

# **Women, Gender, and Sexualities in Africa**

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*Women, Gender, and Sexualities in Africa*  
Toyin Falola and Nana Akua Amponsah, editors



# Women, Gender, and Sexualities in Africa

Edited by

**Toyin Falola**

**Nana Akua Amponsah**

CAROLINA ACADEMIC PRESS

Durham, North Carolina

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**Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data**

Women, gender, and sexualities in Africa / [edited by] Toyin Falola and Nana Akua Amponsah.

p. cm. -- (African world series)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-61163-153-1 (alk. paper)

1. Sex role--Africa. 2. Gender expression--Africa. 3. Women--Sexual behavior--Africa. I. Falola, Toyin. II. Amponsah, Nana Akua.

HQ1075.5.A35W66 2012

305.3096--dc23

2012015308

Carolina Academic Press  
700 Kent Street  
Durham, North Carolina 27701  
Telephone (919) 489-7486  
Fax (919) 493-5668  
[www.cap-press.com](http://www.cap-press.com)

Printed in the United States of America

*To Chernob And Fatou Njie,  
relentless and committed supporter of the  
annual conference in Austin*



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# Series Editor's Preface

The *Carolina Academic Press African World Series*, inaugurated in 2010, offers significant new works in the field of African and Black World studies. The series provides scholarly and educational texts that can serve both as reference works and as readers in college classes.

Studies in the series are anchored in the existing humanistic and the social scientific traditions. Their goal, however, is the identification and elaboration of the strategic place of Africa and its Diaspora in a shifting global world. More specifically, the studies will address gaps and larger needs in the developing scholarship on Africa and the Black World.

The series intends to fill gaps in areas such as African politics, history, law, religion, culture, sociology, literature, philosophy, visual arts, art history, geography, language, health, and social welfare. Given the complex nature of Africa and its Diaspora, and the constantly shifting perspectives prompted by globalization, the series also meets a vital need for scholarship connecting knowledge with events and practices. Reflecting the fact that life in Africa continues to change, especially in the political arena, the series explores issues emanating from racial and ethnic identities, particularly those connected with the ongoing mobilization of ethnic minorities for inclusion and representation.

Toyin Falola  
University of Texas at Austin



# Preface and Acknowledgments

The conception of this book originated from the tenth annual conference on Africa on the subject of “Women, Gender, and Sexualities in Africa,” which was held at the University of Texas at Austin in March, 2010. The main goal of the conference was to provide an avenue for scholars and professionals to dialogue issues relating to women, gender, and sexualities in Africa. The chapters in this volume not only represent a logical final step in the fulfillment of the conference’s main objective, but also, it extends the dialogue to scholars in the field of women and gender studies, those interested in sexualities in Africa, and to the general reading public. In any such undertaking, many pieces would have to fall into place to make it a reality and as a result, we are indebted to numerous institutions and a number of people who supported us from the very beginning of the conference to the completion of this volume. We are grateful to all who read the manuscripts and made important suggestions as we progressed along. Our families deserve our gratitude: their patience and encouragements kept our energy and enthusiasm going in the entire process. The tremendous collaboration of all the contributors certainly made the task of finishing the volume a lot easier, and for which we cannot thank them enough.