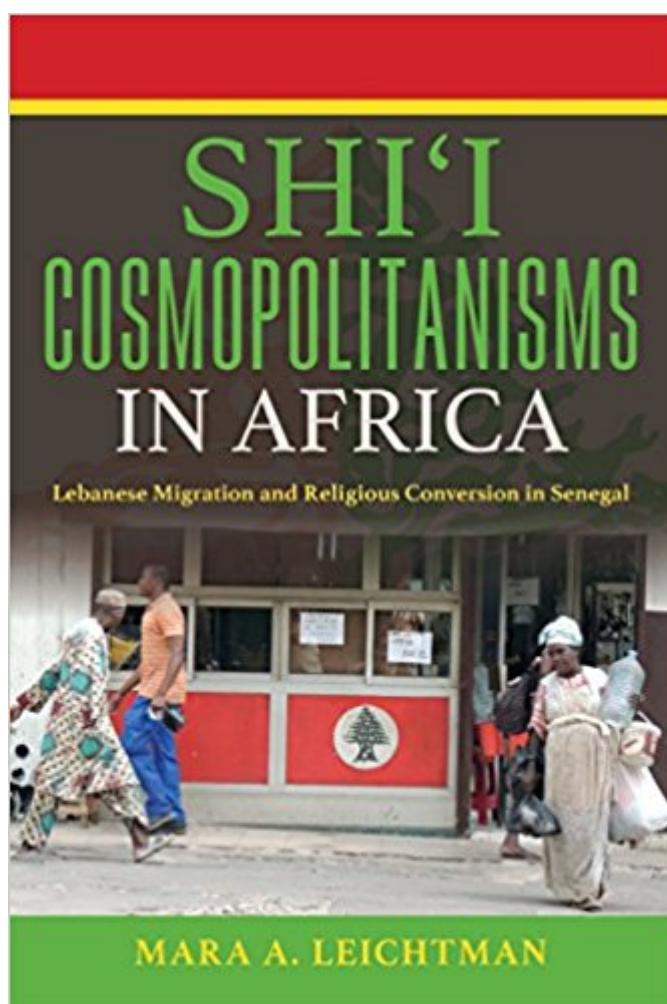


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# **Shi'i Cosmopolitanisms In Africa: Lebanese Migration And Religious Conversion In Senegal (Public Cultures Of The Middle East And North Africa)**





## Synopsis

Mara A. Leichtman offers an in-depth study of Shiâ 'î Islam in two very different communities in Senegal: the well-established Lebanese diaspora and Senegalese "converts" from Sunni to Shiâ 'î Islam of recent decades. Sharing a minority religious status in a predominantly Sunni Muslim country, each group is cosmopolitan in its own way. Leichtman provides new insights into the everyday lives of Shiâ 'î Muslims in Africa and the dynamics of local and global Islam. She explores the influence of Hizbullah and Islamic reformist movements, and offers a corrective to prevailing views of Sunni-Shiâ 'î hostility, demonstrating that religious coexistence is possible in a context such as Senegal.

## Book Information

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"This book is highly recommended for anyone with interest in African and Middle Eastern Affairs, Islam and Religious Studies, and Peace Studies." •African Studies Quarterly" Takes the bold step of considering Lebanese and African Shiâ 'î in Senegal together in the same volume, and refusing to admit the intellectual segregation of different racial communities in the same country by giving in to the temptation to write two separate, shorter books.... A significant contribution."

•Robert Launay, author of *Beyond the Stream: Islam & Society In A West African Town*"[Leichtman's] volume is a theoretically packed, historically grounded and ethnographically rich exploration into minority religious communities and their migrations." •Journal of Modern African Studies

Mara A. Leichtman is Associate Professor of Anthropology and Muslim Studies at Michigan State University. She is editor (with Mamadou Diouf) of *New Perspectives on Islam in Senegal: Conversion, Migration, Wealth, Power, and Femininity*.

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