The Space of Time: Mapping Difference in the Pre-Colonial Yoruba City

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Space, Time, and Movement

Abomey, capital of Dahomey Kingdom, Republic of Benin
Obalara’s Land

(Osangangan Obamakin)
Elu (east) viewshed: top
Palace viewshed: Bottom

Agbafe (north) viewshed: top
Agbafe and Elu chiefs viewsheds: Bottom
Autochthony, Power, and Disease

Man with elephantiasis Testes

(Objects from the site of Osangangan Obamakin)

Foot and hand deformities
Origin Myths: Ife Political and Religious Division: (Myths of Social Difference)

Obatala
Sky
Ritual Power
Autochthonous
Indigenous royal line (1st Dynasty)

Odudua
Earth
Political Power
Newcomer
New royal line (2nd Dynasty)
Weight, Power & Gamesmanship

Obese figure from Osangangan Obamakin site

Mankala (ophon)

Fluorescence era game board
Obesity as Political signifier – …and Critique

Fon King Agoli Agbo II

Yoruba Egungun masks
Head with features of syphilis (Ore Grove site) (collected by Leo Frobenius)
Obalara’s Land Site

Osain staffs

Osain staffs