Traditional beliefs in modern society: the case of the Kapsiki blacksmiths of Mogode, Northern Cameroon
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Sammendrag
This is an essay on the dynamics of the evolution of the Kapsiki blacksmiths group of Mogode. Among the Kapsiki, blacksmiths perform many trades and crafts calling for specialization as funeral, music, divination, magic and medicine, pottery, leatherwork, forging iron and casting brass crucial for people's life. But their position in the society is characterized by a big paradox between them and the others. They are perceived as a low stratum treated and considered by being dirty, dangerous and impure. The main concern of this essay is the investigation into this paradoxical position of the blacksmiths(rehe) and the power circulation among the Kapsiki.

Beskrivelse
The thesis is accompanied by a film, which is not available in Munin.

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Vis full innførsel

Samlinger
- Master's theses in visual cultural studies [60]
Reaching the Cameroon coast near the modern port city of Douala around 1472, those explorers named the river Rio dos Camaroes ("River of Prawns") after the variety of crayfish they found there. This name later was applied to the coastal area between Mount Cameroon and Rio Muni. Cameroon has distinct regional cultural, religious, and political traditions as well as ethnic variety. The division of the country into British- and French-ruled League of Nations mandates after World War I created Anglophone and Francophone regions. The legal system combines the case law system of the British with the statutory law system of the French. Theft is a common. Many Cameroonians have a highly stratified social structure. Cameroon has a rich and diverse culture made up of a mix of about 250 indigenous populations and just as many languages and customs. The country is nicknamed "Little Africa" as geographically, Cameroon consists of coastline, mountains, grass plains, forest, rainforest and desert, all of the geographical regions in Africa in one country. This also contributes to its cultural diversity as ways of life and traditional food dishes and traditions vary from geographical region to geographical region. The West African blacksmith is perhaps the ultimate ground-breaker, forging the future from the natural iron ores encrusted in the Earth. Forming Myths. “When striking the anvil, blacksmiths recuperate part of the force they have given to the Earth. To strike at night is to repel what has been attracted. And that is why it is forbidden not only to the blacksmith, but to every man, to strike, at night, either iron, stone, or ground. Whether distinct or muffled, no blow of the hammer or pestle must resound in the silence.” — Ogotemmêli *. The Forge and the Funeral: The Smith in Kapsiki/Higi Culture. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press. Online Articles Traditional beliefs in modern society: the case of the Kapsiki blacksmiths of Mogode, Northern Cameroon. Permanent link. https://hdl.handle.net/10037/2012. Among the Kapsiki, blacksmiths perform many trades and crafts calling for specialization as funeral, music, divination, magic and medicine, pottery, leatherwork, forging iron and casting brass crucial for people’s life. But their position in the society is characterized by a big paradox between them and the others. They are perceived as a low stratum treated and considered by being dirty, dangerous and impure. The main concern of this essay is the investigation into this paradoxical position of the blacksmiths(rehe) and the power circulation among the Kapsiki. Beskrivelse. The thesis is ac