

46th Annual meeting of the African Literature Association

**BEYOND CENSORSHIP?
Literature, Film, Media and Public Discourse**

May 26-29, 2021
Online conference

Time zone is Eastern Daylight Time; all sessions are live and synchronous unless otherwise indicated. Time in Lagos is plus 5 hours, time in Cape Town is plus 6 hours. 9:00 am Eastern = 2:00 pm Lagos, 3:00 pm Cape Town.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26

OPENING SESSION 1:00 -1:30 pm.

Welcome from ALA President Ghirmai Negash, and explanation of schedule and conference platform.

SESSION A Panels 1:45 - 3:15 pm.

A-1 Censorship and the Sierra Leonean Imagination

Chair: Arthur Onipede Hollist (University of Tampa)

Joyce Dixon-Fyle (DePauw University) “Self-censorship and gendered violence in Rachel Massaquoi’s *The Wind Within* and Hamitraoré’s *Le Couteau brûlant*”

Mohamed Kamara (Washington and Lee University) “Self-Censorship in the Sierra Leonean Novel: The Case of *Canfira’s Travels* by Eustace Palmer”

Abioseh Michael Porter (Drexel University) “Using the City and Other Areas as Arenas to Combat Censorship”

Arthur Onipede Hollist (University of Tampa) “African Literature in the Age of the Alexa, Siri, and Google Oracles: A Case Study of Digital Censorship in the Teaching of Sierra Leone’s Bakar Mansaray’s *A Suitcase Full of Dried Fish* and Chimamanda Adichie’s *The Thing Around Your Neck*”

A-2 Censorship and the Legal System

Chair: Henrietta Okafor (University of Nigeria-Nsukka)

Hillary Kowino (University of Minnesota-Duluth) “Rethinking Dissidence and Resistance to Censorship: A Tribute to the Fallen Activists”

Henrietta Okafor (University of Nigeria-Nsukka) “Prison Notes as a form of Protest against Censorship in African Literature”

Blair Watson (Eastern Illinois University) “Western Creolization: Censoring the French legal system in Achille Ngoye’s *Ballet noir à château-rouge*”

A-3 This Woman's Work: Examining the contributions of Omofolabo Ajayi Soyinka to African Literature, Theatre and Dance

Sponsored by PATCALA

Chair: Joy Wrolson (unaffiliated)

Akachi Ezeigbo (Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike) “When hope is all you've got: Migration and Integration in Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka's Short Fiction”

Modupe Olaogun (YorkUniversity) “From Our Mothers’ Backcloth: Imagining Ajayi-Soyinka Choreographing a Drama of the Egba Women’s Revolt of the 1940s”

Pelumi Folajimi (Louisiana State University) “Postcolonial Precarity and the Travail of the Nigerian Woman: “Double Patriarchy” and the Nigerian Film”

A-4 Exile and Self-censorship in Hispanophone and Lusophone African writings

Sponsored by LHCALA

Chair: Dorothy Odattey-Wellington (University of Guelph)

Beatriz Celaya-Carrillo (University of Cincinnati) “Juan Latino: Within and Beyond Paradox”

Dosinda Alvite (Dennison University) “Pertenenencia, alienación, neocolonialismo y supervivencia cultural en la literatura de Guinea Ecuatorial”

Joanna Boampong (University of Ghana) “Cartooning and Blogging beyond Censorship: Readings on Two Actors of Equatorial Guinean Letters”

Estelle Finley (Spelman College) “Mediation of the Voice of the Writer in Equatorial Guinean Reality”

A-5 The Complexities of Silence and Speaking Out: Narratives about Sexual and Domestic Violence in African Writing

Chair: Heather Hewett

Nafeesa Nichols (Western Norway University of Applied Sciences) “Intimate Violence and Sexual Assault in Kopano Matlwa’s *Coconut*: Carving Spaces of Feminist Liberation in Post-Apartheid South African Literature”

Joyce Abla Sango (University of Bayreuth) “Rethinking Neo-Colonialism and Sexual Violence in *Trafficked* by Akachi Adimora-Ezeigbe (2008)”

Monica Agena (Makerere University) “Harnessing cultural resources through anthropological writing to avert Gender Based Violence”

Heather Hewett (State University of New York -New Paltz) “Theorizing “Toxic” Masculinity across Cultures and Nations: The Case of Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart*”

A-6 Flora Nwapa

WOCALA sponsored event

Chair: Thelma Pinto

Thelma Pinto
Virginia Phiri
Maria Umeh,
Uzoma Nwakuche

A-7 Homecoming: In the Indelible Spaces Between Censorship and Success. Celebrating Toni Morrison as Ancestor through her Works and Contributions to African American and African Diaspora Literature

Chair: Maureen Eke (Central Michigan University)

P. Jane Splawn (Livingstone College) “Black Self Love and Healing in Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*”

Kate Harlin (Eureka College) “Swim, Run, Jump: Black Feminist Grammars and the Afterlives of *Song of Solomon*”

Otymeyin Agbajoh-Laoye (Monmouth University) “Reburials and Memorials: Returning the Dead: Toni Morrison and Africanisms”

A-8 Censorship in/and Contemporary African Fiction

Chair: Patoimbasba Nikiema (University of Pittsburgh)

Patoimbasba Nikiema (University of Pittsburgh) “Are We Out Yet? An Exploration of Africa’s Postcolonial Situation in Mabanckou’s *Les Cigognes Sont Immortelles*”

Vincent Odamtan (Hamilton College) “Writing and Reading Beyond Censorship: Provisional Strategies”

Comfort Azubuko-Udah (UCLA) “Censored Identities: Navigating Secular and Religious Censorship in Akwaeke Emezi’s *Freshwater*”

SESSION B Panels 3:30 - 4:45 pm.

B-1 African Eco-criticisms

Chair: Isaac Joslin (Arizona State University)

Isaac Joslin (Arizona State University) “The Language of Colonialism and the Implicit Censorship of Subalterity”

Mary Okolie (University of Nigeria-Nsukka) “Entangled Spaces: Politics and the Environment in Helon Habila’s *Oil on Water*.”

