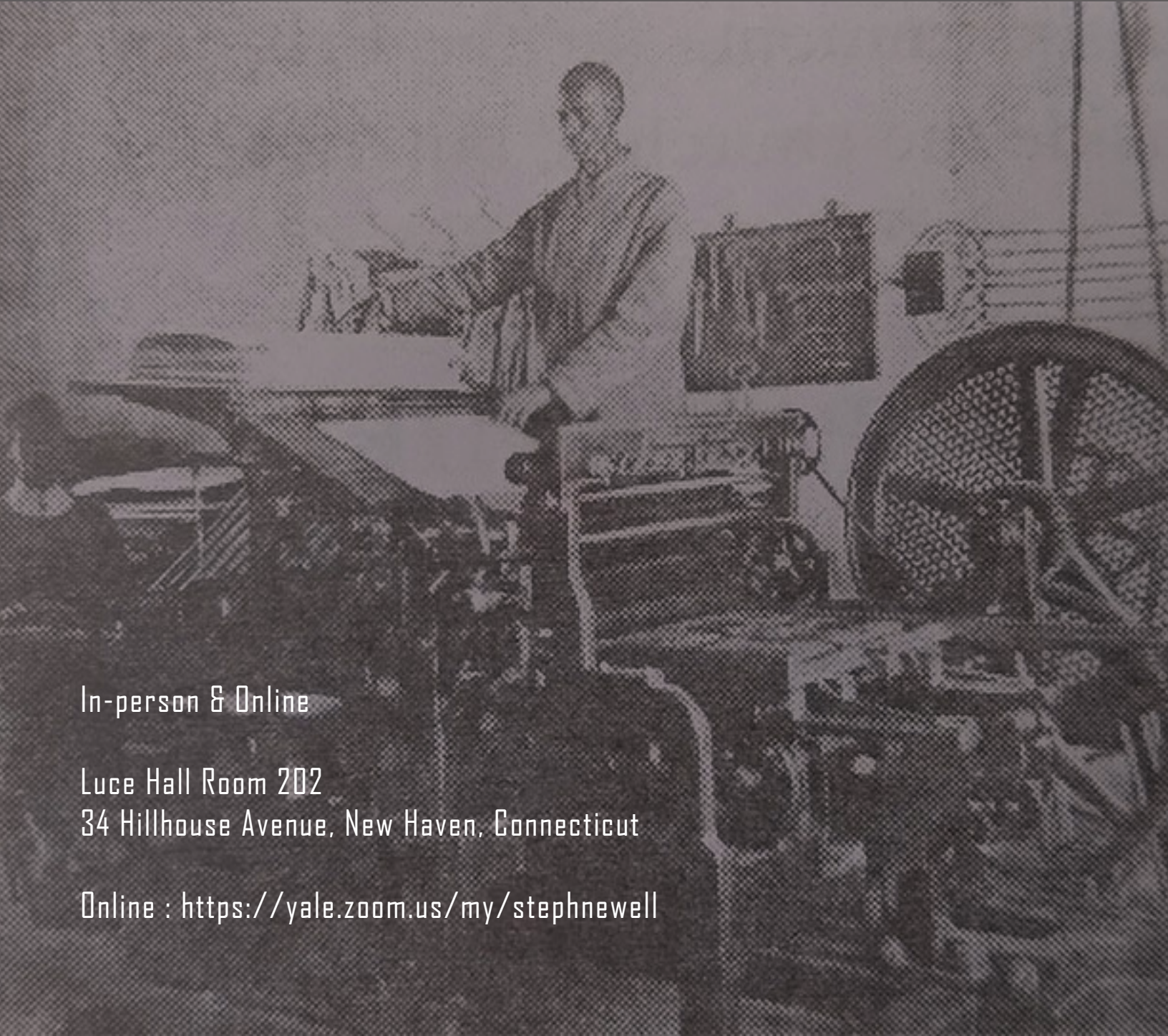


# Print Cultures and African Literature, 1860–1960

November 4th-5th, 2022

Council on African Studies Workshop  
MacMillan Center, Yale University



In-person & Online

Luce Hall Room 202  
34 Hillhouse Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut

Online : <https://yale.zoom.us/my/stephnewell>



Register with Steph Newell  
- [stephanie.newell@yale.edu](mailto:stephanie.newell@yale.edu)

All welcome!

Campus Map

Directions

Yale University's main campus is located in Down Town New Haven at 451 College Street.

Henry Luce Hall

Luce Hall is located on 34 Hillhouse Avenue between Sachem Street and Trumbull Street. It sits behind Rosenkranz Hall located on 115 Prospect Street, which houses the MacMillan Center's Council of African Studies.



