African Traditional Religion In Contemporary Society

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### The Spirituality of African Peoples

**Peter J. Paris**

Eminent black social ethicist Peter Paris focuses on African “spirituality”—the religious and moral values pervading traditional African religious worldviews. Paris’s careful scholarship and his eye for value in varying cultural milieus combine to model comparative cultural analysis and to clarify cultural foundations of black ethical life.

### New Approaches to the Study of Religion: Regional, critical, and historical approaches

**Peter Antes** 2004 Internationally recognized scholars from many parts of the world provide a critical survey of recent developments and achievements in the global field of religion studies. The work follows in the footsteps of two earlier publications: Classical Approaches to the Study of Religion, edited by Jacques Waardenburg (1973), and Contemporary Approaches to the Study of Religion, edited by Frank Whaling (1984/85). New Approaches to the Study of Religion completes the survey of the comparative study of religion in the twentieth century by focussing on the past two decades. Many of the chapters, however, are also pathbreaking and point the way to future approaches.

### Religion and Society

**Rom C. Ohuhu** 1996

**Handbook of Research on Development and Religion**

Matthew Clarke 2013-01-01 With eighty percent of the world’s population professing religious faith, religious belief is a common human characteristic. This fascinating and highly unique Handbook brings together state-of-the-art research on incorporating religion into development studies literature and research. The expert contributors illustrate that as religious identity is integral to a community’s culture, exclusion of religious consideration will limit successful development interventions; it is therefore necessary to conflate religion and development to enhance efforts to improve the lives of the poor. Issues addressed include: key tenets, beliefs and histories of religions; religious response to development concerns (gender, environment, education, microfinance, humanitarian assistance); and the role of faith based organisations and missionaries in the wider development context. Practical case studies of countries across Africa, Eastern Europe and the Pacific (including Australia) underpin the research, providing evidence that the intersection between religion and development is neither new nor static. By way of conclusion, suggestions are prescribed for extensive further research in order to advance understanding of this nascent field. This path-breaking Handbook will prove a thought-provoking and stimulating reference tool for academics, researchers and students in international development, international relations, comparative religion and theology.

### Spirit Mediumship and Society in Africa

**John Beattie** 2013-11-05 Gathering together under a single cover material from a wide range of African societies, this volume allows similarities and differences to be easily perceived and suggests social correlates of these in terms of age, sex, marital status, social grading and wealth. It includes material on both traditional and modern cults.

### Religions in Global Society

**Peter Beyer** 2013-01-11 Peter Beyer, a distinguished sociologist of religion, presents a way of understanding religion in a contemporary global society - by analyzing it as a dimension of the historical process of globalization. Introducing theories of globalization and showing how they can be applied to world religions, Beyer reveals the nature of the contested category of ‘religion’: what it means, what it includes and what it implies in the world today. Written with exceptional clarity and illustrated with lively and diverse examples ranging from Islam and Hinduism to African traditional religions and new age spirituality, this is a fascinating overview of how religion has developed in a globalized society. It is recommended reading for students taking courses on sociology of religion, religion and globalization, and religion and modernity.

### Work, Family and Religion in Contemporary Society

**Nancy Tatom Ammerman** 2014-02-04 Until recently, religious institutions have been organized to suit the traditional American family, where the wife stayed at home, caring for children. Today, churches and synagogues are beginning to adapt to the reality of the American family: dual-career marriages, high levels of divorce, interfaith marriages, partnerships that may not be marriages. Religious organizations must serve families that don't fall into the Ozzie and Harriet mold. The first group of papers in this edited volume documents changing trends in the connection between religion, work, and the family. In the second part of the book, we see how changing families and flexible congregations are experimenting with new forms of religious life.

### Uniquely African?

**James Leland Cox** 2003 Concerning themselves with the problematic nature of African Christian identity, the contributors to this book adopt various cultural, historical, national and educational perspectives in order to reflect on the problem of African identities in a world dominated by Western ideological and religious systems.

### Contemporary Perspectives on Religions in Africa and the African Diaspora

**Carolyn M. Jones Medine** 2015-10-14 Contemporary Perspectives on Religions in Africa and the African Diaspora explores African derived religions in a globalized world. The volume focuses on the continent, on African identity in globalization, and on African religion in cultural change.

