This volume sets out to investigate critically existing lines of thought about sexuality in Africa, while also creating space for alternative approaches. Issues of colonial and contemporary discourses on ‘African sexuality’ and on ‘female genital mutilation’ are discussed, as are issues of female agency and of feminist engagement with HIV/AIDS. The volume contributes to current efforts to re-think sexualities in the light of feminist, queer and postcolonial theory.

“There is no doubt that there is a pressing need to theorize sexualities from within paradigms fully alert to the dangers of colonial legacies concerning the ‘African’, and deeply committed to the creation of knowledges capable of revolutionizing African-based economic, political and cultural dependencies. With few exceptions, the writers are well known in their (various) disciplinary and national contexts as Africa-focused researchers with strong – and sometimes deeply innovative – approaches to the complex theoretical (and practical) implications of gender, colonialism, ‘post-democracy’ and sexualities.”

Dr Jane Bennett, Director of the African Gender Institute, University of Cape Town

The volume is the first of a series of publications from the Sexuality, Gender and Society in Africa research programme, coordinated by Signe Arnfred, The Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala, Sweden.