

Curriculum Vitae

Olakunle George
Department of English
Brown University
Providence, RI 02912
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Olakunle_George@Brown.edu

Employment:

Brown University:
Professor of English and Africana Studies 2018-
Associate Professor of English and Africana Studies (2003-18)
William A. Dyer Jr. Assistant Professor (2002-03)

University of Oregon:
Assistant Professor of English (1996-2002)

Northwestern University:
Assistant Professor of English (1992-96)

Scholarly Interests:

African Literary and Cultural Studies
Literatures of the Black Diaspora
Anglophone Postcolonial Studies
Literary and Cultural Theory

Education:

1992 (November): PhD Cornell University
1990: MA Cornell University
1986: MA University of Ibadan, Nigeria
1984: BA University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Books:

African Literature and Social Change: Tribe, Nation, Race. Indiana UP, 2017

The Encyclopedia of the Novel (2 Vols). Associate Editor, with Susan Hegeman and Efraín Kristal. General Editor: Peter M. Logan. Wiley-Blackwell, 2011. Paperback in 2014.

Relocating Agency: Modernity and African Letters. State University of New York Press, 2003. (CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title Award)

In progress:

Editor, *The Blackwell Companion to African Literatures*. Under contract, Wiley-Blackwell

Monograph with the working title: "Encounters in Postcoloniality"

Articles and Book Chapters:

"Returning to Jeyifo's *The Yoruba Popular Travelling Theatre of Nigeria*." *Journal of the African Literature Association* 12.1 (2018): 14-22.

“Re-Narrating the Post-Global.” *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry*. 4.2 (2017): 280-85.

“Postcolonial Reverberations.” *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*. 36.1 (May 2016): 195-203.

“Literary Africa.” *Africa in the World, the World in Africa*, ed. Biodun Jeyifo. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2011. 29-49.

“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 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: Johns Hopkins UP, 2005. 27-31.

“African Literature.” *Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century African History*, eds. Paul T. 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.

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

“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.

“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.

Reprints:

“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*.

“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*.”

Book Reviews:

Review of Ayo Adeduntan, *What the Forest Told Me. Yoruba Hunter, Culture, and Narrative Performance*. *Research in African Literatures* 47.3 (Fall 2016): 193-96.

Review of Susan Z. Andrade, *The Nation Writ Small. African Fictions and Feminisms, 1958-1988*. *MFS. Modern Fiction Studies* 61.3 (Fall 2015): 547-550.

“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.

Miscellaneous Publications:

“The Cloth of Form.” *PONAL. Project on New African Literatures* 1.1 (2007). Online Journal.

“Literature and Criticism in an International Frame.” *Brown Bulletin* (December, 2004): 23-25.

Lectures and Colloquia:

“Translation and African Cultural Studies.” Connect Africa Research Network Symposium. Wesleyan University. Middletown, CT. 04/05/18.

Discussant, Rhode Island School of Design Museum Exhibit, “Whirling Return of the Ancestors: Egúngún Masquerade Ensembles of the Yorùbá.” 11/11/16.

"Reading *The Yoruba Popular Travelling Theater of Nigeria* (1984)." African Literature Association, 42nd Annual Conference. Atlanta, Georgia. 04/08/16.

“Slaveboy and Author: Bishop Ajayi Crowther.” Seminar Series, Brown University Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America. 03/19/14.

“Postcolonialism, Globalism, and African Literary Criticism.” Roundtable, African Studies Association Annual Conference. Philadelphia. 12/01/12

“Africa in the Aftermath of the Arab Spring.” Plenary Session, American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Brown University. 04/01/12.

“Missionary Moments: On Peter Abrahams’s *A Wreath for Udomo*.” African Studies Working Group, Yale University. 11/03/11.

“Missionary Moments: On Peter Abrahams’s *A Wreath for Udomo*.” American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Simon Fraser University. Vancouver, Canada. 04/02/11.

Respondent, “Symposium on African Philosophy: The Politics of Freedom in Africa and the World.” Department of Africana Studies, Brown University. 03/19/09.

“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.” 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, Cogut Center for the Humanities, Brown University. 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, “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.” 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 ‘Native Missionary,’ the African Novel, and In-Between. Department of English, Brown University. 01/23/02.

“The Village Schoolteacher in Wole Soyinka.” Roundtable, “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.” Central Oregon Community College, Bend, Oregon. 11/09/98.

“What Does ‘Theory’ Have To Do With African Literature?” University of Ibadan, Nigeria. 09/05/97.

“On Mahmood Mamdani and Wole Soyinka.” Roundtable, 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, “The Reproduction of Racial Ideologies,” University of Chicago. 10/23/92.

