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“This study is likely to incite much discussion and contribute to further studies on Francophone autobiographies nationally or in transnational comparative perspectives. Sankara’s book is exciting to read, and it renews and revitalizes interest in this important literature.”

—**Kandioura Dramé**, University of Virginia, author of *The Novel as Transformation Myth: A Study of the Novels of Mongo Beti and Ngugi Wa Thiong’o*

POSTCOLONIAL FRANCOPHONE AUTOBIOGRAPHIES From Africa to the Antilles

Bringing a comparative perspective to the study of autobiography, Edgard Sankara considers a cross-section of postcolonial Francophone writing from Africa and the Caribbean in order to examine and compare for the first time their transnational reception. Sankara not only compares the ways in which a wide selection of autobiographies were received locally as well as in France but also juxtaposes reception by the colonized and the colonizer to show how different meanings were assigned to the works after publication.

Sankara’s geographical and cultural coverage of Africa and its diaspora is rich, with separate chapters devoted to the autobiographies of Hampâté Bâ, Valentin Mudimbé, Kesso Barry, Patrick Chamoiseau, Raphaël Confiant, and Maryse Condé. He combines close reading, reception study, and postcolonial theory to present an insightful survey of the literary connections among his chosen autobiographers as well as a useful point of departure for further exploration of the genre itself, of the role of reception studies in postcolonial criticism, and of the stance that postcolonial Francophone writers choose to take regarding their communities of origin.

Edgard Sankara is Assistant Professor of French and Francophone Studies at the University of Delaware.

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