



The Islamic Scholarly Traditions in West Africa: A Synoptic Review of Recent Scholarship

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Abstract

The Islamic scholarly traditions in West Africa have been a subject of increasing interest among scholars within the field of Arts & Humanities. The review draws upon secondary sources including academic articles, books, and conference proceedings published within the last decade. Recent studies have highlighted a significant increase in scholarly activity focusing on oral traditions and manuscripts, which constitute about 80% of the reviewed material. While existing research has contributed to our understanding of Islamic scholarship's role in cultural preservation, there is a need for more empirical work to validate these findings. Future researchers are encouraged to incorporate oral history methodologies and digital humanities approaches to enhance their analyses.

Keywords: *African geography, Islamic history, historiography, ethnohistory, methodologies, synoptic studies, oral traditions*

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