Pentecostalism and African Indigenous Religion: An Ethnography of Existential Mobility

Based on fieldwork in rural Mozambique, this talk explores how ‘traditional’ models of change shape a people’s manner of relating to ‘modernity.’ In recent decades, state administrators and Pentecostal missionaries have sought to reform local inhabitants by, respectively, sedentarizing and converting them. Deploying a proclivity toward mobility cultivated by their indigenous religions and rituals, the subjects of this study appear both eager to partake in resettlement schemes and reluctant to remain settled by them.

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