

CAJETAN IHEKA

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63 High Street, New Haven CT 06520-8302

EDUCATION

Ph.D., English. Michigan State University. 2015.

Committee: Kenneth Harrow, Salah Hassan, Rita Kiki Edozie, and Rob Nixon (Princeton)

M.A., English Language and Literature. Central Michigan University. 2011.

B.A., English Education. Imo State University, Nigeria (First Class Honors). 2007.

Valedictorian

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

African Literature, African Diasporic Literature, Postcolonial Theory, Postcolonial Ecocriticism, African Cinema, Media Studies, Environmental Humanities.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Yale University

Tenured Full Professor

Associate Professor (on term), Department of English

July 2022-Present

July 2019-June 2021.

University of Alabama

Assistant Professor, Department of English

August 2015-June 2019.

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

African Ecomedia: Network Forms, Planetary Politics. Durham: Duke University Press, 2021.

- Winner, Ecocriticism Book Award, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment.
- Winner, Ronnie Heyman Prize for Outstanding Scholarly Publication in the Humanities.
- Honorable Mention, Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present (ASAP) Book Prize.
- Finalist, Media Ecology Association Book Awards.
- Symposium including 4 reviews and author response in *Journal of the African Literature Association*.
- Symposium including 3 reviews in *ASAP Journal*.
- Other reviews in *CHOICE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment* 29.2 (2022).

Naturalizing Africa: Ecological Violence, Agency, and Postcolonial Resistance in African Literature.

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018.

- Winner, Ecocriticism Book Award, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment.

- Winner, African Literature Association First Book Prize.
- Symposium including 5 extended review essays and author response in *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry*.
- Symposium including 4 reviews and author response in *Journal of the African Literature Association*.
- Other reviews in *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment* 27.1 (2020); *African Studies Review* (2022); *ARIEL* 50.2-3 (2019); *Research in African Literatures* 50.1 (2019); *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 57.2 (2019); *African Studies Quarterly* 18.4 (2019); *Études littéraires africaines* 49 (2020).
- Subject of special roundtable at the African Literature Association Conference (May 2018).

Edited Volumes

Teaching Postcolonial Environmental Literature and Media. New York: Modern Language Association, 2022. Options for Teaching Series.

African Migration Narratives: Politics, Race, and Space. Rochester: University of Rochester Press, 2018 (co-edited with Jack Taylor).

- Reviewed in *Africa is a Country*; *Research in African Literatures*; *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry*; *Journal of Refugee Studies*; *African Studies Quarterly*; *Insight on Africa*.

Special Issue

Environmental Transformations. A special issue of *African Literature Today* 38, 2020 (co-edited with Stephanie Newell).

Current Projects

Horizontal Comparison (monograph).

Intellectual Traditions of African Literature 1960-2015 (co-edited volume for Cambridge University Press).

Journal Articles

“Intricate Intimacies: Reading the Transatlantic Queer in Dinaw Mengestu’s *All Our Names*.” *New Literary History* 52.4 (2022): 85-107.

“The Media Turn in African Environmentalism: The Niger Delta and Oil’s Network Forms.” *Journal of Visual Culture* 20.1 (2021): 60-84.

“Introduction: Itineraries of African Ecocriticism and Environmental Transformations in African Literature.” *African Literature Today* 38 (2020): 1-10 (with Stephanie Newell).

“Ecologies of Oil and Trauma of the Future in *Curse of the Black Gold*.” *The Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry* 7.1 (2019): 69-91.

“Dispossession, Postcolonial Ecocriticism, and Doris Lessing’s *The Grass is Singing*.” *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment* 25.4 (2018): 664-680.

“Pope Francis’s Integral Ecology and Environmentalism for the Poor.” *Environmental Ethics* 39.3 (2017): 243-259.

“Colo-mentality: Colonial Trauma in Oyono’s *Houseboy* and Condé’s *Crossing the Mangrove*.” *Research in African Literatures* 45.4 (2014): 33-49.

- Winner of the African Literature Association Outstanding Article Award.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

“Rights.” *The Cambridge Companion to Environmental Humanities*. Eds. Jeffrey Jerome Cohen and Stephanie Foote. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021. 26-38 (Invited).

“Introduction.” *Teaching Postcolonial Environmental Literature and Media*. Ed. Cajetan Iheka. New York: Modern Language Association, 2021. 1-20.

“Contrasting Visions: Filmic Representations of African Women.” *Holding the World Together: African Women in Changing Perspective*. Eds. Nwando Achebe and Claire Robertson. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2019. 41-58 (Invited).

