

## Recent Books from Cameroon – April 2022

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### **Anthropology**

In Pursuit of an African Traditional Dance : An Afrocentric Historical Study of Buum Oku Dance Younde / Thomas Jing  
Bamenda: Langaa RPCIG, 2022  
xx, 172p. ; 229x152mm.  
9789956552658  
\$ 27.00 / PB  
284gm.

Africa is rich in (neo) traditional dances; yet, not much exists in the form of written literature on the subject. Even worse, existing documents date back to the colonial period and are often disparaging. Dance to Africans is what martial arts are to Asians. Embedded in them are some of the solutions to many of the problems wracking the African diaspora: gang violence, drug addiction, and high school dropout rates, etc. When Guinea's Ballets Africains first bursts on the international scene in the late fifties and sixties, the black revolution in the US was in full swing. The troupe's emancipatory message enkindled in African Americans a new sense of cultural pride and a return to their African roots. For once, dance became something else other than the ballet. With that burst of enthusiasm came the need to introduce African dances in the academia. Most of the research, however, focused mainly on dances which use drums (djembe). Departing from that tradition, in this detailed and richly choreographed ethnography on the Buum Oku Dance Yaounde, Thomas Jing's investigation into a xylophone-based dance opens up new research avenues and exposes the challenges involved. An Afrocentric theoretical framework to the research counters imperialist notions of African dances, thus setting them up as a tool for emancipation.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=802590>

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## **Biography/Memoirs**

Morgan Richard Tsvangirai's Legacy : Opposition Politics and the Struggle for Human Rights, Democracy and Gender Sensitivities / (Eds) Ngonidzashe Marongwe, Fidelis Peter Thomas Duri & Munyaradzi Mawere  
Bamenda: Langaa RPCIG, 2022  
xii, 354p. ; 229x152mm.  
9789956552894  
\$ 38.00 / PB  
536gm.

Morgan Richard Tsvangirai is arguably the most polarising figure and advocate of democracy and human rights in the history of opposition politics in Zimbabwe. He is as much a topic of debate in Zimbabwe and beyond as the late president Robert Gabriel Mugabe. Tsvangirai's legacy, like Mugabe's, remains indisputably controversial and conflicted. Broadly, the divided opinion on the Tsvangirai legacy can be represented, firstly, by those who argue that Tsvangirai was the champion of democracy and the face of the struggle for human rights in Zimbabwe. In this light, Tsvangirai has been variously described as a "selfless...people's hero", a "colossus of the struggle for democracy", "the commander of the struggle", "a symbol of courage and resistance", and "the doyen of constitutionalism" in Zimbabwe. On the other hand, critics have described Tsvangirai as a "sell-out", "a Judas Iscariot", "traitor", and "coward", among other nefarious and pejorative characterisations. Drawing on all these opinions and the various characterisations of Tsvangirai, this book provides a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary appraisal of a gigantic trade unionist and political figure who, in his life and in death, inspires different narratives, emotions and values. This book is therefore about a mortal but "living" figure who left an indelible mark on Zimbabwe, Africa and the rest of the world in fields such as trade unionism, governance and politics. As such, the book is handy for students and practitioners in African studies, political science, policy studies, economics, history, global studies and development studies.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=802591>

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## Literature

Taxi Drivers : Who Drive Us Nowhere and Others Travel Stories / Howard Meh-Buh Maximus (Eds) Dzekashu MacViban

Yaounde: Bakwa Magazine, 2019

120p. ; 210x148mm.

9781733752619

Bakwa Magazine No. 09

\$ 18.00 / PB

136gm.

In our first-ever print and entirely nonfiction issue, we explore what it means to travel as an African. Herein are stories about passport privilege and air and road trips to destinations diverse and peculiar-from Douala, Lagos, Lisbon, through Berlin, Sylt, Maputo to Kousseri. A journey down memory lane with the inglorious history of an airline, and a cab driver's unheralded analysis of Captain Marvel.

**Bakwa 09** includes pieces from Florian Ngimbis, Anne-Marie Befoune, Yovanka Paquete Perdigao, Sada Malumfashi, Nkiacha Atemnkeng, Munukayumbwa 'Mimi' Mwiya, Howard M-B Maximus, Kay Ugwuede and Raoul Djimeli. It also features an online-only excerpt of the novel Whites Can Dance Too by Kalaf Epalanga.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=802592>

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Family Politricks / (Eds) Dzekashu MacViban & Socrates Mbamalu

Yaounde: Bakwa Magazine, 2021

162p. ; 210x148mm.

