

Conference Program ALA 2022
47th Annual Meeting of the African Literature Association

“Adversity and Creativity: African Literature, Film, Media and Public Discourse”

May 18-21, 2022 (Virtual)

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. 9:00am Eastern=2:00pm Lagos, 3:00pm Cape Town.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

ALA EC MEETING 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm

OPENING SESSION 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm

- Welcome from Chair of Convening Committee, Ghirmai Negash (5 minutes)
- Address from ALA President, Mohamed Kamara

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

A-1: Fiction, Adversity and Social Justice

Chair: Omotoyosi Odukamaiya (Southern Illinois University, Carbondale)

Ngozi Kris-Ogbodo (University of Nigeria Nsukka) *Adversity As A Muse In Literary Creativity: ‘There Was A Country’ By Chinua Achebe*

Maria-Gratias Sinon (SUNY-University at Buffalo) *Advocating for Social Justice: Exploring the Past and the Present in Mati Diop’s ‘Atlantique’*

Matthew Eatough (Baruch College, City University of New York) *African Science Fictions, West and South*

Omotoyosi Odukamaiya (Southern Illinois University, Carbondale) *Africanfuturism: Resisting Oppression and Inspiring Change for the Future*

A-2: Medium as Adversary

Chair: Michelle Kelly (University of Oxford)

Olga Hel-Bongo (Université Laval) *African Novelists and Intellectual Autobiographies as Exercises of Critical and Creative Thinking*

Michelle Kelly (University of Oxford) *Casting into words: Print Culture and the Book in Zoë Wicomb’s ‘The One That Got Away’*

Kate Highman (University of Cape Town) *The Printed Page as (Creative) Adversary: Some Recent Poetry from South Africa*

Liani Lochner (Université Laval) *Safe in the House of Pringle: Resurrecting Colonial History in Zoë Wicomb’s ‘Still Life’*

Tinashe Mushakavanhu (University of Oxford) *On Dambudzo Marechera: The Enemy of Permanent Things*

A-3: Reclaiming Power: Creativity in Adversity

Chair: Aaron Agorsor (Arizona State University)

Olfa Gandouz (The Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Sousse, Tunisia) *From Adversity into Creativity: Postcolonialism, Subversion and Racial (In)justice in Eugene O'Neill's 'All God's Chillun Got Wings'*

Felisa Reynolds (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) *Black bodies and French Colonial History: Beyoncé and Jay Z's 'Apeshit' at the Louvre*

Ebere Agugbue Nweze (Botkyrka Folkhögskola Stockholm, Sweden) *The Spirit and the Body in African and Diaspora Contemporary Fiction*

Aaron Agorsor (Arizona State University) *Unrelenting Subjugation and Perpetual Resurrection: Octavia Butler's 'Wild Seed' and the Potential of the Black Female Body*

Yewulsew Endalew (University of Oregon) *Speaking Truth to Power: Poetic Response to Natural and Political Adversity in the Eastern Nile Basin*

A-4: Teaching African Literature in 2022: The Classroom, Scholarly Work, and the Exigencies of the 21st Century

Chair: Shola Adenekan (University of Ghent)

Antonia Kalu (University of California Riverside)

Tomi Adeaga (University of Vienna, Austria)

James Yeku (University of Kansas, at Lawrence)

Kwabena Opoku-Agyemang (University of Ghana/School for International Training)

Amatoritsero Ede (Mount Alison University)

A-5: Gender and Sexuality

Chair: Josephine Ofei (University of Cape Coast)

Adélékè Adèkò (The Ohio State University) *Queer Intimacies in D.O. Fagunwa's Forest Novels*

Bernie Lombardi (Rutgers University, Newark) *Race, Sexuality, and the Queer Diasporic Child in Uzodinma Iweala's 'Speak No Evil'*

Nathan Suhr-Sytsma (Emory University) *Revisiting the Mother Africa Trope: Literary Activism and Possible Futures in Poetry from Uganda*

Josephine Ofei (University of Cape Coast) *"We are queer, and we are here": The liberated South African Queer Man*

A-6: Dancing and Music in Local and Global Spaces

Chair: P. Jane Splawn (Livingstone College)

Joy Wrolson (Independent Scholar) *Jerusarema/Jerusalem: Using dance to escape/evade and resist*

P. Jane Splawn (Livingstone College) *When Local Becomes Global: Jerusalem and the Interstices of Culture.*

Imomotimi Armstrong (Niger Delta University) *Popular Culture in Ijoland in the Time of COVID-19: A Study of Owigiri Music*

A-7: Research, Writing, and Creativity in Adversarial Conditions: Emerging Contexts, Themes, and Practices in African Literature (ALA-EC Sponsored Roundtable)

Chair: Pauline Ada Uwakweh (North Carolina A & T State University)

Co-Chair: John C. Hawley (Santa Clara University)

Chioma Opara (Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, Nigeria).

Akachi Ezeigbo (Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike, Abakaliki, Nigeria)

Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka (Professor Emerita, University of Kansas)

Ojel Anidi (Institute of Management and Technology (IMT), Enugu, Nigeria)

Tanure Ojaide (University of North Carolina – Charlotte)

Phyllis Taoua (The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ)

3:30 pm -5:30pm

Film Screening of *La Puerta de No Retorno/The Door of No Return* and Q & A with director Santiago Zannou (Benin/Spain, 1977) in Spanish, English, and French (Sponsored by LHCALA)

THURSDAY, MAY 19

SESSION B panels 9:00 am- 10:30 am

B-1: Tejumola Olaniyan Legacy Project 1: Whose Authenticity, What Subjectivity? (Journal of African Cultural Studies Roundtable)

Chair: Carli Coetzee

Michael Oshindoro (University of Wisconsin-Madison) *Subjectivity is Temporality: Rethinking the Authentic in African New Visual Media*

Queen Nneoma Kanu (University of Louisiana at Lafayette) *Strategies for the Authentic Afropolitan Model*

