

Ethnoarchaeological musings on the organisation of Dogon residential space and time, forty years on

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In part, this paper is intended as a reflection on my own brief episodes of research in the early 1980s documenting the organisation of household space and the composition of household inventories in the village of Banani Kokoro at the foot of the Bandiagra escarpment, and in some of its daughter settlements in the Séno Plain, and how such material patterns appeared to relate to the domestic cycle of the patrilineage. While some of these observations have been published, others have remained buried in my unpublished doctoral thesis that until recently was difficult to access, even digitally. This symposium is an ideal forum in which to summarise these lesser-known elements of my research. However, it is important to acknowledge the limitations of these findings, and to ask in what ways might the results of ethnoarchaeological research conducted forty years ago have value or utility in the present aside from offering a brief and partial snapshot of a world that no longer exists. It is on these questions the paper will ultimately focus.



Banani Kokoro, 1983, by Paul Lane