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Bio of KARL ROESSEL

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Karl Rössel (* 1935) studied sociology, economics and social politics at the University of Cologne in Germany. He also graduated from a school of journalism. He has published broadcast radio documentaries and books and articles on international issues including African history, cinema, literature and music. His research has taken him to Asia, Australia, the Pacific, and North and West Africa.

He is the author of books on topics such as “Poverty in Germany”, “The Forgotten War in the Western Sahara”, “German Development Aid for Counterinsurgency in the Philippines” and “The History of Internationalism in Germany”.

In 1995, he and some fellow journalists started their research on the role of colonised people in World War II. In 2005, the results were published in the book “Our Victims Don’t Count – The Third World in World War II“. Teaching material on the same subject for schools followed in 2008.

In 2009, he curated the exhibition “The Third World in World War II”, which has been presented in 60 locations in Germany and Switzerland so far (See: www.3www2.de), and he also worked on the conceptualisation and realisation of the English version of the exhibition, which will tour several South African cities from February 2017 onwards.

Karl Rössel is also co-founder of the African Film Festival in Cologne (1992), which provides the most comprehensive offering of African cinema in Germany. Since 1992, more than 750 films and 160 filmmakers from 34 African countries have been presented in Cologne. (See: www.films-from-africa.com)