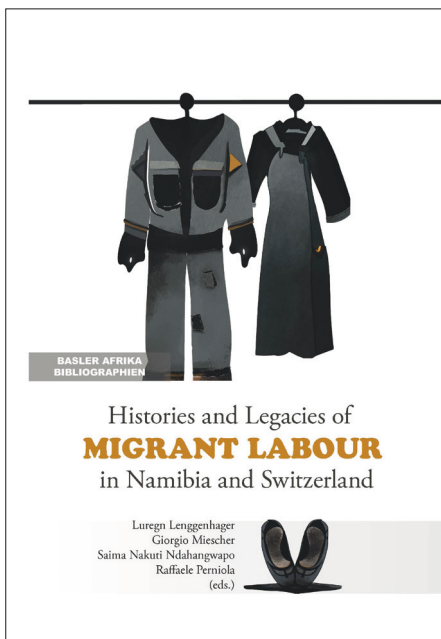
CHF 35.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF

ISBN 978-3-906927-68-8

eISBN 978-3-906927-69-5

Open Access (PDF) will be available

The story of Windhoek's Old Location is one of African replacement and at the same time of creating home against all odds under the enforced, restricted living conditions of Apartheid. Being adjacent to the White centre of town, urban planning replaced the Old Location with the newly established township Katutura in the late 1950s. Many residents refused to be re-located. Escalating protest resulted in deadly clashes on 10th December 1959 when the colonial police opened fire on unarmed residents. At least 13 were killed and more than 40 recorded as wounded. After years of forced removal, the Old Location was officially closed in 1968. This book contributes to a commemorative culture of a crucial place and space during a formative time in Namibia's history. The captivating photographs by the German photographer Dieter Hinrichs, who documented social events and everyday life in the Location between 1959 and 1960, are essential. Many are published here for the first time. They speak louder than words.



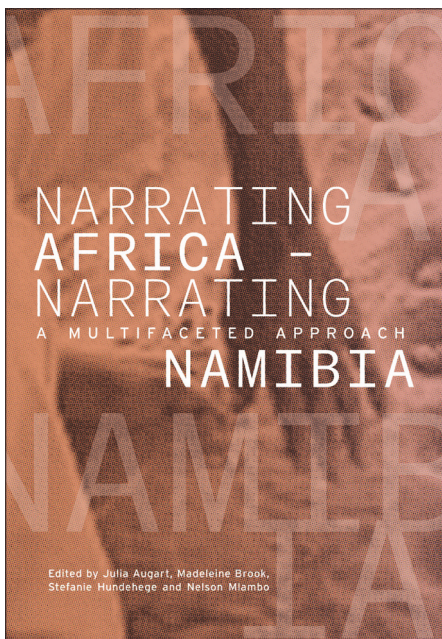
PREVIEW

OPEN ACCESS

Luregn Lenggenhager, Giorgio Miescher, Saima Nakuti Ndahangwapo, Raffaele Perniola (eds.)
Histories and Legacies of Migrant Labour in Namibia and Switzerland

ca. 150p., illustrations
 CHF 35.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
 ISBN 978-3-906927-66-4
 eISBN 978-3-906927-67-1
 Open Access (PDF) will be available

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. Two 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.



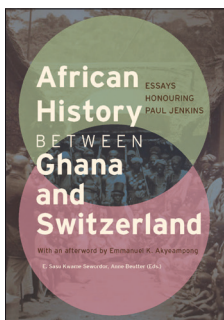
NEW

Julia Augart, Madeleine Brook, Stefanie Hundehege and Nelson Mlambo (eds.)

Narrating Africa - Narrating Namibia
A Multifaceted Approach

2025, 221p., illustrations
CHF 35.00 Print | CHF 25.00 PDF
ISBN 978-3-906927-72-5
eISBN 978-3-906927-73-2

The project “Narrating Africa” began with an international symposium at the Deutsches Literaturarchiv in Marbach in September 2019 discussing the project and how to narrate Africa from academic perspectives. Scholars from Germany, Switzerland, and Namibia engaged in intense discussions on a wide range of texts, genres, and research methodologies for two days. This book contains some of the papers presented at the 2019 symposium as well as further presentations on narrating Africa. Like the open-space project, this publication does not presume to give an answer to the difficult question of how to narrate Africa, but rather it seeks to offer further insights into the field with a special focus on Namibian narrations.



