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HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Mini “Sundowner” Conference | 13-14-15 December 2021

PROGRAMME

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13 December			
Time	Welcome and Introductions		
16h30 – 17h00	HASA Chairperson, Prof. Karen Harris and Acting Head of the School of Humanities, Sol Plaatje University, Dr Cobus Rademeyer		
Time	Paper	Presenter	Affiliation
17h00 – 17h15	Foreign POWs and the South African War: Imperial Security, International Law and Repatriation	Dr Chris Holdridge	North-West University
17h15 – 17h30	‘Keeping a saloon and coining money’ - Tom Lees, Australian physical culture entrepreneur in 19th century South Africa	Dr Hendrik Snyders	National Museum Bloemfontein
17h30 – 17h45	Sol Plaatje as letter-writer: issues and insights (Rescheduled to 14 December. See below)	Prof. Brian Willan and Mr Sabata-mpho Mokae	Sol Plaatje University
17h45 – 18h00	A well-intentioned Impotence: the case of the Qing Dynasty Consuls in the Transvaal Colony, 1902-1911	Mr Sias Conradie	University of Pretoria
18h00 – 18h15	Visualising Afrikaner nationalism through films on the South African War during the 1980s	Ms Domonique-Marie Verkerk	University of Pretoria
18h15 – 18h30	Liberation Protest Signs and Symbols: Rhetoric acts of resistance?	Prof. Chitja Twala	University of the Free State
18h30 – 18h45	Negotiating Racial Politics in the Family. Transnational Histories touched by National Socialism and Apartheid	Dr Barbara Henkes	University of Groningen
18h45 – 19h15	Discussion		

14 December			
Time	Paper	Presenter	Affiliation
17h00 – 17h15	The Aim and Legacy of the Commission of Inquiry into Labour Legislation (Wiehahn Commission), 1977-1980	Mr Reatile Moncho	University of Kwa-Zulu Natal
17h15 – 17h30	The Life of Dr Albert Hertzog and His Impact on South African Politics	Mrs Weronika Muller	UNISA
17h30 – 17h45	Towards a New Approach to South African Historiography	Dr Ian Macqueen	University of Pretoria
17h45 – 18h00	"Plantasie vir die Nasie:" Archive of Body and Sacredness	Ms Misga Lewis	University of Western Cape
18h00 – 18h15	Physical Education in the 'Volksuniversiteit': Conservatism, The Gendered Body and The Pursuit of 'Objective -Science', 1930-1937	Ms Anell Daries	Stellenbosch University
18h15 – 18h30	The History of the "Berg en Toer Klub", Late 1920- Late 1990s: The Impact of Race, Gender, Religion and Afrikaner Traditions on the Development of the Mountain and Touring Club at the University of Stellenbosch	Dr Farieda Khan	Independent Researcher / Sports Historian
18h30 – 18h45	Sol Plaatje as letter-writer: issues and insights	Prof. Brian Willan and Mr Sabata-mpho Mokae	Sol Plaatje University
18h45 – 19h15	Discussion		
15 December			
Time	Paper	Presenter	Affiliation
17h00 – 17h15	'For the good of Animals': A History and Impact of the Salisbury Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals	Mr Teverayi Muguti	Stellenbosch University
17h15 – 17h30	Creating the "Rhodesian Lowveld Desert": Drought, ecological degradation and the Liberation War in the Lowveld region of Zimbabwe, c.1960-1980	Mr Tinashe Takuva	Stellenbosch University
17h30 – 17h45	Contribution of the OAU towards representation of Southern African national liberation movements at the UN, 1963-1975	Mr Seane Mabitsela	University of Venda
17h45 – 18h00	Artisanal Gold Mining, Gendered bodies and the Health in Mazowe, Zimbabwe, 1990 to 2021	Mr Jabulani Shaba	Stellenbosch University
18h00 – 18h15	Historicizing the role of Trade Unions in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe: 1990-2005	Dr Clement Masakure	University of the Free State
18h15 – 18h30	Chinese Imperialism in Africa? - An Examination of Chinese Activities in Zambia and Lesotho	Ms Hlolohelo Khalema	University of the Free State
18h30 – 19h00	Discussion		
19h00 – 20h00	HASA GENERAL MEETING		



