

List of Contributors

Bekker, Simon B., Department of Sociology, University of Stellenbosch, STELLENBOSCH, South Africa.

Adar, Korwa G., International Studies Unit, Department of Political Studies, Rhodes University, GRAHAMSTOWN, South Africa.

Alexander, Neville, Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa, University of Cape Town, CAPE TOWN, South Africa

Biaya, Tshikala K., CODESRIA, DAKAR, Senegal.

Dodds, Martine (Editorial), Department of Sociology, University of Stellenbosch, STELLENBOSCH, South Africa.

Franchi, Vijié, University of Paris X, NANTERRE, France.

Garuba, Harry, Centre for African Studies, University of Cape Town, CAPE TOWN, South Africa

Mandaza, Ibbo, Executive Director, Southern African Regional Institute of Policy Studies, HARARE, Zimbabwe.

Mazrui, Ali A., Institute of Global Cultural Studies, Binghamton University, NEW YORK, United States of America.

Osaghae, Eghosa, E., Department of Political Studies, University of Transkei, UMTATA, South Africa.

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Nzongola-Ntalaja, Georges, Washington University, MARYLAND,
United States of America.

Andronikof-Sanglade, Anne, University of Paris X, NANTERRE,
France.

Khosa, Meshack M., (Editorial), Democracy and Governance, Human
Sciences Research Council PRETORIA, South Africa.

Preface and Acknowledgements

Three separate organisations collaborated in the production of this book: The French Institute of South Africa (IFAS), the Foundation for Global Dialogue (FGD) and the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC). In addition, three academic bodies made important contributions both to the planning of the conference on which this book is based as well as to the editorial panel which selected conference papers for publication. These are the African Studies Association of South Africa, the African Association of Political Sciences, and the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa.

The conference was held in Cape Town during the second half of 1998. Thirteen papers were delivered over a two-day period. Nine of these papers were subsequently selected and authors were requested to finalise these for publication.

The publication is situated within the field of identity politics and constitutes a second volume in a series on this subject. The first volume, entitled *Identity? Theory, Politics, History*. Volume 1 was published in 1999 by the Human Sciences Research Council and was based upon an earlier conference organised by the same three collaborating organisations. Though Volume 1 included a chapter comparing processes of identity construction in Reunion and in South Africa, its geographical focus was on South Africa. Volume 2 extends this focus to the African continent as a whole and, in one chapter, to Europeans of African descent.

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Simon Bekker
Stellenbosch
2001

Meshack M. Khosa
Faerie Glen
2001