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Islam, Youth, and Modernity in the Gambia confounds both scholarly theorizations and popular stereotypes of Tablighi Jama'at through its skillful exploration of the transnational Islamic movement's growing appeal among Gambian youth. Janson writes with refreshing candor and sensitivity about the daily challenges and aspirations of young Muslims in the tiny West African nation—now one of the largest hubs of Tablighi activity on the continent. By putting the accent on the gendered and generational dimensions of Tablighi practice, her ethnography illuminates the critical role of faith in the forging of modern, youthful identities. A lively, engaging book that makes a critical contribution to the growing scholarly literature on Muslim youth.

Adeline Masquelier, Tulane University

A well documented and reasoned examination of the inclusion of Gambian youth into an Islamic transnational movement. The ethnography richly analyzes the process of appropriation and ways in which it affects, challenges, and reconfigures critical rites, rituals, social practices, and relationships across gender, generations, languages, and ethnicities. The finesse with which the author explores this material exemplifies genuine anthropological prowess. A solid contribution to the literature on youth, religion, and globalization from a rarely explored country.

Mamadou Diouf, Columbia University

This ethnography of the Tablighi Jama'at, the worldwide Muslim missionary movement founded in the 1920s in India, is the first of its kind. It is an important and most illuminating study of how the movement has spread, largely as a youth movement in the Gambia.

Benjamin Soares, African Studies Centre, Leiden

Grounded in admirably perceptive research, this fine book challenges facile views about the appeal and impact of reformist Islamic movements in Africa. Analysing five compelling biographical narratives of male and female Tabligis, Janson offers refreshing insights into their complex negotiations of modern personhood, gender, and Islamic piety. A magnificent contribution to our understanding of everyday religion in contemporary Africa!

Birgit Meyer, Utrecht University

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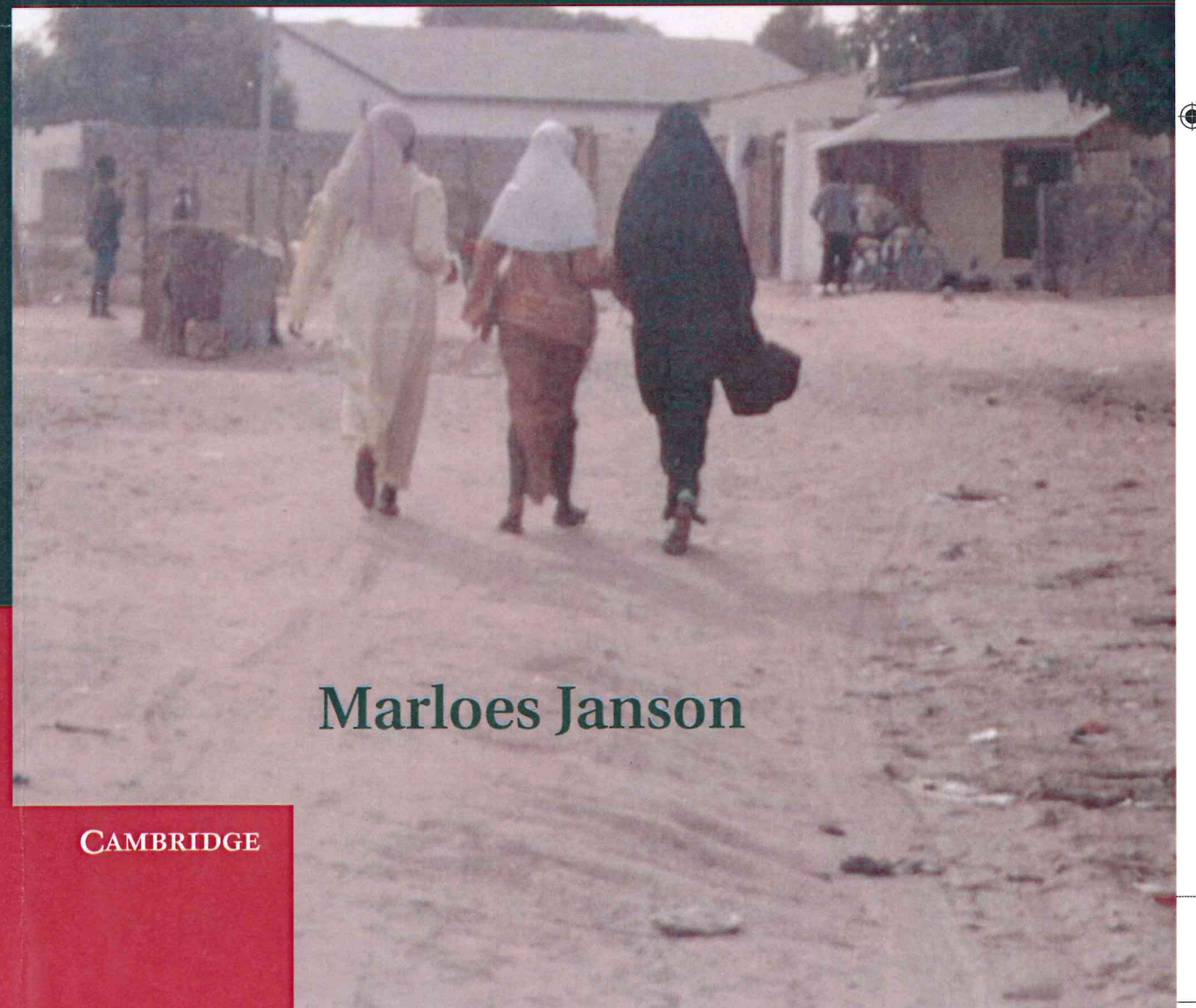
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The Tablighi Jama'at

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