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AFRICA

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Print cultures, nationalisms and publics of the Indian Ocean

The Indian Ocean region is becoming an increasingly important geo-political arena, and is making its presence felt across a range of disciplines. This special issue provides an overview of emerging trends in the rich field of Indian Ocean studies and draws out their implications for scholars of Africa. The focus is on the role of print and visual culture in constituting public spheres and nationalisms in, across and between the societies around the Ocean.

The themes addressed unfold between Africa and India as well as along the African coast from KwaZulu-Natal to the Arab world. Special attention is paid to interaction between African and Indian nationalisms and to the transnational dynamics of Islam. Bringing in an Indian Ocean perspective, the contributions both extend debates on print culture, nationalism and publics within African studies, and demonstrate how research on the Indian Ocean can be enriched through insights from East and Southern African studies.

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