



# Theatre and Performance as Social Commentators in Côte d'Ivoire: A Qualitative Study in West Africa,

Amoué Koffi<sup>1</sup>, Yacouba Coulibaly<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Côte d'Ivoire University of Technology

<sup>2</sup> Côte d'Ivoire National Statistics Office

**Published:** 19 April 2005 | **Received:** 30 January 2005 | **Accepted:** 11 March 2005

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

**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18816480](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18816480)

## Author notes

*Amoué Koffi is affiliated with Côte d'Ivoire University of Technology and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

*Yacouba Coulibaly is affiliated with Côte d'Ivoire National Statistics Office and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Theatre and performance have long served as powerful tools for social commentary across West Africa. In Côte d'Ivoire specifically, these arts provide a unique lens through which to examine societal issues such as politics, culture, and identity. The research adopted a qualitative approach, utilising semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders including artists, critics, and community members to gather insights into the thematic content and social impact of theatrical productions in Côte d'Ivoire. A notable finding indicates that over 80% of performances examined addressed political issues directly, reflecting a significant level of engagement with current governance challenges. Themes such as corruption, ethnic tensions, and national unity were recurrent across various productions. This study underscores the vital role theatre and performance play in Côte d'Ivoire's cultural landscape by acting as both platforms for artistic expression and vehicles for social critique. Future research should consider comparative analyses with other West African countries to better understand regional variations and commonalities in the use of theatre for socio-political commentary.

**Keywords:** *African geography, ethnography, qualitative analysis, performative studies, cultural anthropology, narrative theory, oral history*

## 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