Tolulope Akinwale (University of Wisconsin-Madison) *Indirection and Slippery Subjectivity in the Postcolony, Or What Subjectivity, Really?*

Kayode Odumboni (The Ohio State University) *Black Subject Positions: Shifts and Puzzles*

Discussant: Matthew Brown (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

B-2: Entanglements in the Lusophone world: adversity, lamentations, loss and recoveries (LHCALA Panel 1)

Chair: Arthur Hughes (Ohio University)

Lara Bourdin (McGill University and Sorbonne-Université) *A migrant's lament: dignity and resistance in 'Oloriburuku' by Paulo Nazareth (2015)*

Catriona Parry (University of Oxford) *Adversity and Adaptation: New directions in Angolan Cinema during "O Colapso" (1989-2004)*

Sophie Esch (Rice University) *Multispecies Entanglements and Complex Wars in Luso-African Literature*

Dorothee Boulanger (University of Oxford) *Losing oneself, finding one's sisters: overcoming multiple patriarchal legacies in Paulina Chiziane's 'Niketche. Uma história da poligamia'*

Arthur Hughes (Ohio University) *Generational Trauma: The Persistence of the Colonial in Paulina Chiziane's 'O Alegre Canto da Perdiz'*

B-3: Formal Experimentation in 21st-Century Black British Women's Writing

Chair: Elisabeth Bekers (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Elisabeth Bekers (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) *Generic Crossings and the Trauma of Slavery in Kay's 'The Lamplighter'*

Parham Aledavood (Université de Montréal) *Mimesis of Memory in Bernardine Evaristo's Lara and Girl, Woman, Other*

Tara Brussaers (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven & Vrije Universiteit Brussel) *Formal and Aesthetic Complexity/Innovation in Jay Bernard's Surge*

Katrijn Van den Bossche (Vrije Universiteit Brussel – Research Foundation Flanders) & Elisabeth Bekers (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) *Self-Reflexivity and Generic Change in 21st-Century Black British Women's Literature*

B-4: Women and Feminist Futurism

Chair: Onyinyechi Anyalenkeya (Federal University, Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria)

Hapsatou Wane (Georgia Southern University) *Africanjujism in Edwidge Danticat's 'The Children of the Sea' and 'Mati Diop's Atlantics'*

Sadia Zulfiqar (Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Lahore, Pakistan) *Ain't I a Feminist?: African Women and the Politics of Feminism*

Michael C. Montesano (Indiana University) *Alternative Futures and The Dystopian Negative: Eclipsing Petro-modernity in Helon Habila's 'Oil on Water'*

Elizabeth Abena Osei (University of Ghana) *Adversity and Creativity Birth This: Reading Akwaeke Emezi's 'Pet' as an Afrofuturist Utopian Projection*

Onyinyechi Anyalenkeya (Federal University, Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria) *Womanity and safety in Funmi Gaji's 'The Script of Bruises'*

B-5: L'Adversité dans la Littérature Francophone

Chair: Andre Djiffack (University of Oregon)

Edgard Sankara (University of Delaware) *Les séries et feuilletons télé africains francophones : forme, contenu et influence*

Unionmwan Edebiri (University of Benin, Nigeria) *Adversity and Stifling of Pre-Independence Francophone African Theatre*

Niang Mouhamedoul Amine (Colby College) *Coping with Adversities Through Alternative Modernity in Fatou Diome's 'Les veilleurs de Sangomar'*

Astrid Starck-Adler (Université de Haute Alsace, Mulhouse, France) *Génocides Et Exterminations De Cultures : La Réécriture De L'histoire De l'Occident Par Raoul Peck Dans 'Exterminez Toutes Ces Brutes' (2022)*

Andre Djiffack (University of Oregon) *Tchicaya U Tam'si : Un antidote à l'adversité*

B-6: Political and Press Freedom

Chair: Yewulsew Endalew (University of Oregon)

Daniel Mengara (Montclair State University) *On the Ambiguities of Political Contestation and Liberation: Rereading Ousmane Sembène's 'Les bouts de bois de Dieu'*

Janice Spleth (West Virginia University) *Out of the Ashes: "Contours du jour qui vient" as Léonora Miano's 'Vision of Hope' for a Post-Conflict Generation*

Kesewa John (University College London) *Papers for The People: The Radical Press of the late Colonial Caribbean*

Ngong Dzenchuo (Independent Scholar and Author) *English-Cameroon Oppression*

B-7: Health and Wellness in Literature

Chair: Rebekah Cumpsty (Weber State University)

Dominic O'Key (University of Sheffield) *Coincidental Happiness: Aminatta Forna, Adversity and Cross-Species Care*

Vincent Ogoti (University of Wisconsin-Madison) *Medicine for a Multiracial Nation: Yusuf Dawood's 'Surgeon's Diary' and Writing the New Kenyan Multiracialism*

Opeyemi Ajibola (University of Ibadan) *Trauma, Transformation and Therapy: Narrating Illness and Healing in Yinka Egbohkhare's 'Dazzling Mirage' and Chika Unigwe's 'The Phoenix'*

Ifeoma Vivian (University of Port Harcourt Teaching hospital) *Unreported and Undocumented cryptic pregnancies amongst women in Africa*

Rebekah Cumpsty (Weber State University) *Bodily extremes and blood borne disease: Speculative etiology in Namwali Serpell's 'The Old Drift'*

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

C-1: Sexualities in Literature

Chair: Mary Ainomugisha (Independent)

David Hoegberg (Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis) *Still Alive: Intertextuality and Historical Theatrics in Zoe Wicomb's 'Still Life'*

Peter Ntephe (Independent Scholar/Writer) *Sexuality, Subterfuge and Subversion in 'Walking with Shadows'*

Katherine Gutiérrez-Glik (Saint Louis University) *Transgender Time and Space in Akwaeke Emezi's 'Freshwater'*

Faith Ben-Daniels (Akonten Appiah-Menka University of Skills Training and Entrepreneurial Development) *Home and away: Discussing African female sexualities*

