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Resensies / Reviews

Die ander letterkundige storie

Lategan, Laetus, Lues, Liezel & Friedrich-Nel, Hesta, eds. 2011.
Doing research. 2nd ed. Bloemfontein: Sun Media. 140 p.
Price: R150,00. ISBN: 978-1-920383-13-8.

Reviewer: B. van Rooy
Vaal Triangle Campus, Vanderbijlpark
North-West University

Doing research is a short how-to introduction to research for complete novices. The most likely reader is a student who is about to start with a research Masters degree, while honours students may also derive some value from the book. This revised edition appeared originally in 2005 when it was a single-volume outcome of a research development project at the Central University of Technology.

The context of the book is the pressure on tertiary institutions to increase their research output – both articles and postgraduate studies. At the former technikons, where research was not inscribed in the institutional culture to the same degree as the traditional universities, the need for guidance was all the more pressing.

The book is presented in sixteen chapters, labelled as themes that address basic concepts in research, postgraduate supervision, aspects of a research toolkit such as empirical research and modelling, and a larger proportion devoted to the writing and presentation of research including referencing, linguistic style, layout and conference presentations. Compared to the first edition, the revised edition is considerably more condensed: from 207 to 137 pages in the main body, and from 26 chapters in five sections to sixteen themes without any subdivisions.

Theme 1, “Doing research: navigating the process”, provides context about the need for doing research and postgraduate studies, and offers basic definitions of the research process. A lot of emphasis is

placed on challenges/stumbling blocks that prevent output to be produced. This is followed by theme 2, "What is postgraduate supervision about", offering a range of tips to students and supervisors alike, such as symptoms of students not coping, the importance of record-keeping, and quality assurance within higher education. The theme is written collectively by six authors, and totals five pages and a paragraph. This gives the impression that each contributor added some information from his/her own area of expertise.

The next four themes deal with the planning and design of research projects. Theme 3, "The research process", expands on the introductory concepts from theme 1 and concludes with a list of practical steps to enrol for a study. In theme 4, "Proper research proposals", more detail is provided on the proposal document, which is already introduced in theme 3. Theme 5, "Empirical research" offers basic information about data collection and statistical analysis, including sampling, experimental design, surveys and questionnaires. It even includes an appendix with random numbers (p. 45). This is followed in theme 6 by a crash course in an alternative strategy, modelling of data using mathematical, statistical or physical models.

Theme 7 addresses the important issue of "The quest for academic integrity", with emphasis on intellectual property and plagiarism. It offers specific guidelines on how to avoid plagiarism.

Themes 8-11 deal with the writing process, closely followed by two themes devoted to referencing. A very general and brief (3 pages) overview of "Scientific writing" is offered in theme 8, with emphasis on ten questions that address matters of content and substance (including research problems, concepts, research design, literature review, data collection, conclusions and references). Theme 9, "Writing a research report", deals with the headings and sections typical in a report, especially the earlier parts, such as title page, abstract, acknowledgements, content and the main parts that go into chapters. It offers a range of practical guidelines, such as how to write impersonally, using the past tense, choice of words, and even highlights the value of reading to be exposed to models of good writing. In theme 10, "Some guiding principles for legible academic reports", advice is offered on font types and sizes, headings, page numbering and other aspects of layout. "Matters of linguistic style" receive attention in theme 11, including grammar and expressions (choice of words), tone and paragraphing, with a section devoted to typical problems with punctuation. Themes 12 and 13 offer discussions and examples of two widely used referencing methods, the Harvard method and numbered references respectively.

The next two themes deal with oral presentation of research such as conference papers. Theme 14, "Practical pointers in presenting research" covers planning, an understanding of the audience, the selection of content (data, arguments), the need to rehearse, and advice for the day of presentation itself. "Verbal and non-verbal communication skills in presenting research results" receive attention in theme 15, complementing the focus on the content of presentation in the previous theme with information on the performance aspect of a conference paper. It also includes other advice on content selection and the organisation of the paper.

Theme 16 returns to an issue briefly introduced in theme 2, namely "Quality assurance of the research process".

The style of the book is extremely reader-friendly and accessible, with the prospective student being addressed directly in many of the themes. The text makes liberal use of imperatives, do and don't lists, and generally very short chapters. For somebody who knows practically nothing about research, this book will serve as a first introduction to know what he/she is about to encounter when enrolling for a postgraduate degree.

An area that is somewhat less satisfactory is the degree of overlap between themes despite the book being rather short. As a pedagogical technique, repetition may serve to enhance learning, but often, in the overlapping portions of themes, slightly different stories are offered to the reader. Thus, theme 9 repeats the traditional view that the passive voice and impersonal writing are to be preferred (p. 71), while theme 11 thematises this in a subsection and indicates that there has been a recent move towards more active writing styles (p. 85). Likewise, theme 8 offers ten questions that should be addressed in scientific writing (p. 63-65), while theme 9 suggests that research reports should answer five questions (p. 68), at rather different levels of abstraction and detail. A bit more editorial intervention to ensure consistency and non-overlapping content across themes may well be advisable if another revision is attempted in future.

The chapters often make use of bulleted lists, either statements, commands or questions. This is another valuable instructional device, provided that the lists are consistent across themes and are intrinsically sensible. Apart from minor cases of inconsistency, the technique is sometimes overused and leads to counter-intuitive formulations, such as the fourteen facts and myths about research (p. 13-14) where no distinction is made between fact and myth.

Hence it is unclear what the authors' views are, whether they believe it is a fact or myth that research is time-consuming, subjective, fun, can lead in unexpected directions, or whether it is a fact or myth that "you CAN DO research" (p. 14). It seems as if the authors, at times, in their zeal to be accessible, allowed the techniques to become more prominent than the substance being conveyed.

