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Africa every day: fun, leisure, and expressive culture on the continent

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Africa every day: fun, leisure, and expressive culture on the continent, edited by Oluwakemi M. Balogun et al. Ohio University, 2019. 386p bibl index ISBN 9780896803244 cloth, \$85.00; ISBN 9780896803244 pbk, \$34.95; ISBN 9780896805064 ebook, contact publisher for price

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Popular cultural history and sociocultural anthropology's focus on leisure have played a key role in variegating the field of African studies over the past two decades, as is apparent in this wide-ranging collection from Balogun, Graboyes, Iddrisu (all, Univ. of Oregon), and Gilman (George Mason Univ.). The text offers a variety of short case studies on individual cultural life and practice to diversify the portrait of Africa typically presented to students, often focused on economic development, politics, war, and poverty. Written clearly with a refreshing lack of academic rhetoric, the vignettes outline experiences of daily life relating to sports, media, friendship, love, and labor. Some chapters cover topics underserved in academic literature, such as Senegalese professional wrestling, and several authors introduce subjectivity to their essays--one laments the "negative influence of Western culture" on a wedding ritual--perhaps an effect of writing in a cleaner, simpler style than is often the case. The geographic, topical, and chronological breadth is at times overwhelming, but overall this volume is a welcome contribution. It will complete collections in African studies and could also complement collections focused on leisure. Summing Up: ** Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through graduate students.--J. R. Kenyon, University of Idaho

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