Conference Presentations:

Respondent. Book Review Roundtable on Olakunle George’s *African Literature and Social Change* and Iyunolu Osagie’s *African Modernity and the Philosophy of Culture in the Works of Femi Euba*. African Literature Association Conference. Washington DC. 05/24/18.

“On Adeleke Adeeko’s *Arts of Being Yoruba*.” African Literature Association Conference. Washington DC. 05/25/18.

“Some Faces of Globalism in African Literature.” African Literature Association 43rd Annual Conference. Yale University, New Haven. 06/16/17.

“For Isidore Okpewho (1942-2016).” African Literature Association 43rd Annual Conference. Yale University, New Haven. 06/16/17.

“Richard Wright on the Move.” Roundtable on “Global Intersections, Post-Bandung” Modern Language Association Convention. Philadelphia, PA. 01/05/17.

Organizer and Moderator, Roundtable on “Literary Studies and Area Studies in the Present.” Modern Language Association Convention. Austin, TX. 01/08/16.

Respondent, Panel on “The Other American Reading Brazil.” 2015 Callaloo Conference, Brown University. 06/12/15.

“On Ayo Adeduntan’s *What the Forest Told Me: Yoruba Hunter, Culture, and Narrative Performance*.” African Literature Association Conference, University of Bayreuth, Germany. 06/03/15.

“Realignments.” Moderator and Respondent, “Realignments” panel, African Literature Association Conference, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. 04/11/14.

Organizer and Moderator, Panel on “Cross-Cultural Dialogues.” Modern Language Association Convention. Chicago, IL. 01/10/14.

“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:

2018-19: Faculty Research Fellow, Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women, Brown University.

2017-18: Haffenreffer Museum Faculty Fellow, Brown University

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

2003: CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title (for *Relocating Agency*)

2003: *Ad Eundem* Master of Arts Degree Award, Brown University

2002-03: William A. Dyer Jr. Assistant Professorship

Fall 1996: Faculty Fellowship, University of Oregon Humanities Center

1995-96: Fellow, School of Social Science, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton

1995-96: National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow

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

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

1981-84: National Undergraduate Merit Award, Nigeria

Teaching:

Sample Courses

Black Atlantic Narratives of Africa

Modern African Literature

Postcolonial Literature

Postcolonial Tales of Transition

The Claims of Fiction

The Postcolonial and the Postmodern

The Texts of Africa

Missionaries and Nationalists

Postcoloniality and Globalism

Completed PhD Dissertation Committees:

Brown University

Swetha Regunathan (2018); Sabelle M. Ford (2017); David Liao (2015); Derek Ettensohn (2014, Chair); Adriane Genette (2013, Chair); Charles Mulekwa (2012); Christopher Holmes (2011, Chair); David Babcock (2011, Chair); Jeannette M. Lee (2009); Manu S. Chander (2009); Weihsin Gui (2008, Chair); Asha Nadkarni (2005); Christopher Lee (2005)

University of Oregon

Philip A. Ojo (2003); Bonnie Lynn Ross (2002); Steven B. Brence (2001); Seri I. Luangphinit (2000); Jaspal Kaur Singh (1998); Edwin John Mcallister (1997)

PhD Qualifying Exam Committees:

Zachary Krowiak; Cole Morgan; Daniel Byrne; Anna Thomas; Jenny Snow; David Liao; Sachelle M. Ford; Minta Zlomke; Swetha Regunathan; Derek Ettensohn; Andrew Starner (Theatre and Performance Studies); Adriane Genette; Christopher Holmes; Charles Mulekwa (Theatre and Performance Studies); Jeannette Lee; Weihsin Gui; David Babcock; Manu S. Chander; Philip A. Ojo; Junyon Kim; Roberta Di Carmine.

MA Dissertations, BA Honors Theses:

Jacqueline K. Rice; Ivy Alphonse-Leja; Ah-Young Song; Areebah Ajani; Jee Hyung Choi; Alexander Watson; Catherine Culler; Rachel Levenson; Allison Zimmer; Deborah Dryer; Arya Shekar; Meaghan Banks; Shing Yi Ng; Yvonne Koh; Rebecca Rose Ewert; Emily Bauman.

Independent Studies

Graduate:

Sachelle M. Ford; Derek Ettensohn; Adriane Genette; Christopher Holmes; Hananie Albert; Junyon Kim; Suphak Chawla; Roberta Di Carmine; Lesley Delmenico.

Undergraduate:

Adetobi Moses (Leadership Alliance Summer Research, 2016); Bartocz Zerebecki (Independent Concentration, 2015); Sophia Renda (Independent Concentration, 2014); Kyle Wynter-Stoner (Mellon Mays Fellowship, Comparative Literature, 2011); Shubha Venugopal (Northwestern, 1995); Rana Abbassi (Northwestern, 1995); Helen J. Crump, (SROP, Northwestern, 1994); Kirsten N. Saunders (SROP, Northwestern, 1994).

Service:

1. Brown University

a. College:

Committee For Reviewing Academic Code Policies and Procedures (Fall 2017)
University Resources Committee (2011-12; 2012-13; 2013-14)
Working Group on Graduate Education (2007-08)
Faculty Development Advisory Board (2004-05; 2005-06)
Internationalization Subcommittee on Global Humanities (2006-07)
Selection Committee, Brown International Scholars Program (2008-09)
First-Year Students Academic Advisor (2005-06; 2006-07; 2007-08; 2008-09)

b. Department:

Director of Undergraduate Studies (2007-08; 2017-18; 2018-19)
Co-chair, Diversity and Inclusion Committee (Fall 2018)
Judge, English Department Graduate Students' Essay Prize (Spring 2018)
Tenure Committee, (Associate Professor Position, English and American Studies Departments; Spring 2018)
Promotion Committee, Distinguished Senior Lecturer (Fall 2017)
Departmental Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan Committee (2017-18)
Chair, Working Group on Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan (Spring 2016)
Chair, Contract Renewal Committee (2015-16)
Graduate Admissions Committee (2002-03; 2005-06; 2008-09; 2011-12; 2012-13; 2014-15)
Ad-Hoc Committee on curriculum review (2011-12)
Self-study Committee for English Department external review (2008-09)
Chair, Tenure and Promotion Committee (2006-07)
Chair, Contract Renewal Committee (2006-07)
Tenure and Promotion Committee (2003-04) [2 cases]

Director of Literature Honors Program (2004-05; 2005-06)
Concentration Advisor, English Department (2003-08; 2013-16)

c. Search Committees:

Open-rank, African American Literature (English Department, 2017-18)
Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow (Comparative Literature, 2014-15)
Assistant Professor of African-American Literature (English Department, 2011-12)
Assistant Professor of Theater and Performance (Department of Theatre and Performance Studies, 2008-09)
Assistant Professor of Africana Thought (Department of Africana Studies, 2006-07)
Open-rank, African-American Literature (English Department, 2003-04)

2. University of Oregon

Collins Professor of Ethnic American Literature (1997-98; 1998-99)
Assistant Professor of Ethnic American Literature (2000-01; 2001-02)
Assistant Professor of African-American Literature (1999-2000)
English Department Council (1998-99; 1999-2000; 2001-02)
University Internationalization Committee (1998-99)
African Studies Committee (1999-2002)

3. Northwestern University

Advisory Board, Program in African Studies (1993-94; 1994-95)
Graduate Admissions Committee, English Department (1994-95)
English Department Senate (1993-94; 1994-95)
English Department Honors Thesis Committee (1994-95)
Search Committee, Melville Herskovits Professor of African Studies (1993-94)

Service to the Profession

Finance Committee, African Literature Association (2018-19)

Conference Program Committee, African Studies Association (2017-18)

Executive committee, "Comparative Studies in 20th Century Literature Forum," Modern Language Association (2012-17; Chair, 2015-16)

Executive committee, African Literatures Division, Modern Language Association (1999-2004; Chair, 2002-03)

Consultant, *World Literature and Its Times, Vol 2*, eds., Joyce Moss and Lorraine Valestuk (Detroit: Gale Group, 2000).

Editorial Board Memberships

Anthem Studies in Race, Power, and Society (Anthem Press Book Series)

Ariel: A Review of International English Literature (Canada)

The Savannah Review (Nigeria)

Academic Journal Peer-reviews

African Studies Review; *Ariel: A Review of International English Literature*; *Atlantic Studies*; *Callaloo*; *Comparative Literature*; *Contemporary Literature*; *Cultural Critique*; *Diacritics*; *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies*; *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*; *JALA: Journal of the African Literature Association*;

Journal of African Cultural Studies; Mediations; Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism; Modern Drama; Novel: A Forum on Fiction; Postcolonial Text; PMLA; Research in African Literatures; Studies in the Novel; Tydskrif Vir Letterkunde; West Africa Review.

Academic Publisher Peer-reviews

Florida University Press
Indiana University Press
Johns Hopkins University Press
Modern Language Association
Oxford University Press
State University of New York Press
University of Rochester Press
Wiley-Blackwell Publishers
Broadview Press
Gale Group Publishers

Grant Application Reviews

National Science Foundation, South Africa
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

External Promotions and Tenure Reviews

American University
Brandeis University
Cornell University
Indiana University
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
Legon University, Ghana
Smith College
University of Cape Town, South Africa
University of Toronto
UCLA
United Arab Emirates University, UAE.

External Examiner, Doctoral Dissertations

University of Cape Town, South Africa
University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa

Professional Affiliations:

African Studies Association
African Literature Association
American Comparative Literature Association
Modern Language Association

12/18