Foreign POWs and the South African War: Imperial Security, International Law and Repatriation

Dr Chris Holdridge

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In this paper, I discuss work in progress on a larger project on the South African War (1899-1902), prisoners of war and the British imperial security state viewed through diplomatic debates over the application of international law amid the emergent political technology of offshore detention. The paper focuses in particular on several hundred foreign volunteers – from France, Germany, The Netherlands, the United States, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and elsewhere – who fought for the two Boer republics during the war. The capture and subsequent internment of these foreign volunteers alongside Boer combatants in POW camps in India, Ceylon, St Helena and Bermuda raised legal and diplomatic questions around their treatment. However, it is their repatriation in the months following the end of the war in May 1902 that is the focus of discussion. The paper engages with three broad debates. Firstly, it challenges prevailing genealogies around the origins of empire-wide military detention that focus on World War One (Murphy 2018). Secondly, it considers the relationship between empire, law, and international history that shaped the twentieth-century global order through the concept of the “imperial security state” (Hevia 2012), and more particularly through close discussion of diplomatic correspondence on POW repatriation from archives in London, Paris, Berlin, and The Hague. Thirdly, and perhaps most interestingly, I use the repatriation of foreign POWs barred from return to South Africa because of their perceived security threat to add complexity to recent scholarship on immigration restriction, border control and white settler migrants to southern Africa at the turn of the twentieth century (van Onselen 2007; Dhupelia-Mesthrie 2016; MacDonald 2012).

‘Keeping a saloon and coining money’ - Tom Lees, Australian physical culture entrepreneur in 19th century South Africa

Dr Hendrik Snyders

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The diamond fields, like the western and other frontiers, produced and attracted a range of personalities. These included ‘outlandish types’, ‘bogus baronets and lords’, in addition to ‘fast-talking charlatans’ and flamboyants that carried all manner of ‘grand assumed pseudonyms’. In addition to identities such as ‘diggers’, ‘labourers’ and ‘prospectors’, the diamond fields produced its own characters and terminology such as the ‘shareholder’, ‘speculants’, ‘illicit diamond buyer’ and the ‘mining magnate’. Amongst these were an Australian called Thomas (‘Tom’) James Lees, who like others such as infamous prostitutes such as “Australian Annie,” came to either make a fortune or to extract some profit from their sojourn. A boxer-cum wrestler and physical culture entrepreneur, Lees was at home in most frontier contexts. This “world of colonial masculinity” – an intimate space- was one in which fighting was the prime means for settling agreements and for letting-off “concentrated frontier steam, and where the “best” man in a community was often the one who had “whopped” all the rest”.

Sol Plaatje as letter-writer: issues and insights

Prof. Brian Willan and Mr Sabata-mpho Mokae

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Solomon Tshekiso Plaatje (1876-1932) was one of the best known political and literary figures of his generation – as journalist, writer and spokesman for his people. He spoke out against oppressive government policies in the early decades of the twentieth century, and is remembered for many important books – the diary he kept during the siege of Mahikeng; *Native Life in South Africa* (1916); his novel *Mhudi* (1930), as well as several books in Setswana, including translations of Shakespeare. Plaatje was also, among his other achievements, a prolific letter writer. He corresponded regularly with friends and family, as well as with many other individuals, supporters and opponents alike. Many of these letters have been lost but in *Sol T. Plaatje: a life of letters* (Historical Publications Southern Africa, 2020), the editors, Brian Willan and Sabata Mokae, have reproduced over 260 that have survived, retrieved over a period of four decades from archives and individuals in South Africa, the UK and the United States, and set in their appropriate historical and biographical context. The letters are mostly in English, Setswana, or a mixture of the two. In this presentation we reflect upon the unique importance of these letters and the issues they raise. Taken together they shed new light on many aspects of Plaatje's life and career, from his time as a court interpreter and newspaper editor in Mahikeng through to his efforts, later in life, to preserve Setswana from extinction. And they provide some intriguing insights into his innermost thoughts. At the same time they illuminate many broader themes in South Africa's early twentieth century history, for example the imposition of segregation, the history of the black press, the early years of the African National Congress, the defence of African languages.

