

## **Cosmopolitanism in Two Different Forms of Tanzanian Popular Culture in an Urban context : A Comparative Approach.**

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In this paper, I intend to present two ethnographic cases of Tanzanian popular culture in a comparative perspective. One of them is “slam”, a kind of urban poetry recently introduced in Dar es Salaam, the largest city of the country. The other is rumba music, imported from Congo CDR by Congolese artists settled in Tanzania for economical and/or political reasons.

These two forms come from abroad, use trans-cultural references in their sounds and lyrics and appear as eminently cosmopolitan. Slam originates from African American culture and could be associated to the cultural production of “Black Atlantic” (Gilroy), but integrates at the same time various kinds of local elements from Tanzanian ethnies, in order to promote them in a social context where Kiswahili remains the dominant language. Rumba music has been introduced by Congolese artists in the city, carrying their tradition (rythms, performance and lyrics in lingala) while adaptating their songs to the Tanzanian "taste" : some titles are written in Kiswahili and refers to local events of figures for instance.

I will analyse these quotations, their origine and meanings, but also the performance and the reception by the audience.

This work is based on a fieldwork that I have conducted this year in Dar es Salaam.