



# Oral Traditions as Historical Sources in Southern African Communities of Burundi

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## Abstract

Burundi's southern communities have a rich tradition of oral storytelling that has been passed down through generations. The study employed participant observation and semi-structured interviews to gather data from a sample of 20 community members across three distinct regions in Burundi. Oral traditions are not only entertaining but also serve as crucial historical archives, with themes of political leadership and ancestral migrations being prominently featured. This study underscores the importance of integrating oral histories into formal historical records to provide a more comprehensive understanding of Burundian society's past and present. Educational institutions should incorporate oral tradition studies in their curricula, particularly for courses on African history and cultural anthropology. Burundi, Oral Traditions, Historical Sources, Community Narratives

**Keywords:** *African, Oral Traditions, Ethnography, Community Studies, Narratives, Historiography, Participant Observation*

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