

Matriarchies in Afrika:  
Decolonising Love & the Egalitarian KhoeSan

Afrikan matriarchal and egalitarian societies  
What does love have to do with it?  
Everything.

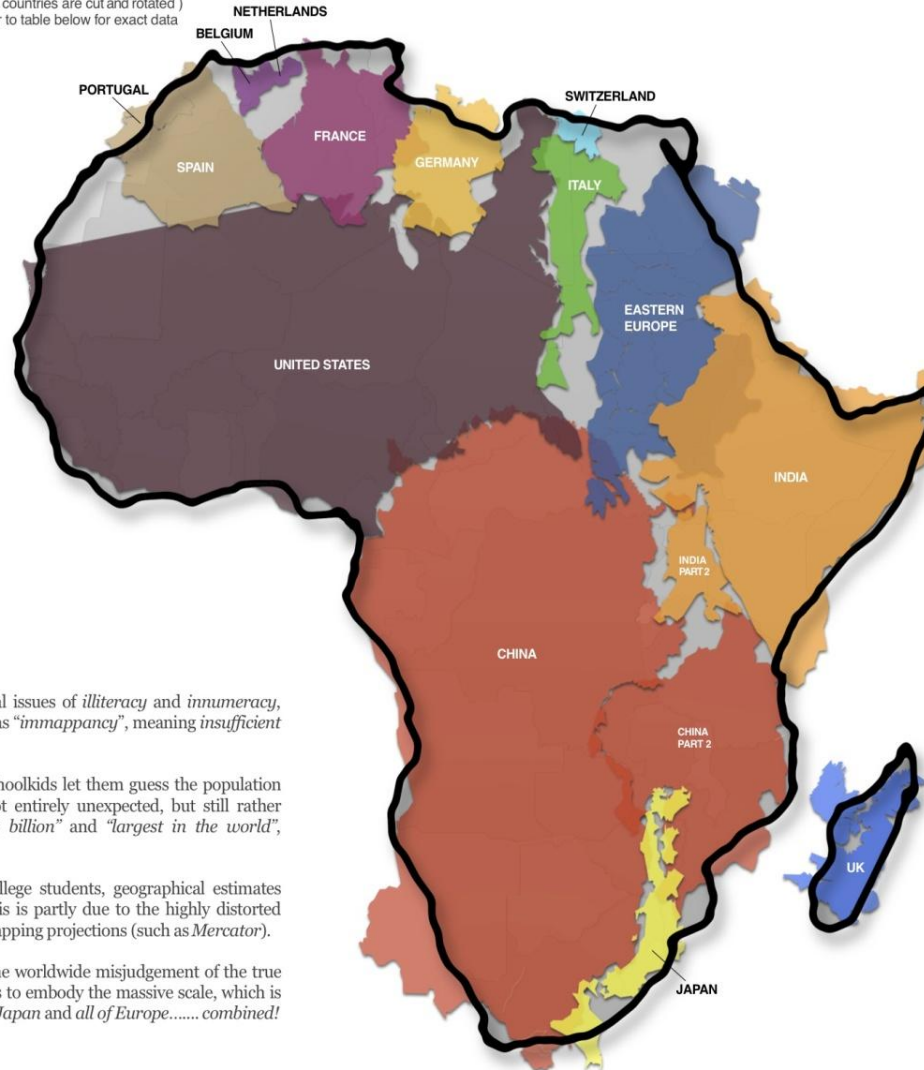
Bernedette Muthien  
Engender  
Cape Town, South Africa

# The True Size of Africa

A small contribution in the fight against rampant *Immappancy*, by Kai Krause

Graphic layout for visualization only ( some countries are cut and rotated )  
But the conclusions are very accurate: refer to table below for exact data

