

## A T O Q U A Y S O N

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### EDUCATION

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1995: PhD; research focus on Nigerian literary history, Faculty of English, **Cambridge University**.

1989: B.A. (Hons) First Class, Arabic and English, **University of Ghana**.

1974-81: O and A Levels, **Apam Secondary School, Ghana**

**Languages:** Arabic (working knowledge); Yoruba (conversational), Twi, Fanti, Ga and Pidgin English (native fluency)

### CURRENTLY

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**Professor of African and Postcolonial Literature, NYU**  
2018 --

## AWARDS, HONORS AND ELECTIONS

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**Vice-President, African Studies Association**

Nov 2018-Nov 2019; subsequently President, 2019-2020

**Fellow**, Royal Society of Canada, 2013-

**Fellow**, Australian National University, May 2015

**Dean's Award**, University of Toronto, 2008.

**Fellow**, Ghana Academy of Arts and Science, 2006-.

**Fellow**, the Du Bois Institute of African American Studies,  
Harvard University, Jan-August, 2004.

**Member**, Cambridge Commonwealth Society, 1995-.

**Cambridge Commonwealth Scholar**, 1991-1994.

## PREVIOUSLY

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**University Professor**

University of Toronto 2016 –

This is a distinguished honor accorded to fewer than 2% of the  
university professoriate.

**Visiting Professor,**

New York University,

January-May,

2016

**Visiting Professor**, Hong Kong University, 2010-2012  
(declined)

**Director**

Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies

University of Toronto

2005-2016

I was founding director of the Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies at the University of Toronto and was charged with hiring five new faculty members to form the core teaching team for the Centre. These five, who were jointly appointed between the Centre and different departments at the University, were recruited through a combination of open search processes as well as targets of opportunity include Anna Shternshis (German, St. George; now full Professor), Kevin O'Neill (Religion, St. George; now full Professor), Ken MacDonald (Geography, UTSC; now Associate Professor), Richard Iton (Political Science, St. George; recruited as full Professor) and Hui Kian Kwee (Economic History, UTM; Associate Professor). During my stewardship I devised with my colleagues and supervised the development of an undergraduate program in Diaspora and Transnational Studies which grew to have over 250 majors and minors by 2016. I also developed a Collaborative Graduate Program that brought together students from twelve other departments and units including English, Anthropology, History, French, Comparative Literature, Art History, Architecture and others. This Graduate Program also grew to an average of ten students per year by the end of my tenure. The undergraduate program was distinctive for being the first to be run for all three constituent campuses of the UofT (St. George, Mississauga, and Scarborough) as well as for innovative forms of team-teaching and place-based research. Among other things I also organized several major interdisciplinary international conferences on **International colloquium on Area Studies, Diaspora Studies, and Critical Pedagogies** (2006), **Street Life** (2007) **The Commodification of Illicit Flows: Labour Migration, Trafficking, and Business** (2009), **The Cambridge History of Postcolonial Literature Conference** (2008), **Markets: from the Bazaar to e-bay** (2008).

**Professor of English**

University of Toronto

2005-2016

**Cornille Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities**, Wellesley College, 2011-2012

Chief Examiner in English, **the International Baccalaureate**  
Sept 2005-July 2007

Assistant Director of Graduate Studies, **Faculty of English, University of Cambridge.** Oct 2004-July 2005

Reader in Commonwealth and Postcolonial Literatures,  
**University of Cambridge** Oct 2003-Sept 2005

**Visiting Professor**

Department of African American Studies  
UC-Berekeley

2000

Director, **African Studies Centre, University of Cambridge**  
Oct 1998-July 2005

As the first African director of the Centre African Studies Centre the main goal I set myself was to raise funds to create opportunities for Africa-based scholars to come and participate in the rich intellectual life of the University of Cambridge. I managed to raise £500,000 from various sources to endow an African Visiting Scholars Scheme that brought scholars annually from the continent for 6-month stints in Cambridge. They were generously hosted by Wolfson College and assigned faculty mentors who helped to plug them into the relevant scholarly networks. The scheme continued after my departure and is still ongoing to this day. I also run a weekly interdisciplinary African Studies Seminar Series that regularly brought together scholars, diplomats and government officials to discuss African affairs as a number of conferences including the **Letters Home Conference: South African Literature of Exile**, (2004), and the **Chieftaincy in Africa Conference** in Accra. This one was co-convened with the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana with funding from the Ford Foundation and the Norwegian Universities Fund.

Tutorial Bursar, **Pembroke College, University of Cambridge**  
April 2001-Sept 2003

University Lecturer in English, **University of Cambridge**  
Jan 1998-Sept 2003

Acting Director, **African Studies Centre, University of Cambridge**  
Oct 1997-Sept 1998

University Assistant Lecturer in Commonwealth and International Literature in English, **University of Cambridge**  
Sept 1995-Dec 1998

Stipendiary Junior Research Fellow, **Wolfson College, Oxford**  
Oct 1994-Sept August 1995

General Editor, the *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry* (PLI)  
[www.journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=PLI](http://www.journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=PLI)

### **Forthcoming: Essays**

“People, Places, and Processes: Neil Carrier, *Little Mogadishu: Eastleigh, Nairobi’s Global Somali Hub*”, (review essay) *Journal of African History*, ed. Nwankwo Achebe, 2019. 1560 words.

