Back to Africa:

Literary Representations of Return in African Literatures

Organised by the French University Sorbonne Paris Nord, in collaboration with the Italian Universities of Bologna and Modena and Reggio Emilia, this one-day conference aims to investigate how the different forms of return to the African continent are represented in African literatures.

Keynote speaker: Prof. Madhu Krishnan

Organising committee: Aminat Emma Badmus (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia)
Gabriele Alessandra Barba (University of Bologna), Serena Vincenzo (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia)

Scientific committee: Giovanna Buscannelli (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia)
Silvia Cantarini (University of Paris Nanterre), Cédric Courtois (University of Lille)
Mano-Chiara Gnocchi (University of Bologna), Aurélie Journo (University of Paris Sorbonne Nord)
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9.30 – 10: Greetings

10.00 - 11.00: Keynote Lecture by Prof. Madhu Krishnan: Back to Africa? Return, Repatriation and the Literary Marketplace

11.00 – 12.30: First Panel: Between Routes and Roots: Diaspora and Ancestral Return
- Loide N. Nghiishililwa: (De)familiarization of the (un)familiar: A Pan-Africanist and Feminist exploration of the Travelogues by African Women and Women of the African Diaspora
- Elena Barraca: “Fly Away Home, to Zion”: the Back-to-Africa Narrative in Rastafari-Reggae Lyrics
- Bouteldja Richie: Armah’s Variation on Artistic Homecoming or Literary Garveyism in Fragments and Two Thousand Seasons

12.30 – 14.00: Lunch Break

14.00 – 16.00: Second Panel: (Im)possible Returns
- Jihyun Kim: The Postcolonial Algeria and the Impossible Return
- Assia Djebar’s The Disappearance of the French Language (La disparition de la langue française)
- Nouzha Baba: Charting the (Im)Possibility of Return: The Predicament of Identity, Memory and Roots in Hafid Bouazza’s “My Prodigal Son”
- Carlotta Moretti: Non-returns: A Comparative Analysis of Cheikh Hamidou Kane’s Aventure Ambiguë, Saidou Moussa Ba’s La promessa di Hamadi and Pap Khouma’s Io venditore di elefanti
- Anenechukwu Kevin Amafo: Connecting through Giving: Amma Darko’s Beyond the Horizon

16.00 - 16.30: Coffee Break

16.30 – 18.30: Third Panel: Exchanges between Locality and Transnationality
- Gideon Brobbey: Going to Come: Ideology, Return Migration and National Development in J. E. Casely Hayford’s Ethiopia Unbound and Kobina Sekyi’s The Blinkards
- Bruno Ribeiro Oliveira: After Victory: When does Ngugi wa Thiong’o’s Matigari come back home?
- Ido Fuchs: ‘Abd al-Karim al-Karmi and Agostinho Neto’s Poems of Return, or the Poetic Community of Future Liberation
- Alessandra Di Pietro: Self-Return in Adichie’s Americanah: A Moment of Socio-Cultural Unlearning and Reworlding