

NEWSLETTER OF
THE STELLENBOSCH
INSTITUTE FOR
ADVANCED STUDY

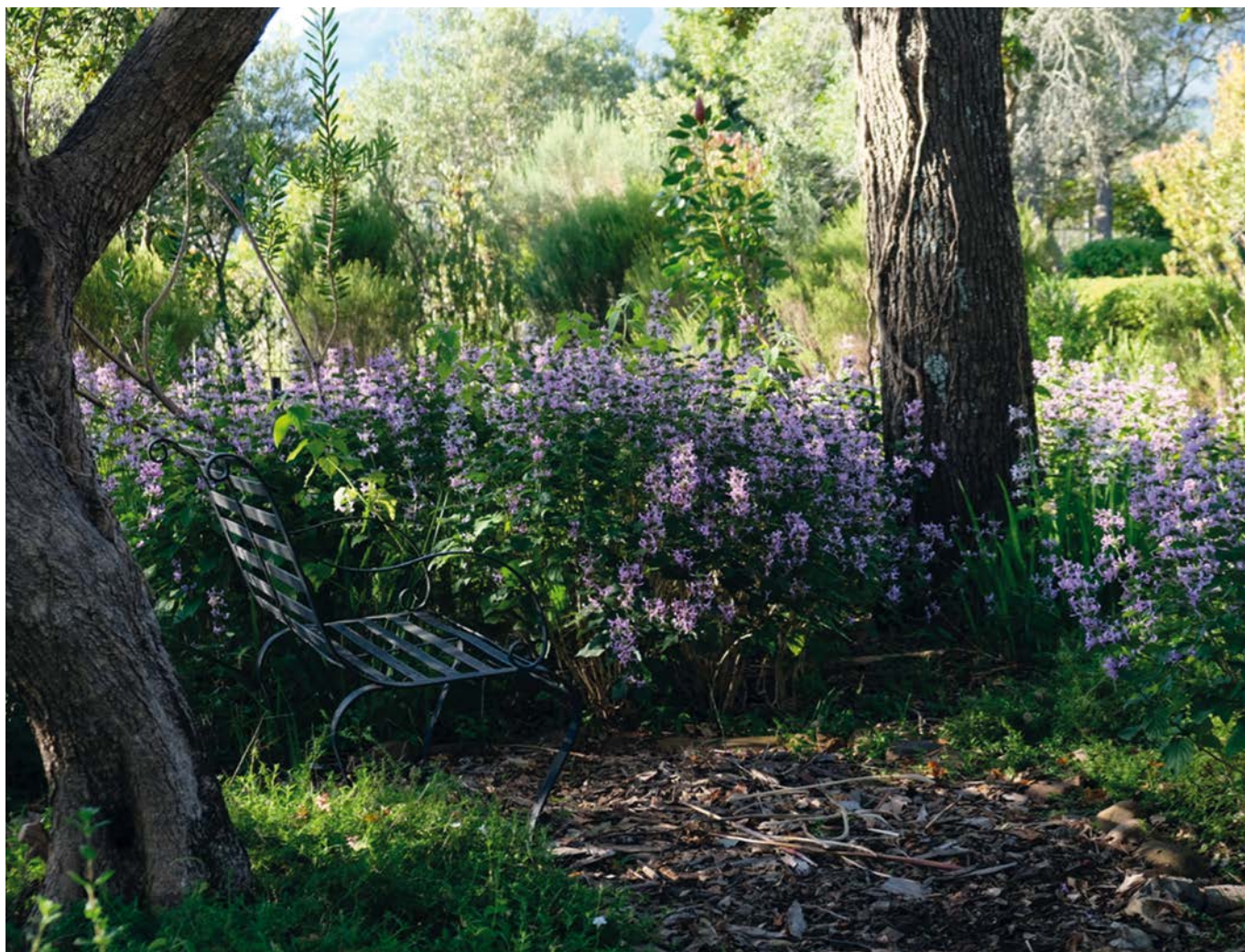
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STELLENBOSCH INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
STELLENBOSSE INSTITUUT VIR GEVORDERDE NAVORSING

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Above: A tranquil spot in the garden at STIAS

Cover image: The gable of the historic Mostertsdrift Manor, home to the STIAS administration

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1 About STIAS

2 STIAS (The Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study) is situated on the historic Mostertsdrift farm in the heart of Stellenbosch. It is a place where top researchers and intellectual leaders are nurtured and encouraged to find innovative and sustainable solutions to issues facing the world and, in particular, the country and the continent of Africa. To counter the loss of its best minds and promising young leaders, it provides the opportunity for high-level research and intellectual development in an international context. STIAS attracts some of the world’s leading scholars and researchers and enjoys international growth and recognition.

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Preface

What a year 2020 was! Not an overstatement that we did not see it coming but our fellows, Iso Lomso fellows, artists-in-residence and visiting scholars were determined to disprove the year. With all your help STIAS transitioned from a physical to a virtual and finally to a hybrid creative space for the mind. The flexibility, patience and commitment of all, in and out of residence, and the sheer tenacity of the STIAS team, programme committee and the support of our Board members made 2020 a very productive year after all. We registered the highest number, so far, of book publications associated with STIAS residencies.

The hybrid model allowed us to engage with present and past fellows and expanded our audience locally and abroad. We tested the waters of the South African scholarly environment in a much more concerted manner [thanks to the travel restrictions!] as reflected in the number of Visiting Scholars in residence in the second semester.

The year also saw physical and hybridised Internationalisation of the Iso Lomso fellowship programme through placement at SIAS consortium members, placing STIAS at the service of the future generation of the continent's scholarship in conversation with the rest of the world. Although we missed a number of events that would have further enhanced the presence of STIAS, we gained a more robust communication strategy through our website and social media platforms.

Serendipitously a significant number of fellows' projects, seminars and webinars explored the existential crisis, the changing world and, as expressed in this newsletter interview by Carlos Ibáñez, pointing to curiosity and looking for what's around the next corner.

We definitely are not out of the woods yet with the COVID-19 pandemic-related restrictions but we are poised for a greater footprint. STIAS strives to uphold the space, physical or virtual, that Carlos Ibáñez describes in his interview: "...intellectually it is enormously stimulating especially the interdisciplinary dimensions. For a scientist it's hugely important to be forced to explain what you do ... You just need to do a bit more work – to be accurate without oversimplifying". *α*



*Edward Kirumira,
Director of STIAS*

NEWS ROUNDUP

A number of scheduled events had to be postponed or cancelled due to the COVID-19 international lockdown. For more information see: <https://stias.ac.za/events>

However, the regular STIAS fellows seminars were converted to an online platform in the first part of 2020 and were thus able to continue. For news articles from all the 2020 seminars see: <https://stias.ac.za/news-and-events>

STIAS PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

The Evolutionary Commons: Putting Darwinism to Work for Humanity in a Time of Existential Crisis – STIAS webinar by Daniel Brooks and Salvatore Agosta

The unifying principle of biology is that all life is evolved life. This puts evolutionary theory at the forefront of dealing with all environmental problems. As part of science's social contract, the main goal of biology should be to 'put evolution to work' for humanity, which is currently facing existential threats stemming from the combination of high population density and widespread environmental change. Ironically, Brooks and Agosta believe the field of evolutionary biology is in a state of conceptual disarray, unable to offer a unified message for how to 'put evolution to work', at the time when we need it the most.

They began by providing an inclusive evolutionary framework which they believe can help to ensure humanity's future. The core element is the recognition that living systems generate, store, and transmit vast amounts of evolutionary potential. From an evolutionary perspective, the 'commons' is not the material products of living systems at any given time and place, but rather the evolutionary potential stored in inheritance systems that allows them to cope with environmental changes. To persist indefinitely, humanity must

preserve and make use of as much evolutionary potential as possible. The presenters illustrated the practical application of the commons using the emerging disease crisis.

For more see: <https://stias.ac.za/2020/09/putting-darwinism-to-work-for-humanity-in-a-time-of-existential-crisis>

*Top right: STIAS fellow
Ian Goldin*

Below left: Daniel Brooks

Below right: Salvatore Agosta



DAVID FISHER



The pandemic that changed the world – STIAS webinar by Ian Goldin

Goldin provided insight into how COVID-19 has changed all our lives, forever. Drawing on his BBC Series on this topic, he examined how the pandemic is changing the nature of work, the future of globalisation, the prospects for different countries and regions, including South Africa; and, how it is changing geopolitics, economics and societies. He also discussed what's next, in terms of both the opportunities and risks, and how we should respond to mitigate the outcomes as individuals and societies.

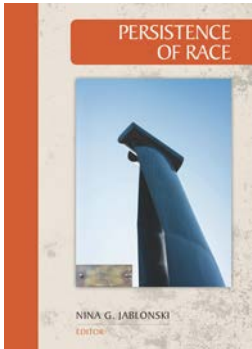
Goldin is Professor of Globalisation and Development at the University of Oxford and the Director of the Oxford Martin Programme on Technological and Economic Change of which he is the founding director. He is a Professorial Fellow at the University's Balliol College and a Permanent Visiting Fellow of STIAS. He was also previously the Chief Executive of the Development Bank of Southern Africa and Economic Advisor to President Nelson Mandela as well as Director of Development Policy and Vice President of the World Bank.

His work has been covered extensively in the media. His BBC series *After the Crash* was broadcast on the World Service and Radio 4 in 2018. This was followed by *Will AI kill Development?* for the BBC World Service Documentary segment which aired in 2019 and *The Pandemic that Changed the World* in June 2020.

His latest book, *Terra Incognita: 100 Maps to Survive the Next 100 Years*, was published by Penguin Random House in August 2020.

For more see: <https://stias.ac.za/2020/10/urgent-need-for-more-social-cohesion-and-better-regulated-globalisation>

BOOK LAUNCH



Above: *The Persistence of Race* is the third book in the STIAS series on the *Effects of Race*.

Below, l-r: Nina Jablonski, Njabulo Ndebele and Göran Therborn at the book launch in March 2020

Below right: The fruits of the vine: Aliquid Novi, STIAS' own pinotage

When the rainbow melts, celebrate the thoughts that tried to find out why

On 3 March 2020 STIAS invited members of the public to the Effects of Race Project panel discussion and launch of the book *Persistence of Race*. This is the third and final set of essays looking at biological and social understandings of race. The two previous books in the project, *Race in Education* and *The Effects of Race* were published in 2019 and 2018, respectively. The event marked the culmination of the *Effects of Race* Project which falls under the STIAS long-term project theme, *Being Human Today*.

STIAS fellow, human rights lawyer and theologian, Barney Pitsoa led the discussion and book launch ceremony. The panel comprised STIAS Fellows and members of the Effects of Race Project group Njabulo Ndebele (SA), Crain Soudien (SA), Gerhard Maré (SA), George Chaplin (USA), Nina Jablonski (USA) and Göran Therborn (UK and Sweden).

For more details on the discussion see <https://stias.ac.za/2020/03/when-the-rainbow-melts-trying-to-find-out-why>

The three volumes are published by STIAS and African Sun Media.