# Workshop Program

Friday 4th November

BREAKFAST bagels, cakes, coffee/tea

8:30am

8:45-9:00am

Welcome: Karin Barber and Steph Newell

9:00-10:00am

Sara Marzagora & Annachiara Raia

10:00-11:00am

Jeremy Dell & Anne Bang

BREAK - coffee/tea

11:00-11:15am

11:15-12:15pm

Karin Barber & Joel Cabrita and  
Thato Sukati

12.15-1.15pm

Hlonipha Mokoena & Maria Suriano

LUNCH

1:15-2:00pm

2:00-3:30pm

Phoebe Musandu, Leslie James and  
Myles Osborne, Tobias Warner

BREAK tea/coffee

3:30-4:00pm

4:00-5:00pm

Terri Ochiagha & Odile Goerg

# Workshop Program

Saturday 5th November

BREAKFAST bagels, cakes, coffee/tea	8:30am
9.00-10.00am	Khwezi Mkhize & James Brennan
10.00-11.00am	Isabel Hofmeyr & Graham Furniss
BREAK – coffee/tea	11:00-11:15am
11:30am-12:30pm	Harri Englund & Sam Naidu
LUNCH	12:30pm-1:15pm
1:15pm-1:30pm	Ato Quayson: The African Literature in Transition series
1:30-2:30pm	Ngozi Edeagu & Katharina A. Oke
2:30-3:30pm	Lucie Ryzova & Thomas Keegan
BREAK tea/coffee	3:30-4:00pm
4:00-5:00pm	Corinne Sandwith & Stephanie Newell

# Friday 4th November

## **Sara Marzagora: “Amharic Print Culture in Ethiopia (1900–1936): Genres, Texts and New “Regimes of Truth”**

On print culture in Amharic produced by a new class of globally-oriented intellectuals in the first three decades of the twentieth century, as the country was gradually incorporated into the international system of capitalism and nation-states.

9:00–10:00am

## **Annachiara Raia: “Between the Railway and the Minaret: Transregional Swahili Muslim Booklets and Transition in East African Print Culture (1930-1960)”**

On the circulation and reception in East Africa of devotional and didactic booklets in Swahili verse form, designed and printed in Roman typescript on cheap paper from India, from the 1930s onwards.

## **Jeremy Dell: “A Family Affair: Printing Among Senegal’s Sufi Orders”**

Scholarship discussing the history of print in the Islamic world often treats West Africa as a region of importation, a market for printed works produced in more “central” hubs of the Islamic world like Algiers, Cairo, and Beirut. Yet printed poems known as xasida—Wolof for the classical Arabic ode, or qasida—are largely homegrown.

## **Anne K. Bang: “Double-Sided Print: The Rise of Islamic Arabic Print in East Africa, c. 1880–1910”**

On print circulation in East Africa, including the import of printed material from Egypt, India and elsewhere; problematising the link between the advent of Arabic-Islamic print in East Africa and modernity—specifically Islamic modernity as understood retrospectively in academic literature.

10:00–11:00am

# Friday 4th November

## **Karin Barber: “Linguistic Cohabitation and the First Yoruba Novel”**

On the bilingual environment and textual experimentation that gave rise to the first Yoruba novel in 1920s Lagos.

## **Joel Cabrita and Thato Sukati: “The Columns of Kadebona: Linguistic Patriotism and a Hybrid Language in Swati Newspapers of the 1950s and 1960s”**

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, the Swazi newspaper *Izwi lama Swazi*, in particular the columns of the pseudonymous Kadebona (“The Far-sighted One”), became fora for lively and controversial debates about the nature, scope, and significance of the written siSwati language (today the national language of Eswatini).

11:15–12:15pm

## **Hlonipha Mokoena: “A Century of Readers and Readings: Abantu Abamnyama, 1922–2022”**

On Magema Fuze’s pioneering work of Zulu history and its readers.

12.15–1.15pm

## **Maria Suriano: “Local Aesthetics and Literary Experimentation in Swahili Press Writings in Tanganyika”**

On the poems composed by readers in colonial Tanzania which assessed the level of moral and social progress of the society, based on local impulses, idioms, and discourses.

# Friday 4th November

## **Phoebe Musandu: “Of Rickety Old Printpresses in Ramshackle Printrooms and the Stories They Told: The African Press in Colonial Kenya 1920–1960s”**

The spaces, machines, people and modest capital bases that the men behind the colonial-era African newspaper sector in Kenya employed as they sought to print their way out of the socio-economic and political margins.

## **Leslie James and Myles Osborne: “Africa in Jamaica: Print Networks in the Caribbean”**

On the interpersonal networks of writers and intellectuals in Africa and the Caribbean, and the ways material from African newspapers permeated newsletters in the Caribbean to produce common political interests and identities in the 1930s and 1940s.

