



Department of Comparative Literature and Intercultural Studies

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Greetings from the Department Head:

I hope that you are enjoying a good, cooling autumn weather. It is with pleasure that our department sends you the first issue of biannual newsletters. You will get to know our current people and be updated on what is taking place in the department. For instance, we have welcomed two new faculty members, including Dr. Wenbo Chang as Lecturer in Chinese Language and Literature and Ms. Minh Trang Thi Nguyen now promoted to the position of full-time Instructor in Vietnamese. Although we have gone through the pandemic relatively unscathed so far, new cases of infection among students and teaching staff are still far from sporadic.

We hope that the newsletter will be a good way for us to keep in touch with you. Please let us know if you have questions about the content of this current issue or the department in general.

Masaki Mori, Head

Faculty SPOTLIGHT: Alexander Fyfe



Dr. Fyfe co-edited a volume that is due to be published in October. Its details (including a cover picture) are here: <https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/african-literatures-as-world-literature-9781501379956/>

He also has a couple of articles forthcoming:

“Teaching Amos Tutuola’s *The Palm-Wine Drinkard* as Part of a Decolonial Literature Syllabus.” *Pedagogy: Critical Approaches to Teaching Literature, Language, Composition, and Culture*. 23.2, 2023. Accepted, forthcoming.

“Beyond the Liberal Subject: Susan Kiguli and the Lyric Poem in 1990s Uganda.” (Invited). Forthcoming in special issue of *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies* entitled “Poetics of the Global South,” 2023. Accepted, forthcoming.

“Infrastructure and the Valences of the Literary in Fiston Mwanza Mujila’s *Tram 83*.” *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction*. Print forthcoming 2022.

Recent and upcoming conference presentations are as follows:

“Digital Decoloniality: Videogames in Contemporary African Fiction.” Modern Language Association (MLA). San Francisco, CA. January 2023 (forthcoming).

“Writing Digital Worlds: The Ironic Representation of Videogames in Contemporary African Fiction.” American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA). Online Conference. June 2022.

“Malika Ndlovu’s Lyric Openness.” African Literature Association (ALA). Online Conference. May 2022.

“Humanism after Complicity: Es’kia Mphahlele’s Short Fiction.” British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference. Online conference. February 2022.

To read more about Dr. Fyfe please see his website: www.alexfyfe.com

Faculty Publications and Talks



Dorothy Figueira: “Minor Minorities and Multiculturalism” – It contains essays from 10 UGA emeritus professors, present professors, lecturers and students. It is published in cooperation with the premier Department of American Studies in Italy, at the University of Macerata.



Masaki Mori: Publications -- “Introduction to *Haruki Murakami and His Early Work: The Loneliness of the Long- Distance Running Artist.*” *In Statu Nascendi: Journal of Political Philosophy and International Relations* 5.1 (2022): 206-208. A special issue on the Work of Haruki Murakami.

Paper Presented in a Conference: “Transfigurative Experience of the Snow Country “ The 2022 Annual Conference of the American Comparative Literature Association. National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei, Taiwan. June 17, 2022. [virtual presentation]

Mi-Ryong Shim: Publications: [Book chapter] “Conversion Literature (chonhyang sosol) and the Inward Gaze in the Late Colonial Period” published as part of *The Routledge Companion to Korean Literature* in March 2022.

Book Review: *The Routledge Handbook of Modern Korean Literature* was published in March 2022 of the *Journal of Korean Studies*.

Paper presented in a Conference: “Immigrants of Good Quality’: Bloodline, Eugenics, and the Promotion of Korean Migration in Manchurian Pioneer Literature” was presented as part of the interdisciplinary workshop “Blood in Modern Korea and its Diasporas.”

UPCOMING EVENT: Dr. Shim will be a part of the series ‘Screen Time with your Humanities Professors’ on 1/20/23 @12:30. Her talk will be “How did *Crash Landing on You* glamorize North Korea? This is an event at The Athenaeum sponsored by Franklin College and the Willson Center.



Akinloye Ojo: *Publications* -- Ojo, Akinloye. September 2022. Language, Society, and Empowerment in Africa and Its Diaspora. Lexington Books.

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781793644718/Language-Society-and-Empowerment-in-Africa-and-Its-Diaspora>

Dr. Ojo is also the Director of the African Studies Institute. Over the summer the UGA African Studies Institute (in conjunction with J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development, and the Office of Global Engagement) successfully hosted the 2022 Mandela Washington Fellowship Leadership in Civic Engagement Institute here on the UGA campus. The six-week leadership institute, which ran from June 8 through July 17, 2022, featured 25 Young African Civic Engagement leaders from 20 African countries. Dr. Akinloye Ojo was the Institute's Co-Academic Director and Dr. Dainess Maganda served as a Focus Project Coach for two of the Fellows.

The African Studies Institute and the African Language Program were awarded funding from the US State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) to support four African Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (FLTA). The funding, through the 2022-2023 FLTA program is supporting four African Language FLTAs in Hausa, Swahili, Yoruba, and Zulu for the session. The four FLTAs are currently located in room 228.

Graduate Students

Ali Ahsan delivered a talk over the summer in India: “Minor Literature of Tulunadu and South Asian Islam in Writing”

2022 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards:

The Comparative Literature and Intercultural Studies Department is proud to announce three recipients of the Outstanding Teacher Assistant Award for 2022. These recipients are Nakita Barakadyn (Japanese Languages TA), Wei-Yi Lee (Chinese Languages TA) and Anqi Liu (Comparative Lit and Chinese Language TA).

The Center for Teaching and Learning administers this award, sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Instruction, and it recognizes teaching assistants who demonstrate superior teaching skills while serving in the classroom. Congratulations to Nakita, Wei-Yi and Anqi.

Undergraduate Students

Spring 2022 graduate Cesar Gerardo “Mac” Escalante who has a dual degree in Comparative Literature and Film Studies worked on a Senior project that involved writing and directing his own film. So far it has been awarded seven different awards in various categories.



<https://el.uga.edu/blog/escalante/>

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We appreciate your financial support. Your gift is important to us and helps support students and faculty with travel, lectures, and educational events.