

Brigaglia, A. & Nobili, M. 2013. Central Sudanic Arabic scripts (Part 2): barnw. *Islamic Africa: (2013), vol.4, no.2, p.195-223.*, vol. 4, no. 2, p. 195-223.

Abstract: This article describes and analyses 'barnw', the Arabic script of Borno (northeastern Nigeria) and most ancient prototype of what is defined as the Central Sudanic family of scripts. 'Barnw' shows paleographic features that clearly set it apart from some other West African Arabic scripts, thereby confirming the inadequacy of the label 'sdn', which often surfaces in literature to collectively brand a variety of scripts used in different regions of West Africa. A paleographic analysis of 'barnw' also suggests that its origins predate the development of the maghrib script in North Africa in the twelfth century. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.5192/215409930402195>

Brown, S. & Raddatz, R. 2014. Dire consequences or empty threats? : western pressure for peace, justice and democracy in Kenya. *Journal of Eastern African Studies: (2014), vol.8, no. 1, p.43-62.*, vol. 8, no. 1, p. 43-62.

Abstract: This paper examines Western countries' pressure - or lack thereof - for peace, justice and democracy in Kenya. It analyzes the period since the 2008 National Accord, which defused the 2007-08 post-election crisis, focusing on the lead-up to and immediate aftermath of the 2013 elections. The paper draws extensively on interviews conducted in 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2013 with Western officials based in Nairobi, as well as informed Kenyans. It argues, first, that recent Western pressure is the latest iteration of a consistent pattern of donors not enforcing stated conditions for future support, causing diminishing returns. Second, donors not only have been reluctant to use potential leverage over the Kenyan government, but also have consistently underestimated it and erred by publicly threatening to use it only at the least strategic moment and not when it could have been most effective. Third, Western officials have continued to make short-term decisions favoring stability or peace that actually undermine basic principles of democracy and justice. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17531055.2013.869008>

Burbidge, D. 2014. "Can someone get me outta this middle class zone?!" : pressures on middle class Kikuyu in Kenya's 2013 election. *The Journal of Modern African Studies: (2014), vol.52, no.2, p.205-225 : tab.*, vol. 52, no. 2, p. 205-225.

Abstract: Whilst the middle class are often heralded as forerunners for consolidating democracy, the experiences of Kikuyu in Kenya's 2013 election reveal how under-problematized the socio-economic group is for understanding the pressures faced in voting. The article presents evidence from diary entries of young middle class Kikuyu residing in Nairobi who recorded their feelings and impressions across a period of one month surrounding the country's elections. The diary writers describe the key moments at which they felt the need to switch from supporting third-placed presidential hopefuls to supporting one of the two favourites. Topics felt to pressure voters most keenly were ethnicity, social media, debate surrounding the International Criminal Court and the lack of confidence in others of the middle class. The tensions felt by middle class Kikuyu during the election period made them wish they were members of either of the two other classes, who were in turn viewed as able to influence politics through money or popular power. These feelings of disempowerment ensured voting attitudes that fell closely in line with ethnic affiliations, despite members of the middle class remaining wholly dissatisfied with ethnic labelling throughout. It is argued that the economic autonomy of middle class voters did not help disengage them from political tribalism in assessing how to vote. Bibliogr., notes, sum. [Journal abstract]

Cabrita, J. 2014. An introduction to the letters of Isaiah Moteka : the correspondence of a twentieth-century South African Zionist minister. *Africa / International African Institute: (2014), vol.84, no.2, p.163-198 : ill.*, vol. 84, no. 2, p. 163-198.

Abstract: South African Zionism, one of the most popular Christian movements in modern South

Africa, has frequently been interpreted in narrowly indigenous terms, as a local, black appropriation of Christianity, heavily invested in orality and ritual performance. The correspondence of the twentieth-century Zionist minister Isaiah Moteka tells a different story. Moteka honed the craft of letter-writing in order to build and sustain his relationship with Zion, Illinois, the headquarters of the worldwide Zionist church. Through the exchange of letters across the Atlantic, Moteka affirmed his own and his congregants' place within a multiracial Zion diaspora. And through their complex invocation of overlapping local and global affiliations, Moteka's writings proclaimed his standing both as a regional clergyman and as a cosmopolitan internationalist. In particular, these ambiguous missives became the platform for Moteka's engagement with apartheid-era state officials. Seeking to persuade state officials that his organization fell under 'white' supervision, Moteka's letters proclaimed his accreditation by Zion, Illinois, thereby casting himself as a deputy of the worldwide movement. But these documents' citation of transatlantic loyalties also suggests Moteka's own conflicted loyalties. His letters asserted loyalty to the nation state while they simultaneously subordinated earthly power to the Kingdom of God. Appendix with 21 letters, bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. in English and French. [Journal abstract]  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0001972014000011>

