

# Boy Wives And Female Husbands Studies In African Homosexualities

## **The Delectable Negro -**

Vincent Woodard 2014-06-27  
Winner of the 2015 LGBT  
Studies Award presented by  
the Lambda Literary  
Foundation Unearths  
connections between  
homoeroticism, cannibalism,  
and cultures of consumption in  
the context of American  
literature and US slave culture  
that has largely been ignored  
until now Scholars of US and  
transatlantic slavery have  
largely ignored or dismissed  
accusations that Black  
Americans were cannibalized.  
Vincent Woodard takes the  
enslaved person's claims of  
human consumption seriously,  
focusing on both the literal  
starvation of the slave and the  
tropes of cannibalism on the  
part of the slaveholder, and

further draws attention to the  
ways in which Blacks  
experienced their consumption  
as a fundamentally homoerotic  
occurrence. The Delectable  
Negro explores these  
connections between  
homoeroticism, cannibalism,  
and cultures of consumption in  
the context of American  
literature and US slave culture.  
Utilizing many staples of  
African American literature  
and culture, such as the slave  
narratives of Olaudah Equiano,  
Harriet Jacobs, and Frederick  
Douglass, as well as other less  
circulated materials like James  
L. Smith's slave narrative,  
runaway slave advertisements,  
and numerous articles from  
Black newspapers published in  
the nineteenth century,  
Woodard traces the racial

assumptions, political aspirations, gender codes, and philosophical frameworks that dictated both European and white American arousal towards Black males and hunger for Black male flesh. Woodard uses these texts to unpack how slaves struggled not only against social consumption, but also against endemic mechanisms of starvation and hunger designed to break them. He concludes with an examination of the controversial chain gang oral sex scene in Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, suggesting that even at the end of the twentieth and beginning of the twenty-first century, we are still at a loss for language with which to describe Black male hunger within a plantation culture of consumption.

**Homosexualities** - Stephen O. Murray 2002-06

Breathtaking in its historical and geographical scope, this book provides a sweeping examination of the construction of male and female homosexualities, stressing both the variability of the forms

same-sex desire can take and the key recurring patterns it has formed throughout history. "[An] indispensable resource on same-sex sexual relationships and their social contexts. . . . Essential reading." —Choice "[P]romises to deliver a lot, and even more extraordinarily succeeds in its lofty aims. . . . [O]riginal and refreshing. . . . [A] sensational book, part of what I see emerging as a new commonsense revolution within academe." —Kevin White, *International Gay and Lesbian Review*

*Boy-Wives and Female Husbands* - Will Roscoe 2021

A significant contribution to anthropology, history, and gender studies that reveals the denials of homosexuality in traditional and contemporary African societies to be rooted in colonialist ideologies.

**Ritualized Homosexuality in Melanesia** - Gilbert H. Herdt 1993-01-28

This book contains the work of seven leading anthropologists on the subject of ritualized homosexuality, and it marks

the first time that anthropologists have systematically studied cross-cultural variations in homosexual behavior in a non-Western culture area. The book as a whole indicates that contemporary theories of sex and gender development need revision in light of the Melanesian findings.

A Companion to the

Anthropology of Africa - Roy

Richard Grinker 2019-02-06

An essential collection of scholarly essays on the anthropology of Africa, offering a thorough introduction to the most important topics in this evolving and diverse field of study. The study of the cultures of Africa has been central to the methodological and theoretical development of anthropology as a discipline since the late 19th-century. As the anthropology of Africa has emerged as a distinct field of study, anthropologists working in this tradition have strived to build a disciplinary conversation that recognizes the diversity and complexity of modern and ancient African

cultures while acknowledging the effects of historical anthropology on the present and future of the field of study. A Companion to the Anthropology of Africa is a collection of insightful essays covering the key questions and subjects in the contemporary anthropology of Africa with a key focus on addressing the topics that define the contemporary discipline. Written and edited by a team of leading cultural anthropologists, it is an ideal introduction to the most important topics in the field, both those that have consistently been a part of the critical dialogue and those that have emerged as the central questions of the discipline's future. Beginning with essays on the enduring topics in the study of African cultures, A Companion to the Anthropology of Africa provides a foundation in the contemporary critical approach to subjects of longstanding interest. With these subjects as a groundwork, later essays address decolonization, the

postcolonial experience, and questions of modern identity and definition, providing representation of the diverse thinking and scholarship in the modern anthropology of Africa. Hungochani - Marc Epprecht 2004

Challenging the stereotypes of African heterosexuality - from the precolonial era to the present.