A well-intentioned Impotence: the case of the Qing Dynasty Consuls in the Transvaal Colony, 1902-1911

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The place of South African Chinese within South Africa's history has almost always seen contestation. A poignant example of this is the situation of the Transvaal between 1903 and 1911. In 1904 the Chinese Indentured Labour experiment propelled the small free Chinese community of the Transvaal into the realm of public debate. Whilst the Chinese in the Transvaal had never been treated well the ensuing anti-Chinese backlash, saw the community come into conflict with the government of the Transvaal. Although substantial work has been done concerning the resistance of the Transvaal Chinese, a neglected aspect of this conflict was the role played by the Qing Dynasty Consulate. Despite general assumptions that the Dynasty's attitude towards their subjects overseas remained apathetic, evidence clearly indicates that the Consulate played a role in supporting the Chinese community. Through an analysis of the actions taken by the Consul-Generals the extent of their support becomes clear, serving as an example of history's dynamic nature, as the need to revisit and revise long-held assumptions. Although their efforts would, ultimately, have little substantive effect on the discrimination the Transvaal Chinese faced, it did create an institution which would be utilized by future generations of South African Chinese.

Visualising Afrikaner nationalism through films on the South African War during the 1980s

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The 1980s was a tumultuous and uncertain period in South Africa, especially for Afrikaners because they were losing control over the country which they had had since the late 1940s. This was mainly since more Black people were taking part in the fight against Apartheid since Sharpeville (1960) and Soweto (1976); both events had elicited a brutal response from the Apartheid state. These events also attracted the world's attention, who for the first time saw what was happening in South Africa through media coverage, so they added more pressure to end Apartheid by banning and boycotting South Africa from participating in international sport and cultural events. What made matters worse, from the perspective of the Apartheid state, was that some Afrikaners even joined the fight against Apartheid through music and the press. However, the fight against Apartheid only ended the next decade, but the 1980s was a time when Afrikaners had to learn to "adapt or die" if they wanted to survive the fact that they were on their way to losing political control of the country. This paper focuses on three Afrikaans-language films produced in the 1980s which focus on the SAW. These films are Gideon Scheepers (1982, Henko Hugo), Danie Theron (1983, Fred Nel), and Torn Allegiance (1984, Alan Nathanson). One can argue that these films, produced and released during a period of increased besiegement of the Apartheid state, sought to remind Afrikaners of a similar period of besiegement, a period which they were able to negotiate despite the hardships, and eventually triumph in 1948. By reminding Afrikaners of a dark period in their history, these films can be seen as calls to persevere in the face of overwhelming odds and that even if defeat was inevitable, this defeat would be honourable to surrender.

Liberation Protest Signs and Symbols: Rhetoric acts of resistance?

Prof. Chitja Twala

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The career of the opposition to apartheid can perhaps be read through the contract between two gestures, namely, first the gesture of the liberation protest signs and symbols, as a signals of support for solidarity, community, and commitment to the struggle for liberation. Second as commiseration between and among activists and their supporters. Examining the photographs and posters of mass actions of the 1950s to the 1980s, one finds the ubiquitous demonstration of the protest signs. Throughout the 1950s, when anti-apartheid struggle was still conceived in relation to the Gandhian philosophy of non-violence, for example, the use of the thumbs-up sign signalled the belief that actions of persuasion, boycotts, stay-at-homes, strikes, civil disobedience were viable strategies in the struggle against apartheid. In most cases, demonstrations had an almost festive air, groups gathered in song; protesters waved posters as encouragement and solidarity to detained activists. Liberation protest signs and symbols captured perfectly the idea that the ideologues of apartheid could be convinced to negotiate through a show of non-violent mass action. For example, in the 1960s, the raised clenched fist became a symbol of international Black Power, a sign of defiance against oppression. In South Africa, the gesture appeared organically among radical activists who wanted to defend themselves against the brutality of the emerging security state. The paper attempts to answer the following questions: In the South African township context, what were the messages carried out through the use of protest signs and symbols? What impact did the protest signs and symbols have in the struggle for liberation in South Africa? How did the apartheid government deal with the posters and pamphlets depicting resistance against the regime?