COUNTRY	AREA x 1000 km <sup>2</sup>
China	9.597
USA	9.629
India	3.287
Mexico	1.964
Peru	1.285
France	633
Spain	506
Papua New Guinea	462
Sweden	441
Japan	378
Germany	357
Norway	324
Italy	301
New Zealand	270
United Kingdom	243
Nepal	147
Bangladesh	144
Greece	132
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30.102</b>
<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>30.221</b>



## Top 100 Countries

Area in square kilometers, Percentage of World Total  
Sources: Britannica, Wikipedia, Almanac 2010

	Area km <sup>2</sup>	%	
1	Russia	17.098.242	11,50
2	Canada	9.984.670	6,70
3	China	9.596.961	6,40
4	United States	9.629.091	6,40
5	Brazil	8.514.877	5,70
6	Australia	7.692.024	5,20
7	India	3.287.293	2,30
8	Argentina	2.780.400	2,00
9	Kazakhstan	2.724.900	1,80
10	Sudan	2.505.813	1,70
11	Algeria	2.381.741	1,60
12	Congo	3.344.858	1,80
13	Greenland	2.166.086	1,50
14	Saudi Arabia	2.149.690	1,40
15	Mexico	1.964.975	1,30
16	Indonesia	1.860.360	1,30
17	Libya	1.759.540	1,20
18	Iran	1.628.750	1,10
19	Mongolia	1.564.100	1,10
20	Peru	1.285.216	0,86
21	Chad	1.284.000	0,86
22	Niger	1.267.000	0,85
23	Angola	1.246.700	0,85
24	Mali	1.240.192	0,83
25	South Africa	1.221.037	0,82
26	Colombia	1.141.748	0,76
27	Ethiopia	1.104.300	0,74
28	Bolivia	1.098.581	0,74
29	Mauritania	1.025.520	0,69
30	Egypt	1.022.000	0,67
31	Tanzania	945.087	0,63
32	Nigeria	923.768	0,62
33	Venezuela	912.050	0,61
34	Namibia	824.114	0,55
35	Mozambique	801.590	0,54
36	Pakistan	796.095	0,53
37	Turkey	783.562	0,53
38	Chile	756.102	0,51
39	Zambia	752.612	0,51
40	Myanmar	676.578	0,45
41	Afghanistan	652.090	0,44
42	Somalia	637.667	0,43
43	France	632.834	0,43
44	C. African Rep	622.984	0,42
45	Ukraine	603.500	0,41
46	Madagascar	587.041	0,39
47	Botswana	582.000	0,39
48	Kenya	580.367	0,39
49	Yemen	527.968	0,35
50	Thailand	513.120	0,34
51	Spain	505.992	0,34
52	Turkmenistan	488.100	0,33
53	Cameroon	475.442	0,32
54	Papua New Guinea	462.840	0,31
55	Uzbekistan	447.400	0,30
56	Morocco	446.550	0,30
57	Sweden	441.370	0,30
58	Iraq	438.317	0,29
59	Paraguay	406.752	0,27
60	Zimbabwe	390.757	0,26
61	Japan	377.930	0,25
62	Germany	357.114	0,24
63	Rep o.s. Congo	342.000	0,23
64	Finland	338.419	0,23
65	Vietnam	331.212	0,22
66	Malaysia	330.803	0,22
67	Norway	323.802	0,22
68	Côte d'Ivoire	322.463	0,22
69	Poland	312.685	0,21
70	Oman	309.500	0,21
71	Italy	301.336	0,20
72	Philippines	300.000	0,20
73	Burkina Faso	274.222	0,18
74	New Zealand	270.467	0,18
75	Gabon	267.668	0,18
76	Western Sahara	266.000	0,18
77	Ecuador	286.969	0,20
78	Guinea	245.857	0,17
79	United Kingdom	242.900	0,16
80	Uganda	241.038	0,16
81	Ghana	238.539	0,16
82	Romania	238.391	0,16
83	Laos	236.800	0,16
84	Guyana	214.969	0,14
85	Belarus	207.600	0,14
86	Kyrgyzstan	199.951	0,13
87	Senegal	196.722	0,13
88	Syria	185.180	0,12
89	Cambodia	181.035	0,12
90	Uruguay	176.215	0,12
91	Suriname	163.820	0,11
92	Tunisia	163.610	0,11
93	Nepal	147.181	0,10
94	Bangladesh	143.998	0,10
95	Tajikistan	143.100	0,10
96	Greece	131.967	0,09
97	Nicaragua	130.373	0,09
98	North Korea	120.538	0,08
99	Malawi	118.464	0,08
100	Eritrea	117.600	0,08
	<b>TOP 100 TOTAL</b>	<b>132.632.524</b>	<b>89,34</b>



