

Recent Books from South Africa – April 2023

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History

An Ethnography of Faith : Personal Conceptions of Religiosity in the Southpansberg, South Africa, in the Early 20th Century / Caroline Jeannerat
Namibia: Basler Afrika Bibliographien, 2023
xii, 208p.
Includes Index
9783906927374
Basel Southern Africa Studies No. 14
\$ 35.00 / PB
400gm.

Research into the history of Christian missions in the context of colonialism has focused primarily on missions as institutions and on the ways in which people were integrated into the economic, political and ideological spheres of imperial powers. Reduced to an experience occurring within a person, faith was deemed unapproachable by scientific methods. This has, in effect, constituted a silence regarding the everyday experience of religiosity amongst those drawn to Christianity.

Ethnography of Faith is a detailed study of the ways in which people engage with and experience the religious in order to recognise and understand this suppressed voice of religiosity. In her analysis of the Lutheran church in the Soutpansberg of early twentieth century South Africa, Caroline Jeannerat listens closely to how people describe their own faith and that of others in the archive: in accounts of work done, in texts written for mission publications, in songs composed for church services, in letters and newspaper articles and in oral memories. A careful reading of this archive – for breaks, for misunderstandings and oppositions, for sentiments of agreement, praise, compatibility and claims of shared experiences – identifies negotiations of meaning which give indications of conceptualisations of faith that stand in distinction to those of the missionaries and their expectations.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=846332>

Reframing Africa? : Reflections on Modernity and the Moving Image / (Eds) Cynthia Kros, Reece Auguiste & Pervaiz Khan
Cape Town: African Minds Publishers, 2022
x, 250p.
9781928502678
\$ 40.00 / PB
454gm.

This book takes readers on a series of stimulating intellectual journeys from the late nineteenth century to the contemporary era to explore notions of modernity in the production and reception of the African moving image and of African archival practices. Ideas are presented from multiple historical and contemporary perspectives, while inviting

new voices to participate in discussions about the future of the African moving image. Reframing Africa? makes a plea for the recognition, preservation and repatriation of the African moving image archive, advancing ideas about how it speaks to contemporary Africans, possessed of the power to elucidate their lived experiences and to reorientate perceptions of the past, present and future. On the basis of this wide-ranging appreciation of the archive, the book charts a way forward for African-inflected film studies as well as other programmes in the humanities and social sciences. Reframing Africa? will appeal to scholars, academics and practitioners across the continent and beyond.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=846333>

Epistle : To Afrophobic South Africa / Nkwazi N. Mhango

Bamenda, Cameroon: 2023

vi, 90p.

9789956553488

\$ 22.00 / PB

116gm.

When many African countries ganged up against the white apartheid regime, nobody thought Black South Africans, in a jiffy, would barbarously unleash Afrophobia against their own Blacks brethren they derogatorily call makwerekwere or foreigners. This poesy chides South Africans and Africans who failed to unite Africa. The Epistle ticks off all who take pride in their fake and feeble nationality, which, essentially is a colonial leftover. The message is point-blank. South Africans must confront their actual problems such as systemic and systematic injustices and inequities dogging their country wherein – whites and a few elites still own almost everything – in lieu of passing the buck.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=846334>

Politics/Current Affairs

Marriages of Inconvenience: The Politics of Coalitions in South Africa / (Ed) Susan Booyesen
Johannesburg: Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA), 2021

534p.

Includes Index

9781920690267

\$ 75.00 / PB

860gm.

Marriages of Inconvenience: The politics of coalitions in South Africa is a research-based volume that collates and interprets lessons that South Africa should take to heart in managing interparty coalitions. It draws from domestic experiences as well as from case studies on the rest of the African continent and generic instances further afield.

Coalitions in various iterations have been a part of the South African polity since the attainment of democracy in 1994. This started, nationally, with a 'grand coalition' in the form of a Government of National Unity as mandated in the interim constitution. Coalitions have also found expression in some of the country's provinces. After the transition, multiparty governments were sustained at national and provincial levels either as a matter of necessity due to election outcomes or for other political considerations.

At local government level, coalitions have been relatively commonplace in South Africa from the onset of democratically elected municipalities in 2000, with many situations where no single party attained an absolute majority. This gained prominence from 2016 when many metropolitan governments and some large towns became sites of coalition politics.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=833456>