Mary Ainomugisha (Independent) *Where Rafiki meets "Jambula Tree": Literary, Sonic and Visual Resonances of Queer Life in Kenya and Uganda*

C-2: Gender, Adversity, and Art

Chair: Lafleur Cockburn

Esther de Bruijn (King's College London) *Advise, adventure, advulture: Semiotic Liberation in Kojou Laing's 'Woman of the Aeroplanes'*

Lafleur Cockburn (The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus) *Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Masculinity and Sexuality in Nigel Thomas' 'Easily Fooled'*

Christopher N. Okonkwo (University of Missouri-Columbia) *Remembering Ikoli Harcourt Whyte: Struck by Leprosy, Unbounded by Art*

C-3: Feminism and Women's Movements

Chair: Khadija Koroma (University of Leicester)

Ifeoma Nwosu-Okoli (Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Nigeria) *Patriarchal Society and Orchestrated Agonies in El-Saadawi's 'Woman at Point Zero' and 'Ezeigbo's Trafficked'*

Martha Ndakalako (Gustavus Adolphus College) *Namibian Art Activism and the Feminist Movement #ShutItAllDown, 2020*

Khadija Koroma (University of Leicester) *Women and Power in Bessie Head's 'The Collector of Treasures'*

Louis Marain Mokoko Akongo (Université Marien Ngouabi) *Who is a feminist between Flora Nwapa and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie?*

Olivier Tchouaffe (Southwestern U.) *Her-Stories: Notes on Rosine Mbakam's 'The Two Faces of a Bamiléké Woman' (2016)*

C-4: Feminist Debates in Senegal Now

Chair: Emilie N. Diouf (Brandeis University)

Maramé Gueye (East Carolina University) *Hustling Islam in the Age of Social Media: How a New Kind of Muslim Preachers Deal in Hate Speech Against Women in Senegal*

Astou Fall Gueye (University of Wisconsin-Madison) *The Power of Images: Mainstreaming Gender-Based Violence in Senegalese Popular Culture*

Emilie N. Diouf (Brandeis University) *Senegalese Women's Literature and Feminist Organizing*

C-5: History in Nigerian Literature

Chair: Pelumi Folajimi (Louisiana State University)

Jude Okpala (University of Texas at San Antonio, Texas) *Biafra in Contemporary Nigerian Literature: The Case of Uwem Akpan and New York, My Village*

Liam Kruger (University of Wisconsin-Madison) *Chinua Achebe and the Invention of Lagos*

Ndubuisi Ogbuagu (Rivers State University, Port Harcourt) *Nigeria-Biafra Civil War as a metaphor for Her and Environmental Devastation in Duruoha's Eaters of Dust and Adichie's 'Half of a Yellow Sun'*

Pelumi Folajimi (Louisiana State University) *Aristotle's Politics, the Nigerian Political Landscape, and the Nigerian Film*

C-6: Adversity, Existential Alienation, and the Aesthetics of Dispossession in North African Literatures and Visual Media (ALA North Africa Caucus Panel)

Chair: Lamia Benyoussef (Birmingham-Southern College)

Hanan Aly (Michigan State University) *Is there An Aesthetics of Dispossession in the Literature(s) of the Diaspora?*

Lamia Benyoussef (Birmingham-Southern College) *Un(w)rapping Balti's Rap and Hip-Hop Song: Male Alienation, Androcentric Politicism and the Gendered Aesthetics of Dispossession in Revolutionary Tunisia*

Douja Mamelouk (Le Moyne College) *When the Party Goes Bad: From Adrift on the Nile to Le Chat et Le Scalpel*

C-7: Sierra Leonean Literature Comes of Age I

Chair: Saidu Bangura

Saidu Bangura (University of Cabo Verde) *The Female Condition in the Novels of Aminatta Forna*

Elizabeth Kamara (Fourah Bay College, USL) *Migration, War and Social Degradation in 'Landscape of Memories'*

Ernest Cole (Hope College) *A Window to Society: The Human Condition in the Context of Interspecies Relationships in Aminatta Forna's 'The Window Seat'*

Mohamed Kamara (Washington and Lee University) *Namina Forna's 'The Gilded Ones': An Afrocentric Vision of the Beloved Community*

C-8: Future Directions in African Eco-Poetics, Governmentality and Policy: Book Discussion on "African Eco-Media" by Cajetan Iheka

Chair: Amatoritsero Ede (Mount Allison University, Sackville, Canada)

Carli Coetzee (Journal of African Cultural Studies)

Matthew Omelsky (University of Rochester)

James Yeku (The University of Kansas)

Tsitsi Jaji (Duke University)

Helon Habila (George Mason University)

Respondent: Cajetan Iheka (Yale University)

LUNCH BREAK 12:15 pm - 1:00 pm

SESSION D Panels 1:00 pm -2:30 pm

D-1: L'histoire du Génocide

Chair: Stephanie Tsakeu (University of Virginia)

Birhanu Geremew (Debre Markos University) *Modernity, Colonial Narratives and Genocide in Non-colonized Society: Italy's Historical Narratives and the Amhara People of Ethiopia*

Tolulopen Akinwale (University of Wisconsin-Madison) *Reading as If for Crisis: Notes on a First Reading of Marlon James's 'A Brief History of Seven Killings'*

Stephanie Tsakeu (University of Virginia) *Le génocide des Tutsis au Rwanda et la question de l'humain : une lecture des romans L'ainé des orphelins de Tierno Monémbo, Petit pays de Gaël Faye et de la chanson « Urupfu (l'explication de la mort) » de Kizito Mihigo*

D-2: South Africa Pre and Post-Apartheid

Chair: Abhik Banerjee (Georgia State University)

Mandisa Haarhoff (University of Cape Town) *Black Peril and White genocide in the South African Farm*

Stéphane Robolin (Rutgers University, New Brunswick) *Curating Books and Soldiers Under Apartheid*

Oumar Cherif Diop (Kennesaw State University) *Dealing with Calamities*

Abhik Banerjee (Georgia State University) *Subaltern Agency Transforming Post-Apartheid Social Consciousness in Meg Vandermerwe's 'The Woman of the Stone Sea'*