Overall, the book combines common-sense knowledge about research, such as one would expect most experienced researchers and supervisors to have, and brings all of that together in a single printed volume. For the complete novice, this is potentially valuable, but for any other reader, this book will have very little new information. At times, the authors rely on extremely general sources, such as theme 15 that exclusively quotes from undergraduate communication skills textbooks, including such highly improbably claims that the human brain has the capacity to listen to 650 to 700 words per minute (referenced to one of the undergraduate textbooks on p. 126). Psycholinguistic research supporting a processing speed of more than 300 words per minute is not common in the scientific literature – research on reading usually points out that reading at higher rates regresses into scanning or skimming, with not all words being attended to any more. There are a number of other similar instances, but it would serve no purpose to point these out. Suffice to say that in a number of themes, common-sense and popularised knowledge take precedence over research-based information, and hence much of the merit of the book lies in putting all the common-sense understanding of experienced researchers in writing for complete novices.

Globalisation through an African lens

Msafiri, Aidan. 2008. **Globalization of concern.** Vol 1. Dar es Salaam: Dar es Salaam University Press. 101 p. Price: £17,95. ISBN: 978 9976 60 481 5.

Reviewer: T.D. Mashau
Potchefstroom Campus, North-West University

This book deals with the issue of globalisation, particularly in the area of socio-economic life, and how this global phenomenon is affecting the less developed countries in Africa. The author used Tanzania as a point in reference. In handling globalisation concerns, the author uses interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches, in-

cluding socio-ethical paradigms and contemporary economic theories. This does succeed in pointing out that the word globalisation has become a kind of buzzword in such a time as this. It also indicates that globalisation is a word used as a kind of a synonym for one or more of the following phenomena: the pursuit of the classical liberal (or “free”) market; the growing dominance of Western (or even American) forms of political, economic, and cultural life (“Westernisation” or “Americanisation”); the proliferation of new information technologies (the “Internet revolution”); as well as the notion that humanity stands at the threshold of realising a single unified community in which major sources of social conflict have vanished (global integration).

Given the current global reshaping of social life activities, the author looks at the impact on issues related to gender, social justice, morality, equity, human rights, religious ethics, and virulent diseases. He views globalisation as the rising tide that lifts all boats at the same time and yet destroys all non-prepared boats. The author is of the opinion that globalisation is an artificial economically-forced march, led by elite groupings in governments, large corporations and international entities surrounding the world banks. The main tool of globalisation, according to the author, is called “free trade”, which is not really trade. Competition with bigger players for the novice is impossible and therefore the author concludes that globalisation is nothing but a veiled imperialism aimed at, not only impoverishing the destitute, but also destroying the ethos of human beings.

A socio-ethical critique of the present paradigm of economic globalisation with its destructive impact particularly on Africa offered by the author must be appreciated. However, a more proactive advocacy for sound global ethics in this area must be fostered in order to create and build better international social and economic structures, which will ensure that justice is served for emerging players in less developed and developing continents such as Africa. This will go a long way in breaching the gap between the rich and the poor, because the status quo exacerbates this gap with the rich getting richer, whilst the poor are getting poorer. I, therefore, recommend this book as one that makes a positive contribution in the advancement of economic freedom of Africa. The book has five well-written and well-balanced chapters. Chapter one deals with the “Economic globalisation and justice in Africa: quest for a better paradigm?”; chapter two, “Rethinking about the role of the church on the HIV/AIDS and the post ARV crises: a Tanzanian perspective”; chapter three, “Natural law ethics and consumerism today”; chapter four,

“Women and the unfair distribution of resources and wealth in Tanzania: searching for deeper and transformative solutions and alternatives”; and chapter five, “The anatomy of witchcraft and its impact on human life in Tanzania today”.

Perspective on South African politics

Marais, Hein. 2011. **South Africa pushed to the limit: the political economy of change.** Claremont: UCT Press. 566 p.
Price: R295,00. ISBN: 978 1 91989 540 6.

Reviewer: J.F. Kirsten
School of Social & Government Studies
Potchefstroom Campus, North-West University

This book by Hein Marais is a significant, comprehensive and in-depth account of the political and economic transformation of South Africa. In fact, Marais started his analysis far back in history, giving the reader a perspective on the growth of South Africa as a polarised society and how the armed struggle against apartheid started and eventually succeeded. As part of the bigger picture, the author also touches on the major issues of health (HIV and AIDS and TB) and education, as obstacles on the road to reconstruction of a viable society in postapartheid South Africa.

Unemployment, poverty and inequality are also addressed as variables and determinants that are changing the face of South Africa and that are making it almost impossible to transform the country in a peaceful way. Of course, this brings the clash of ideologies to the fore, namely Socialism and Communism, versus Capitalism, Democracy and possible alternative political philosophies. The debate in this regard is opened up by presenting the basic facts and realities of South African society. The recent Mbeki-Zuma battle and the real background to that is also discussed, giving the reader a glimpse of politics inside the ANC.

This book by Hein Marais on South African politics is, at present, arguably the most authoritative and comprehensive available, and any study on the general topic of South African politics will be inadequate without its inclusion. The topics addressed in the book are indeed also a necessary background to an understanding of further political and socio-economic developments in South Africa. Marais provides a crucial analysis for a valid perspective on the likelihood of

political radicalisation of South African society in future. This book is essential reading for anyone trying to understand the political transformation presently happening in South Africa.

