Bungoma, the knowledge and practice of ‘traditional healing’ in eastern Mpumalanga, is built on the fundamental premise that all persons are exposed to each other and to other person-like agents, including ancestors and witches, among others. In Healing the Exposed Being, Robert Thornton presents a new vocabulary and ontology for understanding fundamental concepts of this regional version of ‘Ngoma’ cult, found throughout the Bantu language-speaking areas in Africa. He provides a more integrated anthropological account of beliefs and practices that have survived from pre-colonial to postcolonial times, describing them in their own terms rather than presenting them as a reflex of modernity or reaction to colonialism, or as a consequence of neoliberalism or other social, political, economic or historical factors.

Join us for a discussion with the author, Robert Thornton and respondents Sinethemba Makhanya and Jonathan Stadler on what Bungoma is and how it aims to enable patients to heal themselves.

**HEALING THE EXPOSED BEING**
A SOUTH AFRICAN NGOMA TRADITION
by Robert J Thornton

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