

Recent Books from Cameroon – Jan 2022

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Cinema/Film Studies

Stories from the Fireplace : Theological Meditations on Haile Gerima's Cinema
/ Tekletsadik Belachew

Bamenda: Langaa RPCIG, 2022

xxii, 362p. ; 229x152mm.

Includes Index

9789956552757

\$ 40.00 / PB

590gm.

This book is an interdisciplinary theological exploration of Haile Gerima's cinema, an Ethiopian filmmaker and storyteller who successfully translated African folkloric orality and wove other indigenous art forms into the language of cinema. Gerima's five decades legacy of Pan-African cinema embodies 'symbolic resistance' against Afro-pessimistic and stereotypical mis/disrepresentations, both manifestations of neo-colonialism. In response, he uses "camera as a weapon" to resist exotic otherness and alienation invented by conventional cinema. Through an alternative moving pictures, he depicted dignified images of Africa towards decolonising cinema and liberating the mind. His memory-films achieves archiving the stories of the people of African descent. Gerima, who stands in par with great African film griots such as Ousmane Sembène - 'the father of African cinema' and Med Hondo, deserves further interdisciplinary reflections.

Gerima's 'Triangular cinema' and 'imperfect cinema' are inspired from indigenous values and cultural products such as holy icons and fireplace stories. His works foster asserting identity of the self, maintaining the right to difference and embracing ubuntu-like human personhood. They are essential

acts in the 21st century. Like theology, cinema alters a way of life - human experiences, imaginations, and narrative identity. This book engages with the works and thoughts of Gerima towards re-imagining Africa through cinematic narratives in being and becoming an African.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=789058>

History

Remember Um Nyobe: Un Siecle de Lutte au Cameroun – Resistance-Nationalisme et Memoire / Modeste Mba Talla (Preface) Joseph A. Richard Bamenda: Langaa RPCIG, 2021

xxviii, 422p. ; 229x152mm.

Includes Bibliography

In French

9789956552511

\$ 45.00 / PB

642gm.

Plus de cent ans après la naissance de Um Nyobè nous publions dans cet ouvrage des témoignages et des réflexions afin que les morts ne courent plus le risque d'être une fois de plus tués. Nous voulons donner un sens à Um vaincu par la mort. Ce faisant, nous voulons, tout en lui rendant hommage renouer le dialogue entre la mémoire, l'histoire et la violence politique. Cet ouvrage collectif permet de revenir sur le sens du combat sacrificiel de Um, de rendre la parole aux morts célèbres et anonymes de la décolonisation du Cameroun, et surtout de poser la question de la mémoire et de l'oubli ainsi que celle de la responsabilité des générations. Cet ouvrage réexamine également la triple question de l'insurrection, voire du soulèvement moral tel qu'articulée par Um, et à laquelle on tente encore de répondre aujourd'hui au Cameroun, à savoir : qui sommes-nous et où en sommes-nous à l'heure actuelle ? Que voulons-nous devenir ? Et que faut-il espérer ? Autant de questions qui suscitent des réflexions en lien direct avec la question mémorielle et auxquelles ceux qui ont contribué à cet ouvrage, répondent à leur manière. Cet ouvrage contribue ainsi à rendre une forme de justice à ce héros mal-connu, et d'aborder la question du devoir de mémoire, qu'il convient de penser comme un véritable travail que doivent s'imposer les Camerounais sur le devenir du Cameroun comme nation, afin que cesse le déni de mémoire, que les lieux de mémoire au Cameroun deviennent de

véritables lieux d'histoire et surtout que les générations présentes commencent à s'acquitter de leur dette envers les ayant-été.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=789059>

Politics/Current Affairs

Incompleteness: Donald Trump, Populism and Citizenship / Francis B.

Nyamnjoh

Bamenda: Langaa RPCIG, 2022

xx, 400p. ; 229x152mm.

Includes Index

9789956552870

\$ 40.00 / PB

648gm.