STIAS Series Volume 11: *The Effects of Race*. Nina Jablonski, with Gerhard Maré (Editors). AFRICAN SUN MeDIA (2018, 180 pp) ISBN: 978-1-928357-84-1. <https://doi.org/10.18820/9781928357858>

STIAS Series Volume 13: *Race in Education*. Gerhard Maré (Editor). SUN PRESS (2019, 139pp) ISBN: 978-1-928480-14-3. <https://doi.org/10.18820/9781928480150>

STIAS Series Volume 15: *Persistence of Race*. Nina G. Jablonski (Editor). AFRICAN SUN MeDIA (2020, 150pp) ISBN: 978-1-928480-44-0. <https://doi.org/10.18820/9781928480457>

www.africansunmedia.co.za; orders@africansunmedia.co.za

The Conversation also published a series of articles on the Effects of Race project. These can be found at:

<https://theconversation.com/africa/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&q=RaceSeries>

STIAS Harvest Day 2020

We did manage to fit in some fun with our fellows before the realities of lockdown hit the world.

STIAS' annual Harvest Day took place on 15 February 2020. As has become the tradition, fellows in residence and their families participated in picking and 'stomping' grapes in the famous Perold vineyard, followed by a traditional braai and tasting of Aliquid Novi – the STIAS pinotage which was officially launched in 2018.

For more information on Aliquid Novi and the history of the vineyard see <https://stias.ac.za/2018/11/launch-of-aliquid-novi-the-unique-pinotage-wine-from-the-iconic-perold-vineyard-at-stias>

The STIAS garden was also, for the first time, part of the Stellenbosch *Woodfees* which opened the property to the public for the first time. See <https://stias.ac.za/events/the-stias-garden-part-of-woodfees-2020>



“Underneath it all is curiosity – looking for what’s around the next corner”

An interview with Carlos Ibáñez – molecular biologist, Professor in Neuroscience at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden and Professor in the School of Life Sciences and McGovern Institute for Brain Research, Peking University, Beijing, China, member of the Nobel Assembly and Committee for Physiology and Medicine, and, most recently, STIAS Permanent Fellow.

“Things happen if you are in the right place at the right time and lucky to meet people who mentor you in a good way.”

“Serendipitous” is how Carlos Ibáñez describes his entry into the neurosciences. “Serendipity is a big component in science,” he said. “Things happen if you are in the right place at the right time and lucky to meet people who mentor you in a good way.” But it was serendipity with a good dose of old-fashioned romance in which a young molecular biologist from Buenos Aires went to Sweden to clone genes for the *trypanosoma cruzi* parasite (which causes Chagas disease) as part of his PhD and met his future wife, Annalena, at a formal student spring ball in Uppsala.

“She invited me to dance,” he laughed. “By the time I had finished the experimental part of my thesis we decided to move together to Stockholm where she was doing research.”

Ibáñez had also met Prof. Håkan Persson who became his post-doc supervisor at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. “Håkan was working on growth factors, receptors and signalling. I applied for a post-doc and he admitted me to his lab. He taught me about signalling and P75 which is now the gene we are looking at in the context of Alzheimer’s Disease.”

“When I landed in Sweden the first time it was like landing on the moon. The first winter was extremely cold. Stockholm is usually mild but this was about two months

of -15 degrees. I don’t think it was ever as cold after that. At least, it felt that way...”

“I think I caught a bug then to live overseas. I have now lived most of my life away from the place I was born. I carry a Spanish passport, so technically I’m Spanish, but I have never lived there for any long period of time. We have now bought a small apartment outside Bilbao – someday we will spend time there.”





The bug bit deep and has seen Ibáñez living for the past decade between Sweden and Singapore, and moving to Beijing in 2020, to launch twin laboratories at the Chinese Institute for Brain Research and the McGovern Institute for Brain Research at Peking University.

He sees Beijing as a good place to achieve his objectives in the basic sciences. “Beijing has huge resources and a very strong scientific community. One of the results

of the Trump Presidency is that many excellent Chinese scientists came back to China. We are working with amazing people.”

Those scientific objectives include fully understanding how the p75 neurotrophin receptor (p75NTR) works in Alzheimer’s Disease and whether it can be blocked or removed to alter the course of disease as well as understanding more fully the role of the activin receptor

STIAS fellow Carlos Ibáñez during his seminar on 24 October 2019

“With my background in molecular biology I look at everything from the point of view of molecules. One thing in common between brain and fat tissues is several of the molecules and signalling systems they use.”

ALK7 in adipose tissue to control metabolism, and whether blocking it could facilitate weight loss and improve metabolic syndrome and diabetes.

“Right now this work is at a pre-clinical level using mouse models. It’s rather far from humans. I want to push the basic science over the next seven or eight years so that it is almost ready to be tried for human applications,” said Ibáñez.

The work in Alzheimer’s has shown that removal or blocking of the p75 receptor has a substantial ameliorating effect on disease progression in mouse models (see <https://stias.ac.za/2019/10/studying-the-neurobiology-of-alzheimers-disease-in-the-hope-of-future-treatment-fellows-seminar-by-carlos-ibanez/>). The challenge now is in determining at what point the receptor can be altered to still have a beneficial effect.

“What we are doing now is trying to find out how long you can wait to remove the gene. We want to know whether removing or inactivating this gene in mice who already have Alzheimer’s or signs of Alzheimer’s will help. Alzheimer’s is a disease that manifests later in life and takes a long time to develop. The brain compensates and compensates for the losses. Nobody comes to a doctor saying ‘I think I’ll get it’ – usually by the time people are diagnosed it’s already late and already very difficult for pharmacological interventions to reverse.”

“Our mouse model allows the timing of the gene deletion at different intervals to see the effect before symptoms develop and also when there is full-blown, severe disease.

We want to see if we can then flatten the progression of the disease or if we can actually achieve a reversal, which may be too good to hope for.”

But Ibáñez pointed out that the mice model is by no means perfect. Laboratory mice are genetically identical and also have very poorly developed immune systems – comparable to that of a human newborn. There is a lot of research showing that Alzheimer’s Disease also has a strong immune component linked to mutations in immune system cells in the brain. So modelling in mice is difficult to translate to humans.

“So I would like to do Alzheimer’s studies in feral mice that have been exposed to a normal infectious environment and have a normal mature immune system to see if we can develop better models. This is one way to get closer to the human model.”

The metabolism studies have a similar type of conceptual problem. When the ALK7 receptor is blocked in mice they become resistant to diet-induced obesity and Ibáñez and his colleagues now are looking at what happens if you remove this gene in a mouse that is already obese.

He explained that some of his inspiration comes from the US reality TV programme *The Biggest Loser*. “Research has shown that 70% of the participants regain the weight and some even more within four or five years of appearing on the show. The researchers concluded that the strict regime of a low-calorie intake and high exercise made their metabolic rate go down, which is a natural body response to preserve energy, but once they went back to their normal eating habits, with a low metabolic rate, they burn so little energy that they put weight back on.”

“I wondered if we could do this with mice. We had different cohorts, both ALK7 mutant and controls, kept on a high-fat diet till they became obese, and then switched half of them to a normal diet that is very low in fat. After a few weeks, we switched these back to the high-fat diet and compared them with the mice that remained on high-fat diet all the time.” They found that, although removal of ALK7 on already obese mice did not have big effects, it did speed up the weight loss of the mice that switched to a low-calorie diet, and also helped them to keep the lower weight once they were back on high-fat diet.

They are also looking at the synergistic effect that aspirin might offer in reducing inflammation and controlling glucose levels which is important for diabetes.

“With my background in molecular biology I look at everything from the point of view of molecules. One thing in common between brain and fat tissues is several of the molecules and signalling systems they use.”



A leopard photographed by Ibáñez in the Londolazi Private Game Reserve in 2015

This work will keep Ibáñez commuting between Beijing and Stockholm for the foreseeable future, however, because of the pandemic, this has been somewhat restricted. Although he has received COVID-19 vaccinations, returning to China remains difficult with quarantine extended to three weeks in a hotel room.

Life as a global citizen has made Ibáñez very conscious of the concept and idea of home.

“My parents both came from Spain. Like many other Spanish families of the time, their parents took them to Argentina in the 1950s in the aftermath of the Civil War and then Second World War,” he explained. “They met and married in Buenos Aires. So I am a first-generation Argentinian. However, my parents never took Argentinian citizenship so they remained foreigners to some extent, always speaking of Spain as home. My sister and I breathed in this atmosphere growing up which I think prepared me to live elsewhere.”

“What is home for me? People have asked me all my life ‘When are you going back home?’ And I’m not sure what they mean or where home is. It’s made me think about the concept of home – how plastic or rigid it can be. For some people it’s extremely rigid. The Swedes move around more but I have friends in Argentina to whom the concept of home is very strong. I think it’s a Latin thing. For them it’s extremely clear what is home and what is not. For me, if I close my eyes, that’s home. Home is inside my head. Home is me. Home is the bed in which I sleep this evening. One day, with more time, I’ll try to write about this.”

Science, jazz and photography

Two things though that are definitely part of home are a guitar and a camera.

“Music and playing guitar has been with me all my life since I was very small. Now I’m trying to study more formally. I would love to be born again and spend all my time with music,” he said. “But, I guess, many people would say that.”

“I’m particularly attracted to the more free or contemporary jazz. What all jazz has in common is the element of improvisation. This aspect is very attractive. You can hear the same piece of music over and over, and every time discover something different. Jazz is about breaking all the rules in a way that still sounds good to the ear.”

He admitted to being a prog rock fan in his early teens – listening to Pink Floyd, Genesis and others. “But as I grew up I realised I couldn’t hear anything new in those records. I enjoyed the flamboyance of their concerts but in the end I couldn’t find anything in the music. So I had a big fight with rock but in the last five years I have revisited some of those records and realised how amazing and ‘close to the edge’ some of them were. I’m listening now from another angle.”

“But with jazz it’s the freedom, it’s endless,” he continued. “I’m now trying to play jazz standards but it’s hard to say something new. There are hundreds of versions and they are all different. In jazz you can play a standard and totally massacre the original notes, as long as you stay somewhat close to the harmony. In classical music you can’t, you need to play the written notes.”

He has performed once or twice publicly but found it a nerve-racking experience.

Photography is a later addition to his interests. “I’m very attracted to images,” he said. “Not necessarily formal, it can be abstract, patterns.”

“For me, music and photography are therapeutic.”

For Ibáñez, the science, jazz and photography are all linked by curiosity, “looking for what’s around the next corner”.

Part of this curiosity quest is also a latent desire to write something completely different – fiction.

“When I was first invited to STIAS my idea was not to do science but rather to write fiction during my residency. At first I thought a novel but that became too ambitious so I considered short stories - fictional but partly based on science maybe with a futuristic/fantasy/science-fiction component. I quickly realised you need to know what you are doing when writing fiction but someday I may actually do this.”

