Ethnography of a Vodu Shrine in Southern Togo: Of Spirit, Slave, and Sea

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In this book, Eric Montgomery and Christian Vannier provide an ethnographically informed text on the cultural meanings and practices surrounding the gods and metaphysics of Vodu, as they relate to daily life in an ethnic Ewe fishing community on the coast of southern Togo. The authors approach this spirit possession and medicinal order through “shrine ethnography,” understanding shrines as parts of sacred landscapes that are ecological, economic, political, and social. Giving voice to practitioners and situating shrines and Vodu itself into the history and political economy of the region make this text pertinent to the social changes and global relevance of Millennial Africa.

Eric Montgomery, Ph.D., is a Cultural Anthropologist who researches anthropology of religion, political economy, and globalization in Western Africa. The crux of his research is among the Ewe people of Ghana, Togo, and Benin in West Africa. Other research interests include activist anthropology, applied anthropology, peace and conflict studies, human rights, and global health.

Christian Vannier is a lecturer in the department of Africana Studies at the University of Michigan, Flint. His research explores culture and society in both the Caribbean and West Africa. Specifically, Christian studies the intersection of local religious practice, community organization, and internationally led aid and development. He is also the coauthor of An Ethnography of a Vodu Shrine in Southern Togo and the co-editor of Cultures of Doing Good: Anthropologists and NGOs.

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