

Obituary: Prof. Emer. Patrick Harries (1950–2016)

■ CENTRE FOR AFRICAN STUDIES BASEL

It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of Prof. Emer. Patrick Harries, PhD. On 2 June 2016 we lost a brilliant and internationally renowned scholar as well as a dear friend, colleague and teacher.

From 2001 to 2015, Patrick Harries was Professor for African History at the University of Basel and a member of the steering group of the Centre for African Studies Basel (CASB). Patrick was a leading scholar in the fields of the history of labour in Africa, the history of Christian missions and the history of knowledge production. During his time in Basel, Patrick established African History as a distinguishing field at the University and significantly contributed towards the research and teaching activities at the CASB. He led several research projects on the history of knowledge, science and medicine, and Christian missions. More than 30 MA and more than 15 PhD theses were successfully completed at the University of Basel under his supervision. As a member of the SSAS, he represented the Swiss African Studies in a broad and distinguished network of international scholars.

Patrick Harries studied and, from 1975, taught African History at the University of Cape Town (UCT). In 1983 he completed his PhD at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. Patrick returned to the UCT as a senior lecturer for African History and was appointed Associate Professor at the University of Cape Town in 1993. He was a visiting professor at the University of Lausanne (1991), the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (1992) and the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme (1996) in Paris, the Humboldt University in Berlin (1996), the Institut d'Études

Prof. Emer. Patrick Allan Lifford Harries (Bild: Ch. Delroy 2015).

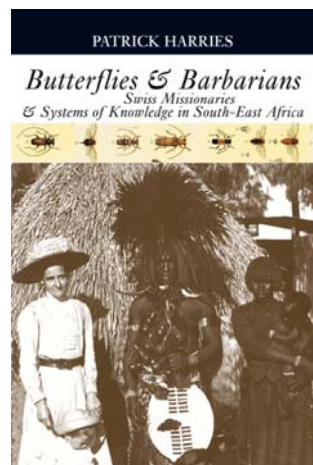


Politiques de Paris (2000) and the University of Wisconsin in Madison (2001). In 2001 Patrick joined the University of Basel and held the newly created professorship for African history. During his time in Basel, he was awarded fellowships at the University of Stellenbosch (2002), at Re:Work (International Research Centre Work and Human Life Cycle in Global History) at the Humboldt University in Berlin (2010), the University of Cambridge (Smuts Visiting Research Fellowship; 2011), and the Institut d'Études Avancées in Nantes (2015).

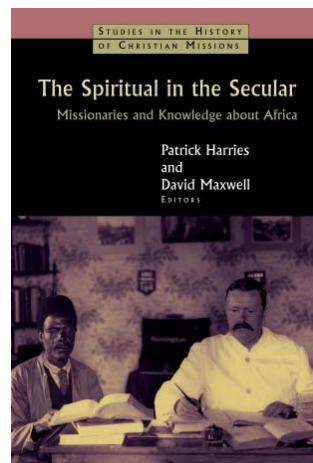
In the earlier years of Patrick's career, his research focused on the history of labour. In 1994, he published his widely acknowledged monograph *Work, Culture and Identity: Migrant Labour in Mozambique and South Africa, c.1860–1910*. Later, his interest turned to the history of knowledge production in the context of Christian missionary endeavours. During his time in Basel he authored for instance the monograph *Butterflies and Barbarians: Swiss Missionaries and Systems of Knowledge in Southeast Africa* (2007) and the volume *The Spiritual in the Secular: Missionaries and Knowledge about Africa* (2012), which he edited with David Maxwell. In more recent years, he focused his research on the transatlantic slave trade, the role of the Cape of Good Hope and, in particular, the fate of the African diaspora at the Cape.

Patrick died on the evening of 2 June 2016 in the mother city. We will miss Patrick dearly and are thankful for his dedicated years of friendship, inspiration, support and cooperation.

Website: The tributes presented on the occasion of the memorials held in Cape Town (10 June 2016) and Basel (20 June 2016) can be accessed via the website <http://www.zasb.unibas.ch/patrickharries>.



PATRICK HARRIES: BUTTERFLIES AND BARBARIANS. SWISS MISSIONARIES AND SYSTEMS OF KNOWLEDGE IN SOUTH-EAST AFRICA. OXFORD, HARARE, ATHENS 2007 (OHIO UNIVERSITY PRESS).



PATRICK HARRIES AND DAVID MAXWELL (EDS.): THE SPIRITUAL IN THE SECULAR. MISSIONARIES AND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT AFRICA. GRAND RAPIDS, USA 2012 (STUDIES IN THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN MISSIONS. EERDMANS).