He described his invitation to become a Permanent Fellow as a huge honour. “I didn’t hesitate for a second to accept the invitation. I consider STIAS as my third academic home. Intellectually it is enormously stimulating especially the interdisciplinary dimensions. For a scientist it’s hugely important to be forced to explain what you do to non-scientists. Many of my colleagues think it’s impossible, but it’s not. You just need to do a bit more work – to be accurate without oversimplifying. Everyone who comes to STIAS is at a very high level. To meet these people is an incredible experience. It’s also wonderful to learn more about Africa from African scholars - you don’t get that opportunity elsewhere.” **α**

“I consider STIAS as my third academic home. Intellectually it is enormously stimulating especially the interdisciplinary dimensions. For a scientist it’s hugely important to be forced to explain what you do to non-scientists. Many of my colleagues think it’s impossible, but it’s not. You just need to do a bit more work – to be accurate without oversimplifying.”

Evolving transformations in a changing reality

When South African President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the lockdown in March 2020 Iso Lomso fellow Nkatha Kabira was deep into preparations for her STIAS public lecture titled ‘The future of law in Africa’ scheduled for 18 March. The next day she was on a plane home to Nairobi.

“This time has shattered our conception about what law is and where it’s going.”

“It was a mixture of relief and disappointment,” she laughed. “But I took it for what it was.”

“I was sad my stay in Stellenbosch was cut short. I love STIAS. It’s so beautiful. I get so much work done there. The people are awesome. I hope by my next stay COVID will be over.”

Lockdown has kept her in Nairobi and prevented her from going to the Berlin Institute for Advanced Study, but certainly has not been time wasted.

“This period is forcing me to think more about this project. It’s evolving and being transformed by the realities of the day. Everything has altered. The ground has shifted. It’s interesting that the pandemic stopped me from giving that lecture – it’s almost like I needed to pause – I couldn’t have predicted the things that have happened since.”

“I have had a lot to think about,” she added. “I began to see different strands emerging. This time has shattered our conception about what law is and where it’s going. There have also been opportunities for collaboration that wouldn’t have happened otherwise.”

“But the overall questions I’m asking are still relevant,” she continued. “What is the future of legal systems in Africa? What shape should they take? In what ways is law and jurisprudence in Africa unique and different?”

“The future of African law is something we need to think about. How that connects to the past and whether traditional institutions and rule of law can work in the world today and the world of tomorrow.”

Kabira is a poet, author and senior lecturer at the School of Law, University of Nairobi. She holds or has held fellowships in Edinburgh and Nigeria, and at Cornell and Princeton in the United States. She completed her doctoral degree at Harvard University and has professional and research experience in areas ranging from juridical sciences to international law and African development and to governance and gender. She lectures and teaches in Nairobi and at Harvard, and has worked as a research fellow at the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, the Kenya Law Reform Commission and the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission. She is also an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya.

She explained that a major part of her project is geared towards understanding where we are going in terms of law and governance on the continent. And in the last year, in collaboration with Penelope Andrews, past Dean of the Law Faculty at the University of Cape Town, she submitted a proposal to the International Law and Society Association in the USA to form an international research collaborative. This includes four of her Iso Lomso colleagues – Christine Hobden, Uchenna Okeja, Izuchukwu Nwankwo and Elifuraha Lalitaika. The proposal was successful and the group will hopefully meet for the first time at the association’s conference in May with the aim of forming a broader network of people from across Africa.

“I’m hoping we’ll form a global research consortium bringing people together from different disciplines to think through some of the governance successes, challenges and opportunities we are facing as a continent,” she said.

The initial meeting will be followed by a conference in Nairobi in 2022 and a workshop in Stellenbosch in 2023 consolidating the work across the three years.

“The idea is to catalyse innovative collaborative discourses on the future of law in Africa. And especially now, also looking at the impact of the pandemic.”

Unpacking commissions

Kabira has a particular interest in understanding the role of commissions as a technology of governance mediating different (sometimes conflicting) societal interests and decision making on the continent, and understanding what they tell us about the past and future of the law.

The interest has professional and personal roots. Early in her career Kabira worked for the Kenyan Constitutional Review Commission of which her mother – a professor of literature – was vice chair.

“I was passionate about the constitutional review process and started to ask why we had so many commissions and yet people often criticised commissions for doing nothing and being a waste of time,” she said. “Some of the tensions in my mind were reflected in the commission



“...lawyers on the continent must adjust themselves to changing circumstances and adjust their formal way of thinking about law and embrace futuristic thinking about law and governance.”

reports – tensions between British and African law, between the desires of capitalism and socialism, and between community and individual interests. I struggled to understand why law and governance on the continent were out of step with realities in other parts of the world.”

“Throughout the constitution review process I had conversations with my mother and we often challenged each other. While I was trained as a lawyer in classical, black-letter law, my mother, on the other hand, having been taught and influenced by literary critics like Okot P'Bitek and Ngugi wa Thiong'o, had been trained to question everything and would ask questions like – Who says this is the law? Who has power? What is the source of power? How is power distributed? Why do you think law is what is written in the constitution? Who says people cannot make their own constitutions? This interaction and the many fights we had was a huge influence.”

She also explained that from 2002 when that commission functioned there was broader recognition that older forms of commissions “headed by a judge wearing a wig and robe, and speaking the Queen’s English” were out of step with society. “That commission was the first to deviate from the norm of just having lawyers,” she explained. “It included civil society and other disciplines. My mom was a representative of the women’s movement.”

Bringing this up to date, she reflected on current realities.

“During this pandemic my hypothesis on commissions has been confirmed. In Kenya and other parts of Africa. We continue to use commissions left, right and centre for decision making.” However, she pointed out that, due to the pandemic, most of those commissions were mutating into different forms such as task forces, committees and councils. “Indeed, commissions are a technology of sorts that mutate and adapt to the realities of the day.”

She believes the pandemic has had an important impact on the future of law and legal education. “We are having court sessions online, teaching online and many of the things lawyers used to do, they can’t do now unless they are tech savvy. Anyone who is tech savvy is taking over. As Chinua Achebe says in *Things Fall Apart*, Eneke, an African bird, has learnt to fly without perching because men have learnt to shoot without missing. Like Eneke the bird, lawyers on the continent must adjust themselves to changing circumstances and adjust their formal way of thinking about law and embrace futuristic thinking about law and governance.”

“The other angle is looking at how commissions are challenging the legitimacy of laws. Is there something that commissions can tell us about law – what it is, how it is understood in African social and political reality? I’m arguing that commissions are breaking down the boundaries of law, illuminating the rigidity of laws, and challenging conventional understandings.”

She also described another major trigger for her work as her first trip to the US in 2007. “I encountered a different reality,” she said. “I began asking questions like – Why is no one here learning what I know? Why is the political system, the governing structures, the law so different? I needed to reconcile the tensions unravelling in my mind. I imagined this as a dance between Western and African realities.”

She believes this dance is starkly highlighted now.

“I’m passionate about ensuring that the solutions in the current crisis reflect African realities and context. Social distancing, for example, assumes you have a big house with people staying in different rooms. We have to critically interrogate whether the solutions we have in law and governance are responsive to African realities.”

“Law is so close to us. It’s about education, the pandemic, water. If we go beyond the textbook definition, we should all care about law. The future of law cannot be discussed in isolation by lawyers. What has become clear is that lawyers cannot do anything without working together with those in other disciplines and professions.”

Combining heart and head

Kabira was the first in her family to study law reflecting her need to question, but her broader concerns about social injustice and women’s rights, among others, are often reflected via her poetry. She has published two collections with another two in production.

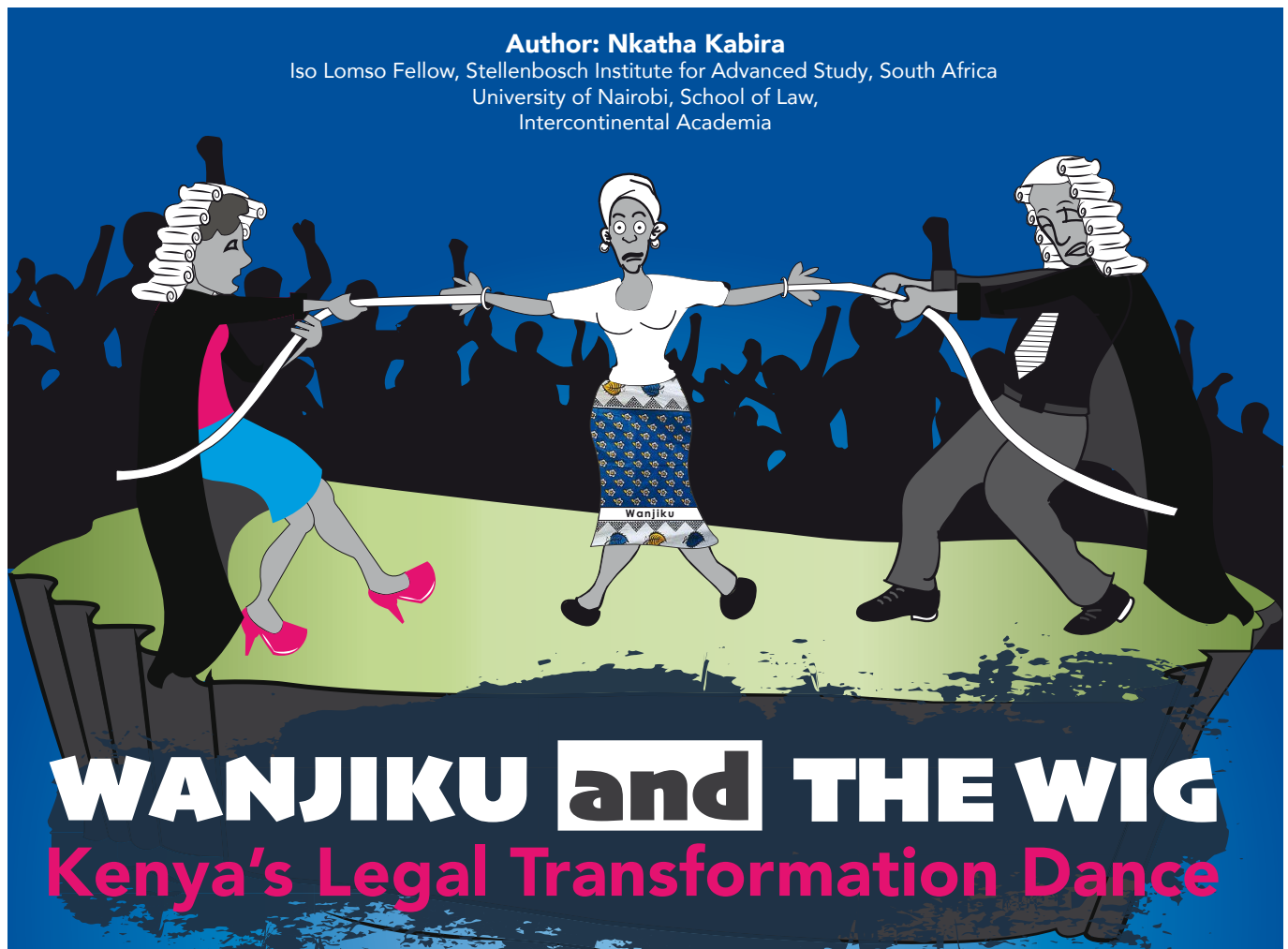
“One of the first poems I wrote was ‘Is this right?’ I was 11. It was about injustice which has bothered me from a very young age. The poetry represents the heart and the hurt behind everything.”

