

CURRICULUM VITAE

Abioseh Michael Porter
Department of English & Philosophy
Drexel University
3141 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

EDUCATION

- 1984 Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Dissertation topic: *West African Fiction and Generic Criticism: The Example of the Novel of Personal Development*. Supervisor: Dr. Stephen H. Arnold.
- 1980 M.A. in Comparative Literature, University of Alberta
Thesis title: *The Child-Narrator and His World in Selected Works*.
- 1977 Post-Graduate Diploma in Education, Fourah Bay College
- 1976 B.A. (French and English), Fourah Bay College

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Comparative Literatures by African and African-Diaspora Writers; Studies in the Theory of Literary Genres; Studies in World Literature; Literary Theory and Methodology; International Movements in Contemporary Literature; Comparative Literary History; The Bible and Literature; Studies in Folklore; Literature and Society; Comparative Studies in Romantic Lyric Poetry; Twentieth-Century Literature and the Genre of Autobiography; Twentieth-Century French Literature; Advanced Studies in Traditional and Postcolonial Literatures; Restoration and Eighteenth-Century English Prose; Nineteenth-Century British and French Literatures; Post-Civil War American Literature; Art and Nationalism in African and Irish Literatures; Theory of Translation; Literary Existentialism.

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

2022-2025 **Director, Africana Studies Program**, Drexel University

2019-2020 Served as **Fulbright Scholarship Evaluator** with the Fulbright Commission in Paris, France.

May 2019, **The Harold M. Myers Award for Distinguished Service**—Drexel University--“In recognition of the exceptional commitment and contributions that have benefited the university community.”

January 2019, Awarded **Fulbright National Research Fellowship** (at first try) from October 1,

2019-March 31, 2020, to do research on *Olympe Bhêly-Quénou and the Cultures of the Two Worlds he Knows: Benin and France*, at the Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier III.

Invited to become a **nominator** for a major national grant-providing foundation whose nominators have to remain anonymous. Two years earlier, I had been invited and then served as a **reviewer** for this organization.

Invited to be an assessor for two endowed chairs at University of West Virginia.

April 2017, Inauguration of The “**Abioseh Porter Award for Best Essay Published in *The Journal of the African Literature Association (JALA)***,” at the Annual Meeting of the African Literature Association, Yale University, New Haven, CT.

April 2017, Awarded the "Distinguished Member of the Year of the world-wide African Literature Association, " at the Annual Meeting of the African Literature Association, Yale University, New Haven, CT.

Part of the citation for the award reads as follows:

"Over many decades, Abioseh Porter has been a permanent fixture at ALA conferences, and since 1998, he has attended all ALA EC meetings and all ALA EC retreats that have been held at ALA Headquarters wherever that may be. The ALA values his service as the longest- serving EC member in the history of the ALA and the fact that he "single-handedly" did the groundwork and edited the *ALA Bulletin*, and later *JALA: Journal of the African Literature Association*, now a Routledge/Taylor Francis journal...The EC decided at the November 2016 retreat in Geneva, NY, to rename the “Best Essay Award” as the “Abioseh Porter Best Essay Award.”

May 2002-December 2015 –**Department Head**, English & Philosophy Department, Drexel University

As Department Head, I was responsible **for final recommendations to the dean on the appointment of 8 new tenure-track and 18 non tenure-track full-time faculty members of the department**. I have also guided the tenure and/or promotion bids of several of our faculty members (both tenure-track as well as non tenure-track). I was part of a team that was able to convince the senior administration to develop multiple year reappointments for non tenure-track full-time faculty.

I also was responsible for the **annual** evaluation of all department members (an average of 47 full-time faculty and 5 staff) by procedures and criteria established by the University. This process evolved and for quite a long time involved making recommendations on salaries, salary changes, and distribution of effort to the dean. In addition, I submitted budget requests, vision plans, and other such documents for the department.

2010-2014 – Reviewer for **American Council of Learned Societies**

2002-Present – **Served as a primary external evaluator for candidates up for promotion to full professorships and for tenure and promotion, etc.:** Rutgers University, the State University of New Jersey; Southern Illinois University; East Carolina State University; University of Hartford; University of Minnesota-Duluth; University Texas-Pan America; CUNY; The University of Iowa; Mississippi State University; The University of Denver; Seton Hall University; North Carolina Central University; Ibadan University (Nigeria); The University of Kansas, Lawrence KS; Virginia Commonwealth University; Georgia College and State University; The University of Vermont; Monmouth University; Indiana University; Beloit College; Western Illinois University; Seton Hall University; Penn State University; Franklin & Marshall University; Penn State, Delaware County; West Chester University (for tenure and promotion in one instance and for Distinguished Scholarly Achievement in another); Case Western Reserve University; Ohio University; Virginia State University; Brigham Young University; SUNY, Stony Brook, Penn State University-Berks

2006-2017, Founding Editor, *Journal of African Literature Association (JALA)*. Since its inception, *JALA* has been deemed the premier journal of the African Literature Association. Since 2014, the journal has been published by the prestigious publishing house, Taylor Francis/Routledge whose officers, incidentally, initiated the negotiations with the editor and Executive Council of the ALA for this arrangement to take place.

1998-2006 – Appointed Editor of the *African Literature Association Bulletin (ALA Bulletin)*

May 2003 – Selected “**Faculty Member of the Year**” by Drexel Minority Achievement Program

February 2002 – “**Most Dedicated Professor**” Award, given by Drexel Undergraduate Student Government

Fall 2001 – Promoted to Full Professor, Drexel University

Summer 1998-2006 – Editor, *African Literature Association (ALA) Bulletin*

September 1998-2009 – Member, Fonlon-Nichols Prize Advisory Board of the African Literature Association

Fall 1998 –2008 Member, Editorial Board, *BMa: The Sonia Sanchez Literary Review*

June 1996 – “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers”

June 1994 – **Nominated for Carnegie (CASE) “Professor of the Year” Award; nominated again in 1995.**

September 1993 – Advisory Board Member, Research Institute of Comparative Literature, University of Alberta

September 1992 – College of Arts and Sciences Research Award for Research in France

May 1991 – **The Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching, Drexel University’s premier award for teaching**

1987-1988 – Drexel University Faculty Minigrant (research on Krio manuscripts in London and Birmingham, UK)

1985-1986 – **Cornell University Society for the Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship**
(Although this award was based on extremely high competition, I declined the offer for a tenure-track position elsewhere)

1985 – Summer Research Fellowship (Associate Professor level): African-American Studies Department, University of Maryland Baltimore County

1984-1985 – **Postdoctoral Fellow/Lectureship:** Department of Comparative Literature, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada

1983-1984 – **University Dissertation Fellowship**, University of Alberta (Winners of this fellowship are selected, on the basis of academic achievement, from nominees submitted by Ph.D.-granting departments in the university)

1981-1984 – Executive Council of African Literature Association, elected first graduate student Member

1977-1983 – Received Full Funding as Research/Teaching Assistant and Instructor, University of Alberta

1975-1976 – Awarded University of Sierra Leone, Department of Modern Languages’ Prize for “Most Distinguished Final Year Student in French”

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2022-2025 **Appointed Director, Africana Studies Program**, Drexel University

May 2002 –Dec 2015 **Appointed Department Head, English & Philosophy Department, Drexel University**

Fall 2001 – Full Professor, Drexel University

January-July, 1999 –2000 Team Leader/Coordinator, Humanities Division, Drexel Curriculum for Engineers

September 1991-2001 – Associate Professor of Humanities, Humanities and Communication Department, Drexel University

1986-1991 – Assistant Professor of English, Humanities and Communications Department, Drexel University

Courses taught at Drexel: Postcolonial Literatures I & II; Masterworks of Nonwestern Literatures, Part I: The Ancient World to Nineteenth Century; Part II: Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries; Studies in World Literature (Topic: Modern African Literature); Masterworks of Western Literatures I-III (Antiquity to the Present); The Bible as Literature; Readings in Fictions; Techniques of Analysis and Evaluation; Freshman Composition; Reading and Research; Writing for Business; Studies in Literature and the Arts (Topic: Childhood in Literature and the Arts); The American Tradition in Literature; Studies in a Major Author: Wole Soyinka; Literary Editing and Publishing.

I have supervised students who have done independent projects on various authors including Camus, Soyinka, Edith Wharton and Kafka respectively, and on topics such as “West African Drama,” “The Novels of Defoe and Fielding,” “Post-Civil War American Literature,” “Colonialism and West African Fiction,” “Sundiata and the Epic Tradition in Africa,” “African American Female Self Image: Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and Toni Morrison’s *The Bluest Eye*,” “The Literary Imagination and the Real: A Study of James Baldwin’s *Go Tell It on the Mountain* and *The Evidence of Things Not Seen*,” “*The Bhagavad Gita*: The Original ‘Self-Help’ Texts and Some Modern Wanabes.”

Committee assignments and service at Drexel:

University level

2022-2025 Director, Africana Studies Program

February 2022-Date, Member University Tenure/Promotion Appeals Committee

January 2022-July 2022, Member of Search Committee for Dean of COAS

2015-2020 -Member, Dissertation Committee for Shawna Thomas-El, School of Education.

2014-2015 – Member, Department of Global Studies and Modern Languages Department Head, Search Committee

2013-2014 – Member, Global Studies Department Creation Committee

Spring-December 2012 –13 Chair, Promotion Committee for Dr. Sheila Vaidya, School of Education, Drexel University

Spring 2010 – Member, Drexel Emeritus Professor Review Committee

Winter 2009 – Mid-term Tenure Review Committee, School of Education

Winter 2008 – Mid-term Tenure Review Committee, School of Education

Fall 2007 – Ad Hoc Committee on the Re-Organization of School of Education

Spring 2007 – Lead Co-supervisor, Ph.D. Dissertation of Jerald Thompson, School of Education (Dissertation Successfully Defended)

Winter 2007 – Mid-term Tenure Review Committee, College of Nursing and Health Professions, member

Summer-Winter 2006 – Subcommittee on Diversity, Recruitment, and Retention, member

Fall 2006 – Mid-term Tenure Review Committee, College of Nursing and Health Professions, member

Fall 2005 – Review committee to Evaluate Department Head, Culture and Communication, member; Mid-term Tenure Review Committee, College of Nursing and Health Professions, member

2004-2005 – LCME (for Drexel School of Medicine) Task Force, member; Undergraduate Program and Academic Quality Committee (UPAQ), member

2004 – 12 Africana Studies Advisory Board, member

Fall 2002 – Senior Vice President (Research) and Dean of Graduate Policy Search Committee, member; Tenure and Promotion Committee, Goodwin College of Professional Studies, member

September 27 to October 2, 2000 – Represented Drexel Faculty at Canonization Ceremonies of Blessed Katherine Drexel, Vatican City

2000 – 2001 Foundations of Curriculum (Univ. 341) Advisory Committee

1999-2004 – Senate Committee for Academic Affairs (SCAA)

1998-2000 – Ad-Hoc Committee on Foundational Core Curriculum

1997 – Present-International Area Studies Committee, member

1996 – Promotion Review Committee, Department of Teacher Education, member

1993 – Tenure Review Committee, Department of Performing Arts, member

1991-1999 – University Teaching Learning Committee – a committee selected by the provost and faculty senate to enhance effective teaching, member

1990-1991 – Steering Committee, Diversity & Centennial Convocation Day Committees

1989-1991 – Drexel Faculty Senate, Senators

1989-1990 – External Relations Workgroup for Middle States Accreditation, Secretary

1986-2005 – Black Administrators, Faculty and Staff at Drexel, member

College Level

Fall-Winter 2012 – Committee to Create a School of Global Studies in CoAS, member

Spring 2009 – Search Committee for Head of Culture and Communications Department, Chair

Spring 2008 – Committee to Develop College Policies for Teaching Faculty (formerly Auxiliary Faculty)

Winter 2006 – Review committee to Evaluate Department Head, History and Politics, member

Summer 2006 – Freshman Integrated Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee, member

1990- present- International Area Studies Advisory Committee, member

1989- 1991 African-American Studies Minor, Committee Member (Chair, 1989-1990)

1989-1996 – Drexel Minority Institute for underrepresented minority high school students in the Greater Philadelphia Area, Academic Coordinator

Department Level

2020-2021 Diveristy, Equality, and Inclusion Committee, chair.

2021-2022, Chair, Search Committee for Position in Digital Humanities.

2019]-2021 , Department Curriculum Committee

2017-2018, Curriculum, Tenure Stream tenure and Promotion, Full Professor, and Department Head Review (chair) Committees

2000 – Department Head Review Committee

1999-2001- Hiring Committee (Chair 2000-2001)

1998-2000 – Executive Advisory Committee

1996-1998 – Tenure and Promotion Review Committee

1996-1997 – Hiring Committee, Secretary

1995-1996 – Executive Committee

1987-1994 – Freshman Studies Committee

1989-1993, 1995 – Curriculum Committee

1990-1991 – Department Opportunities Committee

1987-1988 – Committee on Revision of Departmental By-laws

Other Professional Service

2021-date, Dissertation Committee member, for Salwa Halloway, PhD Student in Comparative Literature, Princeton University

2019-2020 Served as **Fulbright Scholarship Evaluator** with the Fulbright Commission in Paris, France.

