

# CV

## Stephanie Newell

---

George M. Bodman Professor of English Literature | Interim Chair, Council on African Studies |  
English Department | Yale University | New Haven, CT 06520-8302 |  
[stephanie.newell@yale.edu](mailto:stephanie.newell@yale.edu)

### I. Research Profile

My research focuses on mass-media audiences in colonial West Africa and creative writing as articulated through local print cultures, including newspapers, pamphlets, novels, and periodicals. I am especially interested in the cultural histories of printing and reading in Africa, and theorizing spaces of local creativity in colonial-era newspapers. My current book project, *West African Letters: Newsprint Literature and Local Aesthetics*, focuses on the central role of African-owned newspapers and pamphlets in creating platforms and publics for the earliest West African creative writers in English.

#### (i) Monographs

1. *Ghanaian Popular Fiction: 'Thrilling Discoveries in Conjugal Life,'* Oxford and Ohio: James Currey and Ohio University Press, 2000.
2. *Literary Culture in Colonial Ghana*, Manchester and Indiana: Manchester U. P. and Indiana U.P, 2002.
3. *West African Literatures: Ways of Reading*, Oxford Postcolonial Studies Series, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.
4. *The Forger's Tale: The Search for Odeziaku*, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 2006.
5. *The Power to Name: A History of Anonymity in Colonial West Africa*. Ohio University Press, October 2013. Finalist, Herskovits Prize 2014.
6. *Histories of Dirt in West Africa: Media and Urban Life in Colonial and Postcolonial Lagos*, Duke University Press, 2020.

#### (ii) Journal Articles

1. 'The Other God: Salman Rushdie's "New" Aesthetic,' *Literature and History*, Vol. 1, No. 2, pp. 67-87, 1992 [undergraduate dissertation].
2. 'Conflict and Transformation in Bessie Head's *A Question of Power*, *Serowe: Village of the Rain Wind* and *A Bewitched Crossroad*', *The Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, Vol. 30, No.2, pp. 65-83, 1995 [masters thesis].
3. 'From the Brink of Oblivion: The Anxious Masculinism in Nigerian Market Literatures', *Research in African Literatures*, Vol. 27, No.3, Fall, pp. 50-67, 1996.
4. 'Representations of Women in Popular Fiction by Nigerian Men', *The Journal of African Languages and Cultures*, Vol. 9, No.2, pp. 169-88, 1996.
5. 'Re-placing the Postcolonial Nation: Narration, Nationalism and Satire in Gabriel Garcia Marquez's *The Autumn of the Patriarch*', *Links and Letters*, Vol. 4, pp. 39-51, 1997.

6. 'Making up their own Minds: Readers, Interpretation and the Difference of View in Ghanaian Popular Narratives', *Africa*, Vol. 67, No.3, pp. 389-405, 1997.
7. 'Petrified Masculinities: Contemporary Nigerian Popular Literatures by Men', *The Journal of Popular Culture*, Vol. 30, No.4, pp. 161-82, 1997.
8. 'Those Mean and Empty-Headed Men: The Shifting Representations of Wealth in Two Ghanaian Popular Novels', *ARIEL*, Vol. 29, No.4, pp. 141-66, 1998.
9. 'Du marché de la littérature à la "littérature de marché"', *vivant univers*, No.442, pp. 22-26, 1999.
10. 'Redefining Mimicry: Quoting Techniques and the Role of Readers in Locally Published Ghanaian Fiction', *Research in African Literatures*, Vol. 31, No.1, pp. 32-49, 2000.
11. 'Popular Publishing in Nigeria and Ghana: Production Processes and Marketing Techniques in the Non-Textbook Sector', *The Book Collector*, Vol. 48, pp. 61-87, Spring 2000.
12. 'Literary Activism in Colonial Ghana: A Newspaper-Novel by "A Native"', *Current Writing*, Vol.13, No.2, pp. 20-30, 2001.
13. 'Paracolonial Networks: some speculations on local readerships in colonial West Africa', *Interventions*, Vol. 3, No. 3, pp.336-54, 2002.
14. 'Fragments of Oscar Wilde in Colonial Nigeria', *English Literatures in Transition*, Vol.47, No. 1, pp. 3-27, 2004.
15. 'J. M. Stuart-Young: The Englishman who Married a Nigerian Mermaid', *Africa*, Vol. 73, No. 4, pp. 506-30, 2004.  
[Republished by the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) as 'Remembering J. M. Stuart-Young of Onitsha, Colonial Nigeria: Memoirs, Obituaries and Names,' in *Old Wineskins, New Wine: Readings in Sexuality in sub-Saharan Africa*, eds. Chimaraoke O. Izugbara, Chi-Chi Undie, and Jennifer Wanjiku Khamasi, NY: Nova Science Publishers, Human Sexuality Series, 2010, pp.13-34].
16. 'Devotion and Domesticity: The Reconfiguration of Gender in Popular Christian Pamphlets from Ghana and Nigeria,' *Journal of Religion in Africa*, Vol.35, pp. 296-323, 2005.
17. 'Corresponding with the City: Self-Help Literature in Urban West Africa,' *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, Vol.44, No.1, pp. 15-27, 2008.  
[Republished by Routledge in an edited collection, *African City Textualities*, 2009, pp. 15-27.]
18. 'Dirty Whites: "Ruffian-Writing" in Colonial West Africa,' *Research in African Literatures*, Vol 39, No. 4, 1-15, 2008.
19. 'An Introduction to the Writings of J. G. Mullen, an African Clerk, in the *Gold Coast Leader*, 1916–1919.' *Africa* Vol 78, No. 3, pp. 384-400, 2008.
20. 'Newspapers, New Spaces, New Writers: The First World War and Print Culture in Colonial Ghana.' *Research in African Literatures* Vol. 40, No. 2, pp. 1-15, 2009.
21. 'Introduction: Postcolonial Masculinities and the Politics of Visibility,' Special Issue: Postcolonial Masculinities, *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, Guest Editor Stephanie Newell, Vol. 45, No. 3, pp. 243-50, 2009.