She also finds relaxation in singing and tries to keep mind/body balance through Hot Yoga and following a blood-type conscious diet and exercise regime.

She describes her music style as eclectic – she belongs to a singing group called Magnifique as well as the St. John Bosco choir. “Magnifique is just a group that loves to sing together. We have done our best to keep singing virtually but it’s been a challenge.”

“Yoga and singing work well for me,” she said. “That’s another thing I miss about STIAS – the yoga studio was within walking distance so I went every morning. Hot Yoga requires a hot room so it’s been hard to keep up during lockdown. So I walk in the forest regularly and sometimes do yoga via YouTube.”

“If I sit at a desk for hours, I’ll go crazy. The discipline you inculcate for your body in yoga translates into other kinds of discipline – emotional, spiritual, intellectual. I miss that. I do yoga for the discipline and focus – grounding, because I can easily remain in the clouds dreaming and disconnected from reality. I have to come back down to earth.”



Author: Nkatha Kabira

Iso Lomso Fellow, Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study, South Africa
University of Nairobi, School of Law,
Intercontinental Academia

"I'm so much in my head. I'm an introvert, although at times a circumstantial extrovert," she added.

And what of her future? She pointed to some exciting plans.

"I hope by the time I complete my STIAS fellowship I'll be in a position to apply for a professorship. By 40 I'd like to be on my way to becoming a global professor and leader."

She is currently undergoing training on academic science leadership and was asked to prepare a statement at age 60 reflecting back on how her good life would look.

She wrote: "In my good life, I lived as a global professor – a master teacher – a teacher of teachers who had a positive impact on the world by artistically and scientifically pushing the frontiers of knowledge and innovation, encouraging creativity, and devoted service to my family, my community, my country, my continent and the world." α

Nkatha Kabira's poster for the Connecting Minds Africa conference held in Nairobi in September 2019

The abstract reads: This research poster uses two characters: 'Wanjiku' and the 'Wig' to depict two modes of socio-legal consciousness that mirror the struggle to realise the promise of a new constitutional order in Kenya. The first character is the 'Wig'. The Wig represents the lawyers, the judges, the magistrates, the elites, the rulers, the legal profession and the legal discipline at large, all of whom are trained to value certainty, predictability and objectivity – the hallmarks of legal formalism. The second character is 'Wanjiku'. Wanjiku is a Kenyan female name that today symbolises the common man or woman. She is an allegorical historical artefact that depicts common men and women who are differentiated on various identity lines such as gender, ethnicity, class, religion, etc. It is she who constantly struggles to ensure that law is located within her socio-economic and political context. She wants Kenyans' collective experience and shared values to form the basis for development of national culture. She demands that Kenyans' resistance and fight against oppression, and colonisation be chronicled, recognised, documented and preserved. Wanjiku considers the Wig a nuisance, irrelevant and a hindrance to her access to justice. She detests the Wig for all its imperialism and formalism and she wants her views presented in her own words and in her own tongues as she fears that the constitution-making process could be just another 'Government gimmick'. This poster captures the story of a dance between these two characters – a dance that is characterised by various tensions between 'traditionalist' and 'modernist' claims, 'international' perspectives and 'local' perspectives. When Wanjiku encounters the Wig, the two are forced to discern a new way of thinking, a new way of describing their world, a new way that attempts to correspond to both their realities.



Music – the fabric of everyday life

“In the African context we perceive music as an event, a process, not just a product. It’s part of the fabric of everyday life,” said Eric Otchere. “I’d like to strengthen music scholarship in Africa. In many ways, music scholarship in Africa is still western-centric.”

Eric Debrah Otchere is chair of the Department of Music and Dance at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana. He is part of the third cohort of Iso Lomso fellows at STIAS. His career highlights include being a doctoral fellow of the Volkswagen Foundation, a post-doctoral fellow of the African Humanities Program of the American Council of Learned Societies, a post-doctoral fellow at Rhodes University in South Africa, and a 2016 Presidential Fellow of the African Studies Association. He is the first Iso Lomso fellow to spend part of his fellowship at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford, USA.

Otchere’s research interests cover several areas in music education – pedagogy, philosophy, curriculum, research methods, and music psychology – music and emotions, musical development, music preferences, music cognition, emotional intelligence, health and wellbeing.

His project at STIAS looks at the psychology of music and work.

“I’m looking at how people constitute spaces through sound, through music. How they pace themselves within these spaces in order to achieve more. Space, pace and ace are three words that summarise what I’m trying to do. Spaces can be physical, sonic, emotional, arbitrary, etc.”

“Music enhances what you set out to do,” he explained. “So, for example, think about runners who use headphones to listen to music. That’s an example of someone using music to achieve more. When people listen to music their body may move in sync with the internal rhythms of the music.

“The music may help you to walk or run faster, it may divert your attention from distractions to the work, or take you to different mental spaces,” he continued. “I’m looking at how people intentionally use music to achieve this in the context of work.”

Otchere is not just looking at this from an individual perspective but also from the perspective of group music-making and activities that require group effort. “For example, traditional fishermen spend hours casting their nets back and forward, and use music as a reference point for specific co-ordinated activities. Studies have shown that there’s much more going on besides the music merely serving as accompaniment. I’m trying to reconcile the body of knowledge from neuroscience, ethnomusicology and ethnographic approaches.”

His home base at the University of Cape Coast has provided a strong foundation for seeing music from a theoretical and practical viewpoint. The department teaches music, aims to lead research in music scholarship in Africa and undertakes community outreach. Research areas have included music and decolonisation, as well as the role of music in achieving the sustainable development goals. While the outreach work aims to use the arts to benefit communities, by, for example, after-school music programmes for children and helping children with conditions like Downs Syndrome via music and dance.

“The department was initially just music,” said Otchere, “but in 2004 we added a theatre component and in 2010, a dance component. In Africa we don’t distinguish between music and dance – except in the professional sense – practically music and dance go hand in hand.”

Otchere’s own route into music was not traditional. He doesn’t come from a long family line of performers – “apart from my father, none of my family members that I know of, had formal musical training”.

“I didn’t find out at an early age that I had the talent and wanted to do music. My father played and we had a keyboard at home which I figured out for myself but I didn’t undergo any formal music training growing up,” he said. “It was only after my secondary education that I realised I had the interest and wanted to pursue music. I went to a teacher’s training college where I had my first music lessons. I started with a guitar, then went on to keyboard and piano. I studied music fulltime at university.”

And he is reticent about admitting to his own performing skills.

“I am a performer although I don’t like to call myself that. I’m not a concert soloist. I play some instruments fairly well and teach them fairly well as well.”

“I perform whenever I have the opportunity,” he laughed. He did admit to being a regular during his time at Rhodes University in a series called The Acoustic Café in one of the local pubs.

Asked about his favourite genre, he replied: “There’s a popular style in Ghana called Highlife. I enjoy playing that because it gives you lots of space to improvise, it’s easy to bring different instrumentalists together to do Highlife, you don’t have to conform to the ‘classical’ rules which often stifle creativity, and you can try things. That’s my favourite.”

He also composes – from Highlife to choral church music.

“I have over a hundred choral compositions,” he said. “Religion is big in Ghana and there is an ever-increasing need for choral repertoire. I was raised Catholic so I’ve composed a number of masses for the Catholic Church.”

He can also be persuaded to compose for special occasions. “We recently had a professor who retired and I composed a piece for his farewell programme. When the occasion calls for it, I compose something new.”

But he is no longer the only performer in the family. Otchere’s wife is pursuing her PhD in theatre studies. “She sings better than I do,” he said.

Turning to the challenges of undertaking a fellowship during a pandemic, Otchere indicated that he was supposed to visit Stanford last September but due to COVID-19 that was not possible. Nevertheless the fellowship is happening, with virtual meetings three times a week.

“It’s been surprisingly productive. At first I was sceptical about the advantages of joining a zoom call but I’ve been lucky to have an incredible cohort of very knowledgeable fellows. It’s extremely helpful to have perspectives from different disciplines. Every time you present your work you gain new insights from people outside your field. The methodological and epistemological discussions, in particular, have been very helpful.

“They are now allowing fellows to come to Stanford but obviously dependent on some restrictions and COVID-19 compliance.”

He is also looking forward to more engagement at STIAS after a brief, two-week visit in December in 2019. “It’s an incredible space,” he said. Otchere was due to spend three months in residence at STIAS in the first half of 2020 but, due to lockdown, this is now scheduled for the second half of 2021.

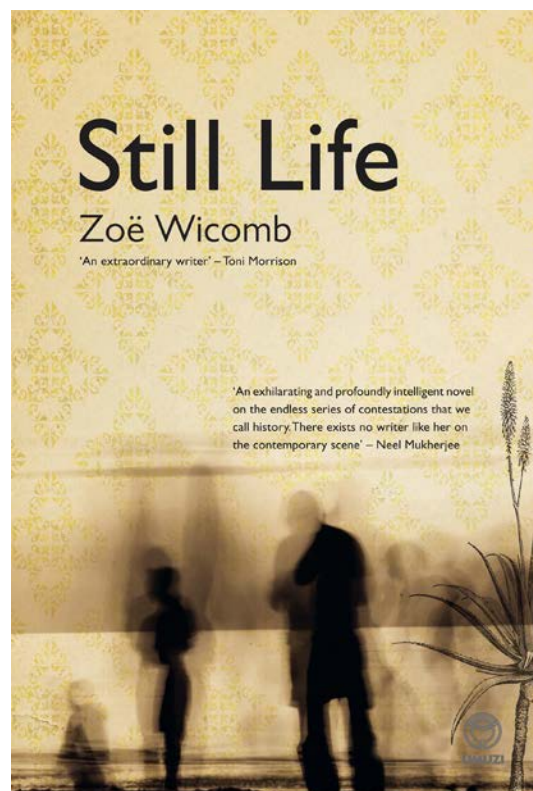
And, as for the future: “In my PhD I examined the relationship between music preferences and emotional intelligence. That’s something I’d like to go back to. I’m very interested in understanding music and emotion. In my current project I’m looking at a simple model of how music influences emotion and how those emotions influence outputs in the work context.

“Music psychology is something I’d like to build on and where I see my research going in the next five years.” **α**

“The music may help you to walk or run faster, it may divert your attention from distractions to the work, or take you to different mental spaces, ... I’m looking at how people intentionally use music to achieve this in the context of work.”

SELECTED BOOK PUBLICATIONS BY STIAS FELLOWS DURING 2020

A full list of publications is available at <https://stias.ac.za/fellows/publications/group/2020> and in the STIAS Annual Reports.



Zoë Wicomb. *Still Life*. Random House. ISBN 9781415210536.

www.penguinrandomhouse.co.za/book/still-life/9781415210536

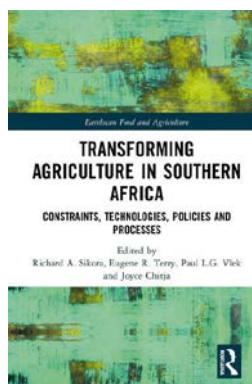
Few in his native Scotland know about Thomas Pringle – the abolitionist, publisher, and – some would say – Father of South African Poetry. A biography of Pringle is in order, and a reluctant writer takes up this task.