“Consciousness in Embryo: On Adeleke Adeeko, *Philip Quaque’s Letters to London, 1765-1811*, (review essay) *Journal of the African Studies Association* (JALA), ed. Tejumola Olaniyan, 2019. 5980 words.

“Modern African Literary History: Modes of Criticism and Interpretation,” (essay) *Journal of the African Studies Association* (JALA), 2019 ed. Tejumola Olaniyan. 10,000 words.

“Afterword: Bus Stations in Africa”, Michael Stasik, ed. Special issue on Bus Stations in Africa, *Africa Today*, 2019.

### Work-in-Progress: Books

*Tragedy and Postcolonial Literature*, (book) under contract with Cambridge University Press; projected completion summer 2019.

*Accra Chic: A Locational History of Fashion in Accra*, (with Grace Toleque), contract with Intellect Books/Chicago University Press. Projected completion in 2021.

### PUBLICATIONS: BOOKS

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1. *The Cambridge Companion to the Postcolonial Novel in English*, ed., Cambridge University Press, 2016 (lx; 273 pages).
2. *Oxford St., Accra: City Life, the Itineraries of Transnationalism*, Duke University Press, 2014 (xii; 312 pages). **Co-Winner of the Urban History Association's Best Book Prize for 2015** (non-North American category). Special forum on the book of 6 essays and a response from me in PMLA cluster on “Concepts and Methodologies”, *PMLA* 131.2 (March, 2016).
3. *Blackwell Companion to Diaspora and Transnationalism*, ed. with Girish Daswani, New York: Blackwell, 2013 (xvi; 584 pages)
4. *Cambridge History of Postcolonial Literature*, 2 vols, ed. Cambridge University Press, 2012 (lxii; 1306 pages).

5. *Labor Migration, Human Trafficking, and Multinational Corporations*, with Antonela Arhin, London: Routledge, 2012 (vii; 192 pages)
6. *Fathers and Daughters: An Anthology of Exploration*, ed. Oxford: Ayebia Publishers, 2008 (246 pages).
7. *Aesthetic Nervousness: Disability and the Crisis of Representation*, Columbia University Press, 2007 (xvi; 246 pages).
8. *African Literary Theory: An Anthology of Literary Criticism and Theory*, ed. (with Tejumola Olaniyan) Blackwell, 2007 (xix; 774 pages).
9. *Calibrations: Reading for the Social*, Minnesota University Press, 2003 (xl; 179 pages).
10. Introduction and notes to new edition of *Nelson Mandela, No Easy Walk to Freedom*, London: Penguin Classics, 2002.
11. *Relocating Postcolonialism*, ed. (with David Theo Goldberg) Oxford: Blackwell, 2001 (xxii; 371 pages).
12. *Postcolonialism: Theory, Practice or Process?* Cambridge: Polity, 2000 (vii; 208 pages).
13. *Strategic Transformations in Nigerian Writing: Orality and History in Rev Samuel Johnson, Amos Tutuola, Wole Soyinka and Ben Okri*. Oxford and Bloomington, James Currey and Indiana University Press, 1997 (x; 180 pages).

#### PUBLICATIONS: REFEREED ARTICLES

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1. "Lindsey Green-Simms, *Postcolonial Automobility*," (review essay), *Journal of African Cultural Studies*, 31.2 (2019). 2552 words.
2. "Ghana Studies at 60", *Ghana Studies Journal*, vol. 21 (2018): 69-85.

3. "On Worlding Tragedy", in the *Cambridge Companion to World Literature*, eds Jarad Zimbler and Ben Ethrington, Cambridge University Press, 2018, pp. 149-163.
4. "Introduction to Jewish Studies and Postcolonialism", Willi Goetschel and Ato Quayson, *The Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry*, 3.1, Special Issue on Jewish Studies and Postcolonialism (2015): 1-9.
5. "Comparative Postcolonialisms: Storytelling and Community in Sholem Aleichem and Chinua Achebe", Special Issue on Jewish Studies and Postcolonialism, *The Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry*, 3.1 (2015): 55-77.
6. "Explication de texte: Wole Soyinka's Death and the King's Horseman in Comparative Perspective", the *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry* 2.2, (2015): 287-296.
7. "The Journal of Commonwealth Literature: the 1980s", 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue of the *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, September (2015): 1-18.
8. "Disability Aesthetics", *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Aesthetics*, ed. Michael Kelly, Oxford University Press, 2014, pp. 407-411.
9. "Conjunction, Preposition, Supplement, and Trace in *Slavery and the Culture of Taste*", *Research in African Literatures* 45.4 (2014): 24-28.
10. "The Sighs of History: Postcolonial Debris and the Question of (Literary) History", *New Literary History* 43.2, (2012): 359-370.
11. "Periods versus Concepts: Space Making and the Question of Postcolonial Literary History", *PMLA* 127.2 (2012): 342-348.



