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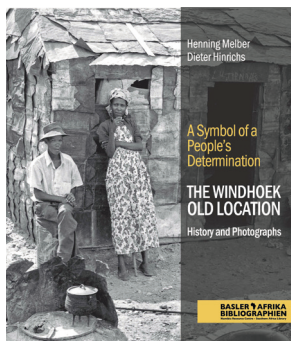
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OPEN ACCESS

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
Illustrations, maps, tables, index
CHF 35.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
ISBN 978-3-906927-68-8
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The story of Windhoek's Old Location is one of African re-placement 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.

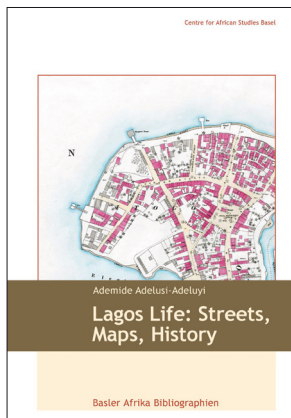
This book contributes to a commemorative culture of a crucial place and space during a formative time in Namibia's history. It offers a partial reconstruction of a social history of the Old Location. Personal memories of former residents, as far as they are accessible, contrast the colonial archives.

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.

Henning Melber is Extraordinary Professor at the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies of the University of the Free State and at the Department of Political Sciences at the University of Pretoria and associated with the Nordic Africa Institute in Uppsala. He came as a juvenile to Windhoek in 1967, where he witnessed the last days of the Old Location.

Dieter Hinrichs is a photographer and former lecturer at the State Academy of Photo Design in Munich. He lived and worked in Windhoek between 1959 and 1960.

CARL SCHLETTWEIN LECTURE



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

Carl Schlettwein Lecture 17
CHF 20.00 Print | CHF 10.00 PDF
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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.

Much like the ways that court transcripts and letters can be read and analyzed to yield insights about the past, street names in Lagos bear witness to the ways that the city’s pasts intertwine. In 1868, an English-speaking Yorùbá court clerk named all the newly paved streets in Lagos, in the wake of new colonial infrastructure that was quickly taking root. Rather than superimposing British names or even a stripped-down numbering scheme, the mostly indigenous Yorùbá names he chose reflect a remarkable archive of local priorities, symbols, events, places, and people.

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.

Trained as both historian and computer engineer, Ademide Adelusi-Adeluyi’s research into the history of Lagos, Nigeria combines a set of interdisciplinary interests in urban studies, mapmaking and technology. She is an Associate Professor of History at Howard University, and she received her PhD in History from NYU in 2016.

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
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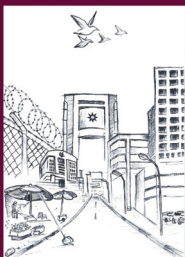
Saima Nakuti Ndahangwapo **Defending the Investment** **Rössing Uranium and the** **Business of Decolonisation in** **Namibia**

Foreword by Jan-Bart Gewald
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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.

Saima Nakuti Ndahangwapo is a Namibian historian who obtained her PhD in Africa Studies from the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa. Her research interests include big business, decolonisation, diplomacy, mining and labour relations in Southern Africa. This book is based on her doctoral research.

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



Basler Afrika Bibliographien 2025

Basel Namibia Studies Series 31

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the City

Foreword by AbdouMaliq Simone
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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.

OPEN ACCESS



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

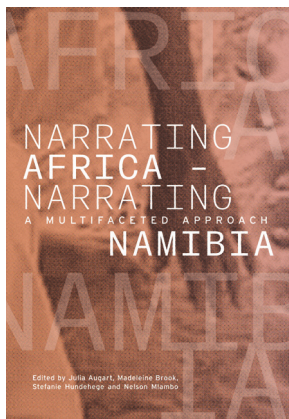
Illustrations

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.



**Julia Augart, Madeleine Brook,
Stefanie Hundehege and
Nelson Mlambo (eds.)**
**Narrating Africa - Narrating
Namibia.**

A Multifaceted Approach

Illustrations

CHF 35.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF

ISBN: 978-3-906927-72-5

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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. This book is divided into four different sections. The first part aims to provide an introductory overview to and reflections of the project’s main theme, “narrating Africa”. In part two, identity is explored and (re-) considered along various literary texts and with a particular focus on questions of gender. The third part focuses on oral literature and questions of time and memory. Finally, the last chapters are dedicated to the archive and colonialism, exploring a variety of archive materials in Marbach and in Windhoek and how they take up and shape facts and fantasies of Namibia and Africa.

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