To help tell the story of Pringle is the spectre of Mary Prince, a West Indian slave whose history

he once published. Also offering advice is the ghost of Hinza Marossi, Pringle's adopted Khoesan son, and the time traveller, Sir Nicholas Greene, a character exhumed from the pages of a book.

While Mary is breathing fire and Sir Nicholas's heart is pining, Hinza is interrogating his origins. But what is to be made of the life of Pringle so many years after his death by this motley crew from the 1800s?

As the apparitions flit through time and space



to put together the pieces of Pringle's story and find their own place in his biography, Zoë Wicomb's novel offers an acerbic exploration of colonial history in superb prose and with piercing wit.

Richard Sikora, Eugene Terry, Paul Vlek & Joyce Chitja. (Eds.). *Transforming Agriculture in Southern Africa: Constraints, Technologies, Policies and Processes*. Routledge.

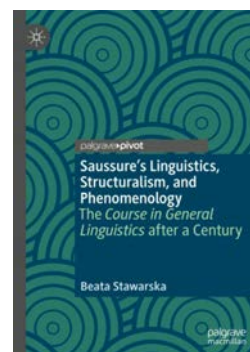
www.routledge.com/Transforming-Agriculture-in-Southern-Africa-Constraints-Technologies/Sikora-Terry-Vlek-Chitja/p/book/9781138393530#toc

This book provides a synthesis of the key issues and challenges facing agriculture and food production in Southern Africa.

Southern Africa is facing numerous challenges including agricultural transformations, growing populations, urbanisation

and climate change. These place great pressure on food security, agriculture, water availability and other natural resources, as well as impacting biodiversity. Drawing on case studies from Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, the chapters in this book consider these challenges from an interdisciplinary perspective, covering key areas in constraints to production, the most important building blocks of good farming practices, and established and emerging technologies.

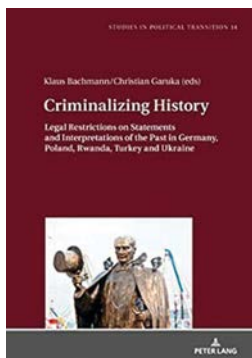
This book emerged from a Roundtable held at STIAS in 2015 and will be valuable for informing new policies and processes aimed at improving food production and security and developing sustainable agriculture in Southern Africa. It will be a vital resource for policy makers, governmental and non-governmental organisations, and agricultural practitioners.



Beata Stawarska. *Saussure's Linguistics, Structuralism, and Phenomenology*. Springer International Publishing.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-43097-9>

This is the first English-language guidebook geared at an interdisciplinary audience that reflects relevant scholarly developments related to the legacy and legitimacy of Ferdinand de Saussure's *Course in General Linguistics* (1916) today. It critically assesses the relation between materials from the *Course* and from the linguist's *Nachlass* (works unpublished or even unknown at Saussure's death, some recently discovered). This book pays close attention to the set of oppositional pairings: The signifier and the signified, *la langue* (language system) and *la parole* (speech), and synchrony and diachrony that became the hallmark of structuralism across the humanities. Sometimes referred to as the 'Saussurean doctrine', this hierarchical conceptual apparatus was revised in favour of a horizontal set of relations, which co-involves speaking subjects and linguistic structures. This book documents the continued relevance of Saussure's linguistics in the 21st Century, and sheds light on its legacy within structuralism and phenomenology.



Klaus Bachmann and Christian Garuka (Eds.). ***Criminalizing History: Legal Restrictions on Statements and Interpretations of the Past in Germany, Poland, Rwanda, Turkey and Ukraine. Vol. 14.*** Peter Lang.

<https://doi.org/10.3726/b16604>

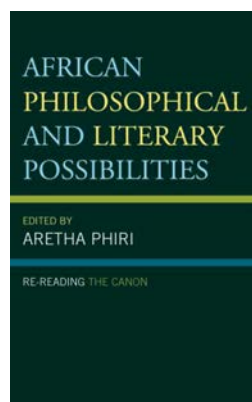
Why do states ban certain statements and interpretations of the past, how do they ban them and what are the practical consequences? This book offers an answer to these questions; examines whether the respective legislation was supply- or demand-driven; and, how prosecutors and courts applied it. Comparisons between Germany, Poland, Ukraine, Rwanda and Turkey offer several insights: In most countries, memory law legislation is supply driven and imposed on a reluctant society, and in some countries apolitical hooligans are targeted more than intellectuals or political opponents. The book also discusses, why and how liberal democracies differ from hybrid regimes in their approach to punitive memory laws and how such laws can be tailored to avoid constraints on free speech, freedom of the press and academic freedoms.

Aretha Phiri. (Ed.). ***African Philosophical and Literary Possibilities: Re-reading the Canon.*** Lexington Books.

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781498571241/African-Philosophical-and-Literary-Possibilities-Re-reading-the-Canon>

Edited by Aretha Phiri with contributions by Oritsegbubemi Anthony Oyowe; Chielozone Eze; Pier Paolo Frassinelli; George Hull; Lisa Treffry-Goatley; Marzia Milazzo; Rocio Cobo-Piñero and Pedro Tabensky.

Recognising philosophy's influence on — and literature's creative stimulus for — sociopolitical discourses, imaginations and structures, *African Philosophical and Literary Possibilities: Re-reading the Canon*, probes the cross-referential, interdisciplinary relationships between African literature and African philosophy. The contributors write within the broader context of renewed interest in and concerns around epistemological decolonisation and to advance African scholarly transformation.

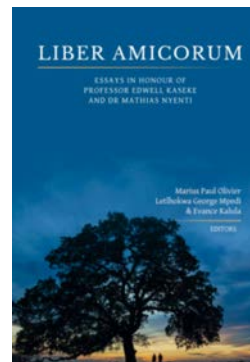


This volume argues that, in their convergent ideological and imaginative attempts to articulate an African conditionality, African philosophy and literature share overlapping concerns and aspirations. In this way, this book engages and examines the intersectional canons of these disciplines to determine their intra-continental epistemological transformative possibilities within broader, global societal explorations of the current moment of decolonisation. Where much of the scholarship on African philosophy has focused on addressing issues associated with the post-colonial task of African self-assertion in the face of or against Euro-modernist hegemony, this innovative book project shifts the focus and broadens the scope away from merely discoursing with the global North by mapping out how philosophy and literature can be viewed as mutually enriching disciplines within and for Africa.

Marius Oliver, Letlhokwa Mpedi & Evance Kalula. (Eds.). ***Liber Amicorum: Essays in honour of Professor Edwell Kaseke and Dr Mathias Nyenti.*** African Sun Media.

<https://africansunmedia.store.it.si/za/book/liber-amicorum-essays-in-honour-of-professor-edwell-kaseke-and-dr-mathias-nyenti/1136352>

This is a celebratory publication by colleagues from Africa and beyond who had the privilege to know Edwell and Mathias personally. It is a tribute

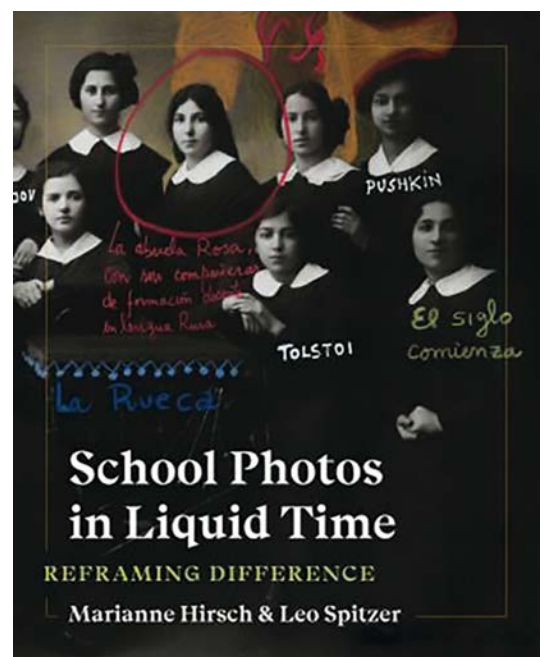


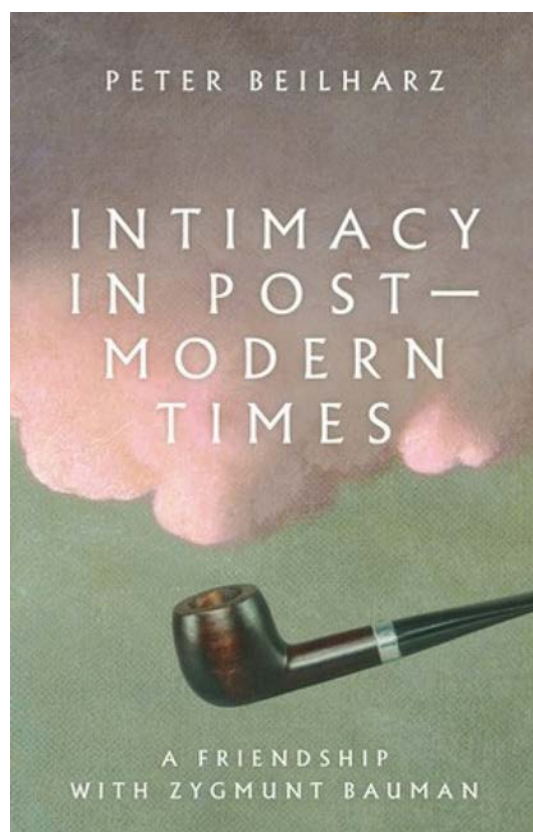
to the life and work of two individuals who made a unique contribution to social justice, law and its development. As evidenced by the Tributes and Lists of Publications contained herein, both Edwell and Nyenti (as they were colloquially known) were productive scholars who left a legacy that extends beyond the academic realm to that of friendship and shared humanity.

Marianne Hirsch & Leo Spitzer. ***School Photos in Liquid Time.*** University of Washington Press.

<https://uwapress.uw.edu/book/9780295746548/school-photos-in-liquid-time>

From clandestine images of Jewish children isolated in Nazi ghettos and Japanese American children incarcerated in camps to images of Native children removed to North American boarding schools, classroom photographs of schoolchildren are pervasive even in repressive historical and political contexts. *School Photos in Liquid Time* offers a closer look at this genre of vernacular photography, tracing how photography advances ideologies of social assimilation as well as those of hierarchy and exclusion. In Hirsch and Spitzer's deft analysis, school photographs





reveal connections between the histories of persecuted subjects in different national and imperial centres.

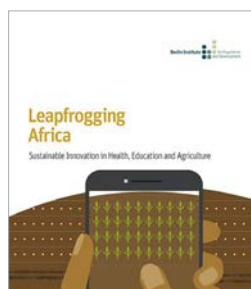
Exploring what this ubiquitous and mundane but understudied genre tells us about domination as well as resistance, the authors examine school photos as documents of social life and agents of transformation. They place them in dialogue with works by contemporary artists who reframe, remediate, and elucidate them. *School Photos in Liquid Time* presents school photography as a new access point into institutions of power, revealing the capacity of past and present actors to disrupt and reinvent them.

