

CAS-E LECTURE SERIES



DR. JANE PARISH

Senior Lecturer in
Sociology and Social
Anthropology
(Keele University)

Dr. Parish is an anthropologist whose research looks at how undocumented Ghanaians in New York City employ magic to critique ideas about accumulation, consumption and the lavish wealth and lifestyles of Manhattan's elites. In particular, she has examined how social and moral conflicts about power are negotiated through West African witchcraft discourses and written extensively on this. More recently, she has published work on spectral material culture through an examination of the rituals of obsessive-compulsive disorder. She is currently analyzing the cultural history of magic, illusion, and fakery since 1920.

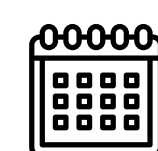
Reaching for the Stars in New York City. Ghanaian Religious Discourses and Bewitching Celebrity

Carrying out ethnographic fieldwork in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens about West African witchcraft in New York City, examined is why do young Africans in low-paid jobs, having accumulated debts and loans in the New York economy, seek refuge in the most traditional of African religions to learn about the most up-to-date type of success—American celebrity? In a Manhattan media environment, Ghanaian witchcraft discourses about the accumulation of wealth become crucial, I suggest, to understanding the divinatory practices of Akan religious practitioners transfixed by the intangible qualities of American fame and success. To this end, I investigate the uncovering of occult forces by Akan akomfo on behalf of their clients and the subsequent employment of witchcraft to reach the 'beyond' and 'ethereal' world of the rich and famous.

Join online!



<https://fau.zoom.us/j/63672581746>.



NOVEMBER 28 , 2023



6:00 PM



Room 000.235, Seminar
Room, Hartmannstr. 14,
Building D1, erlangen



CAS-E

Alternative Rationalities and
Esoteric Practices from a Global Perspective

Funded by

DFG

Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft
German Research Foundation

FAU

Friedrich-Alexander-Universität
Erlangen-Nürnberg