12. "Coevalness, Recursivity and the Feet of Lionel Messi", Special Forum on Jean and John Comaroff, *Theory from the South, Cultural Anthropology* 27.1, 2012; <http://www.culanth.org/fieldsights/269-coevalness-recursivity-and-the-feet-of-lionel-messi>
13. "Self-Writing and Existential Alienation in African Literature: Chinua Achebe's *Arrow of God*", *Research in African Literatures* 42.2 (March, 2011): 30-45.
14. "Kòbòlò Poetics: African Urban Scripts and Readerships", *New Literary History* 41.1 (2010): 413-438.
15. "Signs of the Times: Discourse Ecologies and Street Life", *City & Society*, 22.1 (2010): 77-96.
16. "Autism, Narrative, and Emotions: On Samuel Beckett's *Murphy*" Special Issue on Narrative and the Emotions, *The University of Toronto Quarterly*, 79.2 (2010): 838-865.
17. "Colonial Space-making and hybridizing history, or 'Are the Indians of East Africa Africans or Indians?'" in *Diasporas: Concepts, Intersections, Identities*, eds. Kim Knott and Sean McLoughlin, London: Zed Books, 2010. pp. 243-248.
18. "I no Be Like You: Accra in Life and Literature", *PMLA*, 122.1 (January), 2007.
19. "Diaspora Studies, Area Studies, and Critical Pedagogies". Guest Editor of special issue of *Comparative Studies in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*, 27.3 (November), 2007. 6,500 words
20. "Intellectual History and Literary Criticism: Situating a Dramatic Monologue" review of Biodun Jeyifo, *Wole Soyinka*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, *Research in African Literatures*, Spring 2005.
21. \*Special Forum on *Calibrations: Reading for the Social* in *Research in African Literatures* 36.2 (Summer 2005). Essays on the book by Anjali Prabhu, Adleke Adeeko and Uzo Esonwanne, with a response by Ato Quayson.

22. "Incessant Particularities: *Calibrations* as Close Reading", *Research in African Literatures* 36.2 (Summer) 2005: 122-131.
23. "Symbolization Compulsions: Testing a Psychoanalytic Concept through African Literature", *The Toronto Quarterly*, Spring 2004.
24. "Obverse denominations: Africa? *Public Culture* 14.2 (2002): 585-88.
25. "Breaches in the Commonplace: Achille Mbembe's *On the Postcolony*", *African Studies Review* 44.2 (September) 2001. Also published in H-Africa, <http://www.h-net.msu.edu>.
26. "Social Imaginaries in Transition: The Culture Hero as Conjunctural Concept in Africa", *The Round Table: Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs*, Issue 362 (October 2001).
27. "Symbolization Compulsions: Freud, African Literature, and South Africa's Process of Truth and Reconciliation", *The Cambridge Quarterly*, 30.3 (2001).
28. "Characterological Types and the Frames of Hybridity" *Interventions* 1: 3 (1999): 3-13.
29. "Postcolonialism and Interdisciplinarity", special issue of *Essays and Studies* edited by Benita Parry and Laura Chrisman, (1999): 75-94.
30. "Protocols of Representation and the Problems of Constituting an African Gnosis: Achebe and Okri," in *The Yearbook of English Studies, Vol. 27 'The Politics of Postcolonial Criticism'*, edited by Andrew Gurr (1997): 137-49.

31. "Means, Methods, and Meanings: African Studies and the Question of Interdisciplinarity," in the *Journal of African History* 25, (1998): 313-24.
32. "Wole Soyinka and Autobiography as Political Unconscious," *Journal of Commonwealth Literature* 32.2 (1996): 19-32.
33. "Anatomizing a Postcolonial Tragedy: Ken Saro-Wiwa and the Ogonis," in *On Risk, Performance Research* 1.2 (1996): 83-92.
34. "Contemporary literary theory and the analysis of indigenous cultures: three examples on the Yoruba," *Research in African Literatures* 26.4 (Winter, 1995): 185-196.
35. "Criticism, Realism and the Disguises of Both: an analysis of Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* with an evaluation of the criticism relating to it," *Research in African Literatures* 25.4 (1994): 117-136.

#### PUBLICATIONS: NON-REFEREED ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

1. "Still it Makes Me Laugh, No Time to Die: A Response", response to essays in special forum on *Oxford Street, Accra, PMLA* 131.2 (March 2016): 1-19.
2. "Chronology of Political and Literary Events", *The Cambridge Companion to the Postcolonial Novel in English*, Cambridge University Press, 2016; x-lx.
3. "Introduction: The Postcolonial Novel in a Changing Frame", *The Cambridge Companion to the Postcolonial Novel in English*, Cambridge University Press, 2016, 1-14.

