

Objects of memory, migration, female biographies

Many African and black writers and artists have explored the role of material culture in the creation of female identity in migratory contexts, producing archives of signs that aestheticize and assign dignity of memory to existential paths - individual and collective - that stray from official narratives. Souvenirs, family heirlooms, but also garments, functional objects, and special personal possessions that evoke deliberate or involuntary memories of the land of origin, of domestic culture, of family and social relationships and of the past experience prior to migration, are “objects of memory.”

What role do these objects have in the creation of black and African female biographies? What are they and what do the material testimonies of the life and migration of women who leave their country or continent tell us?

These signs concretely testify to stories that entwine multiple spatial and temporal planes, but also individual, collective, and official perspectives that call for scholarly and creative explorations of the power of “things” to mediate and transmit “other” stories. The material culture of migration is made up of elements that operate as real narrative technologies, archiving devices that connect the present to the future, shedding light on different ways of expressing identity, building multicultural communities, preserving forgotten roots and stories, and creating connections that help to better understand transnational migratory processes.

Africa and the Mediterraneo's 101 issue calls for academic, popular and artistic proposals on the themes of memory and materiality with a specific focus on female migration.

Possible approaches to the theme of the dossier include:

- disciplinary approaches to women's material memories of migration
- objects of memory at the intersection of material culture and mobility studies
- technologies of women's material memories
- women's memory and the right to migration
- the responsibility of memory
- memory and silence
- intergenerational women's memories and diaspora
- women's material cultures and male voices
- women's material culture and racialization
- material cultures of hospitality/citizenship.



Africa e Mediterraneo warmly invites proposals from artists, with the aim of dedicating a section of the dossier to creative explorations of these themes.

Deadlines

The deadline to submit an abstract of no more than 400 words and the authors' short profiles is ****31 August 2024****. The abstract must be sent to abstract@africaemediterraneo.it. It will be reviewed by the editors of the issue. The deadline for submitting the finished article in Italian, English, or French, along with a 100-word abstract in English and five keywords in English, is ****15 October 2024****.

Africa e Mediterraneo is a blind peer-reviewed journal that publishes articles in Italian, English, and French.