Recent Books from Namibia – Sept 2023

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Economics

Economic Diversification In Africa: Lessons from Botswana / Imogen Mogotsi, Lesego Sekwati, Nettimi Narayana Namibia : University of Namibia Press, 2022 xiv, 314p. ; 25cm. Include Index 9789991642826 \$ 42.00 / PB 575gm.

Botswana is a major producer of the world's diamonds and has been a pacesetter for beneficiation in the country. All mineral resources are finite: Botswana is working towards diversifying the economy before the diamonds run out. As one of the most stable and prosperous countries in Africa, Botswana sets an example to follow. This book gives a practical review of topical issues and the roles of government, the private sector, economic institutions and the international community in driving economic diversification. It highlights challenges faced by many small open economies in Africa as they search for new engines of growth.

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History

God's Feet or the Mission's Pack Donkey : Evangelists of Namibia / Hans-Martin Milk Namibia: Basler Afrika Bibliographien, 2022 xxii, 404p. Includes Index 9783906927350 Lives, Legacies, Legend Series No. 15 \$ 61.00 / PB 730gm.

The title of this book originates from the self-description of Namibian Evangelists in their own words. 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. African supporters were often the first heralds of the new religion at remote villages and cattle posts before the white strangers made an appearance. The Namibian evangelists' familiarity with the traditional culture and the local vernacular endowed them with a credibility that many of the European newcomers found difficult to acquire. 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. Hans-Martin Milk, born in southern Africa, grew up in Namibia and lived there until he left into Exile in the 1970s. He returned to Namibia after independence to teach in Kavango. During this time, he started his historical research on the RMS and the Kavango.

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Exploring Economic Reintegration in Namibia : Individual Trajectories of PLAN Ex-Fighters and SWAPO Exiles, 1989-2018 / Tichaona Mazarire Namibia: Basler Afrika Bibliographien, 2023 xii, 160p. Includes Index ; Bibliography 9783906927336 Basel Namibia Studies Series No. 24 \$ 30.00 / PB

310gm.

This study 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 pushing beyond existing scholarship on Namibia and/or economic reintegration broadly. 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.

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Listening to Colonial History : Echoes of Coercive Knowledge Production in Historical Sound Recordings from Southern Africa / Annete Hoffmann Namibia: Basler Afrika Bibliographien, 2023 174p. 9783906927398 \$ 25.00 / PB 266gm.

European archives hold historical voice recordings that were produced by linguists, ethnologists and musicologists during colonial rule in African countries. While these recordings reverberate with the polyphonic echoes of colonial knowledge production, to date, acoustic collections have rarely been consulted as sources of colonial history. In this book Anette Hoffmann engages with a Southern African audio-visual collection, which is located in five different institutions across Vienna, Austria. Several recordings collected by the anthropologist Rudolf Pöch in August 1908 have been retranslated for this book. These translations provide new insights into Pöch's collecting expedition to the Kalahari. Pöch's narrative of his heroic journey is called into question by the Naro speakers' comments, which address colonial violence and criticise the research practices of the anthropologist. By attending to the spoken texts on the recordings and reconnecting them to photographs, ethnographic objects, archival documentation and Pöch's travelogue, Hoffmann offers a different reading of this research trip into a war zone.

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Law

Customary Law Ascertained: The Customary Law of the Owambo, Kavango, and Caprivi Communities of Namibia / Manfred O. Hinz & Ndateela Emilia Namwoonde Volume 1 Namibia, University of Namibia Press, 2022 xii, 568p. ; 23cm. 9789991642949 \$ 60.00 / PB 1025gm.

Customary Law Ascertained Volume 1 is the first of a three-volume series in which traditional authorities in Namibia present the customary laws of their communities. It contains the laws of the Owambo, Kavango, and Caprivi communities. Volume 2 contains the customary laws of the Bakgalagari, the Batswana ba Namibia and the Damara communities. Volume 3 contains the customary laws of the Nama, Ovaherero, Ovambanderu, and San communities. Recognised traditional authorities in Namibia are expected to ascertain the customary law applicable in their respective communities after consultation with the members of that community, and to note the most important aspect of such law in written form. This series is the result of that process. It has been facilitated by the Human Rights and Documentation Centre of the University of Namibia, through the former Dean of the Law Faculty, Professor Manfred Hinz.

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