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Nubia and Nubians: The 'Museumization' of a Culture

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Stellingen behorend bij het proefschrift

Nubia and Nubians: The 'Museumization' of a Culture

van Maria Costanza de Simone

- 1) Nubia, located in what is now Egypt and the Republic of the Sudan, is a contested field in etymological, geographical, linguistic and historical terms and approaches.
- 2) The history of the formation of Nubian identity, which has survived in the vitality and individualism of present-day *Nubiin*, is the result of interweaving realities.
- 3) Today Nubia is in danger of being totally submerged beneath the waters of an extensive damming program. From an archeological point of view, this has made it one of the most excavated corners of the world.
- 4) From the perspective of comparative research, it is extremely unfortunate that the heritage of Nubia has been diluted by the overwhelming remains of the majesty of Pharaonic Egypt.
- 5) The emphasis on the archeology of Nubia has dominated scholarly research obscuring other aspects of Nubian life and culture.
- 6) Museums will become 'the only and sole alternative' venues where ancient Nubian culture, submerged *in situ*, can still be admired and understood.
- 7) The complicated nature of Nubian artifacts has made their mapping in museums worldwide a real work of detection.
- 8) The 'analytic tour' of Nubia collections fosters a better understanding of these collections. It raises the question of whether such collections and exhibitions have a role in defining or creating Nubian heritage, independently of or at variance with the Nubians' concept of their own past.
- 9) The Nubian collections kept in museums display great diversity, ranging from prehistory to modern times.
- 10) The interactive exhibition of archeological materials and present-day productions and traditions from the living communities in which the collections reside offers more opportunities for rediscovery and educational enrichment.