In addition to the well known social issues of *illiteracy* and *innumeracy*, there also should be such a concept as "*immappancy*", meaning *insufficient geographical knowledge*.

A survey with random American schoolkids let them guess the population and land area of their country. Not entirely unexpected, but still rather unsettling, the majority chose "*1-2 billion*" and "*largest in the world*", respectively.

Even with Asian and European college students, geographical estimates were often off by factors of 2-3. This is partly due to the highly distorted nature of the predominantly used mapping projections (such as *Mercator*).

A particularly extreme example is the worldwide misjudgement of the true size of *Africa*. This single image tries to embody the massive scale, which is larger than the *USA*, *China*, *India*, *Japan* and *all of Europe*..... combined!

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# Modern Matriarchal Studies

## HGA (& CK) key principles:

- Concrete rather than abstract in world;
- Not mother rule but non-hierarchical;
- Consensus (unanimity) – system of councils – grassroots – consultative, participatory – democratic;
- Distribution (sharing) vs accumulation (hoarding);
- Meeting needs vs power over;
- Motherly or matriarchal men;
- Humane society;
- Radically oriented towards life (not war industry);
- Political action always spiritual in matriarchy (vs detachment in patriarchy);
- All connected: science, politics, spirituality, all *ad infinitum*



## **Matrilineal / Matriarchal societies include:**

Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and the country known as North Africa (Makilam)

# Ifi Amadiume - Matriarchitarianism

Necessity for feminist indigenous scholarship to be interdisciplinary and intersectional, including spirituality, and even *prophecy*.

She reclaims "the concept of the traditional in Africa to mean precolonial African cultures" that are *not* static or delineated by rigid time breaks. This reclaimed traditional is dynamic: past, present, and perhaps even future.

"When we look at women's contributions and approaches to development in Africa, we see that generally women are guided by teachings deriving from what I would call a "relational matriarchal principle" that sees us all as human beings and children of one mother, *umunne*. I believe this to be a general and basic African ethic of kinship. It can further be a non-racist and non-patriarchal basis for an alternative global citizenship in the struggle for human rights, social justice and an inclusive development."

"matriarchy is that the matri-centric unit is the smallest kinship unit. Its material basis is concrete and empirical, while the material and ideological basis of patriarchy embodies a contradiction. Patriarchy is disputable since fatherhood is a social construct.

(HGA Modern Matriarchal Studies)

"matriarchitarianism" to capture a women-generated inclusive culture in the indigenous social structure as a *movement* - rematriating activism back to our centre, our core, our (African) calabash (European chalice)

Amadiume speaks of "collective kinship", like the pan-African concept of *ubuntu*.

She speaks with poetry. And with love.

It is this collective kinship and love, compassion, gifting, trust and respect, on which indigenous and KhoeSan values are based, which grounds our structures as egalitarian and nonviolent.

This then is the Praxis, rather than the Theory, of Everything, of Love, KhoeSan-style.

Social Structure  $\leftrightarrow$  Social Values

Interdependence

Ubuntu

Khoe = Human = San = Human

Human of Humans

A Person Belonging to Other People

Humane Humankind





## **Egalitarianism**

(social, gender, generational, sexualities, all *ad infinitum*)

Amadiume: gender neutral Ibo term *ya*, and European imposition of gendered concepts, such as male human being or humanity, and even male god.

