

# SAKIRU ADEBAYO

Curriculum Vitae

2020-09-10

## EDUCATION

PhD, African Literature, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, June, 2020

**Thesis:** A Grievous Past in a Grieving Present: Representations of Trauma, Memory and Mourning in Post/conflict African Narratives.

**Supervisor:** Professor Bhekizizwe Peterson

MA (Distinction), English (with a specialization in postcolonial literature), University of Ibadan, Nigeria, 2016

**Thesis:** Neurosis as a Postcolonial Condition in Tsitsi Dangaremba's *The Book of Not* and Uzodinma Iweala's *Beasts of No Nation*.

**Supervisor:** Professor Babatunde Emmanuel Omobowale

BA (First Class), English, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, 2014

## EMPLOYMENTS

Postdoctoral Fellow, Wits Institute of Social and Economic Research(WISER), July 2020 – till present

Sessional Lecturer, Department of African Literature, University of the Witwatersrand, 2017- till present

Tutorial Assistant, Department of English, University of Ibadan, 2015- 2017

Literature Teacher, Cambridge International AS & A Level, The International School, University of Ibadan, 2015-2017

## PUBLICATIONS

Speaking About the Dead in the Present Tense: *Half of a Yellow Sun* as a Work of Postmemory. *Research in African Literatures*, Volume 52, Issue 1, 2021.

Unmournable Bodies, Embodied Monuments and Bodily Truths: Rethinking Reconciliation in *Zulu Love Letter*. *SAFUNDI*, Volume 21, Issue 4, 2020

This Uprising Will Bring Out The Beast In Us: The Cultural Afterlife of ‘Beasts of No Nation’. *Journal of African Studies*, Volume 32, Issue 3, 2020

The Black Soul is a White Man’s Artifact? Post-coloniality, Post-Fanonism and the Tenacity of Race(ism) in Igoni Barrett’s *Blackass*. *African Studies*, Volume 79, Issue 1, 2020.

Dis/ruptures of Home and Citizenship. Memory, Migration and Alternative Practices of Belonging in Dinaw Mengestu’s *Children of the Revolution*. *Kairos: A Journal of Critical Symposium*, Volume 4, No 1, 2019.

The Psychology of Oppression and Liberation in Mongane Serote’s *To Every Birth its Blood*. *Journal of Pan African Studies* 12.4: 231-248, 2018.

## **BOOK CHAPTER**

Negotiating Trauma, War and the Banality of Evil: Narrative Aesthetics and the Representation of PTSD in *Beasts of no Nations* in A. Osisanwo, K. Adebisi-Adelabu and A. Mosobalaje (eds). *Literary and Linguistic Perspectives on Orality, Literary and Gender Studies*. Ibadan: Kraft Books Limited, 127-138, 2018.

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

A Future and a Past Under Construction: A Review of *These are the Things that Sit with Us*. *English in Africa* 1.37, 2020.

A Review of *Childhood in Contemporary Diasporic African Literature: Memories and Futures Past* by Chris Ouma. Forthcoming in *Research in African Literature*

Melancholy in the Time of Pandemic. *WISER Podcast Series*, Episode 2, Sept, 17, 2020.  
<https://wiser.wits.ac.za/event/wiser-podcast-season-2-episode-3-sakiru-adebayo>

Crazy Rich Nigerians. An opinion piece published in *Africa is a Country*. January 13, 2020.  
<https://africasacountry.com/2020/01/crazy-rich-nigerians>

Young Nigerian Demand a Different Kind of Freedom in *The Conversation Africa*, October 17, 2020.  
<https://theconversation.com/young-nigerians-rise-up-to-demand-a-different-kind-of-freedom-148105>

*The Man in the Moon*. A Children’s book published by Emotion Press, 2012.

## **CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS**

Presented, “The Only Truth I know is What I Feel in my Entire Body: Reflections on Trauma, Affects and the Body in *Zulu Love Letter*” at the Future of Trauma: African Scholars Think with Cathy Caruth event, Stellenbosch University, 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2020

Presented, ‘White Grief, Black Grievance: Post-apartheid Melancholia in Contemporary South Africa’ at the THINK Online Lamentation Series, Wits University, 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2020.

