



**THE FOX
& THE FLIES**
—THE WORKS OF—
JOSEPH SILVER
RACKETEER
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Prof Charles van Onselen

Prof Van Onselen is 'n navorsingsprofessor en geskiedkundige in die Sentrum vir die Bevordering van Akademiese Vakkundigheid wat by die Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe geaffilieer is. Hy stel belang in die transnasionale geskiedenis van Suider-Afrika en hy werk in verskeie subdissiplines van die onderwerp – van die geskiedenis van misdaad en arbeid tot die ekonomiese en maatskaplike geskiedenis van industrialiserende streke.

Prof Van Onselen se primêre oogmerk is om die meesternarratiewe en akademiese agendas te ondermyn van etniese nasionaliste wat hul vertolkings gebou het op die primêre rol van ras as die enigste grondslag van die begeerde nasiestaat – wat geen tekens van verwesenliking toon nie. Hy wys op die belangrikheid van klas as 'n begrip van belang om die kompleksiteit van historiese prosesse en strukture te begryp wat bygedra het tot die skepping van die hedendaagse Suid-Afrika. Vir sy studie van die lewe van 'n swart Suid-Afrikaanse deelbouwer, beïnvloed deur die vergelykbare ervarings van voormalige swart Amerikaanse slawe in die Verenigde State, is die Paton-prys in 1997 aan hom toegeken. Internasionale erkenning vir prof Van Onselen se werke sluit in: die Herskovits-prys van die African Studies Association of America in 1997 en die Trevor Reese-gedenkprys vir geskiedenis van die Institute of Commonwealth Studies in Londen in 1984.

Prof Van Onselen se onlangse navorsingsbelangstellings is toegespits op die verskillende wyses waarop Britse imperialisme en die Industriële Revolusie bygedra het tot rowery en misdaad in die groter Indiese Oseaan-bekken van die suidelike halfrond tydens die laat negentiende eeu. Sy boek, *Masked raiders; Irish Banditry in Southern Africa, 1888–1899*, het in 2010 verskyn en is in 2011 herdruk. Prof Van Onselen was 'n besoekende genoot aan die universiteite van Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard en Yale. In 2012 is hy gekies as Oppenheimer-genoot aan die W E B du Bois Institute for African and African American Research aan die Universiteit van Harvard. Hy werk tans aan die publikasie in 2014 van 'n studie van die lewe van John McLoughlin, 'n Ierse 'sosiale bandiet' wat in die tagtigerjare van die negentiende eeu in Suider-Afrika aktief was. Prof Van Onselen het 'n A-gradering as sosiale wetenskaplike van die NNS ontvang.

Prof Van Onselen is a historian and research professor in the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship, which is affiliated with the Faculty of Humanities. He has a long-standing interest in the transnational history of Southern Africa, and has worked in various sub-disciplines within the field, ranging from criminal, labour and rural history on the one hand, through to the economic and social history of industrialising regions on the other.

Prof Van Onselen's primary objective has been to undermine the master narratives and scholarly agendas of those ethnic nationalists who have built their interpretations on an uncritical acceptance of the primacy of race as the sole foundation of a longed-for nation-state that shows little sign of materialising. He has sought to do this by pointing to the importance of using class as a concept when attempting to understand the complexities of historical processes and structures in the making of modern South Africa. His study of the life of a black South African sharecropper, influenced by the comparative experiences of former African-American slaves in the United States, won the Paton Prize in 1997. International recognition for Prof Van Onselen's other works includes the Herskovits Prize from the African Studies Association of America, in 1997, and the Trevor Reese Memorial Prize for history from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, in London, in 1984.

Prof Van Onselen's recent research interests have focused on the various ways in which British imperialism and the Industrial Revolution helped shape banditry and criminality in the greater Indian Ocean basin during the late nineteenth century. His book, *Masked raiders; Irish Banditry in Southern Africa, 1888–1899*, was published in 2010 and reprinted in 2011. Prof Van Onselen has been a visiting fellow at Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard and Yale universities. In 2012, he was invited to assume the inaugural Oppenheimer Fellowship in the W E B du Bois Institute at Harvard. By 2014, he hopes to have published a study of the life of John McLoughlin, an Irish 'social bandit' who was active in Southern Africa in the 1890s. Prof Van Onselen is an A-rated NRF social scientist.

Prof Van Onselen ke moprofesa wa dinyakišišo le rahistori ka Senthareng ya Tšwetšopele ya Borutegi, yeo e lego leloko la Lefapha la Bomotheo. O na le kgahlego ya lebaka le letelele historing ya go ama dinaga tše mmalwa tša go fapafapana tša borwa bja Afrika. O šomile makalaneng a go fapanafapana ka gare ga lekala, go tloga ka a bosenyi, mešomo le histori ya magaeng ka lehlakoreng le lengwe, go fihla le go a histori ya leago le ekonomi ya go aga dilete tša diintasteri ka go le lengwe.

Maikemišetšo a magolo a Prof Van Onselen e be e le go gatelela dikanegelo tše kgolo le mabaka a dirutegi tša mohlobo wa go rata dinaga tša gabobona bao ba theilego dihlahollo tša bona godimo ga kamogelo ye e sego bohlokwa ya kgato ya mathomo bjalo ka motheo o motee wa seemo sa setšhaba se se nago le sebaka se setelele se nyakega seo se laetšago dikanyana tša kgonagalo. O ratile go dira se ka go laetša bohlokwa bja go šomiša legoro bjalo ka kgopolo ge go lekwa go šomiša mathata a ditshepetšo tša histori le dibopego go ageng Afrika-Borwa ya sebjalebjale. Dinyakišišo tša gagwe tša bophelo bja molemi yo e sego mongtšhemo wa mothomošo wa Moafrika Borwa, tša go huetšwa ke maitemogelo a gagwe a papetšo ya magoba a peleng a Maafrika-Maamerika go la United States, di thopile Sefoka sa Paton ka 1997. Temogo ya boditšhabatšhaba ya mešomo ye mengwe ya Prof van Onselen e akaretša sefoka sa Herskovits go tšwa go Mokgatlo wa Dithuto tša Seafrika wa Amerika ka 1997, le sefoka sa segopotšo sa Trevor Reese bakeng sa histori go tšwa go Institšhute ya Dithuto tša Kgweranoditšhaba go la London ka 1984.

Dikgahlego tša bjale tša Prof Van Onselen tša dinyakišišo di lebantše ditseleng tša go fapafapana tšeo ka tšona boimperiale bja Britania le Phetogo ye Kgolo ya Intasteri di thušitše go fenyha bohodu le bosenyi ka gare ga bogolo bja Lewatle la India la seripagarekgokolo sa ka borwa mafelelong a bo ngwagakgolo wa lesomesenyane. Puku gagwe ya bjale, *Masked raiders; Irish Banditry in Southern Africa, 1888–1899*, e gatišitšwe la mathomo ka 2010, gomme ya gatišwa leboelela ka 2011. Prof Van Onselen o ile a ba mogweramoleloko wa moeng wa diyunibesithi tša Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard le Yale. Ka 2012, o laleditšwe moletlong wa go hloma Oppenheimer Fellows W E B Du Bois Institute go la Harvard. Ka 2014, o tshepha gore o tla feleletša le go gatiša nyakišišo ya bophelo bja John McLoughlin, Moaeriši (Irish) wa 'lehodu la go utswetša baeti' yoo a bego a šoma mo borwa bja Afrika ka bo1890.