

This Summer at Yale



ALA 2017
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Yale University
New Haven • June 14 - 17

The theme chosen for the 2017 African Literature Association conference at Yale seeks to engage with and interrogate recent shifts in critical and theoretical frameworks from regional, national, and “postcolonial” models towards “world literature” as a framework for understanding the literatures of the Global South.

The conference also addresses the ongoing implications for the continent of global analytical frameworks, including those used to think about urbanization, gender and sexuality, public health, politics, regional identities, and the environment.

More information available on the back and on the web:
ala2017.macmillan.yale.edu.

Proposals are invited for papers, pre-constituted panels, seminars, and roundtables in the following areas, and on other topics relating to ALA members’ research, and caucus interests: African literatures, world literatures; Audiences and readerships; Conflict and literature; Diasporic and transnational connections; Digital and social media; Global aftermaths of slavery; Popular arts; Publishing in Africa; Urbanism and literature.

Deadline for proposals: December 15, 2016

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SUMMER INSTITUTES 2017

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Africa and the World: Literature, Politics, and Global Geographies

June 14 - 17, 2017

While Africa is often portrayed negatively in Western media outlets and makes an occasional appearance in countless social studies textbooks in U.S. schools, few K-12 and community college curricula demonstrate the aesthetic diversity and riches of the continent. African literatures broadly defined engages with questions of what it means to be framed as regional, national, “postcolonial”, or “world” in a globalized context. In collaboration with the African Literature Association (ALA), the institute will offer an intensive four-day program for K-12 and community college educators who are passionate about using creative literary works to explore Africa’s diverse social histories, politics, and cultural identities. Participants will have access to reputable African authors and leading literary scholars who will present on themes of migration and creativity, teaching canonical African texts, film in the classroom, and poetry and performance, as well as have the opportunity to attend special events held throughout the conference. The institute will offer a broad range of resources for teachers interested in integrating this content into their classroom curriculum. These include pedagogical workshops on how to analyze and teach literary sources from Africa, as well as to utilize materials from the Yale Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Collection and the Yale Art Gallery visits.

Human Rights in Africa and the Middle East

July 10 - 13, 2017

Visit the website for more information: pier.macmillan.yale.edu

Sponsored by the Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale; the Council on African Studies; and Programs in International Educational Resources.

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AFRICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE 2017



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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Boubacar Boris Diop is one of today's most prominent African writers with experience in genres as diverse as the novel, play, essay, and feature article. Diop was the former editor-in-chief for *Le Matin de Dakar*, an independent daily Senegalese newspaper, and after having collaborated for years with the Zurich-based daily *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* and the Italian weekly *Internazionale*, he is currently columnist at the London magazine *The New African*. Diop has also been a visiting professor at the Gaston Berger University in Saint-Louis, the ETH University Zurich, and Rutgers University, where he has respectively held seminars about Senegalese literature in Wolof, novel-writing and remembrance, translating between languages, and Afropessimism.

His most recent work, *Kaveena* (2016) was published by Indiana University. And after *The Knight and His Shadow* (2015), in November Michigan University Press will release *Doomi Golo, the Hidden Notebooks*, the English version of his Wolof novel. His most celebrated novel is *Murambi, the Book of Bones* (2006), a fictional story inspired by Diop's

stay in Kigali, Rwanda, in 1998. In the years following the 1994 genocide, he and eight other Francophone African authors were invited by the literary festival "Fest'Africa" to take up residence at a writer's house in Kigali to participate in the Duty of Memory Project. Deeply influenced by what he had learned of the genocide against the Tutsis of Rwanda, Diop's novel blended the voices of genocide victims with those of the perpetrators. *Murambi, The Book of Bones* has since been listed by the Zimbabwe International Book Fair's Africa's 100 Best Books of the 20th Century.

Diop has won several awards for his extensive works in French, including the Senegalese Republic Grand Prize in 1990 for *Les Tambours de la mémoire*, as well as the *Prix Tropiques* for *Le Cavalier et son ombre* in 1997. Beyond his writing in French, however, Diop is also passionate about promoting literatures in Wolof. Now available in English and in Spanish, *Doomi Golo*, was originally published in Wolof in Dakar in 2003 and translated six years later by himself into French.

Boubacar Boris Diop is currently visiting professor at the American University of Nigeria and has created, at the Editions Zulma in Paris, Cétyu, a literary collection named after Cheikh Anta Diop's birthplace. In collaboration with Laure Leroy, the Director of Éditions Zulma, and Rodney Saint-Eloi, the Director of Mémoire d'Encrier in Montreal, Cétyu aims to publish literary masterpieces from all languages and all cultures into Wolof with the first series of translated works by authors such as Mariama Bâ, Aimé Césaire, JMG Le Clézio, and released in March 2016. He has himself translated into Wolof Aimé Césaire's *A Season in the Congo*.

FEATURED AUTHORS

Aminatta Forna is an author, broadcaster and journalist. She was born in Scotland, raised in Sierra Leone and Britain, and spent periods of her childhood in Iran, Thailand and Zambia. She is the award-winning author of three novels *The Hired Man* (2014); *The Memory of Love* (2010), winner of the Commonwealth Writers' Prize Best Book Award and shortlisted for the Orange Prize; and *Ancestor Stones* (2006), winner of the PEN Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. Her critically acclaimed memoir, *The Devil that Danced on the Water*, was published in 2002 then serialized on BBC Radio 4 and extracted in *The Sunday Times* newspaper.

Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi is a Ugandan novelist and short story writer based in Manchester. Her debut novel, *Kintu*, won the Kwani Manuscript Project in 2013 and was longlisted for the 2014 Etisalat Prize. It has been called "a masterpiece, an absolute gem, the great Ugandan novel you didn't know you were waiting for." After winning the 2014 Commonwealth Short Story Prize for her story "Let's Tell This Story Properly", Makumbi stated in her acceptance speech, "For Uganda, once described as a literary desert, it shows how the country's literary landscape is changing and I am proud to be a part of it."

Imbolo Mbue is a native of Limbe, Cameroon and has lived in the United States for over a decade, currently residing with her husband and children in New York City. Born to a single mother in a small village in Cameroon, Imbolo spent most of her childhood in houses without electricity or running water. Relatives paid for Imbolo to study in the United States, where she graduated from Rutgers and went on to earn a master's degree from Columbia University by working during the day and going to school at night. She began her career in New York, married, and started a family. When the financial crisis hit in 2008, Imbolo lost her job in marketing, and like thousands of other New Yorkers, her future was uncertain. Drawing from her personal experiences, Imbolo began to write her highly-anticipated novel, *Behold the Dreamers*, recently published in August 2016 by Random House. In what NPR calls a "remarkable debut", Mbue tells the story of a Cameroonian man named Jende Jonga and his wife Neni.

Okey Ndibe is the author of the memoir *Never Look an American in the Eye: Flying Turtles, Colonial Ghosts, and the Making of a Nigerian American* (2016), the novels *Foreign Gods, Inc.* (2014) and *Arrows of Rain* (2000), and co-editor (with Zimbabwean writer Chenjerai Hove) of *Writers Writing on Conflicts and Wars in Africa* (2009). *The New York Times*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, and *Mosaic* magazine named *Foreign Gods, Inc.* one of the 10 best books of 2014. The novel was also included in National Public Radio's list of best books of 2014.