Record Nr. UNINA9910826573603321 Autore Smith James H. <1970-> Titolo Email from Ngeti: an ethnography of sorcery, redemption, and friendship in global Africa / / James H. Smith and Ngeti Mwadime Pubbl/distr/stampa Oakland, California: .: University of California Press. . 2014 ©2014 **ISBN** 0-520-28112-8 0-520-95940-X Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (241 pages) Disciplina 305.896/395 Soggetti Taita (African people) - Social life and customs Taita (African people) - Religious life Witchcraft - Kenya - Taita Hills Ethnography Taita Hills (Kenya) Social life and customs 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. Nota di contenuto Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- 1. Emails from the

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Bibliography

Sommario/riassunto Email from Ngeti is a captivating story of sorcery, redemption, and

transnational friendship in the globalized twenty-first century. When the anthropologist James Smith returns to Kenya to begin fieldwork for a new research project, he meets Ngeti Mwadime, a young man from the Taita Hills who is as interested in the United States as Smith is in Taita. Ngeti possesses a savvy sense of humor and an unusual command of the English language, which he teaches himself by watching American movies and memorizing the Oxford English Dictionary. Smith and Mwadime soon develop a friendship that comes to span years and continents, impacting both men in profound and unexpected ways. For Smith, Ngeti can be understood as an exemplar

of a young generation of Africans navigating the multiplicity of contemporary African life-a process that is augmented by globalized culture and the Internet. Keenly aware of the world outside Taita and Kenya, Ngeti dreams big, with endless plans for striking it rich. As he struggles to free himself from what he imagines to be the hold of the past, he embarks on an odyssey that takes him to local diviners, witch-finders, Pentecostal preachers, and prophets. This is the fascinating ethnography of Mwadime and Smith, largely told through their shared emails, journals, and recorded conversations in the field. Throughout, the reader is struck by the immediacy and poignancy of coauthor Ngeti's narrative, which marks a groundbreaking shift in the nature of anthropological fieldwork and writing.