

Melville J.Herkovits Award-Committee on Kai Kresse's Book, for an honorable mention:

“Kai Kresse, *Philosophising in Mombasa: Knowledge, Islam and Intellectual Practice On the Swahili Coast* (Edinburgh University Press, 2007). Kresse has written an anthropological study of philosophical discourses in Mombasa, and he sets them clearly in their geographical and temporal context. His discussion is rooted in intimate knowledge of Mombasa neighborhoods and of the intellectual genealogy of three individual thinkers, whose moral thought he also documents. We learn how three sages - a healer, a Muslim scholar, a poet - think about the big issues: What can we know? What should we do? He acknowledges the importance of factional power struggles among members of contemporary Muslim movements in Mombasa, but his interest in Islamic thought is broader than this political perspective. While essentially a case study of Swahili thought, Kresse is making the bigger argument that there must be more interdisciplinary cooperation between philosophy and anthropology, and he argues persuasively for the investigation of philosophy in everyday life”.

ASA, November 2008