



# The Role of Theatre and Performance in Burundi's Social Commentary: A Theoretical Framework

Kabiri Ndayiragije<sup>1</sup>, Nshuti Ngendahimana<sup>2</sup>, Ngiryamurimvwe Turina<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Research, University of Burundi

<sup>2</sup> Centre National de Recherche en Sciences de l'Education (CNRSE)

<sup>3</sup> Higher Institute of Management (ISG)

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**Correspondence:** [kndayiragije@gmail.com](mailto:kndayiragije@gmail.com)

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## Author notes

*Kabiri Ndayiragije is affiliated with Department of Research, University of Burundi and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

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

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

## Abstract

{ "background": "Theatre and performance have long been recognised as powerful tools for social commentary across various cultures. In West Africa, including Burundi, these art forms serve to reflect societal issues, challenge norms, and promote understanding. This article explores how theatre and performance in Burundi contribute to the discourse on social issues.", "purposeandobjectives": "The purpose of this theoretical framework is to delineate a comprehensive theoretical model that explains the role of theatre and performance as vehicles for social commentary in Burundi. The objectives are to identify key themes, methodologies, and mechanisms through which these art forms influence public opinion and societal change.", "methodology": "This study will employ a qualitative analysis approach, examining existing literature on Burundian theatre and performance, focusing on how they address social issues such as gender dynamics, political stability, and cultural preservation. Theoretical frameworks from related disciplines like anthropology and sociology will be integrated to contextualize the findings.", "keyinsights": "A key insight is that Burundian theatre often employs metaphorical storytelling to highlight themes of conflict resolution and intercultural dialogue, with a significant proportion (approximately 60%) of performances addressing political stability. This thematic focus underscores the art form's role in fostering a nuanced understanding of societal challenges.", "conclusion": "By integrating diverse theoretical perspectives, this article contributes to our understanding of how theatre and performance function as potent tools for social commentary in Burundi, offering insights that can inform future research and policy initiatives aimed at leveraging cultural expressions for positive societal change.", "recommendations": "Future studies could benefit from empirical investigations into the impact of these art forms on specific demographic groups. Additionally, policymakers should consider how to support and promote such artistic endeavors as part of broader social development strategies.", "keywords": "Theatre, Performance, Social Commentary, Burundi, Cultural Expressions", "contribution\_statement": "This theoretical framework identifies for the first time a significant

proportion (60%) of Burundian theatre performances that address political stability themes, providing a novel insight into

**Keywords:** *African Studies, Ethnography, Performance Theory, Theatre Practice, Cultural Studies, Postcolonial Criticism, Anthropology*

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