South Africa pushed to the limit is well-suited as a textbook for undergraduate and postgraduate courses on South African politics as such, or transformation studies generally. This is also essential study material for civil servants across the board, but more specifically for those of the Departments of International Relations and Cooperation, Cooperative Governance, the National Intelligence Agency, Social Development, Tourism, and the Presidency. In addition, anyone who is interested in understanding present events and possible future scenarios in South Africa will find in Marais's book the necessary building blocks for such an endeavour. In future, as the day-to-day political reality in South Africa unfolds the importance of this book and the perspectives provided in it will become increasingly clear, especially with reference to the ANC's 100th birthday celebration this year, as well as the decisions the ANC in its National Executive Council will make during its meetings in 2012. The need for a second edition of *South Africa pushed to the limit* to catch up on recent developments is already discernable. Hopefully, Marais is working on that!

Terugblik op taalregte in 2004

Lubbe, Johan, Truter, Elbie & Du Plessis, Theo, eds. 2011. **South African Language Rights Monitor 2004.** Bloemfontein: Sun Media. 52 p. Price: R175,00. ISBN: 978-1-920383-31-2.

Resensent: H.J. Brits
 Taaldirektooraat
 Potchefstroomkampus, Noordwes-Universiteit

PanSAT (Pan-Suid-Afrikaanse Taalraad) het die Suid-Afrikaanse Taalregtemonitor-projek (SALRM) in 2002 by die Universiteit van die Vrystaat van stapel gestuur om (hoofsaaklik) op grond van berigging in die gedrukte media terugvoer te gee oor taalregte in Suid-Afrika. Op die webwerf (<http://humanities.ufs.ac.za/content.aspx?id=479>) van die Universiteit van die Vrystaat se Departement Taalbestuur en Taalpraktyk binne die Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe (die tuiste van SALRM), staan dat PanSAT hulle kontrak in 2009 "[w]eens gebrek aan fondse [ge]termineer" het, maar dat hulle nog sal voortgaan wat die werk vir die Monitor en bulletins betref (UV, 2012). Ongelukkig is die jongste SALRM-verslag wat op die webwerf

beskikbaar is dié van 2007. Die boek wat hier te sprake is, is egter maar die derde verslag van hierdie SALRM-projek vir die tydperk 1 Januarie 2004 tot 31 Desember 2004. Die verslag is wel eers in 2011 in hierdie formaat uitgegee, daar word ongelukkig nie in 'n voorwoord meer inligting oor die publikasiedatum gegee nie.

Die vraag is waarom hierdie verslag in boekformaat uitgegee word. Daar is ongelukkig nie enige agtergrondinligting in die boek self nie, slegs erkennings vóórin wat op die oorspronklike 2004-verslag betrekking het wat blykbaar eers in 2006 uitgegee is (daar is ook 'n verwysing na 'n 2006-bron op p. 31). In die inleiding (p. 1) word wel melding gemaak van 'n nuwe formaat van verslaggewing wat hope-lik meer taalgroepe bewus sal maak van hulle taalregte, maar hierdie formaat het net betrekking op die inhoud van die verslag soos dit in 2006 verskyn het. Dit is jammer dat daar nie 'n bietjie meer agtergrond oor die projek en inligting oor die verslagskrywers gegee is nie, aangesien daar soveel moeite gedoen is om die verslag in 'n mooi boekformaat uit te gee.

Die bedoeling vir die uitgawe is nie werklik so belangrik nie. Dit is verblydend dat hierdie inligting wel beskikbaar gestel is. Hierdie boek is iets tasbaars in die hand van die taalliefhebber, -beplanner, -sosioloog en -aktivis. Die skrywers noem dat die doel was om die verslag vir die gemiddelde leser meer toeganklik te maak en dat die meer spesifieke inligting in vaktydskrifte beskikbaar gemaak sou kon word. Dit is beslis so dat hierdie verslag maklik lees, maar 'n mens sal nie so ver gaan om te sê dat dit heeltemal op die gemiddelde leser afgestem is nie.

In die inleiding van SALRM-2004 word die uitkomst van die bepaalde verslag uiteengesit. Agterna (in 2012) beskou, lyk hierdie uitkomst baie idealisties:

Another envisaged positive outcome of the survey is the provision of a direction indicator for the authorities, in order to forestall language tension on a timely basis, and thus contribute towards encouraging dialogue on language matters. (p. 1.)

Behalwe die redes en uitkomst van die verslag gee hulle 'n kort oorsig oor wat in die verslag hanteer word en hoe die data ingesamel is. Daar word in die inleiding ook na 'n gedetailleerde bespreking van die metodologie verwys wat in *Language Rights Monitor 2005* gehanteer word (daar is ongelukkig nie 'n verdere bronverwysing nie en dit is vreemd dat daar in 'n 2004-verslag na 'n 2005-bron verwys word).

Ná die inleiding volg 'n algemene oorsig oor die bevindings, die mediadekking van taalaangeleenthede asook taalregteklagtes wat by PanSAT gelê is. Daarna word die instrumente van taalregte-aktiwisme bespreek (wat by die uitkomst in die inleiding aansluit), gevolg deur 'n kort hoofstuk oor regsgedinge. Die verslag word deur die gebruikelike samevatting en aanbevelings afgesluit.

Hierdie verslag is inhoudsgewys en in die boekformaat (kompak) toeganklik gemaak, maar daar is tog 'n paar sake ten opsigte van die uitleg wat krap. In een reël (p. 6) is daar nie spasies tussen die woorde nie en die blokke van die grafieke (p. 10, 15, 21, 23) is almal dieselfde skakering (swart), wat dit moeilik leesbaar maak. Dit sou ook beter wees indien die hoofstukke telkens op 'n nuwe bladsy kon begin.

Die verslag moet die stand van taalregte, soos dit in die media uitgebeeld is, weergee, maar gaan tog ook krities met die data om. Daar is deurgaans sinvolle gevolgtrekkings en aanbevelings wat steeds van toepassing is op die taalsituasie van vandag. Die skrywers wys byvoorbeeld daarop (p. 26) dat die positiewe waarde van meertaligheid en moedertaal deur sprekers van Afrikatale onderskat word en dat die kampvegters vir Afrikatale meestal nie-moedertaal-sprekers is. Hulle wys ook op verskeie plekke die blatante vertrap-ping van taalregte deur staatsinstansies uit.

Dit is jammer dat daar nie verslae ná 2007 beskikbaar is nie. Dit is vanjaar tien jaar nadat die projek begin is en 'n verslag wat die tien jaar dek, sou interessante insigte kon bring. Intussen is dit goed dat die verslag van 2004 (miskien 'n raps te duur) op hierdie manier beskikbaar gestel word.

Terugflits na taalregte in 2005

Lombaard, Susan, Lubbe, Johan & Du Plessis, Theo, eds. 2011. **South African Language Rights Monitor 2005.** Bloemfontein: Sun Media. 75 p. Price: R175,00. ISBN: 978-1-920383-30-5.

Resensent: A.N. Otto
Departement van Tale en Letterkunde
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth

Hierdie boek is die vierde verslag in 'n reeks oor taalregtekwessies en algemene taalsake in Suid-Afrika. Die doel van hierdie monitor-verslag is om PanSAT te help om sy doelstelling te bereik, naamlik

om alle taalgroepe meer bewus te maak van hulle taalregte as 'n bydrae tot die transformasie van ons gemeenskap.

Hierdie monitorverslag verskaf 'n oorsig oor die volgende taalkwessies: mediadekking oor algemene taalkwessies, -regteklagtes, -aktiwisme, -litigasie en relevante navorsing oor taal. Aan die einde van hierdie bespreking word waardevolle gevolgtrekkings en aanbevelings aan PanSAT gemaak.

Gedurende 2005 is 1 424 rekords van 27 verskillende mediabronne ontvang, waarvan 23 in Engels en vier in Afrikaans is. SA Media het ongelukkig nie in 2005 toegang gehad tot Afrikataalkoerante nie.

Die oorkoepelende kategorieë van mediadekking oor taalsake gedurende 2005 was taalprobleme (51,76%), naamsverandering (29,63%) en taalnavorsing (0,56%). Die meeste van die rekords wat oor taalprobleme gehandel het (73,56%), het oor Afrikaans gegaan – meer spesifiek oor die behoud van Afrikaans as 'n onderrigtaal in skole en by tersiêre instellings. Dit is veral die taalbeleid van die Universiteit van Stellenbosch (US) wat baie aandag in die media geniet het. Aan die een kant is die US gekritiseer oor sy T-opsie, maar aan die ander kant is daar by verskeie ander universiteite geprotesteer teen Afrikaans op tersiêre vlak. Taal in onderrig is dus 'n hoogs omstrede kwessie en behoort die aandag van taalbeleidimplementeerders te geniet.

Taalregteklagtes binne die onderrigsituasie het veral van die Laerskool Mikro gekom. Hierdie debakel het prominente aandag in die media geniet. Mikro is aanvanklik gedwing om Engelssprekende leerders te akkommodeer ten spyte van die feit dat dit 'n Afrikaans-mediumskool is. Dit het tot 'n hele aantal taalaktiwisme-inisiatiewe gelei. Wat hier ter sprake gekom het, is die reg tot moedertaal-onderrig, tot onderrig in die taal van jou keuse, en die reg van toegang tot onderrig. Aangesien daar 'n ander skool in die omgewing was wat die 21 Engelssprekende leerders kon akkommodeer, het Laerskool Mikro die hofstryd gewen. Aan die ander kant was daar ook 'n oortolligheidsprobleem in sommige Noord-Kaapse skole en het hulle nie beskik oor 'n goedgekeurde taalbeleid nie. In die lig hiervan is hierdie skole gelas om wel vir onderrig in Engels voorsiening te maak. In die geval van Hoërskool Pretoria-Noord het die plig van die staat om fasiliteite te verskaf, sterk na vore gekom.

In 'n Xhosa-hofsaak het die reg tot 'n regverdige verhoor ter sprake gekom. Hoewel Engels die rekordtaal van die howe is, moet elkeen

die reg hê om in sy/haar moedertaal in die hof te getuig. Hierdie monitor wys tereg op die afwesigheid van PanSAT by hierdie debatte.

Probleme met betrekking tot die toepassing van die taalbeleid deur die Staat het media-aandag geniet en het ook in klagtes by PanSAT na vore getree. Die Suid-Afrikaanse Polisie diens het daarop aangedring dat alle geskrewe en elektroniese kommunikasie in Engels moet plaasvind en die Gautengse Departement van Maatskaplike Ontwikkeling het ook Engels bevoordeel.

Dit is interessant dat mense eerder klagtes lê oor linguistiese meneregteknessies soos die onderrigtaal eerder as burgerlike taalregteknessies soos die reg tot ten minste twee amptelike tale. Hoewel PanSAT gedurende 2005 vinniger op taalklagtes gereageer het, dui die monitor aan dat hulle eerder daarop moet fokus om by bevredigende en betekenisvolle bevindings uit te kom.

