

https://dspace.org/

Power, sexuality and subversion in Lutsango and Siswati traditional wedding songs

Dlamini, Nonhlanhla

2009-07-06T10:11:32Z
http://hdl.handle.net/10539/7069

Downloaded from a DSpace repository. https://dspace.org/

ABSTRACT

Popular songs are not only forms of entertainment or frosting on a cake. They are spheres where social and power relations are enforced, challenged and negated. This research studies Swazi women folk songs performed by women in various social and communal gatherings and during Swazi traditional marriage rites such as *umtsimba*. In this research, the songs are studied as a sphere, which women use to depict gender and power relations, negate these relations and create oppositional language that counters patriarchal norms and views on female sexuality. The study achieves this by reading songs that portray gendered power relations within the familial space and looks at the ways in which the women negate these relations. The research also looks at the manner in which Swazi women talk about their sexuality versus male–authored discourses on female sexuality. Lastly, this research probes the relationship between women's folk songs and subversion of patriarchal institutions and the agency behind the composition of songs whose discourses destabilises patriarchal discourses about the position of a woman in the familial space and female sexuality.