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Shifting frameworks for understanding otherness

The Cape Khoi in pre-1652 European travelogues, an early modern Latin letter, and the South African novel Eilande (2002)

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Shifting Frameworks for Understanding Otherness

**The Cape Khoi in pre-1652 European Travelogues,
an Early Modern Latin Letter,
and the South African Novel *Eilande* (2002)**

ACADEMISCH PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van de graad van doctor
aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam
op gezag van de Rector Magnificus
prof. dr. ir. K.I.J. Maex

ten overstaan van een door het College voor Promoties ingestelde
commissie, in het openbaar te verdedigen
op dinsdag 2 juni 2020, te 14.00 uur

door

Tycho Aäron Julius Maas
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Caveat emptor.

Amsterdam, April 2020

A Note on Nomenclature

In this thesis, I use terms that form part of the history of racial classification in South Africa without any implication that such terms have a scientific basis or that they can be employed unproblematically.

European settlers called the pastoral people of the western and northern Cape, nowadays referred to as 'Khoikhoi' ('people of people'), 'Hottentots', and referred to hunter-gatherers present throughout what is now South Africa, commonly called 'San' now, as 'Bushmen'. These peoples are closely related and are known collectively as the 'Khoi-San' or 'Khoisan'. Only small populations survive in South Africa today. In discussing historical sources, I use the source's terminology in referring to native peoples, adding quotation marks to register their status as stigmatising or 'othering' colonial labels. The colonial historical sources use many different names for the same tribe or people. The Goringhaicona, a cattle-less people, are, for example, referred to as 'Strandlopers' by Van Riebeeck in the *Daghregister*, but also called 'Watermans' or 'Vismans'. Their leader (captain) is referred to as Herrij, Harry, and Herrie, or called by his indigenous name, Autshumao.

I use the term 'Khoi' to collectively refer to the native inhabitants of the Cape whom the Dutch in the 17th and 18th centuries typically called 'Hottentotten'. The word 'Khoe' is first found in Van Riebeeck's *Daghregister*, in January 1653, as 'Quena', where -na is the plural suffix. In South African scholarship, a variety of spellings are used across academic disciplines. I use the modernised spelling 'Khoi'.

More information about the tribes that inhabited the Cape peninsula and what they were called by the colonisers can be found in, among others, Richard Elphick's *Kraal and Castle. Khoikhoi and the Founding of White South Africa* (1977) and Gabriel Nienaber's *Khoekhoense stamname* (1989).

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