What is Africa to me now?  
The continent and its literary diasporas  

University of Liège, Belgium, 21-23 March 2013  

Thursday, 21 March 2013

8.30-9.30 Registration ("Salle du Théâtre", building A4)

9.30-10.00 Welcome and opening remarks ("Salle du Théâtre", building A4)

10.00-11.00 PLENARY SESSION ("Salle du Théâtre", building A4)  
Chair: Pilar Cuder-Domínguez (University of Huelva, Spain)

- Alison Donnell (University of Reading, UK), "Nowness & Africa in Anglophone Caribbean Literature: A Queer Time and Place"

11.00-11.30 Coffee break

11.30-13.00 PARALLEL SESSIONS

SESSION 1A ("Salle du Théâtre", building A4)  
“Africa in Black British Women’s Neo-Slave Narratives”  

Chairs: Elisabeth Bekers (Free University of Brussels VUB, Belgium) and Ole Birk Laursen (Independent Scholar)


- Sheila Albalate Rivera (University of Huelva, Spain), “Afrocentrism in Bernardine Evaristo’s Blonde Roots”

- Elisabeth Bekers (Free University of Brussels VUB, Belgium), “Imaginary Africas in the Fiction of Malorie Blackman and Bernardine Evaristo”
SESSION 1B (Room S50, building A4)

Chair: Christine Levecq (Kettering University, Flint MI, USA)

- **Serena Guarracino** (University of L’Aquila & University of Naples “L’Orientale”, Italy), “Africa as Voices and Vibes: Musical Routes Home in Joan Anim-Addo’s *Imoinda* and Toni Morrison’s *Desdemona*”

- **Aparajita Nanda** (University of California, Berkeley, USA), “The Diasporic Haunting of Africa in Toni Morrison’s *Home***

- **Maja Milatovic** (University of Edinburgh, UK), “Stitching *Her*stories: Ancestral Presence and the Metaphor of Quilting in African American Women’s Contemporary Literature”

13.00-14.30 Lunch (“Salle des Professeurs”, building A1)

14.30-16.00 PARALLEL SESSIONS

SESSION 2A (“Salle du Théâtre”, building A4)
“The Denial and Embrace of Africa in the Caribbean and Caribbean Diaspora”

Chair: Judith Misrahi-Barak (Paul Valéry University Montpellier 3, France)

- **Kathleen Gyssels** (University of Antwerp, Belgium), “‘The Africa they ransacked / the Africa they robbed me of’: Damas’ Vindication of His (M)Otherland and the Restitution of Its Heritage”

- **Christine Pagnoulle** (University of Liège, Belgium), “Razziaed Memories, Proud Remembering: Africa in Damas and Brathwaite”

- **Marcia Carlson** (University of Antwerp, Belgium), “Background of the Background: Africa in the Works of Chancy, Danticat and Cruz”

SESSION 2B (Room S50, building A4)
“New Nigerian Writing”

Chair: Dave Gunning (University of Birmingham, UK)

- **Daria Tunca** (University of Liège, Belgium), “‘With love for my people’: Chika Unigwe’s *Night Dancer*”

“What is Africa to me now? The continent and its literary diasporas”: conference programme
• Madhu Krishnan (University of Newcastle, UK), “Cosmopolitanism, Alienation and the Open City”

• Minna Niemi (University of Turku, Finland), “Representing the Niger Delta Crisis: Helon Habila’s Oil on Water and the Question of Resistance without Exoticization”

SESSION 2C (Room R30, building A4)

Chair: Manuela Coppola (University of Calabria & University of Naples “L’Orientale”, Italy)

• Christine Levecq (Kettering University, Flint MI, USA), “Between Disgust and Nostalgia: African American Myths of Africa”

• Annie Gagiano (University of Stellenbosch, South Africa), “Narrative Assessments of African Societies in Five Diasporic Novels”

• Katrin Berndt (University of Bremen, Germany), “Repercussions of Loss: The Continuing Presence of the Past in Uzodinma Iweala’s Beasts of No Nation and Aminatta Forna’s Ancestor Stones”

16.00-16.30 Coffee break

16.30-17.30 PLENARY SESSION (“Salle du Théâtre”, building A4)

Chair: Elisabeth Bekers (Free University of Brussels VUB, Belgium)

• Chika Unigwe, “Writing Africa in Belgium”