9781733752640

Bakwa Magazine No. 10

\$ 18.00 / PB

178gm.

What does family mean? How do we relate to it? Is it defined exclusively by blood ties? How often does it fuck us up? How often does it protect us? From Bamenda to Maryland, Port Harcourt to Addis Ababa, Bakwa 10 explores the ways in which families make and unmake us. Contributors include: Pwaangulongii Dauod, Sada Malumfashi, Bertille Mbarga, Lebohang Mojapelo,

Géraldin Mpesse, Eleanor TK, Nelson Kamkuimo, Mignotte Mekuria,  
Kanyinsola Olorunnisola, and JK Anowe.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=802593>

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Off Passion and Ink : New Voices From Cameroon / (Ed) Dzekashu MacViban  
Yaounde: Bakwa Books, 2019

204p. ; 198x129mm.

9781733752602

\$ 18.00 / PB

182gm.

From Limbe, the seaside city, to Kolofata in the north of Cameroon, *Of Passion and Ink* moves from stories of star-crossed lovers, mental health, dark fantasy, displacement, speculative futures to radicalization. These stories subvert what is believed to be the Cameroonian short story and offer exciting new directions.

Stories by Dipita Kwa, Bengono Essola Edouard, Monique Kwachou, Dzekashu MacViban, Howard M-B Maximus, Nkiacha Atemnkeng, A. Bouna Guazong, Rita Bakop, Momo Bertrand and Wise Nzikie Ngasa.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=768013>

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Between Worlds / Rosabelle Boswell

Bamenda: Langaa RPCIG, 2022

x, 62p. ; 203x127mm.

9789956552061

\$ 15.00 / PB

74gm.

Because of the climate crisis and declining ocean health, humans are increasingly in a liminal space between this world and imaginary, alien worlds to come. The poems raise the issue of climate change by foregrounding the centrality, beauty, and significance of the ocean, and of marine life to humanity. They suggest that all species live 'between worlds': between fantasy and reality, dreaming and wakefulness, intuition and consciousness, water and air. We need all worlds to survive. Serendipitously, the poems were composed between dusk and dawn. They are both part-thoughts and whole thoughts that come to inspire my ethnographic writing.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=802594>

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La Tragedie D 'Une Nation Debile / Max-Landry Kassai  
Bamenda: Langaa RPCIG, 2022  
xviii, 150p. ; 203x127mm.  
French Language  
9789956552535  
\$ 20.00 / PB  
154gm.

La tragédie de la nation débile retrace cinq décennies d'instabilité politique au cours desquelles le peuple centrafricain a souffert de plusieurs maux qui ont abouti à l'éclatement de la cohésion sociale entre les communautés. C'est un récit personnel et collectif des massacres, tueries, et pillages indescriptibles, qui ont fait couler le sang centrafricain. Et tout cela sort d'une crise de gestion de la chose publique, des inégalités sociales et politiques dues au népotisme et régionalisme, caractérisant les différents régimes qui ont eu lieu.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=802595>

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## **Sociology**

African Potentials : Bricolage, Incompleteness and Lifeness / (Ed) Itaru Ohta, Francis B. Nyamnjoh & Motoji Matsuda  
Bamenda: Langaa RPCIG, 2022  
xii, 324p. ; 229x152mm. ; Colour Photographs  
Includes Index  
African Potentials Series  
9789956552306  
\$ 65.00 / PB  
466gm.

This book is the result of a research project, called [African Potentials](#), that we have been conducting for 10 years. This project was aimed at overturning negative stereotypes the world has imposed on Africa, such as poverty, hunger and conflict, the achievement of which would help to decolonise and de-Westernise our world while creating a new, alternative future. This book explores how this can be achieved, focusing on the wealth of African knowledge and institutions that African people have created and practised throughout their history. While learning from these indigenous systems, this book reconsiders the subservience to Western values that have been assumed

to be universally applicable. This volume aims to establish an ideology that radically transforms the dominant framework of knowledge, and that can relativise and pluralise the hegemonic centre.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=802596>

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