



From the early fifties, South Africa used South West Africa/Namibia as a testing ground to promote Apartheid ideology and to devise methods of countering insurgency. In these exercises a number of experts, known as ethnologists, played an important role. Linked to the government and the military they carried out research among specific ethnic groups, describing their physical characteristics, material culture, language and beliefs. Their work was used to legitimate Bantustan policy by emphasizing unbridgeable differences between people to make a national liberation movement impossible.

Gordon presents fresh evidence on crucial questions which have gone unanswered over decades. This book undermines ivory towers and raises wider moral questions concerning the role of doubt in expertise and in debunking conspiracy theories.

I found this book highly engaging, confrontational of white conservatism and racism and justly devastating of expertise gone wrong.

C. S van der Waal, Stellenbosch University



Invitation

The University of Namibia Press cordially invites
you to the launch of the book

Ethnologists in Camouflage: Introducing Apartheid to Namibia

by Robert J. Gordon

Join us for an informal talk with questions!

Discussants:

Dr Michael Akuupa, Director, Labour Resource and Research Institute (LaRRI)

Dr Kletus Likuwa, Senior Researcher, Centre for Research Services, UNAM

Mr Shampapi Shiremo, Lecturer of Social Studies and History, UNAM

All those with interests in social and cultural anthropology, and
African history are welcome!

Date: Friday, 11 March 2022

Time: 18:00

Venue: Namibia Scientific Society, 110 Robert Mugabe Avenue

RSVP: 061 206 4714, unampress@unam.na