22. 'Something to Hide? Anonymity and Pseudonyms in the Colonial West African Press.' *Journal of Commonwealth Literature* Vol. 45, No. 1, pp. 9–22, 2010.
23. 'Local Cosmopolitans in Colonial West Africa,' *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, Vol. 46, No. 1, pp. 103-117, 2011.
24. 'Articulating Empire: Newspaper Readerships in Colonial West Africa,' *New Formations*, Vol. 73, pp. 26-42, 2011.
25. 'Paradoxes of Press Freedom in Colonial West Africa,' *Journal of Media History*, Vol. 22, No. 1, pp. 101-112, 2016.
26. 'Life Writing in the Colonial Archives: The Case of Nnamdi Azikiwe (1904-96) of Colonial Nigeria,' *Life Writing*, Vol. 33, No. 3, pp. 307-321, 2016.
27. 'The Last Laugh: African Audience Responses to Colonial Health Propaganda Films,' *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry*, Vol. 4, No.3, pp. 347-361, 2017.
28. 'Screening Dirt: Colonial Film Audiences and the Problem of Spectatorship,' *Social Dynamics* (7,500 words), Vol. 44, No. 1, pp. 6-20, 2018
29. "Graphic Fictions: Reader Research and the Making of a Comic Strip in 1950s 'British West Africa'." *Research in African Literatures*, 51 (1): 1–20, 2020.
30. "Newsprint Worlds and Reading Publics in Colonial Contexts." *Itinerario: Journal of Imperial and Global Interactions* (Special Issue on Colonial Public Spheres and the Worlds of Print): 44 (2): 435–445, 2020.
31. "The Work of Repetition in 1960s Nigerian Epistolary Pamphlets." *Journal of African Cultural Studies*, 33 (3): 251–271, 2021.

### (iii) Book Chapters

1. 'Acada Girls in Yorùbá Marriages: Funmilayo Fakunle's Domestic Scenes', in S. Brown (ed.), *Kiss and Quarrel: Yorùbá/English, Strategies of Mediation*, African Studies Series No. 5, Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham, pp. 123-140, 2000.
2. 'African Popular Fiction', in *Routledge Encyclopedia of African Literature*, London and NY: Routledge, 2003.
3. 'Entering the Territory of Elites: Literary Activity in Colonial Ghana', in K. Barber (ed.), *Africa's Hidden Histories: Person, Text and the Colonial State*, Indiana: Indiana University Press, pp. 211-35, 2006.
4. 'The Past in the Present: Adimora-Ezeigbo's Woman-Centred Frameworks', in Patrick Oluku (ed.), *The Fiction of Akachi Adimora-Ezeigbo*, Lagos, Nigeria: University of Lagos Press, pp. 88-102, 2008.
5. 'Writing Out Imperialism?: A Note on Nationalism and Political Identity in the African-Owned Newspapers of Colonial Ghana,' *Exits: Essays in Honour of Raoul Granqvist*, ed. Stefan Helgesson, Amsterdam: Rodopi, pp. 81-94, 2011.
6. 'West African Literature,' *The Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century Fiction*, ed. Brian Shaffer. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.
7. 'African Popular Literature and the Postcolonial Literary Imagination,' *The History of Postcolonial Literature*, ed. Ato Quayson. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 106-23, 2012.

