

# FINNISH AFRICANIST'S WORK GETS INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION TUULIKKI PIETILÄ RECEIVES THE 2009 AIDOO-SNYDER BOOK PRIZE

The winner of the 2009 Aidoo-Snyder Book Prize is Tuulikki Pietilä for her book *Gossip, Markets, and Gender: How Dialogue Constructs Moral Value in Post-Socialist Kilimanjaro* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2007). The Aidoo-Snyder Book Prize is awarded annually by the Women's Caucus of the African Studies Association for an outstanding book by a woman that prioritizes African women's experiences. Thus it seeks to acknowledge the excellence of contemporary scholarship being produced by women about women in Africa. The prize was awarded for the first time in 2005 and it is given in alternate years to scholarly and creative work. Pietilä is the third winner of the scholarly award. The prize is named in honor of Ama Ata Aidoo, the famous Ghanaian author and playwright, and Margaret Snyder, the founding director of United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

The award-winning book examines the effects of the liberalization and growth of market economy in Tanzania in the mid-1990s. It is an ethnographic study that focuses on the lives of women market traders in the Kilimanjaro area. The book opens a new perspective on the local level impacts of economic globalization by combining sociolinguistic approaches to speech, conversation and storytelling, with an anthropological analysis of gender, personhood, exchange and trade. *Gossip, Markets, and Gender* was reviewed in the *Suomen Antropologi* winter issue 2007 by Professor Dorothy L. Hodgson from Rutgers University and was acclaimed as "one of the most nuanced, accessible and engaging studies of changing gender relations" in recent times. Pietilä's book has also received favorable reviews in *American Ethnologist*, *Ethos*, and *African Studies Review*.

Pietilä is one of the leading Africanist scholars in Finland and her work forms an important part of a well-established anthropological research tradition on Tanzania. She lectures in the department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Helsinki, though presently on leave of absence working as a Finnish Academy research fellow. Pietilä's current research project is titled "Globalization of African Music" and it investigates the networks and agents involved in producing and distributing African music for the domestic and international markets. Her most recent publications include an edited volume titled *World Music: Roots and Routes* (COLLeGIUM, 2009).

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