



Oral Traditions as Historical Sources in Southern African Communities of Burundi: A Mixed Methods Study

Nyengatu Niyonsabaganwa¹, Kamuzinzi Muhire^{2,3}, Izanga Mushagalusa³, Hutu Hakizimana³

¹ Centre National de Recherche en Sciences de l'Education (CNRSE)

² University of Burundi

³ Higher Institute of Management (ISG)

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Correspondence: nniyonsabaganwa@gmail.com

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Author notes

Nyengatu Niyonsabaganwa is affiliated with Centre National de Recherche en Sciences de l'Education (CNRSE) and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.

Kamuzinzi Muhire is affiliated with University of Burundi and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.

Izanga Mushagalusa is affiliated with Higher Institute of Management (ISG) and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.

Hutu Hakizimana is affiliated with Higher Institute of Management (ISG) and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.

Abstract

Oral traditions play a significant role in documenting history and cultural heritage across Southern Africa, including Burundi where they serve as vital sources of information about past events and social structures. The study employed a combination of qualitative interviews, focus group discussions, and archival research to gather data from multiple perspectives. Quantitative analysis was used to compare oral tradition content with historical documents. Traditional narratives frequently mention significant historical events such as conflicts, migrations, and cultural practices that align well with documented records. However, there are instances where oral accounts diverge, suggesting a need for further corroboration. Oral traditions in Burundi communities offer valuable insights into local history but require validation through additional sources to ensure historical accuracy. Further research should integrate more diverse data sets and methodologies to strengthen the reliability of oral tradition as historical evidence. Burundi, Oral Traditions, Historical Sources, Mixed Methods Study

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, Oral History, Ethnography, Quantitative Research, Qualitative Research, Community Engagement, Heritage Studies*

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