Frank Merksamer (University of Nevada, Reno) “Political Liberation in Botswana: Representations of Land in Fiction by Bessie Head and Unity Dow”

B-2 Chris Anyanwu and Helon Habila

Chair: Sara Faradji (University of Maryland-College Park)

Isabel Schroeder (Humboldt University, Berlin) “Chris Anyanwu: Un/Writing Silence”

Ayila Orkusa (University of Ngaoundere) “Trappings of Censorship in Helon Habila’s *Waiting for an Angel* and *Oil on Water*.”

Sara Faradji (University of Maryland-College Park) “The Griot’s Reawakening: Radical Narrations of Injustice in Helon Habila’s *Waiting for an Angel*”

B-3 Mongo Beti and Cameroonian Censorship

Chair: Janice Spleth (West Virginia University)

Ngozi Ogbodo (University of Nigeria-Nsukka) “A Sociocritical Analysis of the Censorship of the Creator and his Creation: Mongo Beti and *Perpetua*.”

Janice Spleth (West Virginia University) “Reclaiming Cameroon’s “Hidden War”: Mongo Beti’s *Remember Ruben* and Hemley Boum’s *Les Maquisards*”

NN Dzenchuo (Independent Scholar and Author) “Censored Nation - Cameroon.”

B-4 Migration, Translation and Transmediation: Movement across Language and Form as Evasion of Censorship

Chair: James McCorkle (Hobart and William Smith Colleges)

Ousseynou Traore (Independent Scholar) “Censure and Self-Censure in Wolof Griot Birayim Sekk Ngor”

James McCorkle (Hobart and William Smith Colleges) “Poetics of Migration and Memory: Josue Guebo’s *Songe a Lampedusa*”

Yewulsew Endalew (University of Oregon) “Gains and Losses of Transmediation in Mitigating Censorship Challenges” (Ethiopian written to visual transmission)

B-5 Roundtable: Enseignement et pratiques de la littérature dans les universités africaines face à la censure : de l’époque des indépendances à l’ère du Covid

Chair: Ruth Bush (University of Bristol)

Marie-Clémence Adom (Université Félix Houphouët Boigny)
Roger Fopa (Université de Maroua)
Romain Dédjinnaki Hounzandji (Université Abomey-Calavi)
Fernand Nouwligbéto (Université Abomey-Calavi)
Albert Jiatsa Jokeng (Université de Maroua)
Bacary Sarr (Université Cheikh Anta Diop)

B-6 Engaging the Multicultural Classroom: Pedagogy, Technology, and the Teaching of African Literature

ALA Executive Sponsored Roundtable (Research and Teaching Committee)

Co-Chairs: Pauline Uwakweh (North Carolina A&T State University) and Anne Carlson (Spelman College)

P. Julie Papaioannou (University of Rochester)
Brenda Randolph (Howard University)
Lily Saint (Wesleyan University)
Blessing Diala-Ogamba (Coppin State University)
Matthew Brown (University of Wisconsin -Madison)

B-7 Theater and Dance in South Africa: Choreographic Activism and Choreopolitics

Chair: Ketu Katrak (University of California-Irvine)

Ketu Katrak (University of California-Irvine) "On Jay Pather's Spatial Politics from Katrak's published book *Jay Pather, Performance and Spatial Politics in South Africa* (Indiana UP, 2021)." (Discount code provided)

Juanita Praeg (Rhodes University) "Choreopolitical Thresholds in Inner Piece, and The First Physical Theater Company (FPTC), South Africa: A Meditation on Aesthetic and Ethical Risk"

Pelumi Folajimi (Louisiana State University) "Morena and the South African Postcolonial Predicament: Reflections on Woza Albert!"

5:00-7:00 Meeting of the Executive Committee

THURSDAY, MAY 27

SESSION C panels 9:00 - 10:30 am.

C-1 Translation Practice: News and Voices from the Field

Sponsored by TRACALA

Co-Chairs: Joyce Ashuntantang (University of Hartford) and Keith Mokgangkgara Phêtlhê (Ohio University)

Pamela O Smith (University of Nebraska)

Wangui wa Goro (Independent Scholar)
Rose Bush (Bristol University)
Marjolijn de Jager

C-2 Self-Censorship and Women Writing

Sponsored by WOCALA

Chair: Elinettie Chabwera (Independent Author)

Margaret J. Simms Maddox (Livingstone University) “Why Women Writers Deprive Themselves of Freedom of Expression”

Elinettie Chabwera (Independent Author) “Self-Censorship and Women Writers: The Case of Malawi”

Virginia Phiri (Independent Author) “Liberated Voice”

C-3 Roundtable. African Literary Studies as A Cross-Disciplinary Enterprise

Chair: Jeanne-Marie Jackson-Awotwi (Johns Hopkins University)

Cajetan Iheka (Yale University)

Nathan Suhr-Sytsma (Emory University)

Lindsey Green-Simms (American University)

Jeanne-Marie Jackson-Awotwi (Johns Hopkins University)

C-4 South Africa

Chair: Kokouvi d’Almeida (University of Lomé)

Kokouvi d’Almeida (University of Lomé) “Alex La Guma: Challenging Censorship in South Africa”

Lisa Propst (Clarkson University) “Reconciliation, Social Transformation and Creativity in Yewande Omotoso's *The Woman Next Door*”

Astrid Starck-Adler (Université de Haute Alsace) “Exil et censure : l’œuvre de Lewis Nkosi sous le régime de l’apartheid”

Mirandah Shereni (Mount Royal University) “Apartheid Censorship Laws Did Not Deter Steve Biko from writing *I Write What I Like*”

C-5 Nigeria and Censorship

Chair: Christopher Anyokwu (University of Lagos)

Christopher Anyokwu (University of Lagos) “Speaking Truth to Power: Playing Dangerously in Niyi Osundare's *Midlife* and *The Word Is An Egg*”

Oluwatomisin Onabanjo (Brown University) “The Other Observes the Other: An Analysis of Third World Encounters in Nigerian Literature”

Ikechukwu Otuu Egbuta (Federal Polytechnic, Offa, Kwara State) “Throwing Stones Across Borders rereading Pius Adesanmi’s *Naija no dey Carry Last* in a Censored Society”