2017-2021 **Nominator and Reviewer** for a prestigious national/international organization whose reviewers names are kept anonymously.

2008-2015- Fulbright Scholarship Committee, Drexel University

2003-2009 – Harry S Truman Scholarship Faculty Advisor, Drexel University

Winter 2007 – 2012 Advisory Editor, *Journal of Modern Literature*

2002 – Served as a primary external evaluator for candidates up for promotion to full professorships, for tenure and promotion, and department headship at the following institution: The University of Kansas, Lawrence KS; Virginia Commonwealth University, Georgia College and State University, The University of Vermont, Monmouth University, Indiana University, Beloit College, Western Illinois University, Seton Hall University, Penn State University, and Franklin & Marshall University (for tenure and promotion 2006-2007), Penn State, Delaware County, (for Distinguished Scholarly Achievement, West Chester University), (for tenure and promotion), Case Western Reserve University, Ohio University, Virginia State University, Brigham Young University, SUNY, Stony Brook, Rutgers University, New Brunswick; Kennesaw State University, **Penn State-Berks**.

2004 – Reviewer of proposals for ASNEL conference in Frankfurt, Germany

2002 – Manuscript reviewer for *Journal of Modern Literature*

1991-1997 – Manuscript reviewer for journals such as *College Literature*, *Research in African Literatures*, *Studies in Short Fiction*, and publishers such as Blair Press (a division of Prentice Hall), and Peter Lang

1999 – Reviewer for Bedford Press

1989- 2008-Faculty Advisor for various student organizations including: Drexel African Student Association (DASA) and West Indian Students Establishment, Drexel chapter

November 17, 1989 – Group Leader, “Strategic Approaches to Multiculturalism in Higher Education,” Diversity Forum, Drexel University

1988 – Local Conference Organizing Committee of National Council for Black Studies: Specifically organized and chaired a panel, “Celebrating James Baldwin”

Community Service

July 2002-2006 – Member, *One Book, One Philadelphia* Book Selection Committee, a committee made up of academics, librarians, and other people interested in promoting literacy who meet over a period of time to select a major text that is presented as recommended reading for residents of the greater Philadelphia region.

March 2002 – Senior Warden and Lector, St. James Episcopal Church of Kingsessing, Philadelphia, PA

January 1999-2003 – Member, Advisory Board, Wesley Foundation/Asbury Protestant Ministry, Drexel University

October 1994-1996 – Member, Advisory Board of “Focus on Africa” Program for Public TV Station 35

1987-1988 – Served as instructor and advisor to participants in creative writing project at Graterford Correctional Center

Grambling State University, Grambling, LA:

1985-1986 – Assistant Professor of English, Department of English/Journalism, Grambling State University, Grambling, LA

Courses Taught: World Literature (Topic: “The World of the Ancients”) ; African Literature and Criticism; Comparative Literature (Topic: “Modern Poetry”); “The Child in Literature”

Committee: Curriculum Development Committee for English Education Majors, Chair

University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Baltimore, MD:

1985 – Senior Research Fellow, University of Maryland, Baltimore County: helped with developing grant proposal for a study of themes and motifs in African folklore; also helped compile the first database for the African Literature Association (ALA).

The University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada:

1984-1985 – Postdoctoral fellow/lecturer, Department of Comparative Literature – Taught: “Studies in World Literature” and “Comparative Third World Literatures”

1984 – Co-Instructor, “Comparative Third World Literatures.”

1983-1984 – Instructor, “Comparative Third World Literatures” and “Studies in World Literature”

1977-1981 – Teaching Assistant, Comparative Literature; Research/Editorial Assistant, *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature*, and *African Literature Association Newsletter* (now *ALA Bulletin*), both published at the University of Alberta

Sierra Leone:

1976-1977 – Instructor, Alliance française, Freetown, Sierre Leone.
Teacher (French), Grades 8-14, Albert Academy, Freetown, Sierra Leone

PUBLICATIONS

(Books)

Translation of *Les années du bac de Kouglo*, the first published novel of Olympe Bhêly-Quenum, 192 pp) as *Kouglo's Shedding* (slated for 2023-24 publication).

Knowledge is more human than mere words. Wey Dehn Sey? Dehn Sey Kapu Sehns Nor Kapu Word; A Critical Introduction to Sierra Leonean Literature (with Eustace Palmer) (Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2008).

Interdisciplinary Dimensions of African Literature (Washington, DC: Three Continents Press, 1982). Co-edited with Kofi Anyidoho, Daniel Racine, and Janice Spleth.

When the Drumbeat Changes: Proceedings of the 1978 African Literature Association Conference (Washington, DC: Three Continents Press, 1981). Co-edited with S.H. Arnold, C.A. Parker and H. Wylie.

(Selected Essays)

“Post Civil War Literary Fiction: A Catalyst for Understanding Sierra Leone’s Recent Past Present, and Future” in Special Issue of *African Conflict and Peacebuilding Review* 12, No 2 (Spring 2023), 129-148

.“Pourquoi l’uzège ? propos d’Olympe Bhêly-Quenum,” Recueillis par Abioseh Michael Porter, in *La Nouvelle Cigale Uzégeoise*, Uzès, France, numéro vingt-trois ,juin 2021, 40-45

“Paying Tribute to One of Africa’s [Genuine] Literary Heavyweights: Eustace James Taiwo Palmer,” *JALA (Journal of the African Literature Association)*, 15.1, 152-160 (2021)

“Paying Tribute to one of Africa’s (Genuine) Literary Heavyweights: Eustace James Taiwo Palmer”, *Journal of the African Literature Association (JALA)*, 15:2, 152-160, DOI: [10.1080/21674736.2021.1900267](https://doi.org/10.1080/21674736.2021.1900267)

***JALA* Vol. 15, Issue 2 (2021), 152-160 (Lead article in print version)**

“Non-Conventional Literary Media: New Poetic Voices on the Internet,” in *Knowledge is more than mere words. Wey Dehn Sey? Dehn Sey Kapu Sehns Nor Kapu Word: A Critical Introduction to Sierra Leonean Literature* (with Eustace Palmer) (Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2008), 315-338.

“Fictional Worlds, Symbolism and Struggles of (Under-)Development: Kolawole Omotoso’s ‘The Combat,’” *West African Worlds Paths Through Socio-Economic Change, Livelihoods and Development*. Harlow, UK: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2005, 87-108.