NEW

OPEN ACCESS

E. Sasu Kwame Sewordor, Anne Beutter (eds.)

African History Between Ghana and Switzerland

Essays Honouring Paul Jenkins

Afterword by Emmanuel K. Akyeampong

2024, 158p., illustrations, index

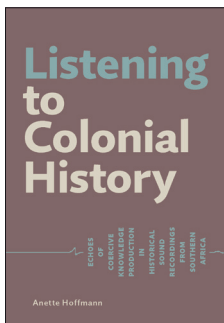
CHF 35.00 Print

ISBN 978-3-906927-64-0

eISBN 978-3-906927-65-7

Open Access (PDF) available via <https://doi.org/10.53202/STEB1247>

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. Altogether, the essays celebrate, engage, interrogate, and push beyond Paul's numerous past publications and ongoing academic work.



Anette Hoffmann

Listening to Colonial History

Echoes of Coercive Knowledge Production in Historical Sound Recordings from Southern Africa

2023, 171p.

CHF 35.00 Print | CHF 25.00 PDF

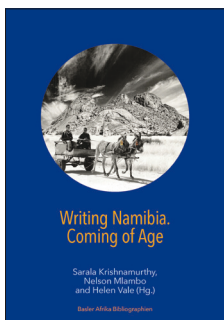
ISBN 978-3-906927-39-8

eISBN 978-3-906927-40-4

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 Pösch 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 Pösch'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.”

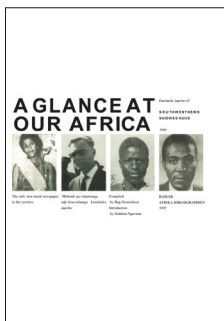
Anthropology Southern Africa



**Sarala Krishnamurthy, Nelson Mlambo,
Helen Vale (eds.)
Writing Namibia.
Coming of Age**

2022, 369p.
CHF 35.00 Print | CHF 25.00 PDF
ISBN 978-3-905758-41-1
eISBN 978-3-905758-42-8

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 fulfils 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.



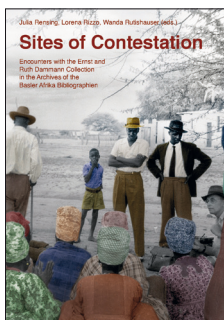
REPRINTED

OPEN ACCESS

**Zedekia Ngavirue, Dag
Henrichsen (eds.)
A Glance at Our Africa
Facsimile reprint of SOUTH WEST
NEWS/ SUIDWES NUUS, 1960**

1st edition 1997; reprinted in 2022
120p., numerous b/w-photos, paperback
Print only available in Namibia
ISBN 978-3-905141-69-6
eISBN 978-3-906927-49-7
Open Access (PDF) available via <https://www.baslerafrika.ch/a-glance-at-our-africa/>

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. This book makes *South West News* accessible again and examines its history and contents.



Julia Rensing, Lorena Rizzo, Wanda Rutishauser (eds.)

Sites of Contestation

Encounters with the Ernst and Ruth Dammann Collection in the Archives of the Basler Afrika Bibliographien

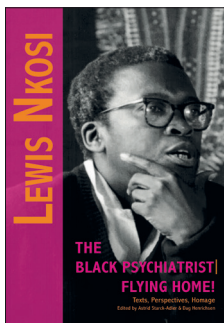
2021, 126p.

CHF 25.00 Print | CHF 15.00 PDF

ISBN 978-3-905758-31-2

eISBN 978-3-905758-32-9

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 8100 images, 750 audio recordings and numerous manuscripts, diaries and notes. 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.



Astrid Starck, Dag Henrichsen (eds.)

Lewis Nkosi

The Black Psychiatrist | Flying Home

Fiction, Critical Perspectives and Homage

2021, 470p., illustrations, index

CHF 25.00 Print | CHF 15.00 PDF

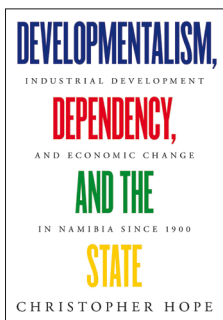
ISBN 978-3-905758-89-4

eISBN 978-3-905758-96-2

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.”

Lewis Nkosi in “Memoirs of a Motherless Child”



Christopher Hope
Developmentalism, Dependency, and the State

Industrial Development and Economic Change in Namibia Since 1900

2020, 195p., maps, illustrations, tables, index

CHF 32.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF

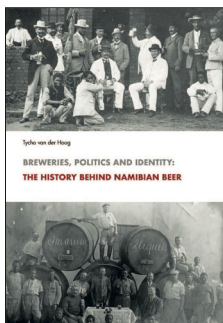
ISBN 978-3-906927-21-3

eISBN 978-3-906927-22-0

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.

"[T]his book offers a succinct, approachable and incisive history of over a century of industrial development in Namibia."

