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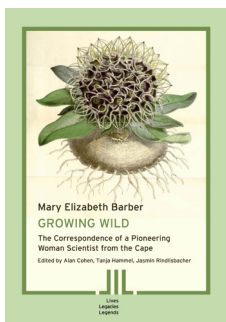
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LIVES LEGACIES LEGENDS



**Alan Cohen,
Tanja Hammel,
Jasmin Rindlisbacher (eds.)
Mary Elizabeth Barber
Growing Wild**

**The Correspondence of a Pioneering
Woman Scientist from the Cape**

Lives Legacies Legends 13
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Mary Elizabeth Barber (1818–1899), born in Britain, arrived in the Cape Colony in 1820 where she spent the rest of her life as a rolling stone, as she lived in and near Grahamstown, the diamond and gold fields, Pietermaritzburg, Malvern near Durban and on various farms in the eastern part of the Cape Colony. She 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. The letters – transcribed by Alan Cohen, who has written a number of biographical articles on Barber and her brothers – are primarily addressed to the entomologist Roland Trimen, the director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, London. Today, the letters are housed at the Royal Entomological Society in St Albans. This book also includes a critical introduction by historian Tanja Hammel who has published a number of articles and is about to publish a monograph on Mary Elizabeth Barber.

“[...] for in all places, and at all times, in peace and in war, botany has been one of my greatest pleasures; and often when we have been driven away from our homes, and had them burned by savages, and have had nothing to shelter us but a waggon for months together, then botany has been my sovereign remedy to drive away care. And often my two little boys would say: ‘Mamma, shall we not ask papa to have the waggon inspanned to go to another place for there are no more new wild flowers here?’”

Extract of a letter from Barber to Dr William Harvey quoted in the introduction to *Thesaurus Capensis* 1859



Sonja Speeter-Blaudszun
Die Linie
Ethnografisches Feldtagebuch einer
Namibia-Forschung im Jahr 1996

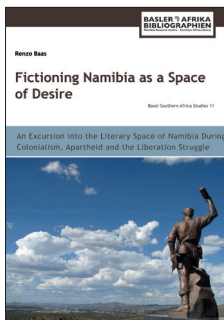
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Die Linie ist das private Tagebuch der Ethnologin Sonja Speeter-Blaudszun, das sie während ihrer Feldforschung 1996 in Namibia führte. Es wurde nicht mit der Absicht einer späteren Veröffentlichung geschrieben; vielmehr verfasste sie es als Quelle 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.

„Mein Tagebuch ist ein Text, der auch den politisch-ethischen Zeitgeist der Ethnologie in den 1990er-Jahren und die zunehmenden Implikationen, die eine ethnologische Forschung für alle Beteiligten mit sich bringt, reflektiert. Anders als bei einem Tagebuch können wir in einer abgeschlossenen Ethnografie nicht erkennen, wie sich die täglich verändernden Beziehungen und die neuen Erfahrungen einer Ethnologin im Forschungsalltag auf die Formung und Gestaltung einer Ethnographie auswirken. Um ‚Objektivität‘ in meinen Beobachtungen zuzulassen, nutzte ich das tägliche Reflektieren im Tagebuch zum Ordnen und Strukturieren und auch als ‚Ventil‘ für meine unmittelbaren Gedanken in Namibia.“

Sonja Speeter-Blaudszun

Sonja Speeter-Blaudszun (1960–2018) promovierte 2004 an der Universität Mainz über „Die Expeditionen der Familie Marshall. Eine Untersuchung zur ethnographischen Erforschung der Nyae Nyae !Kung“. Anschliessend war sie sozialpädagogisch an einer Brennpunktschule in Hamburg tätig.



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

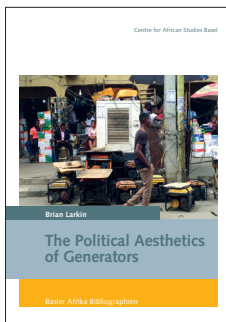
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Modern-day Namibian history has largely been shaped by three major eras: German colonial rule, South African apartheid occupation, and the Liberation Struggle. It was, however, not only military conquest that laid the cornerstone for the colony, but also how the colony was imagined, the 'dream' of this colony. As a tool of discursive worldmaking, literature has played a major role in providing a framework in which to 'dream' Namibia, first from outside its borders, and then from within. In *Fictioning Namibia as a Space of Desire*, Renzo Baas employs Henri Lefebvre's city-country-side dialectic and reworks it in order to uncover how fictional texts played an integral part in the violent acquisition of a foreign territory.

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.

Renzo Baas is a post-doctoral fellow at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, where he is working on African-American and African speculative fictions as a response to exclusionary and alienating politics. He has conducted research on (post)colonial literatures, Afrofuturist and African speculative fictions, graphic novels, as well as historic colonial novels.

CARL SCHLETTWEIN LECTURE



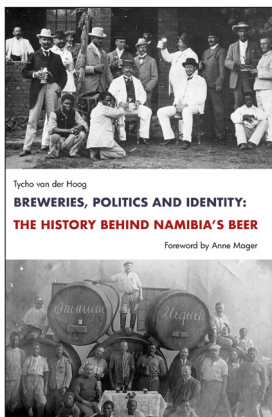
Brian Larkin **The Political Aesthetics of Generators**

Carl Schlettwein Lecture 13
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Like a living being, the generator ingests and expels. At one end of a generator, petrol pours in. At the other, electricity, smoke, fumes, and sound flood out. In Nigeria, generators emerged as a response to breakdowns in the electric grid but are now so broadly disseminated they have become formalized into a system of their own. Ubiquitous in all urban and rural areas, coming in all sizes, their sound, smell and presence is integral to what Nigeria is and how it functions. In this lecture, Brian Larkin examines generators as aesthetic objects, drawing on the older idea of *aisthesis* as a felt experience. He examines how generators shape the technologized, ambient environment of urban Nigeria – how it is one feels, hears, or smells the world one lives in – and how that environment is part of the reshaping of Nigerian urban life.

