

Recent Books from Africa – April 2017

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Anthropology

Relationality and Resilience in a Not So Relational World? Knowledge, Chivanhu and (De-) Coloniality in 21st Century Conflict-Torn Zimbabwe / Artwell Nhemachena

Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2017

viii, 358p.

Includes Bibliography

9956764299 ; 9789956764297

\$ 40.00 / PB

574gm.

This book critically examines the relevance of the increasingly popular theories on relationality by interfacing those theories with the African [Shona] modes of engagement known as chivanhu [often erroneously narrowly translated as tradition]. In other words, the book takes seriously concerns by African scholars that much of the theories that have been applied in Africa do not speak to relevance and faithfulness to the continent. Situated in a recent Zimbabwean context marked by multiple crises producing multiple forms of violence and want, the book examines the relevance of relational ontologies and epistemologies to the everyday life modes of engagements by villagers in a selected district.

The book unflinchingly surfaces the strengths and weaknesses of popular theories while at the same time underlining the exigencies of theorising from Africa using African data as the millstones. By meticulously and painstakingly unpacking pertinent issues, the book provides unparalleled intellectual grit for the contemporary and increasingly popular discourses on (de-)coloniality and resilience in relation to the African peoples and their [often deliberately contested] environments, past, present and future. In other words, the book loudly sounds the bells for the battles to decolonise and transform Africa on Africa's own terms. This

is a book that would be extremely useful to scholars, activists, theorists, policy makers and implementers as well as researchers interested not only in Africa's future trajectory but also in the simultaneities of temporalities and worlds that were sadly overshadowed by colonial epistemologies and ontologies for the past centuries.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=241261>

Drinking from the Cosmic Gourd : How Amos Tutuola Can Change Our Minds / Francis B. Nyamnjoh

Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2017

xiv, 314p.

9956764655 ; 9789956764655

\$ 35.00 / PB

518gm.

This book questions colonial and apartheid ideologies on being human and being African, ideologies that continue to shape how research is conceptualised, taught and practiced in universities across Africa. Africans immersed in popular traditions of meaning-making are denied the right, by those who police the borders of knowledge, to think and represent their realities in accordance with the civilisations and universes they know best. Often, the ways of life they cherish are labelled and dismissed too eagerly as traditional knowledge by some of the very African intellectual elite they look to for protection. The book makes a case for sidestepped traditions of knowledge. It draws attention to Africa's possibilities, prospects and emergent capacities for being and becoming in tune with its creativity and imagination. It speaks to the nimble-footed flexible-minded "frontier African" at the crossroads and junctions of encounters, facilitating creative conversations and challenging regressive logics of exclusionary identities. The book uses Amos Tutuola's stories to question dualistic assumptions about reality and scholarship, and to call for conviviality, interconnections and interdependence between competing knowledge traditions in Africa.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=241262>

African Virtues in the Pursuit of Conviviality : Exploring Local Solutions in Light of Global Prescriptions / (Eds) Yntiso Gebre, Itaru Ohta & Motoji Matsuda
Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2017
xvi, 452p.
Includes Index
African Potentials
9956764175 ; 9789956764174
\$ 42.00 / PB
694gm.

African societies have rich histories, cultural heritages, knowledge systems, philosophies, and institutions that they have shaped and reshaped through history. However, the continent has been repeatedly portrayed negatively as plagued by multitudinous troubles: famine, conflict, coup, massacres, corruption, disease, illiteracy, refugees, failed state, etc. Even worse, Africans are often viewed as incapable of addressing their problems on their own. Based on such erroneous perspectives and paternalism, exogenous solutions are prescribed, out of context, for African problems. This book sheds light on the positive aspects of African reality under the key concept of 'African potentials'. It is the product of sustained consultation over a five-year period between seasoned African and Japanese anthropologists, sociologists and scholars in other areas of African studies.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=241263>

Education

North-South Knowledge Networks : Towards equitable collaboration between academics, donors and universities / (Eds) Tor Halvorsen & Jorun Nossun
Cape Town, South Africa/Bergen, Norway: African Minds & UIB Global, 2016
xvi, 312p.
Includes Index
9781928331308
\$ 36.00 / PB
576gm.