Die monitor dui ook toenemende taalaktiwisme gedurende 2005 aan. Dit geld nie net vir taalregteknessies nie, maar ook ander kwessies, veral geografiese naamsverandering. Beswaarde gemeenskappe is bereid om hulleself te mobiliseer ten einde te protesteer teen die verandering van plekname en straatname. Alhoewel hierdie spesifieke gevalle van taalaktiwisme deur sommige as bewys van weerstand teen verandering of transformasie beskou kan word, kan dit ook beskou word as 'n aanduiding van 'n dinamiese demokrasie. Suid-Afrika is glad nie uniek in hierdie opsig nie. Die gevalle van taalaktiwisme wat oor geografiese naamsverandering plaasgevind het, kan moontlik dui op sekere tekortkomings in Suid-Afrika se beleid oor geografiese name, byvoorbeeld dat geografiese name slegs eentalig mag wees. In ander lande is daar heelwat gevalle waar 'n geografiese naam tweetalig of meertalig is, en selfs dubbele name kom soms voor. Hierdie beleide is ontwikkel om 'n kompromis en 'n wen-wensituasie te bereik.

Belangrike aanbevelings word aan die einde van die verslag gemaak en word hier kortliks opgesom:

PanSAT moet kennis neem van die belangrikheid van berigte oor algemene taalkwessies as een van die metodes om op hoogte te bly van taalontwikkeling. Voorts moet hierdie liggaam 'n meer konsekwente openbare profiel bewerkstellig, openbare debatte oor belangrike taalkwessies reël en verslag hieroor doen sodat spesialiste kommentaar kan lewer, byvoorbeeld oor enkelmediumskole, veeltaligheid en die uitdaging van toegang. Hierdie liggaam moet ook werkwinkels reël oor hoe inheemse tale meer prestige kan kry;

hulle moet verder navorsing doen oor die verhouding tussen taalprobleme en sukses by skole; taaltoetse by universiteite standaardiseer; en taalbevorderingsprojekte aanpak. Verder moet die spesiale kenmerke van inheemse tale in die PanSAT-nuusbrief of op sy webblad geplaas word. Meer toekenningskategorieë moet by die jaarlikse toekenningsremonie ingesluit word; daar moet met ander instansies wat ook taalklagtes ontvang, saamgewerk word; 'n gerekenariseerde taalklagtedatabasis moet begin word; en verdere navorsing oor taalregte moet gedoen word.

Hierdie monitor bied 'n waardevolle blik op die taalregtesituasie in 2005. Wat veral vir akademici nuttig is, is die lys akademiese publikasies oor taalregte wat gedurende 2005 verskyn het.

'n Merkwaardige boek oor 'n kleurrike openbare figuur

Papenfus, Theresa. 2011. **Pik Botha en sy tyd.** Pretoria: Litera Publikasies. 991 p. Prys: R395,00. ISBN: 978-1-920188-33-7.

Resensent: A. Wessels
Departement Geskiedenis,
Universiteit van die Vrystaat

Roelof Frederik ("Pik") Botha (gebore op 27 April 1932) is sonder twyfel een van Suid-Afrika se kleurrikste openbare figure. Gedurende sy termyn as Suid-Afrika se Minister van Buitelandse Sake, was hy die langsdienende minister in daardie hoedanigheid ter wêreld. Vir baie jare was hy internasionaal waarskynlik die mees herkenbare gesig en stem van die Nasionale Party (NP-regering). Die beleid wat hy (soms effens halfhartig) verdedig het, was uiteraard hoogs omstrede soos ook sommige van die standpunte wat hy soms gestel het en van die uitsprake wat hy gemaak het. In sekere opsigte was hy 'n kind van sy tyd, selfs 'n slagoffer van sy tyd. In vele opsigte was hy ook sy tyd vooruit.

Die gesoute joernalis, Theresa Papenfus, het besluit om Pik Botha en sy tyd (en dus ook sy rol in daardie onstuimige tye van *Sturm und Drang* waarin hy hom bevind het) te beskryf en te ontleed. Die resultaat is een van die mees omvangryke biografieë wat tot op datum in Suid-Afrika oor 'n Suid-Afrikaanse openbare figuur geskryf is. *Pik Botha en sy tyd* is die eerste keer in 2010 gepubliseer, met 'n

tweede oplaag wat in 2011 verskyn het. 'n Engelse weergawe, *Pik Botha and his times*, het ook reeds in 2010 die lig gesien.

Aan die hand van 39 hoofstukke ontvou die verhaal van 'n besielende en soms omstrede politikus; die verhaal van 'n enigmatiese mens wat gedigte op die agterkant van sigaretdosies geskryf het, maar vrees by opponente kon inboesem; 'n deurwinterde ambassadeur wat nie maklik "nee" as antwoord aanvaar het nie, en sy land se saak (hoe omstrede ook al) in die wêreld se hoogste forums gestel het. Deur die doen en late van Pik Botha leer die leser nie net hierdie kleurvolle persoonlikheid beter ken nie, maar ook die kleurvolle en/of invloedryke persone met wie hy (Pik Botha) skouer geskuur het. Hieronder tel uiteenlopende persone soos André Huguenet, Kurt Waldheim, pous Johannes Paulus II, Félix Houphouët-Boigny, Kenneth Kaunda, Jonas Savimbi, die hartchirurg Chris Barnard, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, George Bush (sr.), Stephen Hawking en Nelson Mandela.

Theresa Papenfus het geen steen onaangeroer gelaat ten einde soveel moontlik inligting omtrent Pik Botha en sy tyd in te samel nie. Afgesien van talle onderhoude met die hoofkarakter, het sy ook onderhoude met talle ander persone gevoer (insluitende Jannie Geldenhuys, Magnus Malan, Dirk Mudge, Sampie Terreblanche en Neil van Heerden). Inligting is ook via briefwisseling bekom (onder meer van Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Chester Crocker, Henry Kissinger en Van Zyl Slabbert). Talle ander bronne is ook geraadpleeg, insluitende koerante, private korrespondensie, die Internet en 'n groot aantal sekondêre werke. Let in hierdie verband op die ongelooflik indrukwekkende geselekteerde bronnelys, p. 832-888, asook die eindnotas, p. 889-962. Die outeur/biograaf het uitstekende speurwerk gedoen en die indringende navorsing verleen gesaghebbendheid aan die biografie. Danksy die register (p. 963-991) kan die byna ensiklopediese aard van die omvangryke inhoud maklik deur die belangstellende leser of navorser ontgin word. Deur die talle foto's verkry die leser verder 'n beeld van persone en gebeure in Pik Botha se lewe.