Izue Nwankwo (Johannes Gutenberg Universitat-Mainz) and Chukwuemeka Odumegwu (Ojukwu University, Nigeria) “For Fear of Offence: African Comedians and the Limits of Permissive Foolery”

C-6 The Asian Presence in East Africa: History, Community and Identity

Chair: Saima Nasar (University of Bristol)

Saima Nasar (University of Bristol) “Unity in Diversity? Re-thinking East African Asian identities”

Meghan Gorman-DaRif (San Jose State University) “Pirates any other name: indeterminacy as resistance in contemporary East African Literature”

May Joseph (Pratt Institute) “Nyerere, Dar es salaam, Affect Theory”

Discussant: Gaurav Desai

C-7 Critical Reflections on Censorship Across Genres and Platforms

Chair: Modupe Olaogun (York University)

Modupe Olaogun (York University) “Tsitsi Dangarembga’s *Tambudzai* Trilogy as an Exploration of the ‘Censored Nation’”

Daniel Mengara (Montclair State University) “Political Writing and Censorship in Africa in the Era of Facebook, YouTube and Other Social Media”

Luis Madureira (University of Wisconsin-Madison) “Angolan Revolutionary Theatre and the *Liberation Script*: Political Praxis of Censorship?”

SESSION D panels 10:45 am - 12:15 pm.

D-1 Panel I for Tejumola Olaniyan. In Theory, or the Necessity of Generalization

Chair: Adélékè Adéèkó (Ohio State University)

Akin Adésòkàn (Indiana University) “Making a Living in the Interregnum”

Tolulope Akinwale (University of Wisconsin-Madison) “The Interstitial, the Postinterstitial: Tejumola Olaniyan’s Method of Reading the American Racial Ecology”

Oladipupo Oyeleye (University of Wisconsin-Madison) “Rereading the Post-Global Age in the Afropolitan Novel”

Phyllis Taoua (University of Arizona) “Tejumola Olaniyan on Freedom and the African Diaspora”

D-2 Politics and the African Literary Imagination: Radicalism, Poetics and Translation

Chair: Monica Popescu (McGill University)

Monica Popescu (McGill University) “Pens and Guns: The Committed Writer during the Cold War”

Rachel Sandwell (McGill University) “Can a Mother Make a Metaphor? Radical Women’s Memoirs & the Narration of Motherhood”

Simon Lewis (College of Charleston) “The Meaning of Mandela: Nelson Mandela as Poetic Trope”

Wangui wa Goro (Independent Scholar) “ Translation and Censorship: Becoming Matigari”

D-3 Consumption and the Censor

Chair: Taiwo Oloruntoba-Oju (University of Ilorin)

Taiwo Oloruntoba-Oju (University of Ilorin) “Censorship and the Revolution in Nigerian Drama, Music and Public Media across Generations: Assessing the Threat Paradigm”

Fiona Farnsworth (University of Warwick) “It isn’t all just swallow and soup: Contemporary West African Food Narratives in the UK

Uchechukwu Agbo (University of Michigan) “Sexism in Nigerian Contemporary Music: the Tragedy of an Uncensored Industry”

D-4 Themes, Trends, Theories: Critical Routes for Research in African Literature in the 21st Century

(ALA-EC Sponsored Research Roundtable)

Co-Chairs: Pauline Uwakweh (North Carolina A&T State University) and Oumar Diop (Kennesaw State University)

Moradewun Adejunmobi (University of California, Davis)

Joya Uraizee (Saint Louis University)

Abioseh Porter (Drexel University)

D-5 Campus Forms

Chair: Anne Gulick (University of South Carolina)

Luleadey Worku (Qatar University) “EPRP’s Provenance and Fate: The Political dimension of Haile Selassie I University College in Tower in the Sky”

Anne Gulick (University of South Carolina) “Campus Forms and the Campus as War Zone”

Susanna Stacks (College of Wooster) “The Places of Protest: Representing Fallism Across Screens and Stages”

Carli Coetzee (*Journal of African Cultural Studies*) “Black literary Oxford, #Fallism and Failure”

12:15 - 1:15 pm. Lunch Break

SESSION E Panels 1:30 - 3:00 pm

E-1 Roundtable. “No choice but to erase”: 10 years of Christina Sharpe’s *Monstrous Intimacies*

Chair: Delali Kumavie (Northwestern University and the University of Virginia)

Delali Kumavie (Northwestern University and the University of Virginia)

Tyrone Palmer (Columbia University)

Zamansese Nsele (University of Johannesburg)

Kwame Otu (University of Virginia)

E-2 Lilyan Kesteloot and the Emergence of African Literary Criticism.

Chair: Kandioura Dramé (University of Virginia)

Kandioura Dramé (University of Virginia) “The Fortunes of A Foundational Book: Lylian Kesteloot’s *Les Ecrivains noirs de langue française: naissance d’une littérature*”

Mouhamedul Niang (Colby College) “Identity Politics, Identificatory Criteria and the Constitution of A Literary Canon: The Negro-African Anthology in Lilyan Kesteloot’s Works”

George Joseph (Hobart and William Smith Colleges) ”Breaking the Silence of Colonial Censorship: History, Geography and the Oral Tradition”

Oumar Cherif Diop (Kennesaw State University) “Lilyan Kesteloot: The Epic Battles of a Trailblazer”

E-3 Tropes of the Unsaid

Chair: James Yékú (University of Kansas, Lawrence)

Uchechukwu P. Umezurike (University of Alberta) ““That Other Thing”: Reworking the Scripts to Perform/Affirm the Unnameable”

Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka (University of Kansas) “Missing Words in Action: Body, Space and Rhythms of Identity”

Adéléké Adéèkó (Ohio State University) “Poetics of Interdiction”

E-4 Immigrant Voices in Short Stories

Chair: Arthur Onipede Hollist (University of Tampa)

Arthur Onipede Hollist (University of Tampa) “Mami Wata’s Daughters Silenced My Authority”

Tomi Adeaga (University of Vienna) “The Winden Blues”

Theodora Akachi Ezeigbo (Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Nigeria) “Standing on the Promises of Love”

E-5 Reflections on Aesthetics, Media and the Question of Censorship

Chair: Bayo Omolola (Howard University)