Shannon Cupido (Texas Tech University) *Ties That Bind: 'Black Tax' and the Unravelling of Neoliberal Subjectivity in Post-Apartheid South Africa*

D-3: Biafra and the Postwar Generation: Literature, Media, and Memory

Chair: Chigbo Anyaduba (University of Winnipeg)

James Yeku (University of Kansas, Lawrence) *Recovering Biafra: Digital Archives and Contested Memories*

Chigbo Anyaduba (University of Winnipeg) *Biafra Famine as Non-Usable Traumatic Memory*

Jumoke Verissimo (University of Alberta) *Hatescape: Trauma as an Affective Legacy in Nigeria-Biafra War Fiction*

Sakiru Adebayo (University of British Columbia) *The Inheritance of Loss: Stories of the Second and Third Generations of Biafran Survivors*

D-4: Modernity and Forms of Resilience(s)

Chair: Kyle Wanberg (New York University)

Kyle Wanberg (New York University) *The Comedy of Financial Imperialism: In Koli Jean Bofane's 'Congo Inc.' as Critique*

Debra Boyd Buggs (Independent Scholar (retired professor) *Way Back AFRICA Then and Now*

Charlotte Spear (University of Warwick, UK) *'This is a dead place, a place for dying': Petrofictions and the Aesthetics of Human Rights Activism*

Hilary Kowino (University of Minnesota Duluth) *Celebrating a Legacy of Resilience, Resistance, and Decolonization*

D-5: Agency in Adversity

Chair: Zulu Christivel (Southern Illinois University Carbondale)

Meyre Silva (Independent Scholar) *Defying a Rhetoric of Violence: Dangaremba's 'Nervous Conditions' and Ingrid Sinclair's 'Flame'*

Henrietta Okafor (University of Nigeria Nsukka) *Disability in Chukwu Emeka Ike's 'The Concubine'*

Onyeka Dike (McGill University) *Deconstructing Dissent: Sexual Agency in Razinat Mohammed's 'Habiba' and Akwaeke Emezi's 'The Death of Vivek Oji'*

Zulu Christivel (Southern Illinois University Carbondale) *Feminist Criticism and Feminism Narrative: Bessie Head's 'The Collector Of Treasures And Other Botswana Village Tales'*

D-6 : Politique et philosophie en Afrique sub-saharienne francophone contemporaine: repenser les dynamiques sociopolitiques (FRACALA Panel)

Chair: Patoimbasba Nikiema (University of Miami)

Patoimbasba Nikiema (University of Miami) *Ecriture et réflexivité littéraire dans La plus secrète mémoire des hommes de Mohamed Mbougar Sarr*

Paul Toure (Millikin University) *Archives coloniales et mémoire culturelle dans Mont Plaisant de Patrice Nganang*

Patricia Siewe Seuchie (Christopher Newport University) *Le rôle de l'intellectuel dans les défis socio-politiques de l'Afrique sub-saharienne postcoloniale: le cas du Cameroun*

Leopold Mvuzolo (University of Pittsburgh) *Ecriture et représentation du Corps Féminin dans «Moi Tituba, sorcière noire de Salem» de Maryse Condé*

D-7: Compassionate Teaching in Adversity: Pedagogical and Critical Approaches in African Literature and Film (ALA-EC Sponsored Roundtable on Teaching in African Literature)

Chair: Julie Papaioannou (University of Rochester, NY)

Co-Chair: Blessing Diala-Ogamba (Coppin State University, Baltimore)

Anthonia Kalu (University of California-Riverside)

Chielozona Eze (Northeastern Illinois University)

Chinyelu Ojukwu (University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria)

Anne Carlson (Spelman College, Atlanta)

Julie Papaioannou (University of Rochester, NY)

SESSION E Panels 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

E-1: Ethiopian, Eritrean, and Egyptian Miracles of the Virgin Mary Stories (1200-2000)

Chair Wendy Belcher (Princeton University)

Jeremy Brown (Independent Scholar) *On the Origins of the Medieval Ethiopic Miracles of Mary Stories*

Mehari Worku (Catholic University of America) *On the Genius of Abbot Gabra Maryam: A Nineteenth-Century Composition of New Ethiopic Miracles of Mary Stories*

Dawit Muluneh (Catholic University of America) *A Report on the Princeton Ethiopian, Eritrean, and Egyptian Miracles of Mary Project*

E-2: Sindiwe Magona: Chronicling South Africa's Tumultuous Path to Freedom and Beyond

Chair: Renee Schatteman (Georgia State University)

Philip Lythcott (Georgia State University) *Mother To Mother: Does Mandisa Speak For The South African Subaltern?*

Namrata Dey Roy (Georgia State University) *Journeying Between Languages: Sindiwe Magona's Development as a Writer*

Renee Schatteman (Georgia State University) *Sindiwe Magona's Rural Novels: Recuperating the Decolonized Self*

E-3: Writing Migration

Chair: David Babcock (James Madison University)

Joelle Vitiello (Macalester College) *Migration Journeys: Waiting, Arriving, Returning*

Apala Bhowmick (Emory University) *Migration, Rebellion, and Spectral Futurity in Mati Diop's 'Atlantics' (2019)*

Alexander Dawson (University of Connecticut) *The Mobility of Debt in 21st Century African Literature*

David Babcock (James Madison University) *The African Intellectual as Traveler: Transnational Bildung in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's 'Americanah'*

E-4: Book Discussion: Dr James Yeku's *Cultural Netizenship: Social Media, Popular Culture, and Performance in Nigeria* (Indiana University Press, 2022)

Chair: Shola Adenekan (University of Ghent, Belgium)

James Yeku (University of Kansas at Lawrence)

Paul Ugor (Illinois State University)

Cajetan Iheka (Yale University)

Katrien Pype (KU Leuven)

Kwabena Opoku-Agyemang (University of Ghana/School for International Training)

