

Female, Queer and Nonbinary Voices in African Literatures: Bodies, Ecologies, Herstories

University of Leicester – AEGIS

8 September 2026

Organisers: Sreya Datta, Dorothée Boulanger & Megan Fourqurean

9:00-9:30 Registration and coffee

13:00-13:50 Lunch (catered)

9:30-9:45 Welcome & Opening Remarks

13:50-15:45 Panel Three: Insurgent Genres

9:45-11:15 Panel One: Herstories and Counter-archives

Chair: Dorothée Boulanger

Chair: Brendon Nicholls

- Reading the Twenty-First-Century Queer African Novel as a Continuation and Expansion of the Decolonial African Novel – Laurel Braddock (Humboldt University Berlin)
- “Turn remembrance into a sly weapon”: Reclaiming Archival Memory in Maaza Mengiste’s *The Shadow King* – Kata Gyuris (Eötvös Loránd University)
- (Re)writing Silenced Herstories: Feminist Counter-Archives, Embodied Memory, and Queer-Ecological Resistance in Contemporary African Women’s Writing – Dawit Dibekulu (Bahir Dar University)
- The Beautiful Ones in the Cultural Archive of African Literary Studies: Queering the Canon, Canonizing the Queer – Ronit Frenkel (University of Johannesburg)

- “I Sing When I Make Love”: Navigating Freedom for Black Women in the South African Music Industry (1980s-2020) – Patricia ‘buntu’ Modiba (University of the Witwatersrand)
- Epistemic Disobedience: Queer Stories of Resistance – Lara Tortosa-Signes (Universitat de València)
- Re-imagining Women in African Black Speculative Fiction: The Feminist Vestige in Tochi Onyebuchi’s *War Girls* – Amal Jlel (University of Manouba)
- (De)Centring the Gaze: (Re)Inscribing Queer Identities through Linguistic Resistance in Eloghosa Osunde’s *Vagabonds!* – Aminat Emma Badmus (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia)
- Koleka Putuma’s Intersectional Queer Poetics – Brendon Nicholls (University of Leeds)

11:15-11:30 Break

15:45-16:00 Break (refreshments provided)

11:30-13:00 Panel Two: Affective Solidarities

16:00-17:15 Panel Four: Environments and Cosmologies

Chair: Sreya Datta

Chair: Megan Fourqurean

- “[B]ut we exist [...]. In mass numbers”: Visibilising “Willful” Nigerian Queer Bodies in Chukwuebuka Ibeh’s *Blessings* (2024) and Eloghosa Osunde’s *Necessary Fiction* (2025) – Cédric Courtois (Université de Lille)
- Vegan Eroticism as Postcolonial Disidentification in Angolan Poet Ana Paula Tavares’s Collection *Ritos de passagem* (1985) – Dorothée Boulanger (University of Oxford)
- Black Women and Solidarity in the Workplace in South African Fiction – Sanja Nivesjö (Uppsala University)
- Heartbreak and Healing in FEMRITE’s Collection *Summoning the Rains* – Ruth S. Wenske (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

- Elemental Spirituality, Ecofeminism, and Queerness in West African Diasporic Literature – Alessandra Di Pietro (“G. d’Annunzio” University of Chieti-Pescara)
- Marginalised, Yet Sacred: Intersex Identity and Yoruba Cosmology in Buki Papillon’s *An Ordinary Wonder* – Funmilayo Adejumo and Kasim Isioma (Adeleke University)
- Between Flesh, Spirit, and the Environment: Embodied Queer Relationalities in Francesca Ekwuyasi’s *Butter Honey Pig Bread* (2020) – Karolina Kmita (University of Silesia in Katowice)

17:15-17:30 Closing Remarks



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