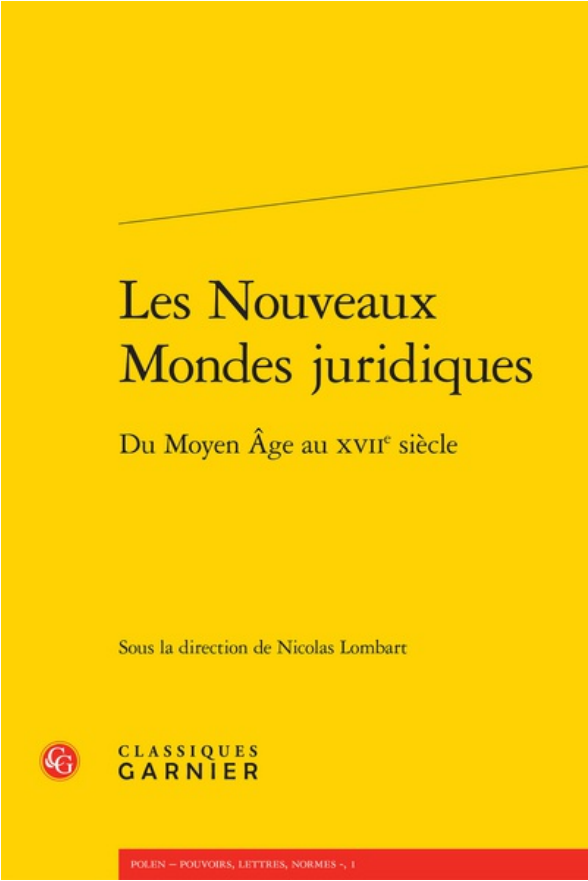


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Law and Lawlessness in Late-Medieval Representations of the Indian Ocean World

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- **Collective work:**
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[. Du Moyen Âge au xvii^e siècle](#)
- **Author:** O'Doherty (Marianne)
- **Abstract:** This article reveals the preoccupation with the law evident in medieval travellers' ethnographic descriptions of the world of the Indian Ocean. It examines the emergence of a growing juridical awareness of the Orient by the Christian West between the thirteenth and the fifteenth centuries by way of two traditions inherited from the *Roman* of Alexander and the *Lettre* of Prester Jean. Christian travellers' observations of juridico-political diversity enabled the unknown to be introduced into familiar categories.
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