4. "Tragedy and the Postcolonial Novel", *The Cambridge Companion to the Postcolonial Novel in English*, Cambridge University Press, 2016, 230-247.
5. "Africa's Diverse Diasporas: A Continental Longing for Form?", *The Oxford Handbook of Postcolonial Studies*, ed. Graham Huggan (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013).
6. "Introduction: Postcolonial Writing in a Changing Frame", *The Cambridge History of Postcolonial Literature*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012, pp. 1-29.
7. "Oxford Street, Accra: Spatial Ecologies, Street Life, and the Transnational Imaginary". *The Blackwell Companion to the City*, eds. Sophie Watson and Gary Bridge, 2011. 8,000 words.
8. "Transitive Measures: Tragedy and Existentialism in African Writing", *The Johannesburg Book Salon*, Vol. 1 (2009).
9. "Untinkable Nigeriana: The Social Imaginary of District 9" JWTC Blog, October 16, 2009.
10. <http://jhbwtc.blogspot.com/2009/10/unthinkable-nigeriana-social-imaginary.html>
11. "Magical Realism and African Literature" in *The Cambridge Companion to the African Novel*, edited by Abiola Irele. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.
12. "Fecundities of the Unexpected: Magical Realism, Narrative and History" *The Novel Vol 1: History, Geography, and Culture* ed. Franco Moretti, Princeton University Press, 2006.

13. "Translations and Transnationals: Pre- and Post-Colonial", Epilogue to *Postcolonial Approaches to the Middle Ages: Translating Cultures*, eds Ananya Kabir and Deanne Williams, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Jan 2005.
14. "Modernism and Postmodernism in African Literature," for the *Cambridge Companion to African Literature*, edited by Abiola Irele, Cambridge University Press, 2004.
15. "Fecundities of the Unexpected: Magical Realism, Narrative and History" (Italian) in *Il Romanzo*, a collective history of the novel (5 vols) edited by Franco Moretti, Frederic Jameson, Mario Vargas Llosa et al, Einaudi, 2002.
16. "Interdisciplinarity and African Literature: A Note," *The European English Messenger* 10.1 (2000).
17. "Postcolonialism as Postmodernism", in *A Critical Companion to Postcolonial Studies*, edited by Sangeeta Ray and Henry Schwarz, Oxford: Blackwell (1999), pp. 87-111.
18. "'Looking Awry': Tropes of Disability and Violence in Postcolonial Writing," in *A Guide to Contemporary Fiction in English* edited by Rod Mengham, Polity Press, Cambridge, 1999, pp. 53-68.
19. "Commonwealth and International Literature at Cambridge," *Cambridge*, No. 42 (1998): 68-70.
20. "Postcolonialism"; entry in the ten-volume *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, edited by Edward Craig (1998).
21. Harvesting the Folkloric Intuition: Ben Okri", in *Black British Culture and Society* , edited by Kwesi Owusu, London: Routledge, (1999); chapter from *Strategic Transformations in Nigerian Writing*, 1997.

22. "Ethnographies of African Literature: A Note," in *Contemporary African Fiction*, Bayreuth African Studies 42, ed. by Derek Wright, (1997), pp. 157-66.
  
23. "Intermedia: African Theatre and the Question of History," in *The World Encyclopaedia of Contemporary Theatre: Africa*, edited by Don Rubin (UNESCO, 1997), pp.41-44. Each African country has a special entry in this collection of articles on the history and contemporary situation of theatre in Africa. My essay is one of six introductory pieces to the collection.
  
24. "Ben Okri," (Literary Biography) in *Special Volume on African Writers*, (New York: Scribners/Macmillan International, 1997).
  
25. "For Ken Saro-Wiwa: African Postcolonial Relations Through a Prism of Tragedy," *Salt* No. 9 (Freemantle: Australia, 1996). Expanded version of the Saro-Wiwa essay in *Performance Research*.
  
26. "History, Memory and 'Faction' in Wole Soyinka's *Ake* and *Isara*," in *The Uses of Autobiography*, edited by Julia Swindells (London: Taylor and Francis, 1995): 81-88.
  
27. "Esoteric Webwork as Nervous System: reading the fantastic in Ben Okri," *Essays on African Writing II*, edited by Abdulrazak Gurnah, (London: Heinemann, 1995), pp. 144-158.
  
28. "Orality -- (Theory) -- Textuality: Tutuola, Okri, and the relationship of literary practice to oral traditions," in *The Pressures of the Text*, edited by Stewart Brown, (Birmingham: CWAS, 1995), pp. 96-117.
  
29. "Unthinkable Nigeriana: crisis in the idea of the African nation-state," in *Two African Journeys* by Gabriel Gbadamosi and Ato Quayson (Cambridge: Prickly Pear Press, 1994) , pp. 7-29.

