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Centre for
African Studies



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Call for Papers

Cultural relations between Switzerland and South Africa, 1948–1994

Conference

3–5 May 2023 in Basel (Switzerland)

The relationship between Switzerland and South Africa has been the object of extensive research over the past two decades. However, the focus has until now been on the role that Swiss business and politics played as enablers for the apartheid state. A research project running from 2019 to 2023 at the Hochschule der Künste Bern HKB, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), has aimed instead to shed light on cultural relations between the two countries from the beginnings of apartheid in 1948 through to the first democratic elections in South Africa in 1994.

To conclude this project, the [Hochschule der Künste Bern](#) will be holding a conference from Wednesday 3 May to Friday 5 May 2023 in Basel in Switzerland, hosted by the [Basler Afrika Bibliographien](#) in collaboration with the [Centre for African Studies Basel](#) and [Africa Open Institute](#) of the University of Stellenbosch, and funded by the SNSF.

We invite submissions for papers of 20 minutes each (with a subsequent 10 minutes for questions) on any aspect of cultural relations between Switzerland and South Africa (including the territory of South West Africa, today Namibia) from 1948 to 1994. The topics may include classical music, jazz, theatre, literature or the visual arts and may consider the activities of either state actors or individuals, institutions or organisations. Papers on related topics will also be considered if they are relevant to the overall field of research (e.g. on broader Swiss international relations in the period in question, or on cultural relations between Switzerland and South Africa prior or subsequent to the period under investigation). Papers given at the conference will be published afterwards, and must be submitted for this purpose in their final form no later than eight weeks after the conference.

Please send an abstract of no more than 250 words by Friday 14 November 2022 to:

Prof. Dr Chris Walton, chrwalton@gmail.com
Hochschule der Künste Bern HKB

Applicants will be notified in the course of December 2022 as to whether they have been successful.

Conference website: www.hkb-interpretation.ch/south-africa

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