“Revitalizing an Existing Cultural Phenomenon: Treatment of the Abiku in *La Naissance d’abikou* and *Les Appels du voodoo* by Olympe Bhêly Quénun” in www.obhelyquenum.com, and published in *Melanges offerts a Olympe Bhely-Quenum* (Paris: Gallimard, 2002).

“Un anglophone et la francophonie” in *Autrement memes: Homages a Roger Little Cass*, London, 2002.

“The ‘New’ New Jerusalem in Contemporary West African Fiction,” *Jouvert: A Journal of Postcolonial Writing* Vol. 4, No. 2, Winter 2000. (<http://social.chass.ncsu.edu/jouvert/v4i2/porter.htm>), 21 pp (North Carolina State University). Republished in *Emerging Perspectives on Syl Cheney-Coker*, Eustace Palmer and Ernest Cole (eds), Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2014

“They Were There Too: Women and the Civil War(s) in Emecheta’s *Destination Biafra*,” in *Emerging Perspectives on Buchi Emecheta*, Marie Umeh (ed.), (Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 1995, 153-171).

“*Second Class Citizen*: The Point of Departure for Understanding Buchi Emecheta’s Major Fiction,” reprinted in *Emerging Perspectives on Buchi Emecheta*, Marie Umeh (ed.), (Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, December 1995), 263-269, and in *DIScovering (sic) Authors Modules (DA-M)*, CD-Rom edited by Jane Witalek for Gale Research Inc., 1995. Originally published in the *International Fiction Review*, 15, No. 2 (1988), 123-129.

“Ben Okri’s *The Landscapes Within*: A Metaphor for Personal and National Development,” reprinted in *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, Vol. 88, edited by Chris Giroux, 1995. Originally published in *World Literature Written in English*, 28, No. 2 (Autumn 1988), 203-210.

“Krio Literature: The Most Popular Literature in Sierra Leone,” in *Signs and Signals: Popular Culture in Africa*, Raoul Granqvist (ed.), (Stockholm: Almqvist and Wiksell International, Summer 1990), pp 1-23.

“Beyond ‘Self-Deprecation’ and ‘Racism:’ Versions of African History in *Bound to Violence and Two Thousand Seasons*,” *Journal of Black Studies*, Vol. 20, No. 1 (September 1989), 3-13.

“A Critical Introduction” to *Snares Without End*, The North American Translation of *Un Pieu sans fin* by Olympe Bhely-Quenum (Charlottesville, VA: The University Press of Virginia, 1988), pp. xii-xxvi.

“Ideology and the Image of Women: Kenyan Women in Njau and Ngugi,” *ARIEL: A Review of International English Literature*, 12, No. 3 (July 1981), 61-74.

“Smohl No Be Sik: A Preliminary Survey of Pidgin Literature in Cameroon,” *Pacific Moana Quarterly*, Vol. 6, Nos. 3 & 4 (July-Oct. 1981), 62-69.

“The Child-Narrator and the Theme of Love in Mongo Beti’s *Le Pauvre Christ de Bomba*,” in *Design and intent in African Literature*, eds. David Dorsey et al (Washington DC: Three Continents Press, 1982), pp. 103-107.

REVIEWS

A Review of *The African Writers’ Handbook*, by James Gibbs and Jack Mapanje (eds) in *African Book Publishing Record* (Oxford), Vol. XXVI, No. 2, 2000, 89.

Review of *The Novel as Transformation Myth: A Study of the Novels of Mongo Beti and Ngugi wa Thiong’o* by Kandioura Drame, *Research in African Literatures*, Vol. 24, No. 2 (Summer 1993), 142-143.

Review of *Ake: The Years of Childhood* by Wole Soyinka, *African Literature Association (ALA) Bulletin*, Vol. 9, No. 3 (Summer 1983), 16-18.

Review of *Les Frasesques d’Ebinto* by Amadou Kone and *Soundjata: Le Lion Manding* by L. Gbagbo, *African Book Publishing Record*, 8, No. 1 (1982).

(Manuscripts either under consideration or in circulation).

Monograph on *Alterity in West African Fiction*

Critical Biography of Olympe Bhêly-Quenum and the Cultures of the Two Worlds he Knows: *Benin and France*

Calls of the Voodoo (Translation of *Les Appels du voodoo*, a 400+ page novel).

A Literary History of Sierra Leone

Othello's Countryman: The Life and Times of Eldred Durosimi Jones

INVITED/REFEREED LECTURES/PRESENTATIONS

***June 17-19, 2026** “Cli-lit in West Africa: A Tool for science and literature in dialogue,” The Conference of the Commission on Science and Literature (CONSCILIT 2026), Hosted by Ghent University, Belgium

July 23-26, 2025 “Language, Life Writing, and His-Herstories: Life Writing by Eldred Jones, Aminatta Forna, Kosonike Koso-Thomas, and R. B Wellesley-Cole”, organized by Life Writing, and Social Transformation Sponsored by the International Autobiography Association (IABA), Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Coimbra Portugal

June 13-14, 2024 “ ‘When all the water has gone, only the large ststones will remain on the riverbed’: Drought as Metaphor and Reality in African Fiction” at a conference: “Without water we are nothing’: Poetics and Politics of Water in Anglophone Postcolonial Literatures (20th-21st Centuries)” at Université de Lille 3, France.

March 21-23, 2024 “Creating New Forms of Identity and Recognition Through Community Building in Contemporary West African Fiction” at a conference on “The Politics and Poetics of Community within the Anglophone Left.” Sorbonne University and Paris Nanterre University, France.

June 26-29, 2023, “If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. ~ African proverb Toward a Definition of Relationality in Contemporary West African Fiction.” Paper presented at School for Culural Studies, University of Amsterdam.

June 19, 2023. “Whither Sierra Leone: Implications for Peace, Stability, Democracy, and Development in West Africa: A Virtual Colloquium” I was one of five principal speakers.

May 26, 2021, “Using the City and Other Areas as Arenas to Combat Censorship” Annual Meeting (Virtual, this year) of the African Literature Association (ALA)

May 27, 2021 Themes, Trends, Theories: Critical Routes for Research in African Literature in the 21st Century (Round Table) Panelists:

Moradewun Adejunmobi (UC-Davis)
Joya Uraizee (Saint Louis University)
Abioseh Porter (Drexel University)

May 28, 2021 “On Teju: The Team Player and Ideas Promoter” on **Panel II for Tejumola Olaniyan. Issues in Texts and Society.**

March 21-23, 2019, “Migrating from Europe to America, You are an “Expat;” Migrating from Africa, you are an “Immigrant” or Worse: Migration in Contemporary West African Fiction,” at “Migrating World: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Migration and Integration” Conference, University of Greenwich, UK.

