

Authors

Eric AWICH OCHEN completed his doctoral studies at the Centre for Applied Childhood Studies in the School of Human and Health Sciences, University of Huddersfield, UK. He has also completed post-doctoral trainings at the Centre of African Studies, University of Cambridge and the John and Elnora Ferguson Centre for African Studies, at the University of Bradford. Eric currently works as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Social Work and Social Administration, within the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Makerere University, Uganda. In 2015 and 2019, he was visiting Senior Lecturer at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. His publication spans socio-political and social development issues. He is currently working as a Co-Investigator and Country Director for a four-year gender based violence reduction project in Uganda, funded by the United Kingdom Research and Innovation Funds (www.noneinthree.org). Eric Awich Ochen is also the Co-Principal Investigator and Southern Partners Coordinator on a six year NORHED II project (2021-2026) aimed at transforming the face of Social Work Education in the Eastern Africa region bringing in four countries as core partners: Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania and Norway.

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Heike BECKER is a sociocultural anthropologist and author. She is Chair of the Anthropology Department of the University of the Western Cape in South Africa, where she teaches courses about anthropological theory, visual culture, popular culture, and the politics of difference. Her research interests have focused on the politics of memory, popular and visual culture, and social movements of resistance in southern Africa (South Africa and Namibia). She currently also works on decolonizing the public space, memory activism and anti-racist politics in Germany and the United Kingdom. She has engaged with sound archives and oral poetry in northern Namibia in “‘Let me come to tell you’. Loide Shikongo, the King, and poetic license in colonial Ovamboland”. (History & Anthropology). Heike Becker has also published widely on memory, activism, monuments and public art in Namibia and South Africa, and together with Carola Lentz edited a special issue on “The politics and aesthetics of commemoration: National days in southern Africa” (Anthropology Southern Africa).

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Irene BRUNOTTI is Lecturer for Swahili Language and Swahili Studies (since 2011) at the Institute of African Studies at the University of Leipzig. With a background on literature and popular culture, she has recently researched and published on digital publics; she has worked on a project on Swahili poetry and knowledge production, and she is currently working on a project within urban studies with a focus on Zanzibar City. In understanding the urban and its practices, she is concerned with the performativity of dreams and desires, with the power of affect and memory, and mostly with the agency of the matter out of which they are built. She is very much interested in translations of materialities as well.

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Michaela FRAUWALLNER is currently a Master Student at the Department of African Studies, University of Vienna, where she is completing a thesis on “Multimodal Approaches to African History: Graphic Histories, Graphic Novels, and Comics from and about Africa.” She is particularly interested in African history, the history of ideas and comic studies.

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Tom Michael MBOYA is an Associate Professor of African Literary and Popular Culture Studies in the School of Arts and Social Sciences of Moi University, Kenya. He is a poet and an award-winning short story writer who has published extensively in the Kenyan mass media. As an academic, Mboya mainly researches the popular culture of the Luo of East Africa, focusing on popular music, which he uses as a lens through which to perceive the complex social and political movements in the east African region from below. His most recent book is the monograph *Popular Music, Ethnicity and Politics in the Kenya of the 1990s: Okatch Biggy Live! at "The Junction"* (Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2019).

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Henning MELBER came to Namibia as a son of immigrants in 1967, where he joined SWAPO in 1974. He studied at the Freie Universität Berlin and obtained a PhD in Political Sciences (1980) and Sociology (Habilitation in Development Studies 1992) at the University of Bremen. He was Director of The Namibian Economic Policy Research Unit (NEPRU) in Windhoek (1992-2000), Research Director of the Nordic Africa Institute (2000-2006) and Director of the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation (2006-2012), both in Uppsala/Sweden. As Associate and Director emeritus/Senior Advisor respectively he remains affiliated to both institutions. He is Extraordinary Professor at the Department of Political Sciences/University of Pretoria (since 2012) and at the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies/University of the Free State in Bloemfontein (since 2013), Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Commonwealth Studies at the University of London (since 2015), and since 2017 President of The European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI). In 2018 he was ranked a B2 scholar ("considerable international recognition for the high quality and impact of his/her recent research outputs") by the South African National Research Foundation (NRF).

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Denis MUHANGI is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Social Work and Social Administration at Makerere University. He has researched in the areas of social protection, child welfare, governance, sexual and reproductive health, and preventive health, with specific focus on malaria and HIV. He also has particular interest in decentralized governance, and the role of non-state actors in development processes. Most of his research work has focused on issues affecting vulnerable populations including women, children, and persons with disability. Denis Muhangi is also actively engaged in collaborative work with government

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Betty J. OKOT was a Co-Investigator on the Elrha-2HC funded REFLECT project on Refugee Experiences and Responses to Covid-19 at Makerere University (Department of Social Works and Social Administration). She has wide experience in research and teaching in Higher Education - especially teacher education and training. She has interdisciplinary research interests with a strong bias in these fields: the study of peoples and cultures; sociology of land; legal anthropology; African studies – especially literature, history and traditions; indigenous knowledge; migration, diasporas and refugees; international development and sustainability; conflict and peacebuilding; gender, and culture and violence. She continues to actively work, write and publish on these topics. She is a Thematic Research fellow, exploring the influences of the past on contemporary understanding of customary laws in post-conflict East African contexts such as Northern Uganda, supported by the British Institute in East Africa (BIEA).

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Gloria K. SERUWAGI is faculty at Makerere University in the Department of Social Work and Social Administration. Her training is in socio-behavioural sciences and public health. She has several years of experience in research, university teaching, policy and programming. Her professional interests include policy and systems research, implementation research and realist evaluation, forced migration, Community Engagement and Involvement (CEI). Passionate about multidisciplinary approaches, equity and social justice, Gloria currently leads and supports several initiatives seeking to improve outcomes for disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalised (DVM) populations. Most of her work is in the social sector (health, education, livelihoods) – in communities with women, children, youth and forced migrants. System strengthening, multi-level engagement, policy/programme support and advocacy are embedded in her work.

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