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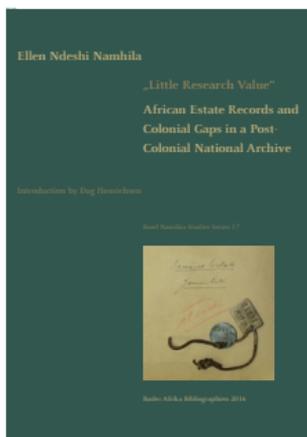
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BASEL NAMIBIA STUDIES SERIES



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
Illustrations, maps, tables, index.
CHF 32.00 Print | CHF 22.00 PDF
ISBN 978-3-905758-78-8
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Ellen Ndeshi Namhila 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? Not satisfied with the sweeping statement that this is the result of colonialism and apartheid, she follows the track of so-called “Native estates” through legislation, record creation and dispersal, records management and administrative neglect, authorised and unauthorised destruction, transfer and appraisal, selective processing, and (almost) final amnesia. Eventually she discovers over 11,000 forgotten surviving African estate records – but also evidence for the destruction of many others. And she demonstrates the potential of these records to interpret the lives of those who otherwise appear in history only as statistics – records which were condemned to destruction by colonial archivists stating they had “little research value and no functional value”. 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 is the revised version of Ellen Namhila’s 2015 doctoral thesis published at the University of Tampere, Finland.

Ellen Ndeshi Namhila is the head librarian and pro-vice-chancellor of the University of Namibia (UNAM) in Windhoek and a well-known Namibian writer, historian and manager of knowledge and heritage.

“This study is a passionate statement on the power of producing and silencing pasts and histories.”

Dag Henrichsen

The Aftermath of the Cassinga Massacre



Survivors, Deniers and Injustices

Vilho Amukwaya Shigwedha

Introduction by Ellen Ndeshi Namhila

Basel Namibia Studies Series 18

Baso Afrika Bibliographien 2017

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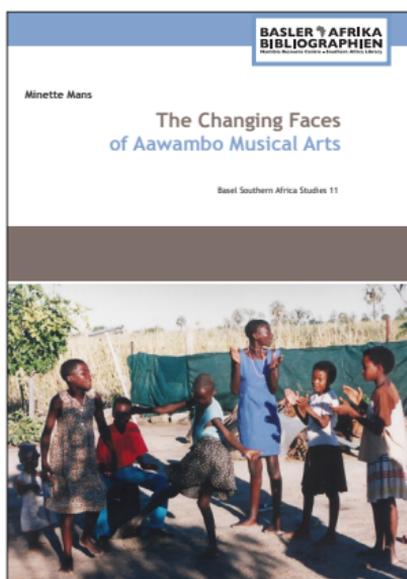
It took the former South African Defence Force (SADF) less than four hours to kill more than eight hundred Namibian refugees at Cassinga on May 4, 1978. Thousands of survivors were left with irreparable physical and emotional injuries. The unhealed trauma of Cassinga, a Namibian civilian camp in southern Angola before the massacre, is beyond the worst that the victims of the attack experienced on the ground. Unacceptable layers of pain and suffering continue to grow and multiply as the victims' grievances and other issues arising out of the aftermath of the massacre have been ignored, particularly following Namibia's political independence.

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, in spite of their ongoing denial of killing and maiming innocent civilians at Cassinga, are explored with the aim to create public awareness about the unfortunate circumstances of the Cassinga victims.

Vilho Amukwaya Shigwedha obtained his PhD from the University of the Western Cape in Cape Town for this study. He is currently a lecturer at the University of Namibia in Windhoek.

“Shigwedha succeeds in opening a discursive space in which the dominant national versions of the Cassinga massacre that circulate in Namibia, and the too long afterlife of the SADF version of the massacre, may be challenged and interrupted so as to allow for more open-ended narratives.”

