2015 INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON PLACE NAMES:
“PLACE NAMES, DIVERSITY AND HERITAGE”

Jointly organised by the IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy and the Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment, UFS
16-17 September 2015
Protea Hotel, Clarens, Free State Province, South Africa

2015 INTERNASIONALE SIMPOSIUM OOR PLEKNAME:
“PLEKNAME, DIVERSITEIT EN ERFENIS”

Gereël deur die Internasionale Geografese Unie (IGU)/Internasionale Kartografese Vereniging (ICA) se Kommissie vir Toponimie en die Eenheid vir Taalfasilitering en Bemagtiging, UV
16-17 September 2015
Protea Hotel, Clarens, Vrystaat-provinsie, Suid-Afrika
# Programme / Program

**2015 International Symposium on Place Names: “Place names, diversity and heritage”**

**2015 Internasionale Simposium oor Plekname: “Plekname, diversiteit en erfenis”**

16–17 September 2015

*Interpreting from Afrikaans to English will be provided*

## 16 September

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**SPEAKERS / SPEKERS**

**Guest speakers / Gassprekers**

**Keynote address / Hoofrede:** Peter E. Raper

**DIVERSITY AND HERITAGE REFLECTED IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN PLACE-NAMES**

Taking into account the theme of the Symposium, namely ‘diversity and heritage’, this paper investigates the different San, Khoikhoi, Bantu and European languages from which Southern African place names and their component elements are derived; the influences of language contact on these place names, including adoption, adaptation, hybridization and translation, and aspects of shared and unique heritage. Several United Nations resolutions on geographical names are discussed, namely on place-name changes and the consequent loss of history and culture, as well as resolutions on criteria for geographical names as cultural heritage. Discrepancies in relation to the latter within the Southern African context are indicated and amendments suggested. Projects of the Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment of the University of the Free State appertaining to the Symposium theme are highlighted, specifically the Dictionary of Southern African Place Names published in December, the Afrikaans and Chinese translations of this work, and a digital cartographic representation of geographical name development in South Africa.

**Bio data:** Professor Extraordinaire and Research Fellow at the Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment, University of the Free State. Member of the IGU/ICA Commission Group on Toponymy.

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**Conference dinner speaker / Kongresdineespreker:** Mbongiseni Trueman Kubheka

**TRANSFORMATION OF THE HERITAGE LANDSCAPE IN SOUTH AFRICA: WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

The Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) mandate is premised on the White Paper (1996), which provides for the transformation of the arts, culture and heritage landscape in line with the democratisation of South Africa. The recent
sporadic incidents of defacing and damaging public statues in South Africa have raised concerns in the heritage sector. The heritage sector is challenged by the public expression through protests to seek means of restoring harmony immediately. As much as commentators have seen these incidents as symptomatic of deep-seated issues within the nation, the heritage sector cannot afford to fold its arms and do nothing about them because it is indeed true that the pace of transformation in the sector has been slow.

The recent developments around the statues cannot be discussed in isolation; hence it is important that the amongst other areas that will covered by this paper are the monuments, memorials, museums, geographical names, archives and national symbols because this debate has oxalated to these other heritage disciples.

**BIO DATA:** Mbongiseni Trueman Kubheka serves as the head of the South African Geographical Names Unit, which is a sub-division of the Department of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation in South Africa.

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### Speakers / Sprekers
(alphabetical according to surname / alfabeties volgens van)

**THEODORUS DU PLESSIS**

Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment, University of the Free State (South Africa)

**DIE STANDAARDISERING EN OPENBARE VERTOON VAN STRAATNAME IN DIE STAD BLOEMFONTEIN [THE STANDARDISATION AND PUBLIC DISPLAY OF STREET NAMES IN THE CITY OF BLOEMFONTEIN]**

Die beleid van die Mangaung Metropolitaanse Munisipaliteit (MLM) oor die benoeming en herbenaming van straatname en openbare plekke beklemt toe die noodsak aan die standaardisering van straatname en name van openbare plekke. Oor die skryfwyse van sodanige name bepaal die beleid noegts bloot dat die huidige spelreëls van die taal van die naam eerbiedig sal word en dat origens rekening gehou sal word met besluite van die Verenigde Nasies oor die standaardisering van geografiese name. Mangaung se naamgewingsbeleid verskaf dus nie bykomende riglyne oor die skryfwyse van name onder sy munisipale jurisdiksie nie. Ook maak die beleid nie persent voorsiening vir die hantering van twee- of meertalige openbare name nie, ofskoon die munisipaliteit se taalbeleid die gebruik van drie munisipale tale voorskrif (Sotho, Engels en Afrikaans) en ten spyte van die feit dat die taalbeleid verder persent vereis dat straatname en rigtingaanwysers ten minste twee van hierdie tale sal vertoon. Wat is dus die uitwerking op die standaardisering van straatname in die betrokke munisipaliteit van hierdie gebrekkige ooreenstemming tussen naambeleid en taalbeleid en ook van die gebrekkige riglyne oor die skryfwyse van spesifiek straatname? Dit is die kernvrae wat in hierdie studie vanuit ’n linguistiese landskapshoek ondersoek word aan die hand van ’n kwantitiewe ontleiding van die skryfwyse van die 1 320 gestandaardiseerde straatname van die Stad Bloemfontein (as onderdeel van die MLM) en ’n prosensusoek na die vertoon van gestandaardiseerde name in die herbenomende hoofstraat, Nelson Mandela Avenue/Laan. ’n Vergelyking tussen die twee datastelle lê ’n hele aantal probleme bloot met betrekking tot enersyds die standaardisering van twee- tale straatname as sodanig en andersyds van die uiteindelike vertoon van die gestandaardiseerde naam in die openbare ruimte. Die bevindinge van die ondersoek kan hydra tot die verbetering van Mangaung se naamgewingsbeleid.

The policy of the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality (MLM) about the naming and renaming of street names and public places emphasises the need for the standardisation of street names and names of public places. With regard to the writing of such names, the policy nevertheless only stipulates that the current spelling rules of the language of the name be respected and the decisions of the United Nations about the standardisation of geographic names be taken into account otherwise. Mangaung’s naming policy therefore does not provide any additional guidelines about the writing of names under its municipal jurisdiction. The policy does also not make pertinent provision for the handling of bilingual of multilingual public names, although the municipality’s language policy prescribes the use of three municipal languages (Sesotho, English and Afrikaans), despite the fact that the language policy also pertinently requires that street names and road signs should display at least two of these languages. What is therefore the effect on the standardisation of street names in the said municipality of this inadequate correspondence between naming policy and language policy as well as the inadequate guidelines for the writing of specifically street names? These are the core questions investigated in this study from a linguistic-landscape angle, based on a quantitative analysis of the writing of the 1 320 standardised street names in the City of Bloemfontein (as subdivision of the MLM) and an sample investigation into the display of standardised names in the renamed main street, Nelson Mandela Avenue/Laan. A comparison between the two data sets reveals quite a number of problems pertaining to, on the one hand, the standardisation of bilingual street names and the eventual display of the standardised name in the public space. The findings of the investigation could contribute to the improvement of the Mangaung naming policy.

