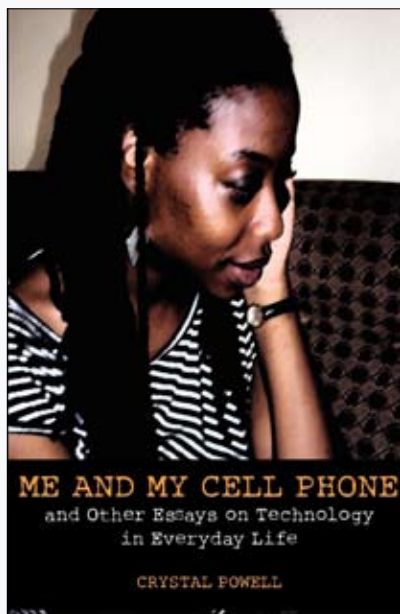




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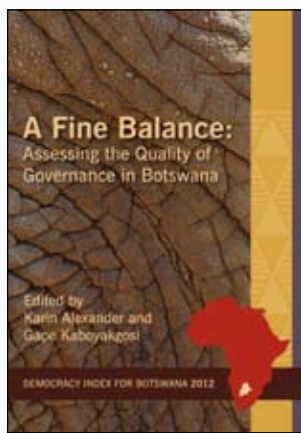
### ME AND MY CELL PHONE. And Other Essays On Technology In Everyday Life Crystal Powell`

“Crystal Powell’s intimate and personal accounts of the discovery of her PhD research topic – the cell phone –, in her own life and in recently published books, will certainly also attract readers less interested in academia.... Her well written essays reveal that academia could be as exciting as the introduction of the cell phone in our everyday lives.”

- MIRJAM DE BRUIJN, PROFESSOR AND SENIOR RESEARCHER  
AFRICAN STUDIES, LEIDEN UNIVERSITY, THE NETHERLANDS

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# ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT



## A FINE BALANCE. Assessing the Quality of Governance in Botswana

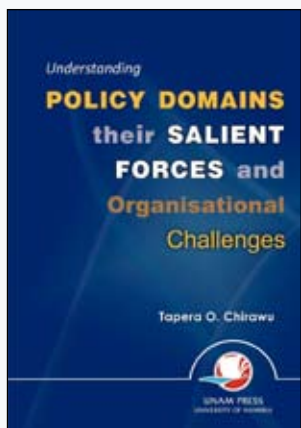
Edited by Karin Alexander and Gape Kaboyakgosi

This inaugural Democracy Index for Botswana is intended to set a benchmark for democracy to be measured against. The tool, developed and honed by Idasa over many years, assesses the depth of democracy in a country through five focus areas: participation, elections, accountability, political rights, and human dignity. The research relies on expert analysis to answer a set of questions that interrogate how closely, in practice, democracy meets the broad ideal of self-representative government. More specifically, to what extent can citizens control elected officials and government appointees who make decisions about public affairs? And how equal are citizens to one another in this accountability process? The purpose of the scores is to assist citizens in making their own judgements, based on the information made available, to stimulate national debate and to provide democracy promoters with a tool for identifying issues and needs that can be addressed by education, advocacy, training, institution building and policy revision. Idasa's Democracy Index - initially developed for South Africa - is being expanded into Southern Africa in an effort to broaden the capacity of individuals and organisation's monitoring and supporting democratic governance efforts in the region.

ISBN 9781920409777 | 118 pages | 244 x 170 mm | 2012 | Idasa, South Africa | Paperback | \$26.95/£18.95

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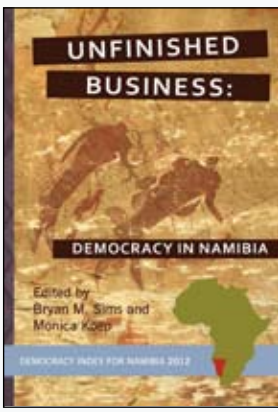
## UNDERSTANDING POLICY DOMAINS THEIR SALIENT FORCES AND ORGANISATIONAL CHALLENGES

