

REALITIES RE-VIEWED / REVEALED
DIVINATION
IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

REALITÉS REVUES / REVÉLÉES
DIVINATION
EN AFRIQUE SUB-SAHARIENNE

VENUE :

**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ETHNOLOGY/
MUSÉE NATIONAL d'ETHNOLOGIE
STEENSTRAAT 1, LEIDEN**

HOSTED BY:

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ETHNOLOGY, LEIDEN

SPONSORED BY:

**LEIDEN UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH SCHOOL CNWS
ROYAL NETHERLANDS ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES KNAW
NETHERLANDS ASSOCIATION FOR AFRICAN STUDIES NVA
AFRICAN STUDIES CENTRE, LEIDEN
BRILL ACADEMIC PUBLISHERS**

ORGANIZED BY:

**PHILIP PEEK (DREW UNIVERSITY)
WALTER VAN BEEK (AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER, LEIDEN)
JAN JANSEN (LEIDEN UNIVERSITY)
ANNETTE SCHMIDT (NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ETHNOLOGY)**

1st Day: July 4, 2005

09.00 - 10.00 Subscription and reception

10.00 - 10.15 Opening by Peter Pels (Leiden University)

10.15 - 11.00 Keynote Speech

- Wim van Binsbergen (African Studies Centre, Leiden/Erasmus University, Rotterdam) *Divination Through Space and Time*

11.00 - 11.15 Discussion

11.15 - 11.30 Break

11.30 - 13.00 Panel I *Mediums, Codes, Principles*

Chair: Peter Geschiere (University of Amsterdam)

- Adrien N. Ngudiankama (Princeton University) *Kongo Divination - Principles and Practices*
- Kai Kresse (St. Andrews University) *Can Research on African Divination Be Made Fertile for the Field of African Philosophy?*
- Susanne Bruechle (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz) *Divination: Communicative Performances for Decision-Making*
- Aderemi Suleiman Ajala (University of Ibadan) *Ifa Divination: a Diagnostic and Therapeutic Device in Yoruba Healing System*
- Philip Peek (Drew University) *The Communal Self: Diviners, Twins, and Doubles*

13.00 - 14.15 Lunch

14.15 - 15.45 Panel II *Mathematically Inspired Interpretations of Divination*

Chair: Jan Jansen (Leiden University)

Discussant: Paulus Gerdes (Ethnomathematics Research Centre, Maputo)

- David Zeitlyn (Kent University) *Almost the Real Thing - Using Computer Based Simulation to Study Mambila Divination*
- Ron Eglash (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute): *An Ethno-Mathematics Comparison of African and Native American Divination Systems*
- Franklin Tjon Sie Fat (Leiden University) *Binary models in Divination in Africa and Beyond*
- Jan Jansen (Leiden University) *Maninka Sand Divination : a Formalized Teaching Trajectory in an Illiterate Context*

15.45 - 16.00 Break

16.00 - 17.15

Panel III *Divination in the Mande World I*

Chair: Annette Schmidt (National Museum of Ethnography, Leiden)

- Ferdinand de Jong (University of East Anglia) *People said: It is like 9/11. The Interpretation of a Senegalese Ship wreckage*
- Anja Veirman (Gand University) *Les rôles et positions des Sadobee - devins Senoufo - dans la société, les rapports avec le monde des génies et le Sadogo (société de divination)*
- Walter van Beek (African Studies Centre/Utrecht University) *Predicting the past, foreseeing the future: choices in Dogon divination*

17.15 MUSEUM CLOSES!

18.00 - Buffet (offered by the organization to ALL participants)

2nd Day: July 5, 2005

09.00 - 10.30 Panel IV *Divination in the Mande World II*

Chair: Sabine Luning (Leiden University)

Discussant: Benjamin Soares (African Studies Centre, Leiden)

- Knut Graw (Africa Research Centre, K.U.Leuven) *Divination and Time: Existence, Time Consciousness and the Constitution of Cultural Temporalities in Senegambian Divinatory Praxis*
- Amber Gemmeke (Leiden University) *Marabout Women in Dakar: Islam, Magic, and Femininity*
- Dorothea Schulz (Freie Universität, Berlin) *The Commodification of Occult Services in Urban Mali*
- Trevor Marchand (SOAS, London) *Fortifying Futures on Blessed Foundations: Masons, Magic and Guarantees in Djenne*

10.30 - 11.00 Break

11.00 -11.45 Keynote speech

Paulus Gerdes (Ethnomathematics Research Centre, Maputo) *On defreezing frozen mathematical ideas in African cultural practices*

11.45 - 12.00 Discussion

12.00 - 13.15 Lunch

13.15 - 15.00 Panel V *Divination as Trajectories Beyond the Presence*

Chair/discussant: Philip Peek (Drew University)

- Koen Stroeken (Africa Research Centre, K.U.Leuven) *Sensory Codes in Sukuma Divination*

- Véronique Duchesne (CNRS. Paris-Ivry) *Divination et possession dans l'aire culturelle akan*
- Patricia Lamarche-de Largentaye (Université de Provence Aix-Marseille) *Les objets de divination à frottement dans le bassin du Congo*
- Els A. Baerends (University of Groningen) *Underground Judgment: Divination and Ancestral Sanctions in North Togo*
- Paulo Granjo (University of Lisboa) *'It's just the starting engine' – the role of spirits and objects in south Mozambican divination*

15.00 - 15.30 Break

15.30 - 17.15 Panel VI *Divination in the Christian World*

Chair/discussant: Walter van Beek (African Studies Centre, Leiden)

- Rijk van Dijk (African Studies Centre, Leiden) *Confession as Divination in Pentecostal Practice: Private Narratives in Changing Public Situations*
- Julie Ndaya (African Studies Centre, Leiden) *'Aller voir la maman', ou le paradoxe de la diagnostication autonome dans le rituel religieux congolais le combat.*
- Lily Numfundo Mlisa (Fort Hare University, Alice RSA) *Title to be announced*
- Kirsten Rüther (University of Hannover) *Attempted Professionalization: South African Healers' Efforts towards State Recognition, 1930s-1960*

17.15 MUSEUM CLOSES