

Curriculum Vitae Olakunle George

Department of English
Brown University, Box 1852
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Employment

- . 2003- : Associate Professor of English and Associate Professor of Africana Studies, Brown University
- . 2002-03: William A. Dyer Jr. Assistant Professor of Humanities and Assistant Professor of English, Brown University
- . 1996-02: Assistant Professor of English, University of Oregon
- . 1992-96: Assistant Professor of English, Northwestern University

Scholarly Interests

African Literatures
Literature of the Black Atlantic
Postcolonial Literary and Cultural Criticism
Literary and Cultural Theory

Education

- . 1992 (November): Ph.D, English Language and Literature. Cornell University
- . 1990: M.A, English Language and Literature. Cornell University
- . 1986: M.A, English Literature. University of Ibadan, Nigeria
- . 1984: B.A, English Literature. University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Publications

Books and Edited Volumes:

. *The Encyclopedia of the Novel (2 Vols)* (co-edited with Peter M. Logan, Susan Hegeman and Efraín Kristal). Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.

. *Relocating Agency: Modernity and African Letters*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2003.

[Award: "CHOICE 2003 Outstanding Academic Title"]

Reviewed in:

CHOICE. Current Reviews for Academic Libraries; Comparative Literature; Comparative Literature Studies; Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies; Research in African Literatures; West Africa Review

In Progress:

. "Pagans and Patriots: Conversion and the Texts of Africa." Book manuscript.

Articles and Book Chapters:

"Literary Africa." *Africa in the World, the World in Africa*. Ed. Biodun Jeyifo. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2011. Forthcoming.

"The Oral-Literate Interface." *The Cambridge Companion to the African Novel*. Ed. F. Abiola Irele. New York: Cambridge UP., 2009. 15-29.

"African Novels and the Question of Theory." *Teaching the African Novel*. Ed. Gaurav Desai. New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2009. 19-36.

"The National and the Transnational: Soyinka's *The Interpreters* and *Aké: The Years of Childhood*." *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* 41.2/3 (Spring-Summer 2008): 279-297.

"The Logic of Agency in African Literary Criticism." *African Literature: Theory and Criticism*. Eds. Tejumola Olaniyan & Ato Quayson. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2007. 449-54; rpt. of excerpt from *Relocating Agency: Modernity and African Letters*.

"The Narrative of Conversion in Chinua Achebe's *Arrow of God*." *Comparative Literature Studies* 42.4 (2005): 344-62.

"African Theory and Criticism" (with Gitahi Gititi). *The Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism. 2nd Edition*. Eds. Michael Groden et. al. Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins UP., 2005. 27-31.

"The 'Native' Missionary, the African Novel, and In-Between." *Novel: A Forum On Fiction* 36.1 (Fall 2002): 5-25.

"Tragedy, Mimicry, and 'The African World,'" *Death and the King's Horseman. Authoritative Text, Backgrounds and Contexts, Criticism*. Ed. Simon Gikandi (New York and London: W. W. Norton, 2003), 207-222; rpt. of excerpt from "Cultural Criticism in Wole Soyinka's *Death and the King's Horseman*."

"African Literature." *Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century African History*. Eds. Paul Tiyambe Zeleza and Dickson Eyoh (London & New York: Routledge, 2003), 330-36.

"Representing 'Natives': Sol Plaatje and the Rhetoric of Difference." *Postmodernism, Postcoloniality, and African Studies* ed. Zine Magubane. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2003. 167-200.

"D. O. Fagunwa (1903-63)." *Encyclopedia of African Literature* ed. Simon Gikandi (London & New York: Routledge, 2003): 181-82.

"Wole Soyinka (1934-)." *Encyclopedia of African Literature* ed. Simon Gikandi (London & New York: Routledge, 2003): 520-22.

"Alice Walker's Africa: Globalization and the Province of Fiction." *Comparative Literature* 53.4 (Fall 2001): 354-72.

"African Politics, African Literatures: Thoughts on Mahmood Mamdani's *Citizen and Subject* and Wole Soyinka's *The Open Sore of a Continent*." *West African Review* 2.1 (August 2000). Online Journal www.westafricareview.com/war/vol2.1/2.1war.htm

"Cultural Criticism in Wole Soyinka's *Death and the King's Horseman*." *Representations* 67 (Summer 1999): 67-91.

"Compound of Spells: The Predicament of D. O. Fagunwa (1903-1963)." *Research in African Literatures* 28.1 (Spring 1997): 78-97.

"Modernity and the Promise of Reading." *Diacritics* 25.4 (Winter 1995): 71-88.

Book Reviews:

"Text and Matter: Review of Laura Chrisman, *Postcolonial contraventions: Cultural readings of race, imperialism, and transnationalism*." *Postcolonial Studies* 7.2 (July 2004): 233-36.

Review of Gaurav Desai, *Subject to Colonialism: African Self-fashioning and the Colonial Library*. *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* 23.1-2 (2003): 356-58.

Review of Samba Diop, *The Oral History and Literature of the Wolof People of Waalo, Northern Senegal*. *Research in African Literatures* 31.1 (Spring 2000): 214-16.

Review of Satya P. Mohanty, *Literary Theory and the Claims of History. Postmodernism, Objectivity, Multicultural Politics*." *Interventions. An International Journal of Postcolonial Studies* 1.1 (October 1998): 147-50.

Invited Lectures and Colloquia

"Sacrifice and Representation From Achebe to Vera." International workshop on "The History of Form in the Anglophone African Novel." University of Cape Town, South Africa. 08/28/08

"Literary Africa." Lecture, "Knowledge and Empire Conference," University of Wisconsin-Madison. 02/29/08.

