



EINLADUNG / AUSHANG

Ritual Praxis as Access to the World: Migration, Globalization, and the Mediation of Prospect in Senegambian Divinatory Praxis

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Appearing in the patterns of cowrie-shells or geomantic lay-outs as ‘the Path of Travel’ (*taama siiloo*), or simply ‘the Path’ (*siiloo*), migration is one of the most recurrent themes in Senegambian divinatory praxis today. Reflecting people’s hope to gain access to a better life by venturing far beyond the confines of their immediate lifeworld, the importance of the topic of migration in contemporary divinatory praxis forces us to reflect on issues such as globalization, mobility, and recognition not only from the perspective of state politics but equally from ‘below’, i.e. from the perspective of that vast majority of citizens who are practically denied any direct access to the benefits of the institutionalised global avenues of economic and political power. At the same time, however, it will become clear that the motivations underlying divinatory ritual are not just a reflex to being exposed to processes of globalization but must be understood as a complex interplay between global dynamics and local patterns of agency and desire.

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