

JAH Forum

ISLAM IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

THE following three pieces constitute the third *JAH Forum*. The aim of this relatively new feature is to spark wide-ranging discussion and debate within the journal, and to encourage deeper reflection on significant trends and cutting-edge developments in various subfields of African history. Each *Forum* consists of two or more essays on a topic of broad interest within African history and beyond. When inviting contributions, *JAH* editors ask authors to discuss the proposed topic from their own unique perspectives while providing some assessment of existing scholarship – both historical and interdisciplinary – as well as some suggestions about where future studies might or should be heading. For this *JAH Forum* on Islam in sub-Saharan Africa, we asked Scott Reese, Benjamin Soares, and Jean-Louis Triaud to consider a series of questions related to the historical construction of Muslim identities in sub-Saharan Africa. How have African Muslims situated themselves and been situated by others within the global Muslim community (*umma*)? How do we account for the widespread perception that there is a distinctive sub-Saharan African Muslim identity that exists alongside or in opposition to other Muslim identities? How have African Muslims themselves understood their relationship to the *umma*? We hope that you find their responses as enlightening and engaging as we have.