

UNIVERSITÉ  
SORBONNE  
PARIS NORD



25  
Oct  
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UNIVERSITÉ SORBONNE PARIS NORD MEMBRE :  
CAMPUS CONDORCET PARIS - AUBERVILLIERS | AS-PC Alliance Sorbonne Paris Cité



Illustration réalisée par A. Oluwasegun Badmus

# Back to Africa:

*Literary Representations of Return in African Literatures*

> Campus Condorcet  
CENTRE DE COLLOQUES - SALLE 100

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)

Gabriela Alexandra Banita (University of Bologna); Serena Vinci (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia).

**Scientific committee:** Giovanna Buonanno (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia)

Silvia Contarini (University of Paris Nanterre); Cédric Courtois (University of Lille)

Maria-Chiara Gnocchi (University of Bologna); Aurélie Journo (University of Paris Sorbonne Nord)

J O U R N É E

D ' É T U D E

# BACK TO AFRICA:

## LITERARY REPRESENTATIONS OF RETURN IN AFRICAN LITERATURES

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 promesse di Hamadi* and Pap Kouma's *Io venditore di elefanti*
- Anenechukwu Kevin Amoke: 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

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