**Nonviolence or Peace**

**Gifting**

**Love or Compassion**

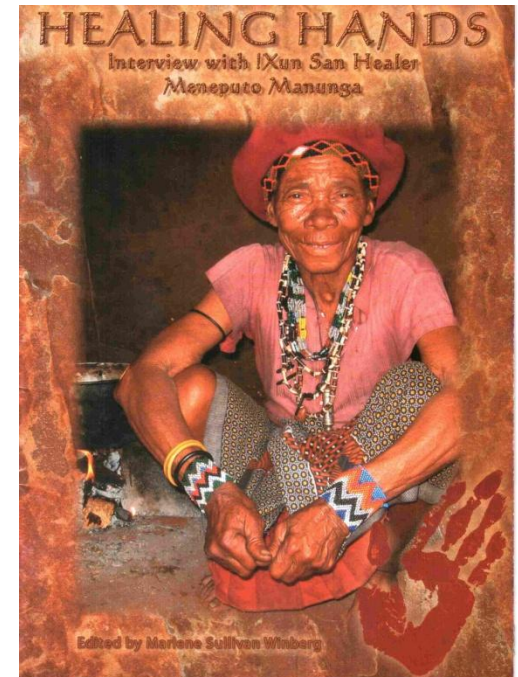
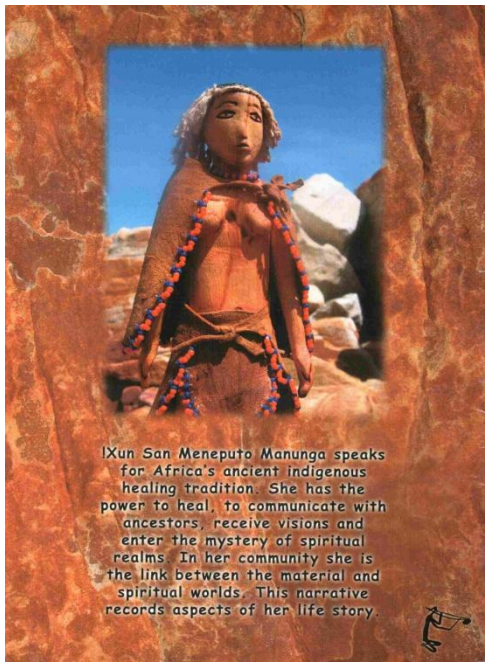
**Trust and Respect**

**Women, Mothers, at Centre**



# Women & mothers at centre Sacred feminine

San Healer Meneputo Manunga in Kalahari (6 countries)







Ma-Meneputo:

"The San people found power in the light of the moon. The ancients made a queen and hoisted her up into the sky where she became the moon. The people danced in the light of the moon. This is where we found our healing power."

"I have told you some things that my hands made me remember... In the early days, the San people's hands were always busy. It was not like today, when the people have nothing to do... If you do not have money or you do not have a veld (field) in which to find food, you have nothing. You are a person without breath while you are alive."

# LOVE

<b>Matriarchy</b>	<b>Patriarchy</b>
Unconditional love	Betrayal
Trust	Power & control
Surrender	Lies & deceit
Gifting	Sacrifice
Healing & Care	Exploitation
Generosity	Selfishness & greed
Fluidity	Domination
creativity	Rules & roles
Self-love	Self-loathing
Spirituality	Fear
Indigenous	Viennese artifice
Relate to the Native in you as kin	Relate to the Native in me as colonial

## meditation

love is a performance  
that needs daily  
re-enactment  
like a ritual  
a sacred iteration  
mantra without sound

i love you   i love me   i love all  
i love you   i love me   i love all  
i love you   i love me   i love all

via vibration  
through touch  
a look  
this poem

"the sound of white"  
rainbow



i love you   i love me   i love all  
i love you   i love me   i love all  
i love you   i love me   i love all