

HEIKE BECKER is Professor of Anthropology at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) in South Africa. Her research and writing explores the intersection of politics, culture and aesthetics with a focus on memory cultures, popular culture, digital media and social movements, mainly in southern Africa (South Africa and Namibia).

Heike guides the Popular Culture research platform in UWC's Department of Anthropology & Sociology, where she previously directed collaborative projects on popular culture, performance and the politics of difference. Some of this research has been published in "Un/making Difference through Performance and Mediation in Contemporary Africa" (2017), a special issue of the *Journal of African Cultural Studies*, coedited by Heike Becker and Dorothea Schulz (this collection includes also an article by AMA Director Dr. Hauke Dorsch).

Heike's recent work investigates the aesthetics and politics of popular culture and digital media in movements of popular protest, such as the #FeesMustFall movements in South Africa, and protest movements led by young people in Namibia and Burkina Faso. Together with the digital social media, such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, the popular cultural forms and aesthetics through which the movements express their views are critical for understanding transformative political processes of mobilization. An application for a broader project on popular culture, digital social media and popular protest movements is currently being prepared.

Heike has also written in historical perspectives about youth-led and student protests on the African continent, and has made various contributions that have demonstrated the significance of African movements to the understanding of 'Global 1968'.

She is the author of *Namibian Women's Movement, 1980 to 1992: From Anti-colonial Resistance to Reconstruction*, and several edited collections. She has published extensively in academic journals such as, among others, *Africa*, *Journal of Southern African Studies*, *American Anthropologist*, *Anthropology Southern Africa*, *Visual Anthropology*, *Peripherie*, *Social Dynamics*, and the *Canadian Journal of African Studies*. She is a regular contributor to *Review of African Political Economy online*, and has also written for *The Conversation*, *Africa is a Country*, and other blogs. As editor-in-chief of *Anthropology Southern Africa*, 2011-2015, Heike was in charge of the journal's internationalisation. She sits currently on the editorial boards of *Africa*, *Anthropology Southern Africa*, *Social Dynamics*, and *Peripherie*.

Heike's writing surpasses ethnography, history, and journalism. She is particularly interested in developing writing that cuts across fiction and non-fiction.

Website: www.writer-at-ethnography.com