

## **DR. J. ROGER KURTZ**

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### **EDUCATION**

1994 PhD Comparative Literature – University of Iowa  
1985 BA English/Spanish/Secondary Education – Eastern Mennonite University (VA)

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### **FACULTY APPOINTMENTS**

#### **DREXEL UNIVERSITY, Philadelphia PA**

- 2017-present Professor, Department of English and Philosophy

#### **THE COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT, State University of New York (SUNY), Brockport NY:**

- 2006-2017 Professor, Department of English
- 2000-2006 Associate Professor, English
- 1997-2000 Assistant Professor, English

#### **IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY, Pocatello ID**

- 1994-1997 Assistant Professor (tenure-track), Department of English and Philosophy

#### **UNIVERSITY OF IOWA, Iowa City IA**

- 1988-1994 Teaching Assistant in Department of English, Department of Rhetoric, and Department of Spanish and Portuguese

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### **ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS**

#### **DREXEL UNIVERSITY, Philadelphia PA**

- 2017-present Department Head, Department of English and Philosophy

#### **THE COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT, State University of New York (SUNY), Brockport NY:**

- 2016-2017 Director, SUNY Brockport Center for Scholarship and Creative Activity
- 2012-2017 Chair, Department of African and African American Studies
- 2012-2014 Interim Chair, Department of Anthropology
- 2009-2012 Chair, Department of English

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## TEACHING AWARDS

- 2003 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching  
2002 SUNY Brockport Honors Program Outstanding Teacher Award  
1990 University of Iowa Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

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## COURSES TAUGHT

### DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Composition and Rhetoric III: Themes and Genres, Postcolonial Literature II, Senior Seminar in World Literature: Magical Realism, Global Anglophone Literature, Literature in Translation, Literary Theory.

### THE COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT (SUNY)

African Film and Fiction, African Novel, British Literature and Empire, College Composition, Caribbean Literature, Critical Theory, The Empire Writes Back, Heart of Darkness, International Fiction, Introduction to Honors, Introduction to Literary Analysis, Kenyan Novel, Literature and Culture, Literature and Forgiveness, Magical Realism, Modern World Literature, Nobel Laureates, Postcolonial Literature, Seminar in World Literature, Senior Seminar, South African Literature.

### IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY

African Literature, Commonwealth Literature, Comparative Literature, Composition, Critical Reading and Writing, Introduction to Literature, Literary Analysis, Third World Literatures in English, Modern World Literature.

### UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Interpretation of Literature, Introductory Spanish I, Introductory Spanish II, Rhetoric I, Rhetoric II.

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## SCHOLARSHIP

### BOOKS

- *Trauma and Transformation in African Literature*. Routledge Press, 2021.
- *Trauma and Literature*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2018.
- *Nyarloka's Gift: The Writing of Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye*. Nairobi: Mvule Africa Publishers, 2005. Mvule Studies in African Literature, #1.
- *Urban Obsessions, Urban Fears: The Postcolonial Kenyan Novel*. Oxford: James Currey Publishers and Trenton NJ: Africa World Press, 1998.

## ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- "Grace Ogot and the Cultural Politics of Misdiagnosis." Forthcoming.
- "Literature, Trauma, and the African Moral Imagination." In *Writers and Social Thought in Africa*, ed. Wale Adebani. New York: Routledge, 2015, 17-31. Originally published in *Journal of Contemporary African Studies* 34.4 (December 2014), 421-435.
- "Debating the Language of African Literature: Ethiopian Contributions." In *Cultural Dynamics of Globalization and African Literature*, ed. Sandra Dixon and Janice Spleth. Trenton NJ: Africa World Press, 2014, 127-154. Originally published in *Journal of African Cultural Studies* 19.2 (December 2007): 187-209.
- "Foreword." In Francis D. Imbuga, *Green Cross of Kafira*. Nairobi: Bookmark Africa Ltd., 2013.
- "The Intertextual Imagination in *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Adichie." *ARIEL: A Review of International English Literature*, 42.2 (April 2011, published Spring 2012): 23-42.
- "The Moral Imagination at Work in Haile Selassie's Ethiopia: Reconsidering *The Thirteenth Sun* by Daniachew Worku." *Research in African Literatures* 41.4 (Winter 2010): 1-25.
- "Historical Perspective, Literary Insight: The National Narrative in Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye's *The Present Moment*." *The Nairobi Journal of Literature* 2 (March 2004): 37-48.
- "Crossing Over: Identity and Change in Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye's *Song of Nyarloka*." *Research in African Literatures* 33:2 (Summer 2002), 100-18.
- "Language and Ideology in Postcolonial Kenyan Literature: The Case of David Maillu's Macaronic Fiction" (co-author, Robert M. Kurtz). In *Readings in African Popular Fiction*, ed. Stephanie Newell. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2002. 124-28. Originally published in *Journal of Commonwealth Literature* 33.1 (Summer 1998): 63-73.
- "A Conversation with Zee Edgell." With Stan Sanvel Rubin. In *Great River Review* 35 (Fall/Winter 2001-2002): 1-18.
- "Afterword." In Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye, *Coming to Birth*. New York: The Feminist Press, 2000. 151-87.
- "Post-Marked Nairobi: Writing the City in Contemporary Kenya." In *The Postcolonial Condition of African Literature*. Eds. John Conteh-Morgan and Daniel Gover. Trenton NJ: Africa World Press, 2000. 103-110.
- "Derek Walcott and the Value of Poetry." *Rendezvous* 31.2 (Spring 1997): 67-83.
- "Lloyd Fernando's *Scorpion Orchid* and Lord Jim's Dilemma." *Conradiana* 28.2 (Summer 1996): 115-25.