Ellen Ndeshi Namhila



Minette Mans
The Changing Faces of
Aawambo Musical Arts

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How does a people's music reflect their history, their occupations, cultural beliefs and values?

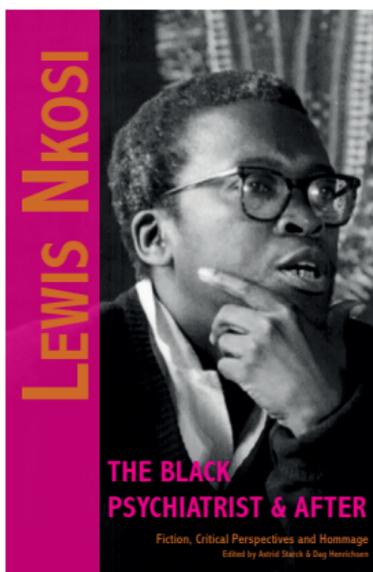
These are the core questions that this book addresses in relation to the Aawambo people of Namibia. The author brings to the fore the nuanced views of different people, describing their personal musical experiences – past as well as present. This is the first time that the music and stories of contemporary Namibian musicians are shared alongside those of the elderly. Similarly, it is the first time that some of the traditional Aawambo dances are analysed and described, abundantly illustrated with colourful photographs and several songs.

Based on years of personal research, this book will appeal to research scholars, students and other interested readers alike, since its style is accessible but detailed, personal yet objective.

Minette Mans is a Namibian born academic, previously Associate Professor in the field of music, dance and education. She has published several books and many scientific articles that often cover the field from a Namibian perspective, and has performed field research mainly in the northern regions of the country.

“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, Director of Arts, Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, Namibia



**Dag Henrichsen,
Astrid Starck (eds.)
Lewis Nkosi
“The Black Psychiatrist” &
“After”**
Fiction, Critical Perspectives
and Hommage

ca. CHF 25.00 Print | CHF 15.00 PDF
ISBN 978-3-905758-88-7
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This rich volume is dedicated to the astounding South African writer and literary critic Lewis Nkosi (1936–2010).

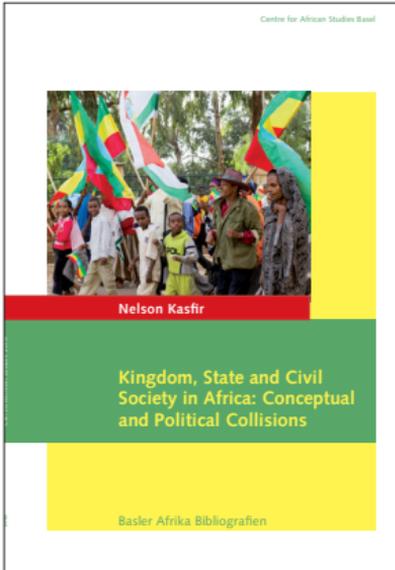
In this book Nkosi’s celebrated one-act play “The Black Psychiatrist” is published together with its unpublished sequel “After”, a short novel on the satirically fictionalized inauguration of Mandela as South African president. Critical appraisals, tributes and recollections by scholars and friends reflect on the beat of his writing and life.

An ideal volume for those encountering Lewis Nkosi for the first time as well as 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”

CARL SCHLETTWEIN LECTURE



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

Carl Schlettwein Lecture 11
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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.

Focusing on the characteristics and behavior of longstanding African organizations would appear a better starting point for developing a useful concept of an African civil society. 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.

Nelson Kasfir is Professor of Government Emeritus at Dartmouth College. He writes about African politics, democracy, parliament and development, particularly issues involving Uganda and Kenya. He edited and co-authored "Civil Society and Democracy in Africa: Critical Perspectives" and co-edited and co-authored "Rebel Governance in Civil War". He is working on a book comparing the governance practices of two rebel groups in Uganda. He is also compiling a worldwide data set on rebel governance. Kasfir recently received a fellowship at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study in South Africa that he will take up in 2017.

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