

NGŪGĨ WA THIONG'O IN VIENNA, 2 – 4 MAY 2017



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Workshop on Strategies for the Promotion of African Language Literature University of Vienna

Global African Diaspora Studies (GADS) Research Platform

and

Department of African Studies

May 2 – 4, 2017



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Institut für
Afrikawissenschaften

This workshop focuses on how Africans and other scholars, both in Africa and in the global African Diasporas, can promote African language literature. Following a major debate about the subject-matter of African literature between Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o (e.g. Ngugi 1986) and others, on the one hand, and Chinua Achebe (e.g. Achebe 1989) and others, on the other hand, the question what African literature is still remains largely unanswered. We are instead treated to paradigms by Europhone Africans like Anglophone African Literature, Francophone African Literature, Lusophone African literature, and, presumably in the near future, Sinophone African literature but hardly do we hear enough of the essential paradigm: Afriphone African Literature!

In this workshop, international scholars, writers and publishers will not only critically examine definitions and conceptualizations of African literature; they will also propose various strategies for the development and promotion of African language literature. Key questions which will be addressed in this workshop are: What is African literature? Can African language literature live side by side with literature about Africa written in other languages? What is the impact of digital and social media on writing in African languages? What is the role of the diaspora in the development of African languages and how do exchanges between the diaspora and the continent affect it? How can scholars, both in Africa and worldwide, promote African language literature?

Tuesday, May 2

17:00 – 19:00

Department of African Studies, Seminarraum 1

Universitätscampus AAKH, Spitalgasse 2/Hof 5.1, 1090 Wien

Welcome

Melanie Malzahn — Dean Faculty of Philological and Cultural Studies

Adams Bodomo — Head of Department and Head of the Global Africa Diaspora Research Platform (GADS)

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o (University of Irvine, California):

Translation and the Language of African Literature

Chair: Adams Bodomo

Presentation of the Exhibition "The Upright Revolution"

Moses Kilolo (Managing Editor of *Jalada*, Nairobi)

Martina Kopf (University of Vienna)

There will be a reception after the event

Wednesday, May 3

Department of African Studies, Seminarraum 4
Universitätscampus AAKH, Spitalgasse 2/Hof 5.1, 1090 Wien

10:00 – 13:00 Panel 1

Adams Bodomo (University of Vienna)

Parallel text: a theoretical and methodological strategy for promoting African language literature in the twenty-first century

Moses Kilolo (Managing Editor of *Jalada*, Nairobi)

Jalada's practical vision in promoting African language literatures

Anja Oed (University of Mainz)

Enhancing the international visibility of creative writing in African languages: experiences and suggestions based on the history and practice of the Jahn Library for African Literatures

Oluwole Coker (University of Ile-Ife, Nigeria):

Rethinking genres and modes in postcolonial literature: an African language literature example

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch Break

14:30 – 17:00 Panel 2

Anke Graness (University of Vienna)

Decolonizing the mind: political dimensions of translation in Africa

Chibo Onyeji (VAW-Vienna African Writers Club):

Promoting African language literature: a matter of choice and responsibility

Akin Bello (Publisher and Writer, Nigeria):

A Practitioner's Perspective (video talk with skype discussion)

Kgothatso Maditse (South Africa):

FOMO: The alchemy of experience

18:00

Diner at *Heuriger Herrgott aus Sta* (Invited guests only)

Speckbachergasse 14

1160 Wien

Thursday, May 4

19:00

Large Reading Room (Großer Lesesaal)

Hauptbibliothek, Universitätsring 1, 1010 Wien

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o reads from his latest book *The Birth of a Dreamweaver* (2016)

Welcome

Maria Seissl (Head Librarian, Vienna University Library)

Michael A. O. Oyugi (Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya)

Adams Bodomo (Head of the Department of African Studies and Head of the Global African
Diaspora Research Platform GADS)

Irene Hochauer-Kpoda (Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation VIDC)

Introduction

Martina Kopf

(Senior Lecturer in African Literatures, Department of African Studies)

Reading

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o

Discussion

Moderation: Martina Kopf

Workshop Organizing Committee (Department of African Studies)

Dr Martina Kopf – Coordinator

Hasiyatu Abubakari – Logistics

Caroline Pajancic – Correspondence

Prof Adams Bodomo – Chair

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