Tapera O. Chirawu

UNDERSTANDING POLICY DOMAINS, THEIR SALIENT FORCES, AND ORGANISATIONAL CHALLENGES examines the complexity of policy making processes within the context of human action arising from culture, life necessities, and politics. It provides an understanding of human, environmental and institutional behaviour, and identifies the policy factors that underline the success or failure of governments and institutions. This book provides policy-makers, practitioners and other researchers in the field with a clear understanding of the process of policy-making and who is responsible for what. It sets the tone for academics and policy practitioners to confront the problems and challenges that countries face as they seek to improve governance and service delivery. The author provokes debate on the cause and effect of past, present and future human actions, bringing into play the issues of honesty, transparency and political will. He promotes policy as a way towards achieving social harmony in the human struggle for survival. User-friendly for both students and lecturers, as well as for researchers, government and NGO policy 'gurus', Understanding Policy Domains, their Salient Forces, and Organisational Challenges is also valuable for political parties whose members are often unaware of this important aspect of government responsibility.

ISBN 9789991687001 | 106 pages | 244 x 170 mm | 2012 | University of Namibia Press, Namibia | Paperback | \$24.95/£18.95

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## UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Democracy in Namibia

Edited by Monica Koep and Bryan M. Sims

Idasa's Democracy Index - initially developed for South Africa - is being expanded into Southern Africa in an effort to broaden the capacity of individuals and organisations monitoring and supporting democratic governance efforts in the region. This inaugural Democracy Index for Namibia is intended to set a benchmark for democracy to be measured against. The tool assesses the country's depth of democracy through five focus areas: participation, elections, accountability, political rights, and human dignity. The research relies on expert analysis to answer

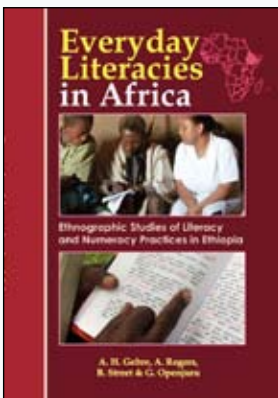
a set of questions that interrogate how closely, in practice, democracy meets the broad ideal of self-representative government. More specifically, to what extent can citizens control elected officials and government appointees who make decisions about public affairs? And how equal are citizens to one another in this accountability process? The purpose of the scores is to assist citizens in making their own judgements, based on the information made available, to stimulate national debate and to provide democracy promoters with a tool for identifying issues and needs that can be addressed by education, advocacy, training, institution building and policy revision.

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## EDUCATION



## EVERYDAY LITERACIES IN AFRICA. Ethnographic Studies of Literacy and Numeracy Practices in Ethiopia

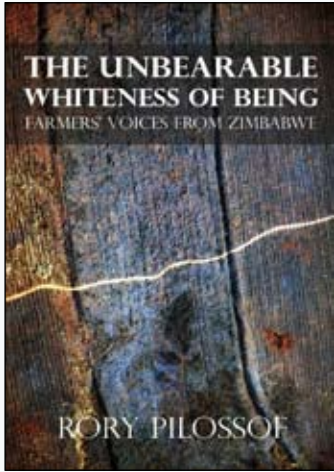
Alemayehu Hailu Gebre, Alan Rogers, Brian Street and George Openjuru

EVERYDAY LITERACIES IN AFRICA: ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDIES OF LITERACY AND NUMERACY PRACTICES in Ethiopia is a product of Learning for Empowerment Through Training in Ethnographic Research (LETTER) programme conducted in Ethiopia. It outlines the story of a journey towards a clearer and more focused understanding of what literacy and numeracy mean. LETTER was intended to build more effective learning programmes for adults who wish to develop their literacy and numeracy skills and practices, through designing better learning programmes, preparing more relevant teaching-learning materials and training literacy instructors. This approach was designed on the understanding that adults learn differently from children mainly because adults bring to their learning a great deal of experience and knowledge. It is from this knowledge that facilitators must start.

ISBN 9789970029754 | 162 pages | 210 x 148 mm | 2010 | Fountain Publishers, Uganda | Paperback | \$24.95/£18.95

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## THE UNBEARABLE WHITENESS OF BEING. Farmers' Voices from Zimbabwe

Rory Pilosof

The history of colonial land alienation, the grievances fuelling the liberation war, and post-independence land reforms have all been grist to the mill of recent scholarship on Zimbabwe.

Yet for all that the country's white farmers have received considerable attention from academics and journalists, the fact that they have always played a dynamic role in cataloguing and representing their own affairs has gone unremarked.

