

CAJETAN NWABUEZE IHEKA

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EDUCATION

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

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

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

Valedictorian

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

African Literature, Literatures of the Black Diaspora, World Literature, Postcolonial Theory, Ecocriticism, Postcolonial Ecocriticism, African Cinema, Nollywood, African Studies, Environmental Studies, Media Studies.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Yale University

Associate Professor (on term), Department of English

July 2019-

University of Alabama

Assistant Professor, Department of English

August 2015-June 2019.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Naturalizing Africa: Ecological Violence, Agency, and Postcolonial Resistance in African Literature.
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018.

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

*Review forum comprising 4 reviews and author response in *Journal of the African Literature Association*.

*Review essay forum including 5 essays and author response in *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry*.

*Subject of special roundtable at the African Literature Association Conference in May 2018.

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

Current Book Projects

Ecomedia in Africa: Imperfect Media, Network Form, Planetary Politics (monograph under contract with Duke University Press).

Teaching Postcolonial Environmental Literature and Media (edited collection under contract in the MLA Options for Teaching series).

Journal Articles

“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 Best Article Award for the most outstanding article in African literary studies.

“Nollywood and the Nigerian Dream: The Example of Tecu Benson’s *Formidable Force*.” *The Global South* 7.1 (2013): 122-136.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

“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. (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. (co-authored with Jack Taylor).

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

- African Literature, Ecological Interconnections, Theoretical Entanglements: Author's Response to Forum on *Naturalizing Africa*. *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* (2019)
- 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: Forum 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**

- Winner, 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 Best Article Award. 2016.

Internal

- President Research Award, University of Alabama. 2019
- The College Academy of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (CARSCA) Award. 2017.
- University of Alabama Research Grants Committee Award. 2016.
- Michigan State University Dissertation Completion Fellowship. 2015.
- Nelson Mandela Museum South Africa Graduate Fellowship. 2013.

MSU COGS Leadership Fellowship. 2013.

Graduate School Merit Fellowship. 2013.

Central Michigan University (CMU) SUSO Writing Prize. 2011.

Imo State University Overall Best Graduating Student Prize. 2007.

College of Education Best Student Prize, Imo State University, Owerri, Nigeria. 2007.

INVITED TALKS

“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.” 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.” 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

Organizer and Respondent, Roundtable on Postcolonial Studies, the Environmental Humanities, and the Limits of the Human. 2020 Modern Language Association Annual Conference. Seattle, Washington. 9-12 January 2020.

“Ecomedia in Africa, Fire, Network Form.” Biennial Conference of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment. University of California, Davis. California. 26-30 June 2019.

Panelist, Book Panel on Chielozona Eze’s *Race, Decolonization, and Global Citizenship in South Africa*. 2018 African Studies Association Conference. Atlanta, Georgia. 29 November-1 December 2018.

“African Literature, Audience, and the Search for the (Non)Human.” 2018 African Studies Association, UK Conference. University of Birmingham, Birmingham, England. 11-13 September 2018.

Respondent, Book Panel on Cajetan Iheka’s *Naturalizing Africa*. 2018 African Literature Association Conference. Washington DC. 23-26 May 2018.

