



Oral Traditions as Historical Sources in Southern African Communities: An Algerian Perspective

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Published: 05 December 2002 | **Received:** 08 September 2002 | **Accepted:** 14 October 2002

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18756098](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18756098)

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Abstract

Oral traditions play a significant role in documenting history within Southern African communities. These traditions are often passed down through generations via spoken word and storytelling. This research employs qualitative methods for data collection and analysis. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with community elders and local historians to gather narratives about oral traditions and their role in history. Findings indicate that while oral traditions are rich sources of historical information, they sometimes contain inaccuracies due to the nature of memory transmission over generations. Themes emerged around the use of oral traditions for both entertainment and educational purposes. Oral traditions serve as an important adjunct to written records in Southern African communities, though their reliability requires careful scrutiny. Further research should be conducted to validate oral tradition narratives through comparative analysis with other historical sources such as archaeological findings and documentary evidence. oral traditions, history, Southern Africa, Algeria

Keywords:
African
Southern

Geographic

Terms:

Methodological:

Qualitative

Research

Theoretical:

Orality

Historiography

Conceptual:

Narrative

History

Philosophical:

Oral Tradition

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