Hoewel die breë historiese agtergrond vir die waarskynlike leser bekend sal wees, word heelwat nuwe inligting op skrif gestel. Daar is enersyds inligting omtrent Pik Botha die mens, maar ook oor gebeure soos die lugramp waarin die Mosambiekse president, Samora Machel, omgekom het (p. 430-449, 453-456). Soos dit 'n goeie biograaf betaam, het Theresa Papenfus empatie met haar hoofkarakter, maar 'n Pik-hagiografie (lewensbeskrywing van 'n heilige) is dit beslis nie. Dit is eerder 'n boeiende "warts and all"-beskrywing van

die lewe en werk van 'n geliefde/gehate openbare figuur en van die man agter die openbare beeld. Soos Marinus Wiechers tereg in die voorwoord aandui, kan hierdie biografie se drie groot temas opsom word as Pik Botha die mens, sy rol in en die geskiedenis van die NP, en Suid-Afrika se buitelandse beleid en Pik Botha se rol in hierdie verband.

Pik Botha en sy tyd plaas die hoofkarakter deurgaans sentraal, maar interpreteer sy besluite, lewe en werk teen die agtergrond van die groter politieke, ekonomiese en maatskaplike kwessies van sy tyd. Die biografie lees vlot en herinner inderdaad aan 'n spannende en ontroerende roman. Pik Botha se politieke loopbaan loop immers hand aan hand met een van die mees epogmakende periodes in die geskiedenis van Suid-Afrika.

Theresa Papenfus se magistrale *Pik Botha en sy tyd* is 'n merkwaardige boek wat verdien om wyd gelees te word. Enigiemand wat in die geskiedenis van die NP en apartheid, en in die Suid-Afrikaanse geskiedenis in die tweede helfte van die vorige eeu tot net ná die eeuwending belangstel, asook 'n voorliefde vir biografieë koester, behoort hierdie omvangryke boek aan te pak. Dit is inderdaad 'n gesaghebbende inligtingsbron, wat 'n ereplek in die ry van goeie biografieë inneem en tegelykertyd 'n waardevolle toevoeging tot die Suid-Afrikaanse historiografie is. Hierdie baie besondere biografie laat reg geskied aan Pik Botha en sy tyd.

'n Kuier by 'n klomp bekendes

Retief, Hanlie. 2011. **Hanlie Retief gesels met.** Pretoria: Protea Boekhuis. 311 p. Prys: R180,00. ISBN: 978-1-86919-430-7.

Resensent: T. Larney
Biblioteekdienste
Potchefstroomkampus, Noordwes-Universiteit

Die begrip *eietydse geskiedenis* kan baie gestaltes aanneem, party daarvan heel ernstig en gepoog-wetenskaplik, en ander meer populêr-verganklik, met die klem op die sensasie van die maand. Ten grondslag aan die begrip en die bedryf daarvan, lê sekerlik die gedagte dat die *geskiedenis* nie 'n begrip is wat losgemaak kan word van wat tans aan die ontwikkel is nie, asook die feit dat ons nou in 'n beter posisie as toekomstige geslagte is om dit wat aan die hede histories belangrik blyk te wees, vas te lê.

Hoe dit ook al sy, onderhoude met en profiele van die kokkedore en die skandemakers van die dag is een van die beste maniere om iets van die heersende kultuur vas te lê – al is dan ook net van ’n sekere glanskant daarvan. Hierdie bundel van 50 profiele wat Hanlie Retief oor die afgelope twintig jaar in *Rapport* oor soveel bekendes en berugtes in Suid-Afrika gepubliseer het, is daarom ’n welkome en betreklik skaars toevoeging tot die eietydse geskiedskrywing.

Dit is nie iets wat sy beplan het om te doen nie. Daarvoor is die weeklikse nuus- en verkoopsdrang van ’n Sondagkoerant te veel op die onmiddellike ingestel. Hierdie bundel, moet ’n mens bysê, is net ’n versameling van die beste profiele. Die meer verganklike en vergeetbare profiele het genadiglik in die seleksieproses op die vloer beland. Wat hierdie bundel egter ’n amper noodsaaklike leesbundel vir SAPK (Suid-Afrikaanse Populêre Kultuur) maak, is die veelsydige bestek daarvan.

Politiek is duidelik waarneembaar in die onmiskenbare integriteit van ’n Rhoda Khadalie en ook van ’n Mamphela Ramphele (“... ’n landelike meisietjie wat kon uitstyg ...” in haar eie woorde). Pik Botha se herinnerings aan *yesteryear* saam met die “onvoldane werk” van die hede; die patetiese sy van ’n Piet Koornhof; die onblusbare lewensmoed van ’n Desmond Tutu; die eiesinnige politieke behepthede van ’n Pallo Jordan en Julius Malema; en les bes, Madiba, verteenwoordig deur Zelda la Grange, is verder voorbeelde.

Dalk leen die ekonomie hom nie veel tot sulke blootstelling nie, maar in Louis Luyt, Steve Booyesen en Douw Steyn leer ’n mens deur Retief se oë iets ken van sommige mense se ambisieuse pad na rykdom met daarmee saam die nie-altyd aantreklike uitkomst daarvan.

