



# Religious Syncretism and Cultural Adaptation in African Diasporas of Somalia: An Ethnographic Exploration

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## Abstract

Religious syncretism refers to the blending of different religious practices or beliefs within a community, often resulting from cultural adaptation and diaspora experiences. The study employs ethnographic methods, including participant observation and semi-structured interviews with members of Somali communities in various African countries. Participants reported integrating Islamic rituals with traditional healing ceremonies, indicating a significant blend of religious practices. The proportion of these syncretic practices was notably high among younger generations who sought to maintain cultural identity while navigating diaspora environments. This paper reveals that Somali diasporas in Africa exhibit diverse and complex forms of religious syncretism as they adapt their cultural identities, with younger individuals often playing a key role in maintaining these syncretic practices. Further research should investigate the long-term effects of these syncretic practices on community cohesion and identity formation.

**Keywords:** *African diaspora, cultural adaptation, syncretism, ethnohistory, cross-cultural studies, religious pluralism, anthropological perspectives*

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