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L'ORIENTALE



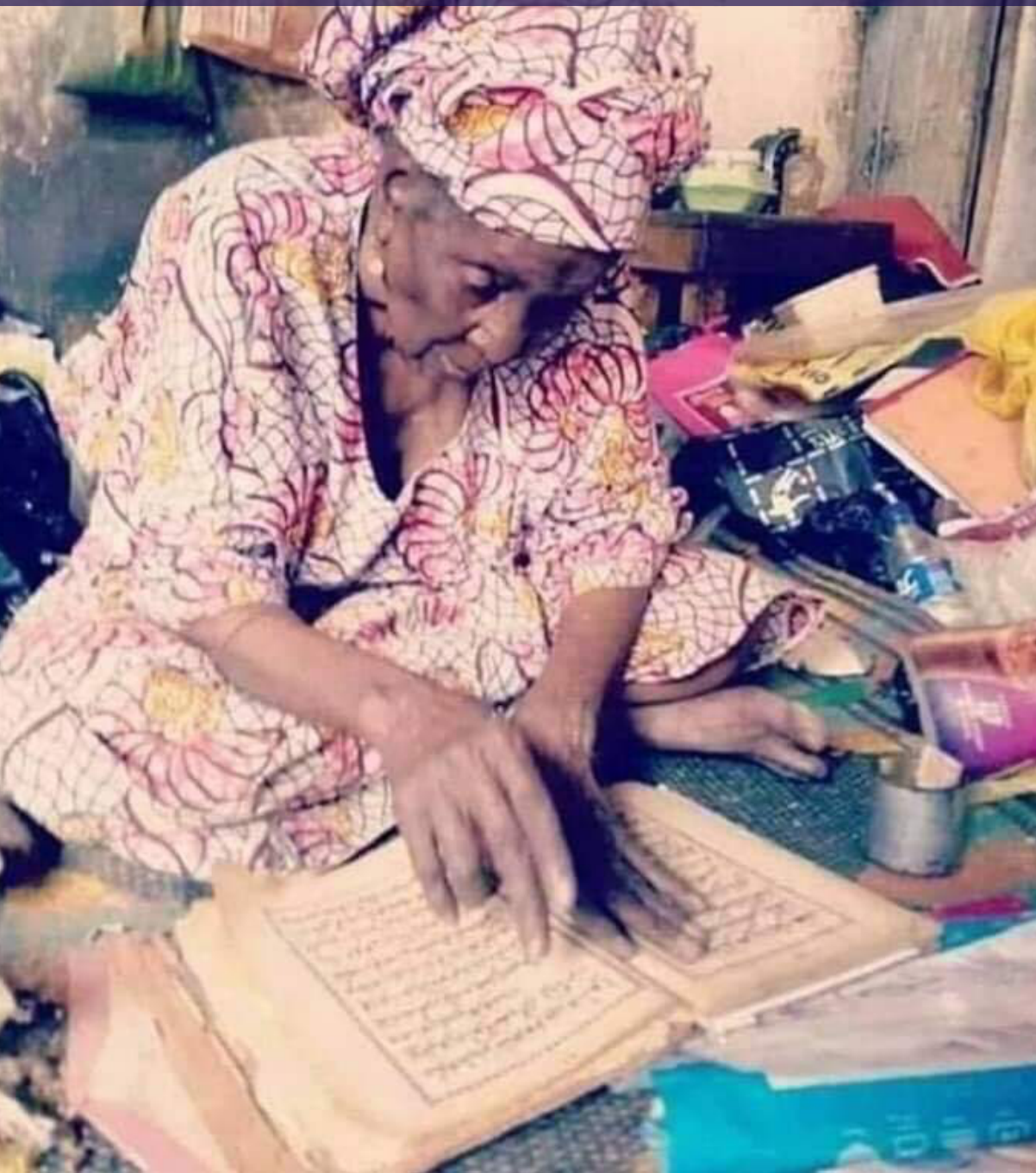
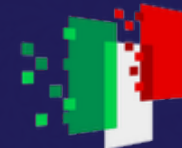
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DI RIPRESA E RESILIENZA



PRIN 2022ZRMFZ

Islamic Literatures in Sub-Saharan Africa:
Themes, Genres and Publics

International Conference
1-2 July 2025

Islamic Literatures in Sub-Saharan Africa: Written and Oral Legacies

Università di Napoli L'Orientale
Dipartimento Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo
Piazza San Domenico Maggiore
Palazzo Corigliano
Aula Mura Greche



Cover image

Hajiya Ta'annabi, Kano (Nigeria)