### The Power of Black Music

**Samuel A. Floyd Jr.** 1996-10-31 When Jimi Hendrix transfixed the crowds of Woodstock with his gripping version of “The Star Spangled Banner,” he was building on a foundation reaching back, in part, to the revolutionary guitar playing of Howlin’ Wolf and the other great Chicago bluesmen, and to the Delta blues tradition before him. But in its unforgettable introduction, followed by his unaccompanied “talking” guitar passage and inserted calls and responses at key points in the musical narrative, Hendrix's performance of the national anthem also hearkened back to a tradition even older than the blues, a tradition rooted in the rings of dance, drum, and song shared by peoples across Africa. Bold and original, The Power of Black Music offers a new way of listening to the music of black America, and appreciating its profound contribution to all American music. Striving to break down the barriers that remain between high art and low art, it brilliantly illuminates the centuries-old linkage between the
music, myths and rituals of Africa and the continuing evolution and enduring vitality of African-American music. Inspired by the pioneering work of Sterling Stuckey and Henry Louis Gates, Jr., author Samuel A. Floyd, Jr. advocates a new critical approach grounded in the forms and traditions of the music itself. He accompanies readers on a fascinating journey from the African ring, through the ring shout’s powerful merging of music and dance in the slave culture, to the funeral parade practices of the early New Orleans jazzmen, the bluesmen in the twenties, the beboppers in the forties, and the free jazz, rock, Motown, and concert hall composers of the sixties and beyond. Floyd dismisses the assumption that Africans brought to the United States as slaves took the music of whites in the New World and transformed it through their own performance practices. Instead, he recognizes European influences, while demonstrating how much black music has continued to share with its African counterparts. Floyd maintains that while African Americans may not have direct knowledge of African traditions and myths, they can intuitively recognize links to an authentic African cultural memory. For example, in speaking of his own experiences as a clarinetist Sidney Bechet said, “Inside him he’d got the memory of all the wrong that’s been done to my people. That’s what the memory is…When a blues is good, that kind of memory just grows up inside it.”

Grounding his scholarship and meticulous research in his childhood memories of black folk culture and his own experiences as a musician and listener, Floyd maintains that the memory of Omar and all those who came before and after him remains a driving force in the black music of America, a force with the power to enrich cultures the world over.

Introduction to African Religion John S. Mbiti 2015-01-14 In his widely acclaimed survey, John Mbiti sheds light on the survival and prosperity of African Religion in different historical, geographical, sociological, cultural, and physical environments. He presents a constellation of African worldviews, beliefs in God, use of symbols, valued traditions, and practices that have taken root with African people throughout the continent. Mbiti’s accessible writing style sympathetically portrays how African Religion manifests itself in ritual, festival, healing, the human life cycle, and interplay with the mystical and invisible world. The account embraces foundational traditions, while touching on elements that spawn transitions, including migration, the spread of Christianity and Islam, political-economic development, and modern communication. This popular introduction leaves readers with informed knowledge of the riches of African heritage.


Afro-Caribbean Religions Nathaniel Samuel Murrell 2010-01-25 Religion is one of the most important elements of Afro-Caribbean culture linking its people to their African past, from Haitian Vodou and Cuban Santeria—popular religions that have often been demonized in popular culture—to Rastafari in Jamaica and Orisha-Shango of Trinidad and Tobago. In Afro-Caribbean Religions, Nathaniel Samuel Murrell provides a comprehensive study that respectfully traces the social, historical, and political contexts of these religions. And, because Brazil has the largest African population in the world outside of Africa, and has historic ties to the Caribbean, Murrell includes a section on Candomble, Umbanda, Xango, and Batique. This accessibly written introduction to Afro-Caribbean religion examines the cultural traditions and transformations of all of the African-derived religions of the Caribbean along with their cosmology, beliefs, cultural structures, and ritual practices. Ideal for classroom use, Afro-Caribbean Religions also includes a glossary defining unfamiliar terms and identifying key figures.

