

Notes on Contributors

Faith Adiele is Assistant Professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh, USA. Her essays on Africa, cultural identity, and intersections of race, class and gender appear in such journals as *Transition*, *Africana.com*, *Ploughshares*, *Fourth Genre*, *Indiana Review*, *Creative Nonfiction*, *MS.*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Tricycle*, *O* and *Essence*. Her work has been anthologised in, among others, *Names We Call Home: Autobiography on Racial Identity* (Routledge), *Tanzania on Tuesday: American Women Writing Abroad* (New Rivers), and *Life Notes: Personal Writings by Contemporary Black Women* (Norton). She was shortlisted for the Best American Essays of 2002 and has received international fellowships from UNESCO/Civitella Ranieri (Italy), Sacatar Foundation (Brazil) and Banff Centre for the Arts (Canada). Her personal/ethnographic account of ordaining as Thailand's first Black Buddhist nun, *Meeting Faith: The Forest Journals of a Black Buddhist Nun*, is published by W. W. Norton. Her essay here derives from her experiences as a New World African seeing her father's Nigerian homeland for the first time, during the worldwide IMF/World Bank riots of the late 1980s.

Oladipo Agboluaje was born in London and went back to Nigeria in 1977 where he was educated. His education included a theatre arts programme at the University of Benin. He worked for a few years in Lagos before returning to Britain in 1995 where he attended the University of North London (now London Metropolitan University) and the Open University. His first play, *Early Morning*, directed by Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa, ran at the Oval House in March 2003. In the same year he also completed a National Theatre Studio commission and attachment. He was part of the Eclipse Theatre Writing Laboratory held at Nottingham Playhouse. He is a visiting lecturer at Goldsmith's University, London, and a tutor in postcolonial literature with the Workers Educational Association.

Susan Akono grew up in Cameroon and took her BA in English, French and Spanish at the University of Yaounde in 1994. She then went to Spain, where she obtained a Diploma in French and Spanish translation, an MA in English, and a DEA in Postcolonial Studies. Since 2002 she has lived in the UK with her British husband and son. Her book *WMD: The Weapons of my Disappointment* (Insch, Scotland: Lipstick Publishing, 2004) tackles the contradictions, dilemmas and absurdities of global politics in the form of a letter addressed to her infant son.

Donald Crummey is Professor of History and African History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA. He specialises in the history of eastern and southern Africa since the eighteenth century, particularly the Horn of Africa. Recent publications include *Land and Society in the Christian Kingdom of Ethiopia: From the Thirteenth to the Twentieth Century* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2000) and, co-edited with Thomas Bassett, *African Savannas: Global Narratives and Local Knowledge of Environmental Change* (Oxford/Portsmouth, NH: James Currey and Heinemann USA, 2003).

Chielozone Eze grew up in Nigeria, graduated from the MFA Program of Purdue University, Indiana, and is currently a fellow at the International Institute of the University of California at Los Angeles. His novel "The Listener" won the Purdue University annual literary award in 2002.

Susan Gorman has PhD in Comparative Literature at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, for a thesis on “Generic Ideologies: The Intersection of Empire, the Epic and the Novel in French West African and Latin Literatures.” She was awarded an African Initiatives Summer Grant to study Hausa in Niger in 1999, and was a Fulbright Student Fellow to Niger in 2000-2001. She teaches on the writing programme at Boston University, and has published articles, encyclopedia entries and translations from French on African literature and culture.

William Idowu is a researcher and lecturer in Philosophy at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, where he graduated with first class honours. He was awarded a PhD in political science from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. His research interests are in the areas of citizenship studies, African legal and political institutions, African jurisprudence, and gender studies. His journal publications include *West African Journal of Philosophical Studies*, *The Anthropologist* and *Journal of Social Sciences*. Other works include chapters in Oguejiofor, Ramose and Onah, eds., *Philosophy, Democracy and Responsible Governance in Africa, Vol. 1*, Onyia, Owoh and Ezeah, eds., *Readings in Sociological Studies, Vol. 2*, and Balogun and Mabol, eds., *Issues in Philosophy of Law*. He is currently researching the nature and significance of African jurisprudence.

Olutoyin Bimpe Jegede lectures in the English department of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria and has been researching traditional performance poetry since 1999. This was initially for her PhD project, but now she has her doctorate her research is ongoing.

Ayobami Kehinde is a lecturer at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, where he teaches courses in African Literature (oral and written), New Literatures in English, Modern Authors and Literary Theory. He has published or has forthcoming articles in *Revista De Filologia Ingles (English Studies)*; *Revista Alicantina de Estudios Ingleses*; *International Journal of African and African American Studies*; *Odu: Journal of West African Studies*, *Journal of Languages and Literatures*, *Studies in the Humanities*, *Nordic Journal of African Studies*; *Exemplaria: Journal of Comparative Literature*, and *African Literature Today*.

Columba Muriungi is a PhD student at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, currently doing research on emerging trends in Kenyan children’s literature. She is also interested in gender studies, with specific reference to the representation of the prostitute in Kenyan women’s writing.

Tony Simoes da Silva teaches literary theory, twentieth-century literature, and postcolonial writing and theory at the University of Exeter, UK, with a particular interest in Anglophone and Lusophone African literature. As well as African, he has published on Asian, Australian and Caribbean literature and culture, including the monograph, *The Luxury of Nationalist Despair: The Fiction of George Lamming* (Amsterdam and Atlanta: Rodopi, 2000) and articles in, for example, *Ariel*, *Pretexts: Literary and Cultural Studies*, *LifeWriting*, *Meridian* and the online journal *Mots Pluriels*. He also edits a website dedicated to the work of Anglophone and Lusophone women writers, which includes bibliographical and biographical material:

www.ex.ac.uk/~ajsimoos/ He is currently working on a study of South African life writing, history and whiteness.

Dennis Walder is Professor of Literature at the Open University, UK. His publications include monographs on Dickens, Athol Fugard and Ted Hughes, and with Marcia Blumberg he edited *South African Theatre As/And Intervention* (Amsterdam and Atlanta: Rodopi, 1999). His book *Post-Colonial Literatures in English* was published in by Basil Blackwell in 1998. He is currently working on memory, identity and narrative, and the memoir here forms part of an autobiographical work in progress, exploring his experiences growing up in South Africa.