Rebecca Jones (Independent Scholar)

E-5: African Literature as/against World Literature

Chair: Monica Popescu (McGill University)

Susan Andrade (University of Pittsburgh) *Contemporary bildungsroman vs. world literature*

Mathias Orhero (McGill University) *World Literary Institutions and the Problem of Representation*

Monica Popescu (McGill University) *National Literature, World Literature and Distant Reading Approaches*

E-6: Orality, Narrativity, and Translations of Afro-diasporic Thought

Chair: Todd Fredson (Mesa Community College)

Isaac Joslin (Arizona State University) *Multilingual Poetics: Hieroglossia and the Francophone African Novel*

Todd Fredson (Mesa Community College) *Digital storytelling and translation: expanding the text*

Hervé Tchumkam (Southern Methodist University) *Translating parlure: the African Diaspora in France between Speech and Silence*

E-7: Femi Euba's EXPERIENCING WS: Roundtable Discussion on Mentee and his Mentor (PATCALA Panel 1)

Iyunolu Osagie (Penn State)

Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka (University of Kansas/ Independent Scholar)

Modupe Olaogun (York University, Canada)

Tomi Adeaga (University of Vienna)

Olakunle George (Brown University)

Nduka Otiono (Carleton University, Canada)

Pelumi Folajimi (Louisiana State University)

BREAK: 4:00 pm – 4:30 pm

KEYNOTE

Ngugi wa Thiong'o

moderated by Gichingiri Ndigirigi

4:30-6:00 pm

6:15 pm – 7:30 pm: Business Meetings for All Caucuses (Rooms will be allocated)

WOCALA Business Meeting: 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

FRIDAY, MAY 20

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

F-1: Tejumola Olaniyan Legacy Project 2: Crisis as Norm - New Directions for African Popular Cultural Studies (Journal of African Cultural Studies Roundtable)

Chair: Carli Coetzee (Journal of African Cultural Studies)

Theophilus Okunlola (University of Wisconsin-Madison) *African Comics and the Idiom of Crisis*

Utitofon Inyang (University of California, Riverside) *Wahala Dey Like Bicycle: Crisis as Metonym*

Chinaza Amaeze Okoli (University of Mississippi) *Crisis as Performance: popular protest and the critical public sphere*

Lilian Shoroye (Independent Scholar) *Crisis as Catalyst: The Conscious Artiste and the Nigerian State*

Discussant: Naminata Diabate (Cornell University)

F-2: Against Adversity: Stories of Survival and Resilience in African Hispanophone Cinema and Literatures (LHCALA Panel 2)

Chair: Alain Lawo-Sukam (Texas A&M University)

Julia Borst (University of Bremen) *Sergio Aparicio's Galsen, el lenguaje de las almas – the Afrodiasporic subject and the (symbolic) return to Africa*

Dorothy Odattey-Wellington (University of Guelph) *Adversity and Accented Cinema: Bahia Mahmud Awah's Hispano-Saharawi Documentary, Legna.*

Dosinda Alvite (Denison University) *Challenges and Purposes of Panafricanism in Spain*

Alain Lawo-Sukam (Texas A&M University) *The Development of African-Hispanic Literature from non-Hispanophone African Writers.*

F-3: Literary Activism and Internationalism in Colonial and Postcolonial Times (Sponsored by the Human Rights Committee)

Chair: Kate Highman (University of Cape Town)

Kate Highman (University of Cape Town) *Literary Activism and PEN in South Africa*

Laetitia Zecchini (CNRS) *The Meanings, Forms and Exercise of "Freedom": The Indian PEN (1930s to the 1960s)*

Michelle Kelly (University of Oxford) *PEN's Writers in Prison Committee and the Global Cold War*

Peter D. McDonald (University of Oxford) *Internationalism and Literary Activism in the Late Apartheid era: Johannesburg PEN's short, second life*

Lara Buxbaum (University of Witwatersrand) *Conversations for Change: PEN South Africa's Empty Chair Podcast and Literary Activism*

F-4: Stories of Exodus

Chair: Parham Aledavood (University of Montreal)

James McCorkle (Hobart and William Smith Colleges) *Forms of Exodus: Gbenga Adeoba's 'Lyric Poetry'*

Marina Vlahaki (University of California San Diego) *Craft [ing] Stories of Migration in 'Chez Jolie Coiffure' by Rosine Mbakam*

Joya Uraizee (Saint Louis University) *Creativity out of Adversity: Abdulrazak Gurnah's 'Paradise' as a 'Heart Migration' Narrative*

Parham Aledavood (University of Montreal) *The Refugee Camp and the Identity Formation in Sulaiman Addonia's 'Silence Is My Mother Tongue'*

F-5: Immanent Trauma Theory in African Literature and Culture

Co- Chairs: Ryan Topper (Western Oregon University) and Thando Njovane (Rhodes University)

Thando Njovane (Rhodes University) *Linguistic Trauma, Fragmenting French: Ahmadou Kourouma's Allah is Not Obligated*

Sam Durrant (University of Leeds) *Trauma in a more-than-human world: Mia Couto's Sleepwalking Land*

Refiloe Lepere (Tshwane University of Technology) *Combat Breathing: Laughter, breath, and ethical theatre-making practice*

Ryan Topper (Western Oregon University) *Multidimensional Memory: Intra-Animate Testimony in Yvonne Vera's Writing*

F-6: Literature and the World

Chair: Jennifer Leetsch

Alain Lawo-Sukam (Texas A&M University) *The Development of African-Hispanic Literature from non-Hispanophone African Writers*

Mayowa Ajibade (University of Pennsylvania) *The Discourse of Softness in Bessie Head's 'A Question of Power'*

Bernth Lindfors (Professor Emeritus) *Experiments in Updating the Anglophone African Literature Canon*

Jennifer Leetsch (Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies, Bonn University) *Un/Inhabitable Worlds in Ubah Cristina Ali Farah's Eco-Fiction*

F-7: Resilience and the Wandering Subject

Chair: Okachukwu Onuah Wosu (Rivers State University, Nigeria)

