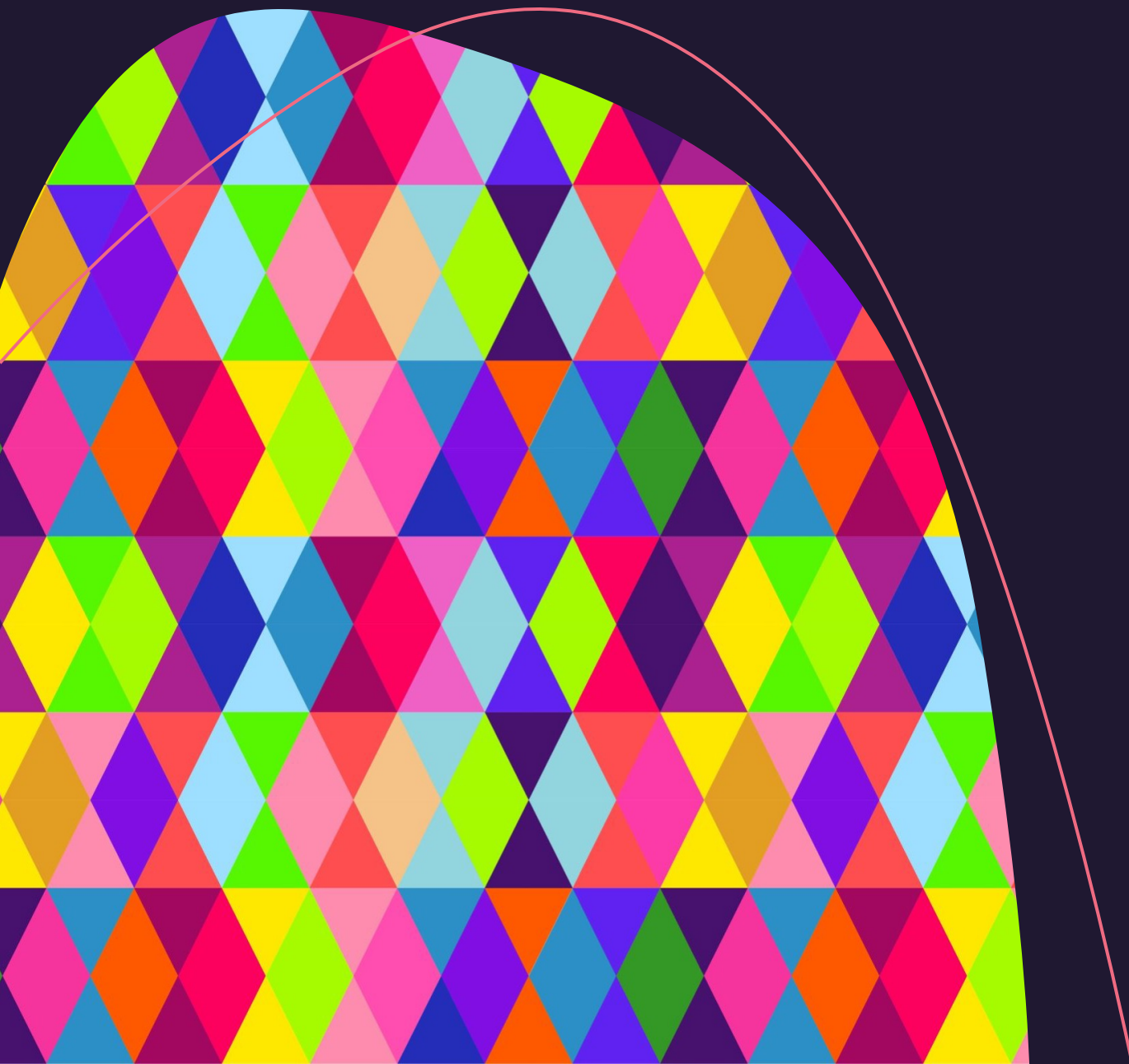




The Ju/hoansi

The Kalahari Desert, Straddling
the borders of Namibia and
Botswana, southern Africa

Location ASAL region





Overview of academic discourse about the Ju/Hoansi

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark skin and short, braided hair, looking slightly to the left. She is wearing a colorful beaded necklace. A young child with dark skin and short hair is sitting on her back, looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred, natural outdoor setting.

Naming in the literature

2 groups:

1. The San (foragers)
2. The Khoi (pastoralists)

Often described as the Khoisan.