2:00-3:30pm

## **Tobias Warner: ““A Curious Creature from the Market”: World Literature and the “Complete Gentleman Stories”**

On the potential for African print cultures to provoke a reconceptualisation of the category of “world literature”, drawing on the example of a ubiquitous and mutable African narrative, published in many versions, the best-known of which is Amos Tutuola’s tale of the “complete gentleman” in *The Palm-Wine Drinkard* (1952).

## **Terri Ochiagha: “Paracolonial Mimic Men: ‘Adaptationism’ and Autoethnographic Expression in *The Nigerian Teacher* (1933-36) and *Nigeria Magazine* (1937-53)”**

On Nigerian magazines as spaces in which authors experimented with auto-ethnographic forms of writing on the colonial cultural and educational interface.

4:00-5:00pm

## **Odile Goerg: “Still Images, Moving Images, Local Commentators, Texts”**

On the role played by the press in public engagement with cinema in 1950s West Africa, and the intersection of image and text that resulted.

# Saturday 5th November

## **Khwezi Mkhize: “Black South African Intellectuals and the Question of Colonial Modernity”**

On the rise of the mission-educated Black South African intelligentsia in the nineteenth century and their responses to colonial modernity in the black periodical press.

## **James R. Brennan: “Multilingualism in the African, Indian, and European Presses of Tanganyika, 1919–1961”**

On how newspapers in Indian, African and European languages in Tanganyika each used selected terms from the other languages to convey specific moral and social judgments—and employed different font and typesetting styles to highlight these.

9.00-10.00am

## **Isabel Hofmeyr: “Print Cultures and Printing Diasporas: Gandhi, Dube and White Printworkers in Durban”**

On the contrasting activities of three South African “printing diasporas” running small presses in early twentieth-century South Africa.

10.00-11.00am

## **Graham Furniss: “Hausa written texts: print medium and literary cultures in northern Nigeria - Christian missions, colonial policy, the post-Independence experience and the world of Islamic manuscripts**

On the context and the effect of the introduction of printing presses in northern Nigeria.



# Saturday 5th November

## **Harri Englund: “Expansive Languages in Nineteenth-Century Central Africa: Missionary Dictionaries between Command and Dialogue”**

On one of the most ambitious dictionaries of the nineteenth-century missionary enterprise in Africa—David Clement Scott’s Cyclopaedic Dictionary of the Mang’anja Language, published in 1892.

## **Sam Naidu: “Reading the ‘Father’ of South African Colonial History: George McCall Theal’s Urge to Publish (1862-1882)”**

On the myriad, seemingly contradictory motivations for a nineteenth century newcomer to South Africa to engage in prolific publishing initiatives ranging from journalism to multi-volume histories.

11.30-12.30pm

## **Ato Quayson: “The African Literature in Transition series”**

1:15pm - 1:30pm

## **Ngozi Edeagu: “The West African Pilot and the Creation of an Anti-Colonial Readership”**

On access to the popular newspaper by readers in a range of institutional settings including secondary schools, the army, and trade, ethnic and social associations.

## **Katharina A. Oke: ““Where Money Goes Before, All Ways Do Lie Open””**

The printing operations behind the publication of the nationalist leader Herbert Macaulay’s Lagos Daily News in 1930s Lagos, Nigeria.

1.30pm-2.30pm

# Saturday 5th November

## **Lucie Ryzova: “Reading, Print and Personhood Among the New Egyptian Middle Classes”**

On literacy, print and the new subjectivities of the “modernising” middle class in Egypt in the 1920s and 30s.

## **Thomas Keegan: ““Books that Africans Should Not Read””: Reading, Madness, and African Selfhood in the Sierra Leone Weekly News**

On discussions of reading as a practice in the Sierra Leone Weekly News in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century

2.30-3.30pm

## **Corinne Sandwith: ““Street Literature and Satire: The After-Lives of South African Texts””**

On the ways in which the genre of the popular newspaper column between the 1930s and 1960s offered itself to black readers/writers as a space in which to pursue a range of public writing experiments.

4.00-5.00pm

## **Stephanie Newell: ““Usefully Unofficial” Literature: Onitsha Market Literature and Anglophone Print Cultures in Colonial West Africa”**

On the proliferation of independent African-owned presses and the emergence of new readerships in the period of decolonisation.

**Special Thanks To:**

**Workshop Organizers:**

Stephanie Newell, Allegra Ayida

**Council on African Studies and Council on Middle Eastern Studies:**

Cristin Siebert, Yayra Sumah, Marwa Khaboor

**Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies:**

Sayaka Hoak, MacMillan Center Facilities & Security Staff

**Workshop Volunteers:**

Juliet Oware, Ellie Burke

**Catering:**

Koffee Katering, Olmo Bakery, Havenly, Saray

**Sponsors:**

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