Carrier, N. & Kochore, H.H. 2014. Navigating ethnicity and electoral politics in northern Kenya : the case of the 2013 election. *Journal of Eastern African Studies: (2014), vol.8, no.1, p.135-152 : tab.*, vol. 8, no. 1, p. 135-152.  
Abstract: In the 2013 elections, northern Kenya - previously seen as peripheral to national politics - took on great significance as a potential 'swing' region, and became the focus of much campaigning and strategizing by presidential and other candidates. It was also seen as a region especially at risk of violence given its history of ethnic politics and the new context of the devolved county system. This paper explores how the north's ethnic dynamics played out in 2013, looking in particular at case studies of three northern counties: Isiolo, Mandera and Marsabit. It traces the history of ethnic politics in these counties, and the strategies used to secure votes in 2013 through strategic alliance formation, exclusionary politics and the anointing of candidates by 'councils of elders'. While such strategies were not uniformly successful, they led to a remarkable swing to the Jubilee Alliance of Uhuru Kenyatta and William Ruto in Mandera. Ruto's United Republican Party did especially well in the north, and he appears to have navigated the ethnic and clan politics of the north expertly, playing up his pastoralist background as he did so. While a success for Jubilee, the ethnic strategizing has had serious ramifications, especially in Mandera and Marsabit where exclusion has led to resentment and conflict. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17531055.2013.871181>

Cheeseman, N., Lynch, G., & Willis, J. 2014. Democracy and its discontents : understanding Kenya's 2013 elections. *Journal of Eastern African Studies: (2014), vol.8, no.1, p.2-24.*, vol. 8, no. 1, p. 2-24.  
Abstract: In the months leading up to Kenya's general election in March 2013, there was much concern - both within Kenya itself and internationally - that political competition would trigger a fresh wave of ethnic violence. However, the 2013 elections passed off largely peacefully, despite an unexpected presidential result and fact that the losing candidate, Raila Odinga, appealed the outcome to the Supreme Court. This article argues that Kenya avoided political unrest as a result of four interconnected processes. A dramatic political realignment brought former rivals together and gave them an incentive to diffuse ethnic tensions; a pervasive 'peace narrative' delegitimized political activity likely to lead to political instability; partial democratic reforms conferred new legitimacy on the electoral and political system; and a new constitution meant that many voters who 'lost' nationally in the presidential election 'won' in local contests. This election thus provides two important lessons for the democratization literature. First, processes of gradual reform may generate more democratic political systems in the long-run, but in the short-run they can empower the political establishment. Second, sacrificing justice on the altar of stability risks a 'negative peace' that may be associated with an increased sense of marginalization and exclusion among some communities - raising the prospects for unrest in the future. Bibliogr.,

notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17531055.2013.874105>

Cornell, A. & D'Arcy, M. 2014. "Plus ça change?" : county-level politics in Kenya after devolution. *Journal of Eastern African Studies*: (2014), vol.8, no.1, p.173-191., vol. 8, no. 1, p. 173-191.  
Abstract: For the first time on 4 March 2013, Kenyans voted for county governors. Devolution has significantly changed fiscal and administrative organization, but has it led to changes in politics? Has it enabled the emergence of new elites, the entrenchment of old ones or rebalanced power between the counties and the centre? These issues are explored, by asking, first, whether gubernatorial candidates were 'insiders' who had held public office before, or 'outsiders', and whether they were locals or not; and second, how national forces impacted on the gubernatorial campaigns. These questions are answered using original primary data on four counties: Nakuru, Kiambu, Mombasa and Kilifi, and aggregated data from all 47 counties. The authors find that the majority of winning candidates were 'insiders' who won using existing patronage networks, suggesting that the gubernatorial elections led to the entrenchment of existing elites and patronage networks. However, the lack of involvement of national leaders in crucial party primaries allowed for the emergence of powerful local insiders who may challenge national elites going forward. Overall, the first chapter of devolution reflected existing political dynamics in Kenya more than it changed them, although challenges to the resilience of national elites are clear. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17531055.2013.869073>