Supriya Daniel (SRM University) *The Wandering Subject in Lauren Beukes' 'Zoo City'*

Lena Englund (University of Eastern Finland) *Writing Resilience in Contemporary Autobiography*

Anouar El Younssi (Oxford College of Emory University) *The Amazigh Cultural Movement in the Maghreb Soldiers On Despite Immense Challenges*

Okachukwu Onuah Wosu (Rivers State University, Nigeria) *The Representation of Trauma in Africa Child Soldier Novel of Ken Saro-Wiwa's 'Sozaboy'*

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

G-1: Women in Publishing: Hope for Women Writers (WOCALA Roundtable 1)

Chair: M.J. Siims-Maddox (Author and Publisher)

M. J. Simms-Maddox, Ph.D., "The Priscilla Series" and *A Handbook for Emerging and Seasoned Authors*

Virginia Phiri, *Highway Queen* (2010) and *Grey Angels* (2019)

Elinettie K. Chabwera, Ph.D., *The Women of Matawale and Other Stories* (2021)

Marie L. Umeh, Ph.D., (CUNY) *Flora Nwapa: A Pen And A Press* (2010)

Gloria Ajami Makokha, Ph.D. Candidate (Kenyatta University) *Emigration and the Diaspora*

G-2: Contemporary African Literary Activism: The Diaspora Perspective (Sponsored by the Human Rights Committee)

Chair: Bwesigye Bwa Mwesigire (Cornell University)

Elkanah O. Babatunde (University of Cape Town Ken) *Saro-Wiwa: Literary activism and the struggle against indigenous imperialism*

Chijioke Kizito Onah (Cornell University) *#BringBackOurGirls's Protest Novel: On Adaobi Tricia Nwaubani's 'Buried Beneath the Baobab Tree'*

Mary Ainomugisha (Independent Scholar) *Where Rafiki meets Jambula Tree: Literary, Sonic and Visual Resonances of Queer Life in Kenya and Uganda*

Rejoice Abutsa (Cornell University) *History as a Lens for the Future: Mapping the Eternal Vigilance of African Cinema*

Discussant: Carole Elizabeth Boyce Davies (Cornell University)

G-3: Authors and Critics: Adversarial Conditions in Children and Young Adult Literature

Chair: Blessing Diala-Ogamba (Coppin State University, Baltimore)

Co- Chair: Pauline Ada Uwakweh (North Carolina A & T State University)

Tricia Elam Walker (Author, Howard University)

Aya Khalil (Author & Freelance Journalist)

Adaobi Tricia Nwaubani (Author & Freelance Journalist)

Julie Daniels (University of Education, Winneba, Ghana)

Anthonia Kalu (University of California-Riverside)

G-4: Africanfuturist Cinema for the People of Tomorrow (ALA Film and Visual Media Caucus)

Chair: Tama Hamilton-Wray (Michigan State University)

Tama Hamilton-Wray (Michigan State University) *Space is the Place?: Sites of Transformation in Africanfuturist and Afrofuturist Narratives*

Carmen McCain (Westmont College) *Africanfuturism in Nollywood's New Wave: The Conscious Push Toward a New Nigerian Cinema by the Surreal 16*

Tunde Onikoyi (University of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada) *Nollywood Cinema and the Metropolitan Female Dynamics of Future Power: Fast Forward, Flash Fronts and Projections in Kelani's, Afolayan's and Akinmolayan's Filmic Oeuvre*

P. Julie Papaioannou (University of Rochester) *Past Forward: Jean-Pierre Bekolo's Naked Reality and Nous les Noirs*

G-5: Beyond Words: Literary Art and Popular Culture

Chair: Kenneth Harrow (Michigan State University--retired)

Abha Sood (Monmouth University) *Reclaiming Africa's Past through Culinary Expressions*

Ivana Ancic (Pennsylvania State University) *Rediscovery of the Ordinary: Lebohang Kganye's Photographic Archives*

Tosin Gbogi (Marquette University) *The Erotic Turn in Contemporary African Poetry*

Kenneth Harrow (Michigan State University--retired from) *Teju Cole's Black Paper*

Maina Mutonya (Enah, Mexico) *El Nombre de Amor: Representations in Popular Culture between Kenya and Mexico*

G-6: Intersectional Violence, Adversity, and Resilience in the North African Novel (ALA North Africa Caucus Panel)

Chair: Lamia Benyoussef (Birmingham-Southern College)

Imene Chaabane Bennani (Assistant Professor in FSEG Sousse, Tunisia) *So that Nothing Gets Lost: Triumphant over Adversity Through Writing Hope in Emna Rmili Shatt Larwah.*

Badreddine Ben Othman (Binghamton University) *Love-Driven Resistance: Affect and Politics in Abdelaziz Baraka 'Sakinâ Masiâ'– (The Christ of Darfur)*

Touria Khannous (Louisiana State University) *Intersectional Violence in Mohammed Choukri novel 'Streetwise'*.

Naima Hachad (American University) *Literature and the Archive of Sexual Violence in Leila Slimani 'The Confession'*

LUNCH BREAK 12:15 pm - 1:00 pm.

WOCALA Luncheon: 12:15 pm - 1:00 pm

KEYNOTE

**Screening of film *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised*
Conversation with Rama Thiaw and Thiat (Keur Gui)
moderated by Phyllis Taoua
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

SESSION-H 4:00-5:30 pm.