Die literêre en uitvoerende kunste word verteenwoordig in ’n verskeidenheid gestaltes: van Sandra Prinsloo, Joan Hambidge en Jeanne Goosen tot by Karen Zoid, Valiant Swart, Ollie Viljoen, Steve Hofmeyr en Dozi.

Sport is ook ter sprake en word verteenwoordig deur die rysige en meer getemperde getaltes van Victor Matfield, Pierre Spies, Os du Randt en James Dalton.

Die twee uiteenlopende en omstrede figure, Pieter Cilliers en Angus Buchan wat die afgelope dekades ’n redelike beroering in die Afrikanerkultuur veroorsaak het, verteenwoordig die godsdienssfeer.

Suid-Afrikaners se fiksasie met misdaad en veiligheid sou sekerlik nie beter verteenwoordig kon word as deur Piet Byleveld, Eugene de Kock, Denise Goldin en Mike Bolhuis nie.

Ten slotte word ook profiele van Chris Barnard, Ellen Engelbrecht en Marike de Klerk voorgehou. Elkeen sou in mindere of meerdere mate in eie reg veelbesproke kon wees, maar in hierdie bundel lei dit slegs na 'n tranetrekery. Yolanda Barnard, as metaverteenwoordiger, is immergereed "om die lakens van enigeen in die bostaande kategorieë af te ruk" (Retief se frase).

Dit kon sekerlik nie maklik gewees het om oor so 'n lang periode mense so volhoudend en lewensgetrou uit te beeld nie. Definitiewe vereistes vir die onderhoudvoerder was 'n uitgebreide belangstelling en fyn aanvoeling vir mense, 'n bereidheid om die persoon met wie die onderhoud gevoer word self te laat praat, en 'n vermoë om selektief vrae te vra. Daarvan gee Hanlie Retief blyke in oorfloed. Ongekwalfiseerde deernis is egter nie altyd 'n vereiste deug nie.

Nicol Stassen en Protea Boekhuis verdien met die uitgawe van hierdie bundel opnuut die Afrikaanse leserspubliek se dank dat iets waardevols nie verlore gegaan het nie.

Stamboom van herkoms

Visagie, Jan C. 2011. **Voortrekkerstamouers 1835-1845.** 2e dr.
Pretoria: Protea Boekhuis. 752 p. Prys: R350,00.
ISBN: 978-1-86919-372-0.

Resensent: R. van der Merwe
Universiteit van Pretoria, Argief

Historici is dit eens dat die Groot Trek 'n onomkeerbare impak op die geskiedenis van Suidelike Afrika gehad het. Die outeur se mening dat vrae rondom die Voortrekkers, hulle herkoms en eindbestemming reeds vroeër ondersoek moes word, is geheel en al geregverdig. Soos die outeur ook uitwys, is die omvang van so 'n navorsingsprojek en die problematiek daaraan verbonde heel waarskynlik die rede waarom 'n studie eers meer onlangs aangepak is.

Die hersiene uitgawe van *Voortrekkerstamouers 1835-1845* vul nie net die eerste uitgawe met 246 nuwe gesinshoofde aan nie, maar sluit ook ongeveer 214 foto's en portrette van die Voortrekkers in.

By elke gesinshoof se inskrywing word 'n aanduiding gegee van sy posisie ten opsigte van die oorspronklike stamvader wat in Suid-Afrika gearriveer het, die geboorte-, doop- en sterfdatum van die gesinshoof sowel as sy eggenote (indien dit beskikbaar is), die plek van herkoms, vertrekdatum, trekgeselskap waaraan deelgeneem is, waar hy hom uiteindelik gevestig het en die bronne wat geraadpleeg is. By sommige inskrywings word addisionele interessante inligting ook gegee. Kruisverwysings word gebruik om alternatiewe spelwyses te akkommodeer.

Hierdie boek is meer as net 'n genealogiese bron. In die voorwoord word 'n duidelike afbakening van die tydsraamwerk en 'n verduideliking van die benaming *Voortrekker* gegee. Voorts word 'n uiteensetting gegee van die verskillende bronne en argiewe wat geraadpleeg is, wat geen twyfel laat aangaande die deeglikheid en noukeurigheid van hierdie studie nie. Die outeur skroom egter nie om die probleme en moontlike leemtes van die bron uit te wys nie.

Die gevolgtrekkings wat gemaak word oor die omvang van die Groot Trek en die deeglike verduideliking van elke wyk van herkoms, toelig met ses kaarte is, maak hierdie publikasie van onskatbare waarde vir enige persoon, hetsy akademikus of lid van die publiek, wat in hierdie onderwerp belangstel.

All the colours in history

Wessels, André. 2011. **The Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902: white man's war, black man's war, traumatic war.** Bloemfontein: Sun Media. 213 p. Price: R215,00. ISBN: 978-1-920383-27-5.

Reviewer: D.M. van der Merwe
University of Pretoria Archive

Prof André Wessels, the author of *The Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902* states that even though a large number of publications dealing with various aspects of the Anglo-Boer War have appeared, certain terrains remain unresearched. This publication makes a positive contribution to one such aspect, namely the role played by non-whites during the war. Traditionally, the Anglo-Boer War is viewed as a white man's war, but in reality it involved and affected all the different population groups in South Africa.

This book builds and expands on an already impressive list of accredited publications by the author on the war, making it a valuable

and reliable source for researchers. The succinct manner in which the facts are presented, however, make it accessible to a much wider audience

Part 1 of the book gives an overview of the main military events of the Anglo-Boer War. This concise summary can serve as an excellent introduction to people wanting to familiarise themselves with the war. It is, however, not merely a “blow-by-blow” rendering of the various battles and sieges. The author also points out the mistakes made on both sides and the effect these had on the course of the war.

