Oral Tradition in African Literature

The influence of colonialism and race on the development of African literature has been the subject of a number of studies. The effect of patriarchy and gender, however, and indeed the contributions of African women, have up until now been largely ignored by the critics. Contemporary African Literature and the Politics of Gender is the first extensive account of African literature from a feminist perspective. In this first radical and exciting work Florence Stratton outlines the features of an emerging female tradition in African fiction. A chapter is dedicated to each to the works of four women writers: Grace Ogot, Flora Nwapa, Buchi Emecheta and Mariama Ba. In addition she provides challenging new readings of
canonical male authors such as Chinua Achebe, Ngugi wa Thiong'o and Wole Soyinka. Contemporary African Literature and the Politics of Gender thus provides the first truly comprehensive definition of the current literary tradition in Africa.

Francophone African Narratives and the Anglo-American Book Market

This wide-ranging volume presents the most complete appraisal of modern African history to date. It assembles dozens of new and established scholars to tackle the questions and subjects that define the field, ranging from the economy, the two world wars, nationalism, decolonization, and postcolonial politics to religion, development, sexuality, and the African youth experience. Contributors are drawn from numerous fields in African studies, including art, music, literature, education, and anthropology. The themes they cover illustrate the depth of modern African history and the diversity and originality of lenses available for examining it. Older themes in the field have been treated to an engaging re-assessment, while new and emerging themes are situated as the book’s core strength. The result is a comprehensive, vital picture of where the field of modern African history stands today.

New Directions in African Literature
Many studies focus on film in Africa. Few, however, study cinema as a leisure activity: one that has influenced several generations and opened up spaces to dream, discuss or contest. Movie theatres offered a break from the daily routine, as places of escape and of education. Cinema was also potentially subversive, offering an alternative to colonial discourse.

Tropical Dream Palaces seeks to trace this history in a West African context: of broadening horizons on the one hand, and of censorship and control on the other. It fills a historiographic void, following cinema's arrival in the region in the early twentieth century up until the Independence era, and also looking further afield to Central Africa and its different models. Goerg addresses questions of film distribution in colonial times; of screening venues, their implantation, spread and different categories; while also focusing on audiences, their gender or age; the acquisition of a film culture; and the impact of screening foreign images. Her book draws on extremely varied sources to paint a broad picture of this cinematographic landscape: archives, the accounts of African and European spectators or administrators, novels, autobiographies, the local press, interviews and iconography.

**De Tilène au Plateau**

*The Changing Face of African Literature combines both the large picture - a synopsis of*
current trends in African literature - and the small: studies of individual texts and of themes across several texts. The large and the small are linked by recurring themes, such as gender and sexuality, the nation-state and its collapse, AIDS, war, and suffering. The volume is comparative, bringing together literature in at least five languages and from at least ten national literatures. Such a large, comparative frame is implied by most discussion of African literature but is too seldom seen. At the same time, the collection also problematizes the comparison: the goal is to make clear what African literatures have in common but also where they diverge. What difference do distinct literary traditions, readerships, and publishing patterns make to literatures which share a common thematic and so many of the same questions and needs? By juxtaposing contemporary texts from several traditions, the intention of this collection is to bring out the themes that are currently dominant in African literatures generally. After a preface by Liz Gunner and a wide-ranging introduction by the editors, the collection presents keynote essays on new paradigms in African literature, before treating specific themes - recent crime fiction, the Afrikaans and anglophone novel, feminist literature, ‘migritude’ - and studies of recent works by individual authors such as André Brink, Henri Djombo, Pie Tshibanda, Bessora, Nadine Gordimer, and Paulina Chiziane, as well as the South African television series Yizo Yizo.
Writing from the Hearth probes the relationship of gender to space in close readings of texts of Francophone women writers of Africa: Aoua KZita, Mariama B%, Calixthe Beyala, and Aminata Sow Fall, and the Caribbean: Marie Chauvet, Simon Schwarz-Bart, Maryse CondZ, and Edwidge Danticat. It explores the hypothesis that the female protagonist moves toward empowerment by appropriating public space and transforming domestic space into alternative space.