30. (With Cheryl-Ann Michael) “Prize and Prejudice,” *The Guardian*, 30<sup>th</sup> October, 1993. Brief essay on negative responses to the award of the Nobel Prize for Literature to Toni Morrison

#### PUBLICATIONS: INTERVIEWS & BLOGPOSTS

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1. “Shakara Baby Chicks Baby-Chicks and Locomotive Tales: Fiston Mwanza Mujila’s *Tram83*”, <http://arcade.stanford.edu/blogs/shakara-baby-chicks-and-locomotive-tales-fiston-mwanza-mujilas-tram83>
2. “What Lies Beneath *The Revenant*”, *The Guardian*, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016; <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/feb/22/the-revenant-oscar-nominated-film-america>
3. “Winnie’s Penelope: On Solitude and the Comfort of Strangers”, Stanford Arcade, Feb 8, 2014; <http://arcade.stanford.edu/blogs/winnie%E2%80%99s-penelope-solitude-and-comfort-strangers>
4. “I Move into the Gates, Demanding. . .: A Tribute to Kofi Awoonor”, Stanford Arcade, Oct 10, 2013; <http://arcade.stanford.edu/blogs/i-move-gates-demanding-tribute-kofi-awoonor>
5. “I Can, Therefore I Shall: Identifications from the Novel to Facebook”, Stanford Arcade, Dec 3, 2013; <http://arcade.stanford.edu/blogs/i-can-therefore-i-shall-identifications-novel-facebook>
6. “If u don’t know who Mandela is, please shut up!: Victims of Enchantment and the Reign of Emblems”, Stanford Arcade, Dec 6, 2013; <http://arcade.stanford.edu/blogs/%E2%80%99if-u-don%E2%80%99t-know-who-mandela-please-shut-up%E2%80%99-victims-enchantment-and-reign-emblems>

7. "Transitive Measures: Tragedy and Alienation in African Literature" Stanford Arcade, April 27, 2009; <http://arcade.stanford.edu/blogs/transitive-measures-tragedy-and-existentialism-african-literature>
8. "Concerning Street Life in the African City (1)", Stanford Arcade, Sep 9, 2009; <http://arcade.stanford.edu/blogs/concerning-street-life-african-city-1>
9. "Concerning Street Life in the African City (2): Aspects of an Expressive Fragment", Stanford Arcade, Sep 11, 2009; <http://arcade.stanford.edu/blogs/concerning-street-life-african-city-2-aspects-expressive-fragment>
10. TVO Flying Solo: "On the Burden of Identity", <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XMOtZuHm9oc>, November 5, 2008.
11. "On Lacking Expectations", <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fnZcTRXWYv8>, November 5, 2008.
12. "On the Questioning of Authority", <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5DgapNh0WR8>, November 8, 2008.
13. "On the Human Condition," <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nT72lc7SdsE> November 5, 2008.
14. "On Teaching Black Youth", [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3iNWKULh\\_5o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3iNWKULh_5o) November 5, 2008.

Inaugural interview for the *PONAL Quarterly Forum*, 2007  
[http://projectponal.com/pqf\\_may\\_07/dialogue.html](http://projectponal.com/pqf_may_07/dialogue.html)

Many interviews and presentations on BBC Radio in the UK, and the CBC in Canada on a variety of topics including African social affairs, literature, politics and culture.



## INVITED LECTURES, CONFERENCES, AND TALKS

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A selection of lectures with titles (period covered from 2002 only)

“Entextualization: The Social Transcripts of Postcolonial Modernity in *Ulysses* and Accra,” Diasporic Joyce, North American James Joyce Conference, University of Toronto, 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2017

“On the Affliction of Second Thoughts: Modes of Epistemological Doubt in Postcolonial Tragedy,” The Jordan Lecture, the Newhouse Centre for the Humanities, Wellesley College, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

“Victims of Enchantment: Space and the Education of Desire in Postcolonial Tragedy,” The Surtz Lecture, Loyola University Chicago, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

“On the Affliction of Second Thoughts: Modes of Doubt in Postcolonial Tragedy,” the AMESALL Distinguished Lecture, University of Rutgers, 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2016.

“On Literary Publics: Orality, Literacy, and Entextualization in African Contexts”, Presidential Forum on Literature and Its Publics, MLA conference, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

“‘On the Affliction of Second Thoughts’: Modes of Fracture in the Postcolonial Tragic Novel”, Department of English, University of Chicago, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Seminar on *Oxford Street, Accra*, Department of English, University of Chicago, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

“An Elliptical Symphony: Michael Ondaatje’s Toronto”, Royal Society of Canada Humanities Conference, November 2014.

Keynote address, “Postcolonialism and the Diasporic Imaginary”, The Transnational Turn in the Humanities, Buffalo, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013.

“Spatial Precepts for Reading African Literature”, the African Literature Association, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013.

Roundtable participant on Simon Gikandi’s *Slavery and the Culture of Taste* (Princeton University Press, 2012), the African Literature Association, March 21, 2013.

Seminar Organizer, Space and the Education of Desire: Postcolonialism and Diaspora”, ACLA, Toronto, 5&6 April, 2013.

“Periods vrs Concepts: Space Making and the Question of Postcolonial Literary History”, the MLA conference, Seattle, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

“Spatial Practices and Performative Streetscapes,” Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

“Literature and the Diasporic Imaginary”, Distinguished Cornille Lecture, Wellesley College, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

“Kòbòlò Poetics: African Urban Scripts and its Readers”, keynote address at “The Diaspora at Home, Home in the Diaspora” conference, Taube Center for Jewish Studies, Stanford University, April 25-26, 2010

April 9, 2010, “Kòbòlò Poetics: African Urban Scripts and its Readers”, keynote address at the Global Language Convention conference on Many Cultures, One Community: Language, Knowing and Power, Melbourne Australia, April 9-11, 2010.

April 23, 2009 “Signs of the Times: Discourse Ecologies and Street Life”, UC Berkeley.

April 3, 2009, “Autistic Dynamic and Metonymic Circle in Beckett’s Murphy”, Western Illinois University.

March 19, 2009, “Postcolonialism and Diaspora Studies: Concepts, Dialogues, and Controversies”, Carleton University.

Feb 19, 2009, “Postcolonialism and Diaspora Studies: Concepts, Dialogues, and Controversies”, Concordia University.

July 30, 2008, “Oxford Street, Accra: Globalization, Social Inequalities, and Street Life”, Public Lecture, British Council Hall, Accra.

June 2, 2008, “A History of African Literary Criticism and Theory”, Canadian Association of Commonwealth Languages and Literatures, UBC, Vancouver.

May 20, 2008, “The Autistic Dynamic in Beckett’s *Murphy* (with some references to J. M. Coetzee)”, Department of English, University of York, UK.

April 19, 2008, “Oxford St., Accra: Spatial Logics and Street Life”, African Studies program and the Department of English, Emory University.

March 19, 2008, “Oxford St., Accra: Spatial Logics and Street Life”, Queen Mary and Westfield College Business School, University of London.

March 17-18, 2008, Reviewer, British Asian Cities, University of Leeds.

April 20, 2007, “Oxford Street, Accra and the Itineraries of Globalization” Keynote address at Street Life Conference, University of Toronto.

Nov 11, 2007, “Oxford St., Accra: Spatial Logics and Street Life”, AAAS, Duke University.

Feb 2, 2006, “New African Literature”, Colloquium on Chinua Achebe, Bard College.

May 17, 2006, “Aesthetic Nervousness: Culture and Disability”, Inaugural Lecture at the Ghana Academy of Arts and Science, Accra, Ghana.

September 21, 2006. “Krotoa’s Heroic Maladies: Colonialism and Identity in 17<sup>th</sup> Century South Africa”, University of Toronto (Public Lecture).

Nov 18, 2004, “Thresholds of the Imagination: Literature and Diaspora” (keynote address), AHRB Diaspora, Migration, and Identities inaugural conference, Bristol.

April 7, 2004, “Disability and Contingency: Samuel Beckett and Toni Morrison”, Du Bois Centre Colloquium, Harvard University.

April 8-9 2004, “The Historical Imagination in Postcolonial African Writing: Naguib Mahfouz, Chinua Achebe and Tsitsi Dangarembga” (lecture) and “Disability and the Problem of Representation in Samuel Beckett and Toni Morrison”, Columbia University, New York.

March 24-25 2004, “Fanon’s Poetics” (lecture) and “Disability and the Problem of Representation in Samuel Beckett and Toni Morrison (seminar), New York University, New York.

January 28-31 2004, “International Literature in a Comparative Frame” (keynote address) and “On Teaching Postcolonial Poetry” (workshop), the Conference for Teachers of the International Baccalaureate, Athens Greece.

December 6, 2003, “Oxford Street’, Accra and the Itineraries of Globalization”, African Studies Association Conference, Trinity College, Dublin.

June 2003, Plenary address on “Postcolonial Pedagogies” at the Condition of the Subject Conference, School of English, University of London.

Nov 20-23, 2003, Invited to participate in special panel on the work of Arjun Appadurai, American Anthropological Association Conference.

Sept 12-13, 2003, invited participant in colloquium on ethnic diversity issues, University of Toronto.

Sept 24-17, 2002, Plenary Lecture: “Symbolization Compulsions in African Writing”, Postcolonialism: Trends and Contexts, University of Toronto.

Jan 16, 2002, The Hilda Hulme Memorial Lecture (title of lecture: “Preface to a Postcolonial Shakespeare”), Institute of English, University of London.

#### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND OFFICES

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**Vice-President**, the African Studies Association, November 2018 (elected May 2018). Will accede to Presidency in November 2019.

**Chair**, ACLA Programs Committee, 2017-2019

**Member**, MLA Elections Committee, 2016-2018

**Member**, MLA Advisory Committee, 2015-2017.

**Member**, External Review Committee of the Department of English, National University of Singapore, October, 2011.

**Member** Executive Board of the African Literature Association, 2012-2015.

**Member, European Research Council**, Grant Awards Panel on Culture and Cultural Production (SH5) 2010-2013; 2015-2017.

**Member** Executive Board of the African Studies Association, 2010-2013.

**Member**, MLA Divisional Committee on Postcolonial Literature 2007-2012.

**Member** Editorial Board of *Research in African Literatures*, 2010-

**Member**, Diaspora and Migrations Project Committee of the Arts and Humanities Research Council of the UK 2005- 2010

**Member** Editorial Board of *African Diasporas*, 2009-

**Member** Editorial Board, *New Literary History*, 2009-

**Member** Editorial Board, *University of Toronto Quarterly*, 2008-

**Assessor**, American Council of Learned Societies Fellowships competition, 2006--2008

**Member** Editorial Board, *Postcolonial Text*, 2007-

**Member**, *The Round Table*, September 2000-September, 2005.

**Member** of the Management Committee, The C L R James Institute, New York, July 1997- 2004

**Member** of the Jury Panel, The Noma Award, 2000-2003 . Major annual Japanese-sponsored literary award for the best in African literature. First prize \$10, 000.