Susanna Sacks (College of Wooster) “Algorithmic Aesthetics: African Poetic Forms in the Social Media Era”

Aaron Agorsor (Arizona State University) “Hate Speech as a New Force of Censorship in Ghana”

Bayo Omolola (Howard University) “Africans’ Resistance to Political Censorship: Rhetorical Devices in Digital Media”

Darlington Elo Ejezie (George-August University, Germany) “The Threatened Space”

E-6 Literary Engagements with Trauma and Healing

Chair: Jason Price (University of North Alabama)

Jason Price (University of North Alabama) “Trauma, Traditional Healing, and the Water Snake in Mohale Mashi

Juan Zhong (The University of Hong Kong) “The Critical Engagement with Censorship in Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor’s *Dust* and Binyavanga Wainana’s *One Day I Will Write About This Place*”

Laura White (Middle Tennessee State University) “Expanding Narratives of Extinction: Genocide and Generations in Okorafor’s *Who Fears Death?*”

E-7 The Fate of the Novel in the State of the Field

Chair and Discussant: Jeanne-Marie Jackson-Awotwi (Johns Hopkins University)

Madhu Krishnan (University of Bristol) “Markets, Readers and Positions: Contemporary African Literary Production and the Question of Scale”

Magali Armillas-Tiseyra (Penn State University) “Terms of Engagement: World Literature, the Contemporary African Novel, and the ‘Shadow’ of the Latin American Boom”

Ashleigh Harris (Uppsala University) "Form, language, genre and the intractability of the English novel in South Africa"

Christopher Ouma (University of Cape Town) "Small Magazines and the African Novel: Genealogies and Generic Ecosystems."

SESSION F Panels 3:15 - 4:45 pm.

F-1 Themes of Exile and Censorship in the African Literary Imagination

Chair: Joya Uraizee (Saint Louis University)

Bosede Afolayan (University of Lagos, Nigeria) "Drama and Dissidence: Censorship and the Literary Imagination in Shaw and Ngugi's Plays"

Jill Planche (Unaffiliated) "Displacing the Paranoid Act of Censorship: The Fluid, Social and Political Space of Zakes Mda's *Our Lady of Benoni*"

Joya Uraizee (Saint Louis University) "Vulnerable, Not Censored: Aher Arop Bol's "The Lost Boy" as Cultural Artifact"

Alain Lawo-Sukam (Texas A&M University) "The Language of Dictatorship and Exile in African Spanish Literature"

F-2 Film Video Media Sponsored panel

Chair: Cara Moyer-Duncan (Emerson College)

Felisa Reynolds (University of Illinois) "Combatting Censorship on film: Pacey and Peck's *A Dry White Season* and *Lumumba*"

Tama Hamilton-Wray (Michigan State University) "Global African Visions of Black Queer Desire in Tchaiko Omawale's *Solace* and Wanuri Kahiu's *Rafiki*"

Olivier J. Tchouaffe (Southwestern University) "*Rafiki*: Thoughts on African Cinema and the Pursuit of Happiness"

Cara Moyer-Duncan (Emerson College) "Messy Stories, the National Imaginary and Censorship: Jahmil X.T. Qubeka's *Of Good Report*"

F-3 Censoring Sexual and Gender Expressions

Chair: Marina Vlahaki (University of California, San Diego)

Marina Vlahaki (University of California, San Diego) "Queering Nationalism: The Politics of Labor, Gender and Sexuality in *The Hairdresser of Harare* by Tendai Huchu"

Bernie Lombardi (Rutgers University, Newark) "Transnationalism and Chinelo Okparanta's Feminist Reimagining of Queer Africa"

Elzbieta Binczycka-Gacek (Jagiellonian University) “Black Queer Voices Uncensored. Uzodinma Iweala's "Speak No Evil" and Randall Kenan's "A Visitation of Spirits" “

Lafleur Cockburn (The University of the West Indies-Cave Hill) “The Approach to Sexuality In H. Nigel Thomas’ Novels”

F-4 The Diaspora returns: Negotiating the American presence in the African Imagination

Chair: Stéphane Robolin (Rutgers University)

Emmanuel Ogwu (University of the Witwatersrand) “Regaining Control of Self-Definition: The Case of Africanfuturism”

Anbegwon Atuire (University of Colorado, Boulder) “Heritage Tourism in Ghana: Censoring Indigenous Memory”

Stéphane Robolin (Rutgers University) “Un/Banning *Meridian* and Stereoscopic Reading in Apartheid South Africa”

F-5 Religion as Censor

Chair: Adwoa Opoku-Agyemang (University of Michigan)

Adwoa Opoku-Agyemang (University of Michigan) “The Trickster and Religious Humor”

Anouar El Younssi (Oxford College of Emory University) “The Politico-Religious Establishment and Its Assault on Literary Freedom in the Arab World”

Foluke Aliyu-Ibrahim (University of Ilorin) “Censorship in Islamic Religious Films: The Experience of the Second Chance”

F-6 L’écriture à l’épreuve de la censure

Chair: Cilas Kemedjio (University of Rochester)

Arnaud Tcheutou (Louisiana State University) “Littérature africaine, pensée interdite et le politiquement correct”

André Djiffack (University of Oregon) “Mongo Beti: Tu ne me censureras pas”

Edgard Sankara (University of Delaware) “Figure de l’étranger dans les fictions africaines”

Gilbert Ndi (University of Bayreuth) “Deconstructing Postcolonial Scopic Regimes: Censoring Censorship in the Novels of Sony Labou Tansi”

KEYNOTE

5:00 - 6:30 pm.

Yaa Gyasi, Author of *Homegoing*

Caucus meetings

7:30 - 9 pm.

GSCALA, FVMCALA, WOCALA, LHCALA, NACALA, PATCALA, FRACALA, TRACALA, AFRICALA (Afriphone)

FRIDAY, MAY 28

SESSION G Panels 9:00 - 10:30 am.

G-1 Roundtable. African Literature as African Studies?