It is this crucial dimension that Rory Pilosof explores in *THE UNBEARABLE WHITENESS OF BEING*. His examination of farmers' voices – in *THE FARMER* magazine, in memoirs, and in recent interviews – reveals continuities as well as breaks in their relationships with land, belonging and race.

His focus on the Liberation War, Operation Gukurahundi and the post-2000 land invasions frames a nuanced understanding of how white farmers engaged with the land and its peoples, and the political changes of the past 40 years. *THE UNBEARABLE WHITENESS OF BEING* helps to explain why many of the events in the countryside unfolded in the ways they did.

'This absorbing account of white farmers' voices is one of the very best books on land and identities to have appeared for many years'

- IAN PHIMISTER, PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

'With honesty, integrity, and, above all, without sentimentality, Rory Pilosof meticulously details how the spectre of war was resurrected by the Zimbabwean government and in the minds of white farmers during the violent farm occupations after 2000'

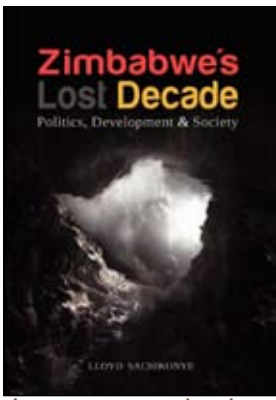
- JAN-BART GEWALD, SENIOR RESEARCHER, AFRICAN STUDIES CENTRE, LEIDEN

RORY PILOSSOF is a Post-doctoral Fellow with the Department of Historical and Heritage Studies, University of Pretoria.

ISBN 9781779221698 | 282 pages | 210 x 148 mm | 2012 | Weaver Press, Zimbabwe | Paperback | \$32.95/£22.95

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## ZIMBABWE'S LOST DECADE. Politics, Development and Society

Lloyd Sachikonye

Zimbabwe occupies a special place in African politics and international relations, and has been the subject of intense debates over the years.

At independence in 1980, the country was better endowed than most in Africa, and seemed poised for economic development and political pluralism. The population was relatively well educated, the industrial and agricultural bases were strong, and levels of infrastructure were impressive. However, in less than two decades, Zimbabwe was mired in a deep political and economic crisis. Towards the end of its third decade of independence, the economy had collapsed and the country had been transformed into a repressive state.

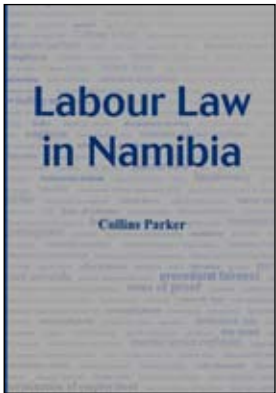
How can we make sense of this decline? How can we explain the 'lost decade' that followed? Can the explanation be reduced to the authoritarian leadership of Robert Mugabe and role of ZANU-PF? Or was something defective about the institutions through which the state has exercised its authority? Or was it the result of imperialism, the West and sanctions? ZIMBABWE'S LOST DECADE draws on Lloyd Sachikonye's analyses of political developments over the past 25 years. It offers a critique of leadership, systems of governance, and economic strategies, and argues for democratic values and practices, and more broad-based participation in the development process.

ISBN 9781779221711 | 246 pages | 210 x 148 mm | 2012 | Weaver Press, Zimbabwe | Paperback | \$30.95/£22.95

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## LAW



## LABOUR LAW IN NAMIBIA

Colin Parker

LABOUR LAW IN NAMIBIA is the first comprehensive and scholarly text to analyse labour law in the country, the Labour Act of 2007, and how it affects the common law principles of employment relations. Concise and extensively researched, it examines the Labour Act in detail in 16 chapters that include the employment relationship; duties of employers and employees; unfair dismissal and other disciplinary actions; the settlement of industrial disputes; and collective bargaining. Over 500 relevant cases are cited, including court rulings in other countries, and comparative references to the labour laws of other Commonwealth countries, notably South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and the United Kingdom, making it a reference and comparative

source book for common law countries in the SADC region and beyond. Written by an authority in the field of labour law, this is a unique reference guide for key players in labour relations, including teachers and students of law, legal researchers and practitioners, human resource and industrial relations practitioners, employers and employer's organisations, employees and trade unions, public servants and public policy advisors, and the academic community internationally. In clear and uncomplicated English, the book is accessible to professional and lay people. A comprehensive list of contents, tables of cases and statutes, bibliography and index, assist the reader.

