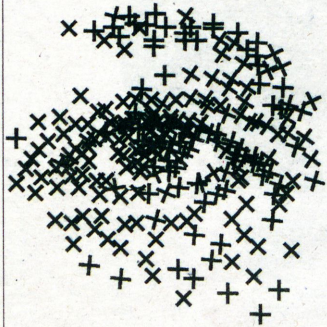


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Unam Press to launch 'The Genocidal Gaze'

THE GENOCIDAL GAZE

From German South West Africa
to the Third Reich



Elizabeth R. Baer

Photo: Unam Press

ADDING to the increasing body of literature on the contentious period of the 1904 to 1908 Namibian genocide, Elizabeth Baer's analysis focuses on the concept of the genocidal gaze and the African gaze of resistance to it.

Implying power structures, the notion of the gaze allows Baer to explore different modes of perception and presentation of dominance and victimhood, over time and through the eyes of both German and African authors.

In 'The Genocidal Gaze', she draws on literary texts and art, using the 19th century letters and diaries of visionary Nama leader Hendrik Witbooi; a 1906 colonial novel by the German Gustav Frenssen as

well as three post-holocaust texts by German Uwe Timm, Ghanaian novelist Ama Ata Aidoo and artist William Kentridge of South Africa.

Published by Unam Press, the book highlights concepts such as racial superiority, *lebensraum* (living space), *rassenschande* (racial shame) and *endlösung* (final solution), as well as methods such as the use of concentration camps, death camps, intentional starvation and the killing of women and children. She also demonstrates connections between the Ovaherero and Nama genocide and that of the holocaust in the 1940s.

'The Genocidal Gaze' is a challenging discussion of contemporary issues such as colonial practices,

cultures in contact, definitions of genocide, European and African race relations and post-colonial theory.

Baer served as the Ida E King distinguished visiting scholar in holocaust studies at Stockton University in New Jersey in 2016 and 2017. She continues as a research professor of English and African studies at the Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota. She is the editor/author of four books, including 'The Golem Redux: From Prague to Post-Holocaust Fiction'.

'The Genocidal Gaze' will be launched at the Unam Leisure Centre on 28 August at 17h00 for 17h30.