Chair: Carli Coetzee (*Journal of African Cultural Studies*)

Moradewun Adejunmobi, (University of California, Davis)

Naminata Diabate, (Cornell University)

Akachi Ezeigbo (Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike)

Juliana Nfah-Abbenyi (North Carolina State University)

G-2 Power, Gender and Censorship in the Maghreb: Literatures, Arts, & Public Discourse

NACALA sponsored

Chair: Lamia Benyoussef (Birmingham-Southern College)

Lamia Benyoussef (Birmingham-Southern College) “To the Male Twice the Share of the Female”: Ancient and Post-revolutionary Technologies of Censoring Public Discourse on Gender Equality in Inheritance in Tunisia”

Naïma Hachad (American University) “Transgressive Sexualities in Moroccan Women’s Contemporary Cultural Productions”

Imen Bassalah (Manuba Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences, Tunisia) “The Dialectics of Censorship in Ouled Ahmed’s Poetry: The Tug of War between Containment and Confinement”

G-3 Poetry in Times of War: Critical Readings of Giftus Nkam’s *Melodies of Lament*

Chair: Gilbert Shang Ndi (University of Bayreuth)

Bernard Oniwe (Dominican University of Ibadan) “Melodies of Liberation: Maccabean Revolt (or the lack thereof) in Giftus Ntambo’s *Melodies of Lament*”

Gilbert Shang Ndi (University of Bayreuth) “Between Popular Culture and Metaphysical Poetry: A Critique of Giftus Nkam’s *Melodies of Lament*: Once upon a Time in Abakwa”

G-4 Politique et philosophie en Afrique sub-Saharienne francophone contemporaine

Chair: Patricia S. Seuchie (Christopher Newport University)

Patricia S. Seuchie (Christopher Newport University) “Le tribalisme dans le paysage politique camerounais : une menace pour la cohésion nationale et la démocratie “

Ange-Frederic Koffi (Ecole Cantonale d'Art de Lausanne) Sans images, pas de vérité - La censure photographique en Afrique”

Kasongo Kapanga (University of Richmond) “Censure dans les arts visuels au Congo de l'époque coloniale belge aux temps présents.”

G-5 Theater and Censorship II

Chair: Ketu Katrak (University of California-Irvine)

J. Coplen Rose (Acadia University) “A Silence from Below: Land, Memory, and Undocumented Mine Labour in Xolisa Ngubelanga’s *Pieces of an African Drum*”

Ketu Katrak (University of California-Irvine) “Censorship of the Creative Imagination: Ngugi’s Wrestling with the Devil”

Isi Agboaye (Author) “Self-Censorship Within a Playwriting Experience.”

G-6 Prison literature

Chair: Unionmwan Edebiri (University of Benin Nigeria)

Peace Sorochi Longdet (Federal College of Education, Pankshin, in Affiliation with University of Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria) “Stifling the Voice that Speaks Against the Odd: A Feminist Historical Reading of Nawal El Saadawi’s *Memoirs from the Women’s Prison and Eyes*”

Kingsley Brempong Ohene Adu (Akenten Appiah-Menka University of Skills Training and Entrepreneurial Development) “Revisioning Prison Trauma in James Matthews’ *Poems from a Prison Cell*”

Unionmwan Edebiri (University of Benin Nigeria) “Diary as an Anti-Colonial weapon: A Note on Bernard Dadie’s *Carnet de Prison*”

G-7 Yvonne Vera, Zimbabwe and Censorship

Chair: Magdalena Pfalzgraf (Saarland University Saarbrücken)

Gloria Ajami Makokha (Kenyatta University) “Self-Censorship: Yvonne Vera and the politics of Zimbabwe”

Ivana Ancic (Pennsylvania State University) “Censorship and the Novel: Recovering the Memory of Gukurahundi in Yvonne Vera’s *The Stone Virgins*”

Magdalena Pfalzgraf (Saarland University Saarbrücken) “Censored movement? Literary engagements with spatial orders in post-2000 Zimbabwean writing”

G-8 Censorship and the Question of National Identity

Sponsored by LHCALA

Chair: Dosinda Alvite (Denison University)

Dorothee Boulanger (Oxford University) "Absent fathers? Self-censorship and the representation of power figures in Angolan postcolonial fiction"

Dorothy Odartey-Wellington (University of Guelph) "The Filmmakers and the Filmed in Documentary Versions of the Western Sahara"

Arthur Hughes (Ohio University) "Fighting Censorship: Women's Narrative in Paulina Chiziane's *O Alegre Canto da Perdiz*"

Clément Akassi (Howard University) "Canonization/Censorship and Self-Representations/Identities: or, How to Decolonize the Imaginaries and Epistemologies in African/Diaspora Cultural Productions"

SESSION H Panels 10:45 am - 12:15 pm.

H-1 Panel II for Tejumola Olaniyan. Issues in Texts and Society.

Chair: Adéléké Adéèkó (Ohio State University)

Megan Cole Paustian (North Central College, IL) "In Praise of the Critic"

Ndirangu Wachanga (University of Wisconsin-Whitewater) "Conversations with Teju – In Search of Soyinka"

Abioseh Porter (Drexel University) "On Teju: The Team Player and Ideas Promoter"

H-2 ALA Sponsored Event. A Conversation with Yaa Gyasi about *Homegoing*

Chair: Juliana Makuchi Nfah-Abbenyi (North Carolina State University)

Phyllis Taoua (University of Arizona)

Cilas Kemedjio (University of Rochester)

Lindsey Green-Simms (American University)

Yaa Gyasi (Author)

H-3 Structures of Censorship

Chair: Oumar Cherif Diop (Kennesaw State University)

Oumar Cherif Diop (Kennesaw State University) "An Exploration of Structures of Silence in Selected African Novels"

Ogbu Nwachukwu & Ifeoma Nwosu-Okoli (Alex-Ekwueme Federal University) "'Censorship, the Censored and the Figure of the Censor in the African Novel.'"