Negotiating Racial Politics in the Family. Transnational Histories touched by National Socialism and Apartheid

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In my presentation I want to introduce my book that is situated at the cutting edge of the political-ethical dimension of history writing. I investigate various responsibilities and loyalties towards family and nation, as well as other major ethical obligations towards society and humanity when historical subjects have to deal with a repressive political regime. For this conference I will focus on the positions of Dutch emigrants who settled after the Second World War in Apartheid South Africa. The narratives of these transnational agents and their relatives provide a lens through which changing constructions of national identities, and the acceptance or rejection of a nationalist policy on racial grounds, can be observed in everyday practice.

The Aim and Legacy of the Commission of Inquiry into Labour Legislation (Wiehahn Commission), 1977-1980

Mr Reatile Moncho

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The South African economy experienced slowing economic growth in the late 1970s, as a result of the international economic recession and the oil crisis of the early 1970s, and the system of apartheid was declared a crime against humanity in 1973. The 1970s saw the country experiencing renewed industrial and collective mass action, most notably the Durban strikes of 1973 and the student uprisings of 1976. The Wiehahn Commission was established in 1977 to respond to African labour militancy through a reconstruction of the then dual labour relations framework. The Commission's stated goals were the stabilisation of labour relations and the facilitation of economic growth. This reform process led to the liberalisation of labour legislation in South Africa and additionally to the inclusion of African trade unions into the state collective bargaining system, provided these unions registered. By positioning itself within the 'School of Continuity', the paper disputes the notion of the discontinuation of colonialism as a result of the 'Democratic transition' of 1994, by proposing that this transition was but a logical progression of colonial social engineering achieved through the co-optation of African labour in the 1970s. The research proposes that the Wiehahn Commission succeeded in creating a Black middle class that continues to act as a buffer from the rest of the African population. In addition, the long-term objectives of the apartheid state were fulfilled with the institutionalisation of the Growth, Employment and Redistribution macroeconomic policy of 1996.

The Life of Dr Albert Hertzog and His Impact on South African Politics

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Dr Albert Hertzog (1899-1982) is a mostly ignored figure in South African history that deserves more attention from academicians. As the eldest son of Prime Minister JBM Hertzog he followed in his father's footsteps and devoted his life to Afrikaner nationalism. In the 1930s, he began winning Witwatersrand's mineworkers to the nationalist cause and ensured their vote for the National Party (NP) in 1948. This proved instrumental in DF Malan's party coming to power and introducing apartheid. It was also in this election that Hertzog began his career as a Member of Parliament, which lasted until 1970. When HF Verwoerd became Prime Minister, Hertzog was promoted to the Cabinet as Minister of Posts and Telegraphs and Minister of Health. This presented him with a unique opportunity to use the South African Broadcasting Corporation to propagate nationalist propaganda. The assassination of Verwoerd marked a turning point in the history of the NP and in Hertzog's career. The conflict between *verkrampste* (ultra-conservative) and *verligte* (enlightened) factions within the party came to the foreground during BJ Vorster's premiership and led to the first major split since 1948. Hertzog was in the centre of this dispute and his expulsion from the party led to the establishment of the *Herstigste Nasionale Party* (Reconstituted National Party – HNP). The party's failure to become a noteworthy force in South Africa's political arena effectively discredited the right-wing movement. Because it is closely related to the eccentric personality of Hertzog, it is important to study this person in order to fully comprehend why FW de Klerk did not face a powerful ultra-conservative opposition party when he announced the dismantling of apartheid in 1992.

Towards a New Approach to South African Historiography

Dr Ian Macqueen

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This presentation will discuss, in a very preliminary way, the strategies and approaches the author deems necessary to inform a new approach to teaching South African historiography. While theoretical debates around transformation and decolonisation have gathered momentum, the standard reference works often consulted for South African historiography are now dated. It is thus necessary to discuss practical changes and alternative texts that can be drawn upon with broader purpose of updating South African historiography offerings. This presentation will reflect on the author's teaching of a history honours module and will explore the limits of the traditional 'schools' approach and will instead propose the utility of bringing South African historiography into conversation with the global history approach and adopting a chronological and ecumenical perspective on the development of South African historiography.

