

Recent Books from South Africa – April 2024

Mary Martin Booksellers Pte Ltd
Blk 231, Bain Street
#03-05, Bras Basah Complex
Singapore 180231
Tel : +65-6883-2284/6883-2204
info@marymartin.com
www.marymartin.com

Anthropology

The Circumcision Ritual : Enter the Debate / Khaya C. Sodladla
Johannesburg: Ssali Publishing House, 2023
xiv, 274p.
9789914973525
\$ 45.00 / PB
352gm.

The ritual of male circumcision has been architecturally built on illustrious codes of secrecy and hierarchal exclusions among the Xhosa, in South Africa's Eastern Cape. The ritual serves as a rite of passage, signifying the transition from childhood to manhood. However, this ritual is at a crossroads, particularly due to the high number of deaths among its initiates every year. The Author brilliantly sets a platform for a debate where well-chosen panelists from a broad spectrum of Christian Church leaders present their persuasive arguments based on knowledge and conviction.

Amidst the drama, the fear of the possibility of natural and spiritual retaliation, the certainty of ruffling cultural feathers, the heated debate and the subsequent soul-searching, the spectators in the standing room-only hall are treated to facts, theories, philosophies and biblical interpretations at the end of which each person must determine their stand with regard to the circumcision ritual and Christianity.

Won't you enter The Debate too?

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=871579>

Education

Open Learning as a Means of Advancing Social Justice : Cases in Post-School Education and Training in South Africa / (Eds) Tabisa Mayisela, Shanali C. Govender & Cheryl Ann Hodgkinson-Williams
Cape Town: African Minds, 2022
xii, 400p. ; 254x178mm.
9781928502425
\$ 50.00 / PB
782gm.

This volume investigates the uptake of 'open learning' in South African Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges and higher education institutions. Comprised of 16 studies focused on activities at a range of colleges and universities across the country, these chapters aim to promote a better understanding of open learning practices across the Post- School Education and Training (PSET) sector, including issues such as: recognition of prior learning, access for students with disabilities, work integrated learning, professional development, novel student funding mechanisms, leadership for open educational practices, institutional culture, student support, blended and online learning, flexible learning, online assessment, open educational resource development models and funding, and micro- credentials.

This collection of peer-reviewed chapters contributes to understanding the ways in which South African PSET institutions and educators are interpreting 'open learning' as a means of advancing social justice. It includes a historical and contemporary understanding of the economic, cultural and political obstacles facing PSET, drawing on Nancy Fraser's theory of social justice as 'participatory parity' to better understand the ways in

which 'open learning' may address systemic social injustices in order to allow South African students and educators to thrive.

This volume emerges from research conducted by the Cases on Open Learning (COOL) project, an initiative by the Department of Higher Education and Training in partnership with the Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching (CILT) at the University of Cape Town (UCT) in South Africa.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=871580>

History

African Odyssey, Volume 1 / Magashe Titus Mafolo (Ed) Rose Ssali

Johannesburg: Ssali Publishing House, 2019

360p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

1990901026 ; 9781990901027

\$ 40.00 / PB

556gm.

The book, *African Odyssey – Volume One*, is a first part of a three volumes set of books by the author, Magashe Titus Mafolo. The second and third parts that follow in this trilogy will be reviewed immediately after this review of the first part. It is indeed an ambitious effort by the author. The author has undertaken a monumental task; it amounts to precedence and raises the bar for present, former and future intellectuals in public or civil service. The few landmark writings and publishing of books by former, post 1994 state functionaries are those by Vusi Pikoli, former National Director of Public Prosecutions, Rev. Frank Chikane, former Director General in the Presidency, and former Deputy Chief Justice and Judge of the Constitutional Court, Dikgang Moseneke. I deliberately point out to these Black South African luminaries because it is rare to find Black Africans in South Africa and elsewhere eager to write and publish their experiences at high level technocrats or judicial officers in post-independent governments.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=871581>

African Odyssey, Volume 3 / Magashe Titus Mafolo (Ed) Rose Ssali

Johannesburg: Ssali Publishing House, 2020

440p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9781990901058

\$ 75.00 / PB

694gm.

