

RASTAFARI TRANSNATIONAL CONNECTIONS AND MULTILINGUALISM: A PICTURE SERIES

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Rastafari is a global phenomenon with far-stretching networks and communities all over the world. It connects various places but in particular Jamaica and Ethiopia, bringing together different languages and establishing emblematic linguistic practices. Rastafari emerged in the 1930s in Jamaica and focuses on Ethiopia in African identity formations and as home in Repatriation discourses and practices. Ethiopia is host to a global Rastafari community in Shashemene, in which Jamaican Rastafari constitute a majority. The photos in this picture series were taken in Shashemene, Ethiopia (2014) and Kingston, Jamaica (2015) and give impressions of the linguistic landscapes which reflect local contexts and transnational connections.³



ራስ ተፋሪ Ras Tafari (Shashemene, Ethiopia)



መስቀል ስክዌር Mesk'el Square at the veggie meals on wheels restaurant (Kingston, Jamaica)

Front of a house (Shashemene, Ethiopia)



Irie Hardware: the commodification of Rasta language (Kingston, Jamaica)

³ I extend my warmest gratitude to the Global South Studies Center for financing my research trips on which the photos presented here were taken.



Zion Train Lodge (Shashemene, Ethiopia)



Health food (Shashemene, Ethiopia)



Simiya House (Kingston, Jamaica)



"Today's menu" at the veggie meals on wheels restaurant (Kingston, Jamaica)



Oromo & Rasta Love (Shashemene, Ethiopia)



Wall at the veggie meals on wheels restaurant (Kingston, Jamaica)