Marriage and family are changing a lot in the present time; especially migration confronts with different life-styles in the globalized societies. Polygamy is a very complex phenomenon with a long tradition in Africa, but also in Europe- quite the contrary to the common self-portrayals of the Western World. It has been neglected in Gender Research. The anthology will contribute to the objectification of the discussion by portraying the variety of polygamous lifestyles showing the interconnections of family structure, social and economic conditions, cultural representations (especially in fictive writing and oral tradition), spiritual meaning and religious legitimation of this way of life between traditional belief, Christianity and Islam. Case studies from different countries in Africa south of the Sahara will be added by historic examples since antiquity in Europe up to the discussion in present times.

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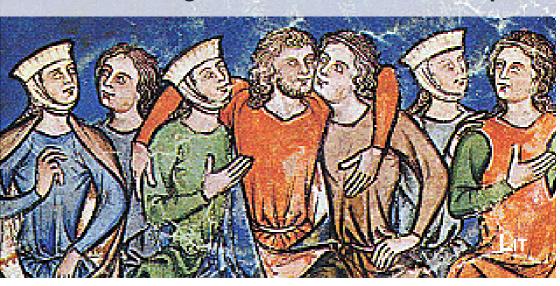
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Polygame Lebensweisen in Vergangenheit und Gegenwart in Afrika und Europa



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Cover-images:

Toro Teachers College. Polygamy. Driver (in the background) marries his third wife. His women wear a pendant around the neck. Friends, another man and a child. A Nigerian wedding, with guests wearing special similar clothes. Toro, Nigeria 1970–1973.

Photo: Aart Rietveld (Rietveld Collection ASC Leiden, Toro College. (CC BY-SA 4.0))

Medieval miniature from the Maciejowski Bible (13th century): Absalom with David's concubines.

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