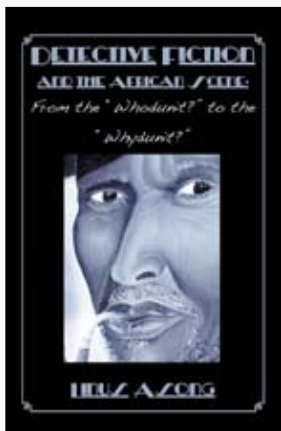
COLLINS PARKER has been a Judge of the High Court of Namibia since November 2006.

ISBN 9789991687018 | 330 pages | 244 x 170 mm | 2012 | University of Namibia Press, Namibia | Paperback | \$39.95/£29.95

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# LITERATURE - HISTORY AND CRITICISM



## DETECTIVE FICTION AND THE AFRICAN SCENE

From The Whodunit? To The Whydunit?

Linus Asong

“From its very inception, detective fiction has enjoyed a great popularity among the young and the old, the learned and the not so learned. By some unfortunate stroke of irony, its respect has not kept pace with its enormous popularity. For over half a century now, it has remained the bane of creative writing. In strict intellectual circles, it is very rare to find people talk defensively and interestingly about the genre. Yet Asong has chosen to do just that! He has stoutly defended the weak by putting up a good case for its continued existence. He has also shown how irresistible key elements of the genre are to even the

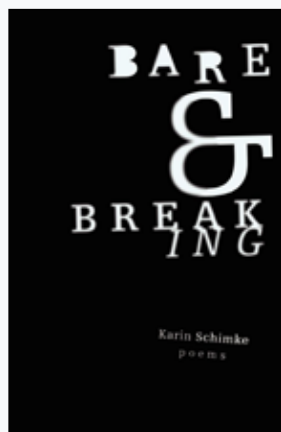
best respected novelists. Finally he has demonstrated for the first time, how the genre has been domesticated by African writers of very great repute such as Ngugi, Sembene and Lessing. That he has been able to prove that these writers have used techniques of detective fiction is a significant broadening of the horizons for appreciating creative writing in Africa. This, I think, is what real research is all about – endlessly exposing to the undiscerning readers new ways of looking at the old and familiar.”

- BRINSLEY SAKYEMA, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST , GHANA

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“I celebrate Karin Schimke's bold exposure of wanting, her naked desire. These poems know the exquisite agony of uninhibited loving, and the addictive pain of losing that love. Her 'warts-n-all' poems reveal a courageous vulnerability. Schimke's poetry whispers, hollers, moans, bends and extends unexpectedly and beyond expectation.”

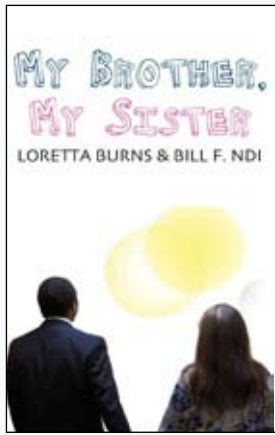
- MALIKA NDLOVU, AUTHOR

“Schimke's breath comes straight from the diaphragm, but she catches it, just in time, in a finely formed voice that surprises me, every time. I like it when she does this. It reminds me that to break through, you have to go in bare.”

- LEON DE KOCK, AUTHOR

ISBN 9781920397975 | 86 pages | 216 x 140 mm | 2012 | Modjaji Books, South Africa | Paperback | \$19.95/£15.95

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## MY BROTHER, MY SISTER

Loretta Burns and Bill F. NDI

The fiery passion and epigrammatic terseness with which Loretta Burns re-enacts her experiences and observations as an African American woman in contemporary America reveal her as a poet of life who transcends the labels African American, feminist, and/or womanist. Her poetry captures moments and scenes of living that echo her impressions and intuitions of a world trapped between appearance and reality, illusion and disillusion, expectation and realization, the material and the spiritual. Through her deceptive simplicity of diction, she explores the nooks and crannies of her psyche as well as her society's. It is a poetry written from the depths of the heart that calls attention to the mystery and sacredness of the everyday. It therefore comes as no surprise that Loretta Burns and Bill

F. Ndi, the Cameroonian-born poet with a fierce drive for global peace and the oneness of humanity, should collaborate on a collection of poems. With vibrancy and a sense of urgency, their lines evoke humanity's perpetual struggle for freedom and its search for meaning.