**Keywords / Sleutelwoorde:** names standardisation, names policy, street names, linguistic landscape
CORRIE GELDENHUYS

Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment, University of the Free State (South Africa)

CONFLICT AND PLACE NAMES IN SOUTH AFRICA

Since the beginning of time, persons have allocated names to specific spaces in their world to identify, use as point of reference, and commemorate events. In South Africa, the choice of place names has become a powerful tool for reinforcing the violent founding history of the country. Since about 400 years ago, explorers and settlers from Europe arrived, initially to establish a refreshment post at the Cape to facilitate travels to the East, but soon to settle permanently at the southernmost tip of Africa. From the first encounters of newcomers with indigenous peoples, conflict ensued. The strategic situation, fertility and riches of the region soon caught the attention of the expanding British Empire, which saw an opportunity for enrichment and expansion. This led to repeated skirmishes between newcomers and the various indigenous peoples, who did not take kindly to the ‘foreigners’ who had arrived, never to leave again. The resulting conflict was inevitable. The discovery of diamonds and in particular gold lead to the Anglo-Boer War. After the South African Boer Republics had been defeated and the Union of South Africa founded, South Africans next became embroiled in two world wars, once again leading to the related naming of places to commemorate these events. The aim of this paper is to provide a summary of place names in South Africa linked to conflict between peoples as expressions of history making in South Africa. The data for the paper was collected from the Place Name Dictionary of Southern Africa compiled by Raper, Möller and Du Plessis.

Keywords: war, battle, conflict, occupation, invasion

MATJAŽ GERŠIČ & DRAGO Kladnik

Anton Melik Geographical Institute, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Slovenia)

OECONYMS (HOUSE NAMES) AND CHORONYMS (FIELD NAMES) – AS IMPORTANT PART OF SLOVENIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE – CASE STUDY OF SELECTED CADAstral MUNICIPALITY IN GORENJSKA REGION

The subjects of discussion in the article are choronyms and oeconyms as part of intangible cultural heritage of rural areas. The paper is a case study of collecting choronyms and oeconyms in selected cadastral municipality in Gorenjska region within cross-border project FLU-LED.

House names are geographical proper names and denote an occupied or unoccupied house with a street number in a settlement or part of a settlement. The survey also includes names for ancillary farm buildings (e.g. mill, saw etc.) and names for communal village buildings such as a church, presbytery, school etc.

House names are historically important for the purposes of identifying the houses and people of a particular village; they mark the smallest unit of settlement. They were especially important in the period prior to the existence of land registers, and the names stuck to houses and estates even after the original owners had moved on. House names were also the basis for family names and the names of settlements and villages, so they are a valuable part of the cultural heritage, the history of a village or town, and indeed the history of the nation.

Choronyms are non-settlement-related geographical proper names within geographical names in the narrow (toponymic) and wider (geonymic) senses. People once used choronyms to orientate themselves within their immediate living environment and while performing their (agricultural) tasks; today, however, they are mainly used as general points of orientation. They reflect the geographical, historical and linguistic conditions in a particular landscape. In the local dialect,
choronyms have been handed down from generation to generation. With changes to the way of life (traditional farm management is disappearing, for example), choronyms and landscape names have lost their original purpose. They have nevertheless remained a source of information about the immediate surroundings of settlements and their inhabitants.

**Keywords / Sleutelwoorde:** traditional house names, field names, Gorenjska region, Slovenia, cultural heritage, geographical names

**Bio DATA:** Matjaž Geršič is a research assistant at the Anton Melik Geographical Institute, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts. His particular interests include geographical names, biogeography and regional geography. He is a member of the UNGEGN Working group on Exonyms and East Central and South-East Europe Division.

Drago Kladnik is a research advisor at the Anton Melik Geographical Institute, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts. His key research interests include toponomastics, terminology, regional geography, rural geography, agricultural geography, spatial planning and applied geography. He is a member of the UNGEGN Working group on Exonyms and East Central and South-East Europe Division.

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**VINCENT JENJEKWAA**

*Morgenster Teachers’ College (Zimbabwe)*

**THE TRANSITION FROM ‘KWAMUDZVITI’ (NATIVE COMMISSIONER) TO MUPANDAWANA TOWN: A TOPONYMIC PERSPECTIVE**

One of the oldest rural administrative centres set up by the colonial government at the end of the 19th century in the then Fort Victoria Province of the then Rhodesia is the place now known as Mupandawana town. The new town started as ‘KwaMudzviti’ (Native Commissioner), and then passed through Jakata, Gutu, Gutu-Mupandawana and now Mupandawana. Apart from these successive name changes, the newly born town has undergone transformation in terms of its function and roles under successive governments from colonialism to independence. A toponymic perspective of the Growth Point, which was recently granted town status, unravelled critical socio-historical information about the place. A historical study of the new town reveals that names are historical museums housing years of socio-historical information. The paper debates the role of place name changes against the background of retaining or erasing historical memory and concludes that name changes should not be executed as a needless attempt to sever ties with the past or an attempt to induce historical amnesia. They, instead, should be viewed and implemented as ideological statements born of the past and guided by the present and future goals and challenges of the community. The government should ensure that such places as Mupandawana establish local historical repositories to preserve history for posterity. The paper made use of Document Study and in-depth interviews for data collection.

**Keywords / Sleutelwoorde:** toponomy, colonialism, post colonialism, indigenous knowledge systems, heritage

**Bio DATA:** A senior lecturer and coordinator in English Department at Morgenster Teachers’ College, part-time lecturer at Reformed Church University and Great Zimbabwe University in Communication Studies and Pedagogic Studies of English Language and Literature. My research interests are in multi-disciplinary research with focus on Education, Inclusive Education, Communication Studies and Onomastics and I am currently engaged in doctoral studies at Unisa.

