

Contents

<i>List of Illustrations</i>	page xi
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xii
<i>Notes on Orthography and Translation</i>	xvii
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xviii
Introduction: A Saharan Ontology of the Invisible	1
Part I Knowledge and Authority in Precolonial Contexts	39
1 Principles of Provenance: Origins, Debates, and Social Structures of <i>l'ḥjāb</i> in the Saharan West	41
2 Local Wisdom: Contestations over <i>l'ḥjāb</i> in the Eighteenth–Nineteenth Centuries	74
Part II Rupture, Consonance, and Innovation in Colonial and Postcolonial Mauritania	107
3 Colonial Logics of Islam: Managing the Threat of <i>l'ḥjāb</i>	109
4 Postcolonial Transfigurations: Contesting <i>l'ḥjāb</i> in the Era of Social Media	156
Part III Articulating Race, Gender, and Social Difference through the Esoteric Sciences	185
5 Desert Panic: Bloodsucking Accusations and the Terror of Social Change	187

x	Contents	
6	<i>Sui Generis</i> : Genealogical Claims to the Past and the Transmission of <i>l'ḥjāb</i>	222
	Epilogue	268
	<i>Glossary</i>	281
	<i>Bibliography</i>	287
	<i>Index</i>	325