One Hundred Years of the ANC

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Published by Wits University Press

Kessel, Ineke, et al.
One Hundred Years of the ANC: Debating liberation histories today.
Project MUSE. muse.jhu.edu/book/50563.

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Editorial Note

One Hundred Years of the ANC begins with two keynote addresses delivered at the event which gave rise to this volume. Conferences often get lost in the proceedings which succeed them, turning the instance of the creation of a debate into a footnote. We did not want the profoundly important and framing issues which both speakers raised to be eclipsed by this more academic interpolation of the conference’s content. Philip Bonner, one of South Africa’s most prominent social historians, delivered a paper taking in his many years as an activist and historian. His consideration of the factors which have held, and continue to hold, the ANC together, and his focus on the history of fragments, helped to shape the contributions present here. The address by Joel Netshitenzhe, a member of the ANC National Executive Committee at the time of publication, and long-time ANC strategist, casts the ANC’s success and continuing national importance in terms of its ongoing search for identity and transformation. The chapters that follow are chronologically ordered.