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**PETER JORDAN**

*Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Urban and Regional Research (Austria)*

**THE MEANING OF BI- OR MULTILINGUAL NAMING IN PUBLIC SPACE FOR THE CULTURAL IDENTITY OF LINGUISTIC MINORITIES**

Among the four main functions of place names in relating man to territory (or communities to geographical space), two are especially important for cultural or linguistic minorities: (1) Place names in the status of endonyms mark a community’s territory as symbols of appropriation and (2): places names support emotional ties between the local community and space. The aim of this paper is to highlight this functional background of bilingual and multilingual naming in public space for the cultural identities of linguistic minorities and to present some examples of rather different situations in Central Europe: bilingual German/Slovenian naming in Carinthia (Austria), trilingual German/Croatian/Hungarian naming in Burgenland (Austria), trilingual Romanian/Hungarian/German naming in Transylvania (Romania) and bilingual Polish/Kashubian naming in the Kashubian region of Poland. All these cases will be regarded under sociolinguistic aspects and the political circumstances that lead to and accompanied the implementation of bi- or multilingual names in public space.

2015 INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON PLACE NAMES
In his poem ‘Ulster Names’, John Hewitt (1907-1987) creates a historical landscape of Northern Ireland, the area designated as ‘Ulster’ in his poem. Carefully selected place names, including those of regions, towns, rivers and mountain, together create a geographical picture of the six regions that make up Northern Ireland/Ulster: Antrim, Armagh, Derry, Down, Fermanagh, and Tyrone. Most of the names are of Irish Gaelic origin, and their original literal meanings help create a picture of the historical and cultural depth of Ulster. Several names – especially Derry and Armagh – have high symbolic value as well, and help evoke fierce patriotic pride in being Irish and an Ulsterman.

In his creating of this historical landscape, Hewitt shows a strong awareness of the potential of place names in a poem of this nature, referring to them in his poem as repositories of history, as having both denotative as well as connotative meanings, as having inherent musicality, and so on. Two lines from stanza 3 give an example of this awareness:

The names of a land show the heart of the race; they move on the tongue like the lilt of a song.

The paper concludes with a brief comparison of Hewitt’s poem to the poem ‘KwaDedangendlale’, by the Zulu poet Benedict Vilakazi, who also successfully created a landscape that is simultaneously geographical, cultural and historical, through the judicious use of place names.

**Keywords / Sleutelwoorde:** place names in poetry, John Hewitt, Ulster, toponyms, historical connotations

**Bio Data:** Prof A. Koopman is a Professor Emeritus of the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He retired in 2012 after 37 years of teaching in isiZulu Studies. He is the immediate-past President of the Names Society of Southern Africa, and is still Editor of their journal *Nomina Africana*. He is the author of the 2002 *Zulu Names*, and of over 50 academic articles, mostly on onomastic topics.

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**BEYOND THE BRANDING IRON: CATTLE BRANDS AS HERITAGE PLACE NAMES IN THE STATE OF MONTANA**

For more than two centuries, American cattle ranchers have used hot iron brands as the primary means of identifying, tracking and asserting ownership of their animals. By virtue of their primary practical function as marks of livestock identification, cattle brands are first and foremost highly visible symbols containing letters, numbers and images appearing individually or in any combination. Every cattle brand symbol has a corresponding name that occurs in spoken and written (alphabetised) form, as shown in the following examples:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cattle brand symbol</th>
<th>Cattle brand name</th>
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<td><img src="circle.png" alt="Circle" /></td>
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Cattle brand names and symbols display a variety of interesting onomastic connections. For instance, the Circle cattle brand shown in example (1) above originally belonged to the Mabry Cattle Company, which established its ranch headquarters in Montana’s Redwater River area in 1884 during the height of the State’s historic cattle boom era. The company named its ranch the Circle Ranch after the Circle brand, which it ran on its cattle. The present-day town of Circle in Montana was named after the same cattle brand. Similarly, the town of Two Dot derives its name from the Two Dot cattle brand, illustrated in example (2). This cattle brand also inspired the nickname of its original owner who was known as Two Dot Wilson. The N Bar N cattle brand appearing in example (3) gave rise to the name of the N Bar N ranch, which was one of the largest cattle operations in Central Montana during the 1880s. The design of this cattle brand, which incorporates the first initial of the last name of the brand’s original owners, Frank and William Niedringhaus, was chosen to symbolize the close relationship between the two brothers in their cattle venture.

The types of multi-dimensional onomastic relationships illustrated above represent underlying associations between cattle brands and various elements in their socio-cultural surrounds, and offer some fascinating insights into the history, culture and social structure of communities and families in the Montana region. This paper specifically examines the naming of places, including ranches, after cattle brands, and explains how this phenomenon comprises a unique aspect of Montana’s cultural heritage. The paper is adapted from the author’s Doctoral thesis titled “The socio-onomastic significance of United States cattle brands: a Montana case study”, which is based on qualitative research focusing on cattle brands from the Central Montana region.

Keywords / Sleutelwoorde: cattle brands, place names, onomastics, cultural heritage

BIO DATA: Carol Lombard is currently pursuing a PhD in Linguistics through the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein. She holds a BA Degree in English and Linguistics, an Honours BA Degree in General Linguistics, and an MA Degree in Sociolinguistics. In addition to her linguistic pursuits, Carol maintains a keen interest in the history and culture of the American West, including Native American studies. She currently resides in Billings, Montana.

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JOHAN LUBBE
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BODEMGESTELDHEID EN KLIMATOLOGIESE TOESTANDE AS FAKTOR BY AFRIKAANSE PLEKNAAMGEWING
[GEOGRAPHIC AND CLIMATOLOGIC CONDITIONS AS FACTOR IN AFRIKAANS PLACE NAMES]

Die Afrikaanse stamouers was hoofsaaklik van Wes-Europese afkoms, veral vanaf Nederland. In teenstelling met die waterryke Nederland met sy polders, kanale en gragte moes die nuwe aankomelinge, veral ná die trek die binneland in, hulle aanpas by ‘n nuwe, droë, subtropiese bergland. Die neerslag van die bodemgesteldheid in pleknaamgewing, spesifiek van plaasnaamgewing, dit wil sê van oorspronklike individuele nedersettings, in onderskeiding van plekname deur amptelike instansies beheer, word nagegaan. Eersgenoemde groep is veelal samestellings met die eerste lid ’n bepalende eienskap en die tweede lid ’n geologiese eienskap. Die oogmerk is om die rol van die bodemgesteldheid en klimatologiese toestande in die algemeen, en die rol van die skaarste aan water in die besonder, by naamgewing van Afrikaanse plekname aan te dui. Ook die belang van pleknaamstudie vir die taalkundige word aangeraak, asook die invloed al dan nie van Khoi en San op die naamgewingsproses in Afrikaans.