Changing Ones - William Roscoe 2000-06-16

The term 'berdache' is a little-known, rarely discussed reference to Native American individuals who embodied both genders - what some might classify as 'the third sex.' Berdaches were known to combine male and female social roles with traits unique to their status as a third gender, defying and redefining traditional notions of gender-specific behavior. In Changing Ones, William Roscoe opens up and explores the world of berdaches, revealing meaningful differences between Native American culture and contemporary North American culture.

Roscoe reveals that rather than being ostracized or forced into obscurity, berdaches were embraced by some 150 tribes, serving as artists, medicine people, religious experts, and tribal leaders. Indeed, Roscoe points out, berdaches sometimes even occupied a holy status within the tribal community. Roscoe begins with case studies of male and female berdaches, blending biography and ethnohistory, and he builds toward theoretical insights into the nature of gender diversity in North America. What results is highly engaging, readable, and illuminating. Changing Ones combines the fields of anthropology, sociology, queer theory, gay and lesbian studies, and gender studies to challenge conventional schools of thought and to expand every reader's horizons.

Male Daughters, Female Husbands - Professor Ifi Amadiume 2015-03-12

In 1987, more than a decade before the dawn of queer theory, Ifi Amadiume wrote Male Daughters, Female

Husbands, to critical acclaim. This compelling and highly original book frees the subject position of 'husband' from its affiliation with men, and goes on to do the same for other masculine attributes, dislocating sex, gender and sexual orientation. Boldly arguing that the notion of gender, as constructed in Western feminist discourse, did not exist in Africa before the colonial imposition of a dichotomous understanding of sexual difference, *Male Daughters, Female Husbands* examines the structures in African society that enabled people to achieve power, showing that roles were not rigidly masculinized nor feminized. At a time when gender and queer theory are viewed by some as being stuck in an identity-politics rut, this outstanding study not only warns against the danger of projecting a very specific, Western notion of difference onto other cultures, but calls us to question the very concept of gender itself.

### **Boy-wives and Female**

**Husbands** - Stephen O. Murray 2001

*Unspoken Facts* - Marc Epprecht 2008  
Homosexuality. Lesbians. Gay rights. Homophobia. These terms have come up quite a bit in recent years in Africa to the shock, embarrassment and even anger of many people. This book is about that, and about the coming out (into public view) of individuals who in the past tended to keep a low profile. What does the history of homosexuality and the reactions against it tell us about African history in general? And how might this knowledge help us in struggles against HIV/AIDS, gender violence and other social inequalities in contemporary Africa? Based on Marc Epprecht's award-winning monograph *Hungochani: the history of a dissident sexuality in southern Africa*, along with creative contributions from other pioneering scholars in the field *Unspoken Facts* offers a sympathetic portrayal of the lives of people who do not

conform to society's dominant expectations in terms of love and marriage. Additional material includes several fictionalised accounts of same-sex relationships in southern Africa.

[Sexuality and Social Justice in Africa](#) - Marc Epprecht  
2013-07-11

The persecution of people in Africa on the basis of their assumed or perceived homosexual orientation has received considerable coverage in the popular media in recent years. Gay-bashing by political and religious figures in Zimbabwe and Gambia; draconian new laws against lesbians and gays and their supporters in Malawi, Nigeria and Uganda; and the imprisonment and extortion of gay men in Senegal and Cameroon have all rightly sparked international condemnation. However, much of the analysis has been highly critical of African leadership and culture without considering local nuances, historical factors and external influences that are contributing

to the problem. Such commentary also overlooks grounds for optimism in the struggle for sexual rights and justice in Africa, not just for sexual minorities but for the majority population as well. Based on pioneering research on the history of homosexualities and engagement with current LGBTI and HIV/AIDS activism, Marc Epprecht provides a sympathetic overview of the issues at play and a hopeful outlook on the potential of sexual rights for all.

**Cultures of the Lusophone Black Atlantic** - N. Naro  
2007-10-15

This book addresses the Lusophone Black Atlantic as a space of historical and cultural production between Portugal, Brazil, and Africa. The authors demonstrate how it has been shaped by diverse colonial cultures including the Portuguese imperial project. The Lusophone context offers a unique perspective on the history of the Atlantic.