Peter Beilharz. *Intimacy in post-modern times. A friendship with Zygmunt Bauman.* Manchester University Press.

[www.manchesterhive.com/configurable/contentpage/9781526132161\\$002f9781526132161.xml](http://www.manchesterhive.com/configurable/contentpage/9781526132161$002f9781526132161.xml)

What kind of intellectual was Zygmunt Bauman? Peter Beilharz worked with Bauman at an antipodean distance over 30 years. This memoir uses Beilharz's archives to revisit and reconstruct their annual encounters and work together. It begins from Legislators and Interpreters, in 1987, through to Modernity and the Holocaust, in 1989, to the post-modern and the arrival of the liquid modern in 2000 and all the little books that followed.

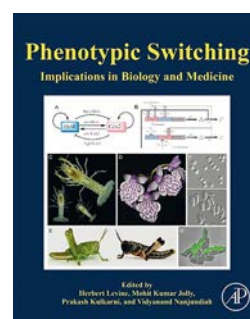
It tracks the unfolding of these two projects, held apart and together by place and time, experience and friendship. For these two thinkers shared the modern life world but carried distinct biographies and formations. Their collaboration nevertheless depended on some kind of intimacy. This book addresses this friendship and some of the controversies surrounding Bauman's work. It argues that his identity was that of an East European critical theorist, a Polish Jew of Marxist origins who was to become, finally, a reluctant celebrity in the United Kingdom, Europe and further afield. The reach of Bauman's influence was much broader, and his legacy will be longer than this. Settling accounts with Bauman may be one precondition of moving on, for those who puzzle over modern times, and feel compelled to contemplate the challenges faced by intellectuals today.



Reiner Klingholz, Sabine Sütterlin, Alisa Kaps, and Catherina Hinz. *Leapfrogging Africa: Sustainable Innovation in Health, Education and Agriculture.* African Sun Media.

<http://doi.org/10.18820/9781928314745>

In this work, the authors look at the potential for development leaps in Africa in three key sectors that provided the basis for socio-economic development around the world: health, education and agriculture. Advances in these sectors increase human capital, create jobs and economic opportunities and have a positive influence on each other. Healthy and well-fed children can learn better; hygiene and better medical care diminish infant mortality, which reduces the desire for a large number of children; and, education for women promotes gender equality and causes birth rates to fall further. This creates a population structure under which the economy can grow particularly well: a demographic dividend becomes possible.



Herbert Levine, Mohit Jolly, Prakash Kulkarni & Vidyanand Nanjundiah. *Phenotypic Switching. Implications in Biology and Medicine.* Academic Press.

www.elsevier.com/books/phenotypic-switching/levine/978-0-12-817996-3

The publication provides a comprehensive examination of phenotypic switching across biological systems, including underlying

mechanisms, evolutionary significance, and its role in biomedical science. Contributions from international leaders discuss conceptual and theoretical aspects of phenotypic plasticity, its influence over biological development, differentiation, biodiversity, and potential applications in cancer therapy, regenerative medicine and stem cell therapy, among other treatments. The chapters discuss fundamental mechanisms of phenotypic switching, including transition states, cell-fate decisions, epigenetic factors, stochasticity, protein-based inheritance, specific areas of human development and disease relevance, phenotypic plasticity in melanoma, prostate cancer, breast cancer, non-genetic heterogeneity in cancer, hepatitis C, and more.

This book is essential for active researchers, basic and translational scientists, clinicians, postgraduates and students in genetics, human genomics, pathology, bioinformatics, developmental biology, evolutionary biology and adaptive opportunities in yeast.

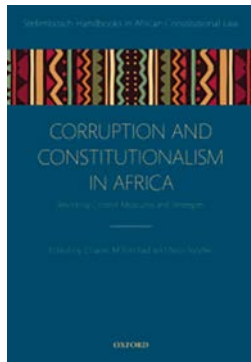
Martin Murray. *Panic City: Crime and the Fear Industries in Johannesburg.* Stanford University Press.

www.sup.org/books/title/?id=30559

Despite the end of white minority rule and the transition to parliamentary democracy, Johannesburg remains haunted by its tortured history of racial segregation and burdened by enduring inequalities in income, opportunities for stable work, and access

to decent housing. Under these circumstances, Johannesburg has become one of the most dangerous cities in the world, where the yawning gap between the 'haves' and 'have-nots' has fuelled a turn toward redistribution through crime. While wealthy residents have retreated into heavily fortified gated communities and upscale security estates, the less affluent have sought refuge in retrofitting their private homes into safe houses, closing off public streets, and hiring the services of private security companies to protect their suburban neighbourhoods.

Panic City is an exploration of urban fear and its impact on the city's evolving siege architecture, the transformation of policing, and obsession with security that has fuelled unprecedented private consumption of 'protection services'. Murray analyses the symbiotic relationship between public law enforcement agencies, private security companies, and neighbourhood associations, wherein buyers and sellers of security have reinvented ways of maintaining outdated segregation practices that define the urban poor as suspects.



Charles Fombad & Nico Steytler. (Eds.). *Corruption and Constitutionalism in Africa*. Oxford University Press.

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/corruption-and-constitutionalism-in-africa-9780198855590>

This collection of essays focuses on the critical issue of corruption that lies at the heart of the crisis of constitutionalism in Africa. Most anti-corruption measures over the years have been inadequate, serving merely as symbolic gestures to give the impression something is being done. The African Union's declaration of 2018 as the 'African anti-corruption year', belated though it be, is an open recognition by African governments of the impact corruption will have on the continent unless urgent steps are taken.

The key objective of this volume is to draw attention to the problem of corruption, the complexity of the situation, with all its multi-faceted social, political, economic and legal dimensions, and the need for remedial action.

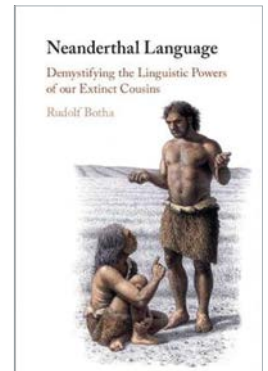
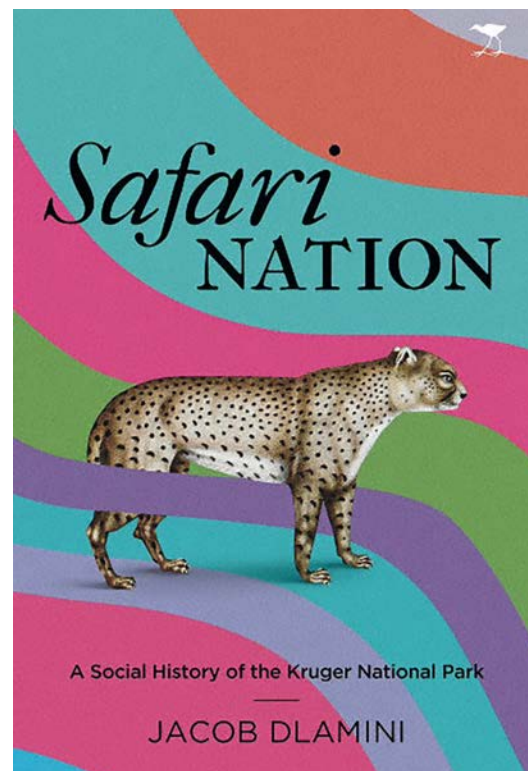
Jacob Dlamini. *Safari Nation: A Social History of the Kruger National Park*. Ohio University Press.

www.scribd.com/book/458171994/Safari-Nation-A-Social-History-of-the-Kruger-National-Park

Safari Nation opens new lines of inquiry in the study of national parks in Africa and the rest of the world. The Kruger National Park is South Africa's most iconic nature reserve, renowned for its rich flora and fauna. According to Dlamini, there is another side to the park, a social history neglected by scholars and popular writers alike in which blacks (meaning Africans, Coloureds, and Indians) occupy centre stage. *Safari Nation* details the ways in which black people devoted energies to conservation and to the park over the course of the twentieth

century – engagement that transcends the stock (black) figure of the labourer and the poacher.

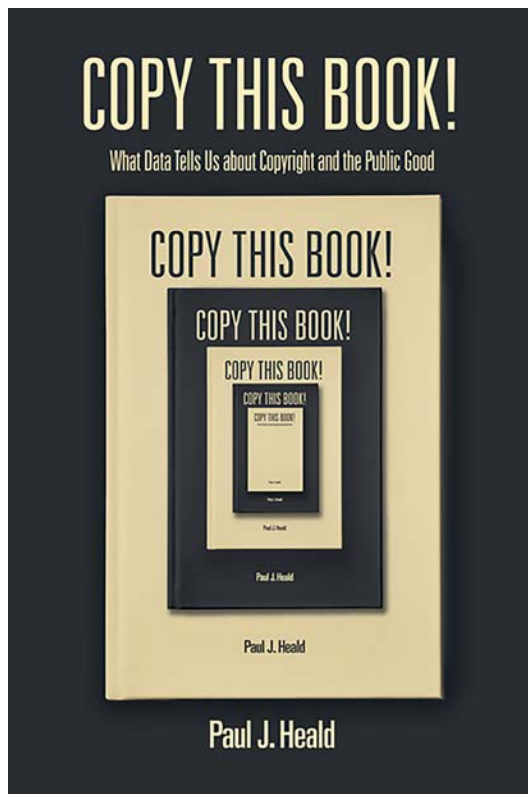
By exploring the complex and dynamic ways in which blacks of varying class, racial, religious, and social backgrounds related to the Kruger National Park, and with the help of previously unseen archival photographs, Dlamini's narrative also sheds new light on how and why Africa's national parks – often derided by scholars as colonial impositions – survived the end of white rule on the continent. Relying on oral histories, photographs, and archival research, *Safari Nation* engages both with African historiography and with ongoing debates about the 'land question', democracy and citizenship in South Africa.



Rudie Botha. *Neanderthal Language*. Cambridge University Press.

<https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108868167>

Did Neanderthals have language, and if so, what was it like? Scientists agree overall that the behaviour and cognition of Neanderthals resemble that of early modern humans in important ways. However, the existence and nature of Neanderthal language remains a controversial topic. The first in-depth treatment of this intriguing subject, this book comes to the unique conclusion that, collective hunting is a better window on Neanderthal language than other behaviours. It argues that Neanderthal hunters employed linguistic signs akin to those of modern language, but lacked complex grammar. Botha unpacks and appraises important inferences drawn by researchers working in relevant branches of archaeology and other pre-historical fields, and uses a large range of multidisciplinary literature to bolster his arguments. An important contribution to this lively field, this book will become a landmark book for students and scholars alike, in essence, illuminating Neanderthals' linguistic powers.