Presented, ‘This Uprising Will Bring Out The Beast In Us: The Cultural Afterlife of *Beasts of No Nation*’ at the World Literature Symposium, Stockholm University (via Zoom), 7<sup>th</sup> of May, 2020.

Presented, ‘A Past and a Future Under Construction: Post-apartheid Melancholia in *These are the Things That Sit With Us*’ at the Memory of Loss, Dreams of Solidarity Conference, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK, 1<sup>st</sup> of February, 2020.

Presented, ‘This Uprising Will Bring Out The Beast In Us: The Cultural Afterlife of ‘Beasts of No Nation’ at the *Felabration* Symposium, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, October 22, 2019.

Presented, ‘Prosthetic Memories? Rwanda and the African Transnational Memory Imperative’ at the Memory Studies Association (Africa chapter), University of Pretoria, South Africa, October, 18, 2019.

Presented, ‘A Discipline in the State of Radical Uncertainty: Browsing English Department Websites in South Africa’ at the State of English Studies Series, Wits Institute of Social and Economic Research(WISER), Johannesburg, South Africa, October, 10, 2019.

Presented, ‘Melancholies of Migration: Memory, Loss and Migratory Dilemmas in *Children of the Revolution*’ at the Absent Community Symposium, Johannesburg Institute of Advanced Studies(JIAS), South Africa, September 26, 2019.

Presented ‘Reading Post-apartheid Melancholia in *These are the things that sit with us*’ at the book launch of *These are the things that sit with us* at National Institute of Humanities and Social Science Research(NIHSS), Johannesburg, South Africa, August, 15, 2019.

Presented, *Beasts of No Nation, Burden of All Nations: Remembering Activism and the Transnational Politics of Suffering in Africa*’ at the NEST (Narrative Enquiry for Social Transformation) Winter School, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, July 7, 2019.

Presented ‘*Beasts of No Nation, Burden of All Nations: Remembering Activism and the Transnational Politics of Suffering in Africa*’ at the THINK (Transforming Humanities through Interdisciplinary Knowledges) Graduate Seminar, Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, July 1, 2019.

Presented, ‘African Transnational Memory in a Migratory Setting’ at the Memory Studies Association Conference, Madrid, Spain, June 29, 2019.

Presented 'Reflections on Trauma, Empathy and Secondary Witnessing: Positioning Ethics of an African Transnational Memory' at the Doctoral Workshop, Recognition, Reconciliation, Reparation conference, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, December 5, 2018.

Presented 'Of Victims, Perpetrators and the in Between: *The Memory of Love* and the Curious Case of Complicity' at the Recognition, Reconciliation, Reparation conference, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, December 5-9, 2018.

Presented a paper on 'An inheritance of Loss: Chimamanda Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun* as a work of Postmemory' at the NEST Conference, Wits University, South Africa, 22-24, March, 2018.

Presented 'An inheritance of Loss: Chimamanda Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun* as a work of Postmemory' at the Centre for Historical Trauma, Stellenbosch University, Annual Seminar, May 8-10, 2018.

Presented 'If Muteness is a Risk, is Speech a Greater Risk? Silence, Memory and the complicity of Time in Aminatta Forna's *The Memory of Love*, Department of English Seminar Series, University of Pretoria, South Africa, August 23, 2018.

Presented 'If Muteness is a Risk, is Speech a Greater Risk? Silence, Memory and the complicity of Time in Aminatta Forna's *The Memory of Love*, African Literature Seminar Series, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa August 22, 2018.

Presented 'Silent Time in the Postcolony: *A Reading of The Memory of Love*' at the Literatures of the Global South Summer School, University of Tübingen, Germany, August 1-4, 2018.

Presented 'Of Memory, Migration and Melancholies: African Transnational Memories in Migratory Setting', Postcolonial Narrations Conference, Goethe University, Germany, October 10-12, 2018.