## REFERENCE ESSAYS

- "Grace Ogot," *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History*. Forthcoming 2022.
- "Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye." In *British Writers Supplement* Vol. XXIV. Ed. Jay Parini. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale Group, 2017.
- "Zee Edgell." In *American Writers Supplement* Vol. XXIII. Ed. Jay Parini. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale Group, 2013. 83-96.
- "*Carcase for Hounds* by Meja Mwangi." *The Literature of War*. Ed. Kate McLoughlin. Detroit, MI: St. James Press, 2012.
- "Tsegaye Gabre-Medhin." *Dictionary of African Biography*. Eds. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Emmanuel Akyeampong. New York and Oxford: Oxford UP, 2011.

- “Meja Mwangi.” *Dictionary of African Biography*. Eds. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Emmanuel Akyeampong. New York and Oxford: Oxford UP, 2011.
- “Grace Emily Akinyi Ogot.” In *Dictionary of African Biography*. Edited by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Emmanuel Akyeampong. New York and Oxford: Oxford UP, 2011.
- “A Grain of Wheat (Ngugi wa Thiong’o).” *Cyclopedia of Literary Places*. Pasadena CA: Salem Press, 2003. 468-69.
- “Ngugi wa Thiong’o” *British Writers Supplement* Vol. VIII. Ed. by Jay Parini. New York: Scribner's, 2002. 211-26.
- “Francis Imbuga.” *Encyclopedia of World Literature in the Twentieth Century*. Ed. Steven Serafin. St. James Press, 1998. 465-66.
- “Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye.” *Encyclopedia of World Literature in the Twentieth Century*. Ed. Steven Serafin. St. James Press, 1998. 145-46.
- “Peter Nazareth.” *Encyclopedia of World Literature in the Twentieth Century*. Ed. Steven Serafin. St. James Press, 1998. 354-55.
- “Grace Ogot.” *Encyclopedia of World Literature in the Twentieth Century*. Ed. Steven Serafin. St. James Press, 1998. 422-23.
- “Francis Imbuga.” *Postcolonial African Writers: A Sourcebook*. Ed. Pushpa Parekh. Westport CT: Greenwood Press, 1997. 228-33.
- “Peter Nazareth.” *Postcolonial African Writers: A Sourcebook*. Ed. Pushpa Parekh. Westport CT: Greenwood Press, 1997. 312-17.
- “Meja Mwangi.” *African Writers*. Ed. Brian Cox. New York: Scribner's, 1996. 511-25.

## BOOK REVIEWS

- *Abyssinia’s Samuel Johnson: Ethiopia and the Making of an English Author*. In *Research in African Literatures* 46.3 (Fall 2015), 239-241.
- *To Be a Man: Kwani? Poetry Competition Anthology*, Kwani Trust. In *The African Book Publishing Record* 39.4 (December 2013), 418.
- *Bead Bai*, by Sultan Somjee. In *World Literature Today* 88.1 (Jan/Feb 2014).
- *The Restless Supermarket*, by Ivan Vladislavic. In *The African Book Publishing Record* 39.2 (June 2013), 165-66.
- *Jambula Tree and Other Stories*, Caine Prize for African Writing. In *The African Book Publishing Record* 35.4 (November 2009), 327.
- *Cion*, by Zakes Mda. In *The African Book Publishing Record* 35.4 (November 2009), 330.
- *Tale of an African Woman*, by Thomas Jing. In *The African Book Publishing Record* 35.3 (August 2009), 216-17.
- *Strife*, by Shimmer Chinodya. In *The African Book Publishing Record* 35.1 (April 2009), 34.
- *French Perspectives on Anglophone African Writers and Writing*, ed. Veronique Wakerley and Tava Gwanzura. In *The African Book Publishing Record* 34.3 (2008), 193-94.
- *The Pastoralists: A Challenge to Churches, State, Civil Society*, ed. Francesco Pierli, Terry W. Mwaniki and Peter Mbuchi Methu. In *The African Book Publishing Record*. 34.3 (2008), 200.
- *Dancing in the Rain*, by Mzi Mahola. In *World Literature Today* 81.6 (November-December 2007): 69-70.
- *The Bulldozer and the Word: Culture at Work in Postcolonial Nairobi*, by Raoul Granqvist. In *Research in African Literatures* 37.2 (Summer 2006): 193-94.