"Plantasie vir die Nasie:" Archive of Body and Sacredness

Ms Misga Lewis

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In exploring the relationship between bodies, remembering and the historical trauma of slavery, specifically in relation to indigenous black women, the paper mediates alongside Khoi artist and filmmaker, Deidre Jantjies, on how she negotiates meanings of identity through embodied interventions in (post-) slavery South Africa. In that light, we consider the spiritual, imaginative, and poetic elements in storytelling as a way of illuminating the consciousness of people. The positioning of the body as an archive probes questions on how the memory of traumatic wounding in a (post-)slavery South Africa body politics are inscribed to convey identity and meaning. The aim of this paper is to enter the pedagogical problem of remembering and gendered representational voids by seeking to explore how artistic representations offer insights in the absence of detail in colonial archives.

Physical Education in the 'Volksuniversiteit': Conservatism, The Gendered Body and The Pursuit of 'Objective -Science', 1930-1937

Ms Anell Daries

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Stellenbosch University was the first university in Africa to introduce a dedicated physical education course in 1936. In outlining the department's intended purpose, the first Head of Physical Education, Dr Ernst Jokl, stated: "Dit is ten slotte die doelwit van hierdie Departement om Stellenbosch die erkende sentrum vir wetenskaplike liggaamlike opvoedkunde in Suid-Afrika te maak." (In conclusion it is the aim of this Department to make Stellenbosch the recognised centre for scientific physical education in South Africa). Renowned for his work as a physical education specialist, Jokl was recruited specifically for the position at Stellenbosch University in 1935. Apart from designing a programme to train teachers who sought to specialise in physical education, Jokl hosted afternoon fitness classes on the Coetzenburg sport field for the University staff and student body. These 'jokkel' sessions proved to be a popular attraction on campus, drawing crowds of 200 to 300 students and staff members – among them the university's Rector, Professor R.W. Wilcocks. Jokl's contributions to the institutionalisation of physical education at the university as well as the promotion of what may be termed a 'physical culture' within the university, proved to be so noteworthy that a neologism "'jokkel'", meaning 'to exercise', was also included in the Afrikaans National Dictionary in his honour. Despite playing such a pivotal role at the university, Jokl's tenure was abruptly terminated, a mere 9 months into his new job. As this paper demonstrates, Jokl's dismissal followed controversy surrounding the methods he employed in the obligatory medical examinations of women student enrolled in the University's first physical education course. In outlining the events that led to Jokl's dismissal this paper argues that while Jokl's employment was considered to be the first step towards the advancement of 'scientific' methods in the field of physical education at Stellenbosch University, the conservative ideals upon which the foundations of the institution was forged dictated the confine of the burgeoning discipline. In outlining the impetus behind the introduction of physical education as an academic discipline in institutions of higher learning, such as Stellenbosch University, the paper identifies the critical contradiction between the scientific practices Jokl imposed and conservative ideals and brand of the university.

The History of the "Berg en Toer Klub", Late 1920- Late 1990s: The Impact of Race, Gender, Religion and Afrikaner Traditions on the Development of the Mountain and Touring Club at the University of Stellenbosch

Dr Farieda Khan

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This paper examines the history of the 'Berg en Toer Klub' (BTK), i.e. the Mountain and Touring Club (a Stellenbosch University student club), from the late 1920s to the late 1990s. Since Stellenbosch University (SU) supported racial segregation as well as the notion of white superiority which underpinned it from its establishment in 1918, it is argued that the BTK was deeply impacted by both the internal and external political environment right from the establishment of the club in 1928. It is further argued that, given that the aim of all student clubs and organisations at SU, was to initiate and then immerse, all students into the institutional culture of the university, the BTK was particularly influenced by the university's institutional culture. Since the institutional culture of the university was infused with the tenets of Afrikaner nationalism, including its conservative attitude to religion and its stereotyped notions on gender, this naturally resulted in the incorporation of Afrikaner traditions and its associated attitudes to race, religion and gender into the operation of the BTK. Finally, in detailing and analysing the history of the BTK during the period under review, this paper will also examine the way in which the aforementioned socio-political factors shaped, limited and generally impacted upon, the club's relationship with its Cape Town-based campus counterparts, viz. the University of Cape Town Mountain and Ski Club and the University of the Western Cape Mountain Club.

