

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)

- **Ole Birk Laursen** (Independent Scholar), “Before Slavery: Untold Stories in Andrea Levy’s Fiction”
- **Sheila Albalade 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 *Herstories*: 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 Gysels** (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 Pagnouille** (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

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*”

- **Véronique Bragard** (Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium), “Congo’s Hunger Pangs 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”

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”
- **Sharmilla Beezmohun & Nisha Obano** (*Wasafiri* Magazine, London, UK), “The Kiswahili Traveller: *Wasafiri*’s Long Road of African Writing”
- **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

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