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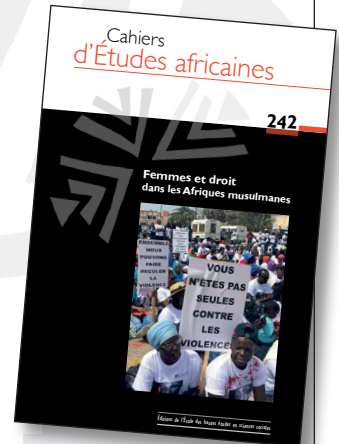
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## Women and Law in Muslim Africa

In Muslim Africa, legal reforms regarding gender equality confront states with a similar challenge: complying with non-discrimination international standards while preserving customary and religious norms. Such processes reveal how legal rules are not neutral but arise from a struggle between different social and political actors, in which women play their full part. Both targets and actors of these reforms, they resort to arguments and “repertoires of action” that depend on the diversity of the legal and political architectures of the countries concerned, on the place Islamic law occupies therein, but they also differ according to the areas of law involved and the historical roots of women’s mobilizations in that country. By grasping the reform processes from a triple perspective (agenda setting, mobilizations, implementation), the contributions to this issue attempt to analyze the degree of influence of international standards, the specificities of women legal mobilizations in these predominantly Muslim countries, but also the role that law may—or may not—play in the reconfiguration of gender relations. By contextualizing contemporary calls for the application of the *sharia* as a resource or a constraint for reforms, the contributions also offer an analysis of the Islamic norm which restores its historicity and the plurality of its appropriations in Muslim Africa.

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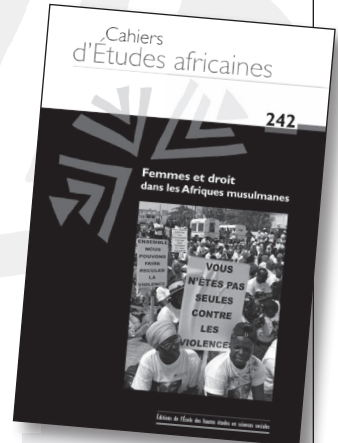
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