Marion Wallace



Tycho van der Hoog
Breweries, Politics and Identity:
The History Behind Namibian Beer

Foreword by Anne Mager

2019, 128p., illustrations

CHF 25.00 Print | CHF 15.00 PDF

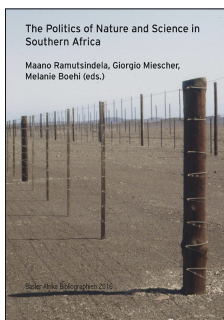
ISBN 978-3-906927-12-1

eISBN 978-3-906927-13-8

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."

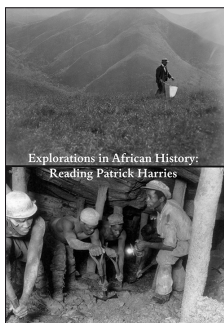
Paul Nugent



**Maano Ramutsindela,
Giorgio Miescher, Melanie Boehi (eds.)
The Politics of Nature and Science in
Southern Africa**

2016, 343p., illustrations, maps, tables, index
CHF 30.00 Print | CHF 20.00 PDF
ISBN 978-3-905758-77-1
eISBN 978-3-905758-87-0

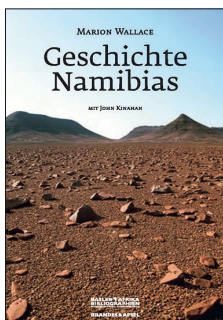
This book brings together recent and ongoing empirical studies to examine two relational kinds of politics, namely, the politics of nature, i.e. how nature conservation projects are sites on which power relations play out, and the politics of the scientific study of nature. These are discussed in their 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.



**Veit Arlt, Stephanie Bishop,
Pascal Schmid (eds.)
Explorations in African History
Reading Patrick Harries**

2015, 96p., illustrations, tables
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This collection of essays documents the growth of African history as a discipline at the University of Basel since 2001. It thus pays tribute to fourteen years of research and teaching by Patrick Harries at the Department of History and the Centre for African Studies Basel. The Festschrift covers a broad range of topics from mine labour to missionary endeavour and the production of knowledge, reflecting some of his core research interests. The contributions engage with Patrick Harries' oeuvre with reference to the authors' own scholarship or vice-versa. Some directly address his publications while others take his teaching, correspondence, remarks or intellectual life more broadly as a point of reference. They all pay tribute to a brilliant and inspiring scholar, a great teacher and a kind person.

3rd EDITION

Marion Wallace
Geschichte Namibias
 Von den Anfängen bis 1990

In cooperation with Brandes & Apsel
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1990 erlangte Namibia, das ehemalige Deutsch-Südwestafrika, als letzte afrikanische Kolonie die Unabhängigkeit. Mit diesem Buch liegt erstmals eine umfassende Einführung in die Geschichte dieses faszinierenden Vielvölkerstaates in deutscher Sprache vor. Die Historikerin Marion Wallace (London) und der Archäologe John Kinahan (Windhoek) bieten einen fundierten Überblick über die historischen Epochen und gesellschaftlichen Entwicklungen seit den ersten Niederlassungen von Menschen in den Savannen und Wüsten des südwestlichen Afrikas. Die vielschichtige Darstellung der deutschen und der von Apartheitspolitik und Befreiungskampf geprägten südafrikanischen Kolonialzeit schliesst mit einer Einschätzung von Gesellschaft, Politik und Wirtschaft des unabhängigen Namibias.

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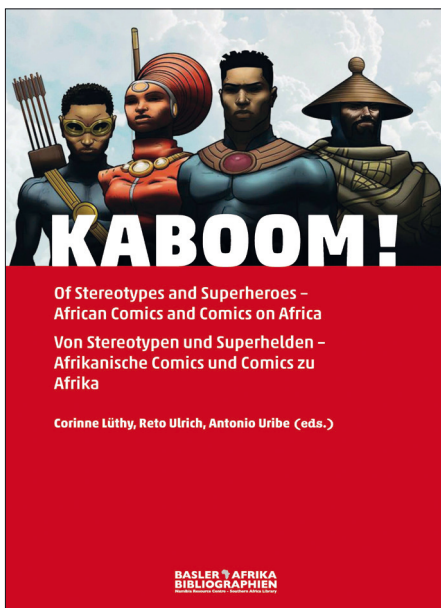
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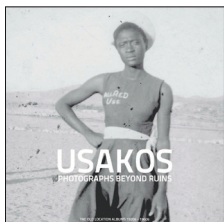
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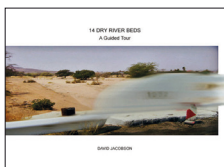
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