“African Literature, Audience, and the Search for the (Non)Human.” *Routledge Handbook of African Literature*. Eds. Moradewun Adejunmobi and Carli Coetzee. London: Routledge, 2019. 203-214 (Invited).

“The Nigerian Novel and the Anti-Colonial Imagination.” *Oxford Handbook of Nigerian Politics*. Eds. Carl Levan and Patrick Ukata. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018. 121-132 (Invited).

“Introduction: The Migration Turn in African Cultural Productions.” *African Migration Narratives: Politics, Race, and Space*. Eds. Cajetan Iheka and Jack Taylor. University of Rochester Press, 2018. 1-15 (with Jack Taylor).

Short Pieces: Review Essays, Book/Film Reviews, and Encyclopedia Entries

Author's Response: Symposium on *African Ecomedia*. *Journal of the African Literature Association*. 16.3 (2022).

"Individual Epistemes in *The African Novel of Ideas*." *The Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry* 9.2 (2022): 251-255.

"African Literature, Ecological Interconnections, Theoretical Entanglements." Author's Response to Symposium on *Naturalizing Africa*. *The Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry* 6.2 (2019): 300-304.

Review of *Race, Decolonization, and Global Citizenship in South Africa* by Chielozona Eze. *Journal of the African Literature Association* 13.3 (2019): 345-347.

Review of *The Rise of the African Novel: Politics of Language, Identity, and Ownership* by Mukoma Wa Ngugi. *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 57.1 (2019): 161-162.

Author's Response: Symposium on *Naturalizing Africa*. *Journal of the African Literature Association*. 12.2 (2018): 217-220.

"The Pathologies of Organized Violence." Review Essay on *Mrs. Shaw* by Mukoma Wa Ngugi. *Los Angeles Review of Books*. 13 Jan. 2016.

Review of *The Big Banana* by Frank Bieleu. *African Studies Review* 56.2 (2013): 238-240.

Review of *Feminist Visions and Queer Futures in Postcolonial Drama: Community, Kinship, and Citizenship* by Kanika Batra. *Interventions* 15.1 (2013): 152-154.

"Sani Abacha"; "Aliko Dangote"; "Anthony Cardinal Okogie"; Moshood Abiola." In *Dictionary of African Biography*. Eds. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Emmanuel Akyeampong. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.

AWARDS, HONORS, AND FELLOWSHIPS**External**

Ecocriticism Book Award, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment. 2022.

Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present (ASAP) Book Prize Honorable Mention. 2022.

Media Ecology Association Book Awards Finalist. 2022.

African Literature Association First Book Prize. 2020.

Ecocriticism Book Award, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment. 2019.

Carnegie African Diaspora Alumni Fellowship. 2018.

Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship. 2017.

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Research Fellowship, Harry Ransom Center. 2016.

African Literature Association Outstanding Article Award. 2016.

Internal

Ronnie Heyman Prize for Outstanding Scholarly Publication in the Humanities, Yale University. 2022.

Frederick W. Hilles Publication Fund, Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University. 2020.

President Research Award, University of Alabama (UA). 2019.

The College Academy of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (CARSCA) Award, UA. 2017.

UA Research Grants Committee Award. 2016.

Michigan State University (MSU) Dissertation Completion Fellowship. 2015.

MSU/Nelson Mandela Museum South Africa Graduate Fellowship. 2013.

MSU Council of Graduate Studies Leadership Fellowship. 2013.

MSU Graduate School Merit Fellowship. 2013.

Central Michigan University SUSO Writing Prize. 2011.

Imo State University (IMSU) Overall Best Graduating Student Prize. 2007.

IMSU College of Education Best Student Prize. 2007.

KEYNOTE AND INVITED LECTURES

“Uncommon Ruptures.” Keynote Lecture at the Association of Commonwealth Languages and Literatures Studies Triennial Conference. Toronto, Canada. 11-15 July 2022.

“Book Talk: African Ecomedia.” Laboratory for Environmental Narrative Strategies. UCLA. 24 May 2022.

“On Network Forms.” Cinema and Media Studies Colloquium. University of Pennsylvania. 23 March 2022.

“Agbogloboshie’s Ecologies.” Center for Comparative Media. Columbia University. 11 March 2022.

“*Americanah* and Adichie’s Reconceptualization of the Black Atlantic.” Tudor and Stuart Series, Department of English. Johns Hopkins University. 17 February 2022.

“Insightful Reading and Ecomedia Studies.” Center for African Studies. Stanford University. 20 January 2022.

