



# Oral Traditions as Historical Sources in Southern African Communities of South Sudan

James Deng<sup>1</sup>, Wangui Lok<sup>2,3</sup>, Achol Nyamakhuy<sup>1,4</sup>, Atakil Marial<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Bahr el Ghazal University, Wau

<sup>2</sup> Department of Advanced Studies, Bahr el Ghazal University, Wau

<sup>3</sup> University of Juba

<sup>4</sup> Department of Advanced Studies, University of Juba

**Published:** 11 April 2000 | **Received:** 03 December 1999 | **Accepted:** 06 March 2000

**Correspondence:** [jdeng@hotmail.com](mailto:jdeng@hotmail.com)

**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18717484](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18717484)

## Author notes

*James Deng is affiliated with Bahr el Ghazal University, Wau and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa. Wangui Lok is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, Bahr el Ghazal University, Wau and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

*Achol Nyamakhuy is affiliated with Bahr el Ghazal University, Wau and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa. Atakil Marial is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, Bahr el Ghazal University, Wau and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Oral traditions play a significant role in the cultural heritage of communities across Southern Africa, including those in South Sudan. These traditions often serve as primary sources for understanding historical events and social structures. This qualitative study employs semi-structured interviews with community members from various regions of South Sudan to gather data on oral traditions. Participant observation and document analysis complement these methods to provide a comprehensive understanding of the topic. Oral traditions in South Sudan communities often focus on genealogies, creation myths, and historical events that shaped their societies. They are passed down through generations with varying degrees of fidelity, influenced by factors such as age and social status within the community. The study concludes that oral traditions offer valuable insights into the historical development of Southern African communities in South Sudan but also highlight issues related to veracity and cultural transmission. Further research should incorporate a broader range of sources, including inscriptions and archaeological findings, to validate and contextualize oral tradition narratives. Community engagement is crucial for ensuring that traditional knowledge remains relevant and accessible. oral traditions, historical evidence, community practices, Southern Africa, South Sudan

**Keywords:** *Geographical, Southern African, Oral Tradition, Ethnography, Hermeneutics, Narratology, Community Studies*

## ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

**Email:** [info@parj.africa](mailto:info@parj.africa)

Request your copy of the full paper today!

## SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

**Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!**

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

**Submit at:** [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)



Scan to visit [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)

**Open Access Scholarship from PARJ**

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge