

ALS4/12/1-16



✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦
✦ Creative Writing in English ✦
✦ by ✦
✦ Non-Native Speakers ✦
✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

A Conference on
Trans-lingual & Trans-cultural Creativity

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY,
WEST CHESTER, PA
OCTOBER 24, 25 & 26, 1996

Presenters

Steven G. Kellman
Abena Busia
Lorna McDaniel
M. Nourbese Philip
Bernth Lindfors
Ernest O. Ogwang
Susan VanZanten Gallagher
Carol Sicherman
Molara Ogundipe-Leslie
Chinua Achebe
Abioseh Porter
Christian Awuyah
Oluropo Sekoni
Charles Cantalupo
Roger Kurtz
Josef Gugler
Mary Ellen Higgins
Gitahi Gititi
Kathleen Sheerin DeVore
Molefi K. Asante
Bill Hemminger
Rajender Kaur
Christina Okechukwu
Ezenwa Ohaeto
Chiji Akoma
Miriam Gyimah

Linda L. Erwin
Temi T. Ajani
Micere Mugo
Chimalum Nwankwo
Ousseynou Traore
Ali Traore
Nancy King
Miriam Dow
Linda Myrsiades
Mark Lillehelt
Abdul Rasheed Na'Allah
T. Obinkaram Echewa
Emeka Nwadiora
Shimmer Chinodya
Tanure Ojaide
Houston A. Baker, Jr.
Pierre-Damien Mvuyekure
Mahoumbah Klobah
Michael Marero
Stephen Criswell
Ernest Emenyonu
Isidore Okpewho
Douglas Killam
Clement Okafor

This conference was made possible by various entities at West Chester University, most notably the Frederick Douglass Institute, the Committee on Social Equity and the College of Arts and Sciences. Others providing financial help included the School of Business and Public Affairs, the Friends of the Francis Harvey Green Library, the Office of Student Programming and the Office of the President. We thank these benefactors and all others who were helpful or encouraging.

Thursday, October 24

Registration — Sykes Lobby — 8 a.m. (continuous)

Breakfast — Sykes Student Union, 117C— 8:00- 8:45 a.m.

Welcome — Sykes, 117A & B — 9 - 9:30 a.m.

President Madeleine Wing Adler,
Dean David Buchanan

Agenda — 9:30 -9.45 a.m.— T. Obinkaram Echewa (Convener)

— **Plenary Lecture** —
(10 – 11 a.m., Sykes, 117A & B)

Steven G. Kellman.

Ashbel Smith Professor of

Comparative Literature, Univ. of Texas, San Antonio.

“Trans-lingualism as a Worldwide Phenomenon.”

— **Panel One** —

(11:15 – 12:45 p.m., Sykes, 117A & B)

(Chair, Abena Busia)

TRANS-LINGUALISM, TRANS-CULTURALISM & TRANSLATIONS

- ♦ **Busia, Abena.** (Rutgers University, New Brunswick) .
“Translating the Self.”
- ♦ **McDaniel, Lorna.** (University of Michigan).
“Translating the ‘Naming Principle’ in Ancestral Rhythms –
The Big Drum of Carriacou, Grenada.”
- ♦ **Philip, M. Nourbese.** (Toronto).
“Race, Space and the Poetics of Movin(g): African Roots of
Carnival in the New World.”

Lunch Hour — 12:45 — 1:45

Thursday, October 24 (cont.)

— Panel Two—

(2 – 4 p.m., Sykes, 117A & B)
(Chair, Carol Sicherman)

THE EDUCATION OF THE AFRICAN WRITER

- ◆ Lindfors, Bernth. (University of Texas, Austin).
“Ayi Kwei Armah’s Harvard Writings.”
- ◆ Ogwang, Ernest O. (Indiana U., Bloomington). “Okot p’Bitek: The Significance of a Writer’s Educational Foreground and Background.”
- ◆ Gallagher, VanZanten Susan. (Seattle Pacific University)
“Take a Bus Ride, Improve Your Xhosa: Noni Jabavu and Her Mother Tongue.”
- ◆ Sicherman, Carol. (Lehman College-CUNY)
“The Literature of Revolution at the University of Nairobi.”

Writers in the Act

(4–5 p.m., Sykes, 117A, 117B)

- ◆ Brutus, Dennis. (University of Pittsburgh).
- ◆ Ogundipe-Leslie, Molara. (African Literature Forum).

Dinner Hour – 5 - 6:30 p.m.

Keynote Address
(Sykes, 117A & B)
7:00
Chinua Achebe

Reception – (Conference registrants or invitation only)
(9:30– 10:30 p.m., Sykes, 117C)

Friday, October 25

Registration – Sykes Lobby – 8 a.m. – (continuous)
Breakfast – Sykes, 117C – 7:45 - 8:30 a.m.

— Panel Three —

(8:30–10 a.m., Sykes, 209)

NATIONALISM AND NATIONAL LITERATURES I

- ◆ Porter, Abioseh. (Drexel University). “Language as a Weapon of War: Examples from the Nigerian Civil War Fiction.”
- ◆ Awuyah, Christian. (West Chester University). “Race, Language and Identity in Kofi Awoonor’s “Comes Home the Voyager at Last.”
- ◆ Sekoni, Oluropo. (Lincoln University). “Cultural Nationalism and Form in Anglophone African Fiction.”

— Panel Four —

(8:30 – 10 a.m., Sykes, 210)

NATIONALISM AND NATIONAL LITERATURES II

- ◆ Cantalupo, Charles. (Penn State University). “Texts and Contexts for the World of Ngugi wa Thiong’o.”
- ◆ Kurtz, Roger. (Idaho State University). “Experiments in Language: David Maillu’s Marcaronic Writing.”
- ◆ Gugler, Josef. (University of Connecticut). “The Guerrilla and His Doubts: The Writing of Papetela, Shimmer Chinodya and Zakes Mda.”

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Friday, October 25 (cont.)

— Panel Five —

(8:30 – 10 a.m., Sykes, 252A & B)

NATIONALISM AND NATIONAL LITERATURES III

- ♦ **Higgins, MaryEllen.** (University of Texas, Austin). "Andree Blouin: Autobiography and the Politics of Representation."
- ♦ **Gititi, Gitahi.** (University of Rhode Island). "Local Knowledge/Language, Literature and National Culture: The Case of Angola's Manuel Rui."
- ♦ **Devore, Kathleen Sheerin.** (University of Minnesota). "More than 'Meat in the Marketplace.' Two South African Writers Challenge Uncritical Cultural Consumption."

Plenary Lecture

(10 – 11 a.m., Sykes, 252A & B)

Molefi K. Asante, Temple University

"Rhetorical Condition as a Conceptual Field."

— Panel Six —

(11 – 12:30 p.m., Sykes, 252A & B)

EVOLUTION AND TRENDS IN AFRICAN FICTION

- ♦ **Hemminger, Bill.** (Evansville University). "The Impoverished Self in Okri's *The Famished Road*."
- ♦ **Kaur, Raje.** (Rutgers University). "Figuring Non-Cooptable Resistance and Reversing the Gaze of Western Ethnography: The Igbo Women's War of 1929 in Echewa's *I Saw the Sky Catch Fire*."
- ♦ **Okechukwu, Christina.** (Montgomery College). "Language, Oratory and a Changing Society: The Case of Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*."

Friday, October 25 (cont.)

— Panel Seven —

(11–12:30, Sykes, 255A & B)

BEING AND WRITING AFRICAN IN ENGLISH

- ♦ **Ohaeto, Ezenwa.** (Bayreuth University, Germany). "Shifting Movements: The Rhetoric of *Okwu* and Language in Achebe's *Arrow of God*, and Echewa's *The Crippled Dancer and I Saw the Sky Catch Fire*."
- ♦ **Erwin, Linda L.** (University of Illinois, Champaign). "The Didactic and Dialogical English of MacMillan's *Pacesetter Series* of Popular Nigerian Novels."
- ♦ **Ajani, Temi T.** (University of Florida). "Whatever Happened to the Queen's English? – Creativity and Innovation in Wole Soyinka's Plays."

- ♦ **Lunch Hour** — 12:30 – 1:30

— Panel Eight —

(2 – 3:30 p.m., Sykes, 252 A & B)

REPRESENTING WOMEN

- ♦ **Ogundipe-Leslie, Molara.** (African Literature Forum). "Reading Gender in Africa: Textual Constructions of Rural Women."
- ♦ **Mugo, Micere Githae.** (Syracuse University). "Language and Gender in the African Novel."
- ♦ **Nwankwo, Chimalum.** (U. of North Carolina, Raleigh). "Modern African Women and Abandoned Narratives: Issues from Achebe's and Echewa's Novels."
- ♦ **Gyimah, Miriam.** (SUNY-Binghamton). "African Women's Theoretical Discourse: Sexual Politics in Ama Ata Aidoo's *Changes*."

Friday, October 25 (cont.)

— Panel Nine —

(2 – 3:30, Sykes, 255A & B)

CREATIVITY ACROSS MEDIA

- ♦ **Traore, Ousseynou.** (William Patterson College). "Wood, Word, Wood: The Poetics of Sculptural Transfer as Translation."
- ♦ **Traore, Ali.** (Tokyo, Japan). "Sculpting Senghor's Poetry."
- ♦ **King, Nancy.** (University of Delaware). "Entering Anthills of the Savannah Through the Eyes of a Doll."

— Panel Ten —

(2 – 3:30, Sykes, 209)

TRANS-LINGUAL WRITERS AND THEIR AUDIENCES

- ♦ **Dow, Miriam.** (The George Washington University). "The Role of the Camera in Ben Okri's *The Famished Road*."
- ♦ **Myrsiades, Linda.** (West Chester University). "Art as Group Expression: The Oral/Literary Interface in Greek Guerrilla Theater."
- ♦ **Lillehelt, Mark.** (University of Wisconsin, Madison). "The Writer as Character in African Fiction."

