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Luregn Lenggenhager

Ruling Nature, Controlling People

Nature Conservation, Development and War in
North Eastern Namibia since the 1920s

Basel Namibia Studies Series 19



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Luregn Lenggenhager
Ruling Nature, Controlling People
Nature Conservation,
Development and War in North-East-
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Introduction by Maano Ramutsindela

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Illustrations, maps, tables, index.

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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. In *Ruling Nature, Controlling People*, Luregn Lenggenhager shows that these features were also characteristic of South African rule over the Caprivi Strip region in North-Eastern Namibia, especially in the fields of forestry, fisheries and, ultimately, wildlife conservation. In the process, the increasingly internationalised war in the region from the late 1960s until Namibia's independence in 1990 became intricately interlinked with contemporary nature conservation, ecology and economic development projects.

By retracing such interdependencies, Lenggenhager provides a novel perspective from which to examine the history of a region which has until now barely entered the focus of historical research. He thereby highlights the enduring relevance of the supposedly peripheral Caprivi and its military, scientific and environmental histories for efforts to develop a deeper understanding of the ways in which apartheid South Africa exerted state power.

Luregn Lenggenhager has conducted extensive archival and field research in Namibia and South Africa since 2005. His areas of research include environmental history, historical geography and borderlands in Southern Africa. He works as a postdoctoral research fellow at the Centre for African Studies Basel and as a lecturer in the History Department at the University of Zurich.



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

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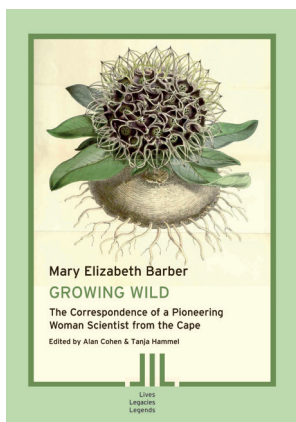
Cameron Welch
**"Land is Life,
Conservancy is Life."**
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Community-based natural resource management or CBNRM, with its attention to community participation, its call for de-centralization of rights to local resource users through democratic and equitable structures, and its potential to deliver benefits to local livelihoods and national conservation interests, now forms the predominant strategy for rural development in the communal areas of Namibia. This framework is presumed by the Namibian government and international bodies concerned with conservation and development to deliver measurable and positive economic, environmental, and political results for the State and all of its citizens. CBNRM has taken on particular form and significance for the San in Namibia.

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). This work explores the modalities through which conservation comes together with interests of Indigenous groups and how these groups deploy leverage gained through invoking conservation as discourse and practice.

Cameron Welch obtained his PhD from McGill University in Montreal. He is currently a policy analyst with the Lands and Resources Department at the Anishinabek Nation, an advocacy organization for 40 First Nations across the Canadian province of Ontario.



**Alan Cohen,
Tanja Hammel (eds.)
Mary Elizabeth Barber
Growing Wild**
The Correspondence of a
Pioneering Woman Scientist
from the Cape

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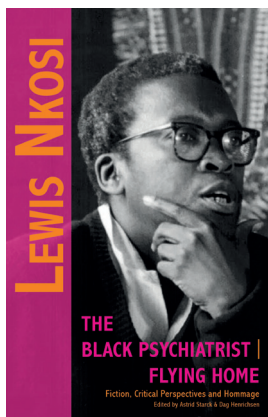
Mary Elizabeth Barber (1818–1899), born in Britain, arrived in the Cape Colony in 1820 where she spent the rest of her life as a rolling stone, as she lived in and near Grahamstown, the diamond and gold fields, Pietermaritzburg, Malvern near Durban and on various farms in the eastern part of the Cape Colony. She has been received ‘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 today housed at the Royal Entomological Society in St Albans and the director of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, London. 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 M.E.B. to Dr William Harvey quoted in the introduction to *Thesaurus Capensis* 1859

MONOGRAPHS



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

ca. CHF 25.00 Print | CHF 15.00 PDF
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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 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”

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