“Humanities Publishing.” Postcolonial Research Forum Workshop. Ohio State University. 3 December 2021.

“Oil Afterlives.” Center for International and Regional Studies. Georgetown University, Qatar. 29 November 2021.

“Media Convergence: Cecil the Lion Meets Black Lives Matter.” Intersections Lecture Series. Department of English. Princeton University. 16 November 2021.

“African Ecomedia.” Department of English. University of Pennsylvania. 20 October 2021.

- “Oil Extraction and Environmental Storytelling.” Environmental Humanities Summer School. Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway. 2 June 2021.
- “Relationality as Matter and Method in the Environmental Humanities.” Spector Lecture. McGill University. 8 April 2021.
- “The Media Turn in the Environmental Humanities: Insights from a Black Oil Ecology.” Lectures in Black Literature and Culture. Amherst College. 5 March 2021.
- “The Niger Delta, Ecologies of Oil, and Trauma of the Future.” Comparative Literature Luncheon. Pennsylvania State University. 9 November 2020.
- “Ecologies of the Global South.” A Conversation with Jennifer French. Center for Environmental Studies. Rice University. 2 November 2020.
- “Spatial Networks, Toxic Ecoscapes, and (In)visible Labors.” African Studies Seminar. Emory University. 22 October 2020.
- “Toward a Planetary Humanism: Cecil the Lion Meets Black Lives Matter.” Department of English. University of Wisconsin Madison. 18 September 2020.
- “Environmental Humanities as Critique.” 2020 Gras Lecture in the Humanities. George Mason University. 15 April 2020. Canceled due to COVID-19.
- “Agbogloboshie, Toxic Ecoscapes and Free Labor in Pieter Hugo’s *Prophecy*.” Council on African Studies Lecture Series. Yale University. 29 January 2020.
- “On Land and Literature.” A Conversation with the Architect and Artist Ilze Wolff on the work of Bessie Head. Chicago Architecture Biennial. Chicago Cultural Center. 15 November 2019.
- “Ecology of Suffering: Niger Delta and Oil Extraction.” On Suffering Symposium. New York University. 18-19 April 2019.
- “Niger Delta, Climate Change, and Trauma of the Future.” Alison Des Forges Symposium: Climate Change and Africa. University at Buffalo. 10 April 2019.
- “Imperfect Media.” African Studies Lecture. University of Oklahoma. 26 February 2019.
- “Naturalizing Africa: Rehabilitating the Human in African Literature.” Johns Hopkins University. 22 February 2018.
- “Ecologies of War in African Literature.” Public Lecture. Federal University, Otuoke, Nigeria. 13 July 2017.
- “Naturalizing Africa: Re-imagining African Studies in the Anthropocene.” Keynote Lecture at the Annual Graduate Student Conference. Northwestern University. 14 April 2017.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “African Particularity.” Book Panel on Sarah Quesada’s *The African Heritage of Latinx and Caribbean Literature*. Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present Conference. UCLA. Los Angeles, California. 14-17 September 2022.

- “Social Media Cultures.” Book Panel on James Yeku’s *Cultural Netizenship: Social Media, Popular Culture, and Performance in Nigeria*. African Literature Association Conference. Virtual. 18-21 May 2022.
- Respondent, Roundtable on Cajetan Iheka’s *African Ecomedia*. African Literature Association Conference. Virtual. 18-21 May 2022.
- “Doing Cross-disciplinary Work.” African Literature Association Conference. 26-29 May 2021.
- Organizer and Respondent, Roundtable on Postcolonial Studies, the Environmental Humanities, and the Limits of the Human. Modern Language Association Annual Conference. Seattle, Washington. 9-12 January 2020.
- “Ecomedia in Africa, Fire, Network Form.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Conference. University of California Davis. Davis, California. 26-30 June 2019.
- “On Empathetic Cosmopolitanism.” Book Panel on Chielozona Eze’s *Race, Decolonization, and Global Citizenship in South Africa*. African Studies Association Conference. Atlanta, Georgia. 29 November-1 December 2018.
- “African Literature, Audience, and the Search for the (Non)Human.” African Studies Association, UK Conference. University of Birmingham. Birmingham, England. 11-13 September 2018.
- Respondent, Roundtable on Cajetan Iheka’s *Naturalizing Africa*. African Literature Association Conference. Washington DC. 23-26 May 2018.
- “Teaching African Literature of the Environment.” African Literature Association Conference. Washington DC. 23-26 May 2018.
- “African Literature, Nonhuman Agency, and the Rehabilitated Human: The Example of Patrice Nganang’s *Dog Days*.” American Comparative Literature Association Conference. UCLA. Los Angeles, California. 29 March-1 April 2018.
- “Recalibrating African Critical Institution in an Era of Climate Change.” African Studies Association Conference. Chicago, Illinois. 16-19 November 2017.
- “Ecomedia in Africa.” Modern Language Association Annual Conference. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 5-8 January 2017.
- “Africa’s Ecomedia, the Past, and the Imagined Future.” African Studies Association Conference. Washington DC. 1-4 December 2016.
- “Aesthetics of Proximity, Multispecies Relations, and Ecological Justice.” African Literature Association Conference. Atlanta, Georgia. 6-9 April 2016.
- Panelist, Book Panel on Byron Caminero-Santangelo’s *Different Shades of Green: African Literature, Environmental Justice, and Political Ecology*. African Literature Association Conference. Atlanta, Georgia. 6-9 April 2016.
- “Fanon’s *The Wretched of the Earth* and Postcolonial Ecocriticism.” African Studies Association Conference. San Diego, California. 19-22 November 2015.