Ifeoma Nwosu-Okoli (Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Nigeria) “A Contrastive Analysis of Censorship in Selected Nigerian Communication Outfits”

H-4 Global Diasporic Sexualities

Chair: Kanika Batra (Texas Tech University)

Augusta Atinuke Irele (University of Pennsylvania) “Restrictive Migrant Femininity in Chika Unigwe’s *On Black Sister’s Street*”

Kanika Batra (Texas Tech University) “Penury, Publication, Affect: Claude McKay and the Self-Censored History of Jamaican Sexuality”

Uchekwukwu Peter Umezurike (University of Alberta) “ ‘That Other Thing’: Reworking the Scripts to Perform/Affirm the Unnamable”

H-5 Ngugi and Kenyan Censorship

Chair: Gichingiri Ndirigi (University of Tennessee-Knoxville)

Vincent Ogoti (University of Wisconsin-Madison) “Space Traitors: The Politics of Narrating Structural and Strategic Censorship in Kenya, 1952-2002”

Minata Kone (Felix Houphouet Boigny University) “Immigration Theories in Ngugi’s *The Black Hermit*”

Gichingiri Ndirigi (University of Tennessee-Knoxville) “Censors Who Couldn’t Read: Unpacking the Comedic turn in Kenyan Theater’s Dark Days”

H-6 Textualities and Censorship

Chair: Jordan Youssefzdeh Clementi (University of Oregon)

Ikechukwu Otuu Egbuta (University of Nigeria-Nsukka) “Beyond Authoritarianism: Sir Philip Sydney’s “The Defence of Poesy” and Stella Nyanzi’s “The Rude Virginia Poem.” ”

Sue E. Houchins & Baltasar Fra-Molinero “Sor Teresa Chicaba, an eighteenth-century nun, and how censorship is an obstacle to her canonization”

Jordan Youssefzdeh Clementi (University of Oregon) “Life Without Ngungunhane: Reclaiming Mozambican History”

H-7 Empire and Censorship

Chair: Kyle Wanberg (New York University)

Kadija George (University of Brighton) “Black British Publishers: The Absence of Presence”

Christopher Foster (Colorado State University) “American Empire in Africa”

Kyle Wanberg (New York University) “The Power of Dreaming: Symbols of Currency Devaluation in Djibril Diop Mambéty’s film *Le Franc*”

H-8 Representation Across the Media

Chair: Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka (Independent Scholar)

Abiodun Oluseye (Federal Polytechnic Ilaro) “Between Technoscience Audacity and Cultural Authority: A Post-Humanist Interrogation of Fetal Bodies Visualization”

Utifon Inyang (University of California, Riverside) “(En)Visioning Lagos: Visuality, Censorship and Spatial Politics in Chinua Achebe’s *No Longer at Ease* and Teju Cole’s *Everyday is for the Thief*”

Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka (Independent Scholar) “For the Sake of National Security: Censorship, the Creative Artiste and Social Media”

Hugo Bujon (Emory University) “How to turn the Earth into hardware: Globalization, digitalization and the voice of the surplus in Congo, Inc.”

LUNCH BREAK 12:15 - 1:00 pm.

KEYNOTE

Jihan El Tahri

1:00 - 2:30 pm

SESSION I Panels 2:45-4:15

I-1 New Book Forum: Naminata Diabate's *Naked Agency* (Duke University Press, 2020)

Chair: Lindsey Green-Simms (American University)

Maramé Gueye (East Carolina University)

Obinkaram Echewa (West Chester University)

Adélékè Adéèkó (Ohio State University)

Kenneth Harrow (Michigan State University)

Naminata Diabate (Cornell University)

I-2 Roundtable. Academic Resistance in African Literary Studies

GSCALA sponsored panel

Chair: Charles Tembi (Pennsylvania State University)

Anne Gulick (University of South Carolina)

Madhu Krishnan (University of Bristol)

Vincent R Ogoti (University of Wisconsin)

Martha Ndakalako-Bannikov (University of Oregon)

Yemulsew S Endalew (University of Oregon)

I-3 Roundtable. Celebrating a Feminist Icon : Molará Ogundipe 1940 – 2019

Chair: Chioma Opara (Rivers State University, Nigeria)

Folabo Ajayi-Soyinka (Kansas State University)
Omeh Ngwoke (University of Port Harcourt)
Pamela Smith (Nebraska University)
Chinyelu Florence Ojukwu (University of Port Harcourt)

I-4 Gendered Censorships

Chair: Ebere Nweze (Sodertorn University, Sweden)

Peace Sorochi Longdet (Federal College of Education Pankshin) “Gagging the unbridled Tongue: Re(reading) Gender-Based Censorship in the Writings of Nawal El Saadawi and Amanda Hess”

Ebere Nweze (Sodertorn University, Sweden) “Subverting Racial and Gender Censorship in Chimamanda Adichie’s *Americanah*”

Ousseynou Traore (Independent Scholar) “ ‘Sugar Girl, Don’t Leave Me Here’: Toni Morrison Homegoing”

Maureen Eke (Central Michigan University) “Nawal El Saadawi: Writing activism and Literature”

1-5 Tradition and Oppression

Chair: David Mba Tambu (University of Yaounde I)

Gerard Keubeung (McDaniel College) “The African immigrant and the tyranny of tradition”

David Mba Tambu (University of Yaounde I) “From the Pulpit to the Shrine: Restoring Africa’s Indigenous Identity”

I-6 Popular Comedy and the Limits of Evading Censorship III

Chair: Robin Crigler (Michigan State University))

Esther de Bruijn (King’s College, London) “Ambiguity or Censorship? Comic Unruliness in Ghana’s Market Fiction”

Charles Kebaya (Machakos University, Kenya) “Strategies of Surviving Censorship in Kenyan Stand-up Comedy”

Taiwo Oloruntoba-Oju (University of Ilorin, Nigeria) “Tales of the Uncensored: Language and Comic Drum Ribaldry in African Music”

Discussant: Izuu Nwankwo (Johannes Gutenberg Universitat-Mainz)

SESSION J Panels 4:30 - 6:00 pm.

