

# CONTENTS

<i>Preface and acknowledgements</i>	vii
<i>Sources</i>	xi
<i>About the author</i>	xii
<i>Maps</i>	xiii
 Prologue	
Approaching philosophical discourse in a Swahili context	1
 Part I Coordinates – theory, ethnography, history	
1 Towards an ‘anthropology of philosophy’ The ethnography of critical discourse and intellectual practice in Africa	11
2 The Swahili context Mombasa, the Old Town and Kibokoni	36
3 A neighbourhood of thinkers Knowledge, discourse and East African Islam	70
 Part II Contextual portrayals of local intellectuals	
4 Ahmed Sheikh Nabhany Swahili poetry and the conservation of cultural knowledge	105
5 Ahmad Nassir’s poetical moral theory <i>Utu</i> – how human beings ought to behave	139
6 The Ramadhan lectures of Sheikh Abdilahi Nassir The social critique of a politically minded Islamic scholar	176
 Part III Reconsidering ethnography, reconsidering theory	
7 Counterpoints and continuities: the younger generation Intergenerational idioms – experience and perspectives	211
 Epilogue	
Approach and findings, conclusions and perspectives	231

## Appendices

1	Ahmed Sheikh Nabhany: <i>Utendi wa baraza ya Iddul-l-Fitri</i>	240
2	Sheikh Abdilahi Nassir: Ramadhan lecture, 26 December 1998	247
	<i>Notes</i>	251
	<i>Bibliography</i>	267
	<i>Index</i>	283

## MAPS

1	Western Indian Ocean and Swahili coast, with Mombasa	xiii
2	Mombasa District and Mombasa Island	xiv
3	Mombasa Old Town within city area, with Kibokoni	xv

## FIGURES

—	Rooftop perspective, Old Town, with Mombasa skyline	xvi
2.1	Historical background of coastal-upcountry divide	54
2.2	Rooftop perspective, Old Town, view towards Old Port, creek	56
2.3	Street scene, Old Town: Ndia Kuu	58
2.4	Mandhry Mosque, near Old Port	60
2.5	Street scene, children playing	63
2.6	Street scene, Kibokoni: the author's home during fieldwork (top floor)	65
3.1	<i>Baraza</i> corner with two young men	73
3.2	Football: David Beckham picture at Manchester United corner	74
3.3	<i>Zefe</i> (festive procession) during <i>maulidi</i> , Lamu 1999	85
3.4	<i>Zefe</i> at <i>maulidi</i> , Lamu 1999, detail with Sharif Khitamy and Ali Hassan Mwinyi	86
3.5	Sharif Khitamy in front of Habib Saleh's house, 1999	88
3.6	Sheikh al-Amin Mazrui	90
3.7	Sheikh Abdallah Saleh Farsy	91
3.8	Sayyid Omar bin Sumayt and Sayyid Omar Abdallah	92
3.9	Intellectual genealogy of East African Islamic scholars in the twentieth century	93
3.10	Sheikh Muhammad Kasim Mazrui	95
4.1	Ahmed Sheikh Nabhany, with his first wife Khadija, 1999	113
4.2	Topical comment on the resignation of Mayor Balala	134
5.1	Ahmad Nassir (Juma Bhalo), 1999	152
5.2	<i>Utu</i> – the cycle of demand and reward	168
6.1	Sheikh Abdilahi Nassir, 1999	184
—	Man thinking in a cafe, Lamu, 1999	232