May 23-26, 2018 “The New, Truly Interesting Literature Coming From Sierra Leone During the Past Decade,” ALA Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.

March 17-19, 2018 “‘If there is no evil within, the evil on the outside cannot do you harm’ [African Proverb]: Questions of Alterity and Notions of Evil in Contemporary West African Fiction,” paper presented at “Faces of Evil Conference,” Lisbon, Portugal,

June 14-17, 2017 “On Aminatta Forna,” African Literature Association Conference, Yale University, New Haven CT.

November 8-10, 2016 “Sierra Leonean Authors and the Re-writing of National Literary History.” To be presented at “The Verbal Text & National Literary Historiography: An Interdisciplinary Conference,” Queen Mary College, University of London, UK.

July 19-25, 2016- “Recognizing, Knowing, and Understanding Diversity at Home and Abroad in Recent African Fiction,” Congress of International Comparative Literature Association, Vienna Austria.

May 24-June, 2016- “Ekwensi’s Legacy and Beyond: People, Cities, and a New Global Order in Contemporary West African Fiction,” to be presented at Meetings of Canadian Comparative Literature Association, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada

April 6-9, 2016-“All Tehm for Tiff Man, Wan Dey for Buk Pipul Dehm: Sierra Leonean Authors and the Resurgence of Human Dignity in West African Fiction.” 42nd Annual Conference of the African Literature Association, Atlanta, GA.

November 26-28, 2015 – “‘Expats,’ ‘Immigrants,’ ‘Illegals,’ ‘Nationals,’ and Alterity in Recent West African Fiction: Narrating West Africa, Europe, and the US in our Contemporary World,” presented at 40^e Congrès de la société française de littérature générale et comparée, Université Picardie Jules Verne (Amiens), France.

June 3-6, 2015 – Chair of Panel on “Narrations of/and Aesthetics” and Presenter of Paper on “Narrating West Africa, Europe, and the US in Modern Ways: Examples of New West African Fiction in the 21st Century,” ALA Annual Conference, University of Bayreuth, Germany.

September 9-11, 2014 – “Something Truly Interesting Coming from Sierra Leone: Fiction During the Past Decade,” African Studies Association, United Kingdom (ASAUk), Conference, University of Sussex, UK.

July 28-31, 2014 – “Turning Alterity Upside Down: Some Examples from New West African Fiction, Plenary Address” at “Representing Alterity in Society in Crisis: The Construction and Representation of the Other in Society and in Texts” Conference, University of Genoa, Italy.

April 24, 2014-“The Continuing Power of the Word: A Resurgence of Fine Writing from West Africa,” University of Delaware African Studies Program Distinguished Speaker

October 1-4, 2013 – “New Literary Representations of Africans in Europe by African Writers: Combining Visual and Literary Techniques,” AfroEurope IV Conference, University of London, UK.

May 17-18, 2013 – “Potential and Continuing Power of the Word in West African Writing,” presented at Conference on “Les Mots: Entre pouvoir et puissance/Literary Texts: The Power and the Possible,” University of Reims, France.

March 20-24, 2013 – “A Life Under Many Flags: Eldred Durosini Jones and the Art of Literary Criticism in Africa and Beyond,” ALA Annual Conference, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC.

Chair, Workshop on “Mock Interviews” for Tenure Track Applicants, ALA Annual Conference, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC.

Panelist, “How does one get that first big article or book published?” ALA Annual Conference, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC.

September 11-14, 2012 – “Narrating Rights for All at Home and Abroad: Aminatta Forna, Biyi Bandele, Fatou Diome and Chika Unigwe,” presented at University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, France.

September 6-8, 2012 – “Writing and Interpreting a World Getting Smaller: Africa, Europe, and America in Recent African Fiction,” UK African Studies Association Conference, Leeds, UK.

June 11-14, 2012 – “House of [Permanent] Exile: Being in Africa and in Europe,” IJAS Conference, Florence, Italy.

April 11-15, 2012 – “Eustace Palmer: A Retrospective Look at a Teacher-Critic-Scholar-Humanist,” ALA Annual Conference, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX.

Chair, roundtable: “Well, What does it take to Get Tenured and Promoted?” ALA Annual Conference, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX.

February 22, 2012 – “History, Fiction, Locale, and Critical Reception of Some New Voices from Sierra Leone,” (Invited Lecture), University of Denver, Denver, CO.

January 8-10, 2012 – “Africa and Elsewhere in Contemporary African Fiction,” Chair and Presenter, Hawaii University Humanities Conference, Honolulu, HI.

September 8-10, 2011 – “Being in Africa and in Europe: Consequences on the Self as Foreigner,” BCLA/Spanish Comp Lit Assoc. Conference, University of Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain

June 2-6, 2011 – “Bhely-Quenum and The Specter of the Author in the West African Short Story,” IJAS Conference, Aix-en Provence, France.

September 16-19, 2010 – “Othello’s Countryman, and the Contemporary African Literary Environment,” St. Antony’s College, Oxford University, UK.

May 27-28, 2010 – “Literary Reception and Censorship: An Example from Civil War Fiction in West Africa,” University of Rennes, France.

March 11-14, 2010 – “Eldred Jones, aka, Othello’s Countryman, and the African Environment (Literary and Otherwise) in the Twenty First Century,” University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

April 15-19, 2009 – “Reading Poetry as Art,” Presenter and Panel Co-Chair, African Literature Association (ALA) Conference, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

May 21-24, 2009 – “More than Mere ‘Dislocation:’ Translocation in the Poetry of J.P. Clark and Syl Cheney-Coker,” presented at Association of New Literatures in English, (ASNEL) Conference at University of Munster, Germany.

November 5-7, 2008 – Participant in a panel discussion on Chinua Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart: 50 Years Later: A Retrospective Glimpse of an African Classic Novel*; Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA.

One of three major presenters on “Africa, Scholarship, and Publishing in the 21st Century,” at Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA.

September 11-13, 2008 – “History, Poetry, Fiction, and Film Coming Together to Correct Some Major Lies in Contemporary Form: Human Freedom and the Abolition of the Slave Trade.” Paper Presented at the Biennial Conference of the United Kingdom African Studies Association (UKASA) Conference, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK. Also served as chair of two panels on literature.

April 22-27, 2008 – “On Commemorating the Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade: A Multi-Genre Approach,” served as presenter and co-chair of the panel. African Literature Association (ALA) Conference, University of Western Illinois, Macomb, IL.