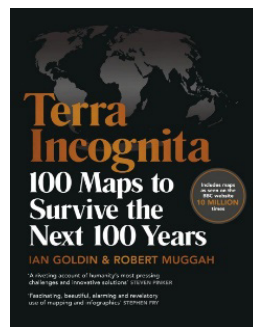


Paul Heald. *COPY THIS BOOK! What data Tells Us about Copyright and the Public Good.* Stanford University Press.

www.sup.org/books/title/?isbn=9781503614314

In *Copy This Book!*, Heald draws on a vast knowledge of copyright scholarship and a deep sense of irony to explain what's gone wrong with copyright in the 21st century. Distilling extensive empirical data to clearly show the implications of copyright laws and doctrine for public welfare, he illustrates his findings with lighthearted references to familiar (and obscure) works and their creators (and sometimes their creators' oddball relations).

Among the questions he tackles: How does copyright deter composers from writing new songs? Why are so many famous photographs unprotected orphans? How does Getty Images get away with licensing them? What can the use of music in movies tell us about the proper length of the copyright term? And, how do publishers get away with claiming rights in public domain works and extracting unmerited royalties from the public? Heald translates piles of data, complex laws, and mysterious economics, equipping readers with the tools for judging past and future copyright law.



Ian Goldin and Robert Muggah. *Terra Incognita: 100 Maps to Survive the Next 100 Years.* Penguin Random House.

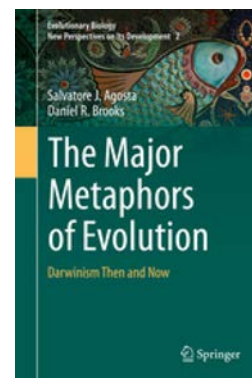
www.penguin.co.uk/books/111/1118230/terra-incognita/9781529124194.html

From the global impact of the coronavirus to exploring the vast spread of the Australian bushfires, Ian Goldin and Robert Muggah trace the ways in which our world has changed and the ways in which it will continue to change over the next hundred years.

Map-making is an ancient impulse. From the moment *homo sapiens* learnt to communicate we have used them to make sense of our surroundings. But as Albert Einstein said, “you can’t use old maps to explore a new world”. And now, when the world is changing faster than ever before, our old maps are no longer fit for purpose.

Welcome to *Terra Incognita*. Based on decades of research, and combining mesmerising, state-of-the-art satellite maps with enlightening and passionately argued analysis, Goldin and Muggah chart humanity’s impact on the planet, and the ways in which we can make a real impact to save it, and to thrive as a species.

Learn about: fires in the arctic; the impact of sea-level rise on cities around the world; the truth about immigration - and why fears in the West are a myth; the counter-intuitive future of population rise; the miracles of health and education that are waiting around the corner; and, the reality about inequality, and how we end it. The book traces the paths of peoples, cities, wars, climates and technologies, all on a global scale. Full of facts that will confound, inform, and ultimately empower you, *Terra Incognita* guides readers to a new place of understanding, rather than a physical location.



Salvatore Agosta and Daniel Brooks. *The Major Metaphors of Evolution: Darwinism Then and Now.* Springer.

www.springer.com/gp/book/9783030520854

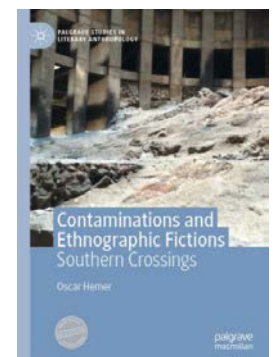
This book presents a unified evolutionary framework based on three sets of metaphors that will help to consolidate discussions on evolutionary transitions.

Evolution is the unifying principle of life, making identifying ways to apply evolutionary principles

to tackle existence-threatening crises such as climate change crucial. A more cohesive evolutionary framework will further the discussions in this regard and also accelerate the process itself.

This book lays out a framework based on three dualistic classes of metaphors – time, space, and conflict resolution. Evolutionary transitions theory shows how metaphors can help us understand selective diversification, as Darwin described with his “tree of life”. Moreover, the recently proposed Stockholm paradigm demonstrates how metaphors can help shed light on the emergence of complex ecosystems that Darwin highlighted with his “tangled bank” metaphor. Taken together, these ideas offer proactive measures for coping with existential crises for humanity, such as climate change.

The book will appeal to biologists, philosophers and historians alike.



Oscar Hemer. *Contaminations and Ethnographic Fictions.* Springer.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-34925-7>

In an unusual merging of academic and literary practices, this volume attempts to identify a form (or forms) congenial with the subject of interrogation: the world in transition, with South Africa as the main focal point. Approaching anthropology from the position of the literary writer, Hemer here takes the reader through a kaleidoscope of perspectives – a stream-of-consciousness understanding of ‘writing the city’ of Johannesburg, embedding ethnography in subjectivity; a challenge to binaries both temporal and gendered in examining the growth of the IT metropolis Bangalore to a combusting mega-city; an auto-ethnographic interweaving of fictional reportage with a close-reading of anthropological and philosophical treatises, including Mary Douglas’s *Purity and Danger* and Edouard Glissant’s *Poetics of Relation*, among others — to interrogate themes of transition, identity, purity and variation in the Western Cape. As the form transcends boundaries to create a methodological hybrid, creolisation comes to the fore as a theoretical concept and as cultural practice.

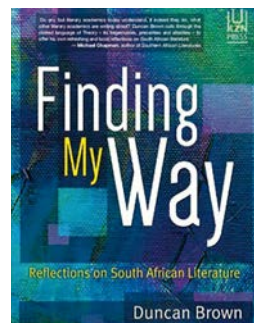
Oscar Hemer, Maja Povrzanović Frykman & Per-Markku Ristilampi. (Eds.). *Conviviality at the Crossroads*. Springer.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-28979-9>

Conviviality has lately become a catchword not only in academia but also among political activists. This open-access book discusses *conviviality* in

relation to the adjoining concepts *cosmopolitanism* and *creolisation*.

The urgency of today’s global predicament is not only an argument for the revival of all three concepts, but also a reason to bring them into dialogue. Ivan Illich envisioned a post-industrial convivial society of ‘autonomous individuals and primary groups’ (Illich 1973), which resembles present-day manifestations of ‘convivialism’. Paul Gilroy refashioned conviviality as a substitute for cosmopolitanism, denoting an ability to be ‘at ease’ in contexts of diversity (Gilroy 2004). Rather than replacing one concept with the other, the 14 contributors to this book seek to explore the interconnections – commonalities and differences – between



them, suggesting that creolisation is a necessary complement to the already-intertwined concepts of conviviality and cosmopolitanism.

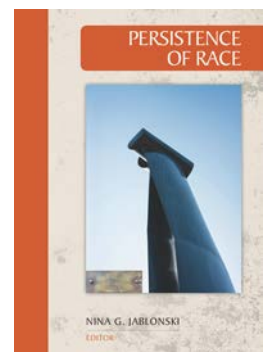
Although this volume takes northern Europe as its focus, the contributors take care to put each situation in historical and global contexts in the interests of moving beyond the binary thinking that prevails in terms of methodologies, analytical concepts, and political implementations.

Duncan Brown. *Finding My Way: Reflections on South African Literature*. University of KwaZulu-Natal Press.

https://books.google.co.za/books/about/Finding_My_Way.html?id=FJB1zQEACAAJ

This book offers a series of reflections on the field of South African literature from the perspective of 2020. It emerges from Duncan Brown’s experiences of three decades of working in this field of writing and scholarship, and is both a personal intellectual exploration and an engagement with the institutional history of literary studies in South Africa and elsewhere. Several interrelated questions are woven through the chapters: recovering ‘the literary’; literary studies ‘after theory’; religion and spirituality; ‘other’ modes of writing and reading; re-readings; South African literary history post-apartheid; canonicity; national/transnational identity; and, multilingualism and translation.

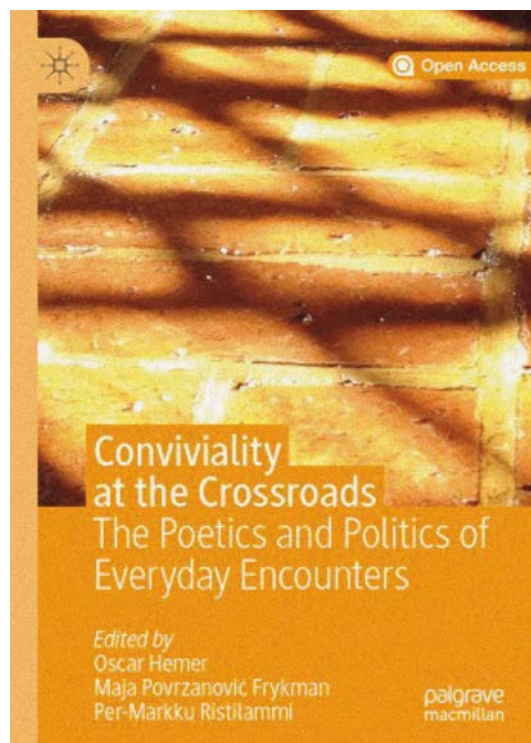
As well as being a book about the changing field of South African literature, *Finding My Way* is also a series of attempts to find more creative, engaging, and intriguing modes of writing about literature and the humanities more generally. It is a book that seeks to recover a sense of the imaginative, the literary, and the affective, not only as things to value in the literary texts we read, but also as ways of understanding and reading texts, and ways of writing criticism – of registering how books make us feel, as well as how they make us think.



Nina Jablonski (Ed.). *Persistence of Race*. African Sun Media.

<https://doi.org/10.18820/9781928480457>

This is the third and final group of essays emerging from the discussions of the *Effects of Race Project* at STIAS that occurred in 2016 and 2017. The authors consider the biological and social understandings of race, and how new information from both the biological and social sciences is changing our perspective on the nature of the human condition, including the association of biological and social phenomena with ‘race’. They also look at global events or movements which influence these processes in South Africa and the costs of a racialised world order to humans and humanity. Phenomena are examined through the lenses of many disciplines: sociology, history, geography, anthropology and writing.





Andrew Macnab, Abdallah Daar & Christoff Pauw (Eds.). *Health in Transition: Translating developmental origins of health and disease science to improve future health in Africa*. African Sun Media.

<https://doi.org/10.18820/9781928357759>

The *Health in Transition* theme at STIAS includes a programme to address the epidemic rise in the incidence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as Type-2 diabetes, hypertension, obesity, coronary heart disease and stroke in Africa. The aim is to advance awareness, research capacity and knowledge translation of science related to the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD) as a means of preventing NCDs in future generations. Application of DOHaD science is a promising avenue for prevention, as this field is identifying how health and nutrition from conception through the first 1000 days of life can dramatically impact a developing individual's future life course, and specifically predicate whether or not they are programmed in infancy to develop NCDs in later

life. Prevention of NCDs is an essential strategy as, if unchecked, the burden of caring for a growing and ageing population with these diseases threatens to consume entire health budgets, as well as negatively impact the quality of life of millions. Africa in particular needs specific, focused endeavours to realise the maximal preventive potential of DOHaD science, and a means of generating governmental and public awareness about the links between health in infancy and disease in adult life. This volume summarises the expertise and experience of a leading group of international scientists led by Abdallah Daar brought together at STIAS as part of the *Health in Transition* programme.

