

Gender and Sexuality, a Reflection on Rainmaking Songs

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ABSTRACT Generally, studies have always discussed gender roles existing in societies. The aim of this study was to explore the symbolism of gender and sexuality reflected by *Mukwerera* rainmaking ritual songs of the *Shangwe* community in the then *Gokwe* District in the Midlands Province of Zimbabwe. The ethnography was based on six informants who acquired wisdom with age. These culture bearers are communally famed sources of information in their rainmaking practices. Through the use of unstructured interviews, this article intended to analyse role delineations mirrored by rainmaking songs. It also planned to examine how rainmaking spirits are perceived by the *Shangwe*. Rainmaking songs contain rich symbolism of gender and sexuality. The researcher established that gender roles evident in spiritual kingdom epitomise those prevailing in societies. Also, songs are utilised to put pressure on people in authority so that they behave as expected by cultures. Role demarcations predominantly happen in the spiritual realm.