April 9, 2008 – Invited Lecture on “Real Human Freedom: The Abolition of the Slave Trade (200 Years Ago) in Contemporary Multi-Media Forms,” Community College of Philadelphia.

May 17-20, 2007 – “Local Reflections, External Memories, Unspeakable Thoughts: Writers Re-Viewing Recent ‘Civil’ Wars in West Africa.” Presented at Association of New Literatures in English (ASNEL) Conference in Jena, Germany.

December 27-30, 2006 – Chaired a panel on “Writing about War,” MLA Convention, Philadelphia, PA.

November 15-19, 2006 – Chaired a panel and presented a paper, “The End and the Beginning: Reading African and the World at the End of the Twentieth and the Dawn of the Twenty First Centuries,” ASA Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.

September 19-22, 2006 – (Invited paper) “Confronting and Attempting to Resolve New Challenges to African Culture: The Desk Top Publishing and the Internet as Useful Cultural/Pedagogical Tools in Twenty First Century Africa,” 50th Anniversary of the First International Congress of Black Writers and Artists, UNESCO/Sorbonne, Paris, France.

May 17-21, 2006 – Chaired panel, “Presenting and Re-Presenting Sierra Leone: A New Century and New Beginnings,” and presented paper, “If Some Man Nor Die...:” Re-Presenting Sierra Leone and Some Solutions to its Problems,” ALA Conference, Accra, Ghana.

September 12-14, 2005 – “Literary Resistance to the Violence in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Cote d’Ivoire: New Writing from and About Sierra Leone and Kourouma’s Work,” at The Literary Territories of Post-colonialism: Theories and Languages of Resistance’s symposium at the University of Wales.

August 31-September 2, 2005 – “The new cultural and literary politics of Sierra Leone: New writing from and about Sierra Leone,” RGS/RGA Conference, London, UK.

April 6-10, 2005 – “Preserving and Maintaining Aspects of Sierra Leone Culture Beyond the Printed Word: Popular Music and the Retention of Krio Culture,” ALA Conference, Boulder, CO.

November 11-14, 2004 – “Before and after *Un piège sans fin*: The Writing of Olympe Bhêly-Quenum,” African Studies Association (USA) and the Canadian African Studies Association, New Orleans, LA.

May 19-23, 2004 – Refereed Presentation, “Thirty New Poets in One Year? The Promise and Perils of Sierra Leone Internet Writing,” 2004 ASNEL Conference on “Transcultural English Studies” at Johann-Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany.

Not only served as primary North American evaluator of all proposals on African literatures submitted to the conference organizers but also chaired a separate panel on “Transnational Connections in African Literature.”

April 14-18, 2004 – Presented a paper and chaired a panel on “On Creating a National Literary History of Sierra Leone,” Refereed presentation at annual meetings of African Literature Association Conference, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

February 23, 2004 – “The Promise and Perils of a New Form of Internet Writing in Africa: One Example,” Drexel University College of Arts and Sciences, Dean’s Seminar Series

March 19-23, 2003 – Refereed presentation, “Looking for a Few Devils, Gargoyles, Buffoons, and Good People: Intertextual Design and the Re-Lighting of Contemporary African Literatures and Culture,” Of Lighthouses and Libraries: History ReLit, ALA Conference, Alexandria, Egypt.

Also chaired a panel for this presentation.

December 8, 2002 – Refereed presentation: “The Poet Is One Who Knew How to Remain a Child, Even in War: Children and the War in Sierra Leone,” ASA Conference, Washington, DC.

April 5, 2002 – Chaired a panel on “Innocents Abroad, Native Foreigners, Con Artists, and Some: African Diasporas... Migrations and Boundaries,” also presented a paper: “They Went, They Came, They Saw, and... Contemporary Visions and Versions of African in and out of the Continent.” Refereed presentation at annual meetings of African Literature Association Conference, La Jolla, California.

March 2, 2002 – “The ‘Civil War’ in Sierra Leone: Representation and Misrepresentation by the Media.” Refereed presentation at Conference on “The Portrayal of Africa in the Western Media,” University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

October 26, 2001 – “Views of and from the Diaspora in Electronic and Print Form: Some Recent Writing by Africans in the Diaspora.” Refereed presentation at Ninth Annual African Studies Consortium Workshop, The University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

June 6-9, 2001 – “English, the Internet and Creativity: New Writing from Africa,” Conference on The Politics of English as a World Language, Refereed presentation, University of Freiburg, Germany.

April 4-8, 2001 – Chaired a panel on “Translation West African Culture at the End of the Twentieth-Century;” also presented a refereed paper: “On the Joys and Difficulties of Translating Literary Works: The Examples of ‘La Naissance d’Abikou’ and *Les Appels du voodoo* by Olympe Bhely-Quenum.” Refereed presentation at annual meetings of the African Literature Association, Richmond, VA.

February 28, 2001 – Invited lecture: “On Race, Ethnic and Class Division: Looking for New Solutions to Old Problems in Contemporary African Poetry.” Invited lecture at Villanova University, PA.

March 2, 2001 – Invited Lecture: “Some New Writing from Africa,” African Studies Center, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

October 16, 2000 – “Derek Walcott: Poet and Chroniclers of the Caribbean,” Presented to the West African Student Establishment (WISE), Drexel University.

October 13-14, 2000 – “Is Anything Post-Colonial About a Country Like Sierra Leone” Writing, the Electronic Medium, and Real Events in an African Country,” Keynote Address at Post-Colonial Symposium in the Comparative Literature Program, University of Colorado, Boulder.

May 31-June 4, 2000 – “Anglophone-Francophone African Literary Relations: Disembodied Existence and the Notion of the ‘Other’ in Bhêly-Quenum, Clark, Okri, and Soyinka,” Aachen, Germany/Liege, Belgium.

April 12-16, 2000 – “Another Way of Learning: Poetry (and its Imitations) by Sierra Leoneans on the Internet,” Refereed presentation at the Millennium Conference of the African Literature Association, Lawrence, KS.

February 5, 2000 – “An Analysis of Contemporary African Prose Fiction.” Invited, “Expert” Presentation at Reading Museum, Reading, PA.

March 12, 1999 – “Africa and its Various Wars: The Response of Writers from Nigeria and Zimbabwe,” Refereed presentation at annual meetings of the African Literature Association (ALA), Fez, Morocco.

November 17, 1998 – “A New ‘New Jerusalem’?: African Writers and the Dawn of the New Millennium,” Presented at Drexel University Humanities Seminar Series.

May 25, 1998 – Interview on “Political and Other Tensions in Contemporary African,” TV-WBBE Channel 35, Philadelphia.