This is a study of how Donald J. Trump, his populist credentials notwithstanding, borrows without acknowledgment and stubbornly refuses to come to terms with his indebtedness. Taken together with mobility and conviviality, the principle of incompleteness enables us to distinguish between inclusionary and exclusionary forms of populism, and when it is fuelled by ambitions of superiority and zero-sum games of conquest. Nyamnjoh challenges the reader to reflect on how stifling frameworks of citizenship and belonging predicated upon hierarchies of humanity and mobility, and driven by a burning but elusive quest for completeness, can be constructively transcended by humility and conviviality inspired by taking incompleteness seriously. Nyamnjoh argues that the logic and practice of incompleteness is a healthy antidote to name-calling and scapegoating others as undesirable outsiders, depending on the brand of populism at play. Recognising incompleteness also helps to question sterile and problematic binaries such as those between elites and the impoverished masses among whom populists go to fish for political visibility, prominence and success.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=789124>

Patrolling Epistemic Borders in a World of Borderless Pandemics:

Epistemological Policemen in COVID-19 Afflicted 21st Century Africa / (Eds)

Artwell Nhemachena, Rewai Makamani, Munyaradzi Mukesi

Bamenda: Langaa RPCIG, 2021

xxx, 408p. ; 229x152mm.

Includes Index

9789956552634

\$ 45.00 / PB
626gm.

The global epistemological gendarmerie do not only police epistemologies but they also infect the world with infectious epidemics of laughter targeted at those people whose epistemologies are offhandedly condemned as sterile and useless in controlling and containing pandemics. Patrolling epistemic borders in ways that demobilise indigenous epistemologies, the global epistemological policemen have ironically managed to prevent “transgressive” epistemologies from crossing borders but they have fatally failed to prevent the transgressive COVID-19 from recurrently crossing borders, be they bodily, national or continental. Brandishing fetishised degree and diploma certificates, African comprador academics, who are more interested in fetishised ranks and titles than in creativity and innovation, have also fatally failed to help African communities by producing vaccines for Africans by Africans. Arguing that Eurocentric epistemologies have become sterile fetishes, the book contends that such epistemologies have disabled African scholars from actively producing vaccines on a continent where there are paradoxically more epidemics of mimetic laughter than there are efforts at creativity and innovation. The book is useful for scholars in sociology, anthropology, development studies, languages and communication, natural sciences, historical studies and social work.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=789125>

Sociology

Réflexivités Africaines: Cycle de Conférences de The Muntu Institute / Parfait D Akana

Yaounde: Muntu Institute Press, 2021

412p. ; 260x168mm.

In French

9789956464388

Public Thinking Series No. 1

\$ 60.00 / PB

760gm.

En finir avec ces sermons, chapper au vertige des spéculations vaporeuses, tristes alibis sous nos latitudes d'un système de production endémique qui fait l'économie des raisons et des logiques du lieu et privilégie, en guise

dexplications exclusives et ultimes, quelques ftiches comme "la guerre hybride", "le postmodernisme", le "postcolonialisme" et autres pouvantails est, plus que jamais, un impratif thique. Il sagit, non pas dignorer le rle des puissances et des idologies trangres dans le faonnage de notre ethos, mais de congdiier cette subjugation hallucine qui fait certaines lites universitaires parler de l'Afrique, de ce quil lui faudrait, de ce quelle pourrait devenir, depuis le ventre des autres quand il est question de "penser spatialement" Quelle est la part du Cycle de Confrences de The Muntu Institute face une telle injonction et cette trange religion de lacquiescement dans ce qui est parfois considr, abusivement, dans nos pays, comme la vie des ides ? Elle est et consistera principalement en linstitution dun vritable "champ de rflexivit" o, par lexercice dune discussion critique, enracine dans les expriences concrtes du lieu, nous assumons cette tche profondment humaine, toujours recommencer, dtre raisonnable (...)

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=789126>
