

Recent Books from South Africa – July 2021

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History

Sowing in Tears : A Documentary History of the Church
Struggle Against Apartheid 1960-1990 / M. John Lamola (Ed)
Tumelo Motaung
Grant Park, Johannesburg: African Perspectives Publishing,
2021
402p. ; 210x148mm.
9781990931246
\$ 45.00 / PB
545gm.

A historicist interpretation of how the Christian religion, whose theology had notoriously been used to foster coloniality and explicitly nurture apartheid philosophy, had transformed itself into an intellectual force and an organisational bulwark of the struggle for freedom in South Africa. This is presented through documents and statements of the ecumenical movement which attest to the development of successive theological positions that were being arraigned against the apartheid regime. The reflection covers the period from the year 1960, which signaled the beginning of an identifiable Christian tradition of protest against political oppression and repression in South Africa, that is, from the Cottesloe Conference following the Sharpeville Massacre, to the 'Standing for the Truth Campaign' on the eve of FW De klerk's February 2 1990 Speech in Parliament. The gallant resistance

of the people and the churches of South Africa is presented here as both a living record of the tumultuous past, and an inspiration for new local and global struggles.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774697>

Law

The Selfless Constitution : Experimentalism and Flourishing as Foundation of South Africa's Basic Law / Stu Woolman

Makhanda: NISC (Pty) Ltd, 2021

xviii, 566p. ; 244x170mm.

Includes Bibliography

9781920033774

\$ 60.00 / PB

1030gm.

Do you possess 'freedom'-the will to do as you choose-as an individual, as a participant in social affairs or as a citizen in the political realm? Well, no. Not really. At least not as most of us understand a term loaded down with metaphysical baggage. Don't worry. You've got something better: a neurological system capable of carrying out the most complex analytical and computational tasks; membership in innumerable communities that provide you with huge stores of knowledge and wisdom; and a politico-constitutional order that ought to provide the material and the immaterial conditions that will enable you to pursue a life worth valuing. Drop the simplistic folk-psychology of unfettered freedom, whilst holding on to intentionality, and you might be inclined to adopt a set of social practices and political arrangements that enhance the chances that you and your compatriots will flourish. As many recent studies of consciousness reveal our neurological systems are complex feedback mechanisms designed to create myriad for trial and error and (if you survive) the production of new stores of knowledge. Individuals-comprised of numerous radically heterogeneous, naturally and socially determined selves-are always

experimenting, attempting to divine through reflection and action, what 'works' best: even when 'best' means fully embracing who we already are. Choice architects, those persons charged with constructing the environments within which we operate daily, should (if responsible) regularly run experiments that attempt to eliminate biases, and ultimately, deliver norms that nudge us away from negative defaults toward more optimal ends. A constitutional democracy, made up of millions of radically heterogeneous, densely populated individuals, constantly strives to determine what works best for most of its many constituents.

Because South Africa's Constitution states (at an extremely high level of generality) only some of the norms that govern our lives, it remains for citizens, representatives and judges to create doctrines and institutions that serve its capaciously framed ends best. After canvassing the relevant literature in neuroscience, empirical philosophy, behavioural psychology, social capital theory, development economics, and emergent experimental governance, this work suggests that manifold experiments in living that fall within the accepted parameters of our shared constitutional norms are likely, over time, to produce more optimal ways of being that can be replicated by other members of our polity.

Our reflexive stance toward best practices—a linchpin of this book's take on experimental governance—when inextricably linked to a commitment to flourishing and to the expansion of individual capabilities, should cause us to alter the content of the fundamental norms that shape our lives and bind us to one another. A political order founded upon experimental constitutionalism and flourishing promises an egalitarian pluralist reformation of South African society. The book spins out its novel thesis against the concrete backdrop of political arrangements and judicial doctrines that have emerged during the first 20 years of our truly vibrant constitutional democracy. Its trenchant analysis of political institutions and

constitutional case law shows us how far we have come, and how far we still have to go.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774699>

Literature

Women Out of Water : Short Stories / Sally Cranswick (Ed)

Karen Jennings

Cape Town: Modjaji Books, 2021

174p.

9781928433255

\$ 17.00 / PB

230gm.

Eighty-five-year-old Alma tracks a stallion through the wild bush. A young woman leaves her corporate job to start a wine farm as her marriage stales. A mother leaves her war-torn home to seek safety for herself and her daughter and a girl begs for survival.

In a series of ten mesmerising stories, Cranswick pulls aside the covers to let us in on the lives and inner lives of women thrown out of their comfort zone. With chilling clarity and a haunting lyricism, Cranswick slows down time, zooms in close, and refuses to look away.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774700>

Politics

Dynamising Liberation Movements in Southern Africa : Quo

Vadis? / (Eds) Professor Kgothatso Shai & Professor

Siphamandla Zondi

Randburg: Ziabile Publisher, 2020

vi, 150p.

9780620851213

\$ 35.00 / PB

320gm.

The primary aim of this interdisciplinary book is to take stock of the state of liberation movements in Southern Africa. This aim is informed by the fact that the study of the reconciliation of the past and present politics of liberation movements can never be complete without a rigorous and systematic focus on Southern Africa and through the South[ern] angled lens. The aim of this book will be achieved by delving into the following objectives:

- Analyse the transition of liberation movements into governing parties
- Identify and tease out the common challenges and key issues plaguing liberation movements' incumbency
- Forecast the future of liberation solidarity in Southern Africa
- Showcase refreshing perspectives on the journey travelled thus far by the liberation movements
- Compare and contrast the performance of liberation movements led governments in Southern Africa
- Describe the patterns and trends of practice by Southern Africa's liberation movements.

Written from a South[ern] angled lens by contributors belonging to different generations of the witnesses to the dynamisation of the liberation movements in Southern Africa and most of the analysis and documentation represented by this book about African liberation movements was done by Africans and for Africans.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774701>

Deadly Denial : Xenophobia Governance and the Global Compact for Migration in South Africa / Jonathan Crush
SAMP Migration Policy Series No. 82
South Africa: Southern African Migration Programme, 2020
36p.
9781920596460
\$ 30.00 / PB
90gm.

The UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration commits signatories "to eliminate all forms of discrimination, condemn and counter expressions, acts and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, violence, xenophobia and related intolerance against all migrants in conformity with international human rights law." This commitment puts the onus on signatory governments, including South Africa, to deal with the threat that increasingly accompanies global mobility: rising xenophobia in countries of migrant destination. The global migration and development agenda puts great emphasis on the positive development impacts of migration. This report argues that, in South Africa, two decades of xenophobia governance by denial and displacement has in fact intensified xenophobia on the ground as there is no countervailing discourse about the benefits of migration. The police and justice system seem generally unable or unwilling to bring perpetrators of xenophobic violence to book and xenophobic sentiment is licensed by hostile policies towards refugee protection and migrants in the informal sector. With official policies of xenophobia denialism and blaming in place, there seems little hope that South Africa will address the core commitments of the Global Compact on Migration and, in this environment, the consequences for migrants will continue to be extremely deleterious and deadly.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774702>
