

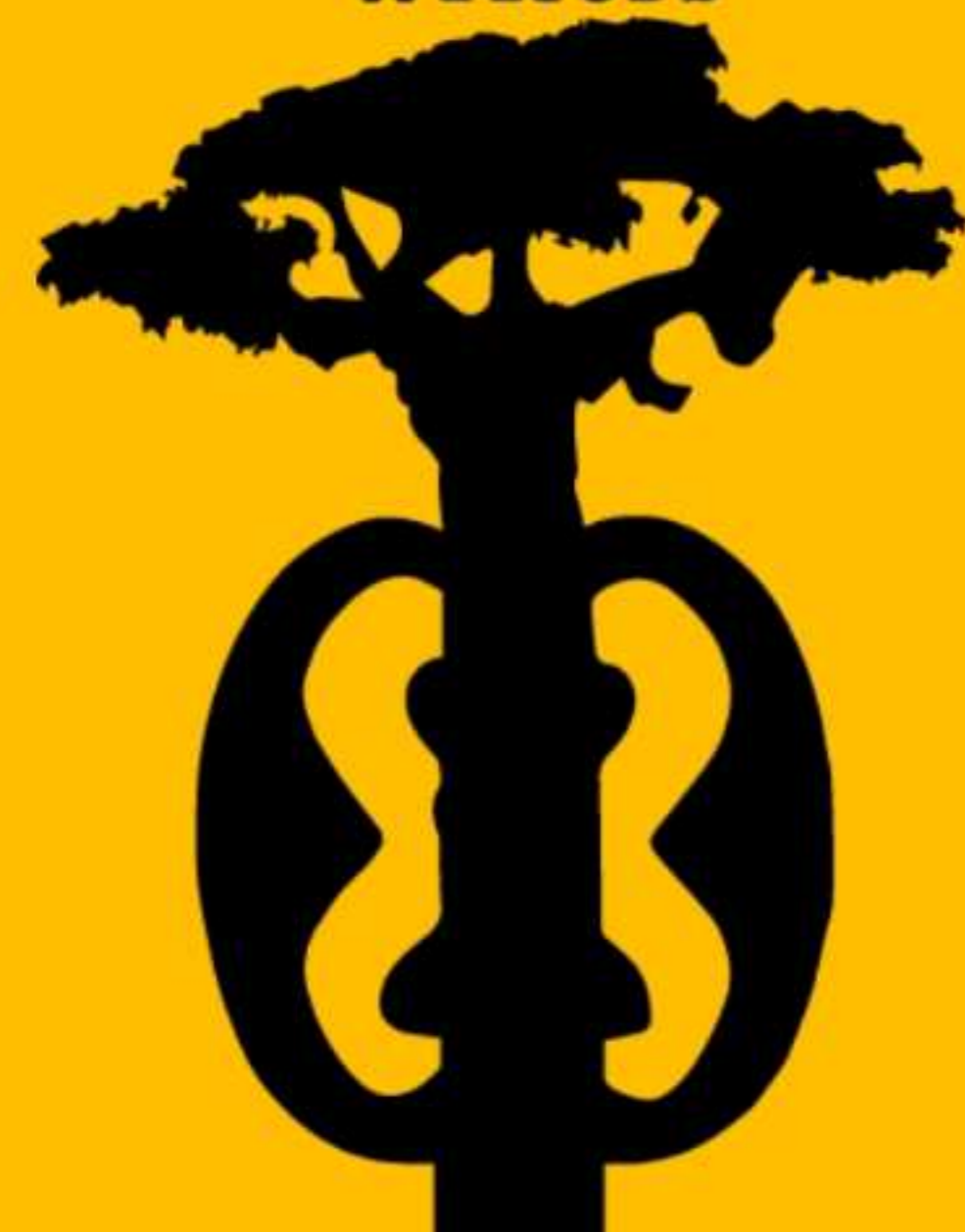
# DAWORD

The Vienna African Writers (VAW)

Quarterly Newsletter



Vienna  
African  
Writers



Volume 1, Issue 2, December 2014

# Editorial

Since the maiden issue of *Daworo*, (volume 1, issue 1) in July 2014, in which we documented events and activities leading to the inauguration of the Vienna African Writers (VAW) Club in the Department of African Studies, University of Vienna in May 2014, we have grown from strength to strength as a new club.

First, we have had three new additions to our editorial board, two Associate Editors, Dr Tomi Adeaga and Dr Daniel Romuald Bitouh, and a Graphic Designer, Ms Awo Yayra Sumah. Second, we have organized two successful literary evenings in October and November. Third, and more importantly, we are beginning to have some impact on the local community as more and more literary practitioners and enthusiasts have either already joined us or are making enquiries to join the VAW club.