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The Afrikaans ancestors were mainly Western Europeans, mostly from The Netherlands. In contrast to The Netherlands with its abundance of water in its polders and canals, the newcomers to South Africa, in particular after the migration to the interior, had to adapt to new, dry, subtropical mountainous areas. The influence of the their surrounding conditions influences the naming of place, specifically naming farms, i.e. the naming of originally individual settlements, distinct from place names governed by official institutions, is investigated. The first group mostly comprises compilations, where the first part is a determining attribute and the second part a geologic one. The aim is to indicate the role of the condition of the specific area and climatologic conditions in general and the role of the scarcity of water in particular, in the naming of Afrikaans places. The importance of studying place names for the linguist and the influence of the Khoi and San on the process of naming in Afrikaans is also discussed.

Keywords / Sleutelwoorde: place names, farm names, geographic conditions, climate, change of meaning
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**TENDAI MANGENA & PROSPER MUZAMBI**

*Great Zimbabwe University (Zimbabwe)*

**A REFLECTION ON CATHOLIC TOPONYMS IN MASVINGO DIOCESE OF ZIMBABWE**

Catholic place names the world over are often symbolic commemorations of Saints’ lives and their contribution to the history and establishment of the church. In this paper we intend to discuss the names of the Catholic Church places (schools, missions, hospitals and parishes) in Masvingo Diocese of Zimbabwe and demonstrate how the aforementioned toponyms, from a functional point of view, reflect on the global history of the Catholic Church, especially the place of the Saints in Catholicism. Since most of the Catholic Saints are from outside/foreign (with few complicated cases) Zimbabwe, this paper shall also highlight the various attempts made at localising church spaces through a provision of a second local name in addition to the Saint’s name. Though Christianity/the Church was a key colonial institution, with the ‘mission’ playing a significant role in the establishment of the colony, as we shall highlight in our discussion, the Zimbabwean Catholic church place is left untouched in the new postcolonial wave of decolonising the space through toponymical changes (a process that is prevalent in most Southern African states). The qualitative methodology shall be partly followed in this study, interviews will be carried out with resource persons in the Masvingo Diocese Catholic Church, and otherwise the study is a text-based interpretive exercise.

**Keywords / Sleutelwoorde:** Zimbabwe, Masvingo Diocese, Catholicism, saints, toponyms

**BIO DATA:** Tendai Mangena has a Doctorate in literary studies and currently lectures at Great Zimbabwe University’s Department of English and Media Studies. To date she has published various papers in peer-reviewed journals on Zimbabwean literature and onomastics. She has also attended and presented papers at international conferences on her research areas stated above. She is also the current Names Society of Southern Africa (NSSA) Vice-President.

Prosper Muzambi is a lecturer in Theology (Christian Theology, African Theology, Political Theology, and Liberation Theology) and Psychology of Religion at Great Zimbabwe University. He has a passion in unearthing the relevance of indigenous knowledge systems in modern times, which, due to the influence of western-inspired spirituality, appear to have been relegated to the dustbin of irrelevance and archaism. Prosper also has an interest in exploring the relevance of Theology in the development discourse. He is currently pursuing his studies for a PhD in Human Sciences at the University of KwaZulu–Natal South Africa.

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**JOHAN LODEWYK MARAIS & CHRISTA MORRISON**

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**THE ROLE AND MEANING OF PLACE NAMES IN THE TRAVEL WRITING OF IBN BATTUTA (1304–1368)**

The Moroccan, Ibn Battuta (1304–1368), who is currently widely regarded as the greatest traveller of the prehistoric era, was a Berber from the northern part of the country. After Ibn Battuta had travelled for about 29 years in the Islamic world, India, Indonesia, Central Asia, the Maldives, East Africa and Sudan, Sultan Abu ‘Inan, the Marinid ruler of Morocco ordered Ibn Juzayy, a young literary scholar of Andalusian origin, to record Ibn Battuta’s experiences and observations about the Islamic world. Juzayy listened to Ibn Battuta and recorded his accounts in a *rihla* or travel book. One of the translations of this text is R.E. Dunn’s *The adventures of Ibn Battuta: A Muslim traveler of the 14th century* (1986).

This paper will present a critical reading of Ibn Battuta’s *Rihla*, focusing in particular on his visit to the Horn of Africa and East Africa during the first part of 1329 or 1331, which lasted approximately five months. His text is the only eyewitness report from the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries on life and culture in these ports. The place names that are used in the text are not always familiar to the present-day reader, but give a contemporary view of which names from various linguistic origins were used at the time. Many of these names have changed over the years for various reasons; others have remained the same, or spelled differently. By using, *inter alia*, a multimedia presentation, the palimpsest of the various place names will be revealed.
BARBARA MEIRING

**Department of Linguistics, Unisa (South Africa)**

**FROM ‘SPACE’ TO ‘PLACE’ TO ‘NAME’ TO ‘HERITAGE’ – PRESERVATION OF A CULTURAL IDENTITY**

The definitions of ‘space’ and ‘place’ are considered in the light of the fact that a place name is a concise but informative way of identifying the transition from a particular part of space to a place, a locality. Linguistic landscapes are formed when names from certain languages and cultural communities prevail in specific areas indicating the presence of societies whose occupation of the geographical space led to the construction of this toponymical landscape. Geographical names originating, for instance, from the languages of the indigenous first inhabitants of South Africa, the Bushman and Khoikhoi, form an integral part of the toponymic landscape of Southern Africa. The endonymic nature of these names accentuate the delicacy with which the standardization and changing of names with a rich cultural descriptive backing should be approached. In this presentation, some of these names will serve as examples to point out the importance of appreciating the conception of space from the point of view of the original name giver. This is relevant when this space becomes place and decades later, the eventual geographical name is being proposed for standardization or change, or restoration. When dealing with the diachronic aspects of names, they should be regarded as expressions storing the collective memory and perspectives of the original users, those who referred to the space they occupied by way of a descriptive phrase eventually becoming a name. The significance of each expression is the representation of a spatial identity that needs to be taken into account when successive users translate or transcribe the expression as a place name. Without the relevant knowledge of the cognitive framework and perception of reality of the original users, semantic changes can occur in the transition from the language of origin to the destination language. The information found in sources specializing in Dialectology and Archaeology provide reliable relations of relevance, linking contemporary thought and the mind of original name giver (like the prehistoric hunter-gatherer). This valuable information can be a safeguard against incorrect or incomplete reconstruction of past events or archaeological evidence in the endeavour to restore geographical names to their original form or meaning.

**Keywords / Sleutelwoorde:** space, place, origin, perception of reality, reconstruction, preserving heritage, change

**Bio data:** At present, she is a Research Associate focusing on geographical names at the Department of Linguistics, Unisa as well as an external examiner for all the above-mentioned postgraduate courses in Sociolinguistics at the Department of African Languages. She was a ministerial appointee to serve on the South African Geographical Names Council and gives discussions by invitation at various local cultural events on procedures, the socio-political rationale and impact in the changing of names. The protection of the Bushman and Khoikhoi culture as reflected in geographical names is an important research topic in her programme.

