## Table of Contents

Preface  
KL AUS H OCK ......................................................................................................................... 7

Introduction  
New Perspectives, New Foci: Topological Dispositions of African Christianity  
KL AUS H OCK .......................................................................................................................... 9

1. A Nigerian Reading of the Bible and its Interpretational Power  
PAUL GIFFORD.......................................................................................................................... 25

2. **Genealogical Dispositions: The Power of Interpretation in and of African Christianities in Historical Perspective**

2. Oikoumene as Globalisation:  
   Conflicts in Forms of Christian Life in Africa  
   (Third to Fourth Centuries)  
   DAVIDE DAIN ESE ............................................................................................................. 41

3. Conversions and Revolutions in Buganda (1877–1889):  
   The Clash of Interpretations of a Conflicting Phase of Globalisation  
   SILVIA CRISTOFORI .................................................................................................................... 61

4. Reconstructing History, Reconstructing Theology:  
   Discourses on “African Destiny” in the Transatlantic World,  
   c. 1830 to c. 1930  
   FRI EDER LUDWIG .................................................................................................................. 79

5. Women’s Voices in Gendered Spaces:  
   The West African Christian Elite, the West African Press  
   and the Power of Interpretation, c. 1880–1931  
   W. PHUTI MOGASE ................................................................................................................ 101

   MICHEL NANA .................................................................................................................... 121
# Table of Contents

## II. Transconfigurations: The Power of Interpretation in and of New Forms of African Christianities

7. "Prisms, Mirrors, and Refractions": There-Centric Perceptions of Basel Mission History in Ghana  
   ANDREAS HEUSER .......................................................................................... 149

8. Mother-Tongue Biblical Hermeneutics: Reclaiming Interpretive Power in Ghana – Miracles, Homosexuality and Bible Translation as Case-Studies  
   WERNER KAHL .......................................................................................... 173

9. From Victim to Victor: New Christian Identities in Africa and Their Effect on Development  
   CHRISTINE GÜHNE .................................................................................. 193

10. German-Ghanaian Encounters in the Church: An Empirical View on Power Structures in Ecumenical Relationships  
    CHARLOTTE EISENBERG ........................................................................ 201

11. "This is my Body Broken for You.” Entangled Discourse on the Body in African Theology  
    CLAUDIA JAHNEL .................................................................................. 215

    AFE ADOGAME .......................................................................................... 235

List of Authors ........................................................................................................ 257
Preface

This volume contains the revised papers presented at the international conference on “The Power of Interpretation: Imagined Authenticity – Appropriated Identity. Conflicting Discourses on New Forms of African Christianity”, which took place at the University of Rostock on December 4–6, 2014. Its theme was. This conference was part of the research and graduate school programme of the Research Training Group “Power of Interpretation: Religion and Belief Systems in Conflicts of Interpretational Power” (Graduiertenkolleg “Deutungsmacht: Religion und Belief systems in Deutungsmachtkonflikten”) located at the University of Rostock and funded by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG). While the Guided Research Group ventures into critically assessing the scope and the limits of Deutungsmacht (‘power of interpretation’), both as a theoretical concept and as cultural work, the conference focused on the question: What are the most significant discourses, constellations, and conflicts arising from the competing claims for the power of interpretation that aim at explaining, interpreting, defining – and even assessing or legitimising – “new forms of Christian life in Africa” and the most significant factors shaping them?

The publication of the conference papers was made possible by the German Research Foundation (DFG) in the frame of the funds provided for the Guided Research Group’s programme. Additional grants came from the University of Rostock via the Faculty of Theology. Special thanks are due to the former and to the present spokespersons of the Guided Research Group, Prof. Philipp Stoellger and Prof. Martina Kumlehn, and to its administrator, Florian Zacher.

The responsibility for planning and editing this volume lies with Klaus Hock. However, without the help of Thomas Slowig in adjusting the manuscripts to the style of this series, and, particularly, without the staunch assistance of Johann Schedlinski, who did a terrific job in copy-editing the entire volume, the publication would have been impossible to realise. My special thanks go to them. Needless to say, though, any mistake or error that entered this volume in the course of the editorial process is entirely mine.

I would also like to thank the staff at Harrassowitz Publishers for their diligent cooperation. Last but not least, I am particularly grateful to Klaus Koschorke and Johannes Meier for granting the privilege of accepting this volume for publication in their series.

Rostock, August 2016
Klaus Hock