J-1 Limiting and Resisting Powers: Croisements, Hidden Transcripts, and Performance in African and Caribbean Spaces

Sponsored by the Performing Arts and Theatre Caucus (PATCALA)

Chair: Christian Flaugh (SUNY-Buffalo)

Pelumi Folajimi (Louisiana State University) “Prison Note and Biafran War: Soyinka in *The Man Died* and *The Beatification of Area Boy*”

Joy Wrolson (Independent Scholar) “Liveness and Gender: The Limits of Censorship and the Use of Live Streaming in Zimbabwean Theatre”

Christian Flaugh (SUNY-Buffalo) “Uncensoring Genders: Croisements in the Africana Caribbean Theatres of Gaël Octavia and Guy Régis Jr”

J-2 Border Crossings: From the Colony to the Post-Colony

Chair: Lokangaka Losambe (University of Vermont)

Kandioura Drame (University of Virginia) “Nineteenth-Century Writers in French in Colonial Senegal”

Ena Vulor (University of Massachusetts-Amherst) “Influences and Interactions: Reconfiguring the Francophone Caribbean Literary Landscape (Reading Maryse Conde’s *Crossing the Mangrove* and Schwarz-Bart’s *The Bridge Beyond*)”

Lokangaka Losambe (University of Vermont) “Translating Postcoloniality: Leila Aboulela’s *The Translator*”

J-3 Women and Censorship

Chair: Ene Igbifa (University of Port Harcourt)

Cristovao Nwachukwu (University of Florida) “Life Writing as an Act of Resistance: Discussing African Feminism in Ken Bugul’s *The Abandoned Baobab*”

Molly Enz (South Dakota State University) “Unmuting and Amplifying Women’s Voices: Nafissatou Dia Diouf’s Visionary Literature and Afrotopos”

Ene Igbifa (University of Port Harcourt) “Resilience and Resistance in the Face of Censorship: The Intertextual Dialogue between Gabriel Okara’s *The Voice* and Ben Okri’s *The Freedom Artist*”

J-4 Activists in the Face of Censorship

Chair: Amany Dahab (Western University)

Xiaoxi Zhang (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor) "Translating Activism in Writing: A Comparative Case of Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, Werewere Liking, and Paulina Chiziane"

Amany Dahab (Western University) "A Space of Censorship or a Censored Space: Prison in Inji Aflatoun's Paintings and Memoirs"

Kaitlynn MacEachern (Mount Royal University) "A Wife's Censorship: An Analysis of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela's Political Footprint in Apartheid South Africa"

J-5 Roundtable: *At Penpoint: African Literatures, Postcolonial Studies, and the Cold War* A Discussion with the Author

Chair:-Susan Andrade (University of Pittsburgh)

Tsitsi Jaji (Duke University)

Julie Tolliver (University of Houston)

Discussant: Monica Popescu (McGill University)

TRACALA PERFORMANCE

7:30 - 9:00 pm

SATURDAY, MAY 29

SESSION K Panels 9:00 - 10:30 am.

K-1 "Storying Together" : Temporalities of the Human and More

Chair: Matthew H. Brown (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Kirk B. Sides (University of Bristol) "Eco-Futurism: Mythopoeisis, Science Fiction, and the African Anthropocene"

Ainehi Egoro (University of Wisconsin-Madison) "Multispecies Futures: Nnedi Okorafor's Utopian Ecology and the Case for Human Extinction"

Madhu Krishnan (University of Bristol) "Temporality and Curatorial Practice: Chimurenga as Time Travel"

Matthew H. Brown (University of Wisconsin-Madison) "'What's Wrong with 419?' : Fraud, Free Indirect Subjectivity, and the Mirror Stage in Nollywood"

K-2 "Arrest the Music"! Performance and Censorship, a Panel in Honor of Tejumola Olaniyan

Sponsored by the ALA Executive Committee

Chair: Catherine Cole (University of Washington)

George Bwanika Seremba (Independent Scholar and Artist, Toronto) ‘Censorship, Protest and Resistance; signification as Survival in the Golden Age of Uganda’s Theatre (1968-1978)’

Laura Edmondson (Dartmouth College) ‘Stella Nyanzi and the Acoustics of Autocracy’

Catherine Cole (University of Washington) ‘Free Speech, Hate Speech, and Live Art in South Africa’

K-3 Francophone Engagements with Culture and Censorship

Chair: El Hadji Moustapha (Macalester College)

El Hadji Moustapha (Macalester College) Banned if You Do, Banned if You Don’t: A Brief Historical Overview of Censorship Apparatuses in Francophone African Cinema

Guillaume Yoboue (University of Buffalo) “Reconsidering Faith in the Contemporary Francophone Theater: Koffi Kwahulé, *Le grand-serpent*”

Mohamed Kamara (Washington and Lee University) “Colonialism, Censorship, and Agency: The Case of Amadou Hampate Ba’s *L’Etrange destin de Wangrin*”

Babacar M’Baye (Kent State University) “Afropolitanism in *Maîtresse d’un homme marié*”

K-4 Women Write the Nation

Chair: Fatima Seck (George Mason University)

Fatima Seck (George Mason University) “Modernity and Technology: The Illusionary Tools of a Post-Censorship Era”

Abha Sood (Monmouth University) “Quiet Resistances in Adichie’s *Purple Hibiscus*”

Scott Newman (Northwestern University) “Echoes of the Past: Anticolonial Listening and the Inaudible Nation in Yvonne Vera’s Writing”

K-5 African Literatures Institutions New and Old

Chair: Bernth Lindfors (University of Texas-Austin)

Matthew Eatough (Baruch College, City University of New York) “The Goethe-Institut and the Futurity of African Literature”

Bernth Lindfors (University of Texas-Austin) “Censorship of Public Discourse in the early years of the African Literature Association”

Aaron Eastley (Brigham Young University) “Achebe as Influencer: Anti-Censorship Arguments in His Talks, Essays, and Fiction”

K-6 Humor, Stand-Up and Censorship

Chair: Babasinmisola Fadirepo (Louisiana State University)

Babasinmisola Fadirepo (Louisiana State University) “Circumventing Censorship: Nigerian Standup Comedy and Nationhood”

Tony Haouam (New York University) “The Most Controversial French Comedy Skit: Leeb's "L'Africain”

Robin Crigler (Michigan State University) ““A Joke Is Like Heart Surgery’: Money and Mockery in Contemporary South African Stand-Up”

K-7 Censorship and the Body Politic/Political Bodies

Chair: Naomi Nkealah (University of the Witwatersrand)

Naomi Nkealah (University of the Witwatersrand) “The censorship of women’s bodies in South Africa: Gender violence, mobility and the quest for freedom”

