



NAMES SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2017

Editorial note

Dear All

Once again we welcome you to our NSSA newsletter for the year 2017. It is our hope that you had a good year and enjoyed everything, in particular your onomastics endeavours. We declare 2017 a special year for us all, for the reason that our journal (*Nomina Africana*) is now published by the South African publisher NISC, under the stable of the prestigious commercial publisher Taylor and Francis. While 2017 was not an NSSA conference year, there were at least two equally important onomastics conferences in the year. These are the International Council of Onomastic Sciences' (ICOS) 26th International conference held in Debrecen, Hungary from 27 August to 1 September and the 4th International Symposium on Place Names

(ISPN) held in Windhoek at the University of Namibia from 18 to 20 September. Next year, we are scheduled to have our 20th biennial international conference. To ensure that this will happen, already, Dr. Arnold Mushwana and team at the University of Venda (UNIVEN), in South Africa's Limpopo province are busy preparing for the event. We look forward to meeting you all there. For more information on these and other issues important to our Society, we invite you to relax and enjoy this year's edition of the newsletter. It is our hope that you will enjoy it, as you have done before. Please feel free to contact the editors with news for the next issue.

With kind regards,

Sambulo Ndlovu and Tendai Mangena

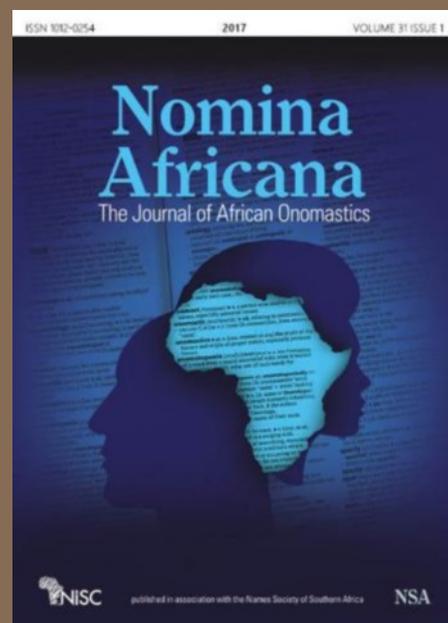
Nomina Africana's new look

NISC now publishes the society's journal "*Nomina Africana: A journal of African Onomastics*." On behalf of all members, the Newsletter Editors, would like to thank Adrian Koopman who edited the journal from 2002 to 2016, Maleshoane Rapeane-Mathonsi (the Interim Editor), Nhanhla Mathonsi (the Society's President) and all the Editorial Board members for working so hard and facilitating the change. This new development increases the visibility and accessibility of our work within and beyond the continent. All articles, including those in previous issues will soon be available on open access, and issue 31(1) was published online on 10 December 2017, and Issue 31(2) will come out soon. Keep watching the space!

The images to the right capture a transition we are all proud happened in our lifetime. Please note that the publisher is aware of and promised to sort out as soon as possible the error of "NSA" at the bottom right side of the new *Nomina* cover.



Old cover page



New cover page

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Website:

<http://namesociety.za.org/>



*ISPN 2017
Conference
delegates*

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON PLACE NAMES (ISPN) 18-20 SEPTEMBER 2017

By Chrismi Loth: LothC@ufs.ac.za

The Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment (ULFE) (University of the Free State, South Africa), the Department of Language and Literature Studies (University of Namibia – UNAM), and the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy hosted the Fourth International Symposium on Place Names on the main campus of UNAM in Windhoek on 18-20 September. This symposium forms part of a series of bi-annual symposia organised by the ULFE in order to promote research on place names in Southern Africa amongst local scholars, international researchers and government officials. It is the only event of its kind in our region.

Place names are symbolic markers of cultural identities, power relations and human relationships with the environment. As such, they are also expressions of (shared) cultural and linguistic heritage. This role cannot be understood without thoroughly exploring the origin and meanings of place names and considering their role in society. The vision of the International Symposium on Place Names is to continue promoting the sharing of local as well as international expertise and collaboration on all aspects of place names. Each symposium covers a specific theme within place name studies. This year, the focus was ‘Critical toponymy: Place names in political, historical and commercial landscapes’. The first symposium was held in 2011. The symposium became an international occurrence when the Joint IGU/ICA (International Cartographic Association and International Geographical Union respectively)

Commission on Toponymy came on board in 2015. This symposium, which focused on ‘Place names, diversity and heritage’, was held in Clarens in the Eastern Free State.

The two keynote speakers of this year’s event were Prof Matthias Brenzinger, Director of the Centre for African Language Diversity at the University of Cape Town and General Secretary of the World Congress of African Linguistics (WOCAL), and Prof Peter Raper, former Chairman of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and Extraordinary Professor in Linguistics at the UFS. The delegates mainly hail from the SADC region, but there were participants from overseas as well. Delegates: 31 attendees, 28 presentations (two of them by proxy): Austria: 1; Germany: 1; Italy: 1; Kenya: 1; USA: 1; Namibia: 3; Slovakia: 1; Slovenia: 2; South Africa: 9 and Zimbabwe: 11.