**External Examiner** to the MPhil in African Literature, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa, 1999-2003.

**Founding Joint Editor**, *INTERVENTIONS: The International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*, 1998-2002; from 2002 Consultant Editor.

**Member** of the Royal African Society Management Committee, December 1998-2002

**Member** of the International Jury for Africa's 100 Best Books, 2001-2002.

**Member** the International African Institute, 2001-

**Visiting Professor**, Department of African American Studies, UC-Berkeley, Spring 2000.

**Member**, Editorial Board of *Wasafiri*, 1995-2000 ; edited a special issue of the journal on African American Literature, No. 29, April 1998.

**Judge** of the 1998 African Radio Plays Competition for the BBC World Service.

**Member** African Studies Association, 1997-

**Member**, Editorial Board of *African Literature Today* 1995-- .

**Member** African Literature Association, 1994-

**Founding Fellow**, International Institute for Advanced Studies, Accra, 2006 --

**Member** of informal Africanist advisory group for Tony Blair, Prime Minister of the UK (attended meetings in Downing Street, with regular conversations among members of the group in between; members included representatives from Oxfam, Save the Children, Christian Aid and other major NGOs, as well as senior govt ministers such as the Chancellor and the Secretary for International Development, and a some selected academics noted for their contribution to African affairs).

**External examiner** of PhDs and MPhils in English Literature, African, Postcolonial and Cultural Studies for Australian National University, University of Cape Town, University of Malaysia, University of California Berkeley and Oxford University among various others.

**External assessor** for professorial appointments and promotions in the fields of Postcolonial and African Literature and for African Studies more generally for Harvard University (1999), University of Michigan (2002), UC-Berkeley (2000&2001), University of Toronto (2002), University of Pittsburg (2003), University of Cape Town (2005) and UC-Irvine (2007), Hong Kong University (2009), University of Illinois-Chicago, (2009), University of Florida (2010), University of Witswatersrand (2010), Johns Hopkins (2013), University of Miama (2013).

**Assessor** of manuscripts for Routledge, Blackwell, Penguin and Princeton, Columbia, California, Cambridge, Stanford, Indiana, Ohio, and Oxford university presses among several others.

## TEACHING AND RESEARCH SUPERVISION

### **PhDs successfully submitted under my supervision:**

- Esther de Bruijn, Department of English, University of Toronto, “Sensational Aesthetics in Ghanain Pamphlet Literature”, 2006-2014. Assistant Professor, Lethbridge University, Canada.
- Joanne Leow, “Wayfinding in Urban Literature: Vancouver, Singapore, Toronto”, 2008-2015. Assistant Professor, University of Saskatchewan, Canada.
- Philip Dickinson, “The Romantic Sublime”, 2008-2015. Lecturer (Assistant Professor), University of Leicester, UK.
- Aktina Stathaki, Graduate School of Drama, University of Toronto, “Adaptation and Performance of Greek Drama in Post-Apartheid South Africa” 2006-2009.
- Lindiwe Dovey, Trinity College, Cambridge: “Mimesis, Adaptation, and African Film”, 2000-2004. Reader, School of Oriental and African Studies, UK.
- Christopher Warnes, St John’s College, Cambridge: 1999-2003 “Magical Realism and African Literature”. Senior Lecturer, University of Cambridge.



- Justin Garrick, St John's College Cambridge: 1999-2003  
The Travel Narratives of Freya Stark
- Julian Murphet, Trinity College, Cambridge: 1998-2002, "The Literary Sociology of Los Angeles up to and including the 1992 Riots". Professor of English Literature, University of New South Wales.
- Four others were started at the University of Cambridge under my supervision but completed after my departure to the University of Toronto

Numerous MAs and MPhils supervised at both Cambridge and Toronto, including:

- Passing: On Asian-American Writing
- Andrei Beyly and the Representation of the City
- On Toni Morrison
- Salman Rushdie and James Joyce
- The uses of religion in the work of Salman Rushdie
- On Magical Realism
- New Historicism, J M Coetzee, and South African Literature

#### Teaching @ **University of Toronto 2005 to date**

- Magical Realisms: Postcolonialism and Postmodernism (graduate)
- On Postcolonial Tragedy (graduate)
- Tragedy and Dialogism in African and African-American Literature (graduate)
- Space in City and Literature (undergraduate)
- Space and the Education of Desire: Postcolonialism and Diaspora (graduate)
- Diaspora, Literature, and Cosmopolitanism (undergraduate)
- Introduction to Diaspora and Transnational Studies (undergraduate)
- Introduction to African Literature (undergraduate)
- Cosmopolitanism, Diaspora, Literature (undergraduate)

#### Teaching @ **University of Cambridge 1995-2005**

- Tragedy (from the Greeks to the present day; comparative and interdisciplinary)