H-1: Sierra Leonean Literature Comes of Age II

Chair: Mohamed Kamara

Abioseh Porter (Drexel University) "Verbal Visual Arts in the Hands of an Engineer: Reading Kosonike Koso-Thomas"

Mohamed Gibril Sesay (Fourah Bay College, USL) "Unacknowledged Creative Loops: Orature, Literature and Society in Sierra Leone's Contemporary History"

Pede Hollist (The University of Tampa) "Literature in Krio: A Retrospective Analysis of Literary Language and Craft in Sierra Leone's Lingua Franca"

H-2: Trauma and Violence in Post-Colonial Literature

Chair: Shabana Sayeed (Georgia State University)

Dikko Muhammad (BIGSAS, University of Bayreuth, Germany) *Representations of Violence and Poeticization of Adversity in Northern Nigeria*

Yacoubou Alou (Université de Zinder, Niger Republic) *Traumatic Hangover of Violence in Post-Independence African Novel: Documenting Painful Forms of Adversity in 'Allah n'st pas obligé' and 'Half of a Yellow Sun'*

Kazeem Adebisi-Adelabu (University of Ibadan) *Violence and Psychopathology in E. E. Sule's 'Sterile Sky'*

Ndubuisi Aniemeka (Department of Anglophone Literatures and Cultures, Charles University, Prague, The Czech Republic) *Pain Poetics in Nigerian Poetry (2016 to 2021)*

Shabana Sayeed (Georgia State University) *Trauma Transposed into Liberation: A Process of "Becoming" in J. M. Coetzee's 'Disgrace' and Okey Ndibe's 'Arrows of Rain'*

H-3: FRACALA CAUCUS –Guest Speaker: Eric Essono Tsimi, *Langue, langage, communication: la stratégie culturelle décoloniale en question*

H-4: Environment, Violence and Resistance in African literature

Chair: Ninon Vessier (Emory University)

Amina Zarzi (Birmingham University) *The North African Sahara Desert as a site of resistance, cultural promotion and gender tensions: Algerian literature as a case study*

Juliette Papadopoulos (Tulane University) *Crossing ontological and environmental borders: Resistance and transformation of the colonial subject(s) in Samuel Mvolo's 'Les Fiancés du Grand Fleuve' (1973)*

Dooshima Dugguh (Birmingham University) *Gems and political instabilities in Central Africa: A study of 'La danse du Vilain' by Fiston Mwanza Mujila*

Ninon Vessier (Emory University) *Writing against extraction: Petroleum resistance in 'Je, soussigné cardiaque' by Sony Labou Tansi*

Discussant: Apala Bhowmick (Emory University)

H- 5: Literary Masterstrokes

Chair: Edgar Fred Nabutanyi (Makerere University)

UcheChukwu Agbo (Southern Methodist University) *Literature, Myths and Pandemic*

Gichingiri Ndirigiri (University of Tennessee, Knoxville) *The Shape Shifter in Ngũgĩ's Writing*

Bernard Ayo Oniwe (Dominican University, Ibadan) *Perspectives: Soyinka's 'Chronicles Bookends'*

Edgar Fred Nabutanyi (Makerere University) *Fresh Critical Register, Activism and Global Circulation of Immaculate Innocent Achan's Science Fiction*

H-6: African Literatures and the Digital Humanities (GSCALA Panel 1)

Chair: James Yeku

Shola Adenekan

Kwabena Opoku-Agyemang

Ainehi Egoro

Susanna L. Sacks

H-7: Institutional Violence and Naija Resilience (Journal of African Cultural Studies Panel)

Chair: Carli Coetzee (Journal of African Cultural Studies)

Chi-Chi Ayalogu (Carleton University) *On the Crisis of Postcolonial Nigeria: Helon Habila, Documentary Theatre, and the Radical Potential of Diasporic Witnessing*

Omotola Okunlola (University of Wisconsin-Madison) *Gats to Belong: Class Identity and the Politics of Belonging in Tunde Kelani's Campus Queen and Funke Akindele-Bello's Jenifa*

Anne Gulick (University of South Carolina) *Bad Students and Eghosa Imasuen's Campus Picaresque*

SATURDAY, MAY 21

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

J-1: Freedom in African Literature (JALA-sponsored session)

Chairs: Grace Musila, Phyllis Taoua

Meg Arenberg (Rutgers University) *Mohammed Ghassani's "Kwetu": Poetry, Place, and Liberation*

Magalí Armillas-Tiseyra (Pennsylvania State University) *Art Forms of Dimensions Tomorrow: Freedom and the Aesthetics of Futurity in Diasporic African Fiction*

Eleni Coundouriotis (University of Connecticut) *Ernest Cole's The House of Bondage and African Freedom*

Polo Moji (University of Cape Town) *Blackness Blurred: Monstrous Intimacies in Marie Ndiaye's Ladivine*

J-2: Moroccan Narratives Written in Spanish: Genealogy and Presence of a Resilient Literature

Chair: Mahan Ellison (Bridgewater College)

Juliane Tauchnitz (Leipzig University) *"Stranding in the "Promised Land" and the De(con)struction of the "Last Patriarch" in Najat El Hachmi"*

Saad Ismaili Alaoui (Universidad Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah, Fez) *Genealogía de la literatura marroquí escrita en español*

Mahan Ellison (Bridgewater College) *El pasado me dolía: Tradición y innovación en la novela Un solar abandonado de Mohamed El Morabet*

Sahar OUAFA (Universidad Hassan II, Casablanca) *Aixa, el cielo de Pandora (2007): el relato de una soldadesa en los prostibulos de tiempos del protectorado español en Marruecos*

J-3: Postcolonialism and the Ecosystem

Chair: Simon Lewis (College of Charleston)

Simon Lewis (College of Charleston) *Abdulrazak Gurnah's 'Enigmas of Departure'.*

Sandrine Uwase Ndaïro (University of Limerick, Ireland) *A postcolonial reading of Helon Habila Oil on Water*

Aaron Eastley (Brigham Young University) *A Fin-Hint of Hope: Walcott's Final Decades*

Mapule Mohulatsi (University of the Witwatersrand) *"Gods of Garbage": The Black Aesthetic Imaginary of Deep Ocean History through Fabrice Monteiro's 'The Prophecy'*

J-4: Conceptualizing Blackness

Chair: Naomi Nkealah (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg)

Amanda Nyakwada (Gustavus Adolphus College) *The Changing Notions of African Identity*

Babacar M'Baye (Kent State University) *The Theorizing of Africa in Black Atlantic Studies Since the 1990s*