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**Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)**

**A DIACHRONIC STUDY UNDER A DIVERSITY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE APPROACH OF THE TOPOONYM OF RIO DE JANEIRO STATE, BRAZIL**

The state of Rio de Janeiro is one of the 26 states of the Republic of Brazil. Currently it’s formed by 92 municipalities, administrative units of varying size. Since 1502, the Portuguese began exploratory expeditions, and from this time, the nomination process of
its territory was started. Its colonization began around the second quarter of the sixteenth century, and suffered some invasions and struggles for its territorial consolidation. Besides the several difficulties of its diversity landscape, compound of swamps, lowlands and mountains near the coastline, not allowing an easy exploration and penetration routes to the countryside, where occurred a disputed occupation with the natural inhabitants, indigenous of several tribes.

Thus, the state has a quite interesting toponymic diversity, of a reasonable complexity, sometimes curious and even a challenge to be studied. Practically structured by a single language, the Portuguese, coming from the European colonizers, has however a rich toponymic heritage, derived from the indigenous spoken languages, from the original language (Brasilia Language), created by the early settlers and inhabitants, as well as those of external.

This paper aims to show the toponymic profile of Rio de Janeiro State, relating to the diversity and the current toponymic heritage, coming from nearly 512 years of nominations. Both geographical and anthropogenic toponymy features have been studied through an analysis process under a diachronic approach, since the early sixteenth century until the last great toponymic change that took place in Brazil, through the Municipalities Act in 1938 and the State Law of 1943.

The applied methodology is based on the identification and extraction of place names from historical maps and documents of Colonial and Empire times, all of them geographically identified. The first basic attribute to be defined is the geographical positioning of each toponym, relating to the current Brazilian geodetic reference system. The remaining attributes are defined as follows: date, linguistic origin, and toponymic motivation. Other information is added according to the Metadata Profile, which has been established for the Project Geonymy of Rio de Janeiro.

The extraction comes from maps in different cartographic scales, as well as through field works to prove the extracted names and the in situ extraction at predefined locations.

Supported on the geographical positioning and date, for each toponym, the diachronic analysis is developed defining the associated parameters of language fossilization, change names, change motivation, toponymic heritage and finally its genealogy.

**Keywords / Sleutelwoorde:** toponymy, historical cartography, historical toponymy, diversity and cultural toponymic aspects

**Bio Data:** Surveying engineer (1977); MSc in Computational Systems (1987), from the Brazilian Military Institute of Engineering. Doctor in Sciences (2000) in Geography from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. Currently is Associate Professor at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Head of the Cartography Laboratory of the Geography Department. Vice President of the International Cartographic Association (ICA) and chair of the Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy (ICA). Two books, 10 chapters in books, 48 papers in scientific journals, and 158 papers in conference proceedings. Research interests: Digital Cartography; GIS; Historical Cartography; Toponymy and Thematic Cartography.

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LUCIE A. MÖLLER

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**TOPONYMS WITH BUSHMAN (SAN)* ONOMATOPOEIC AND METAPHORIC ORIGINS**

The mimicking of animal and bird sounds constitutes one of the primary manifestations of onymic formation. Evolutionary linguistic processes resulted in a shift from common nouns to proper names, both in motive and naming pattern. Some of the hunter–gatherer Bushman (San) place names included these onomatopoeic zoological and ornithological designations. Subsequent successive migration into and habitation by Khoikhoi, Bantu and European peoples in the sub-continent of Southern Africa, and consequent language contact, resulted in the adoption, adaptation, hybridization and translation of many of these designations, illustrating the diversity of languages from which these elements originated and the shared heritage it constitutes. This paper investigates place names that incorporate these fossilized remnants or traces of Bushman onomatopoeic and metaphoric elements, as well as some scientific zoological and ornithological terminology in which they have been preserved, and still occur.

**Keywords / Sleutelwoorde:** Bushman languages, naming motives and patterns, language contact, onymic formations, onomatopoeia, ornithological and zoological terminology

**Bio Data:** Dr Lucie A. Möller, research fellow of the Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment of the University of the Free State; member of the South African Academy for Science and Art, former delegate to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) and member of the South African Geographical Names Council. She co-presented ten training courses on geographical names in Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa. An honorary member of the Names Society of Southern Africa, and member of the editorial advisory committee of *Nomina Africana*, she acts as guest editor for special editions, i.a. *A World of Names*. Co-author of *Dictionary of Southern African Place Names*.

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LITERARY NAMING AND MAPPING IN ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALIST LITERATURE

Literary cartography, the naming and mapping of places and identities, is deeply connected to the imperial and post-imperial project in Southern Africa literature. The focus of my paper is on literary cartography by the formerly colonised as a way of contesting Eurocentric names and spaces, of renaming and remapping the colony as a literary construction of nationalism and indigeneity in the work of Solomon Mutswairo, poet, novelist and composer of the National anthem of Zimbabwe. I read his Shona novel, *Feso* (1956), as the foundational text of literary nationalism and its deep implication in determining subsequent texts (Yvonne Vera *The Stone Virgins*, Chenjerai Hove *Bones*, and Charles Mungoshi *Waiting for the Rain*). This literary naming and mapping, associated with a militarised masculinity is interrogated in Yvonne Vera novels, especially *The Stone Virgins* and *Without a Name*. I adopt Nancy Fraser’s concept of redistribution and recognition to tease the importance of literary cartography in the production of troubled nationalisms in Zimbabwe. Solomon Mutswairo, while purporting to create supra-ethnic nationalism, in its naming and mapping produces an ethno-nationalism that is contested in texts by a later generation of writers, placing identities and struggle for justice. Place naming and mapping in this particular variety of Zimbabwean literature becomes a “form of political conflict” (Fraser) that views place names and maps as tools in the redistribution of political power. I argue that the (re)-inscription and erasure of ethnic names and maps deploy literary cartography and naming as critical in the reimagining of the nation.

**Keywords / Sleutelwoorde:** literary cartography, literary nationalism, ethno-nationalism, militarised masculinity, political conflict

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BERTIE NEETHLING

_University of the Western Cape (South Africa)_

**THE CONTESTED ETYMOLOGY OF DEVIL’S PEAK/DUIWELSPIEK ALONGSIDE TABLE MOUNTAIN**

Individuals or groups from the Western Cape may propose a toponymic name change for an existing feature through an application to the Western Cape Geographical Place Name Committee (WCPGNC). The applicant is then invited to attend a meeting of the WCPGNC to present their case, where the committee advises them on their strategy and methodology. Once the committee is satisfied that all the requirements, inter alia, extensive public participation, have been met by the applicants, the request is then forwarded to the national body who considers the application and makes a decision.