8. 'Remembering J. M. Stuart-Young of Onitsha, Colonial Nigeria,' *Onitsha at the Millennium*, ed. Uwecha Nzegwu. New York: Africa Resource Press, pp. 221-233, 2013.
9. 'African Literary Histories and History in African Literatures,' *Oxford Companion to Modern African History*, eds. Richard Reid and John Parker. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 475-491, 2013.
10. Karin Barber & Stephanie Newell, 'Speaking Out: Dissent and Creativity in the Colonial Era and Beyond,' *West Africa: Word, Symbol, Song*, eds. Gus Casely-Hayford, Janet Topp-Fargion and Marion Wallace, London: The British Library, pp. 100-131, 2015.
11. 'Dirty Familiars: Colonial Encounters in African Cities,' *Global Garbage: Urban Imaginaries of Excess, Waste and Abandonment in the Contemporary City*, eds. Christoph Lindner and Miriam Meissner. New York and London: Routledge, pp. 44-64, 2015.
12. 'From Corpse to Corpus: The Printing of Death in Colonial West Africa,' *African Print Cultures*, eds. Derek Peterson et al., Ann Arbor: Michigan UP, pp. 389-424, 2016.
13. 'Afterword,' *African Print Cultures*, eds. Derek Peterson et al., Ann Arbor: Michigan UP, pp. 425-433, 2016.
14. 'Researching the Cultural Politics of Dirt in Lagos,' *Theorizing Fieldwork in the Humanities: Undisciplined Approaches to the Global South*, eds. Shalini Puri and Debra A. Castillo, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 193-211, 2016.
15. Stephanie Newell *et al.*, 'Dirty Methods as Ethical Methods? In the Field with "The Cultural Politics of Dirt in Africa, 1880-present".' *Routledge International Handbook of Interdisciplinary Research Methods*, eds. Celia Lury et al. London and NY: Routledge, 2018, pp. 248-265.
16. 'Narrative,' in *Critical Terms for the Study of Africa*, eds. Guarav Desai and Adeline Masquelier. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2018, pp. 245-259.
17. 2018. "Henry Ofori, Interviewed by Stephanie Newell." *Obsidian: Literature and Arts in the African Diaspora* 44 (2), pp. 154-160.
18. 2022. "Local Authors, Ephemeral Texts: Anglo-Scribes and Anglo-Literates in Early West African Newspapers." In *Routledge Handbook of African Popular Culture*, ed. Grace Musila, pp. 56-73. London and NY: Routledge.
19. *Forthcoming*. "The Temporalities of Postcolonial Print." In *A Handbook of Postcolonial Print Cultures*, eds. Toral Jatin Gajarawala et al. London and New York: Bloomsbury.

#### (iv) Editorial Projects

1. Editor, 'Introduction', *Images of African Women*, Centre of Commonwealth Studies, University of Stirling Occasional Papers No. 3, pp. 1-7, 1995.
2. Editor, 'Introduction', *Images of African and Caribbean Women*, Centre of Commonwealth Studies, University of Stirling Occasional Papers No. 4, pp. i-v, 1996.
3. Editor, 'Introduction', and 'Anatomy of Masculine Power: Three Perspectives on Marriage and Love in Nigerian Non-Fiction', *Writing African Women: Gender, Popular Culture and Literature in West Africa*, London: Zed Books, 1997.

Republished in paperback and as an e-book in Zed Books' 'Key Backlist Series', pp. 1-8; 170-190, June 2017.