D'Angelo, L. 2014. Who owns the diamonds? : the occult economy of diamond mining in Sierra Leone. *Africa / International African Institute*: (2014), vol.84, no.2, p.269-293 : ill., vol. 84, no. 2, p. 269-293.  
Abstract: Much of the literature on Sierra Leonean diamonds focuses on the role that this mineral resource played in the recent civil conflict (1991-2002). However, the political-economic perspective that is common to these analyses has lost sight of the main actors in this social reality. What do miners think of diamonds? Like their Malagasy colleagues engaged in the search for sapphires, the Sierra Leonean diamond miners often maintain that they do not know what diamonds could possibly be used for. What is specific to the diamond mining areas in this West African country is that suspicions and fantasies about the uses of diamonds go hand in hand with the idea that these precious stones belong to invisible spiritual entities known locally as djinns or deubul den. Although this article aims to analyse the occult imaginary of diamond miners, it takes a different stand from the occult economies approach. By combining a historical-imaginative perspective with a historical and ecological one, this article intends to highlight the indissoluble interweaving of material and imaginative processes of artisanal diamond production in the context of Sierra Leone's mines. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. in English and French. [Journal abstract]  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0001972013000752>

Desrosiers, M.E. 2014. Rethinking political rhetoric and authority during Rwanda's first and second Republics. *Africa / International African Institute*: (2014), vol.84, no.2, p.199-225., vol. 84, no. 2, p. 199-225.  
Abstract: Drawing on rarely analysed primary sources obtained during multi-site archival research, this article examines and proposes to reassesses the political rhetoric deployed in pre-genocide Rwanda (First and Second Republics, 1961-1994). The article contends that the First and Second Republics' rhetoric was not as ethnocentric as often contended. It argues instead that this rhetoric, cautious and moderate, should be understood as part of regime resilience strategies. Born of questionable origins, the two regimes faced recurrent instability and only imposed their authority questionably on segments of the Rwandan population. Unlike ethnocentric rhetoric calling upon limited ethnic affinities, moderate rhetoric was meant to 'persuade' and 'pre-empt', in other words extend support for regimes that were uncertain of their grounding. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. in English and French. [Journal abstract]  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0001972014000023>

Hannig, A. 2014. Spiritual border crossings : childbirth, postpartum seclusion and religious alterity in Amhara, Ethiopia. *Africa / International African Institute: (2014), vol.84, no.2, p.294-313.*, vol. 84, no. 2, p. 294-313.

Abstract: This article examines the event of postpartum seclusion of mother and infant in the Amhara region of north-west Ethiopia. During the period between birth and baptism, the mother-child pair remains in private repose, is subject to a variety of ritual prohibitions, and is barred from entering a church. Despite the mother's Orthodox Christian identity, both she and the child are called 'Muslims' during this time. Why should this be the case? What happens during the birthing event and its aftermath that would bring about this temporary shift in their religious designation? By shedding light on the distinct models of maternal care, safety, and danger that are emphasized in 'childbed', this study seeks an answer to these questions. In doing so, it also contributes to a broader understanding of why most Amhara mothers do not, at present, avail themselves of institutional deliveries and biomedical births but prefer to give birth at home.

Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. in English and French. [Journal abstract]  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0001972014000047>

Lynch, G. 2014. Electing the 'alliance of the accused' : the success of the Jubilee Alliance in Kenya's Rift Valley. *Journal of Eastern African Studies: (2014), vol.8, no.1, p.93-114.*, vol. 8, no. 1, p. 93-114.