- *Winging Words: Interviews with Nigerian Writers and Critics*, ed. Ezenwa-Ohaeto. In *World Literature Today* 79.4 (September-December 2005): 83.
- *South African Poets on Poetry: Interviews from New Coin 1992-2001*, ed. Robert Berold. In *World Literature Today* 79.1 (January-April 2005): 85.
- *Oral Literature of the Asians in East Africa*, by Mubina Hassanali Kirmani and Sanallah Kirmani. H-AfrLitCine, H-Net Reviews, December 2004.
- *Saba, Under the Hyena's Foot*, by Jane Kurtz. H-AfrLitCine, H-Net Reviews, December 2004.
- *Africa Talks Back: Interviews with Anglophone African Authors*, ed. Bernth Lindfors. In *World Literature Today*, 77:1 (April-June 2003), 83.
- *Stranger Shores: Literary Essays 1986-1999*, by J.M. Coetzee. In *World Literature Today* 76:2 (Spring 2002), 249.
- *The Roar of the Thunder God*, by Larry Kumassah. In *World Literature Today* 76:1 (Winter 2002), 122-23.
- *The Picador Book of African Stories*, ed. Stephen Gray. In *World Literature Today* 75:3/4 (Summer/Autumn 2001), 117.
- *The Companion to African Literatures*, eds. Douglas Killam and Ruth Rowe. H-AfrLitCine, H-Net Reviews, September 2001.
- *African Literatures in English: East and West*, by Gareth Griffiths. In *World Literature Today* 75:2 (Spring 2001), 303-04.
- *Can We Talk and Other Stories*, by Shimmer Chinodya. In *World Literature Today* 75: 1 (Winter 2001), 100.
- *Leading the Cheers*, by Justin Cartwright. In *World Literature Today* 74:2 (Spring 2000), 363-64.
- *Es'kia Mphahlele: Themes of Alienation and African Humanism*, by Ruth Obee. In *World Literature Today* 74:2 (Spring 2000), 350.
- *Make It Sing and Other Poems*, by Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye. In *World Literature Today* 73:4 (Autumn 1999), 797.
- *The Growth of African Literature: Twenty-Five Years after Dakar and Fourah Bay*, ed. Edris Makward, Thelma Ravell-Pinto and Aliko Songolo. H-AfrLitCine, H-Net Reviews, September 1999.
- *Dume's Roar and Kitoto the Mighty*, by Tololwa Mollel. H-AfrTeach, H-Net Reviews, June 1999.
- *Chira*, by Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye. In *World Literature Today* 71:4 (Autumn 1997), 852.
- *Chira*, by Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye. In *The African Book Publishing Record* 23:3 (1997), 233.
- *Moral Issues in Kenya: A Personal View*, by Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye. In *The African Book Publishing Record* 23:3 (1997), 235.
- *East African Folktales for All Ages from the Voice of Mukamba*, by Vincent Muli wa Kituku. H-AfrLitCine, H-Net Reviews, January 1998.
- *The Hanging Tree*, by David Lambkin. In *World Literature Today* 71:2 (Spring 1997), 442-43.
- *New Writing from Southern Africa*, Emmanuel Ngara, ed. In *World Literature Today* 71:1 (Winter 1997), 204-05.
- *The Enemy Within*, by Steve Jacobs. In *World Literature Today* 70:4 (Autumn 1996), 1018-19.
- *Order and Partialities: Theory, Pedagogy and the "Postcolonial"*, Kostas Myrsiades and Jerry McGuire, eds. In *World Literature Today* 70:2 (Spring 1996), 482-83.
- *Homing In*, by Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye. In *World Literature Today* 69:4 (Autumn 1995), 853-54.

## PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS, SELECTED

- “Remembering Mau Mau: The Murang’a Murals of Elimo Njau.” Conference on Rethinking Memory and Trauma: New Directions in Cultural and Visual Studies, University of Iowa, April 2016.
- “Literature, Trauma and the African Moral Imagination.” African Studies Program, University of Iowa, April 2014.
- “Trauma and Literature: African Contributions.” New York African Studies Association conference, SUNY Binghamton, April 2013.
- “Writing Wrongs: The Transformational Potential of African Literatures.” Northeast Modern Language Association conference, Rochester NY, March 2012.
- “How Not to Teach *Things Fall Apart*.” Invited presentation, SUNY Fredonia, April 2009.
- “From Iowa to Zeqwala: Reconsidering *The Thirteenth Sun* by Dagnachew Worku.” 17<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, November 2009.
- “Writing as Righting: Contemporary Issues in African Literature.” Invited presentation, Houghton College, January 2008.
- “Debating the Language of African Literature: Ethiopian Contributions.” African Literature Association Conference, West Virginia University, March 2007.
- “The East African Writer and Literary Patronage.” Interdisciplinary Conference on African Literatures and Literary Prizes, Egerton University (Kenya), March 2001.
- “Contextualizing Genocide in Rwanda and Burundi.” Conference on Confronting and Combating Ethnic Hatred, SUNY Brockport, November 1998.
- “Roundtable: Teaching African Literatures.” African Literature Association Conference, University of Texas-Austin, March 1998.
- “The Vision of a Multicultural Kenya in Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye.” African Literature Association Conference, University of Texas-Austin, March 1998.
- “In Another’s House: Identity and Ideology in Postcolonial Kenyan Fiction.” New York College English Association Conference, St. John Fisher College, Rochester NY. September 1997.
- “The Textual Imagination and a Case of Negotiated Identities in British India.” Midwest Modern Language Association National Convention, Chicago IL. November 1993.

## GRANTS AND AWARDS, SELECTED

- Scholarly Incentive Grant for STAR training (trauma studies), June 2012.
- National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Enduring Questions Course Development Grant – Pilot course, “What Is Forgiveness?” 2009-12.
- Fulbright Faculty Research Abroad Grant – East Africa, 2006-07.
- Global Interdependence and Cultural Diversity grant for campus visit by Nalo Hopkinson, Spring 2005.
- Global Interdependence/ Cultural Diversity grant for campus visit by Nega Mezlekia, Fall 2003.
- SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2003.
- Outstanding Teacher Award. Honors Program, 2002.
- Scholarly Incentive Award. Summer 2002.
- National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship for College Teachers – Kenya, 2001.
- Global Interdependence and Cultural Diversity grant for campus visit by Samite Mulondo, Spring 1999.

- Global Interdependence and Cultural Diversity grant for campus visit by Ngugi wa Thiong'o. Spring 1998.
- United University Professionals grant for professional development. Spring 1998.
- Global Interdependence and Cultural Diversity Grant (for campus visit by musician Samite), Fall 1998.
- Global Interdependence and Cultural Diversity Grant (for campus visit by Ngugi wa Thiong'o), Spring 1998.
- Faculty Development Grant, United University Professionals, 1998.
- NEH Summer Stipend. 1998
- Faculty Research Committee grant, Idaho State University. Primary literary research on Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye. Summer 1996.
- Fulbright-Hays Graduate Research Grant (1992-93) – Kenya.
- Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship (1992) – Swahili.
- Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, University of Iowa, 1990. For excellence in teaching.
- Summer Foreign Language Scholarship, University of Iowa, 1989.

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## OTHER PROFESSIONAL WORK

- Manuscript reviewer for: *Research in African Literatures*, *ARIEL: A Review of International English Literature*, *Journal of East African Literary and Cultural Studies*, Lynne Rienner Publishers, Palgrave Macmillan, New Academia Publishing, Rodopi Press.
- Criticism Editor, *Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies*, 1993-94.
- Study Abroad Program Assistant, Committee on Institutional Cooperation/University of Iowa, 1990-1994.
- Editor/Writer, National Business Forms Association (NBFA) and Association of Physical Plant Administrators (APPA), Alexandria VA, 1986-1988.
- Editor/Writer, Environment Liaison Centre, Nairobi, Kenya, 1985-86.

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## INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Musoma, Tanzania (birth/early childhood), 1963-70
- Mbabane, Swaziland/Eswatini (elementary school), 1970-73
- Lusaka, Zambia (middle school), 1974-76
- Barcelona, Spain (junior year abroad), 1983-84
- Nairobi, Kenya (NGO volunteer), 1985-86
- Nairobi, Kenya (Fulbright), 1992-93
- Nairobi, Kenya (research), 1996
- Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (research), 2001
- Nairobi, Kenya (research), 2005
- Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Fulbright), 2006
- Addis Ababa, Ethiopian (research), 2009
- Malabo, Equatorial Guinea (study abroad site visit), 2018