Phenomenological Approaches to Religion and Spirituality Essien, Essien D. 2021-01-29 There is an interesting knowledge trajectory that God remains incomprehensible, not imperceptible. This lends credence to the fact that religious study since the Enlightenment has dedicated itself almost entirely to the problem of reconciling the non-existence of God in the physical world with his necessary existence in the metaphysical world. When seriously examined, it would be discovered that these two aspects are logically contradictory, and this is a problem with no solution. But interpreting God not as a physical being but as a phenomenological thing changes the nature of the problem enough that a solution emerges almost automatically. In this phenomenological model, the crux of the matter is that God does not exist, but God is real. Therefore, it is imperative to return to experience and verifiability, hence, purging it of unexamined and often hidden assumptions. Phenomenological Approaches to Religion and Spirituality brings together the different disciplines and research approaches to provide a comprehensive analysis of the phenomenology of God and spirituality, as well as offering an effective epistemological apparatus capable of dealing with this concept. The book employs multidisciplinary approaches from religious studies, theology, philosophy, anthropology, and other segments to dissect the subject matter for efficient evaluation and all-inclusive findings. While covering various aspects of religion such as the testimonies of the Bible, the church, the religious communities, and the study of spirituality, this book is intended for theologians, philosophers, religious leaders, policymakers, academicians, researchers, students, public institutions, and agencies with a special interest in religious matters, values, knowledge, and truth.


African Christian Theology in the Contemporary Context Peter Wasswa Mpangi 2002 African Spirituality Jacob Kehinde Olopuno 2000 As Africa moves into the 21st century it faces new spiritual, social, and economic challenges.

Imagining God Hans-Georg Ziebertz 2001 Is the question of God still relevant for our time? Empirical studies from an international perspective show the fact that there are both indications of God’s importance and disappearance. The articles in this book deal with questions related to the content, structure and function of images of God. The studies document the actual variety and forms of religious practice and highlight the issues of God present - out of necessity from an ecumenical and interdisciplinary point of view. If and how the question of God is asked is not only of denominational interest, but is also of a cultural importance for the individual and public life in Europe. The empirical studies in this collection were discussed at the “Wurzburg Research Days - Practical Theology” in December 2000.

Rites of Passage in Contemporary Africa James Leland Cox 1998 The articles which comprise this book where delivered initially at a conference held at the University of Zimbabwe, 21-24 June 1994, on the of the interaction between Christian religion and traditional African religions. This text demonstrates that the academic study of religion is not only responsive to developments in religious life, but is interested in actively exploring the symbolic structures expressed in Christian and traditional ritual activities. Academic understanding is shown to be interactive with the many factors which compromise meaning within human societies and religious communities.

The Palgrave Handbook of African Education and Indigenous Knowledge Jamaine M. Abidogun 2020-06-02 This handbook explores the evolution of African education in historical perspectives as well as the development within its three systems—Indigenous, Islamic, and Western education models—and how African societies have maintained and changed their approaches to education within and across these systems. African education continues to find itself at once preserving its knowledge, while integrating Islamic and Western aspects in order to compete within this global reality. Contributors take up issues and themes of the positioning, resistance, accommodation, and transformations of indigenous education in relationship to the introduction of Islamic and later Western education. Issues and themes raised acknowledge the contemporary development and positioning of indigenous education within African societies and provide understanding of how indigenous education works within individual societies and national frameworks as an...
essential part of African contemporary society.

Selected Themes in The Study of Religions in Nigeria S. G. A. Onibere 2010 Selected themes in the Study of Religions in Nigeria presents comprehensive case studies of various topics in Religious Studies. It aims at shedding light on the dynamics of change and innovations that characterize the study of religions in contemporary society. The guiding principle throughout the work has been to present the essential elements of all religions as simply and completely as possible. In this way it is possible to discover with remarkable precision what the religious elements are and the changes that have taken place as a result hybridization of cultural traits. The contributions fall broadly under Biblical Studies, Church History, Islamic Studies and African Traditional Religions.


African Traditions in the Study of Religion in Africa provides introductory essays and detailed annotations that define the field of study. AFRICAN THEOLOGY/IES: A CONTEMPORARY MOSAICAL APPROACH [Durable] Dorothy BEA Akoto-Abutabe 2014-01-29 This book describes African Theology/ies and the Bible as a "contemporary mosaic." The book is shaped in the form of a "mosaic" with three patterns. One pattern deals with the Bible and Culture. The second deals with Hermeneutics (interpretations of various biblical texts) as they relate to African cultural contexts and the third part deals with general issues of Gender, Misiology and practical Christianity. Some of the themes treated in the book are reading and hearing scripture as a "hermeneutic of grafting", marriage in the Bible, HIV/AIDS care and intervention, Gender challenges and many more. This book is very easy to read and throws light on some aspects of African cultural and theological practices that may even have universal application. Seminaries, Theological/Divinity Schools will find this book very educational and resourceful. People who want to know more about the worldviews expressed in African Theology/ies will appreciate this Book.