Writers in the Act

(3:45-5:15 p.m., Sykes, 209)

- ♦ **Charles Cantalupo.** (Penn State)
- ♦ **Ezenwa Ohaeto.** (Bayreuth University, Germany)

Writers in the Act

(3:45–5:15 p.m., Sykes, 255A & B)

- ♦ **Chimalum Nwankwo.** (Univ. of North Carolina)
- ♦ **Micere Mugo.** (Syracuse University)

Friday, October 25 (cont.)

— Panel Eleven —

(3:45–5:15, Sykes, 251)

THE WRITER AND HIS/HER COMMUNITY

- ♦ **Na'Allah, Abdul Rasheed.** (Univ. of Alberta, Edmonton). "Words of the Folklore, Sentences of the Talking Drum: Niyi Osundare's Poetry."
- ♦ **Echewa, T. Obinkaram.** (West Chester University). "The Significance of the Hortatory Ejaculative, *Kwenu!*, in Igbo Public Address."
- ♦ **Nwadiora, Emeka.** (Temple University). "Thinking Native, Writing Alien: The Psycho-neurosis of the African Writer in English."

— Panel Twelve —

(3:45–5:15, Sykes, 252A & B)

UWATUWA: ART IN ACHEBE'S WORLD

- ♦ **Traore, Ousseynou.** (William Patterson College). "Eaten by Igbo: Ikemefuna's Song in *Things Fall Apart*."
- ♦ **Emenyonu, Ernest.** (Hyattsville). "Nurturing the Cradle: Chinua Achebe's Fiction for (His) Children."
- ♦ **Okafor, Clement.** (New York City). "The Man That Is in Me: Achebe and the Valorization of the Human Spirit."

Dinner Hour – 5:15 – 6:45 p.m.

Writers in the Act

(7 – 10:30 p.m., Sykes Ballroom)

- ♦ **Shimmer Chinodya.** (St. Lawrence University).
- ♦ **Molara Ogundipe-Leslie.** (Afr. Lit. Forum).
 - ♦ **M. Nourbese Philip.** (Toronto).
 - ♦ **Tanure Ojaide.** (Albright College).

Saturday, October 26

Registration — Main Hall Lobby — 8 a.m. — (continuous)

Breakfast — Main Hall Lobby — 7:45 - 8:30 a.m.

— Plenary Lecture —

(9 — 10 a.m., Main 168)

Houston A. Baker, Jr., Director,
Center for the Study of Black Literature & Culture,
University of Pennsylvania
“Everybody Knows the Real Thing, But Magic
Brings Us Home: Multi-cultural Notes.”

— Panel Thirteen —

(10 — 11 a.m., Main 212)

TRANS-CULTURALISM IN AFRICAN AMERICAN FICTION

- ♦ **Mvuyekure, Pierre-Damien.** (Univ. of Northern Iowa). “Yoruba Language and Multi-culturalism in Ishmael Reed’s *Yoruba by Spring*.”
- ♦ **Klobah, Mahoumbah.** (University of Iowa). “Echoes of African Lore in African-American Literature: Inter-connections Between the Living and the Dead in Toni Morrison’s *Song of Solomon*.”

Japanese

— Panel Fourteen —

(10 — 11 a.m., Main, 214)

CULTURE IN CARIBBEAN FICTION

- ♦ **Marero, Michael.** (Penn State Univ.) “Trevor Rhone’s *Smile Orange: Imagination Through Orality*.”
- ♦ **Criswell, Stephen.** (Univ. of North Carolina). “The ‘Folk’ in Derek Walcott’s *Omeros* and Edward K. Braithwaite’s *The Arrivants*.”
- ♦ **Akoma, Chiji.** (SUNY—Binghamton).
“The Mythic Imagination in Africa and the Caribbean”

Saturday, October 26 (cont.)

— Special Plenary Session —

(11— 12:30 p.m., Main, 168)

READING AND CELEBRATING CHINUA ACHEBE

- ♦ **Ezenwa Ohaeto** (Bayreuth University).
- ♦ **Bernth Lindfors.** (Univ. of Texas, Austin).
- ♦ **Douglass Killam.** (University of Geulph)
- ♦ **Abioseh Porter.** (Drexel University).

Lunch Hour — 12:30 — 1:30 p.m.

— Forum —

(2 — 4 p.m., Main, 168)

TRANS-LINGUAL/TRANS-CULTURAL CREATIVITY

BEING AND WRITING AFRICAN IN ENGLISH

THE AFRICAN LITERARY CANON

(Isidore Okpewho — Moderator)

- ♦ **Steven G. Kellman.** (Univ. of Texas, San Antonio).
- ♦ **Houston A. Baker, Jr.** (Univ. of Pennsylvania)
- ♦ **Molara Ogundipe-Leslie.** (African Literature Forum).
 - ♦ **Tanure Ojaide.** (Albright College)
- ♦ **Isidore Okpewho.** (State Univ. of New York, Binghamton)
 - ♦ **Carol Sicherman.** (Lehman College-CUNY).
 - ♦ **Chimalum Nwankwo.** (Univ. of North Carolina).

Closing Remarks — 4 p.m.

Notes