

Dear ALA Membership,

As editors of the annual volume of essays arising from the 40th annual African Literature Association conference held in Johannesburg, South Africa in April 2014 we invite conference participants to send us article-length essays on the broad conference theme of “Texts, Modes and Repertoires of Living In and Beyond the Shadows of Apartheid”. The volume will appear as a Special Issue of the Journal of the African Literature Association and will be edited by Maureen Eke (series editor), Bhekizizwe Peterson (guest editor) and Abioseh Porter (JALA editor).

As a political system and concept, apartheid occupied a complicated status in local and global imaginaries. It signified one of the most totalising attempts at racial social engineering, encompassing economic, socio-political and cultural policies as well as interventions into the most fundamental elements of everyday life. Today, apartheid has become shorthand for contesting different kinds of discrimination, segregation and exploitation across the world. The term can be usefully deployed as a catalyst for also speaking to other experiences and case-studies. Such an inflection, when used pointedly and imaginatively, can be productive, whether in localised or global comparative frameworks.

One central aesthetic response to the demands of life and ‘apartheids’ is an abiding reliance on the complexities and politics of the quotidian; the everyday. The everyday longings for basic necessities and also for joy, love, beauty, community and democracy present some of the most politically affective and effective occasions that call into question the dominant ideas and networks of the state and other powerful national and international forces. Artists and citizens – through recourse to texts, modes and repertoires of living – have proffered alternative narratives, senses of self, memories and hopes for the future.

Possible areas of focus include:

Self, time, space and the poetics and politics of the everyday

‘Apartheids’ and ‘partitions’

The saliences and antinomies of the quotidian

The ordinary and fantasy as sites of alternative epistemologies

Bodies and power

Consumption cultures and performance

Sexualities and subjectivities

The dis(contents) of affective states

The worlds and lives of things

History, violence, trauma and memory

Myth, movements and auto/biography

Adaptation and translation of identities, languages and texts

Media, communicative ecologies and cartographies of alienation and/or belonging

Popular forms, spaces and sub-°-cultures of personhood and social renewal

Ruins, remainders, residues

Essays should be between 5,000 and 8,000 words; using MLA format for layout and citation. Please send your essays electronically to Bhekizizwe Peterson at Bhekizizwe.Peterson@wits.ac.za as Word documents and ensure that all files are free of viruses and any other bugs. If you submit your essay for consideration in this volume we kindly ask that you not submit it elsewhere at the same time. Essays should reach us before the end of business on 30 June 2014.

The full time--line for the volume will be as follows:

- 1) 30 June 2014 — papers for consideration should be received by editors
- 2) 30 November 2014 — editors to have made preliminary selection of papers to be accepted as essays in volume
- 3) April 2015 — essays to have been selected, revised, and edited
- 4) September 2015 — introduction, etc. to have been written; ms prepared for publication.

Best regards,

Maureen Eke, Bhekizizwe Peterson, Abioseh Porter