



Meagher, Kate

Dr Kate Meagher

Department

[Department of International Development](#)

Position held

Lecturer in Development Studies

Experience keywords:

non-state governance; [Nigeria](#); West Africa; [Sub-Saharan Africa](#); enterprise clusters; economic networks; [civil society](#); [informal economy](#); rural development; informal institutions; non-farm economy

[Research summary > \[Click to expand\]](#)

Sectors and industries to which research relates:

Policy and Regulatory Bodies

Countries and regions to which research relates:

Sub-Saharan Africa; West Africa; Nigeria

Languages:

French [Spoken: Intermediate, Written: Intermediate]

Media experience:

Radio

Publications

The following references are sourced from [LSE Research Online](#). References that are linked lead to the full text.

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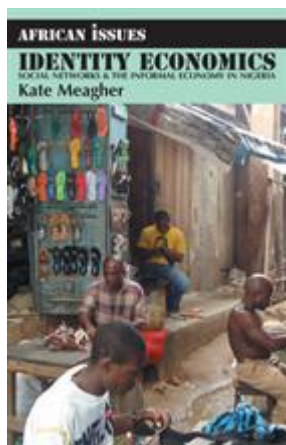
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Identity Economics: Social Networks and the Informal Economy in Nigeria *African Issues*

Autor	Kate Meagher
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Editor	Boydell & Brewer Ltd, 2010
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N.º de páginas	208 páginas

Why have informal enterprise networks failed to promote economic development in Africa? Although social networks were thought to offer a solution to state incapacity and market failure, the proliferation of socially embedded enterprise networks across Africa has generated disorder and economic decline rather than development. This book challenges the prevailing assumption that the problem of African development lies in bad cultural institutions by showing that informal economic governance in Nigeria is shaped, not just by culture, but by the disruptive effects of rapid liberalization, state decline and political capture. Identity Economics traces the rise of two dynamic informal enterprise clusters in Nigeria, and explores their slide into trajectories of Pentecostalism, poverty and violent vigilantism. Drawing on over twenty years of empirical research on African informal economies, the author highlights the institutional legacies, networking strategies and globalizing dynamics that shape the regulatory role of social networks in Africa's largest and most turbulent economy. Through an ethnography of informal economic governance, this book shows how ties of ethnicity, class, gender and religion are used to restructure enterprise networks in response to contemporary economic challenges. Moving beyond primordialist interpretations of African culture, attention is drawn to the critical role of the state and the macro-economic policy environment in shaping trajectories of informal economic governance. KATE MEAGHER is a former Research Associate at Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford and is currently a Lecturer in the Development Studies Institute at the London School of Economics. Nigeria: HEBN