Brian Larkin is the Director of Graduate Studies and a Professor of Anthropology at Barnard College, Columbia University. He is also Co-Director of the Comparative Media Initiative at the same university and co-founder of the University Seminar on Media Theory and History. His research focuses on the ethnography and history of media in Nigeria, the introduction of media technologies and the religious, political, and cultural changes they bring about. He explores how media technologies comprise broader networked infrastructures that shape a whole range of actions from forms of political rule, to new urban spaces, to religious and cultural life. Larkin has published widely on issues of technology and breakdown, piracy and intellectual property, the global circulation of cultural forms, infrastructure and urban space, sound studies, and Nigerian film. He is the author of *Signal and Noise: Media Infrastructure and Urban Culture in Nigeria* (Duke University Press, 2008) and, with Lila Abu-Lughod and Faye Ginsburg, co-editor of *Media Worlds: Anthropology on New Terrain* (University of California Press, 2002).

MONOGRAPHS



Tycho van der Hoog
**Breweries, Politics and Identity:
The History Behind
Namibia's Beer**
Foreword by Anne Mager

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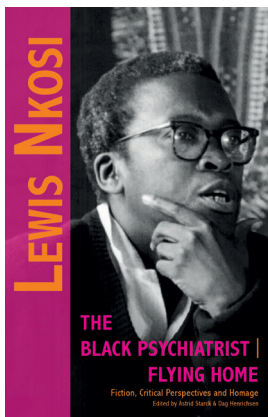
Namibian beer is celebrated as an inextricable part of Namibian nationalism, both within domestic borders and across global markets. But for decades on end, the same brew was not available to the black population as a consequence of colonial politics. This book aims to explain how a European style beer 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 of companies in identity formation and thus highlights an understudied aspect of Namibian history, namely business–state relations.

Tycho van der Hoog is a researcher at the African Studies Centre Leiden, an interfaculty institute of Leiden University. He holds a bachelor's degree in history (2014), a bachelor's degree in political science (2014), a research master's degree in African Studies (2016) and a master's degree in History (2017) from Leiden University. He has conducted fieldwork in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa.

“Not a beer drinker? No problem. *Breweries, Politics and Identity* looks through a warm amber-coloured lens to bring us a view not only of the beer industry but of a broad history of Namibia from the late nineteenth century to the present. To be sure, the establishment of breweries and the production of beer are in the centre of this view, but there is much to be seen and enjoyed beyond the imperatives of a fermentation industry.”

Anne Mager

MONOGRAPHS



**Astrid Starck,
Dag Henrichsen (eds.)
Lewis Nkosi
The Black Psychiatrist &
Flying Home**
Fiction, Critical Perspectives
and Homage

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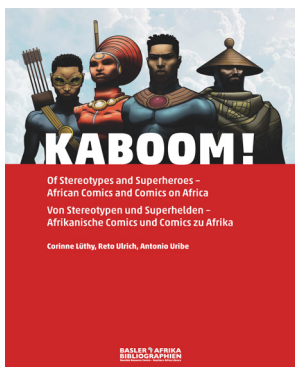
This rich volume is dedicated to the astounding South African writer and literary critic Lewis Nkosi (1936–2010).

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. Edited by Astrid Starck, a literary scholar, and Dag Henrichsen, a historian.

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

Lewis Nkosi in *Memoirs of a motherless child*



**Corinne Lüthy,
Reto Ulrich,
Antonio Uribe (eds.)
Kaboom!**

**Of Stereotypes and Super-
heroes - African Comics and
Comics on Africa
Von Stereotypen und Super-
helden - Afrikanische Comics
und Comics zu Afrika**

Zweisprachige Ausgabe |
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**“The symbols used in comics are reduced, simplistic.
This is why stereotypes are such a temptation for comic
artists – and so effective for the medium.”**

Anton Kannemeyer

We all know the colonial and stereotypical images of the African continent and of the people living there. Especially older comics such as *The Adventures of Tintin* or *Mickey Mouse* have taken up the image of the “untamed” continent with its “wild” inhabitants. Moreover, modern superhero comics mirror the western view of Africa. What about the African point of view, though? The true African comic? The editors of this catalogue present a wide range of African comics: superhero and underground comics as well as comics with propaganda content or an educational focus.

Comics are more than just a manifestation of pop culture – during the course of the 20th century, they have developed into a socio-politically influential medium worldwide. Comics are now an object of historical research. They transport the history of their time and depict it. Comics are an integral part of our culture and, through the combination of images and words as an artistic expression, have a history of their own.



Thorsten Kern

West Germany and Namibia's Path to Independence, 1969-1990

Foreign Policy and Rivalry with East Germany

Preface by Chris Saunders

Basel Namibia Studies Series 21

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

Preface by Christopher Saunders
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Namibia's main liberation movement, the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), relied heavily on outside support for its armed struggle against South Africa's occupation of what it called South West Africa. While East Germany's solidarity with Namibia's struggle for national self-determination has received attention, little research has been done on West Germany's policy towards Namibia, which must be seen in the light of inter-German rivalry. The impact of the wider realities of the Cold War on Namibia's rocky path to independence leaves ample room for research and new interpretations.

In this study Thorsten 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.

This book is based upon a doctoral dissertation presented to the University of Cape Town in 2016. Kern conducted research in the National Archives of Namibia and in German archives, and his work draws on interviews with contemporary witnesses.

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

Chris Saunders

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