

# 1904-2004 - DECONTAMINATING THE NAMIBIAN PAST

## A COMMEMORATIVE CONFERENCE

Convener: Dr Wolfram Hartmann (UNamibia)

Date: 17-21 August 2004

Venue: University of Namibia, Windhoek Campus (Pioneer's Park)

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### Tuesday 17<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2004

14:00 Registration starts in Gym Hall – Coffee & Tea  
16:00 Opening Ceremony – Gym Hall  
17:30 Opening Art Exhibition & Reception in Business School  
19:00

19:00-21:30

#### **KEYNOTE PANEL**

**Chairperson: Dr Wolfram Hartmann**

We die day by day.

**Mr Ewald U Katjivena**

Revolt and identity: nation-building and the appropriation of Namibian history.

**Mr Tom Fox**

Certain uncertainties: or the ventures of a leftist historian into colonial apologetics. A Namibian "Historikerstreit".

**Mr Werner Hillebrecht**

What the Germans did to the Herero was almost a logical consequence of the colonial situation.

**Dr Andreas Eckl**

The colonial war of 1904: a debate gone astray.

**Discussant: Dr Patricia Hayes**

## Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2004 - Otjomuise

08:30 - 10:30

### PANEL I - GERMAN COLONIALISM I

**Chairperson: Ms Ellen Namhila**

Colonialism, War and the Working Class: Popular Mobilization in the *Reichstag* Elections of 1907

**Dr John Phillip Short**

Fantasies of exaltation: social class, pre-colonial discourse and German *Eingeborenenpolitik* in South West Africa (1984-1914) in comparative perspective.

**Dr George Steinmetz**

1904-2004 – "Plantations, reservation, and mission fields" Land conflicts on Mount Cameroon, 1884-1906".

**Mr Jürg Schneider**

**Discussant: Dr Sara Pugach**

10:30-11:00 Coffee/Tea

11:00-13:00

### PANEL II - GERMAN COLONIALISM II

**Chairperson: Dr Dag Henrichsen**

"How post-colonial is today's Germany?"

**Ms Antje Schumann**

The German colonial wars and their aftermaths: Namibia and Tanzania, comparative approaches.

**Prof Helmut Bley**

*Einheitssprachen* in Namibia and Elsewhere: The Development of *lingua francae* and Colonial Control in Germany's African Empire.

**Dr Sarah Pugach**

**Discussant: Dr Jeremy Silvester**

13:00-14:00 LUNCH - Leisure Centre

14:00-16:00

### PANEL III - BIOGRAPHIES/IDENTITY

**Chairperson: Dr Nico Horn**

Nehale Iya Mpingana.

**Ms Ellen Ndeshi Namhila**

Kaera. Compensation and land claims by a Namibian Woman, 1904-1914.

**Dr Dag Henrichsen**

German women and cleaning up the Namibian past: the significance of Helene von Falkenhausen.

**Prof N Decker**

Discourses of progress, identity and civilization: relations between sections of the white community in colonial Namibia.

**Dr Christo Botha**

**Discussant: Dr Marion Wallace**

16:00-16:30 Coffee/Tea

16:30-18:30

### PANEL IV - LITERATURE I

**Chairperson: Dr Marianne Zappen**

Re-constructing a fictional pre-genocide Herero discourse? – an analysis of narrative structures in Giselher Hoffmann's novel *Die schweigenden Feuer* (1994).

**Prof Janina Wozniak**

Colonial fantasies: The native problem in the German imagination.

**Prof Sara Lennox**

Yesterday's future: conflict and catharsis in the New Namibian Novel.

**Ms Helen Vale/Dr Volker Winterfeldt**

**Discussant: Dr John P. Short**

18:30-19:30 Dinner - Leisure Centre

19:30 Space Theatre

Theatre Production "We thought we would be free"

Prof Aldo Behrens

## Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2004 - Otjiwanda

08:30 - 10:30

### PANEL V- MISSION AND COLONIALISM

**Chairperson: Mr Goodman Gwasira**

Involvement of the Rheinisch Mission in the colonisation process.