'For the good of Animals': A History and Impact of the Salisbury Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

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This paper analyses the establishment of the SSPCA and the activities it undertook to prevent unnecessary suffering of animals in Salisbury, and Southern Rhodesia in general, from 1911 to 1965. It unpacks the modus operandi of the organisation and the impact thereof. The existence of the SSPCA was shaped by an environment underpinned by a particular national legislation and race relations. By analysing the life and work of the SSPCA in a specific context, the paper argues, it is possible to draw lessons on how a societal set up can be deduced from the way in which people in a society relate to their animals, particularly domesticated species. Through use of archival documents such as SSPCA meetings minutes, correspondence and newsletters, interviews, and secondary texts, I seek to show how the Southern Rhodesia life in diverse respects can be understood through the way in which the SSPCA executed its mandate between 1911 and 1965.

Creating the “Rhodesian Lowveld Desert”: Drought, ecological degradation and the Liberation War in the Lowveld region of Zimbabwe, c.1960-1980

Mr Tinashe Takuva

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This paper explores the relationship between drought, ecological degradation and the liberation war in Zimbabwe between 1960 and 1980. The 1960s and 1970s saw a rise in concerns over environmental degradation across Africa. The situation was exacerbated by 1968 to 1972 drought in the Sahel, which exposed the connection between drought and environmental degradation. In Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), such concerns were localised in the Lowveld region where colonial officials feared that desert conditions were looming. The Lowveld region of Zimbabwe stretches from the north-western to the south-eastern corners of the country. The Rhodesian government defined this region in terms of its physical features comprising hot temperatures, low rainfall, and low vegetation of scrubs and grass. The region covers places like the Sabi valley in the south-eastern parts of the country, Nuanetsi and Ndanga districts in the southern parts, down to Beitbridge and Matobo, Gwanda, and Plumtree districts towards the north-western parts of the country. This is a stretch covering parts of the three provinces of Manicaland, Masvingo, and Matabeleland South. The region has an altitude of 500m and receives annual rainfall below 500mm. Under normal conditions, the vegetation in the lowveld could sustain livestock husbandry providing browsing and grazing pastures. Yet by 1961, there were reports of massive soil erosion that had reached donga stage. This prompted the colonial officials to engage ecologists who then, after investigations, reported that grass and browse species were deteriorating at an alarming rate due to over grazing and over browsing, leading colonial officials to think that “the end can only be the creation of the Rhodesian Lowveld Desert.” A combination of erratic rainfall and human activities in crop farming and livestock husbandry was at the core of this environmental situation, hence the connection between drought and ecological degradation.

Contribution of the OAU towards representation of Southern African national liberation movements at the UN, 1963-1975

Mr Seane Mabitsela

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From the onset of its creation, the OAU through the Liberation Committee decided to assist and support the national liberation movements in the territories under Portuguese administration (Angola and Mozambique); Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe); and South West Africa (Namibia) in their struggle against colonialism and apartheid. The assistance and support it provided took different forms, such as diplomatic action on behalf of the national liberation movements. One important weapon of this diplomacy was recognition by OAU of the national liberation movements. Recognition of the liberation movements by the Organisation had consequences because it let to the representation of national liberation movements at the UN. In turn, the liberation movements' involvement with the world body, to some extent, conditioned its decisions on decolonisation, especially colonialism and apartheid. This paper explores contribution of the OAU towards the representation of national liberation movements at the UN from 1963- 1975. It adopts qualitative research design and utilises secondary and primary sources, to describe that contribution.

