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Please give me my divorce: an ethnography of Muslim women and the law in Senegal

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'Please Give Me My Divorce'

An Ethnography of Muslim Women and
the Law in Senegal

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the Law in Senegal

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Glossary of Selected Terms

<i>Bayale</i> (Wol.):	mandatary, person who stands in for the father of the groom or the bride and asks and offers the bride in marriage and act as witness.
<i>Céyt</i> (Wol.):	ceremony that marks the moment the wife moves into her husband's household.
<i>Chef de quartier</i> (Fr.):	neighbourhood chief, most prominent neighbourhood notable. A <i>chef de quartier</i> is selected by the population and is subsequently, formally appointed by the municipality.
<i>Cheikh</i> (Wol./Fr.):	religious Sufi authority capable of officially initiating people into a Sufi order, from <i>shaykh</i> (Ar.). Within the Tijāniyya order the term <i>muqaddam</i> is used.
<i>Convocation</i> (Fr.):	court summons, or mediation request (House of Justice).
<i>Core territories:</i>	see: <i>Quatres communes</i> .
<i>Daayira</i> (Wol.):	groups of worship, linked to a Sufi order (may be dedicated to a specific marabout and/or specific city or neighbourhood), from <i>dā'ira</i> (Ar.).
<i>Fay / fayle</i> (Wol.):	a wife's return to her parental home.
<i>Gammu</i> (Wol.):	Mawlid (Ar.), the Prophet's birthday.
<i>Khalife Général</i> (Fr.):	head of one of the Sufi orders.
<i>Kilifa</i> (Wol.)	moral authority of family and household (person who is morally responsible for others), from <i>khalifa</i> (Ar.).
<i>Korite</i> (Wol.):	Eid al-Fitr (Ar.), marks the end of Ramadan.
<i>Marabout</i> (Wol./Fr.):	religious notable of any stature (also: <i>sëriñ</i>).
<i>Muñ</i> (Wol.):	patient, uncomplaining, and collected (also used as verb: to be patient and to persevere).
<i>Muqaddam</i> (Ar.):	see <i>Cheikh</i> .
<i>Protectorate:</i>	Territory controlled by the French beyond the <i>quatres communes</i> during the colonial period. Inhabitants were French subjects.
<i>Quatres communes</i> (Fr.):	the four municipalities (St. Louis, Gorée, Dakar, Rufisque) that acquired equal rights to their French metropolitan counterparts during the colonial period. Residents acquired French citizenship.

<i>Sufi order:</i>	Social organization formed around families or lineages with a saintly reputation, referred to as <i>tarixa</i> in Wolof and <i>tariqa</i> in Arabic. The three main Sufi orders in Senegal are the Tijāniyya, Qadiriyya and Muridiyya. Followers pledge allegiance in a number of ways, but primarily express belonging through self-identification.
<i>Sutura (Wol.):</i>	privacy, modesty, discretion.
<i>Tabaski Wol.):</i>	Eid al-Adha, feast of the sacrifice.
<i>Takk (Wol.):</i>	contracting of a marriage. Marriage is generally referred to with <i>sey</i> (Wol.), which also denotes sexual intercourse.
<i>Tas (Wol.):</i>	divorce.
<i>Zawiya (Ar.):</i>	Sufi lodge or branch, linked to an order (e.g. Sy <i>zawiya</i> of Tivaouane).

Note on transliteration and spelling

In this dissertation Wolof words are transliterated according to the system set by the *Centre de linguistique appliquée de Dakar* (CLAD). I write names (including pseudonyms) and place names according to French conventions: this is how people tend to write them and how they would appear in official documents. Arabic terms are transliterated according to a simplified version of the system used in Hans Wehr's *Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic*. This means that I indicate the Arabic hamza (') and ayn ('), but that I do not use other diacritical marks and do not extend vowels. For Arabic terms that have been adopted into English, I adhere to English spelling.

Note on Chapter 4 and Chapter 7

Parts of Chapter 4 and Chapter 7 have been published as articles; see Bouland 2021 (Chapter 4) and Bouland 2020 (Chapter 7).

Note on the title

From the formula '*may ma sama baat*' (Wol.), used by women to request release from marriage. Literally, the formula means give me my voice.