Since the 1990s, internationalisation has become key for institutions wishing to secure funding for higher education and research. For the academic community, this strategic shift has had many consequences. Priorities have changed and been influenced by new ways of thinking

about universities, and of measuring their impact in relation to each other and to their social goals. Debates are ongoing and hotly contested. In this collection, a mix of renowned academics and newer voices reflect on some of the realities of international research partnerships. They both question and highlight the agency of academics, donors and research institutions in the geopolitics of knowledge and power. The contributors offer fresh insights on institutional transformation, the setting of research agendas, and access to research funding, while highlighting the dilemmas researchers face when their institutions are vulnerable to state and donor influence. Offering a range of perspectives on why academics should collaborate and what for, this book will be useful to anyone interested in how scholars are adapting to the realities of international networking and how research institutions are finding innovative ways to make North-South partnerships and collaborations increasingly fair, sustainable and mutually beneficial.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=241264>

History

Zimbabwe Township Music / Joyce Jenje-Makwenda (Ed) Gibso M
Mandishona

Harare, Zimbabwe: Storytime Promotions, 2005

204p.

9780797427914

\$ 44.00 / PB

658gm.

Zimbabwe Township Music is a celebration of age-old popular music, which was evolved by the early urban settlers as far back as the 1930's. Urban culture in those days was a product of mixed traditional, contemporary and Western influences, which all moulded into the unique township music. It is therefore the musical off-spring and melodic fusion of several tribal and cultural urban settlers in the early Black townships; typified by such variants as kwe la, tsabatsaba, marabi and afro-jazz. Township Music often became a symbol of identity and dissent in the Black townships, which did not go so well with the authorities of the day. As the political situation became tense, the music went under around 1963, when the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland came to an end.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=241265>

Native Estates : Records of Mobility across Colonial Boundaries / Ellen
Ndeshi Namhila
Centre for African Studies Basel – Carl Schlettwein Lecture 10
Basel, Switzerland: Basler Afrika Bibliographien, 2017
48p.
ISSN: 2297-7058 ; 9783905758900
\$ 22.00 / PB
90gm.

In many instances, the colonial state has left a strong imprint on the postcolonial archive. In the National Archives of Namibia (NAN), for instance, it is difficult to locate pre-independence person-related records of the black majority, while the same type of records of their light-skinned compatriots are easily accessible. This lecture discusses a substantial corpus of about 11 000 so-called “Native Estates” files which previously were not accessible through the existing finding aids. What is the research potential of these formerly neglected and untouched records in particular regarding the social history of contract labour in Namibia and of African migrants on a wider scale? Furthermore, a substantial amount of estate files of migrants from other African countries were discovered – a feature of Namibian history that has rarely been researched. The sometimes very detailed files reveal information on the migrants’ origin, their integration in Namibian society and expatriate networks in the country. They also reveal that not only Angolans and West Africans but also a substantial number of migrants from other Southern African colonies found employment opportunities in Namibia during the colonial era. The “Native Estate” records thus have an important research potential with regard to the entire Southern African region, which was heavily reliant on migrant labour both on the demand and on the supply side.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=241266>

Literature

Bomblast or Breakfast? : Poems / J.O.J. Nwachukwu-Agbada
New York, USA: African Heritage Press, 2017
126p.
9781940729237
\$ 19.00 / PB
188gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=241267>

African Girl : The Awakening / Kezia Dzifa Awadzi
Accra, Ghana: Afram Publications (Ghana) Limited, 2016
368p.
9789964705701
\$ 20.00 / PB
428gm.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=241268>

Thungachi : Poems / Francine Simon (Ed) Nick Mulgrew
Cape Town, South Africa: uHlanga, 2017
66p.
9780620735070
\$ 16.00 / PB
92gm.

With expert, elegant and economical verse, Francine Simon's debut collection blends ancestral Catholic mysticism and ancient folk Hinduism to create new and essential portraits of modern South African-Indian identity and womanhood. Unflinching and meditative, Thungachi tracks the journeys, migrations and maturation of peoples, families and the self, all while deftly innovating with form, language and style – ultimately marking Simon out as one of South Africa's most unexpectedly excellent poetic debutantes
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=241269>

Barbed Forest / Bill F. Ndi
Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2017
vi, 114p.
9956764779 ; 9789956764778
\$ 16.00 / PB
148gm.

