

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	vi
<i>Foreword</i>	vii
1 <i>The past and the present in the present</i>	1
2 <i>Symbols, song, dance and features of articulation: Is religion an extreme form of traditional authority?</i>	19
3 <i>The disconnection between power and rank as a process: an outline of the development of kingdoms in central Madagascar</i>	46
4 <i>Marriage amongst equals: an analysis of the marriage ceremony of the Merina of Madagascar</i>	89
5 <i>From cognition to ideology</i>	106
6 <i>Hierarchy and equality in Merina kinship</i>	137
7 <i>Descent and sources of contradiction in representations of women and kinship</i>	152
8 <i>Almost eating the ancestors</i>	166
9 <i>The ritual of the royal bath in Madagascar: the dissolution of death, birth and fertility into authority</i>	187
<i>Notes</i>	212
<i>Bibliography</i>	223
<i>Index</i>	233