**Pastor Werner A Wienecke**

Imagining religious geographies: initiatives and interventions of the Rheinisch Missionary Society during the colonial war in Namibia 1904-1908.

**Pastor Hanns Lessing**

Decontaminating the missionary past: experiences from St. Mary's Mission.

**Ms Nancy Robson**

Apartheid, education and political consciousness: lessons from a Namibian mission school.

**Prof Christian A Williams**

**Discussant: Dr Carl Stauffer**

10:30-11:00 Coffee/Tea

11:00-13:00

### PANEL VI SOUTH AFRICAN COLONIALISM

**Chairperson: Dr Christo Botha**

On her heels, on her side: Ruth First in South West Africa.

**Prof Barbara Harlow**

Al Lowenstein and Southern Africa: Brutal Mandate and Other Mysteries.

**Prof Christopher Saunders**

The Namibian bush war of independence.

**Prof Richard Dale**

The South African defense force versus SWAPO and its allies: Operation Askari, 1983-1984.

**Dr Gerhard J J Oosthuizen**

**Discussant: Prof. Bill Lindeke**

13:00-14:00 LUNCH - Leisure Centre

14:00-16:00

### PANEL VII - MEMORY AND MEMORIALISATION I

**Chairperson: Prof Manfred O. Hinz**

Museums and memorial places in the process of decolonization in Namibia.

**Ms Adelheid Wessler**

Decontaminating objects?

**Ms Larissa Foerster**

A hundred years on: The war, memory and monuments.

**Mr Goodman Gwasira**

Decontaminating the museums past.

**Ms Silke Seybold**

**Discussant: Dr Premesh Lalu**

16:00-16:30 Coffee/Tea

16:30-18:30

### PANEL VIII - MEMORY AND MEMORIALISATION II

**Chairperson: Ewald U. Katjivena**

“ Memorialisation processes in South Africa post-1990.

**Mr Oupa Makhalemele**

Namibian memory culture: challenges of fragmented historical experience.

**Prof Reinhart Kössler**

Post-colonial Political Discourse and Memory Culture a Century after the genocide – who honors whom?”.

**Dr Henning Melber**

Thinking Ahead: Nationalist Narratives and the story of the Killing of Hintsä.

Dr Premesh Lalu  
Discussant: Dr George Steinmetz

18:30-19:30 Dinner - Leisure Centre

19:30 Space Theatre  
Theatre Production "We thought we would be free"  
Prof Aldo Behrens

## Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2004 - Otjomuise

08:30 - 10:30

### PANEL IX - LITERATURE II

**Chairperson: Mr Tom Fox**

Literature as colonizing and decolonizing agent – the case of Namibian racial imagery.

**Dr Piet van Rooyen/ Prof Andre du Pisani**

“On the other side : Strangers ?! “

**Dr Marianne Zappen**

The elusive monument. Can a praise poem count as a memorial?

**Dr Anette Hoffmann**

**Discussant: Prof Mahlope**

10:30-11:00 Coffee/Tea

11:00-13:00

### PANEL X - RESISTANCE

**Chairperson: Dr Andreas E. Eckl**

Visiting resistance: Mandume and the South African occupation of Oukwanyama, 1915-1917

**Prof Patricia Hayes**

Protection, power and gender: some questions (not) raised by the historiography of Namibia in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Dr Marion Wallace**

The impact of the 1904 war on Kaokoland

**Dr Jehura U Kavari**

Resisting the official falsification and academic mystification of the Bondelswartz' resistance against colonialism.

**Mr Jade Mc Clune**

**Discussant: Dr Kazuvire Veij**

13:00-14:00 LUNCH - Leisure Centre

14:00-16:00

### PANEL XI - SURVIVING GENOCIDE

**Chairperson: Dr Henning Melber**

You tried to exterminate us, but we survived, and now we're writing the history: survival, resistance and revolution for the century to come.

