



The author with WoDaaBe dancers

In this book Kristín Loftsdóttir gives the reader a highly personal insight into the lives of the Wodaabe nomads of Niger, who are striving to make a living between the bush and the city. Spending nearly two years as a Wodaabe, within a Wodaabe extended family and alternating between the nomadic setting of the bush and the urbanised life-style of the capital, Niamey, she was in a unique position to observe the effects that increasing urbanisation and globalisation, together with the modern tourist industry's preconceptions and demands, have had on the identity and power relations of the Wodaabe.

Interwoven with the abstract scientific observations are the more personal reflections and analyses of a young white woman on living within, and sharing all aspects of, the everyday lives of the Wodaabe with the broad spectrum of reactions which this entails. These sensitively written and honest descriptions, including details of what the author at times experiences as her own shortcomings within her project, give a most interesting dimension to the work not always found in anthropological studies which means that this book should appeal to a wider readership than might initially be expected.

KRISTÍN LOFTSDÓTTIR is a professor at the Department of Social and Human Sciences, University of Iceland. Her research focuses on globalization, gender, racism, ethnicity, indigenous people, pastoral nomadism, representations and international development.

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