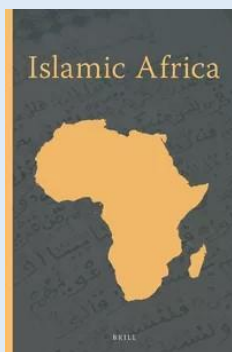




BOSTON UNIVERSITY AFRICAN AJAMI SCHOLARS PUBLISH NEW SPECIAL ISSUE IN *ISLAMIC AFRICA*



The new special issue, “[Ajami Literacies of Africa](#),” explores the literatures and literacies of four major languages of West Africa: Wolof, Mandinka, Hausa, and Fula, and situates African Ajami studies within participatory multimedia and digital archiving approaches. The double special issue of nine articles is co-edited by Fallou Ngom, Daivi Rodima-Taylor, David Robinson, and Rebecca Shereikis and centers around the knowledge generated through the African Ajami [research project](#) funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

African Ajami literatures hold a wealth of information about the history and intellectual traditions of the region but are largely unknown to the larger public. The articles of the special issue establish important historical dimensions of the role of Ajami literacy in mediating grassroots communities that have not yet been systematically studied. They enable unique comparative perspectives on Ajami use in four major West African languages, contributing to the interpretive and contextual analysis of Ajami literacies and their social role. The special issue also explores the role of digital technologies and archival methods in studying and preserving African Ajami texts.

The [Introductory Article](#) by Fallou Ngom, Daivi Rodima-Taylor, and David Robinson discusses the building blocks and historical development of Ajami cultures in West Africa, outlines the collaborative research initiatives that the special issue draws upon, and explores the challenges and opportunities for participatory knowledge-making that accompany the rise of digital technologies in the study of African literatures and literacies. The special issue appears in *Islamic Africa* volumes [14/2, 2023](#) and [15/1, 2024](#).



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