**Dr Yvette Abrahams**

Unfinished business: the interface between victims and perpetrators in Southern Africa.

**Dr Carl S Stauffer**

"From Namibia (1904) to Rwanda (1994) - Comparing Genocides in the 20th Century"

**Prof Benyamin Neuberger**

Decontaminating the Namibian past – a psychological analysis.

**Dr Kazuvire R H Veij**

Preliminary understandings of anthropological research on the varied strategies by self-identifying Herero's to “heal the wounds” of the German colonial past.

**Discussant: Dr Gudrun D. Kober**

16:00-16:30 Coffee/Tea

16:30-18:30

### PANEL XII - LAND AND JUSTICE

**Chairperson: Prof Andre du Pisani**

Human rights and Justice in the context of African conflict management and resolution systems.

**Dr Shihaka Tsemo**

Constitutional rights and pre-colonial rights: conflicting or complementary?

**Dr Nico Horn**

Title tba

**Dr Sam K Amoo/Prof Sid Harring**

Indigenous law and interpretation of African history: conflicting dilemmas.

**Prof Effa Okupa**

"Ehi rOvaherero" - Land claims and 19th Century Central Namibian History in Praise Songs

**Dr Dag Henrichsen**

**Discussant: Dr Wolfgang Werner**

18:30-19:30 Dinner - Leisure Centre

19:30

Film **"WEISSE GEISTER. DEUTSCHER KOLONIALKRIEG GEGEN DIE HERERO"**. (Namibian premiere. English/Otjiherero)

**Mr Israel Kaunatjike**

## Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2004 - Otjiwanda

08:30

### **PANEL XIII - DAMARA HISTORY - WORKSHOP**

**Chairperson: Prof Michael Bollig**

The Hunt of //Heihab in 1903. Complementarity of archival evidence and oral anecdotal evidence.

**Prof. Wilfrid Haacke**

Genealogies, church registers and birth histories: Demography as a key to the history of everyday life.

**Dr Julia Pauli**

The local production of history. A proposal for a study on Damara history based on the local production of history.

**Ms Jutta MacConnell**

**Discussant: Dr Ben Fuller**

10:30-11:00 Coffee/Tea

13:00-14:00 LUNCH - Leisure Centre

14:00

Teaching history at school - a workshop

**Ms Gisela Fasse, Dr Jeremy Silvester and Mr Werner Thaniseb**

16:00-16:30 Coffee/Tea

19:30

Film **"WEISSE GEISTER. DEUTSCHER KOLONIALKRIEG GEGEN DIE HERERO"**. (Namibian premiere. English/Otjiherero)

**Mr Israel Kaunatjike**



## Friday 20<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2004 - Otjomuise

08:30 - 10:30

### **PANEL XIV - REPARATIONS AND ETHICS**

**Chairperson: Dr Gudrun D. Kober**

To err is human, to forgive African: Reflections on Wole Soyinka's *The Burden of Memory the Muse of Forgiveness*

**Prof MB Ramose**

"In view of difficult legal questions..." Political ethics and the German Herero war one hundred years later.

**Prof Manfred O. Hinz**

War, land, reparations and the struggle for wealth in Uganda

**Dr Raphaela von Weichs**

Reparations in Southern Africa – examining it's meaning and impact on survivors.

**Mr Oupa Makhalemele**

Back to the future: The path of reconciliation

**Dr Carl S Stauffer**

Colonialism and reparation – a comparative perspective for Namibia.

**Prof Yoko Nagahara**

**Discussant: Dr Christo Botha**

10:30-11:00 Coffee/Tea

11:00-13:00

### **PANEL XV - CONFERENCE REPORTS**

Dr Premesh Lalu

Dr Patricia Hayes

Dr Gudrun Kober

Dr Kazuvire Veij

13:00-14:00 LUNCH - Leisure Centre

14:00-16:00

Workshops

16:00-16:30 Coffee/Tea

16:30-18:30

Workshops