

MASCULINITIES IN
CONTEMPORARY AFRICA

LA MASCULINTÉ EN
AFRIQUE CONTEMPORAINE

Edited by/Édité par
Egodi Uchendu



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Acknowledgement

Africa is intriguing for its environmental, climatic, racial, cultural, political and other diversities. Its range of historical experiences is wide, even within regional specificities. Yet, within the diversities are many similarities. A major point of unity is membership in a defined geographical zone. Non-Africans may divide the continent and its peoples into two: the Maghreb (Africa north of the Sahara) and the Black Africa (areas south of the Sahara, popularly identified as sub-Saharan Africa). But to the peoples of the continent, we are one; we are Africans. This does not ignore or injure our racial, political, religious and other differences; rather, it emphasizes our unity in our joint location and our general sense of belonging in the continent.

This volume celebrates Africa's unity as well as its diversities. It comprises chapters on various expressions of Africa's masculinities from different regions of the continent. The papers in this volume were initially presented and discussed at CODESRIA's 2005 Gender Institute. The contributors are gender scholars drawn from various disciplines in the wide fields of Humanities and Social Sciences, but interested in the critical study of men in Africa.

I am greatly indebted to many individuals who helped in one way or another to bring this project to fruition. CODESRIA set the ball rolling when it chose the theme 'Masculinities in Contemporary Africa' for its 2005 Gender Institute; the choice of masculinities was a clear departure from the normal gender issues that raise concerns specific to the interests of women, by turning the attention to men. This volume concentrates on issues that range from expressions of maleness to masculine associations with power. I thank the anonymous reviewers, both French and English, who read the papers and offered many helpful hints towards their improvement. I also thank all the contributors for their exemplary cooperation. The contributors to this volume, however, accept responsibility for any mistakes in their respective papers.

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