Photo by Dahir Lawan Mu'az

Graphics by Silvia Neposteri

Islamic Literatures in Sub-Saharan Africa: Written and Oral Legacies

Morning session

1 July 2025
Aula Mura Greche

Afternoon session

9.00-9.30

Registration and welcome from the Rector, the Director of the Dipartimento Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo, and the President of the Centro di Studi sull'Africa

9.30-10.30

Keynote talk

Stefan SPERL

Emeritus Professor of Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies and Professorial Research Associate, SOAS

The qasida in Islamic Africa revisited: Comparative perspectives and post-Eurocentric poetics

Discussant: Martin ORWIN

10.30-11.00 Coffee Break

Session 1. Varieties of the qasida in Africa

Discussant: Andrea BRIGAGLIA

11.00-11.30

Francesco Alfonso LECCESE, University of Calabria
A contemporary Sufi Dīwān of the Nile Valley

11.30-12.00

Dahir Lawan MU'AZ, Bayero University, Kano
Reimagining Imr al-Qays in Sufi hermeneutics: A Sufi commentary by Shaykh Abubakar Ati'ku Sanka (1974) of Kano, Nigeria

12.00-12.30

Abubakar ABDULKADIR, University of Toronto (online)
Rhyming revelation: Qur'anic exegesis through poetry in Mauritania

12.30-13.00 Discussion

13.00-14.00 Lunch

Session 2. Ajami Traditions

Discussant: Silvia NEPOSTERI

14.00-14.30

Andreas WETTER, independent scholar

The multilingual dimension in Islamic scholarship in Ethiopia: A combined literary-sociolinguistic approach

14.30-15.00

Mohamed DIAGAYÉTÉ, Ahmed-Baba Institute (online)

Le chant Soufi religieux ou les conditions du Wird d'al-Tijjani, un text ajami en fulfulde de Fouta

15.00-15.30

Chapane MUTIUA, Eduardo Mondlane University

Islamic literature in Mozambique: Past, present and perspectives for the future

15.30-16.00 Coffee Break

16.00-16.30

Djibril DRAMÉ, University of Hamburg

Soninke and language varieties in ajami manuscripts

16.30-17.00

Shaibu Issa CHAMPUNGA, Université Libre de Bruxelles

The ajami Swahili manuscripts in the library of the University of Dar es Salaam: An examination of ajami Swahili poetry from an Islamic perspective

17.00-17.30 Discussion

Islamic Literatures in Sub-Saharan Africa: Written and Oral Legacies

Morning session

2 July 2025
Aula Mura Greche

Afternoon session

Session 3. Oral Texts and Performances

Discussant: Francesco ZAPPA

9.00-9.30

Amidu O. SANNI, Lagos State University

Yoruba Islamic verse (waka): Issues in themes, structure, style and performance

9.30-10.00

Bashir Mohamed HERSI, University of Naples L'Orientale and
Martin ORWIN, University of Naples L'Orientale

Form and language use in the poetry of Maxamad Axmad Liibaan 'Axyaa Waddani' (1904–1989)

10.00-10.30

Francesca DECLICH, University of Urbino "Carlo Bo"

Maulidi and female performances with religious meanings in between folklore and piety (northern Mozambique)

10.30-11.00 Discussion

11.00-11.30 Coffee Break

11.30-13.30

Keynote talks

Shamil JEPPIE

Associate Professor, Department of Historical Studies,
University of Cape Town

The book and the history of the Sahel

Anne Katrine BANG

Professor of the History of the Middle East and Islamic Africa,
University of Bergen

The many meanings of text in East Africa:

Reading Islam in the manuscript and print age

Discussant: Mauro NOBILI

13.30-14.30 Lunch

Session 4. Manuscript Corpuses

Discussant: Francesca BELLINO

14.30-15.00

M'hammed MOULAY, Université Africaine d'Adrar (online)

Les lettres Islamiques en Afrique Subsaharienne : Les manuscrits Islamiques Africains dans les bibliothèques familiales de Touat au sud de l'Algérie comme modèle

15.00-15.30

Rémi DEWIÈRE, University of Padua

A shared Islamic literature? The maḡāzī in 16th century Borno and Bar Sa'ad ad-dīn

15.30-16.00 Coffee Break

16.00-16.30

Silvia NEPOSTERI, University of Naples L'Orientale

Shaping destiny: A preliminary study of divination systems in the Arabico-Malagasy written tradition (south-eastern Madagascar)

16.30-17.00

Xavier LUFFIN, Université Libre de Bruxelles

Arabic books in colonial Congo: The place of occult sciences

17.00-17.30 Discussion

17.30-18.00 General discussion