



# The History of Islamic Scholarship in West Africa: An African Perspective

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## Abstract

Islamic scholarship has a rich history in West Africa, particularly within Nigeria. This scholarly tradition includes various branches such as Quranic studies, Hadith, and Fiqh (Islamic jurisprudence). The field of Islamic scholarship encompasses multiple disciplines including theology, law, ethics, and mysticism. The study employs a comprehensive literature review approach, analysing existing academic publications, conference papers, and scholarly works on Islamic scholarship in Nigeria. Interviews with contemporary scholars are also conducted for insights into current practices and challenges. A notable finding is that there has been a resurgence of interest in Fiqh studies among younger generations, indicating a shift towards more practical applications of Islamic law in daily life. The research provides an overview of the historical trajectory of Islamic scholarship in Nigeria but also identifies areas for further investigation, particularly regarding contemporary trends and challenges faced by scholars today. Future studies should consider conducting more empirical research to validate findings from literature reviews and interviews. Additionally, there is a need for more interdisciplinary work that incorporates perspectives from other academic disciplines related to Islamic scholarship.

**Keywords:** *African geography, Islamic studies, historiography, ethnohistory, cultural anthropology, methodology, pre-colonial Africa*

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