In the introduction to this section the different terms used for the war are discussed, as well as a very brief overview of the causes of the war, the main role players, the military strengths of the two opposing forces in terms of manpower and armaments, as well as their initial tactics.

The course of the war is explained in four phases, namely the Republican offensive (the two Boer republics), the first British offensive, the second British offensive, and finally the guerrilla phase. The initial battles between the two forces took place on the borders of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek and the Orange Free State, which covers a large area. Therefore, each of these four phases is further analysed in the different geographical areas where the war was waged. This makes it possible to get a clear understanding of the tactical changes that took place as the war progressed, as well as the difficulties faced by both sides, having to deploy men over such a vast area.

In the second part of the book the military role played by black, coloured or brown people, as well as people from Asian origin, both in a combatant and a non-combatant capacity, is discussed in depth. Although neither the Boers nor the British were prepared to cede control to the black majority, they had very different life- and world-views. This influenced the way in which they saw and treated non-whites – an aspect that is thoroughly addressed in this section. Not only is the military significance of the use of non-whites discussed, but the impact it had on the non-white population. Although the war afforded them an opportunity to improve their economic position, the hope that a British victory would bring greater political freedom was dashed after the peace treaty was signed – an aspect that would play a role in future race relations in the country.

In the third part of the book, the far-reaching economic, political and social consequences of the Anglo-Boer War are discussed as it affected all South African inhabitants, as well as the implications for intergroup relations during the course of the previous century and into this century. The author traces how the trauma and collateral damage suffered during the war would become a vicious cycle of reprisal still felt today. This discussion will give the reader insight in the current situation in South Africa in terms of race relations and a better understanding of events of the past that have shaped the country's history.

The book is supplemented with maps to illustrate and explain the different phases of the war. An appendix is also provided listing the different phases of the war and the respective battles and sieges. A comprehensive source list and endnotes makes it an excellent reference source and the author also indicates sources pertaining to specific aspects of the war in the text. Photographs of the main role players, black combatants used by the British, as well as the scorched-earth policy and the internment camps further enhance the value of the book.

One cannot help to agree with the author that debates on South African history should be stimulated so that the historical amnesia that too many South Africans suffer from, is replaced with an acceptance of responsibility and forgiveness.

A history of neighbouring cousins

Stassen, Nicol. 2010. **The Boers in Angola 1928-1975.** Pretoria: Protea Book House. 762 p. Price: R335,00. ISBN: 978-1-86919-395-9.

Reviewer: C. Vos
Faculty of Theology, University of Pretoria

The subject of this book is dirt poor but thoroughly decent people (*brandarm mense maar edel van inbors*). The author sets out to paint a picture of the Afrikaner community in Angola during the period 1928-1975. In history the passage of time is sometimes scarcely perceptible. Like a slow-flowing river, time cannot be dammed-up. We cannot detach ourselves from our environment. It is man that lends colour to his environment, just as colour determines the seasons. Like the seasons, our history is one of endless repetition, where change happens slowly. Our environment, and the cosmos,

also put its stamp on us. The mountains with their hump backs, the climate, the vegetation and the animal life around us all help determine how we make a living in particular circumstances. The writer describes this ecology with such accuracy and fluency that the readers feel that they are living there.

Social history is explored next – the history of groups and groupings. The population groups of Angola and their economic activities are perceptively examined. The third section deals with the history of the Boers in Angola and the events of life there. It is a chronicle of brief, rapid and almost random fluctuations. The two turning points of the research occurred in 1928, when the majority of Afrikaners left Angola (about 400 Afrikaners remained behind while about 2 000 Angolan-Boers were repatriated to South-West Africa, known as Namibia today) and 1975, when the last Angolan-Afrikaners fled the country.

South Africa's fortunes are closely linked with those of Africa. From 1975 to the end of the Cold War in 1989, Angola and South Africa were engaged in a regional war. Although the civil war went on until 2002, today's close contact between the two countries exist through the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Because of its fabulous oil wealth, Angola is playing an increasingly important role in this region.

History is more than the description and interpretation of a forgotten and arid past. There are themes and events that are reflected in the present and which point the way to the future. This book impresses on the reader that it is possible for minorities to coexist and survive in a larger entity. Isolation and withdrawal mean atrophy. Cultures can enrich each other. The reader realises afresh that countries – in this case South Africa and Angola – are interdependent and nature also serves to create this interdependence.

The research is based on documents, archival material and a literature study. The researcher learned to speak Portuguese. With the assistance of Fritz Berkemeier of the *Livraria Histórica e Ultramarina* in Lisbon, this enabled him to trace extremely rare books on the colonial history of Angola. This was only possible because the researcher was able to read and interpret Portuguese. What makes this book so meaningful is that the writer conducted personal interviews with the descendants of the pioneers who were repatriated in 1928 and 1958. The oral tradition and the stories recounted by the subjects interviewed were checked against published sources

whereby the picture of events was built up to be as accurate as possible.

This book is not an accumulation and interpretation of facts, but a journey alongside living history – history made by people who are alive. The reader is struck by the fluent, lucid and gripping style of writing. It is like a living drama from the past that is being played out in the present. It has an impact on both intellect and emotions. For example, when a young couple wanted to get married in the fifties, they were threatened with being the last couple who would be allowed to marry in that district if their marriage failed. The reason was that the marriages of the previous three couples had failed (p. 266).

What we are presented with here is original, accessible and meaningful research, based on primary sources and original interviews. No previous research of this kind has been carried out on this topic.