There is a cliché the more things change, the more they remain the same. Does this aptly describe the true nature of the African continent? Vol. 1 and 2 of this trilogy take us through epic periods in African Odyssey. In Vol. 3, we finally see the 21st century ushering in optimism and the hope of better things ahead as leaders embarked on programmes of the regeneration of the African continent. The continental body, Organisation of African Unity (OAU) was transformed into the African Union (AU) with institutions and programmes aimed at helping African countries, individually and collectively, to move faster towards regeneration and development. Many countries embraced and applied democratic principles and ethos. Human rights became the rallying mantra for the masses. Economic development and technological advancement remained on the agenda of many countries. An air of renaissance became prevalent across the African continent. And yet, one wonders whether the 2019 headlines, a far cry from the optimism and hope, are a true reflection of a continent that has seen more indecencies of wars, conflicts and rape of resources than any other? Are the headlines a summary of unavoidable pains of birth or rebirth? The author embarked on an effort to capture history, connect the dots and therefore contribute to on-going regeneration efforts of various actors on the African scene. With this detailed and comprehensive scholarly work, the author challenges Africa and Africans to avoid repeating past mistakes. The Swahili adage: Life can be understood backwards, but must be lived forwards, summarises the author's instructive message for Africa, a continent whose might and greatness cannot be denied.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=871582>

Lesotho On SADC Agenda : Challenges of Instability and Prospects for Peace (2016-2022) / Dr. Mokete Pherudi

Johannesburg: Ssali Publishing House, 2023

xlii, 482p.

9780639753287

\$ 75.00 / PB

736gm.

Lesotho has a long history of political instability during which she has experienced high levels of factionalism, political tension, and violent conflict especially during and after elections since independence in October 1966.

The resulting power struggles have boiled over into assassinations, an attempted coup, snap elections, the decline of Civil Military Relations (CMR) and the collapse of governments and coalitions.

In this book, the author provides details of the complexities of this destabilisation and the subsequent intervention by the SADC (Southern African Development Community) in the affairs of its member state. He sheds light on possible causes and identifies some of the role players and strategies which have exacerbated this volatility.

The author leaves us in no doubt that Lesotho needs urgent reform in order to curb the violence and disputes which have plagued her contemporary history, but when even the intercession of the SADC is insufficient to bring this about it begs the question, "Have the many men and women killed by the security forces for their political views died in vain?"

Can the "Kingdom In The Sky" rise above dysfunctional partisanship, begin the vertical climb towards peace and, for the sake of its fallen heroes and heroines, become the "Lesotho We Want?"

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=871583>

Collaboration in Development : A South African Heritage / Godwin Khosa

Cape Town: African Minds, 2023

xviii, 106p. ; 229x152mm.

9781928502821

\$ 35.00 / PB

232gm.

South Africa is under-capitalising on its rich ways of doing business. One such way, the focus of this book, is collaboration. The collaboration approach should be promoted to the same extent that the Japanese have entrenched and exported their 'small incremental improvement' Kaizen approach. There are many such underexplored indigenous ways of doing business in Africa. Where improvement is required in relation to development and organisational performance, the need is not so much building new capacities as discovering and implementing more strategic and effective utilisation of existing indigenous ones. And there is no need to cringe when African culture is used to inform science. This book uses history, interviews and documentary evidence from South Africa to weave together a story, arguments and lessons about collaboration

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=871584>

Literature

Flow : FicSci 01 / (Eds) Iqani & Mbaio

Cape Town: African Minds, 2023

viii, 100p. ; 229x152mm.

9781928502739

\$ 35.00 / PB

206gm.

The practice and theory of science communication can take many forms. One of them, which this volume represents, explores what forms of knowledge might be constructed when creative writing encounters science. Working outwards from a theoretical framework that sees the sciences as discourses constructed by human endeavour through forms of language and practices of authority, this collection offers writing that emerged from a scientific encounter. It explores the relationship between creativity and scientific experiment, between the languages deployed by scientists in their experiments and analyses and the languages forged by creatives in their ongoing efforts to understand the human condition.

Fic Sci 01 brought eleven creative writers together with a biomechanical engineer. The presented science invited creative enquiry into different aspects of flow, that physical property that is so central to research in fluid mechanics. This anthology collects the results of that encounter.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=871585>
