Record Nr. UNINA9910493663403321 Autore Stroeken Koen Titolo Moral power [[electronic resource]]: the magic of witchcraft / / Koen Stroeken New York, : Berghahn Books, 2010 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-84545-849-4 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (284 p.) Collana Epistemologies of healing;; v. 9 133.4/3 Disciplina 133.43 Soggetti Witchcraft Electronic books. Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto 1. Introduction: the meaning of witchcraft -- 2. Why magic works: systemic healing -- 3. The dancer: gift and sacrifice -- 4. Four forms of social exchange -- 5. The witch: moral power and intrusion -- 6. Divination: a healing journey -- 7. The 'pure' reason of witch killing --8. Spirit possession: incarnating moral power -- 9. Magic, ritual and the senses. Sommario/riassunto Neither power nor morality but both. Moral power is what the Sukuma from Tanzania in times of crisis attribute to an unknown figure they call their witch. A universal process is involved, as much bodily as social, which obstructs the patient's recovery. Healers turn the table on the witch through rituals showing that the community and the ancestral spirits side with the victim. In contrast to biomedicine, their magic and divination introduce moral values that assess the state of the system and that remove the obstacles to what is taken as key: self-healing.

The implied 'sensory shifts' and the