



Oral Traditions as Historical Sources in Burkina Faso's Southern African Communities

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Abstract

Oral traditions play a significant role in preserving historical narratives within southern African communities of Burkina Faso. A qualitative analysis was conducted, involving interviews with community elders and a review of existing literature on oral tradition in Burkina Faso's southern regions. Oral traditions have been found to consistently narrate historical events with a high degree of accuracy, often corroborating written records. The most commonly discussed themes include migrations, conflicts, and traditional leadership structures. Oral traditions are not only valuable for academic research but also offer practical insights into community identity and continuity, which can inform effective cultural preservation policies. Policy makers should prioritise the documentation and archiving of oral traditions to ensure their survival. Collaborative efforts between communities and educational institutions could enhance this process.

Keywords: *African Studies, Oral History, Ethnography, Historiography, Community Studies, Anthropology, Cultural Heritage*

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