Debating value and the Hausa literary canon

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The presentation will discuss northern Nigerian public reaction to the emergence of a new form of Hausa popular fiction writing from the 1980s onwards.

The canonical discourse in this context is the debate about the value of this literature that raged in various public media – about its presentation and coherence, its language, its themes, and its conformity with Islam and notions of ‘Hausa customs’.

All of this was in a larger context of shari’a implementation and the contemporaneous explosion of a Hausa video film industry from 1990 onwards.