Abstract: Against a history of a divided Kalenjin/Kikuyu vote and election-related violence, and a contemporary context of high levels of inter-communal mistrust and intervention by the International Criminal Court (ICC), this article explains the Jubilee Alliance's success amongst Kalenjin and Kikuyu voters in the Rift Valley in Kenya's 2013 election. To do this, it examines the pre-election context, election results in Kalenjin- and Kikuyu-dominated areas, local political debates, and election campaigns to reveal how the 'Uhuruto' team persuaded local residents to support this seemingly unlikely political marriage in all six elections. It is argued that the alliance used existing and emergent communal narratives of justice and competition to recast socio-economic and political debates in a way that persuaded the majority of Kalenjin and Kikuyu to support Jubilee - and to vote against Raila Odinga and the Coalition for Reform and Democracy (CORD) - as a way to protect and further their individual and collective interests. In making this argument, particular attention is given to relations between community members, and to popular support and investment in peace; negotiations between Uhuru and Ruto, and Kalenjin 'hosts' and Kikuyu 'guests'; the reinterpretation of the ICC as a performance of injustice; and successful presentation of 'Uhuruto' as a youthful team that could bring about peace and meaningful change as compared with an old, vengeful, incumbent Odinga Odinga. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17531055.2013.844438>

Mathews, N. 2013. Imagining Arab communities: colonialism, Islamic reform, and Arab identity in Mombasa, Kenya, 1897-1933. *Islamic Africa: (2013), vol.4, no.2, p.135-163.*, vol. 4, no. 2, p. 135-163.

Abstract: After the advent of British colonial rule, the epistemological prestige of Muslim culture, Arabic literacy, and qadi courts declined in Kenya. Coastal residents sought favourable court rulings outside qadi courts, which no longer had independent jurisdiction, and many sought education and jobs in a British colonial system less favourable to Islamic learning. Recognizing these challenges, Sheikh al-Amin Mazrui, Kenya's most prominent Islamic scholar - founded a newspaper called 'al-Islah' (Reform) in 1932. He was inspired by the prominent Cairo journal 'al-Manar', by the Salafi reformers Rashid Rida and Muhammad Abduh. Although 'al-Islah's' themes were similar to 'al-Manar' in advocating for Islamic reform, 'al-Islah' addressed itself to Swahili-speaking Arabs in a milieu where Muslims were increasingly a demographic minority and culturally marginalized. Print technology ('al-Islah' was printed in both Kiswahili and Arabic) and Salafi ideas in 'al-Islah' worked together to spread reform and encourage East African Muslims to value Arabic and the pursuit of sharia. Although these ideas were products of a long Islamic tradition that privileged access to knowledge as the passport of the believer, they were also newly self-conscious reflections of Arab cultural and religious identity; 'al-Islah's' articles stressed the Arab role in creating Muslim civilization in Africa. It critiqued the parochial nature of the British

colonial project, urging a return to precolonial modes of Islamic hegemony and stressing the essential role of sharia in constituting Islamic identity. Islamic reform in East Africa and the "re-imagination" of transnational Arab identity within it depended on Arab Muslims understanding the importance of Islamic knowledge - particularly Arabic and sharia - in constituting coastal communities. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.5192/215409930402135>

Mercer, C. 2014. Middle class construction: domestic architecture, aesthetics and anxieties in Tanzania. *The Journal of Modern African Studies: (2014), vol.52, no.2, p.227-250.*, vol. 52, no. 2, p. 227-250.

Abstract: This article examines the new styles of houses under construction in contemporary Tanzania and suggests that they can be understood as the material manifestation of middle class growth. Through an examination of the architecture, interior decor and compound space in a sample of these new houses in urban Dar es Salaam and rural Kilimanjaro, the paper identifies four domestic aesthetics: the respectable house, the locally aspirant house, the globally aspirant house and the minimalist house, each of which map on to ideas about 'ujamaa', liberalization and the consumption of global consumer goods in distinct ways. The author argues that these different domestic aesthetics demonstrate intra-class differences, and in particular the emergence of a new middle class. Bibliogr., notes, sum. [Journal abstract]

Moshonas, S. 2014. The politics of civil service reform in the Democratic Republic of Congo. *The Journal of Modern African Studies: (2014), vol.52, no.2, p.251-276.*, vol. 52, no. 2, p. 251-276.