Barbed Forest draws from the socio-political character of society—specific societies sometimes. It navigates its way from the political to the familial and ultimately personal concerns of humankind before projecting the positive “humanist vision” of which the poet cum freedom songster dreams.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=241270>

Magnum Opus : A Tribute to Ntarikon / Peter W. Vakunta
Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2017
x, 116p.
9956764043 ; 9789956764044
\$ 16.00 / PB
152gm.

“Magnus Opus: A Tribute to Ntarikon is a scathing indictment of the political status quo in the Republic of Cameroon where the ruling party, the Cameroon People’s Democratic Movement (CPDM), rides roughshod over the populace. In this long poem, Vakunta cries out poignantly against social dystopia and the deplorable moments lived by members of the Social Democratic Front (SDF) at Ntarikon Park on May 26, 1990. One cannot read this poem without feeling the despair and helplessness experienced by members of this political party as they were maimed, killed and reminded that the future holds no good for them. The prosody and semantics of the poem amplify the ontological angst experienced by Cameroonians on a daily basis.”

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=241271>

Sociology

Iron Sharpens Iron : Social Interactions at China Shops in Botswana /
Yanyin Zi
Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2017
xviii, 274p.
Includes Index
African Potentials
9956764418 ; 9789956764419
\$ 35.00 / PB
442gm.

For centuries the continent of Africa has been characterised by negative images such as poverty, disease and conflicts. Today, however, the People’s Republic of China’s growing presence in Africa, particularly with regards to China–Africa business relations, brings new vitality to the continent. This new movement is not a windfall but rather obtained through the hard work of both African and Chinese people at various levels. Narrating on daily experiences of Chinese merchants and their vivid interactions with people in Botswana, this book decodes the frustrating while rewarding process through which China–Africa relations have been maturing on the grass-roots level. This book not only presents insights and suggestions to both Botswana and Chinese policy

makers interested in understanding their constituents' everyday interactions with each other, but also offers readers interested more broadly in contemporary Chinese experiences in Africa a fascinating glimpse into these cross-cultural encounters. This book is an original and pioneering study of issues that resonate in almost every African country which has responded to a growing Chinese presence. It argues that as the process of globalisation permeates the everyday lives of people, each individual is empowered to be an 'ambassador' in shaping international relations.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=241272>

Education for Community Health : Building a Community of Learning for the 21st Century / Francis Sarr

The Gambia: CENMEDRA-the Centre for Media and Development Research in Africa, 2017

234p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9789983952506

\$ 32.00 / PB

382gm.

Education for Community Health Building a Community of Learning for the 21st Century offers a thorough and critical account of the theories and concepts of community health education and maps out a clear way forward for community health education in an increasingly networked era. It examines: Basic concepts in education for community health that faculty, students and stakeholders in community health must know and understand. This spans from basic definitions and explanations of core concepts, theories underpinning education for community health, curriculum models, learning theories that explain behaviour, relationship between ICT and learning, types of learning along with their strengths and weaknesses, leadership and management theories that enhance learning at the community level and building a community of learning network which encompasses learning space design, technology, community and information exchange, pedagogical, curricular, and co-curricular design and six good practices for designing interventions. In-depth understanding of key concepts such as learning space design, ICT, pedagogy and curriculum design and types of learning. It also discusses professional development and development of teaching and learning centres in community health. The implications of these concepts for education for community health in the developing world.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=241273>

Religion, Occult and Youth Conflict in the Niger Delta of Nigeria / Edlyne
E. Anugwom
Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2017
204p.
995676499X ; 9789956764990
\$ 30.00 / PB
284gm.

The book examines the nexus between youth conflict and the occult drawing its insights from the oil-rich Niger Delta of Nigeria. It sees the occult represented by the Egbesu deity in this conflict as a form of religious belief imbued in this case with the powers of good. Thus, the religious occult is regenerated and re-energised as an idiom of justice and fairness within the Nigerian state by militant youth fighting the forces of the Nigerian state. Ingeniously, the young men simply dug into the cultural repertoire of the people for a hitherto popular expression of justice and perceived source of potency which they felt would not only provide spiritual protection but also pander to the popular imagination of justice. Even against the background prevalent Christianity, the Egbesu does not generate tension in beliefs but responds to the critical exigency of the immediate socio-political milieu of the people.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=241274>