17.30-18.00 PLENARY SESSION (“Salle du Théâtre”, building A4)

Chair: Caryl Phillips

• Johny Pitts, “An Afropean Odyssey: A Black European Travel Narrative”

18.00-19.30 Photo exhibition (entrance hall, building A1) and opening reception (“Salle des Professeurs”, building A1)

19.30 Conference dinner #1, at “Le Méchoui chez Rabah”, Chaussée des Prés, 15, 4020 Liège

“What is Africa to me now? The continent and its literary diasporas”: conference programme
Friday, 22 March 2013

9.30-11.00 PARALLEL SESSIONS

SESSION 3A (“Salle du Théâtre”, building A4)
Chair: Rebecca Ashworth (University of Liège, Belgium)

- **Zeinab McHeimech** (Western University, London ON, Canada), “Sacred Whispers: Hearing Islam in *Omar’s Life* and Morrison’s *Song of Solomon*”

- **Rachel Thompson** (Goldsmiths College, University of London, UK), “Representations of Africa: Guinea, Voodoo and Ancestry in Edwidge Danticat’s *Breath, Eyes, Memory*”

- **Christopher Ouma** (University of Cape Town, South Africa), “The Racialised Abiku in Helen Oyeyemi’s *The Icarus Girl*”

SESSION 3B (Room S50, building A4)
Chair: Madhu Krishnan (University of Newcastle, UK)

- **Igor Maver** (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia), “In Search of Self and Nigeria in the *Open City* of New York”

- **Elena Rodríguez Murphy** (University of Salamanca, Spain), “Translating Afropolitanism in New Nigerian Writing: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s *The Thing around Your Neck*”

- **Sigrun Meinig** (University of Dresden, Germany), “I know this isn’t my country. But it is my job’: A State of Dissociation and the Literary Practice of Psychiatry”

SESSION 3C (Room R30, building A4)
Chair: Katrin Berndt (University of Bremen, Germany)

- **Ágnes Györke** (Central European University, Budapest, Hungary), “Africanness and the Nigerian Diaspora in Buchi Emecheta’s *Second-Class Citizen*”

- **Juliet Tenshak** (University of Stirling, UK), “Identity and Political Struggle during the Time of Adjustment in Helon Habila’s *Waiting for an Angel*”

“What is Africa to me now? The continent and its literary diasporas”: conference programme
• **Véronique Bragard** (Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium), “Congo’s Hunger Pang and Snake-Like Resistance in Koli Jean Bofane’s *Mathématiques congolaises*”

11.00-11.30 Coffee break

11.30-12.30 PLENARY SESSION (“Salle du Théâtre”, building A4)

Chair: Shauna Morgan Kirlew (Howard University, Washington DC, USA)

• **Louis Chude-Sokei** (University of Washington, Seattle, USA), “The Newly-Black Americans: Africans, Immigrants and African-Americans”

12.30-14.00 Lunch (“Salle des Professeurs”, building A1)

14.00-16.00 PARALLEL SESSIONS

SESSION 4A (“Salle du Théâtre”, building A4)

Chair: Serena Guarracino (University of L’Aquila & University of Naples “L’Orientale”, Italy)

• **Genevieve Hyacinthe** (Purchase College, State University of New York, USA), “‘Come Sit in the Dust’, Gesture and Trace of the Diaspora Body in Inland Space: Ana Mendieta’s Silueta Series and Bakary Diallo’s ‘Light’ and ‘Maternal Leaves’”

• **Sarah Fila-Bakabadio** (University of Cergy-Pontoise, France), “The Corporeal Geography of Africa: The Black Body in Contemporary African and African American Photography”

• **Sissy Helff** (University of Darmstadt, Germany), “Adhering to Silence: Writing Africa from Afar”

• **Collette Murray** (York University, Toronto, Canada), “African Indigenous Knowledge: Dissemination of West African Dance and Drum, Cultural Commodification and Racism”

“What is Africa to me now? The continent and its literary diasporas”: conference programme
SESSION 4B (Room S50, building A4)

Chair: Ole Birk Laursen (Independent Scholar)

- **Dobrota Pucherova** (Institute of World Literature, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, Slovakia), “Critical Reception of Nuruddin Farah at Home and Abroad”

- **Dave Gunning** (University of Birmingham, UK), “Diaspora as Dissociation: Brian Chikwava’s *Harare North*”

SESSION 4C (Room R30, building A4)

Chair: Marta Sofia López (University of León, Spain)

- **Jawhar Ahmed Dhouib** (University of Sfax, Tunisia), “Floundering in a place of despair’: The Diasporan Vision of Africa in the Writing of Caryl Phillips”

- **Pilar Cuder-Domínguez** (University of Huelva, Spain), “Blackness Reconsidered: Africa and Africans in Lawrence Hill’s Fiction”

- **Maria Paola Guarducci** (University of Rome 3, Italy), “A Country of the Mind: What is Africa to Zoë Wicomb?”