Shifting Perceptions of Migration in Senegalese Literature, Film, and Social Media

Presents alphabetically arranged entries on authors, works of poetry, drama, and fiction, recurrent themes, and literary theories in twentieth-century African literature.
Politics of Gender

First published in 2001. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

Mapping Intersections

If anything is certain in human existence, it is the exit. Before the universal yet radically singular event of death, however, history leaves its mark on us by determining which exits are possible, necessary or desirable. This collection of essays, which celebrates the achievement of the Swedish Africanist and postcolonial scholar Raoul Granqvist, deal with the broad theme of exit in the form of exile, displacement, suicide, endings and, indeed, beginnings. After all, In my end is my beginning (T.S. Eliot). Childhood as exit rite in contemporary African literature (Camara Laye’s LOCOEnfant Noir and Ishmael Beah’s Long Way Gone); the Cameroonian director Jean Pierre Bekolo’s controversial film Les Saignantes; an early play by Wole Soyinka; Ghana during the First World War; Zakes Mda’s Cion; proto-nationalist writing on the Gold Coast; passing in Zo Wicomb’s Playing in the Light; the exile of South African and Caribbean writers; translation theory in the global South; public representations of Africans in north-east Bavaria; oral poetry in rural England; Fred Wah’s Swedish-Chinese background in
twentieth-century Canada; Toni Morrison's *Beloved* and infanticide; the open endings of the poetry of Paul Muldoon; the suicide of Virginia Woolf; the viability of global environmental policies; these are some of the topics that this book, in defiance of neat disciplinary boundaries, addresses. The closing section, *Voicing the Exit*, transcends the academic format with its evocative literary representations of the experience of exit (in Tanzania, Uganda, Ukrainian Canada and elsewhere)."

**Critical Perspectives on Postcolonial African Children's and Young Adult Literature**

This study of oral tradition in African literature is borne from the awareness that African verbal arts still survive in works of discerning writers and in the conscious exploration of its tropes, perspectives, philosophy and consciousness, its complementary realism, and ontology, for the delineation of authentic African response to memory, history and other possible comparisons with modern existence such as witnessed in recent developments of the African novel. In this series we have strived to adopt innovative and multilayered perspectives on orality or indigeneity and its manifestations on contemporary African and new literatures. These studies use multi-faceted theories of orality which discuss and deconstruct notions of
history, truth-claims and identity-making, not excluding gender and genealogy (cultural and biological) studies in African contexts.

Exit

Investigates the politics and poetics of women's gendered identity in West Africa.

De l'intertextualité dans l'autobiographie de Nafissatou Diallo, De tilene au plateau, une enfance Dakaroise

Abandoned by her mother and sent to live with relatives in Dakar, the author tells of being educated in the French colonial school system, where she comes gradually to feel alienated from her family and Muslim upbringing, growing enamored with the West. Academic success gives her the opportunity to study in Belgium, which she looks upon as a "promised land." There she is objectified as an exotic creature, however, and she descends into promiscuity, alcohol and drug abuse, and, eventually, prostitution. (It was out of concern on her editor's part about her candor that the author used the pseudonym Ken Bugul, the Wolof phrase for "the person no one wants.") Her return to Senegal, which concludes the book, presents her with a past she cannot reenter, a painful but necessary realization as she begins to create a new life there.
Francophone African writing is often concerned with questions of subjectivity and narrative agency, and it is this focus Michael Syrotinski takes as his point of departure in Singular Performances. Using the work of V. Y. Mudimbe as a major theoretical reference, Syrotinski sets up a number of original dialogues between francophone African literature, African philosophy, literary theory, postcolonial studies, cinema, cultural studies, and history to arrive at the notion of a "performative reinscription of subjectivity." Singular Performances covers a wide range of francophone African writers, each of whom is read within a broader theoretical context related to African subjectivity: Mudimbe and the philosophical subject, Aoua Kéïta and autobiography, Bernard Dadié and ethnographic irony, Ousmane Sembene and Tierno Monénembo and the cinematic imagination, Véronique Tadjo and Werewere Liking and the female writing subject, and Sony Labou Tansi and the "spectral" subject. In this
skillful interdisciplinary weaving together of contemporary theory and literature, the focus on the francophone African subject allows for a richer appreciation of the texture and rhetoric of the language of the texts themselves. What emerges from this study is the subject understood not as a single homogenized entity but as a plural celebration of singular francophone African subjectivities.

**Singular Performances**

With the volume's global perspective and comparative framework, this collection contributes to the ongoing scholarly examination of consumption by taking the topic of women, material culture, and consumption into new arenas. The essays explore the connections between consumption and subjectivity; they build upon and complicate the idea that consumption, as a form of meaning making, is key to the construction of gendered, classed, and national identities. Providing a cross-cultural perspective on consumption, the essays are historically specific case studies. While some essays examine women's consumption in a range of Anglophone and Francophone locations, primarily in Britain, France, Australia, Canada, and the US, other essays on Chinese, Senegalese, Indian, and Mexican women's consumption, particularly as it relates to fashion and design, provide a comparative framework that will recalibrate
ongoing discussions about consumption and domesticity, dress and identity, and desire and subjectivity. In addition to its focus on gender and consumption, this volume addresses gender and collecting, exploring the tensions between accumulation and systematic collecting. Also examined is the way in which the display of collected objects—in Impressionists' paintings, in mass-produced illustrations, in the glass cases of museums and department stores—participates in the construction of particular identities as well as serving as a kind of value-producing material practice.

The Modern Essay in French

This reference book surveys the richness of postcolonial African literature. The volume begins with an introductory essay on postcolonial criticism and African writing, then presents alphabetically arranged profiles of some 60 writers, including Chinua Achebe, Nadine Gordimer, Bessie Head, Doris Lessing, Tsitsi Dangarembga, Tahbar Ben Jelloun, among others. Each entry includes a brief biography, a discussion of major works and themes that appear in the author's writings, an overview of the critical response to the author's work, and a bibliography of primary and secondary sources. These profiles are written by expert contributors and reflect many different perspectives. The volume concludes with a
The Changing Face of African Literature / Les nouveaux visages de la littérature africaine

The past few years mark a growing scholarly interest in African children's literature in the United States. Several books on the topic have been published, and the number of articles has also increased. Recent publications have been moving away from general country surveys or studies of publishing conditions to works that analyze literary structures, themes, and illustrations or that apply Marxist, feminist, or postcolonial theories to interpret the literature. The essays in this volume either approach colonial African children's literature from a postcolonial or revisionist perspective, or discuss books published after decolonization.

Dance Circles

Of Suffocated Hearts and Tortured Souls

This is a collection of essays selected from papers given at conferences held at Wichita State University in 1986 and 1987. The literary works discussed were written in three languages, and originated in both Germanies,
France, Canada, Spain, Guadeloupe, Senegal, Vald'Aoste, and Latin America from the early Renaissance to the 1980s. Both well-known writers and authors relatively unknown in the U.S. are presented.

**Lecteur et lecture dans l'autobiographie française contemporaine**

A striking number of hysterical or insane female characters populate Francophone women's writing. To discover why, Orlando reads novels from a variety of cultures, teasing out key elements of Francophone identity struggles.

**Women in African Colonial Histories**

Critics take stock of where African Literature has got to and where it is likely to go with the next generation of writers.

**Women Writers of Gabon**

As a textual form, the essai predominates in modern and contemporary literature in French. Emerging from an earlier tradition and distinguished from its English-language counterpart, the French-language essay ranges from Stéphane Mallarmé to Colette, Victor Segalen to Aimé Césaire, Jean Grenier to Pierre Michon. The essai remains, however, one of the most hazily identified of textual forms, its definition often depending on the progressive
elimination of all other generic possibilities. Excluded from the archigenres (theatre, poetry, récit), it can even be seen as a hold-all category whose role is to absorb the anarchic extremes of writing. It is perhaps this very lack of pretension to orthodoxy that has drawn so many writers to the essai. The conventional understanding of the term - as a tentative, unsystematic exploration - stresses the genre's provisional nature, its refusal of any claims to comprehensiveness. The essai exploits the devices of anecdote, illustration and humour; it is addressed to a wide and often general audience; it is also intricately linked to the performance of ideological and writerly strategies, often reordering the classical art of rhetoric and persuasion. As the contributions to this volume show, there is a need to outline an ethics and politics, as well as poetics, of essayism.

The Palgrave Handbook of African Colonial and Postcolonial History

While recognising the inherent violence and brutality of the colonial encounter, the essays in this anthology show that African women were not simply the hapless victims of European political rule.

Writing New Identities
Handbook of Autobiography / Autofiction

First Published in 1994. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

"Material Women, 1750?950 "

"Situating literature and anthropology in mutual interrogation, Miller'sbook actually performs what so many of us only call for. Nowhere have all the crucial issues been brought together with the sort of critical sophistication it displays."—Henry Louis Gates, Jr. "... a superb cross-disciplinary analysis."—Y. Mudimbe

Continental, Latin-American and Francophone Women Writers

Theories of Africans

This study of oral tradition in African literature is borne from the awareness that African verbal arts still survive in works of discerning writers and in the conscious exploration of its tropes, perspectives, philosophy and consciousness, its complementary realism, and ontology, for the delineation of authentic African response to memory, history and other possible comparisons with modern existence such as witnessed in recent developments of the African novel. In this series we have strived to
adopt innovative and multilayered perspectives on orality or indigeneity and its manifestations on contemporary African and new literatures. These studies use multi-faceted theories of orality which discuss and deconstruct notions of history, truth-claims and identity-making, not excluding gender and genealogy (cultural and biological) studies in African contexts.

De Tilène au plateau

Autobiographical writings have been a major cultural genre from antiquity to the present time. General questions of the literary as, e.g., the relation between literature and reality, truth and fiction, the dependency of author, narrator, and figure, or issues of individual and cultural styles etc., can be studied preeminently in the autobiographical genre. Yet, the tradition of life-writing has, in the course of literary history, developed manifold types and forms. Especially in the globalized age, where the media and other technological / cultural factors contribute to a rapid transformation of lifestyles, autobiographical writing has maintained, even enhanced, its popularity and importance. By conceiving autobiography in a wide sense that includes memoirs, diaries, self-portraits and autofiction as well as media transformations of the genre, this three-volume handbook offers a comprehensive survey of theoretical approaches, systematic aspects, and historical
developments in an international and interdisciplinary perspective. While autobiography is usually considered to be a European tradition, special emphasis is placed on the modes of self-representation in non-Western cultures and on inter- and transcultural perspectives of the genre. The individual contributions are closely interconnected by a system of cross-references. The handbook addresses scholars of cultural and literary studies, students as well as non-academic readers.

Writing from the Hearth

Shifting Perceptions of Migration in Senegalese Literature, Film, and Social Media takes a multimedia approach to examining representations of emigration from Senegal through the analysis of novels, films, hip-hop songs, and online videos in French and Wolof. Mahriana Rofheart demonstrates how Senegalese creative producers at home and abroad have formally and thematically confronted emigration from Senegal to Europe with texts that reconfigure Senegal’s global position and destabilize France’s position as a status-laden destination.

The Abandoned Baobab

This book takes on the challenge: What roles can and should African literature play in Africa's
development? From a variety of critical stances and perspectives, the concepts of "literature" and of "development" are theorized, to include and extend beyond inherited concepts and boundaries in the Humanities and the Social Sciences, and thus, to engage peoples' everyday life experiences. Approaches to the question of Africa's literature and its development range from African feminism or feminist practices, to the economics and politics of public access to knowledge, information and literature, to communication networks and use of African languages in national education policies. Twenty essays constitute the volume's four parts which focus on: -- Diverse conceptualizations of African literature and development -- Critical studies of specific writers' works, linking their artistic development with issues and events of social or political development -- A philosophical consideration of the development's relationship to literature -- Models of activist pedagogy in African literature The structure of this volume is encompassed by two roundtable transcriptions with writers and critics for whom African literature and Africa's development is part of a larger struggle to create new space in which to thrive and envision new life, inside and outside the academy.

A History of Twentieth-century African Literatures
African literatures, says volume editor Oyekan Owomoyela, "testify to the great and continuing impact of the colonizing project on the African universe." African writers must struggle constantly to define for themselves and other just what "Africa" is and who they are in a continent constructed as a geographic and cultural entity largely by Europeans. This study reflects the legacy of colonialism by devoting nine of its thirteen chapters to literature in "Europhone" languages—English, French, and Portuguese. Foremost among the Anglophone writers discussed are Nigerians Amos Tutuola, Chinua Achebe, and Wole Soyinka. Writers from East Africa are also represented, as are those from South Africa. Contributors for this section include Jonathan A. Peters, Arlene A. Elder, John F. Povey, Thomas Knipp, and J. Ndukaku Amankulor. In African Francophone literature, we see both writers inspired by the French assimilationist system and those influenced by Negritude, the African-culture affirmation movement. Contributors here include Servanne Woodward, Edris Makward, and Alain Ricard. African literature in Portuguese, reflecting the nature of one of the most oppressive colonizing projects in Africa, is treated by Russell G. Hamilton. Robert Cancel discusses African-language literatures, while Oyekan Owomoyela treats the question of the language of African literatures. Carole Boyce Davies and Elaine Savory Fido focus on the special problems of African women writers, while Hans M. Zell deals with the broader issues of
From Tilene to the Plateau

This book demonstrates how the invisibility of women in Gabon has led to the omission of Gabon’s literature from the African canon, and discusses the unique elements of Gabonese women’s writing that show it is worthy of critical recognition. Toman explores the unique contributions Gabonese women writers have made to literature by exploring the works of major voices in Gabonese women’s writing and provides a brief introduction to the younger generation of Gabonese women writers.

Encyclopedia of Life Writing

Modern African women writers have introduced a new autobiographical discourse around their experience of excision that brings nuance to the female genital mutilation debate. Spanning pharaonic times through classical antiquity to the onset of the 21st century, this study shows how this experiential body of literature - encompassing English, Arabic, and French - goes far beyond such traditional topics as universalism and cultural relativism, by locating the female body as a site of liminality between European and African factions, subject and agent; consent and dissent; custom and human rights.
Student Encyclopedia of African Literature

Children's literature continues to be one of the most rapidly expanding and exciting of interdisciplinary academic studies, of interest to anyone concerned with literature, education, internationalism, childhood or culture in general. The second edition of Peter Hunt's bestselling International Companion Encyclopedia of Children's Literature offers comprehensive coverage of the subject across the world, with substantial, accessible, articles by specialists and world-ranking experts. Almost everything is here, from advanced theory to the latest practice - from bibliographical research to working with books and children with special needs. This edition has been expanded and includes over fifty new articles. All of the other articles have been updated, substantially revised or rewritten, or have revised bibliographies. New topics include Postcolonialism, Comparative Studies, Ancient Texts, Contemporary Children's Rhymes and Folklore, Contemporary Comics, War, Horror, Series Fiction, Film, Creative Writing, and 'Crossover' literature. The international section has been expanded to reflect world events, and now includes separate articles on countries such as the Baltic states, the Czech and Slovak Republics, Iran, Korea, Mexico and Central America, Slovenia, and Taiwan.
Postcolonial African Writers

First Published in 1991. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

Selfish Gifts

Focusing on the intersection of literature and politics since the beginning of the 20th century, this book examines authors, historical figures, major literary and political works, national literatures, and literary movements to reveal the intrinsic links between literature and history. • Covers numerous authors from around the world ranging from the beginning of the 20th century to the modern era • Enables students to better understand literary works central to the curriculum by considering them in their political contexts • Helps readers to use literature in order to learn about modern political and social issues across cultures and better appreciate the political significance of contemporary writings • Contains a number of "gateway" entries that survey entire national literatures, thereby giving readers an introduction to the authors who are important within those literatures • Assists students in evaluating rhetorical strategies and political views, thus fostering critical thinking in support of the Common Core State Standards

Tropical Dream Palaces
Senegal has played a central role in contemporary dance due to its rich performing traditions, as well as strong state patronage of the arts, first under French colonialism and later in the postcolonial era. In the 1980s, when the Senegalese economy was in decline and state funding withdrawn, European agencies used the performing arts as a tool in diplomacy. This had a profound impact on choreographic production and arts markets throughout Africa. In Senegal, choreographic performers have taken to contemporary dance, while continuing to engage with neo-traditional performance, regional genres like the sabar, and the popular dances they grew up with. A historically informed ethnography of creativity, agency, and the fashioning of selves through the different life stages in urban Senegal, this book explores the significance of this multiple engagement with dance in a context of economic uncertainty and rising concerns over morality in the public space.