The name for the popular landmark Devil’s Peak/Duiwelspiek is currently being contested and is on the provincial agenda. The group advocating a change contend that the landmark earlier carried different names and that the current name has developed according to a legendary fable in more recent times. The main assumption of the applicants seemingly emanates from a religious perspective in which the name Devil’s Peak is considered as inappropriate.

The purpose with this contribution is to look at the existing etymologies for Devil’s Peak/Duiwelspiek to assess whether the applicants have a valid case and a reasonable chance of success.

The obvious difficulty with Devil’s Peak/Duiwelspiek is that it is currently a well-known and popular landmark to many Capetonians and visitors and that its name ironically fits into the context of other surrounding features of Table Mountain suggesting a religious or biblical background.

**Keywords / Sleutelwoorde:** Western Cape Provincial Geographical Names Committee (WCPGNC), name change application, methodology, contested etymologies, popular landmark

**Bio Data:** Bertie Neethling is an Emeritus Senior Professor at the University of the Western Cape. He obtained his doctorate (DLitt) at the University of Stellenbosch. After focussing on oral literature, he started his work in onomastics. His initial focus was on anthroponymy, but he has expanded into toponymy, names in the economy (NITE), particularly brand names, animal names, ship names (warships as well as recreational cruise ships), and names of sporting stadiums in South Africa. In all these areas, name changes also receive attention. He represents the Names Society of Southern Africa (NSSA) on the Western Cape Provincial Geographical Names Committee (WCPGNC).

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SIBUSISO L. NTULI
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THE HISTORICAL DIMENSION OF SOME PLACE NAMES IN KWAZULU-NATAL

Place names have always had a historical bearing amongst several communities. Most of the place names narrate a communities’ heritage and history. This article intends to traverse a historical dimension of some place names in KwaZulu-Natal. The descriptive and semantics theories will be utilized in this research.

Some of the place names in KwaZulu-Natal in particular, bear a strong historical perspective particularly of the pre-colonial era, covering among other things during the history of tribal battles and wars. EnDondakusuka is one typical example of such names. This area along eMangethe in eMandeni Local Municipality derived its name from the battle fought between the Zulu royal brothers Cetshwayo and Mbuyazwe. Mbuyazwe’s regiments were supposed to move and cross uThukela River where they would merge with English forces and thereafter launch an attack on Cetshwayo’s forces, who was in hot pursuit. As it were, when Mbuyazwe’s forces approached uThukela, they unfortunately found the river flooding, halting their planned move across the river. The archaic Zulu word(s) for coming to a halt is ukundonda ukusuka which came to bear on the whole area where the ensuing battle took place; eNdondakusuka. History has it that sooner rather than later, Cetshwayo caught up with Mbuyazwe’s troops and crushed them in the battle that came to be known as the battle of eNdondakusuka.

Some place names also delve on the colonial and the post-colonial eras. Enhlakanhlakeni in Ladysmith is one such example. The narrative goes that people currently living in this settlement were forcibly removed from areas surrounding the town of Ladysmith during the era of forced removals. Such were the living conditions in this area that the inhabitants referred to the whole area as inhlakanhlaka (disorder). Eventually the area became known as eNhlanhlanheleni.

Some place names originate from socio-historical developments. A township in eMandeni in Northern KwaZulu-Natal was once named KwaLahlumlenze. Lahlumlenze is a compound name formed by a verb laha (to cast aside) and a noun umlenze (a leg). The story of the area goes that some of the women who first settled in area were known to be promiscuous and their deeds unfortunately cast a dark shadow over the area, hence the whole area becoming known as KwaLahlumlenze. However, after protracted battles to change this rather derogatory name, the area has been renamed and is now known as Chappies.

In my brief research on the popularisation of place names, it does not appear that any consensus has been reached on any given name. However, with the passage of time names become commonly used.

Keywords / Sleutelwoorde: historical dimension, pre-colonial era, post-apartheid era, popularisation of names

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COSIMO PALAGIANO
Sapienza Università di Roma (Italy)

SOME GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES: THEIR ORIGIN AND MEANING

Some geographical names of continents, regions and other areas have a long history. Since they go back to very ancient times, their origins and meanings are often enigmatic. We need to read the ancient writers and poets to know how geographical features received their names. However, the changes and the free translations and transliterations from one ancient language to another can be a dilemma for scholars. In addition, both the extent and the location of these areas are unclear. Nevertheless such investigation is important if we are to understand how a place name was born. Of course the names of the less extensive areas originated in a characteristic feature of the land or water: the morphologies of mountains and plains, the benefits or dangers of rivers, favourable landing places, arid and wet areas etc. The most ancient names refer to the continents of the Old World: Europe, Asia and Africa (or Libya). Of course the ancients knew only the Mediterranean areas of Africa, which, as is well known, was explored only in the 19th century.

The ancient writers before the discovery of America, such as Homer, Polybius, Strabo and others later during the Medieval Era, had the idea of a flat Earth, with three continents, Europe, Asia and Libya, two rivers, the Tanais (Don) and the Nile, and an internal sea. Around the Earth, the Oecumene, flowed the Ocean. The history and the tradition of this name in different languages is interesting. We will show that this name means circumference in some ancient languages.
The aim of this paper is to discuss the origin, the meaning and the extent of the above names, as well as other names such as Sahara, Gobi, Caucasus, Alps, Olympus, Himalayas, Andes, Fujiyama, Maghreb, Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, Arctic, Antarctic etc. Some of these names refer to the soil characteristics and the orientation of the area, according to a long tradition, which comes from the Ancient Near East.

Comments on these names will be supplemented by original passages from ancient writers and poets.