Religions in Contemporary Africa Laura S. Grillo 2019 Religions in Contemporary Africa is an accessible and comprehensive introduction to the three main religious traditions on the African continent, African indigenous religions, Christianity and Islam. The book provides a historical overview of these important traditions and focuses on the roles they play in African societies today. It includes social, cultural and political case studies from across the continent on the following topical issues: Witchcraft and modernity Power and politics Conflict and peace Media and popular culture Development Human rights Illness and health Gender and sexuality With suggestions for further reading, discussion questions, illustrations and a list of glossary terms this is the ideal textbook for students in religion, African studies and adjacent fields approaching this subject area for the first time. LI>Gender and sexuality With suggestions for further reading, discussion questions, illustrations and a list of glossary terms this is the ideal textbook for students in religion, African studies and adjacent fields approaching this subject area for the first time. Together as One: Interfaith Relationships between African Traditional Religion, Islam, and Christianity in Nigeria. Hyacinth Kalu 2011-06-16 The Nigerian religious landscape is characterized by series of violence leading to bloodshed, loss of thousands of life and property worth billions of Naira. This unfortunate situation raises much concern in the minds of well-respected scholars of major religious traditions in Nigeria. How can Nigeria remain a secular state, and still maintain its plurality of religion and at same time survive disintegration because of religious violence, conflict and intolerance? How can followers of these different religions maintain their religious identity, while at the same time co-operating with one another in making Nigeria a home for all, where all can worship God in freedom and peace? This book offers hope in the midst of hopelessness, it underscores the fact that, though tribe and tongue may differ, though religious differences exist, Nigeria is still one sovereign nation. Consequently, the opening title: Together as One resonates with the opening statements of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria that professes unity, harmony and peace as one indivisible and
indissoluble sovereign nation under God. This book finds the hope of reclaiming and rebuilding this unity and harmony, threatened by religious violence, in Interfaith Relationships between African Traditional Religion, Islam, and Christianity.

African Traditional Religions in Contemporary Society Jacob Kehinde Olupona 1991

African Traditional Religion in the Modern World Douglas E. Thomas 2005-02-24 African traditional religion is a spiritual lifestyle followed by millions of people around the world. Some scholars argue it is related to the religion practiced by the African Egyptians during the Dynastic period. The Yoruba, Dagara, and Ibo cultures, particularly as they relate to cosmology, symbolism, and ritual, are fundamental to the traditional religious system. This study examines the nature of African traditional religion in an effort to determine the common attributes of the religion of the continent, focusing on the West African experience. This study analyzes concepts in African traditional religion by isolating key elements in the Yoruba, Dagara, and Ibo cultures. Principal elements isolated include sacrifice, salvation, revelation and divination, as well as African concepts of invasions, colonization outside religious assaults. The study also considers the influence of Christianity and Islam.

Christianity and African Traditional Religion and Worldview Professor Yusuf Turaki There are many books that have addressed the subject of this book: "How should Christianity approach the study of the African traditional religions". Christian scholars with different Christian traditions and backgrounds have propounded many methods. This book is the latest addition to this ongoing debate. The book develops a method of approaching the African traditional religions from an integral Biblical perspective. It stresses the primacy Of the Bible and Biblical revelation as legitimate basis of defining African traditional religions, cultures and worldview. The book argues very strongly that African religion, cultures and worldviews have to be subjected to Biblical authority, definition and teachings, Christianity as a religious system with its sets of gods, divinities and the theological basis of the traditional beliefs in (1) gods, (2) divinities and (3) spirits is already preoccupied with the African traditional religious thought. It is this preoccupied traditional religions and cultural mind which receives, understands, interprets and applies Christianity in Africa. This traditional religious thought is neither dormant nor docile, but has the power of perception, conception, understanding, interpretation and application. When it receives Christianity, it has the capacity and the ability to re-cast and transform it into its own categories of thought and mentalities. Thus, the profound and dominant influence of this traditional religious thought on African Christians must be recognized and taken very seriously. The nature and the theological basis of the traditional beliefs in (1) gods, (2) divinities and (3) spirits are examined. These beliefs are defined and interpreted in the light of (1) the traditional religious worldview and (2) the Biblical and Christian theology. The theological implications of these traditional beliefs for doing a Biblical and Christian theology in Africa are highlighted. The spiritual phenomenon of the traditional religions is well established. Furthermore, the nature and the theological basis of the traditional beliefs in the mystical, mysterious and unseen powers and forces are also examined. The power phenomenon of the traditional religions is also well established. The centrality of man in the traditional religious worldview is also well established and this is addressed from the Biblical and Christian teachings on man. The relevance of the traditional theological, philosophical and moral and ethical foundations and the nature and meaning of man are analysed and examined in the light of the Biblical teachings and Christian theology. The primary objective is to understand the inner logic and workings of the traditional religious thought and its religious beliefs and practices. Religious concepts, perceptions, meanings, realities, behaviour and practices that are derived from this traditional religious system are presented and defined in the light of the Bible and Christian theology.