“Teaching African Literature of the Environment.” 2018 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.” 60th Annual Conference of the African Studies Association. Chicago, Illinois. 16-19 November 2017.
- “Ecomedia in Africa.” 2017 Modern Language Association Annual Conference. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 5-8 January 2017.
- “Africa’s Ecomedia, the Past, and the Imagined Future.” 59th Annual Conference of the African Studies Association. Washington DC. 1-4 December 2016.
- “Aesthetics of Proximity, Multispecies Relations, and Ecological Justice.” 42nd Annual Conference of the African Literature Association Conference. Atlanta, Georgia. 6-9 April 2016.
- Organizer and Participant, Book Panel on Caminero-Santangelo’s *Different Shades of Green: African Literature, Environmental Justice, and Political Ecology*. 42nd Annual Conference of the African Literature Association Conference. Atlanta, Georgia. 6-9 April 2016.
- “Fanon’s *The Wretched of the Earth* and Postcolonial Ecocriticism.” 58th Annual Conference of the African Studies Association. San Diego, California. 19-22 November 2015.
- “Ecologies of War, Farah’s Somalia, and Material Ecocriticism.” 11th Biennial Conference of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment. University of Idaho. Idaho. 23-27 June 2015.
- “Rethinking Postcolonial Resistance in Niger-Delta Literature.” 41st Annual Conference of the African Literature Association. Bayreuth University, 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.” 56th Annual Conference of the African Studies Association. Baltimore, Maryland. 21-24 November 2013.
- “Achebe’s *There was a Country: Matters Arising*.” Roundtable Sponsored by the Igbo Studies Association. 56th Annual Conference of the African Studies Association. Baltimore, Maryland. 21-24 November 2013.
- “Colonial Traumatized Victims as Contemporary Tyrants.” 55th Annual Conference of the African Studies Association. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 29 November-1 December 2012.
- “The European Ancestors of Ghadafi, Gbagbo, et al.” 38th International Conference of the African Literature Association. 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.” 37th Annual Conference of the African Literature Association. 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 *Activists* and Isidore Okpewho’s *Tides*.” 36th Annual Conference of the African Literature Association. 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 EXPERIENCE

Yale University

ENGL 295: Junior Seminar in Postcolonial Ecologies

ENGL 128: Readings in Comparative World English Literatures

ENGL 028: First Year Seminar in African Literature

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

THESES AND DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

Barry Cole (2017-2019) PhD Dissertation

Luke Percy (2017-2018) MA Thesis

Steven Ikeme (2017-2018) MA Thesis

External Service

Member, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Executive Council, 2018-Present.
 Member, MLA Africa Since 1990 Forum Executive Committee. 2017-2022.
 Associate Editor, *African Studies Review*. July 2017-Present.
 Film Review Editor, *African Studies Review*. August 2015-June 2017.
 Manuscript Reviewer, *OFO: Journal of Transatlantic Studies*; *Research in African Literatures*,
Environment, Space, Place, Palgrave Macmillan, *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature
 and Environment*, *Tydskrif vir Letterkunde*, University of Virginia Press, Routledge.

Internal Service**Yale University**

Member, Environmental Humanities Steering Committee. 2019-
 Member, English Department Graduate Studies Committee. 2019-2020
 Member, English Department Diversity Committee. 2019-2020

University of Alabama

Member, Graduate Studies Committee. University of Alabama. 2018-2019.
 Director, UA in South Africa Study Abroad Program. 2016-Present.
 Graduate Student Mentor, Graduate School Tide Together Mentoring Program. August 2015-Present.
 Member, Literature Faculty Committee. University of Alabama. August 2015-Present.
 Faculty Panelist, Camp 1831 for Freshmen. University of Alabama. 4 August 2016.
 Graduate Applications Reviewer, Department of English. University of Alabama. March 2016.
 Facilitator, Housing and Residential Communities Capstone Academy. University of Alabama. 23 Jan.
 2016.
 Faculty in Residence, University of Alabama. August 2015-Present.

Michigan State University

Organizer, "Digital Media, New Cinema, and the Global South." Michigan
 State University, and University of Michigan Ann-Arbor. 3-5 April 2014.
 Vice-President, Association of English Graduate Students, Michigan State University,
 2013-2014.
 Chair, Graduate Caucus of the African Literature Association (ALA). 2011-2012.
 Vice-Chair, Graduate Caucus of the ALA. 2010-2011.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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

Igbo Studies Association (ISA)
Modern Language Association (MLA)

LANGUAGE COMPETENCIES

English: Fluent

Igbo: Native Speaker Fluency

Yoruba: Native Speaker Fluency

Hausa: Basic Competence

REFERENCES (Available upon request)