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## Violent Conversion

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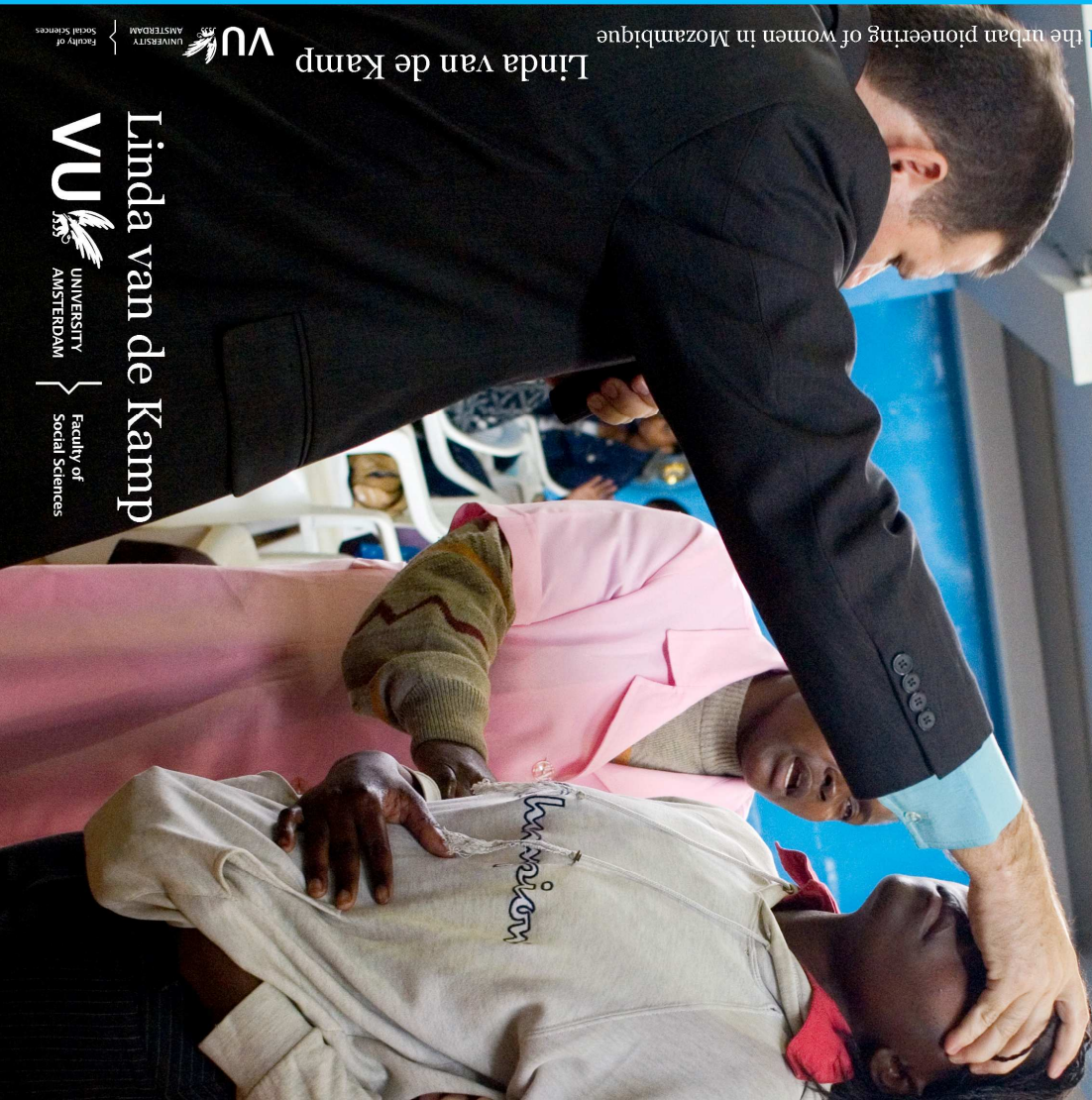
Violent Conversion  
Brazilian Pentecostalism and the urban  
pioneering of women in Mozambique

# Violent Conversion

## Brazilian Pentecostalism and the urban pioneering of women in Mozambique

Brazilian Pentecostals are establishing new transnational Christian connections in Africa. This book describes the fascinating growth of Pentecostal churches in Maputo, the capital of Mozambique, many of which have their roots in Brazil. These churches are attracting large numbers of successful, upwardly mobile women. Strikingly, and unlike other research into Pentecostalism, this study concludes that many Pentecostal women are not finding a happy family life, comfort and support after converting. On the contrary, the process of conversion to Brazilian Pentecostalism is frequently turning out to be violent as tensions in converts' relationships escalate and many find themselves bankrupt as a result of the high financial demands placed on them by the Pentecostal pastors. Conversion thus involves enforcing change and moving frontiers as Pentecostal women are conquering (*conquistar*) new spiritual, cultural, political and socio-economic terrains through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Linda van de Kamp** is a cultural anthropologist. She is working at the African Studies Centre in Leiden, the Netherlands, where her research activities focus on Brazil-Africa relations, religion, family, marriage, sexuality, gender, urban issues, violence and development.



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