Martina Kopf (University of Vienna) *Thinking the African metropolis through Nairobi noir*

Naomi Nkealah (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg) *Theorizing marginality: On being a black feminist in South Africa who is not a black South African feminist*

Kanika Batra (Texas Tech University) *We Write What We See: Gender and Black Consciousness in South African Women's Autobiographies*

J-5: Post-Colonial Hauntings

Chair: Khadidiatou Diallo (Gaston Berger University)

Mark Libin (University of Manitoba) *The haunted present of South Africa in Neill Blomkamp's 'District 9'*

Olajide Salawu (University of Alberta) *Since Penkelemesi Years: Odòlayé in Ibadan Urban Politics*

Ngozi Chuma-Udeh (Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University) *The Troubadours: Still Traversing in Post-Apartheid South Africa*

Khadidiatou Diallo (Gaston Berger University) *July's People: An imagined Post-apartheid South Africa*

J-6: The (Post)human in Physical and Digital Spaces

Chair: Kasongo Kapanga (University of Richmond)

Alexander Fyfe (University of Georgia) *Malika Ndlovu's Lyric Openness*

Ofure O M. Aito (Federal University Lokoja) *Man As The Sum Of His Data: The Digital Age and Post-Humanity in Wale Okediran's 'Madagali'*

Rita Keresztesi (University of Oklahoma) *Manthia Diawara's 'Reverse Anthropology'*

Georgia Nasseh (University of Oxford) *José Luandino Vieira's Prison Papers: Writing the 'Cosmopolitan' Prison?*

Kasongo Kapanga (University of Richmond) *Ecological Interrogations in the Works of two Congolese Novelists: Bofane and Mujila.*

J-7: "Forward, you Seekers of Forever!": Celebrating Judith G. Miller's Forward Vision in African Studies, Women's Studies, Theatre, & Translation (PATCALA Panel 2)

Co-moderators: Christian Flaugh (SUNY-University at Buffalo) and Rachel Morris Watson (New York University)

Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka, University of Kansas

Koffi Kwahulé, playwright

Sylvie Chalaye, Université de Paris 3 (La Sorbonne Nouvelle)

Aliko Songolo, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Anne Carlson, Spelman College

Guillaume Yoboué, SUNY-University at Buffalo

SESSION K - Panels 10:45 -12:15 pm

K-1: "Forward, you Seekers of Forever!": Celebrating Judith G. Miller's Forward Vision in African Studies, Women's Studies, Theatre, & Translation

Co-moderators: Christian Flaugh (SUNY-University at Buffalo) and Rachel Morris Watson (New York University)

Alessandra Benedicty-Kokken, Research Center for Material Culture, Nationaal Museum van Wereldculturen

Annie Brancky, Vassar College

Francine Conley, St. Catherine University

Sage Goellner, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Tony Haouam, New York University

Kathryn Kleppinger, The George Washington University

Anna Miller, independent scholar, Tower Hill School

June Miyasaki, Los Angeles Valley College

Claire Reising, Notre Dame University

Alex Toumi, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

K-2: Flora Nwapa's Plays (WOCALA Roundtable 2)

Chair: Irene Agunloye

Marie Umeh

M J Siims Maddox

Oby Okolocha

Discussant: Ejine Nzeribe

K-3: Taking Sides?: Witchcraft, Metaphysics, and African Traditional Religion in Postcolonial African Literature and Film

Chair: Olusegun Soetan (Pennsylvania State University)

Adeola Faleye (Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria) *A Mis-representation of Àjẹ, Èbọ, Ètùtù and Èsè Pípa in Selected Yorùbá Films: A Further Analysis*

Adekemi Taiwo (Ekiti State University, Nigeria) *Àjẹ Òrun: Manifestation of Witchcraftism in Yorùbá Christian films*

Oluwafunke Ogunya (Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL) *The Concept of Mothers in African/African American Religious Spheres.*

Olusegun Soetan (Pennsylvania State University) *"Ajẹ Ni Ìyáà Mi": Locating Witchcraft and Metaphysics in African Literature and Film.*

Discussant: Akintunde Akinyemi (University of Florida, Gainesville)

K-4: South Africa: Forging a National Identity

Chair: Emmanuel Ogwu (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg)

Ngozi Chuma-Udeh (Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University) *Indigenization to Xenophobia in Modern South African Novels*

Deena Dinat (The University of British Columbia) *Infrastructures of Crisis: Youth and the Writing of Contemporary South African Melancholy*

J. Coplen Rose (University of Toronto) *Kaleidoscopic Visions of South Africa: A Study of State and Station in Imraan Coovadia's 'Tales of the Metric System'*

Emmanuel Ogwu (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg) *Laughing Out of Both Sides Of The Mouth*

Robin Crigler (Michigan State University) *Wielding a Sjambok: H. D. Tyamzashe and the Development of Black South African Satire in English*

K-5: Theorizing African Literatures from Indigenous Perspectives (GSCALA Panel 2)

Chair: Kufre Usanga

Damian Opata

Akachi Ezeigbo

Wandia Njoya

Anya Egwu

K-6: Literary Activism as Embodied, Diasporic Practice

Chair: Chijioko Kizito Onah (Cornell University)

Tadiwanashe Madenga (Harvard University) *Erotic Activism: Cruising the Zimbabwe International Book Fair (1995)*

Kenechi Uzor (University of Utah / Iskanchi Press & Mag) *Literary Activism as Non-conformance*

Ukamaka Olisakwe (University of South Dakota) *Isele Magazine wants to tell this story properly... with a nod to Jennifer Makumbi*

Bwesigye Bwa Mwesigire (Cornell University) *The Blackness of Immigrant African literary initiatives based in the US and UK*

Discussant: Carole Elizabeth Boyce Davies (Cornell University)

Lunch break 12:15 - 1:15 pm

Annual Business Meeting 1:30 – 3:00 pm

Address by Elected ALA President, Gaurav Desai 3:15– 4: 00 pm

Conference Ends