

## Kjersti Larsen

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Kjersti Larsen has conducted extensive field work in Zanzibar since 1984 and since 1997 in the Sudan. Her research has focused on gender and gender socialization, religion, knowledge and social changes as well as ritual and perceptions and practices related to health, illness and forms of healing.

### Research Focus and Interests

Indian Ocean  
Northern Sudan

‘Modernization’ and processes of social change, ritual, religion and knowledge, mobility, belonging and identity as well as gender

### Recent Publications

#### Books and journals

2009, *Knowledge, Renewal and Religion: Repositioning and changing ideological and material circumstances*

*among the Swahili on the East-African Coast*, Kjersti Larsen (ed.), Uppsala: The Nordic Africa Institute

2009, ‘Ritual, Performance and Bodily Transformation’, Symposium *Performances: Epistemological Challenges for Art and Anthropology*, Caterina Pasqualino & Arnd Schneider, Musée du Quai Branly,

March, published on *Musée du Quai Branly website*

2008, *Where Humans and Spirits Meet: The Politics of Rituals and Identified Spirits in Zanzibar*, Oxford: Berghahn

2008, ‘Far from the Battlefield: Livelihood revival, settlement and modernization among the Hawawir,

Northern Sudan’, in N. Shanmugaratnam (ed.), *Preparing for Peace: Between Deprivation and*

*Livelihood Revival*, Oxford: James Currey

2007, ‘Dialogues between humans and spirits: Ways of negotiating relationships and moral order in Zanzibar Town, Zanzibar’, U. Demmer & M. Gaenzle (eds), *The Power of Discourse in Ritual*

*Performance: Rhetorics, Poetics, Transformations*, Berlin: LIT Verlag

2007, ‘Adaptability, Identity and Conflict Mediation among the Hawawir in Northern Sudan, in B. Derman, R.

Odegaard & E. Sjaastad (eds), *Conflicts over Land and Water in Africa*, Oxford: James Currey

2005, 'Women, Gender and Women Performers and Performing Groups: East Africa', *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures (EWIC)*, Leiden: Brill Publisher

2004, 'Women Gender and Gender Socialization: Sub-Saharan Africa', in Suad Joseph (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures* vol. 2. Leiden: Brill

2004, Multiculturalism through Spirit Possession, ISIM Newsletter, No.14 June, *International Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World*, Leiden

2004, 'Change, Continuity and Contestation: The Politics of Modern Identities in Zanzibar', in Pat Caplan & Farouk Topan (eds), *Swahili Modernities* Trenton NJ: Africa World Press, Inc.

## **In print**

A Body of Spirits: Problems of Identity and Shared Realities among Humans and Spirits in Zanzibar, March 2009

Spirits, Magic and Everydaylife Politics in Zanzibar, paper presented at *Spirits in Politics - Violence and Healing in African Societies*, January 2010

Possessing Spirits and Bodily Transformation in Zanzibar', *Performances: Epistemological Challenges for Art and Anthropology*, January 2010