**Keywords / Sleutelwoorde:** heritage, origin and meaning of some ancient place names, reading and comment of ancient literature

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**BURGERT SENEKAL**

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**STRAATNAAMGEWING EN -VERANDERING, PADNETWERKE EN DIE AFRIKAANSE LITERÊRE KANON: LANGENHOVENPARK IN BLOEMFONTEIN AS LITERATUURGESKIEDENIS [STREET NAMING AND NAME CHANGES, ROAD NETWORKS AND THE AFRIKAANS LITERARY CANON: LANGENHOVEN PARK IN BLOEMFONTEIN AS LITERARY HISTORY]**

Streetnames functioneer as monument vir die bydrae wat bepaalde persones tot 'n kultuur gelewer het, en daar kan veronderstel word dat die belangrikste strate in 'n padnetwork vernoem word na persone wat hulle uitsonderlike bydrae tot hul bepaalde gemeenskap gelewer het. Die huidige artikel stel onderzoek in na die korrelasie tussen die belangrikheid wat aan 'n Afrikaanse skrywer geheg word en die posisie wat die straat wat na daardie skrywer vernoem is binne 'n padnetwerk (Langenhovenpark in Bloemfontein) inneem. Padnetwerke is reeds breedvoerig binne die netwerktheorie bestudeer, en sentraliteitsaanduiders wat binne die netwerktheorie ontwikkel is, kan ook aangewend word om die belangrikheid van paie te bereken. Ten einde die vergelyking te onderneem, word die aantal woorde wat in Kannemeyer se tweeledige literaturskiedenis (1984; 1983) aan 'n skrywer gewy is, vergelyk met die graad-, nabyheid- en tussenligtingsentraliteit van die straat wat na daardie skrywer vernoem is binne die padnetwerk van Langenhovenpark, en die grootte van strate wat na skrywers vernoem is, word ook in berekening gebring. Daar word die korrelasie van 0.26 ≤ r ≤ 0.71 tussen die veranderlikes gevind, wat bespreek word as 'n aanduiding daarvan dat streetname nie bloot luukra toegeneke word nie maar ook 'n bepaalde konsensus veronderstel van die waarde van die bydrae wat 'n persoon tot die kulturele erfenis van 'n gemeenskap gelewer het. As sodanig word Langenhovenpark aangedui as 'n alternatiewe Afrikaanse literaturskiedenis wat skakel met die tradisionele Afrikaanse literêre kanon maar terselfdertyd daarvan wegbeweeg deur ook belangrike strate na die skrywers van populêre letteratuur te vernoem. Gereken in die alternatiewe literaturskiedenis word ook uitgeleg, veral ten opsigte van die weglating van swart Afrikaanse skrywers, en die herbenoeming van Bankovs Boulevard na Elias Motsoaledistraat word daarvolgens knipes beskou.

Street names serve as a monument for the contribution by specific persons to a culture, and therefore it can be assumed that the most important streets in a road network are named after persons who have made an exceptional contribution to a specific community. The current article investigates the correlation between the importance attached to an Afrikaans author and the position of the street named after that specific author within a road network (Langenhoven Park in Bloemfontein). Road networks have already been studied extensively within the network theory, and indicators of centrality developed within the network theory can be utilised as well to determine the importance of roads. In order to make the comparison, the number of words devoted to an author in Kannemeyer’s double-volume history of literature (1984; 1983), compared to the degree, vicinity and inter-situated centrality of the street named after that author within the road network of Langenhoven Park, as well as the size of streets named after authors, are also taken into account. A correlation of 0.26 ≤ r ≤ 0.71 was found between these variables, and is discussed as an indicator of the fact that street names are not simply allocated randomly, but also assumes a specific consensus regarding the value of the contribution that a person made to the cultural heritage of a community. As such, Langenhoven Park is indicated as an alternative Afrikaans history of literature, which links with the traditional Afrikaans literary canon, but at the same time moves away from it by also naming important streets to authors of popular literature. Deficiencies in this alternative literary history are also highlighted, specifically in respect of the omission of black Afrikaans authors. The renaming of Bankovs boulevard to Elias Motsoaledistraat is discussed critically in this regard.

**Keywords / Sleutelwoorde:** road networks, street names, literary history
Bio data: Since 2008, Burgert A. Senekal has been affiliated with the University of the Free State (UFS), and is currently a postdoctoral research fellow at the Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment. He completed his PhD in Afrikaans at the UFS in 2013. His recent research interests include systems theory, network theory, and information technology, especially where information technology can be harnessed within the framework of network theory to analyse complex social systems.

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EQUAL REPRESENTATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF TOPONYMS IN SMALL TOWNS: A CASE STUDY OF MOSSEL BAY

After 1994, name changes in South Africa have formed an important part in the reflection of the new democracy, since the semiotic landscape needs to be representative of South Africa’s diverse inhabitants. The importance of this is that it creates a sense of belonging to previously marginalised groups. It is also a way to show political change from a previously hegemonic regime. This study set out to determine if in a typical South African town such as Mossel Bay, the toponymic corpus reflect the heterogeneous community, and more importantly, if it is reflected universally through the town.

To determine this, a database of toponyms within the municipal town of Mossel Bay was created using maps, books, archive documents, interviews and fieldwork. The study used both intensive and extensive methods of research. Intensive methods refer to the micro-study of each individual toponym – the name, previous names, approximate dates, language, type of name and additional information (origin). The extensive method focuses on pattern analysis. With regard to this case study, more emphasis was placed on the extensive approach, as the aim of the research was to get an overall view of the naming practices of Mossel Bay.

As background to the study, demographic factors such as language and ethnic groups were included in the study as this was important to determine representation. The findings show that Mossel Bay is to a large extent representative; however, it is not universally representative.

The naming patterns are still closely linked to previously demarcated areas (race-based suburbs) under the segregation laws, and therefore equal representation is lacking.

The conclusion of the study is that Mossel Bay does represent its heterogeneous community, but there are areas where reparation is needed to enhance the prestige and representation of previously marginalised groups. Resultant from this it is recommended that naming authorities in South Africa adopt the kind of corpus-based approach demonstrated in this study for further toponymic management, in order to balance the tension between heritage conservation and representation in name change.

Keywords / Sleutelwoorde: toponyms, intensive method, extensive method, Mossel Bay, representation, distribution, toponymic representation, reparation

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PLACE NAMES IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN LANGUAGE RIGHTS MONITOR (SALRM) / PLEKNAME IN DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE TAALREGTEMONITOR (SATRM)

The SATRM/SALRM series reflects a decade of language developments in South Africa from 2002 to 2011, as reported primarily in the mainstream media. Media records covered include reporting on language issues, whether it be reports, readers’ letters, editorial comments, interviews or even cartoons. The annual overview provided in the Monitor also deals with language development, including issues such as language in education, language maintenance or promotion, and language problems. Inspired by the Canadian Commissioner of Official Languages’ annual language rights report, the SATRM/SALRM series originated as a (sponsored) report to the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB). Originally, it only covered the Afrikaans and English mainstream media, but for the 2008 and 2009 reports, South Africa’s two main Zulu newspapers were included. In 2008, it became a bilingual Afrikaans-English publication (partially sponsored by the ATKV, the Afrikaans Language and Culture Association). The series continue to serve as a comprehensive source of information regarding language issues in South Africa and incidentally also of developments regarding place-name changes.

The Monitor not only provides a statistical presentation of how place-name changing features in the printed media, but also traces its development and role within South Africa’s evolving new democracy. It also renders a concise overview of controversial name-change instances, such as the drawn-out Louis Trichardt/Makhado and Pretoria/Tshwane sagas. Furthermore, and perhaps most importantly, it portrays the role of name changes in the power struggles and negotiations regarding the introduction of new languages and cultural conventions in the public sphere while maintaining existing ones.