The programme included two book launches – *Of the Same Breath: Indigenous Animal and Place Names (SUNMeDIA)* by Dr Lucie Möller, Research Fellow at the ULFE, and *Onomastics – A Multidisciplinary Field of Study. What’s in a Name?* (Lambert Academic Publishing) by Prof Bertie Neethling, Research Fellow at the University of the Western Cape. Bertie however indicated that he was working on republishing the book with a different publisher. The symposium was concluded by a cultural tour, which included a visit to N/a’an ku sê (San and Wildlife Sanctuary), as well as a tour through Windhoek and its world-renowned township, Katutura.

The symposium organizing committee

*Front (from left to right): Ms Jani de Lange (UFS);
Dr Chrismi Loth (UFS).*

*Back (from left to right): Prof Herman Beyer (UNAM);
Prof Peter Jordan (Joint ICA/IGU Commission);
Prof Peter Raper (keynote speaker, UFS & Joint ICA/IGU
Commission); Prof Cosimo Palagiano (Joint ICA/IGU Commis-
sion); Prof Matthias Brenzinger (keynote speaker, UCT) and
Prof Theodorus du Plessis (UFS).*



PHOTO NARRATIVE OF THE WINDHOEK PLACE NAME SYMPOSIUM



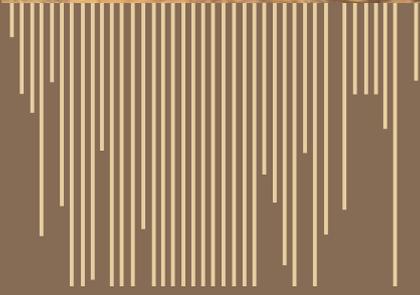
*Prof. Herman Beyer
welcoming delegates to
UNAM*



Conference dinner



Cultural tour



ICOS 2017

NSSA members voted into the executive committee

The International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS), (located in Uppsala, at the Institute for language and folklore (SOFI), is the international organisation for all scholars who have a special interest in the study of names (place-names, personal names, and proper names of all other kinds). The aim of the Council is the advancement, representation and co-ordination of name research on an international level and in an interdisciplinary context. We just want to let you know that some of our NSSA members are also active members of ICOS. What is of particular interest is that in the 2017 version of ICOS, which was attended by Dr Gugu Mazibuko (of University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa), Prof Bertie Neethling (of North-West University, South Africa) and Prof Nobuhle Hlongwa (of University of KwaZulu Natal), two of our colleagues from NSSA were elected into the ICOS Executive Committee. These are Adrian Koopman and Nobuhle Hlongwa.

Prof Adrian Koopman – the new ICOS Vice-President

Adrian Koopman is Emeritus Professor of the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He retired at the end of 2012 after 37 years of teaching Zulu linguistics and literature on the Pietermaritzburg campus of this university. He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by this university in 1995 for a thesis on Zulu language change. His research interests have always been in onomastics, particularly as relating to Zulu names and naming. He has published 62 articles in peerreviewed academic journals or chapters in books, and of these two thirds (41) have been on onomastics. Professor Koopman is a founder member of the Names Society of Southern Africa (NSSA) (since 1980), was Vice-President of the NSSA from 1998 to 2006, and President from 2006 to 2014.



Prof Nobuhle Hlongwa – one of the new ICOS Non-Executive Officers

Professor Nobuhle Hlongwa is the Acting Dean and Head of the School of Arts. She has 19 years of experience in academia. She joined the University of Durban Westville in 1998 as a Lecturer. Both her MA and PhD studies were in Onomastics. She is the former Dean of Teaching and Learning in the College of Humanities (2012-2017). She is a member of the advisory board for the South African Journal of African Languages (SAJAL), Alternation, and Nomina Africana. She has been the editorial secretary of Nomina Africana journal. She is a reviewer for the National Research Foundation (NRF) and reviewer for the following journals: Nomina Africana, Alternation, Language Matters, and the South African Journal of African Languages.





Onomastics and other disciplines

To demonstrate that onomastics as a field is interdisciplinary par excellence, we bring you a story about Sambulo Ndlovu (one of the newsletter editors) who managed to attend two non-onomastics conferences this year and still managed to talk about the import of names. These were the 3rd Zimbabwe Historical Association (ZHA) and the Afrocentricity International symposium.