16.00-16.30 Coffee break

16.30-17.30 PLENARY SESSION (“Salle du Théâtre”, building A4)

Chair: Petra Tournay-Theodotou (European University Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus)

- **Jackie Kay**, “Fantasy Africa”

19.30 Conference dinner #2, at “L’Industrie”, Rue Saint-Gilles, 6, 4000 Liège
Saturday, 23 March 2013

9.30-11.00 PARALLEL SESSIONS

SESSION 5A (“Salle du Théâtre”, building A4)
“Representing Africa in the Diasporic Imagination”
Chair: Maggi M. Morehouse (Coastal Carolina University, Conway SC, USA)

- **Marta Sofia López** (University of León, Spain), “The ‘S Word’: Revisiting Elmina”
- **Judith Misrahi-Barak** (Paul Valéry University Montpellier 3, France), “The Stamp of Africa: Duplex Writing in a Few Caribbean Neo-Slave Narratives”

SESSION 5B (Room S100, building A4)

Chair: Christopher Ouma (University of Cape Town, South Africa)

- **Asha Varadharajan** (Queen’s University, Kingston ON, Canada) & **Timothy Wyman-McCarthy** (University of Oxford, UK), “Tales of Becoming: The Postcolony and Its Lifeworlds”
- **Asis De** (Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India), “Dreaming a Transformation of the Nation: Ben Okri’s *The Famished Road* Sequence”
- **Joshua Yu Burnett** (Florida State University, Tallahassee, USA), “Red Queen of Niger: Nnedi Okorafor’s Postcolonial, Post-Apocalyptic Africa”

11.00-11.30 Coffee break

11.30-12.30 PLENARY SESSION (“Salle du Théâtre”, building A4)

Chair: Annalisa Oboe (University of Padua, Italy)

- **Louise Yelin** (Purchase College, State University of New York, USA), “Robin Rhode: Between Berlin and Johannesburg”
12.30-14.00 Lunch (“Salle des Professeurs”, building A1)

14.00-16.00 PARALLEL SESSIONS

SESSION 6A (“Salle du Théâtre”, building A4)
Chair: Valérie Bada (University of Liège, Belgium)
- Manuela Coppola (University of Calabria & University of Naples “L’Orientale”, Italy), “An Excoriating Legacy: Africa in the Poetry of Patience Agbabi”
- Shauna Morgan Kirlew (Howard University, Washington DC, USA), ““The New Black”: 21st-century Poetry and the Rise of a Neo-anticolonial Diaspora”
- Mawuena Logan (University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica), “Bleaching Out’ Africa: The Phenomenology and Dialectics of Race in the African Diaspora”
- Petra Tournay-Theodotou (European University Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus), “Some Connection with the Place: Jackie Kay’s Red Dust Road”

SESSION 6B (Room S100, building A4)
Chair: Véronique Bragard (Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium)
- Michael Walonen (Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona Beach FL, USA), “Sedimented Colonialisms and Regendered Spaces in Assia Djebar’s Algeria”
- Delphine Munos (University of Liège, Belgium), “Who’s Afraid of Albert Camus? The Memorialization of French Algeria and the Controversy over Camus’ Legacy”
- Luc Renders (University of Hasselt, Belgium), “Afrikaner, Quo Vadis? The Diaspora in Afrikaans Writing”
- Julia Waters (University of Reading, UK), “Representing African Pasts in Contemporary Mauritian Literature”

16.00-16.30 Coffee break

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16.30-17.30 PLENARY SESSION (“Salle du Théâtre”, building A4)

Chair: Louise Yelin (Purchase College, State University of New York, USA)

- Caryl Phillips, “Strangers in a Strange Land”

19.30 Conference dinner #3, at “Le Labo 4”, Quai Van Beneden, 2-22, 4020 Liège