April 22-24, 1998 – “A New ‘New Jerusalem’?: African Writers and the Dawn of the New Millennium,” Presented at “Africa and the New Millennium Conference” at University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK.

February 17, 1998 – “Some Recent African and African American Fiction and their Meanings,” Invited Lecture Presented at Jahnssen Pharmaceuticals, Ewing, NJ.

October 17, 1997 – “Fighting different wars: Examples in Fiction from the Ivory Coast, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone,” Paper Presented at African Studies Workshop, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

May 16, 1997 – “History Tells What Happened, Literature Tells What Happens: Fiction and Prediction in Recent West African Writing.” Keynote Address at Drexel African Student Association (DASA) Gala, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA.

November 21-23, 1996 – “Between the Living and the Dead: Disembodied Existence in its Cultural Literary Manifestations in African Fiction.” Participant in a Symposium on the Writing of Olympe Bhely-Quenum, at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland.

October 24-26, 1996 – “Language as a Weapon of War: Examples from Nigerian Civil War Fiction (Eddie Iroh, Flora Nwapa, Kole Omotoso, Cyprian Ekwensi, Isidore Okpewho, etc). Presented at “Creative Writing in English by Non-Native Speakers” Conference at West Chester University, West Chester, PA.

September 30, 1994 – “Linguistic Innovations in Some Recent English and French-Language Novels from West Africa,” Foreign Languages Conference on Redefining Culture(s) for the 21st Century, West Chester University, West Chester, PA.

August 15-18, 1994 – Chaired a panel and presented a paper, “African History in Recent Fiction: Cheney-Coker’s *Last Harmattan of Alusine Dunbar*, Echewa’s *I Saw the Sky Catch Fire*, and Kourouma’s *Monne, ou l’outrage du defi*,” International Comparative Literature Association Triennial Congress, The University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta.

March 9, 1994 – “On Revising the High School Literature Curriculum: A Workshop on the Teaching of Japanese and Indian Literature,” Conference of Archdiocese of Philadelphia High School English Department Heads, Kennedy-Kendrick High School, Norristown, PA.

October 9-10, 1991 – “Generic Criticism: Paradigms for Making African/African American Literary Connections,” Symposium on African/African American Literary Connections, Lincoln University, PA.

March 20-23, 1991 – “What Exactly were They Doing? Female Responses to the Nigerian Civil War in the Fiction of Buchi Emecheta and Flora Nwapa,” Annual ALA Conference, Loyola University, New Orleans, LA.

November 30, 1989 – “Opening New Vistas: The Comparative Approach to African and Other Non-western Literatures, Comparative Literature Colloquium Series, West Chester University, West Chester, PA.

November 11, 1989 – “Contemporary African Culture and Politics,” Drexel University International Studies Commission Fall Festival, Ruth Auditorium, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA.

October 11, 1989 – “New Methods of Evaluating African Fiction,” English Department, Umea University, Umea, Sweden.

October 30, 1988 – “Translating Krio Poetry into English,” Seminar of “The Art of Translation,” Gershman YM/YWHA Community Center, Philadelphia, PA.

April 7-10, 1984 – “The African Bildungsroman and its Relevance to African Education,” ALA Conference, Howard University, Washington, DC.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Work on Olympe Bhêly-Quénum; War in African Writing.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Membership in the following organizations: African Literature Association (ALA); African Studies Association (ASA); MLA, Canadian Comparative Literature Association, UKASA

ACADEMIC TRAVEL/CONFERENCES

I have traveled extensively in West Africa, North America, and Europe, and have participated or presented papers at the following academic meetings:

African Literature Association Conference, April 5-8, 1978, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC.

African Literature Association Conference, March 21-24, 1979, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.

African Literature Association Conference, April 9-12, 1980, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

African Literature Association Conference, April 8-11, 1981, Claremont Colleges, Claremont, CA.

Canadian Association of African Studies Conference, May 8-11, 1981, University of Calgary, Alberta.

Symposium on Romantic Drama, Sponsored by the International Comparative Literature Association, October 16-17, 1981, University of Alberta, Alberta.

African Literature Association Conference, April 7-10, 1982, Howard University, Washington, DC.

African Studies Association Meeting, November 4-7, 1982, Washington, DC.

Learned Societies of Canada Annual Conference, June 1-4, 1984, University of Guelph, Ontario.

African Studies Association (ASA) Conference, October 25-28, 1984, Los Angeles, CA.

Canadian African Studies Association Conference, May 7-9, 1987, University of Alberta, Canada.

National Council for Black Studies (NCBS) Conference, May 6-9, 1988, Philadelphia, PA.

Workshop/Conference on “Popular Culture in Africa,” October 12-13, 1989, University of Umea, Umea, Sweden.

ALA Conference, March 20-23, 1991, Loyola University, New Orleans, LA.

Transatlantic Connections: Symposium on African/African American Literary Connections, October 9-10, 1991, Lincoln University, PA.

Workshop on Developing a New Literature Curriculum for High School Teachers, March 9, 1994, Norristown, PA.

International Comparative Literature Association Triennial Congress, August 15-18, 1994, The University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta.

Foreign Languages Conference on Redefining Culture(s) for the 21st Century, September 30, 1994, West Chester University, West Chester, PA.

“Creative Writing in English by Non-Native Speakers” Conference, October 24-26, 1996, West Chester University, West Chester, PA.

Symposium on the Writing of Olympe Bhely-Quenum, November 21-23, 1996, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland.

African Studies Workshop, October 17, 1997, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

“Africa and the Dawn of the New Millennium” Conference, April 22-24, 1998, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, England.

African Literature Association (ALA) Annual Conference, March 10-15, 1999, Fez, Morocco.

African Studies Association Conference, November 11-14, 1999, Philadelphia, PA.

Millennium Conference of the African Literature Association, April 12-16, 2000, Lawrence, KS.

ASNEL Conference, May 31-June 4, 2000, Aachen, Germany & Liege, Belgium.

Symposium in Comparative Literature Program, October 14-15, 2000, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO.

African Studies Association Conference, November 16-19, 2000, Nashville, TN.

African Literature Association, April 4-8, 2001, Richmond, VA.

ASNEL Conference on The Politics of English as a World Language, June 6-9, 2001, Freiburg, Germany.

African Studies Association Conference, November 15-18, 2001, Houston, TX.

African Literature Association Conference, April 3-7, 2002, La Jolla, CA.

African Studies Association Conference, December 5-8, 2002, Washington, DC.

African Literature Association Conference, March 10-14, 2003, Alexandria, Egypt.

African Studies Association Conference, October 30-November 2, 2003, Boston, MA.