LORETTA BURNS is professor of English and department head at Tuskegee University. An Alabama native, she received her bachelor's degree from Tuskegee, her M.A. from Ohio State University, and her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. She has also studied at Columbia University and the Sorbonne and conducted research at Harvard and Yale Universities. She has held faculty positions at Fisk University, the University of Florida, and Washington University in St. Louis.

DR. BILL F. NDI, poet, playwright, storyteller, critic, translator & academic was born in Bamunka-Ndop, the North West Region of Cameroon and educated at GBHS Bamenda & Essos, the University of Yaoundé, Nigeria: ABSU, Paris: ISIT, the Sorbonne, Paris VIII & UCP where he obtained his doctorate degree in Languages, Literatures and Contemporary Civilizations. He has held teaching positions at the Paris School of Languages, the University of the Sunshine Coast at Sippy Downs, the University of Queensland, Brisbane, St Lucia and Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia. He is presently a faculty with the department of English and Foreign Languages at Tuskegee University, Alabama, USA.

ISBN 9789956727261 | 96 pages | 203 x 127 mm | 2012 | Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback | \$19.95/£15.95

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## ME AND MY CELL PHONE

### And Other Essays On Technology In Everyday Life

Crystal Powell

Cell phones and the Internet have been the recipients of in-depth research on their increased and rapid integration into everyday life and the innovative appropriations associated with them in many societies. The cell phone has attracted particular attention in its perceived abilities to both enhance and destruct social relationships. Our increased access to social media and to the cell phone has taken social networking to an unprecedented level. These communication technologies are revered by many as great, all-purpose, all-positive communication devices in spite of their flaws. They are overwhelmingly bestowed with agency and superiority.

Too often, they are idolized with little regard to how they affect and are affected by their users on a personal level. The mutual shaping between technology and society is not adequately acknowledged. Technologies, in spite of the seemingly endless possibilities offered by their many functions, can quite literally be sterile and useless objects outside of conscious and tangible human effort. Cell phones and the Internet, though undoubtedly capable of providing myriad beneficial opportunities for their users, need at long last to be put in their place.

This book is a contribution in that regard. Kindled by her own intimate history with her cell phone and a growing curiosity about ICTs in general, this book is a culmination of Crystal Powell's thoughts, reactions to and interpretations of some of the literature on these technologies. The book draws on and critically reviews contributions by some leading authors on the social shaping of ICTs and social media to offer a more nuanced and complex understanding of technology in relation to those who use and are used by it.

"Whether you love it or hate it, cell phones have become a part of everyday life, essential to our mediations of life in all its bewildering complexity. Crystal Powell's account of the cell phone as 'second skin' is a grounded story of this deep relationship that we have all begun to have with this ubiquitous, personal technology. A fascinating, enlightening narrative."

- PRADIP THOMAS, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, CENTRE FOR COMMUNICATION & SOCIAL CHANGE, UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND, BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

"Crystal Powell's intimate and personal accounts of the discovery of her PhD research topic – the cell phone –, in her own life and in recently published books, will certainly also attract readers less interested in academia.... Her well written essays reveal that academia could be as exciting as the introduction of the cell phone in our everyday lives."

- MIRJAM DE BRUIJN, PROFESSOR AND SENIOR RESEARCHER AFRICAN STUDIES, LEIDEN UNIVERSITY

CRYSTAL POWELL is a doctoral student in the department of Social Anthropology at the University of Cape Town. She is exploring the role of new information and communication technologies in the making of flexible identities and ideas of belonging among different categories of migrants situated in Langa Township in Cape Town, South Africa. She currently holds a MA in Social Anthropology. She is from Brooklyn, New York.

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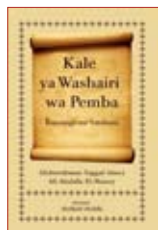
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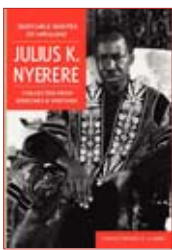
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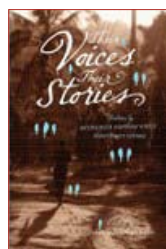
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