- “Ecologies of War, Farah’s Somalia, and Material Ecocriticism.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Conference. University of Idaho. Moscow, Idaho. 23-27 June 2015.
- “Rethinking Postcolonial Resistance in Niger-Delta Literature.” African Literature Association Conference. Bayreuth University. Bayreuth, Germany. 3-6 June 2015.
- “Untangling Blackness in Mbembe’s Aesthetics of Superfluity.” Critical Institutions. Michigan State University. East Lansing, Michigan. 27-28 March 2014.
- “The Environmental Unconscious in African Literature.” African Studies Association Conference. Baltimore, Maryland. 21-24 November 2013.
- “Achebe’s *There was a Country*: Matters Arising.” Roundtable Sponsored by the Igbo Studies Association. African Studies Association Conference. Baltimore, Maryland. 21-24 November 2013.
- “Colonial Traumatized Victims as Contemporary Tyrants.” African Studies Association Conference. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 29 November-1 December 2012.
- “The European Ancestors of Ghadafi, Gbagbo, et al.” African Literature Association Conference. Southern Methodist University. Dallas, Texas. 11-14 April 2012.
- “Human Rights and African Conflicts.” Human Rights, Literature, the Arts, and Social Sciences International Conference. Central Michigan University. Mount Pleasant, Michigan. 11-13 November 2011.
- “Child Soldiers in African Conflicts: A Human Rights Analysis.” International Conference on Global Perspectives on Human Rights. Howard University. Washington DC. 29 September-1 October 2011.
- “Propaganda in Nigerian Civil War Literature.” African Literature Association Conference. Ohio University. Athens, Ohio. 13-17 April 2011.
- “Conversing Cultures: Tips for Consulting with ESL Student Writers Based on Understanding of Cultural Differences.” East Central Writing Centers Association Annual Conference. Michigan State University. East Lansing, Michigan. 9-10 April 2010.
- “The Politics of Exploitation and Protest in Niger-Delta Literature: The Examples of Tanure Ojaide’s *The Activist* and Isidore Okpewho’s *Tides*.” African Literature Association Conference. University of Arizona. Tucson, Arizona. 10-14 March 2010.
- “The Writer as a Historian: Representation of the Nigeria-Biafra War in Fiction.” International Conference on the Nigeria-Biafra Civil War. Marquette University. Milwaukee, Wisconsin. 25-26 September 2009.

TEACHING

Yale University

ENGL 028: First Year Seminar in African Literature and the World

ENGL 128: Readings in Comparative World English Literatures
ENGL 295: Junior Seminar in Postcolonial Ecologies
ENGL 889: Graduate Seminar in Postcolonial Ecologies
ENGL 896: Graduate Seminar: Postcolonial, Global, and the Decolonial

The University of Alabama

EN 208: World Literature II
EN 249: Survey of African American Literature I
EN 250: African American Literature II
EN 300: Introduction to English Studies
EN 311: Protest in South African Literature
EN 367: Postcolonial Literature
EN 411: Advanced Studies in African and Caribbean Literature
EN 635: Graduate Seminar in Postcolonial/World/Decolonial Theory
EN 693: Postcolonial Literature and the Environment

Michigan State University

ENG 210: Foundation of Literary Studies (Online and Face-to-Face)
ENG 232: Writing as Exploration (Online and Face-to-Face)
AFR 251&252: Intermediate Igbo I & II
AFR 151&152: Introduction to Igbo I & Igbo II
WRA 150: First Year Writing

GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE SUPERVISION

Yale University

Thesis and Dissertation Committees

Kassidi Jones, English (2020-Present), Ph.D. Dissertation Committee Chair
Akua Agyei-Boateng, African Studies (2020-2021), M.A. Thesis Chair
Ciru Wainaina, English (2021-Present), Ph.D. Dissertation Committee Member
Xavier Lee, Comparative Literature (2020-2022), Ph.D. Dissertation Committee Member
Marius Kothor, History (2020-Present), Ph.D. Dissertation Committee Member

Dissertation Prospectus Committees

Doyle Calhoun, French (2019-2020)
Marius Kothor, History (2019-2020)

Senior Essays

Anna-Shophia Boguraev, English (Fall 2019), Second Reader

Alice Lieu, English (Spring 2020), Second Reader
 Branson Rideaux, African American Studies (Spring 2020), Second Reader
 Cathy Duong, English (Fall 2021), Second Reader

External Advising and Mentoring

Joyce Agofure (2019-2021), Mentor, African Humanities Postdoctoral Program, Nigeria
 Comfort Azubuko-Udah (2018-2021), Ph.D. Dissertation Committee Member, UCLA

University of Alabama

Thesis and Dissertation Committees

Ashley Nicole Burge (2017-2019), Ph.D. Dissertation Committee Member
 Barry Cole (2017-2019), Ph.D. Dissertation Committee Member
 Luke Percy (2017-2018), M.F.A. Thesis Committee Member
 Steven Ikeme (2017-2018), M.F.A. Thesis Committee Member

EXTERNAL SERVICE

Deputy Editor, *African Studies Review*. 2020-Present.
 African Literature Association First Book Prize Selection Committee. 2021.
 Editorial Board Member, *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*. 2021-Present.
 Editorial Board Member, *Prose Studies*. 2020-Present.
 Editorial Board Member, *African Literature Today*. 2020-Present.
 Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Executive Council. 2018-Present.
 MLA Africa Since 1990 Forum Executive Committee. 2017-Present.
 Associate Editor, *African Studies Review*. 2017-2020.
 Film Review Editor, *African Studies Review*. 2015-2017.
 Chair, Graduate Caucus of the African Literature Association (ALA). 2011-2012.
 Vice-Chair, Graduate Caucus of the ALA. 2010-2011.
 Manuscript Reviewer: Oxford University Press; Duke University Press; University of Virginia Press;
 McGill University Press; Palgrave Macmillan; Routledge; *OFO: Journal of Transatlantic
 Studies; Research in African Literatures; Environment, Space, Place; ISLE: Interdisciplinary
 Studies in Literature and Environment; Tydskrif vir Letterkunde; Postcolonial Text; Journal of
 African Cultural Studies*.

INTERNAL SERVICE

Yale University

Environmental Humanities Steering Committee. 2019-Present.
 Chair, English Department Race, Diaspora, and Indigeneity Search Committee. 2022-2023.
 English Department Aims and Procedures Committee. 2022-2023.
 Course Director, Readings in Comparative World English Literatures. 2021-2023.

Coordinator, Council on African Studies Lecture Series. 2021-2022.
English Department Graduate Studies Committee. 2019-2022.
English Department Doctoral Reform Committee. 2021-2022.
English Department Honors and Prizes Committee. 2021-2022.
English Department Diversity Committee. 2019-2020.

University of Alabama (UA)

Founding Director, UA in South Africa Study Abroad Program. 2016-2019.
Faculty in Residence. 2015-2019.
Member, Graduate Studies Committee. 2018-2019.
Graduate Student Mentor, Graduate School Tide Together Mentoring Program. 2015-2019.
Member, Literature Faculty Committee. 2015-2019.
Faculty Panelist, Camp 1831 for Freshmen. 2016.
Graduate Applications Reviewer, Department of English. 2016-2019.
Facilitator, Housing and Residential Communities Capstone Academy. 2016.

Michigan State University

Graduate Assistant, Digital Media, New Cinema, and the Global South Symposium. Michigan State University, and University of Michigan. 2014.
Vice-President, Association of English Graduate Students, Michigan State University. 2013-2014.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

African Studies Association (ASA)
African Literature Association (ALA)
Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE)
American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)
Modern Language Association (MLA)

LANGUAGE COMPETENCIES

English: Fluent
Igbo: Native Speaker Fluency
Yoruba: Native Speaker Fluency
Hausa: Basic Competence