ZHA is an association of historians from Zimbabwe and it holds annual conferences under different themes. The 3rd edition, which ran under the theme "Histories and legacies of mining and the environment in southern Africa" was held by Great Zimbabwe University at their Hebert Chitepo Law School in Masvingo from the 3rd to the 4th of August 2017. Sambulo Ndlovu, in a paper titled "Onomastic archives of mining migrations in the Silobela area of Zimbabwe" linked toponyms and anthroponyms to the histories of mining migrations in Zimbabwe. Looking at the area of Silobela in the Midlands area of Zimbabwe he

explored how names of places and people can be traces and remnants of mining migrations in the area. He examined some ethnonyms that are alien to the Ndebele language spoken in the area and linked these to mining migrations from within and without Zimbabwe. Ndlovu argued that some of the non-Nguni names in Silobela can be traced back to Zambia, Malawi, and Botswana as African migrant workers crossed colonial borders seeking employment in mines and upon retirement settled in the area.

On the 28th of April 2017 the same onomastician also presented an onomastics framed paper under the theme of Afrocentricity and decoloniality. The title of the presentation was "An Afrocentric appreciation of colonial interracial toponomastic transphonologies in Zimbabwe". The presentation focused on how African toponyms mispronounced by colonisers changed the histories embodied in the indigenous names a process that has

New book

Dr Lucie Möller's book *On the Same Breadth*, that was launched at ISPN 2017 in Windhoek, is now available.

The Book is Available:

Print:

<http://www.africansunmedia.co.za/Sun-e-Shop/tabid/78/ProductId/507/Default.aspx>

PDF:

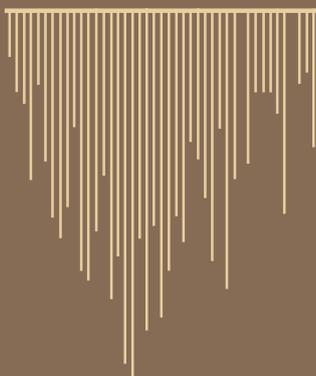
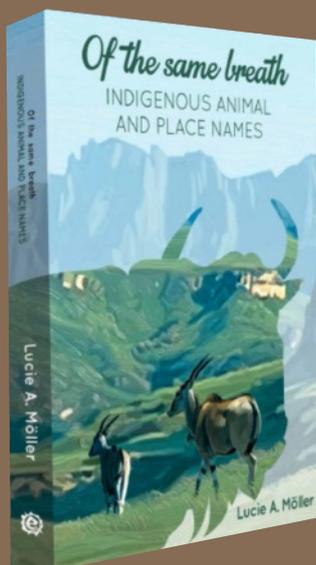
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NSSA 2018

Next year's conference is organized by UNIVEN. The conference is scheduled to be held from 18-20 September and shall run under the theme "Onomastics versus traditions of analytic philosophy and logic". The venue of the conference shall be Bolivia Lodge of Polokwane, in South Africa. In case you might have missed the call for abstracts, it is included below.

20th NSSA International Congress

Onomastics versus traditions of analytic philosophy and logic

First call for papers

The Names Society of Southern Africa (NSSA), in collaboration with MER Mathivha Centre of African Languages, Arts and Culture at the University of Venda in Thohoyandou, invites onomasticians all over the world to submit abstracts for the 2018 bi-annual international congress.

Date: 18-20 September 2018

Venue: Bolivia Lodge, Polokwane, South Africa

Theme: Onomastics versus traditions of analytic philosophy and logic

Every name has its rationale and its existence can be explained or justified. Shakespeare's famous question "what is in a name" provokes onomasticians to think beyond a name and apply some analytic philosophy and logic of names, naming and the naming systems. The call for papers to the 2018 NSSA Conference aims at inviting critical reflections on names and naming beyond the borders of traditions of analytic philosophy and logic.

The sub-themes expected to be explored should include, but not limited to, the following:

- Anthroponyms (i.e. personal names; names in religion; nick-names, etc.)
- Geographical Names (i.e. toponyms and place names)
- Names in history
- Literary onomastics (the use of names in literature)
- Brand names
- Politics of naming

Submission of abstracts

All authors interested in presenting papers are invited to submit abstracts as e-mail attachments with the following specifications:

- Use MS-Word, Arial 11, 1.5 spacing and left justification.
- The title should be in bold and italics
- Name(s) of the author(s), department(s), and institution(s)
- If there is more than one author, the presenter must be indicated by an asterisk.
- Telephone and email address of the presenter should also be provided.
- The length of the abstract should be between 200 and 250 words including the topic and keywords.

Abstracts should be emailed to Dr Arnold Mushwana, at the following address: nssaconference2018@gmail.com

Dates and registration information

Final date for the submission of abstracts 30 March 2018

Early registration 31 July 2018

R2400 (Academics) and R1500 (Students)

Standard registration 31 August 2018

R2600 (Academics) and R1900 (Students)

Conference proceedings

Authors are invited to submit their reworked papers to Nomina Africana, an accredited journal of the Names Society of Southern Africa for possible publication.

Queries

Please contact the organising committee secretary with any queries:

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Tel: +2715 962 8729 / +2779 913 6333



University of Venda