- Tragedy in African Literature
- Women in Tragedy
- Literature and Disability
- Magical Realism: Postmodernism and Postcolonialism
- Toni Morrison
- Shakespeare
- Representations in Literature and Anthropology
- Postcolonial Theory
- Literature and Empire
- Literature and Psychoanalysis
- The Novel
- Practical Criticism and Literary Theory
- Supervisions (tutorials) on a wide range of topics including, Topics on Tragedy , Shakespeare and Renaissance Literature, Modernism and Postmodernism, Samuel Beckett, Wole Soyinka, Ben Okri, Chinua Achebe and a host of other writers, themes and topics

#### **Cambridge examinations papers set and examined**

- Commonwealth and International Literature in English (set and examined paper several times and was responsible for developing and consolidating the field in Cambridge)
- English Literature since 1970 (set and examined paper several times)
- Tragedy (compulsory paper in the third year of the English Tripos; examined regularly and set once)
- Practical Criticism (compulsory paper in second year of the English Tripos; examined twice)
- American Literature MPhil (examined several dissertations)
- Modern Literary Theory (paper for the Modern and Medieval Language MPhil in European Literature; examined several dissertations)
- Also examined undergraduate dissertations on a wide range of topics in English literary studies.

#### **Seminars run:**

- Seminar on Race, Class and Identity (graduate and interdisciplinary; developed and convened it for eight years. Visiting guests included Edward Said, Arjun Appadurai,

Terry Eagleton, Susan Buck-Morss, and Abiola Irele among various others)

- Seminar on Commonwealth and International Literature in English (undergraduate/postgraduate; co-convened for eight years)
- African Studies Research Seminar (interdisciplinary; run this for 7 years)

### **Committees @ Cambridge University**

**Member**, Degree Committee of the Faculty of English, Jan 1999-2005

**Member**, Part II Examiners' Board, 1995-2005

**Member**, the Judith E. Wilson Fund, Faculty of English, January 1996-2001

**Deputy Chairman**, Part II Examiners' Committee, Faculty of English 2002-2003.

**Member**, "English 2000" Fundraising Committee, January 1996-2000

**Member**, Pembroke College Parlour Committee, June 1996-2000

**Manager**, Smuts Management Committee, January 1996-2000

**Member** Faculty Events Committee, 1997-99

**Member**, Faculty Library Committee, 1995-99

**Member**, African Studies Management Committee, January 1996-98

### **Committees @ University of Toronto**

**Member, Member**, Academic Board, July 2008-2011.

**Member**, University Tribunal, 2010-2017.

**Member** of Search Committees in History (2) , French (1), English (8), African Studies (1), and in Diaspora and Transnational Studies (5) over the past 12 years.

**Member**, Search Committee for Principal of New College, 2010

**Member**, Search Committee for the Dean of University of Toronto at Mississauga, 2011

**Member**, Provostial Advisory Committee on Academic Planning, 2011

#### RESEARCH GRANTS AND FUNDRAISING

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**SSHRC Standard Research Grant** for “Accra: Urban Evolution, Globalization, and Street Life” April 2009-April 2011. \$124,000.

**British Academy Grant** (£5000) for first part of research project on Literary representations of physical disabilities. (Grant taken up in 2000).

#### **Fundraising (African Studies Centre, University of Cambridge)**

Successfully raised £550,000 (five hundred and fifty thousand pounds sterling) from the Ford Foundation, the Newton Trust, the Smuts Fellowship Fund and the A G Leventis Foundation to set up an African Studies Research Fellowships Scheme. The Scheme was designed to bring up to five scholars from universities and research institutes in Africa to spend six months in Cambridge affiliated to various Colleges and Departments. Each set of scholars was asked to work under a thematic rubric, and the scheme run annually for five years in the first instance (2003-2008). Colleges that agreed to host or provide other facilities for the Visiting Fellows included Pembroke, Jesus College, Wolfson College and Clare Hall.

## CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

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**The Commodification of Illicit Flows: Labour Migration, Trafficking, and Business**, Toronto, October 9-10, 2009.

**The Cambridge History of Postcolonial Literature Conference**, September 18-21, 2008

**Markets: from the Bazaar to e-bay**, Toronto March 6-9, Toronto, 2008.

**Street Life**, Toronto April 14-22, 2007.

**International colloquium on Area Studies, Diaspora Studies, and Critical Pedagogies**, Toronto March 30- April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006.

**Letters Home Conference: South African Literature of Exile**, Cambridge 5-6 March, 2004.

**Chieftaincy in Africa Conference**, Jan 6-10 2003, Accra. Co-convened with the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana. Over 250 participants, about 70 of them from Europe, North America and the rest of Africa. There were nearly 80 papers in all with five plenary presentations. Funding was obtained from the Ford Foundation and the Norwegian Universities Fund. Papers ranged widely, including ones on the historical overview of the representation of traditional rulers on postage stamps; the place of chiefs in popular videos; female chiefs and masculine authority; and the place of chiefs in the current phase of globalization. There was also a healthy representation of local chiefs from across the country throughout the conference. We also had the Queenmother of the Bafokeng in South Africa attending the conference and giving a plenary.