

Home of Heart – Documentary Film Making as an Artistic Interpretation to Population Studies

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Abstract

The main aim of our research project was to investigate demographic change and its impact on the resilience of the social and economic systems in North-Central Namibian communities since 1990, when Namibia gained her independence. In our research we used unique combination of historical and recent data; including parish records, remote sensing data, interviews and documentary filmmaking.

We carried out new models for a dialogue between science and art in the field of demographic research. We used documentary filming to create an artistic interpretation to population studies, including testimonies how people are coping with environmental degradation and scarcities of resources. An artistic part of our research, a documentary film HOME OF HEART aims to visualize social and ecological consequences of demographic change in the everyday life in North-Central Namibia and to convey how the people respond to those changes.

Rapid population growth and limited income opportunities have been push factors of out-migration from the North-Central Namibia (Notkola & Siisko-

nen 2000, pp. 146-163). Documentary film **HOME OF HEART** tells a story of urbanized Namibians who miss their childhood homes in the harsh environment of North-Central Namibia (Ovamboland). Currently the mortality in Northern Namibia has dropped to the level before the HIV epidemic and similarly the fertility is increasing creating increasing population growth (Notkola, Siiskonen & Shemeikka 2017). It is estimated that Africa together with Namibia will double its population in 30 years (World Population Data Sheet 2015). As conclusion the out-migration from The North-Central Namibia will remain as a way to cope with the scare environmental resources in the area.

Keywords

Demographic change, North-Central Namibia, Population Studies, Art-Based Research, Documentary filming, Resilience of the social and ecological systems, Migration.

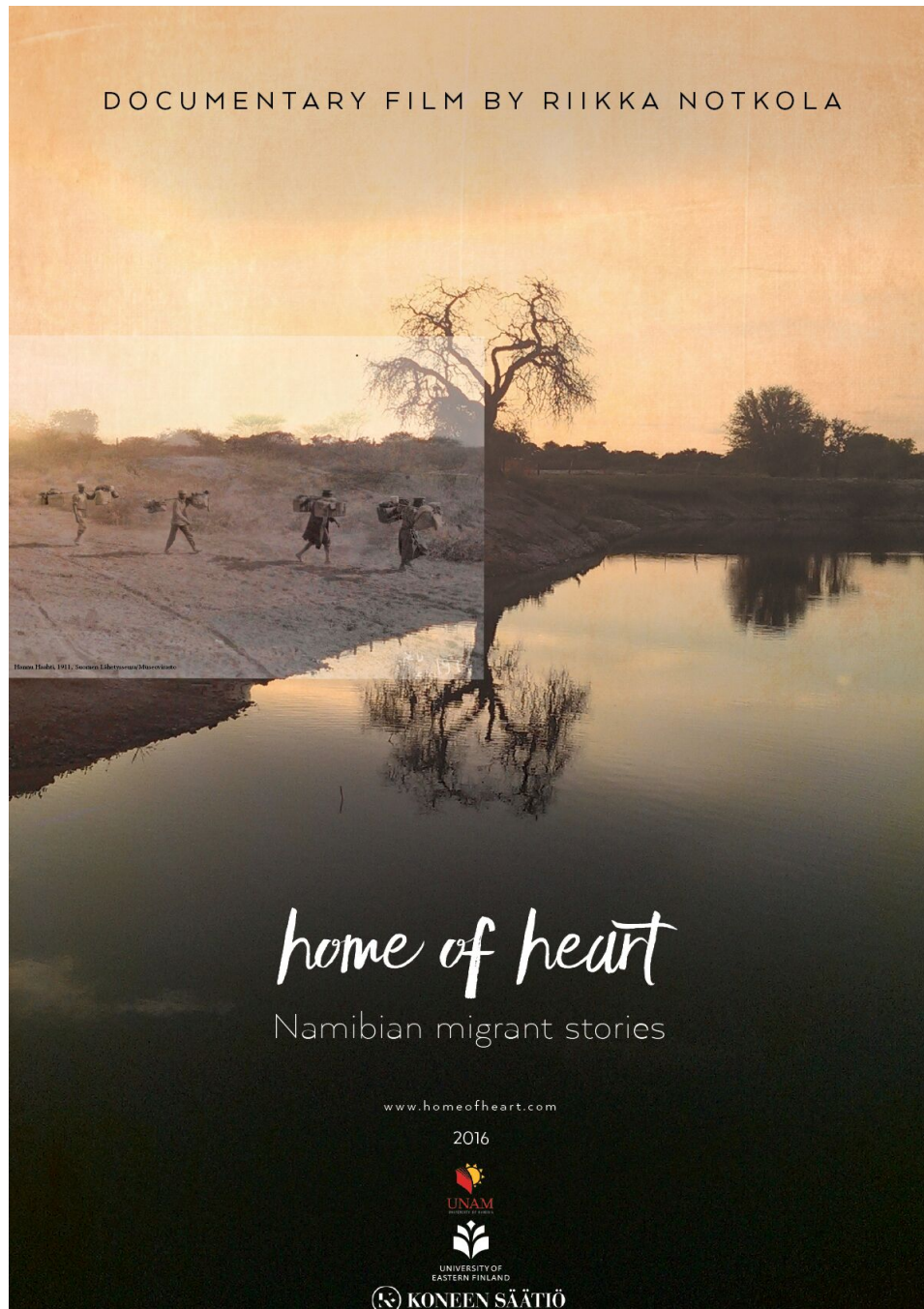


Figure 1: Click on the image to watch the movie on Vimeo. The password is **sydansydan**

Please see: www.homeofheart.com

Synopsis for the film

HOME OF HEART is a short documentary 26' that tells a story of urbanized Namibians who miss their childhood homes in the harsh environment of North-Central Namibia (Ovamboland). Ruben Shapwa has a good life in Windhoek, capital of Namibia, but also has a farm far away in the North. His dream is to move back one day at least for a retirement. Kandina is a young woman who gathers the strength for the first time to face the past and return back to a place once called home first time in 20 years. HOME OF HEART is a story of people travelling back to their roots. The story starts from Namibia, but by surprise ends in Finland where a long lost sister of Ruben is found. HOME OF HEART shares positive stories of people seeking better life elsewhere than where they originally located. Truly speaking we all have history (or hearts) somewhere else than where we happen to be at this particular moment in life. This is an important message to remember also in politically changing Europe facing migrant crisis.

References

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