4. Editor, 'Introduction', *Readings in African Popular Fiction*, Oxford, London and Indiana: James Currey, International African Institute and Indiana University Press, pp. 1-10, 2001.
5. Editor, 'Introduction', *Marita, or the Folly of Love: A Novel by 'A Native'*, African Sources of African History Series, Leiden, Boston and Koln: Brill, pp. 1-37, 2002 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2008).
6. S. Newell and Audrey Gadzekpo, Editors and 'Introduction', *Mabel Dove-Danquah: Selected Writings of a Pioneer West African Feminist*, Nottingham: Trent Editions, pp. xii-xxvi, 2004.
7. 'An Extract from "My Experience in Cameroons During the War" by J. G. Mullen', *Africa* Vol 78, No. 3, pp. 401-409, 2008; and *My Experience in Cameroons During the War* [full text] by J. G. Mullen, annotated by Stephanie Newell, *Africa Online* (www.eupjournals.com, 2008).
8. S. Newell and Onookome Okome, Editors and 'Introduction', *Popular Culture in Africa: The Episteme of the Everyday*. NY: Routledge, pp. 1-23, 2014.
9. Derek Peterson, Emma Hunter, and Stephanie Newell (Eds), *African Print Cultures: Newspapers and Their Publics in the Twentieth Century*, Ann Arbor: Michigan UP, 2016 [see iii.13 above].
10. Guest editor and 'Introduction: Ken Saro-Wiwa as Public Intellectual' (4,500 words), *Research in African Literatures*. Special Issue: Ken Saro-Wiwa as Public Intellectual, Vol. 48, No. 4, pp. vii-xvi, 2018.
11. S. Newell and Louise Green, guest editors and 'Introduction: Putting Dirt in its Place: The Cultural Politics of Dirt in Africa' (3,500 words), and 'Dirt Redeployed: The Cultural politics of Dirt, continued' (1,800 words), *Social Dynamics*. Double Special Issue: The Cultural Politics of Dirt in Africa, Vol. 44, Nos. 1 & 2, pp. 1-5, & pp. 1-4, 2018.
12. Cajetan Iheka and S. Newell, guest editors, "Introduction," *African Literature Today*. Special Issue: Environmental Transformations 38: 1–10, 2020.
13. Karin Barber & S. Newell, editors. *Print Cultures and African Literature, 1860–1960*. Cambridge University Press. *In progress*.

## **II. Awards & Recognition**

- 2014: Certificate of Recognition for *The Power to Name*, Finalist for the Herskovitz Prize of the African Studies Association.
- 2016: Lifetime Achievement Award, Anglia Ruskin University, UK, December.
- 2017: Certificate of Merit for Outstanding Record of Service as 2017 Convener, African Literature Association, June.
- 2018-2022: Professor *Extraordinaire*, Stellenbosch University, South Africa.
- 2022: Sidonie Miskimin Clauss Prize for Teaching Excellence in the Humanities.

## **III. Research Grants**

- 2019–2020: Leverhulme Trust Visiting Professorship, School of English Language, Literature and Linguistics (SELLL), Newcastle University.

- 2013-2016: Principal Investigator, *The Cultural Politics of Dirt in Africa, 1880–present*, European Research Council Senior Investigator Award Sept 2013 (AdG. 323343); transferred to Yale University in June 2015, sponsored by the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, concluded 31 December 2016.
- 2010-2011: British Academy Research Development Award (BARDA) for *A History of Anonymity in Colonial West African Newspapers*.
- 2007-2009: British Academy Small Research Grant for ‘Literary Activism in West African Newspapers, 1880-1939’.
- 2004-2005: Leverhulme Research Fellowship for ‘Empire and Sexuality: J. M. Stuart-Young of Colonial Nigeria’.

#### **IV. Media & Podcasts**

- 2021: Blog, “The Task of Decolonisation,” Newcastle University (3k words), <https://blogs.ncl.ac.uk/decolonisesml/>
- 2021: Interviewee, *The Common Room*, Yale English DEI Committee Podcast series, March, <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-common-room-at-yale/id1554154298>
- 2020: Interviewee, BBC Radio 4, *Thinking Allowed*, “Dirt”, December 9 (30 mins), <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000q3tc>
- 2020: Lilly Goren, “Interview: The History of Dirt in Africa” *New Books in Political Science* podcast <https://newbooksnetwork.com/stephanie-newell-histories-of-dirt-media-and-urban-life-in-colonial-and-postcolonial-lagos-duke-up-2019/>
- 2020: Susan Gonzalez, “In Conversation: What’s dirty? English professor explores the question in Lagos” *Yale News*, March 6 <https://news.yale.edu/2020/03/06/whats-dirty-english-professor-explores-question-lagos>
- 2019: “The History of Dirt in Africa” *Insights Public Lecture*, October 8, University of Newcastle <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures/archive/>
- 2019: “The Idea of Dirtiness” *How To Read* podcast, No. 19, <https://www.howtoreadpodcast.com/stephanie-newell-idea-of-dirtiness/>
- 2011: Guest speaker on BBC Radio 3, “Out in the World: A Global Gay History (Episode 3, October 2).

#### **V. Selection of Teaching at Yale**

- South African Writing After Apartheid (Yale Freshman Seminar Program)
- Readings in Comparative World English Literatures
- Postcolonial World Literatures, 1945 to Present.
- The Sociological Imagination in African Literatures, Yale Associates in Teaching Program, with Graduate Assistant Denise Lim (Sociology).
- Contemporary African Fiction: Challenges to Realism.
- African Studies Colloquium (graduate).
- Gateway to African Studies (with Veronica Waweru) (graduate).
- African Urban Cultures and Literatures of the City (graduate).

- Postcolonial World Literature and Theory (graduate).