Van Kelly (University of Kansas) “Wisdom and Folly, Censorship and Self-Censorship, in Malick Fall’s *La plaie* [The Wound], and Boubacar Boris Diop’s *Les petits de la guenon* [Doomi Golo: The Hidden Notebooks]

Melissa Root (Metropolitan State University of Denver) “Disability and Self-Censorship: Representations of HIV/AIDS in Anglophone Southern African Literature”

K-8 Career Trajectories and the Job Market in African Literary Studies

Sponsored by GSCALA

Chair: Tembi Charles (Pennsylvania State University)

James Yeku (University of Kansas)

Alexander Fyfe (University of Edinburgh)

Rosemary Jolly (Penn State University)

Jean-Marie Jackson-Awotwi (Johns Hopkins University)

Vieux Toure (University of Kentucky)

K-9 Censorship in Southern African Literature

Chair: Blessing Diala-Ogambo (Coppin State University)

Blessing Diala-Ogambo (Coppin State University) “Manouvering Censorship: Women in Alex La Guma's Novels”

Chioma Opara (Rivers State University, Nigeria) “Muzzled and Exiled: The Menacing Eye in Gordimer's *The Pickup*”

Kyra Koustrup (Mount Royal University) "Censorship, Jail, and Pathography: Winnie Madikizela-Mandela's 491 Days: Prisoner Number 1323/69"

Juliana Daniels (University of Education, Winneba) "Censor Writing Censorship in south African Apartheid Literature"

Discussant: Akachi Adimora-Ezeigbo (Federal University Ndufu-Alike Ikwo)

SESSION L Panels 10:45 am - 12:15 pm

L-1 Panel III for Tejumola Olaniyan. Issues in the African Popular-Literary

Chair: Adélékè Adéèkó (Ohio State University)

Taiwo Oloruntoba-Oju (University of Ilorin, Nigeria) Censorship and "the Revolution" in Nigerian Drama, Music and Public Media across Generations: Assessing the *Threat Paradigm*

James Yékú (University of Kansas) Taking "African Cartoons" Seriously as a Digital Humanities Project

Olúṣégún Sòètán (Penn State University) Making Sense of Nollywood and the Literary Popular

Adélékè Adéèkó (Ohio State University) Conviviality and Conation

L-2 Censoring Poetry

Chair: Anne Mutidjo (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

Mark Libin (University of Manitoba) "Some Uncertain Wires": Prison Poetry as Ubuntu in Jeremy Cronin's *Inside*."

Anne Mutidjo (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) "Beyond Censorship, Beyond Consciousness: Performance and Construction of the Experience in Gerty Dambury's *The Restless*"

Gabriel Bamgbose (Rutgers University-New Brunswick) "Bebe-Noir: Annette Mbaye, Negritude Poetics, and Decolonial Pedagogy"

L-3 Censoring History: Telling the Story of Biafra in Nigerian Literature

Chair: Louisa Uchum Egbunike (Durham University)

Sadia Zulfiqar, (Lahore University of Management Sciences) “The Politics of Censorship and Adichie’s *Half of a Yellow Sun* (2008)”

Louisa Uchum Egbunike (Durham University) “Speaking into the Silence: Engaging the Nigeria-Biafra War”

Ojel Anidi/Obiora Anidi (Institute of Management and Technology (IMT), Enugu, Nigeria /Enugu State College of Education (Technical)) “Influence of Censorship on the Stylistics and Art of Two Nigeria-Biafra War Novels”

L-4 Roundtable: The Ground on Which We Stand: Celebrating the Legacy of Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka

Chair: Elizabeth MacGonagle (University of Kansas)

Ann Schofield (University of Kansas)

Hannah Britton (University of Kansas)

Garth Myers (Trinity College)

Nicole Hodges Persley (University of Kansas)

Peter Ukpokodu (University of Kansas)

L-5 Temporalities

Chair: Matthew Omelsky (University of Rochester)

Ken Harrow (Michigan State University) “Time (in Cinema): The Past and the Present”

Matthew Omelsky (University of Rochester) “Black Audio’s *Coming World*”

Babatunde Onikoyi (Adeleke University) “Time as Material Meaning and Motif in African Cinema”

L-6 Reconsidering Humanism in the Context of Censorship

Chair: Megan Cole Paustian (North Central College)

Megan Cole Paustian (North Central College) “Humanitarianism in Hiding” (Adichie)

Alexander Fyfe (University of Edinburgh) “Gabriel Okara’s *The Voice* and the Humanity of the Word”

Elizabeth Abena Osei (University of Ghana) “ ‘She was hiding in the best possible way, masquerading as herself!’: Post-censorship and Afrofuturist elements in Nalo Hopkinson’s *Midnight Robber*”

L-7 Censorship and Nationalism

Chair: Debra Boyd (Independent Scholar)

Debra Boyd (Independent Scholar) “Political Discourse and the Evolution of Francophone Fiction in Chad “

Dorothee Boulanger (University of Oxford) “Cultural venues for Anti-colonial resistance in Lusophone Africa”

Joanna Boampong (University of Ghana) “Confronting Censorship in Hispanophone Written and Visual Texts”post

Derek Gideon (Pennsylvania State University) “Decolonizing Visions of Development in the Writings of Julius Nyerere and Shaaban Robert”

L-8 Queering African Literature

Chair and moderator: Lindsey Green-Simms (American University, Washington, D.C.)

Josephine Delali Ofei (University of Cape Coast) “Censorship and the Creative Writer: Love Brewed *Under the Udala Trees*”

Cheryl Sterling (Penn State University) Regimented Visibility: Love' Stories in *Here Comes the Sun* by Nicole Dennis Benn and *Under the Udala Tree* by Chinelo Okparanta.

Discussant: Brenna Munro (University of Miami)

Lunch break 12:15 - 1:15 pm

Jihan El-Tahri's film screening *Nasser*

2:00 - 4:30 pm. Awards, Election Results, and Annual Business Meeting

5:00 - 6:00 pm. Inaugural Address by Incoming President Mohamed Kamara

Sunday, May 30th

(Please note that Sunday meetings will be scheduled through the ALA Zoom account, not the Socio conference platform)

9-11:00am Meeting of the Executive Committee including newly elected members

11:30-12:30 Meeting of the Caucus Chairs, ALA President, Vice President and Caucus Liaison