Seasons and mobility

BARA	TOBE	GUM	GAA	HUMA
Summer	Autumn	Winter	Early Spring	Spring Rains
HOT RAINY	COOLER DRYING	COOL VERY DRY Freezing nights	HOT DRY 110F days	HOT WET/DRY
DEC - MAR	APRIL - MAY	JUNE - AUG	SEPT - OCT - NOV	
Short stay camps By seasonal water holes	The possibility of 'dry' spans across April - Oct/Nov Camps tend to be near permanent water holes			

Adapted from Lee, R. 2003. *The Dobe Ju/Hoansi* (3rd ed) Canada: Thompson



Settlements vary
depending on the
season

Approximation of a typical camp



Politics and Governance - egalitarianism



- Acephalous
- No specialisation
- Group decisions, consensus
- All influence; age trumps
- Gender equality
- Employ levelling mechanisms



Levelling mechanism: Insulting the meat

- *Pride needs cooling*
- Meat brought back from the hunt is treated with disdain
- Hunters are expected to be modest

Economics – property and ownership

- People own things* but items are circulated to consolidate social bonds.
- Many items are shared.

*Songs, spells, family own areas of land



Belief system

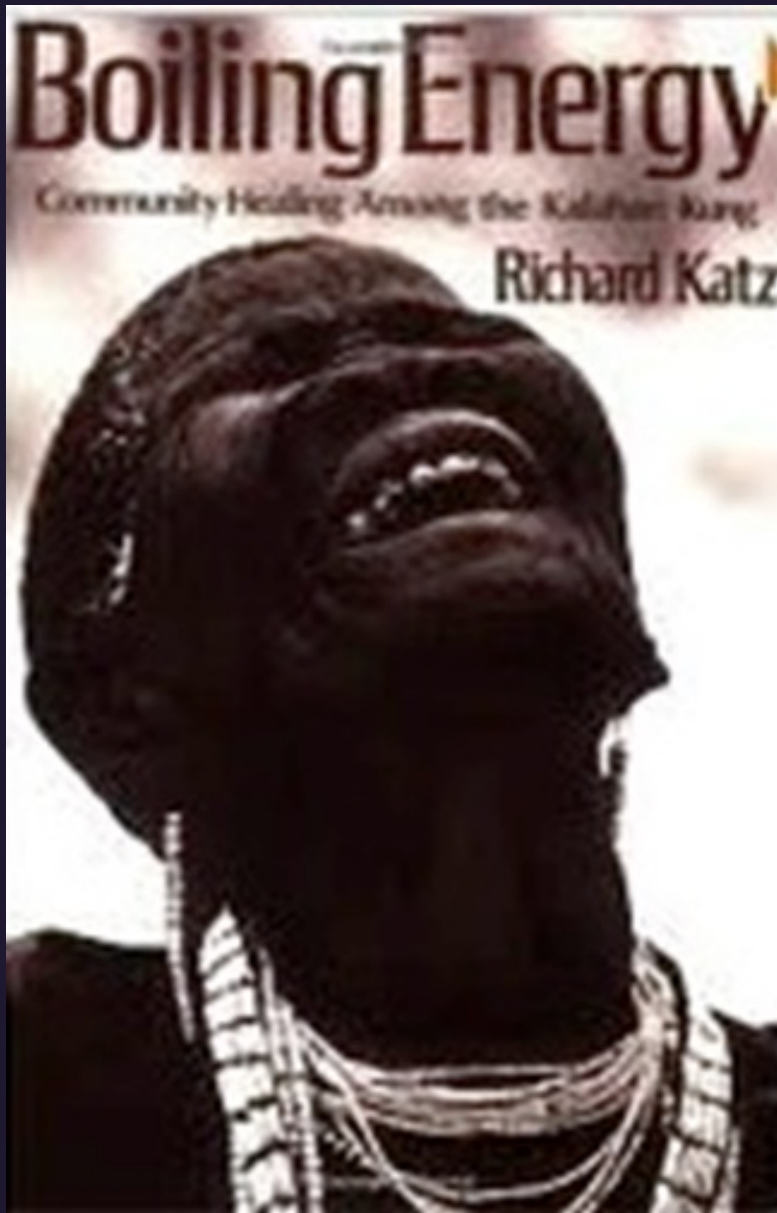


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- The world is inhabited by a group of supernatural beings. 2 main gods and a selection of other spirits.
- Misfortune is attributed to dead relatives. Regular rituals are used to negotiate with their ghosts.

All night healing
rituals (*N/um
Tchai*)





N/um and noise

- *N/um* describes the energy one can generate to heal others
- *N/um* resides in the stomach.
- It explodes in you and throws you into the air when you make it.
- You heat up, die and are reborn.

N/um 'being able to accept the unknown' (Katz, 1976: 300)



DER 1950s
footage



San rock art –
raising kia
and n/um

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