

Perpetrating apartheid

New perspectives on construction and collaboration – from ‘grand’ to everyday apartheid

2 June 2016

Zuid-Afrikahuis, Keizersgracht 141c, Amsterdam

For most of the past two decades, the history of apartheid has been dominated by an overwhelming focus on the liberation struggle. Following the tone set by Nelson Mandela's *Long Walk to Freedom*, memoirs and biographies of struggle heroes exploded onto the scene, each adding another layer to a grand narrative of oppression and resistance. However, the past few years have witnessed a new and interesting turn, as both popular and scholarly accounts of apartheid politicians, spies, collaborators, military operatives and housewives have begun to make their appearance. This movement is still a trickle, especially seen against the background of renewed structural debates on pervasive privilege and inequality. Yet, these intricate and often individualised accounts are complicating the perpetrators of apartheid and opening up new lines of enquiry into understanding the workings of the apartheid state, its functionaries and the people who kept it in power for 46 years.

This symposium aims at investigating some of these lines of enquiry and asks the question whether the study of apartheid may benefit from wider histories of perpetration and collaboration. In exploring these avenues, it seeks to address an important question that has been raised in recent years: how and why did apartheid remain in place for so long?

Attendance is free.

Please make a reservation via evenementen@zuidafrikahuis.nl to secure your place.

PROGRAMME

9.00 Welcome by drs. Guido van den Berg, director of the Zuid-Afrikahuis

9.15 *Uncomfortable histories: facing up to perpetration and complicity in the apartheid past*, Dr. Lindie Koorts, UFS Bloemfontein

10.00 Coffee

10.30 *Perpetrators with a cause. Idealism, fear and rationalized behaviour*, Dr. Bas Kromhout, NIOD Amsterdam

11.15 *Building a dam. Hendrik Verwoerd on planning, efficiency and control*, Prof. Christoph Marx, Universität Duisburg-Essen

12.00 Lunch

13.00 *Apartheid, anti-apartheid and anti-anti-apartheid*, Prof. Saul Dubow, Queen Mary University of London

13.45 *'Doing' apartheid: Dutch immigrants in South Africa*, Dr. Barbara Henkes, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen

14.30 *The backyard as border zone in post-apartheid South Africa. Negotiations between domestic workers and their employers*, Prof. Ena Jansen, Universiteit van Amsterdam

15.15 Tea

16.00 Panel discussion: *Perpetration, complicity, collaboration. How did apartheid remain in place for 46 years?* with Prof. Saul Dubow, Prof. Ena Jansen, Prof. Christoph Marx

17.30 Drinks