African Traditional Religion in Contemporary Society Jacob Kehinde Olupona 1990 Perspectives on Method and Theory in the Study of Religion International Association for the History of Religions. Congress 2000 This volume is the adjunct proceedings on methodology from the XVIIIth Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions, held in Mexico City in 1995. Taken together, the essays present a thorough and coherent perspective on studying religion as an item of human culture.

Problems and Difficulties that Religious Traditions Face when They Address Problems Related to Ecological Issues Mwita James 2016-12-15 Essay from the year 2016 in the subject Sociology - Religion, course: Master of Religion Society and global issues, language: English, abstract: Religious traditions and ecological issues have been the key features of human affairs and the leading issues in the contemporary society, attracting the attention of the global society. The paper discusses the problems and difficulties that religious traditions face when addressing problems related to ecological issues. The essay defines the terms "religious traditions" and "ecological issues." The paper points out issues on general ecology, and current ecological crisis showing the areas of conflict between religion and ecology in view of Christianity and African traditional religion as examples of five major world religions for the purposes of trying to understand the key environmental challenges are impossible for the two religions to address the crisis. Challenges facing religious tradition in combating ecological issues are summarized for better understanding.

The Palgrave Handbook of African Traditional Religion Ibibolade S. Aderibigbe 2022 The Palgrave Handbook of African Traditional Religion interrogates and presents robust and comprehensive contributions from interdisciplinary experts and scholars. Offering a range of perspectives and opinions through the prism of understanding the past about African Traditional religions and, more importantly, capturing their dynamics in the present and projecting their sustainability and relevance for the future, this volume is an essential resource for knowledge and understanding of African Traditional religions in the global space of religious traditions. Ibibolade Simon Aderibigbe is Professor of Religion and African studies. He is currently Associate Director of the African Studies Institute at the University of Georgia, USA. Tom Falola is Professor of African History and African Studies at Texas A&M University, USA. He is an honorary professor at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, and Extraordinary Professor of Human Rights at the University of the Free State, South Africa.

Readings in African Religion Muhammad Wolfgang G. A. Schmidt 2004-03-25 It is quite instructive to see how the concerned — explaining religious debates on principal methodological concepts from here. Basically, this is a approaches and theoretical axioms correct approach and a methodological developed - approaches and basic prerequisite if you want to work concepts that seem to serve as a point objectively, neither being an of departure in the study of Traditional ethnocentrist or be prejudged by any African Religion. To me, it seems to conceptual faith that you privately be the old Western type of "academic may hold. Both such subconscious disease" of putting everything into a factors conflict with the academic and well defined but strict set of categories scientific aim of being neutral and according to certain preconceived objective. Furthermore, it may have criteria and them make it work. In the first been the Early Marxists such as end, scholars and researches will find Marx himself and his close collaborator Engels who in the midst of the 19 th themselves caught up in their own trap century made the first attempts to they built. depart from the then prevalent dominating pattern of idealistic The instance of assessing the study of approach in science and advocating a Traditional African Religion from at more objective, neutral pattern of limit two superficially conflicting points approach. It is what they called of view must give such an impression "materialist approach" opposing any to anyone following the recent, and the Jacob and Frances Sanger Mossiker Chair in the Humanities at the University of Texas at Austin, USA. He is a honorary professor at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, and Extraordinary Professor of Human Rights at the University of the Free State, South Africa.
Religions only in the study of society and the in Contemporary Society”, St. Paul, socio-economic factors underlying it 1991:15-24) raised the point. In but in any other sphere of academic addition to presenting a brief overview debate as well.