

A COLLECTION OF CRITICAL LITERARY ESSAYS

Edited by  
*Mamadou KANDJI*

# TRADITION AND THE DYNAMICS OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



**PRESSES UNIVERSITAIRES DE DAKAR**  
**DAKAR UNIVERSITY PRESS**

## **TRADITION AND THE DYNAMICS OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**

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North meets South in this collection of essays. A wonderful range of articles dealing with issues involving feminism and gender is marked by a full spectrum of perspectives that criss-cross the globe. The authors of these chapters include critics, many of whom are currently teaching in African universities. Still, others are based in Europe or the United States, and their preoccupations reflect the mix of feminist concerns that bridge the continents. The literature they examine includes such canonical African and Diaspora figures as Okot p'Bitek, Mariama Ba, Simone Schwart-Bart, Maya Angelou, Buchi Emecheta, Miriam Tlali and others. Many issues of major importance to African women are included : motherhood, marriage, sexual relations, and over and over, the language, the discourses with which women are able to establish their agency and rights within the social community.

In addition, many of the chapters focus on postmodern authors whose works deal with the relationship to African or postcolonial societies. Here we find British, South African, or American authors being explored - Coetzee, Boyd, Bond, and Fforde, among many others. The significant number of Senegalese scholars working on feminist issues, on African American feminism, as well as on African feminist thought, signals an important phase in current feminist scholarship, one in which the specificities of African issues are addressed with the range of theoretical tools generally deployed in many feminist analyses, while another broad range of Western texts come under the scrutiny of African eyes. The borders of feminist scholarship are stretched in the work undertaken by the authors in this volume.

**Kenneth W. Harrow**  
**Professor of English,**  
**Michigan State University, USA**

By publishing high quality recent works by both well-established as well as younger bright scholars from many countries, this book pursues the networking commitment begun by the editor in *Bridges : An African Journal of English Studies*. It brings together 20 essays from interesting perspectives and varieties of approaches from the traditional to the postmodern.

**Richard M. Shain**  
**Professor of African and Caribbean Cultural**  
**History, Philadelphia University (USA)**

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*The Editor : Mamadou KANDJI earned his Ph.D in English Literature at Sheffield University, England, and his Doctorat d'Etat es-Lettres at University Mont-Saint-Aignan, Haute Normandie, France. He is professor of English Literature at Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar. He has published on English literature and comparative literature. He is the founder and editor of **Bridges : An African Journal of English Studies**.*



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