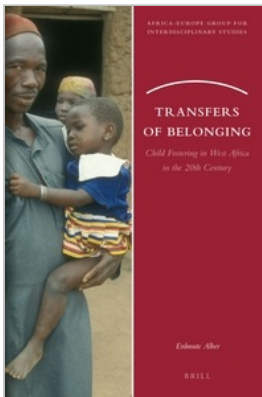




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## Transfers of Belonging

### *Child Fostering in West Africa in the 20th Century*

Erdmute Alber, University of Bayreuth

In *Transfers of Belonging*, Erdmute Alber traces the history of child fostering in northern Benin from the pre-colonial past to the present by pointing out the embeddedness of child foster practices and norms in a wider political process of change. Child fostering was, for a long time, not just one way of raising children, but seen as the appropriate way of doing so. This changed profoundly with the arrival of European ideas about birth parents being the 'right' parents, but also with the introduction of schooling and the differentiation of life chances. Besides providing deep historical and ethnographical insights, *Transfers of Belonging* offers a new theoretical frame for conceptualizing parenting.

#### READERSHIP:

Besides anthropologists working on West Africa, this book should be read by all interested in kinship, childhood, child development and the history of Africa.

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