Presented my PhD proposal at Memory Studies Association PhD Forward Event, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, December 7, 2017.

Presented a paper on 'Postcolonial Nigerian Literature' at the Graduate Conference on Postcolonial Narration: Verbalising the Unspeakable, Ludwig Maximilian Universität, Munich, Germany, 9-11 November, 2016.

Presented a paper on 'The Postcolonial Psyche in African Literature' at the Toyin Falola Conference on postcoloniality, Redeemers' University (in conjunction with the University of Texas, Austin), Nigeria, 2016.

Attended, 'African Studies in the 21st Century: Past, Present and Future', International Conference of African Studies Association of Africa, University of Ibadan, 2017.

Attended, Entanglements and Aftermaths: Reflections on Memory and political Times, WISER, South Africa, February 22-24, 2018.

## **TEACHING**

AFRT 7008 - Contemporary Trends in African Literature (2020), Department of African Literature, University of the Witwatersrand.

AFRT 7012 – Memory, Violence and Representation in Africa (2020), Department of African Literature, University of the Witwatersrand.

AFRT 2002 – Performing Power in Post-Independence Africa (2020), Department of African Literature, University of the Witwatersrand.

AFRT 4008 - Literature of the Black Diaspora (2018-2020), Department of African Literature, University of the Witwatersrand.

ENG 101 - Use of English(2015-2016), Department of English, University of Ibadan.

ENG 201 - Introduction to Writing (2015-2016), Department of English, University of Ibadan.

Cambridge A Level Literature Syllabus (within the two years I spent as an A Level lecturer, I taught five plays by Shakespeare and several poems from different periods in English Literature. I also taught postcolonial authors such as Jhumpa Lahiri, Chimamanda Adichie, Wole Soyinka among others).

## **SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

Member of the Advisory board of *uMsunduzi: A Journal of the uMsunduzi and Ncome Museums*

## **SUPERVISION**

Uwisike Blessing, “Repression and Loss in Toni Kan’s *Songs of Absence and Despair* and Dami Ajayi’s *Clinical Blues*”. Long Essay (Bachelor of Arts), Department of English, University of Ibadan, 2015.

Oni Adeola, “The African Girl-Child and Woman: A Re-reading of Selected West African Novels”. Long Essay (Bachelor of Arts), Department of English, University of Ibadan, 2016.

## **AWARDS**

Ajoke Ipaye Scholarship for Undergraduate Students, University of Ibadan, 2010-2014.

University Scholarship for Masters Students, University of Ibadan, 2015-2016.

Postgraduate Merit Award, University of the Witwatersrand, 2018.

Mellon-Funded THINK(Transforming Humanities Through Interdisciplinary Knowledge) Scholarship for Doctoral Students, University of the Witwatersrand, 2017-2020.

Faculty of Humanities Dissertation Completion Grants, University of the Witwatersrand, March, 2020.

## **EVENTS ORGANISED**

I facilitate a monthly reading group called THINK Memory Reading Group at the University of the Witwatersrand, started in August 2019.

THINK (Transforming Humanities through Interdisciplinary Knowledges) Graduate Seminar, Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, July 1-2, 2019.

Film Screening, '*Zulu Love Letter: Body, Memory and Affect in Post/Apartheid South Africa*'. Followed with conversations with Bhekizizwe Peterson, Grace Musila and Hugo Canham, University of the Witwatersrand, February 25, 2019.

Workshop on 'The Light and Shadow of historical Trauma: The Arts as Visual Conscience of the Society'. Lecture given by Pumla Gobodo- Madikizela. University of the Witwatersrand, October 1, 2018.

Public Lecture on 'Interdisciplinarity and the African Humanities' by Pius Adesanmi, Humanities Graduate Centre, University of the Witwatersrand, July 7, 2017.

I am participated in the University of Virginia/Memory Studies Association Graduate Seminar which ran from January-June, 2020.

Trauma Panel, Association of Commonwealth Universities/Stellenbosch University Arts and Peace Conference/Webinar, June 11, 2020.

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

Memory Studies Association  
Association of Nigerian Authors