Views from the Shoreline: First Special Issue of Yoruba Studies Review, edited by Insa Nolte and Olukoya Ogen

Views from the Shoreline: Community, trade and religion in coastal Yorubaland and the Western Niger Delta is the first Special Issue of Yoruba Studies Review (Vol. 2.1). Co-edited by Insa Nolte (University of Birmingham, UK) and Olukoya Ogen (Adeyemi College of Education Ondo, Nigeria), it arises from an ERC Starting Researcher Grant entitled ‘Knowing each other: Everyday religious encounters, social identities and tolerance in southwest Nigeria’. In addition to an introduction by the editors, Views from the Shoreline includes 19 articles by predominantly Nigerian researchers and a communiqué calling for greater political and academic engagement with the people and communities living on the coast.

Views from the Shoreline transcends dominant historical and anthropological approaches that center on the Nigerian hinterland’s capital cities and highlight the differences between ethnic and religious groups. Focusing on the high mobility and heterogeneity of communities on the Nigerian coastal stretch from the Yoruba town of Ikorodu (now a part of greater Lagos) along the Lagos lagoon and Ilaje coast up to Urhoboland and Benin, the Special Issue explores the coast as a borderland that has linked and provided refuge for different Nigerian groups as well as non-Nigerian settlers throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Views from the Shoreline address the methodological difficulties produced by the coast’s lack of centralization, its complex settlement histories, and its underrepresentation in government and mainstream mission archives through multi-methods approaches and in-depth fieldwork. Examining how local groups and leaders have mobilized
Islam, traditional practice, and Christianity to assert both communal difference and coexistence, *Views from the Shoreline* illuminates that along the shoreline, ethnic and religious belonging is both mutually implicated and continually re-cast.

**Contents**

**Introduction**

*Views from the Shoreline: Community, Trade and Religion in Coastal Yorubaland and the Western Niger Delta*  1

Insa Nolte and Olukoya Ogen

Coastal Yorubaland: Habitability, Inhabitance, and Inheritances 17

Toyin Falola

Making Sense of the Yoruba Littoral 45

Ayodeji Olukoju

Trade, Violence and Diplomacy on the Coast of Ikorodu: The Resistance of Balogun Mabadeje Jaiyesimi  61

Adebowale Adeyemi-Suenu
The Dynamics of Traditional Religion in the Political Economy of Ikorodu
73
Adéyẹmi Balogun

Individual Agency and the Diversity of Traditional Practice: The Iji Nla
Association of Ijede  97
Charles K. Omotayo

Trade on the North Eastern Bank of the Lagos Lagoon: A Focus on
Ejinrin Lagoon Market, 1851-1939 113
Oladipo O. Olubomehin

Who Owns the Central Mosque? Ethnic Identity and the Struggle for
Spiritual Space in Epe, Southwest Nigeria 127
Moruff Mudasiru

Celebrating a Heterogeneous Community: The Ebibi Festival of the Epe
People 141
Babatunde Olanrewaju Adebua

Ghanaian Settlers in Orimedu: Oju Ota, Gender, and Christianity in a
Coastal Fishing Community 161
Adebayo Adewusi
By Canoe and Speedboat: The Recent Expansion of the Ilaje Fishing Trade 177
Kayode Joseph Onipede

The Illicit Production and Consumption of Ogogor in Coastal Yorubaland and the Niger Delta 195
Dolapo Z. Olupayimo

Oil Exploration and Exploitation in Ugbo (Ilaje) Communities of Coastal Yorubaland 209
‘Gbade Ikuejube and O. A. Funmilayo

Malokun Festival and Practices among the Mahin on the Ilaje Coast 219
Ajishola Omojeje and Raliat Olusola Adu-Peters

Controlling the Boundaries of Morality: The History and Powers of Ayelala Deity 231
Oluwafunminiyi Raheem and Mike Famiyesin
The Political Economy of Village Level Theocracies in the Ilaje Coastline, Southwest Nigeria 249
Babajide Ololajulo

The Importance of Trade for Reverend E. M. Lijadu and the Evangelist Band Mission 267
Joseph Osuolale Ayodokun

Yoruba Coastal Christian Communities: From the Evangelist Band Mission to the Zion and Holy Apostles Communities 287
Adégbọla Tolu Adéfi

The Metaphysics of Justice: Ayelala’s Rise in Benin and Other Parts of Edo State 305
Benson Ohihon Igboin

An African Monotheism: The Igbe Religion of the Urhobo and the Economic Importance of Ore-Isi Festival 317
Fortune Afatakpa

Communique Issued at the End of the First International Conference on Community, Trade and Religion in Coastal Yorubaland and Western Niger Delta, Held at Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo, from 6-8 December