Colloquium on "The Future of the Field: Postcolonial Studies and Theory." Brandeis University. 11/30/06.

"The Claims of Modern African Fiction." Seminar paper, Cogut Center for the Humanities. 10/24/06.

"Wole Soyinka's *The Trials of Brother Jero* and *Jero's Metamorphosis*." Lecture, Department of English, Tulane University. 10/08/06

"The Claims of Modern African Literature." Lecture delivered to the "Postgraduate Summer School in Social and Cultural Studies," Tallinn University. Estonia. 08/19/06.

"C. L. R. James and the Idea of Africa." "Contested Modernities Interdisciplinary Symposium," Humanities Institute, Tallinn University, Estonia. 08/14/06.

"Reading Chinua Achebe," invited lecture, Austin College, Sherman TX. 04/23/05.

"Pagans, Patriots, and the African Conversion." 42nd annual meeting, Society For Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Boston MA. 11/06/03.

"'Native' Missionaries and African Literature," English Department, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. 07/17/02.

"The Village Schoolteacher in Wole Soyinka," roundtable session on "The Production of Culture in Africa." African Literature Association Conference, Richmond VA. 04/07/01.

"Literary Africa: Discourse and the Case of Solomon Plaatje," African Studies symposium, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. 11/05/99.

"African Literatures and Cultures," invited lecture, Central Oregon Community College, Bend OR. 11/09/98.

"What Does 'Theory' Have To Do With African Literature?" invited lecture, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. 09/05/97.

"On Mahmood Mamdani and Wole Soyinka," roundtable session, African Literature Association Conference, East Lansing, MI. 04/17/97.

"The Predicament of D. O. Fagunwa," Institute for Advanced Study and Research in the African Humanities, Northwestern University. 01/27/93.

"Uneasy Modernity: Witnessing the Colonial Relation," interdisciplinary workshop on "The Reproduction of Racial Ideologies," University of Chicago. 10/23/92.

Papers Read

"Sacrifice, Representation, Achebe." African Literature Association Conference, University of Vermont. 04/18/09.

"Missionary Moments: Achebe and Soyinka." African Novels and the Politics of Form Conference. Department of English, University of Pittsburgh. 10/27/06.

"Grasping the Everyday." International Society for the Study of Oral Literatures of Africa Conference, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. 07/20/06.

"Upon Reading the Yoruba Translation of *Things Fall Apart*." African Literature Association Conference, Accra, Ghana. 05/20/06.

"Race and Identity in Victorian West Africa: The Case of Bishop Ajayi Crowther, 1806-91." "Globalcities Conference," Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. 10/19/01.

"Enculturing: The Example of Amos Tutuola." Modern Language Association Convention, Washington DC. 12/29/00.

"Class and Culture: C.L.R. James on Nkrumah's Ghana." C.L.R. James Scholarship Conference, Brown University, Providence, RI. 04/14/00.

"Between Althusser and Laclau/Mouffe: Ideology, Agency, Criticism." Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago. 12/28/99.

"Representing Bodies and Histories." Modern Language Association Convention, San Francisco. 12/29/98.

"The Citizen of Modern African Literature." African Literature Association Conference, Austin, Texas. 03/27/98.

"The Pioneer's Solitude: Rev. Samuel Johnson's *The History of the Yorubas*," African Literature Association Conference, East Lansing, Michigan. 04/17/97.

"The Lesson of Solomon T. Plaatje." African Diaspora Conference, SUNY Binghamton, NY. 04/12/96.

"Reading Alice Walker's *Possessing the Secret of Joy*." African Literature Association Conference, SUNY Stony Brook, NY. 03/30/96.

"Postcoloniality as Sign and Tension." Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago, IL. 12/29/95.

"Literary Africa: The Case of Solomon T. Plaatje (1876-1932)." Seminar Series, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ. 11/16/95.

"The Lesson of Solomon Plaatje." "New Critical Encounters with the Literatures of Africa Conference," Tel Aviv University, Israel. 06/20/95.

"Reading a Literary Africa: Sol Plaatje's *Mhudi*." "Transnationalism and Diaspora Conference," African Studies Program, University of Chicago. 06/15/95.

“The Claims of Current 'Postcolonial' Theory.” Annual conference of the African Literature Association. Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. 03/18/95.

“The Inherited Mandate in African Literary Criticism.” Midwest Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago. 11/13/94.

“Wole Soyinka and the Moment of Critique: Reading *Death and the King's Horseman*.” Midwest Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago. 11/12/94.

“Reading Baraka's *The System of Dante's Hell*: Race, Class, and the Politics of Form.” African Literature Association Conference, Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar, Senegal. 03/22/89.

Academic Awards

Fall 2006: Faculty Fellowship, Cogut Humanities Center, Brown University

2002-2003: William A. Dyer Jr. Assistant Professorship

Fall 1996: Faculty Fellowship, University of Oregon Humanities Center

1995-96: Fellow, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey

1991-92: Andrew D. Mellon Dissertation Fellowship, Cornell University

1990-91: Third-Year Teaching Fellowship, Cornell University

1981-84: National Undergraduate Merit Award, Nigeria.

Sample Courses

- . The Postcolonial and the Postmodern
- . Postcoloniality in Theory and Literature
- . Postcolonial Literature
- . Missionaries and Nationalists
- . Literary Africa
- . Black Atlantic Narratives of Africa
- . African and Caribbean Tales of Transition

Professional Affiliations

- . African Literature Association
- . Modern Language Association
- . Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy