

JAH Forum

TRANS-SAHARAN HISTORIES

These two contributions constitute this issue's *JAH Forum*. Forums are intended to spark wide-ranging discussions within the journal and to encourage debate with our colleagues outside of African history on significant trends and cutting-edge developments in dynamic subfields of African history. Each *Forum* consists of two or more essays on a topic of broad interest within African history and beyond. When inviting contributions, the *JAH* editors ask authors to discuss the proposed topic from their own unique perspectives while providing some assessment of existing scholarship – both historical and interdisciplinary – and some suggestion of where future studies might or should be heading. For this *JAH Forum* on Trans-Saharan Histories, we asked Ghislaine Lydon and Baz Lecocq to consider the historical scholarship on the Sahara. We are very pleased to be able to share their insights, which – in different ways – build on a detailed and critical discussion of centuries of scholarship to challenge the idea of a Saharan divide, problematize the cliché of the desert as an ocean, and develop an alternative paradigm of a trans-Saharan region which merits study in its own right.