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HS 13
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Institut für
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Anette Hoffmann

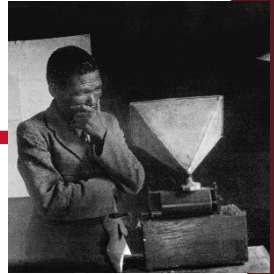
Institute for African Studies,
University of Cologne

Listening to colonial history: linguistic recordings from Botswana (1908)

In this lecture Anette Hoffmann engages with the affordances of acoustic recordings both for our understanding of colonial knowledge production and in terms of speaking positions with regard to colonial history. Hoffmann mainly works with linguistic recordings, the production of which often allowed speakers to address the violence of epistemological practices. In many cases the recordings also spoke to extractive practices of colonisation. In this lecture Hoffmann presents two recordings: that of a Congolese prisoner of war, Albert Kudjabo, who was interned in a camp in Germany, where he was recorded by Carl Meinhof and Wilhelm Doegen (1917). Kudjabo speaks of the effects of mining on gender relations in the area he called home. On the other recording a Naro speaker requested the return of his knife in a recording session with the Austrian anthropologist Rudolf Pöch (Botswana 1908).

Anette Hoffmann is a researcher and curator, she lives and works in Cologne (anettehoffmann.com). Her current project on the articulation of language and concepts of race by German linguists is attached to the Institute of African Studies and Egyptology at the University of Cologne. Her most recent book *Listening to Colonial History, Echoes of Coercive Knowledge Production in Historical Sound Archives from Southern Africa* was published by Basler Africa Bibliographien in 2023.

Weitere Informationen: www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de



Listening to a
recording in
southern Namibia
in 1931, unnamed
listener
Photographed by
Hans Lichtenecker,
collection
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