Gabriel Faimau & William O. Lesitaokana (2018)(eds.), *New Media and the Mediatisation of Religion: An African Perspective*, **Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishers, 173 pages, ISBN: 978-7-5275-0902-3**

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The book entitled *New Media and the Mediatisation of Religion: An African Perspective,* co-edited by Gabriel Faimau and William O. Lesitaokana explores and examines how new media shapes religious discourses of different perspectives and multifaceted characteristics in various parts of Africa. The book greatly enriches the existing scholarship in new media and religion in Africa.

The introduction of the book provides a general overview of the relationship between religion and media in Africa. It also shows how new media has changed the ways in which religious beliefs are practiced and as well as how they have altered the way religious meanings are expressed. The book has demonstrated that media has a role of impacting on religious discourses to produce interesting social and cultural manifestations.

The book contains nine very interesting chapters. Chapter one explores the notion of prophetic activities and the role of new media in shaping and influencing religious language, expression, methods and styles. Chapter two discusses the relationship between media, sociality and religiosity on the Christian community in Zimbabwe. Chapter three examines the ways in which religion is practiced in online spaces in Botswana. The use of Facebook is, for instance, presented as being used in prophetic ministries to present prophets as highly respected, and powerful figures. Chapter four focuses on the popularity of religion and religious groups as they appear on Facebook among the youth in Botswana. The point being made here is that through religious communication, social media provides users with a sense of community. Chapter five interrogates how modern Pentecostal Christians appropriate new media technologies, with its implications and effects on Christian identity formation and negotiation in terms of history and in shaping Christian identity. It highlights on how modern media technologies have transformed the traditional approaches and consequently producing a new Christian identity, which the chapter presents as an e-Christianity. Chapter six considers the digital religion and the impact of technology with a focus on a popular prophetic Christian Church in Botswana, that is, the Gospel of God's Grace (popularly known as the 3G Ministries). This process is seen as enhancing the religious authority of the prophet and shaping a particular religious identity and producing a unique religious community. Chapter seven shows how online platforms provide religious satisfaction among the followers of popular Christian preachers in Africa. The impact of the Facebook page of five popular Nigerian preachers with churches and followers across Africa is highlighted. The appropriation of new information and communication technologies become outlets for world evangelism and also creating new forms of Christianity through online platforms. Chapter eight examines the relationship between new media, religious rhetoric and gendered power relations in Malawi. It concludes that the internet and the multiple media platforms have strengthened and promoted

patriarchal religious and cultural beliefs. Chapter nine, which is the final chapter of the book, uses the case of Boko Haram insurgence in Nigeria, to show how the media has become a critical and invaluable tool in the dissemination of radical Islamic teachings. It also shows how new media has been used to propagate violent radical doctrines and also as a means of negotiation with the state.

In conclusion, therefore, the book, makes an immense contribution to scholarship, particularly on the impact of media on religion in Africa, which it argues continuously shapes religious practice, meaning, and expression.