Artisanal Gold Mining, Gendered bodies and the Health in Mazowe, Zimbabwe, 1990 to 2021

Mr Jabulani Shaba

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This paper examines the matrix of gold, gendered bodies, and health in Zimbabwe from 1990 to 2021 in Mazowe, Zimbabwe. It historicizes the positionality of women in Zimbabwe's extractive sector and how women as complex and agentic beings negotiated this hyper-masculinized space. The research traces how women engaged in Artisanal Gold Mining (ASGM) and how their processes of mineral extraction impacted the biophysical environment. Additionally, the paper is interested in understanding the historical attritional lethality of the Anthropocene exploring its impact on the human body using what Rob Nixon has called the 'slow violence' of toxic harm from the side-effects of extraction. From the 1990s up to the early 2000s the country experienced massive agrarian transition which restructured the rural economy and resulted in an upsurge of artisanal gold mining. The paper engages with the growing historiography on the gender and extractivism to better understand the intersectionality between the environmental history of ASGM and the broader socio-economic and political context of Zimbabwe. Within the processes of mineral extraction has been an increased usage of mercury and cyanide which has created major environmental and ecological ramifications with women bearing the cost of such chemical usages. This paper joins the ongoing global conversations on artisanal gold mining, gendered bodies and the environment and seeks to reconstruct the micro histories of women gold miners in Mazowe. The paper argues that the understanding of extractive hazards on women should go beyond the confines of bodily harm and must be conceptualized through women's everyday experiences in ASGM. This calls for much corroborated rethinking of how women understand the toxicology of extractive environments and how they use their bodies to navigate such dangerous and contested spaces. The paper will be informed by primary documents, oral interviews, and secondary literature.

Historicizing the role of Trade Unions in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe: 1990-2005

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Taking a fragment of Zimbabwe's labour history, this paper examines trade unions' responses to the challenges posed by the emergence of HIV/AIDS between the years 1990-2005. At a time when trade unions were fighting the introduction of the neo-liberal project that adversely impacted on worker's livelihoods and contesting the narrowing of democratic space, they were, at the same time, playing a central role in conscientizing their constituency about HIV/AIDS and in contribution to the formulation of HIV/AIDS policy in Zimbabwe. Working spaces across the length and breadth of Zimbabwe, and union spaces representing workers from the transport and agriculture sectors to factory and mining sectors, became sites of robust debates in tackling HIV/AIDS scourge. Along the way, shop floor activists faced numerous hurdles from superstitions linked to the ideas about health and disease, as well as the need to open up discussions around sex and sexuality in an environment where public discussions around such issues is a taboo. In placing this narrative in a historical perspective, the evidentiary base for this paper draws from interviews with activists who were at the forefront of the anti-HIV/AIDS activism during the time under discussion, as well as archival material from trade union archives such as the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions and various newspaper reports.

Chinese Imperialism in Africa? - An Examination of Chinese Activities in Zambia and Lesotho

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This study explores the concept of Chinese “imperialism” in Africa with particular reference to Lesotho and Zambia. It uses these two African states to demonstrate the different approaches used by the Chinese to access resources and markets across the continent. The study uses comparative analysis to examine Chinese activities in the two countries. An analysis of China in Africa is important as it will show whether African nations, with special reference to Zambia and Lesotho, have become dependent on China on the basis of different bilateral relations which have paved the way for continued Chinese investment in these countries. It also highlights a rising trend in the victimization of Chinese nationals residing in both countries by locals. This victimization is attributed to conflict emanating from a fierce competition in the awarding of contracts mainly in the construction industry in the two countries to Chinese companies while side-lining indigenous firms. The study traces the existence of trade and other partnerships between the two countries and China. This history is punctuated by increasing levels of exports from the two countries to China especially between 1996 and 2016. Through the two decades, exports to China decreased while on the other hand China's presence continued to intensify in both countries as China increasingly dominated the construction and finance sectors. This study demonstrates that indeed China is expanding its roots in Africa by investing especially in emerging economies like that of Lesotho and Zambia. These are countries that are way underdeveloped and mostly have historic debt. Thus China has not only invested in their crippled economies but has also cancelled some of their debt and granted them interest free loans.

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