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Ethnographic notes of Xigubu and the nation building in Mozambique presents Xigubu, a typical expressive mode from Southern Mozambique, in two dimensions: as a cultural practice, focusing on its role in socialization processes within the communities; and as a national icon, often used as a means for mobilization of the people towards civic campaigns, addressing official messages.



Matheus Serva Pereira holds a PhD in Social History of Africa from the State University of Campinas (Unicamp), with the thesis “Grand batuques”: identities and experiences of urban workers of Lourenço Marques (1890-1930). He works on the social and cultural history of African populations subordinated by Portuguese colonialism, especially from the southern contexts of Mozambique. He is Post Doc researcher at Research Group Empires, Colonialism and Postcolonial Societies (ICS-ULisboa).

“Hark how the music thunders!”: experiences and resistances in the “batuques” and “native dances” in Southern Mozambique (1890-1950) discusses experiences, songs and performances by Katini weNyamombe and Gomukomu weSimbi, two important composers of Ngodo, as the starting point for an analysis of the experiences and practices of resistances produced in the “batuques” (drumming) of African populations from Southern Mozambique in the early 20th century Portuguese colonial period.



Michael Dias is a PhD candidate in Ethnomusicology in the Department of Musical Sciences of the FCSH/NOVA. His research concerns processes of identity construction, expressive behavior, and its representations and discourses during the colonial period between Portugal and Mozambique, 1930-60.

Sounding Otherness: Belo Marques’ “black music” of Southern Mozambique (1939-1942) focuses on the aural experience of portuguese conductor and composer Belo Marques in Southern Mozambique, between 1939 and 1942, during which he collected, transcribed and published local “songs” and “dances” in a book of essays called Música Negra: Estudo do Folclore Tonga (1943) (Black Music: Study of Tonga Folklore).