**Islamic Homosexualities** - Stephen O. Murray 1997-02

The first anthropological collection that reveals patterns of male and female homosexuality in the Muslim World The dramatic impact of Islamic fundamentalism in recent years has skewed our image of Islamic history and culture. Stereotypes depict Islamic societies as economically backward, hyper-patriarchal, and fanatically religious. But in fact, the Islamic world encompasses a great diversity of cultures and a great deal of variation within those cultures in terms of gender roles and sexuality. The first collection on this topic from a historical and anthropological perspective, *Homosexuality in the Muslim World* reveals that patterns of male and female homosexuality have existed and often flourished within the Islamic world. Indeed, same-sex relations have, until quite recently, been much more tolerated under Islam than in the Christian West. Based on the latest theoretical perspectives in gender studies, feminism, and gay studies,

Homosexuality in the Muslim World includes cultural and historical analyses of the entire Islamic world, not just the so-called Middle East. Essays show both age-stratified patterns of homosexuality, as revealed in the erotic and romantic poetry of medieval poets, and gender-based patterns, in which both men and women might, to varying degrees, choose to live as members of the opposite sex. The contributors draw on historical documents, literary texts, ethnographic observation and direct observation by both Muslim and non-Muslim authors to show the considerable diversity of Islamic societies and the existence of tolerated gender and sexual variances.

**Pigs and Dogs** - Caryl Churchill 2020-02-05

"You western-backed goats, they forced us into slavery and killed millions. Now they want us to accept the sinfulness of homos. It shall not work." In 2014, Uganda passed an Anti-Homosexuality Act. This short, startling play looks at what lies

behind it. Caryl Churchill's *Pigs and Dogs* is substantially based on material from *Boy Wives and Female Husbands* by Stephen O. Murray and Will Roscoe. It premiered at the Royal Court in 2016.

**Sexuality and Slavery** - Daina Ramey Berry 2018-10-01

"A Sarah Mills Hodge Fund publication"--Title page verso.

*More Than a Name* -

Commission internationale pour les droits des gais et des lesbiennes 2003

4. Health and HIV/AIDS

*Knowing Women* - Serena

Owusua Dankwa 2021-01-21

A study of same-sex passion, desire, and intimacy among working-class women who love women in West Africa.

*Boy-Wives and Female*

*Husbands* - Stephen O. Murray 2021-04-01

Among the many myths created about Africa, the claim that homosexuality and gender diversity are absent or incidental is one of the oldest and most enduring. Historians, anthropologists, and many contemporary Africans alike have denied or overlooked

African same-sex patterns or claimed that such patterns were introduced by Europeans or Arabs. In fact, same-sex love and nonbinary genders were and are widespread in Africa. *Boy-Wives and Female Husbands* documents the presence of this diversity in some fifty societies in every region of the continent south of the Sahara. Essays by scholars from a variety of disciplines explore institutionalized marriages between women, same-sex relations between men and boys in colonial work settings, mixed gender roles in east and west Africa, and the emergence of LGBTQ activism in South Africa, which became the first nation in the world to constitutionally ban discrimination based on sexual orientation. Also included are oral histories, folklore, and translations of early ethnographic reports by German and French observers. *Boy-Wives and Female Husbands* was the first serious study of same-sex sexuality and gender diversity in Africa, and this edition includes a new



foreword by Marc Epprecht that underscores the significance of the book for a new generation of African scholars, as well as reflections on the book's genesis by the late Stephen O. Murray. This book is freely available in an open access edition thanks to the generous support of the Murray Hong Family Trust. Access the book online at the SUNY Open Access Repository at <http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12648/1714>.

*Marriage, Perversion, and Power* - Diana Jeater 1993  
A history of sexuality and gender relations in colonial Africa, this work examines African marriage relationships in southern Rhodesia.

Combining historical and anthropological approaches, it analyzes colonial ideology, its contradictions, and its effects on the people of southern Rhodesia.

*American Gay* - Stephen O. Murray 1996-06-15

Drawing on two decades of research into gay life in North America, Stephen O. Murray examines the emergence of gay and lesbian social life, the creation of libbigay communities, and the political and social forces of resistance that have mobilized and nurtured a group identity. Murray also considers the extent to which there is a single "modern" homosexuality, the enormous range of gay behaviors, and more.

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