African Literature Association Conference, April 14-18, 2004, Madison, WI.

ASNEL Conference on “Transcultural Literature,” May, 2004, Frankfurt, Germany.

African Studies Association (USA) and the Canadian African Studies Association, November 2004, New Orleans, LA.

ALA Annual Conference, April 6-10, 2005, Boulder, CO.

RGS/RSA Conference, August 31-September 2, 2005, London, UK.

The Literary Territories of Post-colonialism: Theories and Languages of Resistance Symposium, September 12-14, 2005, University of Wales, UK.

ALA Conference, May 17-21, 2006, Accra, Ghana.

ASA Annual Conference, November 15-19, 2006, San Francisco, CA.

ALA Conference, March 14-18, 2007, WVU, Morgantown, WV.

ASNEL Conference, May 17-20, 2007, Jena University, Germany.

Things Fall Apart Symposium, November 5-6, 2008, Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA.

ASA Annual Meeting, November 13-16, 2008, Chicago, IL.

ALA Conference, April 15-19, 2009, Burlington, VT.

ASNEL Conference, May 21-25, 2009, University of Muenster, Germany.

Annual ALA Conference, March 11-14, 2010, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

Literary Reception and Censorship Conference, May 27-28, 2010, University of Rennes 2, France.

UKASA Conference, September 16-19, 2010, St. Antony's College, Oxford University, UK.

IJAS Conference, June 2-6, 2011, Aix-en-Provence, France.

BCLA/Spanish Comp Lit Association Conference, September 8-10, 2011, University of Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain.

Hawaii University Humanities Conference, January 8-10, 2012, Honolulu, HI.

Invited Lecture, February 22, 2012, University of Denver, Denver, CO.

Annual ALA Conference, April 11-15, 2012, Dallas, TX.

IJAS Conference, June 11-14, 2012, Florence, Italy.

Colloque Interculturalité, September 11-14, 2012, University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, France,

UK African Studies Association Conference, September 6-8, 2012, Leeds, UK.

ALA Annual Conference, March 20-24, 2013, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC.

Conference on "Les Mots: Entre pouvoir et puissance/Literary Texts: The Power and the Possible," May 17-18, 2013, University of Reims, France.

AfroEurope IV Conference, October 1-4, 2013, University of London, UK.

"Representing Alterity in Society in Crisis: The Construction and Representation of the Other in Society and in Texts" Conference, July 28-31, 2014, University of Genoa, Italy

African Studies Association, United Kingdom (ASAUK), Conference, September 9-11, 2014, University of Sussex, UK.

ALA Annual Conference, June 3-6, 2015, University of Bayreuth, Germany

"Narrating West Africa, Europe, and the US in our Contemporary World," presented at 40e Congrès de la société française de littérature générale et comparée, Université Picardie Jules Verne (Amiens), France.

July 19-25, 2016- "Recognizing, Knowing, and Understanding Diversity at Home and Abroad in Recent African Fiction," Congress of International Comparative Literature Association, Vienna Austria.

May 24-June, 2016- “Ekwensi’s Legacy and Beyond: People, Cities, and a New Global Order in Contemporary West African Fiction,” to be presented at Meetings of Canadian Comparative Literature Association, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada

April 6-9, 2016-“All Tehm for Tiff Man, Wan Dey for Buk Pipul Dehm: Sierra Leonean Authors and the Resurgence of Human Dignity in West African Fiction.” 42nd Annual Conference of the African Literature Association, Atlanta, GA.

June 14-17, 2017 “On Aminatta Forna,” African Literature Association Conference, Yale University, New Haven CT.

May 23-26, 2018 “The New, Truly Interesting Literature Coming From Sierra Leone During the Past Decade,” ALA Annual Meeting, Washington, DC. (**Refereed**)

March 17-19, 2018 “‘If there is no evil within, the evil on the outside cannot do you harm’ [African Proverb]: Questions of Alterity and Notions of Evil in Contemporary West African Fiction,” paper presented at “Faces of Evil Conference,” Lisbon, Portugal. (**Refereed**)

*May 24-25, 2019. “Movement, Pain, and Suffering in Contemporary West African Fiction, “Body in Motion, Travelling Bodies in Anglophone Literature” Conference, University of Paris 8-Saint Denis (Refereed)

*March 21-23, 2019. “Migrating from Europe to America, You are an “Expat;” Migrating from Africa, you are an “Immigrant” or Worse: Migration in Contemporary West African Fiction,” at "Migrating World: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Migration and Integration" Conference, University of Greenwich, UK. (Refereed)

May 28, 2021 “On Teju: The Team Player and Ideas Promoter” on **Panel II for Tejumola Olaniyan. Issues in Texts and Society.**

May 27, 2021 Themes, Trends, Theories: Critical Routes for Research in African Literature in the 21st Century (Round Table) Panelists:

Moradewun Adejunmobi (UC-Davis)
Joya Uraizee (Saint Louis University)
Abioseh Porter (Drexel University)

May 26, 2021, “Using the City and Other Areas as Arenas to Combat Censorship” Annual Meeting (Virtual, this year) of the African Literature Association (ALA)

June 19, 2023. “Whither Sierra Leone: Implications for Peace, Stability, Democracy, and Development in West Africa: A Virtual Colloquium” I was one of five principal speakers.

June 26-29, 2023, “If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. ~ African proverb Toward a Definition of Relationality in Contemporary West African Fiction.” Paper presented at School for Culural Studies, University of Amsterdam.

***March 21-23, 2024** “Creating New Forms of Identity and Recognition Through Community Building in Contemporary West African Fiction” at a conference on “The Politics and Poetics of Community within the Anglophone Left.” Sorbonne and Paris Nanterre Universities respectively , France.

***June 13-14, 2024** “ ‘When all the water has gone, only the large ststones will remain on the riverbed’: Drought as Metaphor and Reality in African Fiction” at a conference: “Without water we are nothing’: Poetics and Politics of Water in Anglophone Postcolonial Literatures (20th-21st Centuries)” at Université de Lille 3, France.

***July 23-26, 2025** “Language, Life Writing, and His-Herstories: Life Writing by Eldred Jones, Aminatta Forna, Kosonike Koso-Thomas, and R. B Wellesley-Cole”, organized by Life Writing, and Social Transformation Sponsored by the International Autobiography Association (IABA), Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Coimbra Portugal

June 17-19, 2026 “Cli-lit in West Africa: A Tool for science and literature in dialogue,” The Conference of the Commission on Science and Literatures(CONSCILIT 2026), Hosted by Ghent University, Belgium

REFERENCES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST: