

International, Interdisciplinary Point Sud Symposium

**Decolonising Knowledge in the Humanities:  
Studying Minor Forms in African Cultures of Knowledge,  
Literature and the Arts**

12-16 December 2023

Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon

**Conveners:**

Kwabena Opoku-Agyemang (University of Ghana, Legon)

Eva Ulrike Pirker (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Stefanie Michels (Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf)

## PROGRAMME

*Main venue: Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Nketia Hall*

### **Day 1: Tuesday, 12 Dec 2023**

8:30

#### **Welcomes**

Samuel Aniegye Ntewusu (IAS)

Issa Fofana (Point Sud)

Kwabena Opoku-Agyemang, Eva Ulrike Pirker and Stefanie Michels (Conveners)

9:00

#### **Panel 1**

***Left Behind: The Story of ‘German Minorities’ in North-Eastern Ghana***

Samuel Aniegye Ntewusu (University of Ghana)

***When Enlightenment Falls Silent: Contradictions and Doubts in Israel Aksenfeld's “The First Jewish Recruit”***

Marc Caplan (Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf)

10:00

**Break & Debate: Coffee**

10:30

#### **Plenary 1**

11:00

#### **Panel 2**

***Minor Formations and the Creolization of Major Representation***

Manuela Boatcă (Universität Freiburg)

***Minor Form, Major Impact: Queer Ecology in/through Social Media in Contemporary Africa***

Gibson Ncube (Stellenbosch University)

12:00

**Break & Debate: Lunch**

13:00

#### **Plenary 2**

13:30

#### **Panel 3**

***“You dare not!”***

***The Royal Togo Consulate of “Prince Dagadu” in Koforidua of 1913***

Stefanie Michels (Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf)

***Contributing to the clarification of the colonial past in the restitution debate:***

***The case of communities in the Volta region of Ghana***

Kokou Azamede (Université de Lomé)

14:30

**Break & Debate: Coffee**

15:00

**Plenary 3**

15:30

**Bus ride to Legon Hill**

16:00

**Anton Wilhelm Amo Lecture (MIASA)  
Building African Ecologies of Knowledge**  
Felwine Sarr (Duke University)

19:00

**Welcome dinner**

## **Day 2: Wednesday, 13 Dec 2023**

9:00

**Welcome, housekeeping**

9:30

**Panel 4**

**Looking Down on Africa through the Automated Gaze of Google Lens**  
Tolulope Adelabu (University of Wisconsin-Madison)  
**Material culture, Ethnographic Collections and Museums:  
Questions of knowledge and identity beyond the museums' database**  
Hans Peter Hahn (University of Frankfurt)

10:30

**Break & debate: coffee**

11:00

**Plenary 4**

11:30

**Panel 5**

**Minor Forms, Ecological Knowledge and More than Human Agency in Colonial  
Central Africa**  
Benoît Henriët (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)  
**Decolonial Ecocriticism in Serge Attukwei Clottey's Afrogallonism**  
Kwame Edwin Otu (Georgetown University)

12:30

**Break & debate: lunch**

13:30

**Plenary 5**

14:00

**Panel 6**

**To Exist Is to be Seen: Cultural Marginalisation and the Validity of Aesthetic Representation**

Victoria A. A. Osei-Bonsu (University of Ghana, Legon)

**Social Media and the Aesthetics of the Quotidian in New Writing from Nigeria and Kenya**

Shola Adenekan (University of Ghent)

15:00

**Break & debate: coffee**

15:30

**Plenary 6**

16:00

**KEYNOTE**

**Trotro Multilingualism in Accra: Orality, Polysemy, and Deterritorialization**

Ato Quayson (Stanford University)

Free evening

### **Day 3: Thursday, 14 December**

9:00

**Intro conveners, housekeeping**

9:30

**Panel 7**

**Digital Humor and Decolonization**

Adwoa Opoku-Agyemang (Johns Hopkins University)

**LongStorySHORT: “Imagining something new, something not informed by a colonial framework”**

Birgit Neumann (Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf)

10:30

**Break & debate: coffee**

11:00

**Plenary 7**

11:30

**Panel 8**

**Histories from Minor Forms? Afrofuturism and Acts of Remembrance in Rivers**

**Solomon's *The Deep* and Akwaeke Emezi's *Pet***

Elizabeth Abena Osei (University of Maryland)

**Decolonising Genres and Modes: Nigerian Diaspora Science Fiction as a Marginal(ised) Form**

Oluwole Coker (Universität Potsdam)

12:30

**Break & debate: lunch**

13:30

**Plenary 8**

14:00

**Panel 9**

**Imagining the excess of power in proverbial constructions by university students**

Asante Lucy Mtenje (University of Malawi)

**Knowledge, Literature and the Arts: The Life and Dea(r)th of Ghanaian Popular Fiction**

Theresah Patrine Ennin (University of Cape Coast)

15:00

**Break & debate: coffee**

15:30

**Plenary 9**

16:00

**KEYNOTE**

**(Re)constructing "Africa" in the Pre-Independence Caribbean Imaginary: Fragile, Vanishing Forms**

Suzanne Scafe (University of Brighton)

Free evening

**Day 4: Friday, 15 December 2023**

**Excursion to Cape Coast, Java Museum and Elmina Castle**

## **Day 5: Saturday, 16 December 2023**

8:30

**Bus ride to Ashesi University**

**Welcome: Joseph Oduro-Frimpong**

9:30

**Panel 10**

**Decolonizing and Detextualizing the Formal Theory: An Engagement with Form through Indigenous Orature**

E. Tasun Tidorchibe (Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf)

**Mourning a Country: Elegy, Orality and the Postcolony in Ghanaian Contemporary Poetry**

Nikitta Dede Adjirakor (University of Ghana)

10:30

**Break & debate: Coffee**

11:00

**Plenary 10**

11:30

**LECTURE / TOUR**

**Director's Cut: Encounters with African Popular Cultural Artifacts in the Academy**

Joseph Oduro Frimpong (Ashesi University)

12:30

**Packed picnic lunch**

more time to see the collection

13:30

**Bus ride back to town**

14:30

**Guided tour with author of *Oxford Street, Accra*, Ato Quayson**

19:00

**Farewell dinner**