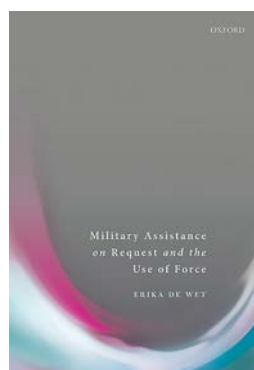


Klaus Bachmann. *Politik in Polen*. Verlag W. Kohlhammer.

www.kohlhammer.de/wms/instances/KOB/appDE/Politik-in-Polen-978-3-17-034550-8

Poland is currently in a period of political upheaval. This applies to the rule of law and liberalism as well as membership in the EU. Political observers speak of a political turning point

comparable to that of 1989. The book presents the milestones in the emergence and transformation of the political system in Poland and then covers the most important political fields: from social policy to European integration to German-Polish relations. In so doing, Bachmann succeeds in explaining current Polish politics in a plausible and clear manner in relation to its history. Readers gain a clear profile so as to understand how Poland turned from a European model country into a problem case for the EU.



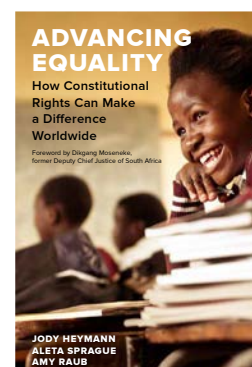
Erika de Wet. *Military Assistance on Request and the Use of Force*. Oxford University Press.

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/military-assistance-on-request-and-the-use-of-force-9780198784401>

In countries such as Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, and Yemen, internationally recognised governments embroiled in protracted armed conflicts, and with very little control over their territory, have requested direct military assistance from other states. These requests are often accepted by the other states, despite

the circumvention of the United Nations Security Council and extensive violation of international humanitarian law and human rights.

In this book, Erika de Wet examines the authority entitled to extend a request for (or consent to) direct military assistance, as well as the type of situations during which such assistance may be requested, notably whether it may be requested during a civil war. Ultimately, De Wet addresses the question of if and to what extent the proliferation of military assistance on the request of a recognised government is changing the rules in international law applying to the use of force.



Jody Heymann, Aleta Sprague and Amy Raub. *Advancing Equality: How Constitutional Rights Can Make a Difference Worldwide*. University of California Press.
<https://doi.org/10.1525/luminos.81>

In a world where attacks on the basic human rights and equal worth of all people are escalating, *Advancing Equality* reminds us of the critical role of constitutions in protecting equal rights. Analysing

the constitutions of all 193 United Nations countries, this book traces 50 years of change in constitution drafting and examines how stronger protections against discrimination, alongside core social and economic rights, can transform lives. Looking across gender, race and ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity, disability, social class, and migration status, the authors reveal whose rights are increasingly guaranteed in constitutions, identify which nations and groups lag behind, and share inspiring stories of activism and powerful court cases from around the globe. *Advancing Equality* serves as a comprehensive call to action for anyone who cares about their country's future.



Ubah Cristina Ali Farah. *Un sambouk traverse la mer*. Maison des Écrivains Étrangers et des Traducteurs (MEET)

www.meetingsaintnazaire.com/Cristina-Ali-Farah.html

This is a collection of short stories published as a bilingual anthology (the original Italian with translation into French) of works that Ubah Cristina Ali Farah completed at MEET and at STIAS. α

NEWS ABOUT OUR FELLOWS

In memoriam – Prof. Peter Byass

STIAS fellows and staff were deeply saddened to hear of the unexpected and untimely passing of Peter Byass. Byass was based at the Department of Epidemiology and Global Health at Umeå University. Byass was a world-renowned and highly respected epidemiologist and prolific researcher who specialised in measuring and evaluating population health in Africa and Asia, and was especially passionate about promoting and enhancing health research in low- and middle-income countries. He was an Honorary Professor at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland and at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa.

Below: Peter Byass

Below right: Carlos Ibáñez



Byass was a fellow from 2016 and was a member of the STIAS Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD) Research Group. This multidisciplinary group was formed in 2016 as part of the STIAS strategic research theme *Health in Transition*. Since then the core group has met annually and has organised seminars, conferences and summer schools, participated in the establishment of the African Chapter of the DOHaD society and produced many publications.

The DOHaD group dedicated the volume *Health in Transition: Translating developmental origins of health and disease science to improve future health in Africa* in the STIAS series to Byass.

His quiet but strong presence will be sorely missed at STIAS and condolences are extended to his wife, Margaret, and family.

Read more about Byass's work at STIAS at: <https://stias.ac.za/fellows/peter-byass>

Ibáñez becomes Permanent Visiting Fellow

Carlos Ibáñez, who has been a STIAS fellow since 2015, accepted an invitation to become a STIAS Permanent Visiting Fellow in 2020. The invitation letter noted that "The Invitation is in recognition of your current work in the area of neurobiology, as well as your collaborations with (South) African scholars in this field and the ambassadorial role you have played for STIAS, especially since 2015, in your various work contexts in the areas of biology and science in general".

Read more about Ibáñez in our interview in this issue and about his work at STIAS at <https://stias.ac.za/fellows/carlos-ibanez>

Ibáñez's latest publication which looks at how humans and other mammals adapt to nutritional stress such as fasting and exposure to cold temperatures has recently been published in eLife. The paper 'Control of brown adipose tissue adaptation to nutrient stress by the activin receptor ALK7' can be freely accessed online at <https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.54721/>.





Above left: Carola Lentz



Above right: Tukumbi
Lumumba-Kasongo

Lentz becomes President of the Goethe Institute

Fellow Carola Lentz assumed the Presidency of the Goethe Institute in November 2020. She has been a STIAS fellow since 2019.

Goethe is a cultural institute and is active worldwide. The Institute promotes the study of German abroad and encourages international cultural exchange via a network of centres, cultural societies, reading rooms and exam and language learning centres. The Institute provides information about German cultural, social and political life, and aims to encourage intercultural dialogue and enable cultural involvement via partnerships with leading institutions and individuals in over 90 countries.

Read more about Lentz's work at STIAS at <https://stias.ac.za/fellows/carola-lentz>

Lumumba-Kasongo's work to be published by Brill

STIAS fellow Tukumbi Lumumba-Kasongo's STIAS research project entitled: *Democratic Governance, Corruption, and Corruption Control Mechanisms in Africa: A Comparative Study* has been accepted as a book manuscript for publication in the Critical Science Series by Brill in The Netherlands.

Founded in 1683, Brill is a publishing house with a long history and strong international focus. Publications focus on the Humanities and Social Sciences, International Law and selected areas in the Sciences.

Brill is also celebrating 20 years of uninterrupted publication of the African and Asian Studies journal of which Lumumba-Kasongo is Editor-in-Chief by making available a free-access collection of articles at: <https://www2.brill.com/aas> available until 31 December 2021.

Read more about Lumumba-Kasongo's work at STIAS at: <https://stias.ac.za/fellows/tukumbi-lumumba-kasongo> α



ISO LOMSO FELLOWS MAKING NEWS

Associate professorship for Aretha Phiri

STIAS Iso Lomso fellow Aretha Phiri of the Department of Literary Studies in English at Rhodes University has recently been promoted to Associate Professor in the department.

Her work has also been recognised with a Y-1 rating from the National Research Foundation in South Africa.

Phiri was part of the first cohort of Iso Lomso fellows and was in residence at STIAS in 2017 and 2019. As part of her fellowship she spent time at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina in 2018.

Read more about Phiri's work at STIAS at <https://stias.ac.za/fellows/aretha-phiri>

Focusing on the future - Debra Shepherd

Debra Shepherd of the Department of Economics at Stellenbosch University and member of the second Iso Lomso fellowship cohort has been selected as one of five Stellenbosch University nominees for the National Research Foundation's Future Professors Programme that aims to prepare promising early career academics to become a new cohort of South African professors across disciplines.

Shepherd was in residence at STIAS in 2018 and 2019, and received an invitation to join the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard in 2020. Due to the coronavirus pandemic she eventually took up the Radcliffe residency virtually from STIAS.

She is currently on sabbatical to focus on completing her research outputs from the Iso Lomso and Radcliffe fellowships and hopes to spend some of that time in The Netherlands, for which she has received an HB & MJ Thom Study Leave grant.

Read more about Shepherd's work at STIAS at <https://stias.ac.za/fellows/debra-lynn-shepherd>

New ventures for Uchenna Okeja

Uchenna Okeja is now a professor in the Department of Philosophy at Rhodes University as well as a research associate at Nelson Mandela University.

Okeja is also the director of the Emengini Institute for Comparative Global Studies based in Worcester, Massachusetts, USA. The Institute is a centre for the research and global dialogue of cultures. It fosters the dialogue of cultures of knowledge through collaborative exploration and engagement of scholars drawn from diverse disciplines and backgrounds. For more see: www.emengini.org

Okeja was a member of the first cohort of Iso Lomso fellows and was in residence at STIAS in 2017 and 2019. Read more about his work at STIAS at <https://stias.ac.za/fellows/uchenna-okeja>

Top left: Aretha Phiri

Centre: Debra Shepherd

Right: Uchenna Okeja

‘Totsiens’ to a STIAS legend

2020 ended on a sad but also happy note as we said ‘Totsiens’ to STIAS legend Maria Mouton who left to start a much-deserved retirement after 21 years at the helm of the director’s office.



Maria was part of STIAS from its humble beginnings in 1999 when she and founding director, Bernard Lategan, moved into a house in Crozier Street “a house with two rooms and a kitchen – nothing else”. She served as Coordinator of general logistics and PA to the STIAS Director.

“Right from the beginning Maria intuitively understood what we were trying to do,” said Lategan, speaking at the farewell function held for Maria in December 2020. “Creating an atmosphere of solitude, concentration, support and caring. You were instrumental in maintaining that right through your years at STIAS – a contribution that is acknowledged in almost every exit report from fellows.”

He laughingly pointed out that Maria ‘survived’ four rectors and three directors as well as some “prima donnas who found it difficult to become ordinary people, to lose their titles, but slowly discovered what a community of scholars could be if we share and share alike”.

“You were and still are totally unflappable. No matter the crisis, you remained calm and regal like a swan and found a solution with kindness and sympathy. The contribution of people like you is what makes STIAS such a special place.”

“I hope now that you will have time to spend on yourself, your family and your loved ones, and will have the time to do the things you always wanted to do.”


Maria is married to Johann Mouton, Director of the Centre for Research on Science and Technology and professor in the Department of Sociology at Stellenbosch University. They have three daughters – twins, Charline and Sanet, and Marike.

One of Maria’s huge passions was the magnificent STIAS garden which she nurtured with magical green fingers. Recognition for this was given when the garden was part of the Stellenbosch *Woordfees* in 2020 which opened the property to the public for the first time just before the COVID-19 lockdown.

Ensuring that the garden was left in the right hands – now those of René Slee – was one of Maria’s major concerns before her retirement. Maria’s colleagues at STIAS dearly hope that that passion will see Maria regularly walking her dogs in the grounds in the years to come and ensuring they are kept up to her meticulous standards.

As Prof. Lategan said so succinctly: “Please come and visit us, Maria, don’t forget us, help us to keep the amazing spirit of STIAS going.” **α**






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