

Power, marginality and African oral literature

edited by

Graham Furniss and Liz Gunner

*School of Oriental and African Studies
University of London*



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Contents

<i>List of contributors</i>	page ix
<i>Preface</i>	xi
<i>Note on transcription</i>	xiv
1 Introduction: power, marginality and oral literature <i>Graham Furniss and Liz Gunner</i>	1
Part I: Orality and the power of the state	
2 Oral art and contemporary cultural nationalism <i>Penina Mlama</i>	23
3 The letter and the law: the politics of orality and literacy in the chiefdoms of the northern Transvaal <i>Isabel Hofmeyr</i>	35
4 A king is not above insult: the politics of good governance in Nzema <i>avudwene</i> festival songs <i>Kofi Agovi</i>	47
Part II: Representing power relations	
5 <i>Ìgbò énwē ézè</i> : monarchical power versus democratic values in Igbo oral narratives <i>Chukwuma Azuonye</i>	65
6 Tales and ideology: the revolt of sons in Bambara–Malinké tales <i>Veronika Görög-Karady</i>	83

7	Images of the powerful in Lyela folktales <i>Sabine Steinbrich</i>	92
Part III: Oral forms and the dynamics of power		
8	Power, marginality and Somali oral poetry: case studies in the dynamics of tradition <i>John William Johnson</i>	111
9	The function of oral art in the regulation of social power in Dyula society <i>Jean Derive</i>	122
10	The power of words and the relation between Hausa genres <i>Graham Furniss</i>	130
Part IV: Endorsing or subverting the paradigms: women and oral forms		
11	Sexuality and socialisation in Shona praises and lyrics <i>Herbert Chimhundu</i>	147
12	Nontsizi Mqgqwetho: stranger in town <i>Jeff Opland</i>	162
13	Clashes of interest: gender, status and power in Zulu praise poetry <i>Liz Gunner</i>	185
14	<i>Jelimusow</i> : the superwomen of Malian music <i>Lucy Durán</i>	197
Part V: Mediators and communicative strategies		
15	Power and the circuit of formal talk <i>Kwesi Yankah</i>	211
16	Praise splits the subject of speech: constructions of kingship in the Manden and Borgu <i>Paulo Fernando de Moraes Farias</i>	225
17	Beyond the communal warmth: the poet as loner in Ewe oral tradition <i>Kofi Anyidoho</i>	244
	<i>Bibliography</i>	260
	<i>Index</i>	277