Place-(re)-naming remains such a contentious issue that it continues to make up a significant portion of language-related reporting in the media (between 20 and 45%, depending on the targeted name change). It is rivalled only by the issue of medium of instruction, at both school and tertiary levels. Since the changing of a place’s name influences a bigger segment of a community, it offers more scope for activist actions and (sections of) the aggrieved community to prove themselves willing to mobilise, although actions often peter out. These are matters pertinently covered in the Monitor.

In general, communities seem to opt for moderate forms of activism, such as petitions, although more confrontational aspects instances such as protest marches and litigation are also reported in the annual overviews.

The data discussed in the Monitor reveal that various parties involve themselves with activism relating to place names, from community members, language cultural groups, pop stars and organisations created specifically for the purposes of opposing proposed name changes, such as the Pretoria Civilian Action Committee or the Louis Trichardt Chairpersons Association. While these various interest groups are usually driven by different motivations – such as ethno-cultural or historical maintenance, economic considerations or party politics, they often form a temporary (and sometimes uneasy) alliance in order to oppose unwanted name changes.

From the Monitor reports, it becomes clear that the media reflect both sympathy with the name-changing process as well as opposition against it. Economic considerations include the fiscal implications for businesses as well as the perception that the process is conducted at the cost of development, service delivery and the alleviation of poverty. In addition, the ruling party is often accused of using name changing to score political points without bringing about any real socioeconomic change. This accusation is used freely in the practice of opposition party politics. The most prevalent arguments are ideological ones, often centred on the divisive impact of name changing and the erosive impact on nation building, whether it is the perceived obliteration of white history or a one-sided commemoration of ANC history. More often than not, dissatisfaction is expressed at procedural mismanagement. This is a particularly crucial point. By limiting public consultation, an opportunity is lost to institute a measure of participative democracy. In addition, this argument usually forms the basis of litigation opposing the changing of names, instead of the ideological arguments centring on minorities. It seems to hinder an open discourse on how place-name changes should be approached. As is indeed pointed out by the compilers, the language discontent regarding place-name changes discussed in the Monitor suggests that South Africa would benefit from a proper policy on place-name changes, preferably one that accommodates multilingual geographical names.

While the SATRM/SALRM provides an overview of developments regarding name changes in South Africa, the first volume of the spin-off focus series, Kaapstad se ‘Streetgate’ – Politieke maneuvres en die Peter Marais debakel (1999–2002) by Johan Moll, investigates one such an incident in detail. It is a striking illustration not only of the role politicians play in the naming game, but also of its effect on the political dynamics of South Africa.

The SATRM/SALRM 2002–2011 publication, as well as Streetgate, is available in both hard copy and pdf format from SUN Press (http://www.africansunmedia.co.za/Sun-e-Shop.aspx).

Die SATRM/SALRM-reeks weerspieël h dekade van taalontwikkeling in Suid-Afrika, vanaf 2002 tot 2011, soos primêr in die hoofstroommedia gerapporteer. Mediarekords wat gedeel is, sluit in rapportering oor taalkwessies, hetsy as nuusberigte, lesers se brieue, redaksionele kommentare, onderhoude, of selfs strokiesprente. Die jaarlikse oorsig wat in die Monitor

Die Monitor bied nie slegs h statistiese oorsig van hoe pleknaamverandering in die gedrukte media figureer nie, maar volg ook die spoor van die ontwikkeling en rol van pleknaamverandering binne Suid-Afrika se ontwikkelende nuwe demokrasie. Dit bied ook h bondige oorsig van kontroversiële gevalle van naamverandering, soos die uitgerekte Louis Trichardt/ Makhado- en Pretoria/Tshwane-sages. Verder, en moontlik nog belangriker, beeld dit die rol uit van naamveranderings in die magstryd en onderhandelings insake die bekendstelling van nuwe tale en konvensies in die openbare sfeer, terwyl bestaande name gehandhaaf word.

Die (her)benoeming van plekke bly so ’n kontensieuse saak dat dit voortgaan om ’n betekenisvolle deel van taalverwante verslagdoening in die media te beslaan (tussen 20 en 45%, afhangende van die geteikende naamverandering). Dit word slegs oortref deur die kwessie van onderrigmedium, op skool sowel as op tersiëre vlak. Aangesien die verandering van h plek se naam h groter segment van h samelewing beïnvloed, bied dit meer ruimte vir activiste optrede en (dele van) die gegriefde gemeenskap verklaar hulself bereid om te mobiliseer, alhoewel sodanige optrede dikwels h natuurlike dood sterk. Hierdie is sake wat pertinent in die Monitor gedek word. Oor die algemeen verkies gemeenskappe skynbaar matige vorms van aktivisme, soos petisies, alhoewel meer konfronterende benaderings soos protesoptogte en litigasie ook in die jaarliële oorsig gerapporteer word.

Die data wat in die Monitor verslae blyk is toegeneem deur die media sowel simpatie met die proses van pleknaamverandering en van gemeenskapse, taalkulturele groepe, popsterre en organisasies wat spesifie vir doel om naamverandering teen te staan geskep is, soos byvoorbeeld die Pretoria Burgerlike Aksiekomitee of die Louis Trichardt Voorstellersvereniging. Terwyl hierdie onderskeie belanggroepes gewoonlik deur verskillende motiverings aangevuur word – soos etnies-kulturele of historiese handhawing, ekonomiese oorwegings of partypolities, vorm hulle dikwels ’n tydelike en (soms ongemaklike) allianse ten einde ongewenste naamsveranderinge teen te staan.

Vanuit die Monitor-verslae blyk dit duidelik dat die media sowel simpatie met die proses van naamverandering het, asook teenstand daarteen bied. Ekonomiese oorwegings sluit in die fiscale implikasies vir sakeondernemings asook die perspektiewe wat die proses van naamverandering en die inhulwevede naamsverandering teweeg te bring. Hierdie verslag word grykelik in die praktyk van opposisieparty en politieke urgente gebruik. Die argumente wat die meeste aangevoer word, is ideologies van aard, wat dikwels sentereer rondom die verdelende impak van naamverandering en die inhulwevede naamsverandering. Met name die perspektiewe wat vir die afskaf van verskeie naamveranderinge en organisasies wat vir die politieke dinamiek van Suid-Afrika smeul het, bied die Monitor verslae ‘n interessante en relevante oorsig van hoe pleknaamverandering in die media en onderhavige politieke dinamiek van Suid-Afrika verhandel word.

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