*Daworo* will normally appear quarterly and will record happenings about VAW activities and other literary happenings in Vienna and other parts of the world. The maiden issue was compiled by Ms. Caroline Pajancic, our editorial assistant, featuring activities for our Africa Week Celebrations during which we inaugurated the VAW club. The current issue (volume 1, issue 2) is compiled by the whole board, with editing led by Dr. Tomi Adeaga. It succinctly records activities during the last quarter of the year and makes announcements about our future activities.

I thank the whole team - Tomi, Daniel, Caroline, and Yayra - for doing a marvellous job. Despite having three new editorial staff members, we still need volunteers to help us compile future editions of *Daworo* by joining us as editorial staff members, proof-readers, artists, design and layout specialists, news contributors, etc. Above all, join us at the VAW Club and participate in our monthly literary evenings.

Yours sincerely,  
Adams Bodomo  
Professor of African Languages and Literatures,  
Chief Editor, *Daworo: The VAW Quarterly Newsletter*



Adams Bodomo

## Editorial Board:

Adams Bodomo - Chief Editor  
Tomi Adeaga - Associate Editor  
Daniel R. Bitouh - Associate Editor  
Caroline Pajancic - Assistant Editor  
Yayra Sumah - Graphic Designer

# Publication by Daniel Romauld Bitouh

**Aesthetics of marginality in Joseph Roth's work: A postcolonial view of the entanglement of inner and outer colonialism.**

Edition: Francke Atempor Narr Verlag, Tübingen

This book opens up the African and "Third World" relation of Joseph Roth's texts - a hitherto neglected aspect of the classical Roth's research. The core research question is: How is the imperial encounter between Africa and Europe discussed and presented in Roth's work?

A question that - according to the logic of this investigation - can be translated into the following matters, namely: What is marginality by Joseph Roth? How does the marginality of Roth's characters come to light? To what extent can this marginality be transferred to a global context? Questions of >marginality<, >third spaces<, >identity<, >difference< and >interdependence< are in the limelight. Selected texts, namely

*Die Rebellion, Hiob, Die legende vom heiligen Trinker, Die Flucht ohne Ende, Die Rehabilitierung der Schwarzen, Der blonde Neger Guillaume*

and others are interrogated on these points, with categories of postcolonial literary and cultural theory. The investigation is understood as a dialogical movement between texts and contexts. Roth's texts build a bridge between Africa and Europe and thus enable an extension of views and perspectives. The expected publication date is April/May 2015.



# October Literary Evening

The October 23rd literary evening of activities was attended by eight participants. After the introductory message from Prof. Bodomo, the audience was shown some poetry performances on Youtube that had been compiled by Tomi Adeaga and Caro Pajancic. This was followed by excellent poetry reading performances by Prof. Bodomo, Yayra Sumah and Mathias Müller.

Daniel R. Bitouh also presented his organization called: **Initiative AFRI-EUROTTEXT.**

This organization will collaborate with VAW and also promote its events on its website. This is an important addition to the poetry event. All in all, it can be considered a successful start in the new semester.



Mathias Müller smiles for the camera.

# November Literary Evening



Judges: Eunice Stuhlhofer (right), Hasiyatu Abubakari (center)  
Tomi Adeaga (left)



Eunice Wangui Stuhlhofer reads from her forthcoming book.

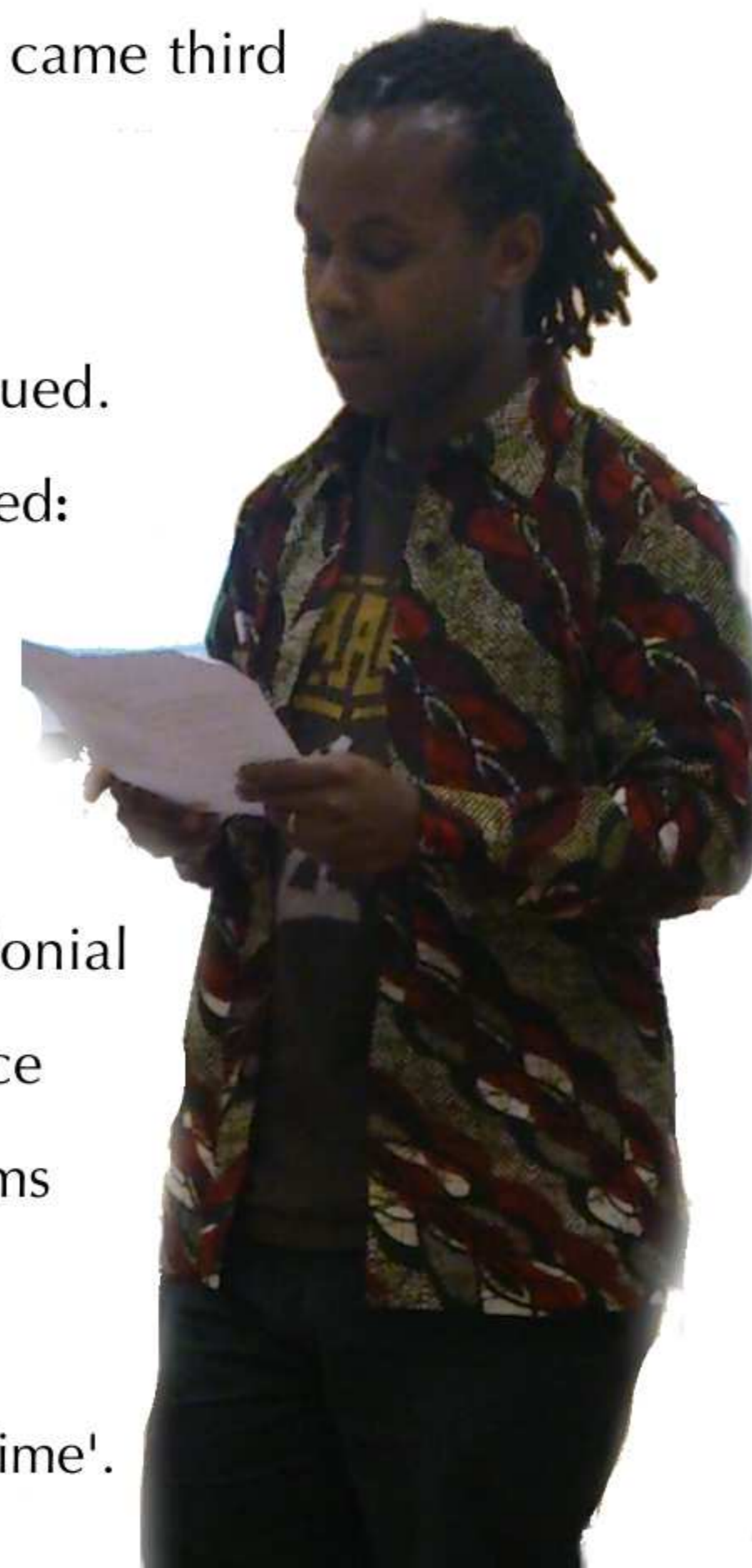
Seventeen participants attended the event that took place on November 20th. The poetry session was started with a warm-up poem by Tomi Adeaga, called 'Neger 3KM'. Afterwards, competitors were requested to come forward and three competitors, Mathias Müller, Yayra Sumah and Mfilinge Nyalusi did so. Three judges, Eunice Wangui Stuhlhofer, Hasiyatu Abubakari, and Tomi Adeaga were chosen for the competition. The winner of the competition was Mfilinge Nyalusi and he won a cash prize of 50 euros. Yayra Sumah came second and won a prize of 30 euros and Mathias Müller came third with a 20 euro prize. The next stage was a book launch by Stuhlhofer.

She presented her book **More Precious Than Rubies (2013)**.

The participants were given time to ask questions and a lively discussion ensued.

This was followed by a long poem from Chihungi Bunduki in Kiswahili, entitled: **Harusi 1, Austria ya Chini (Hochzeit 1, Niederösterreich)**.

Subsequently, Stuhlhofer read from her unpublished book which brought about a discussion on the adequacy of using some western norms in African societies because it is not every tradition that existed in Africa before the colonial era that was bad. Some of the participants felt that traditions that will enhance African societies should be revitalized because a number of the western norms have been tried and found not to be so useful in the African societies.



Mfilinge Nyalusi reads his winning poem, 'Time'.

# Announcements

Save the date: Our favorite poet  
Mathias Müller will read at the Café Anno  
on 18 January 2015! Don't miss this!

For more information, visit  
<https://annoliteratursonntag.wordpress.com/>

Café Anno  
Lerchenfelder Strasse 132  
A-1080 Wien



# VAW Partnership:

## Initiative AFRI-EUROTTEXT

The Institute of African Studies of the University of Vienna, the Vienna African Writers Club (VAW) and the Initiative Afri-EUROTTEXT work together. The Initiative AFRI-EUROTTEXT defines itself as a literary, cultural, artistic and socio-critical forum, which sets itself the goal to focus on literary, non-literary, artistic and cultural (everyday) works and textual manifestations from the African and European continent or on texts focused on the interrelations between Africa and Europe in order to analyze and bring them closer to a wider possible Austrian and European audience, in a broad spectrum; taking into account not only their contexts, but also their contextual symbolic meanings. Texts from African and European literatures provide an in-depth look at issues and concerns of both African and European societies and contribute to a differentiated view of African and European conditions and thereby to a culture of mutual respect and peace.



### AFRI-EUROTTEXTUALITÄTEN / AFRI-EUROTTEXTUALITIES / AFRI-EUROTTEXTUALITÉS

gesellschafts-, literatur-, kunst- und kulturkritisches Forum / literary, artistic, cultural and  
socio-critical forum / forum littéraire, artistique, culturel et socio-critique

For more details please visit the following websites:

<http://www.afrieurotext.at>

<http://afrika.univie.ac.at/links/organisationenvereine/initiative-afri-eurotext/>

We all enjoyed the poems, readings, and discussions a lot and hope that many more people will join us for our Christmas party!

To give you a little foretaste, here's an extract of Chihunghi Bunduki's poem:

Watu huwa washirika, mahaba yakiwashika  
Pingamizi hutengeka, mahaba yakatukuka  
Kiumbe hudhoofika, mahaba akipunjika  
Na moyo ukikunjika, kwa mahaba hukunjuka  
(Menschen wirken zusammen, wenn sie  
von Liebe beseelt sind, Schwierigkeiten  
werden gemeinsam überwunden, die Liebe setzt sich durch.  
Ein Mensch ohne Liebe wird krank, sein Herz zerbricht.)  
Mapenzi yanaposibu, huonyesha maajabu;  
Msemi yuawa bubu, neno haliwi karibu  
Wa mbali huja karibu, wa karibu hanasibu  
Mapenzi huleta dhahabu, au huzaa taabu  
(Wo die Liebe ist, da geschieht ein  
Wunder; ein sprechender Mensch kann  
stumm werden, und Fremde werden  
Freunde. Die Liebe kann zwar Unannehmlichkeiten tragen,  
aber auch Gold).

Rubina Mzemila is a young and beautiful. She has adoring parents and enjoys her nursing career. But when an unconscious man is dumped at the emergency, her life takes an irrevocable turn... Rubina falls deeply in love with Seku but he fails to keep a promise he had made to her father. So he watches as she is dragged away by ruthless men. He would never forget her terrified eyes. And she would never forgive him. Never! All Rubina wants is vengeance. But she has no idea that vengeance can be costly until she meets Zimwi and Cheusi - two cold-hearted women with an insatiable greed for money. Blinded by bitterness and murderous revenge, Rubina falls easily into their trap and she is thrust into a bizarre world.

## More Precious Than Rubies



Because Freedom is Priceless . . .

Stuhlhofer takes you on an exciting journey of discovering your true identity. Using her own life, she tackles issues that are close to every woman's heart: love, rejection, beauty, single parenting, forgiveness and more. An inspiring, enjoyable and authentic story which will drive you to tears and laughter and give you hope to begin again.

*An inspiring story of the faithfulness of God*

# Something



# *You're in Your Hand*

Eunice Wangui Stuhlhofer

## Recommendation: Eunice Stuhlhofer

« Stuhlhofer is a regular visitor to our monthly meetings and an active author. Here are summaries of two of her published novels.

### Book Review by Adams Bodomo: *More Precious than rubies* (2013)

On a 10-hour flight from Beijing to Vienna, even though constantly interrupted by never-ending multilingual inflight announcements, I managed to stay glued to this 300-page captivating novel throughout the journey. What a fascinating story of Kenyan women - Ruby, Mara, Cheusi, etc - and their love lives! The author, Eunice Wangui Stuhlhofer, has done a brilliant exposition of the weaknesses of the Kenyan (and I am sure general African) justice/prison system; that was my best part of the novel. Nelson Mandela once said that you have high regards for a nation, not so much by how much it treats its heroes but by how well it treats its lowest citizen (including prisoners). Life in Tango prison is hell on earth: squalor, overcrowding, disease, starvation, and above all over-exploitation of the prisoners by corrupt prison guards. The author deserves recognition for imagining and inventing the scenes at Tango prison. Stuhlhofer provides us with one of the most dramatic expositions of prison life in an African novel.

To purchase her book, follow the link:

<http://www.amazon.com/Precious-Rubies-Eunice-Wangui-Stuhlhofer/dp/141295457>