Abstract: Civil service reform (CSR) is an important element of governance reforms, but has received limited attention in the literature pertaining to the Democratic Republic of Congo. This article examines Congo's aborted CSR process from 2003 to 2008. Through a detailed exploration of some of the project's components, the design phase, the census, and the workings of the structures charged with implementation, analyzed through a framework attentive to the tensions between democratization and liberalization, the political logics that have pervaded and affected implementation outcomes are reconstituted. These logics, it is argued, are deeply embedded in the context of democratic transition (2003-2006 and later), which donors have played no small part in shaping. The ambiguity of donors towards CSR, bemoaning the absence of governmental commitment but all too prone to tolerate administrative neglect, suggests that it may have been irrelevant for the disbursement of aid, and ultimately accommodating for the Congolese authorities. Bibliogr., notes, sum. [Journal abstract]

Moss, N. & O'Hare, A. 2014. Staging democracy : Kenya's televised presidential debates. *Journal of Eastern African Studies: (2014), vol.8, no.1, p.78-92.*, vol. 8, no. 1, p. 78-92.

Abstract: Kenyan election campaigning took a novel turn in 2013 with the introduction of televised presidential debates. The two debates were widely celebrated as signalling a positive turn in Kenyan campaigning, from the politics of personality and ethnicity towards a more sober, issue-based form of electoral competition. Organized by the nation's main media houses, the debates offer a unique lens through which to consider the role the media defined for itself during the election period. This paper argues that the debates were staged as part of the media's broader project of 'peace promotion'. In this way, actual debate between the candidates was of secondary importance to the spectacle of having all eight candidates amicably share the debate floor. This paper's approach thus emphasizes the theatrical nature of the performances and the deliberate way in which they were designed to present a portrait of Kenya's maturing democracy. The paper concludes by situating these media spectacles within what is perceived to be a broader trend in Kenya whereby seductive images of the nation's future are produced and projected, thereby distracting from present realities. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17531055.2013.869929>

Mueller, S.D. 2014. Kenya and the International Criminal Court (ICC) : politics, the election and the law. *Journal of Eastern African Studies: (2014), vol.8, no.1, p.25-42.*, vol. 8, no. 1, p. 25-42.

Abstract: Kenya's 2013 election was supremely important, but for a reason not normally highlighted or discussed. Uhuru Kenyatta and William Ruto's run for president and deputy

president as International Criminal Court (ICC) indictees was a key strategy to deflect the court and to insulate themselves from its power once they won the election. The paper maintains that the strategy entailed a set of delaying tactics and other pressures to ensure that the trials would not take place until after the election when their political power could be used to maximum effect to halt or delay them. However, unlike in 2007-08, the 2013 election did not result in mass violence. The Kenyatta-Ruto alliance united former ethnic antagonists in a defensive reaction to the ICC. The analysis has implications for theories seeking to explain why countries ratify and comply with treaties. It develops an alternative political economy argument to account for outliers like Kenya and has implications for international criminal justice and democracy in Kenya. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17531055.2013.874142>

N'guessan, K. 2014. The bureaucratic making of national culture in North-Western Ghana. *The Journal of Modern African Studies*: (2014), vol.52, no.2, p.277-299., vol. 52, no. 2, p. 277-299. Abstract: In this article the author explores the making of national culture through bureaucratic routines in the Centre for National Culture in Wa, North-Western Ghana. The author focuses on an aspect of bureaucracy that is usually left aside: the productivity and creativity of bureaucratic routines. State, nation and culture are not fixed entities, but have to be constantly produced through processes of negotiation and meaning-making and through the continual reproduction of their boundaries and the categories that determine what is to be promoted or preserved. Bureaucratic routines and administrative processes are analyzed as practices objectifying and nationalizing culture and naturalizing the boundaries and categories created through the cultural officers' practices. Bibliogr., notes, sum. [Journal abstract]

Nwosu, P.O. 2010. Electronic media and publishing in Africa: introduction = Introduction: médias et édition électronique en Afrique. Abstract: This special issue of *Africa Media Review* examines the expanding role of electronic publishing in Africa. It is based on papers presented at a conference held at Codesria, in Dakar, Senegal, in 2008. The papers address both the broad macro and micro issues in electronic publishing. These range from the challenges and promises of electronic journals in Africa, appropriate technology for promoting visibility for African journals, and collection and preservation of digital information, to the African perspective on open access journals, including legal implications and public interest issues. Some country- and subject-specific experiences from and lessons for Africa are also presented. Contributions: Promoting the visibility of African scholarship through access to appropriate technology (Denis Asimwe Katebire); Online journals and the visibility of science in Africa (Williams E. Nwagwu); Electronic journals in Africa: challenges and promises (Olayiwola Bello and Williams E. Nwagwu); Challenges in publishing the *Journal of Agriculture and Food Sciences* online (Augustine O. Ejiogu and Chinedum U. Nwajiuba); Terroirs et internet: la construction d'une présence internationale à l'épreuve des pesanteurs locales (Parfait D. Akana); Trends in long-term preservation of digital information: challenges and possible solutions for Africa (Segomotse M. Keakpopa); Aluka: developing digital scholarly collections from and about Africa (Siro Masinde and Rahim S. Rajan); Open access and the public interest in copyright (Enyinna S. Nwauche); Un dispositif d'appui à l'édition scientifique en ligne (Didier Odilo et Véronique Pierre). Bibliogr., sum. in English and French. [ASC Leiden abstract]  
<http://www.codesria.org/spip.php?article1827&lang=eng>

Opalo, K. 2014. The long road to institutionalization : the Kenyan Parliament and the 2013 elections. *Journal of Eastern African Studies*: (2014), vol.8, no.1, p.63-77., vol. 8, no. 1, p. 63-77. Abstract: What explains the emergence of a relatively strong legislature in Kenya in a region characterized by 'rubber stamp' parliaments? And how do the results of the 2013 election affect the chances of continued strengthening and institutionalization of the Kenyan legislature? This paper addresses these questions by situating the evolution of parliamentary strength and institutionalization in Kenya in the context of the country's political history since independence. The argument advanced is that although the codification of the gains in parliamentary strength and independence only began to take place in the late 1990s, the process that led to the

realization of these gains goes back to the first parliament after independence. The paper also analyzes the impact of the constitutional requirement of 50% plus one in the presidential race on party structures in different parts of the country. The findings suggest that while the 2013 elections were marked by a heightened sense of inter-regional alliance-building for the presidential race, at the sub-national level the effective number of parties increased in all regions relative to the 2007 election, with the exception of the Central Region. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17531055.2013.869009>

Richards, J. 2014. Forced, coerced and voluntary recruitment into rebel and militia groups in the Democratic Republic of Congo. *The Journal of Modern African Studies: (2014), vol.52, no.2, p.301-326 : tab.*, vol. 52, no. 2, p. 301-326.  
Abstract: This article investigates why non-State armed groups forcibly recruit civilians. To address this question the author develops a conceptual framework distinguishing voluntary, coerced and forced recruitment. The author then compares the recruitment tactics employed by "Mai-Mai" militias and the RCD-Goma rebel group in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in order to inductively develop a theory explaining why groups with different initial economic and social endowments resort to force. This comparison draws on interviews with 41 former militia members and 11 former members of RCD-Goma. The theory suggests that forced recruitment is most likely to occur when non-State armed groups experience manpower deficits and when accountability, to local communities, government sponsors and/or the international community, is low. High levels of popular support will not necessarily prevent recourse to force under these conditions, but may mean that force is less necessary because voluntary and coerced recruits come forward to fill manpower gaps. App., bibliogr., notes, sum. [Journal abstract]

Setlhabi, K.G. 2014. I took an allegiance to secrecy : complexities of conducting ethnographic research at home. *Africa / International African Institute: (2014), vol.84, no.2, p.314-334 : ill., foto's.*, vol. 84, no. 2, p. 314-334.  
Abstract: Anthropological research was traditionally conducted by foreign researchers in 'exotic' places. However, the trend changed over the years due to various reasons such as less funding for research abroad, resistance from new independent states, and the realization that, after all, the 'exotic' could be found even 'at home'. The research dynamics changed further when those who were studied earlier began to study their own. This paper is a reflection of the author's participatory observation in the 2009 bojale (girls' initiation) revival ceremony of Bakgatla-baga-Kgafela in Botswana. She entered bojale with dual roles of initiate and participant observer for her research. Her ethnographic research was among her own people and she was expected to adhere to the ceremony's rules in the same way as the other initiates. The discussion reflects on the author's dual identity experiences and relationships during initiation in order to interrogate ethnography among one's own culture. The author concludes that, even though being 'at home' has advantages such as less travelling requirements and easy rapport, it is a complex process when it involves sacred ceremonies such as bojale because of the societal obligations such as adherence to secrecy that the researcher is bound by during and after the research. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. in English and French. [Journal abstract]  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0001972014000059>

Tal, E.K. 2014. On representation and power : portrait of a Vodun leader in present-day Benin. *Africa / International African Institute: (2014), vol.84, no.2, p.246-268 : foto's.*, vol. 84, no. 2, p. 246-268.  
Abstract: In this paper, the author discusses the power of vodun leaders in present-day Benin, and more specifically anti-witchcraft cults born from the encounter with world religions. Offering an analysis inspired by Louis Marin's theory on power in its representation, the author illustrates her analysis through the portrait of Gbediga, a vodun leader with a view to escape from a functionalist analysis of occult power or syncretism. With the baroque mirror metaphor conceived as a device, which underscores what it is that connects heterogeneous practices, Tall describes what is shown in the rituals and practices of a vodun leader and emphasizes the centrality of the transubstantiation phenomenon in the production of a community of believers. Bibliogr., notes,

ref., sum. in English and French [Journal abstract]  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0001972013000764>

Venosa, J.L. 2013. "Serfs", civics and social action: Islamic identity and grassroots activism during Eritrea's Tigre emancipation movement, 1941-1946. *Islamic Africa: (2013), vol.4, no.2, p.165-193.*, vol. 4, no. 2, p. 165-193.

Abstract: This article examines the growth of political activism within various Tigre-speaking communities across Eritrea during the early and mid-1940s. Using previously overlooked archival as well as oral sources, it explores how some Tigre "serfs" became increasingly proactive in challenging their subordinate position against local landlords, even as communities experienced a haphazard transition from Italian to temporary British colonial rule. Refusing to comply with the traditional payment of customary dues and taxes to local landlords, disenfranchised Tigre across Eritrea's Western Province pressed their claims for economic and even political independence. In the process, some Tigre leaders also demonstrated the complex and often problematic nature of Islamic "identity" as the emancipation movement expanded. Activists' overall success also depended upon their ability to articulate a broad, Islamic-inspired understanding of the need to rectify social and economic injustice, even though such actions challenged the existing religious institutions and authorities in the region, particularly the leadership within the dominant Khatmiyya Sufi order. Ultimately, the surge in antifeudal activism helped enrich the emerging public discourse across the colony, which fused ideas of political independence with the need to ensure the collective security of the region's various Muslim communities, including those residing beyond the country's Tigre-speaking areas. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.5192/215409930402165>

Walther, O.J. 2014. Trade networks in West Africa: a social network approach. *The Journal of Modern African Studies: (2014), vol.52, no.2, p.179-203 : fig., krt., tab.,* vol. 52.

Abstract: To date, most of the literature on trade networks in West Africa has considered networks in a metaphorical way. The aim of this article is to go one step further by showing how social network analysis may be applied to the study of regional trade in West Africa. After a brief review of the literature, the article investigates two main issues related to regional trade. The authors start by discussing how recent developments in regional trade in West Africa have contributed to challenging the social structure of traders. They then discuss the changes that have affected the spatiality of regional trade by looking at the influence of spatial location and geographic scale on traders' abilities to trade. In both cases, the authors argue that the value of social network analysis in exploring how traders have progressively adapted to social and spatial changes in economic activities has been greatly underestimated. The discussion is illustrated with the case of two trade networks located between Niger, Benin and Nigeria. Bibliogr., note, sum. [Journal abstract]

Willis, J. & Chome, N. 2014. Marginalization and political participation on the Kenya coast : the 2013 elections. *Journal of Eastern African Studies: (2014), vol.8, no.1, p.115-134 : tab.,* vol. 8, no. 1, p. 115-134.

Abstract: At the coast, the run-up to Kenya's 2013 elections was dominated by fears of violence and the calls for a boycott by the secessionist Mombasa Republican Council. However, the elections passed off largely peacefully, and coastal turnout was significantly higher than in any previous election. This article argues that the secessionist campaign was internally incoherent, and undermined by divisions within the 'coasterian' community it claimed to represent; and that a politics of patronage encouraged electoral participation, particularly because so many levels of political office were being contested at the same time. Despite this participation, however, the sense of marginalization remains very powerful among many people at the coast. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17531055.2013.844443>