

Concise CV

Stephanie Newell

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I. Research Profile

My research focuses on the cultural histories of printing and reading in West Africa, with special attention to African-owned newspapers in the colonial period and local print cultures in the twentieth century. My current book project, “Mapping Literary Lagos”, in collaboration with Prof. Patrick Oloko (University of Lagos), focuses on creative writing in and about the different parts of metropolitan Lagos.

(i) Monographs

1. 2000. *Ghanaian Popular Fiction: Thrilling Discoveries in Conjugal Life*, Oxford and Athens: James Currey and Ohio University Press.
2. 2002. *Literary Culture in Colonial Ghana*, Manchester and Bloomington: Manchester University Press and Indiana University Press.
3. 2006. *West African Literatures: Ways of Reading*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
4. 2006. *The Forger's Tale: The Search for Odeziaku*, Athens: Ohio University Press.
5. 2013. *The Power to Name: A History of Anonymity in Colonial West Africa*. Athens: Ohio University Press. Finalist, African Studies Association Best Book Prize 2014.
6. 2020. *Histories of Dirt: Media and Urban Life in Colonial and Postcolonial Lagos*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
7. 2023. *Newsprint Literature & Local Literary Creativity in West Africa, 1900s–1960s*. Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer.

(ii) Journal Articles

1. 1992. “The Other God: Salman Rushdie’s ‘New’ Aesthetic.” *Literature and History*. 1 (2): 67–87.
2. 1995. “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* 30 (2): 65–83.
3. 1996. “From the Brink of Oblivion: The Anxious Masculinism in Nigerian Market Literatures.” *Research in African Literatures* 27 (3): 50–67.
4. 1996. “Representations of Women in Popular Fiction by Nigerian Men.” *The Journal of African Languages and Cultures* 9 (2): 169–188.

5. 1997. "Re-placing the Postcolonial Nation: Narration, Nationalism and Satire in Gabriel Garcia Marquez's *The Autumn of the Patriarch*." *Links and Letters* 4: 39–51.
6. 1997. "Making up their own Minds: Readers, Interpretation and the Difference of View in Ghanaian Popular Narratives." *Africa* 67 (3): 389–405.
7. 1997. "Petrified Masculinities: Contemporary Nigerian Popular Literatures by Men." *The Journal of Popular Culture* 30 (4): 161–182.
8. 1998. "Those Mean and Empty-Headed Men: The Shifting Representations of Wealth in Two Ghanaian Popular Novels." *ARIEL* 29 (4): 141–166.
9. 1999. "Du marché de la littérature à la 'littérature de marché.'" *Vivant Univers* 442 : 22–26.
10. 2000. "Redefining Mimicry: Quoting Techniques and the Role of Readers in Locally Published Ghanaian Fiction." *Research in African Literatures* 31 (1): 32–49.
11. 2000. "Popular Publishing in Nigeria and Ghana: Production Processes and Marketing Techniques in the Non-Textbook Sector." *The Book Collector* 48: 61–87.
12. 2001. "Literary Activism in Colonial Ghana: A Newspaper-Novel by 'A Native.'" *Current Writing* 13 (2): 20–30.
13. 2002. "Paracolonial Networks: Some Speculations on Local Readerships in Colonial West Africa." *Interventions* 3 (3): 336–354.
14. 2004. "Fragments of Oscar Wilde in Colonial Nigeria." *English Literatures in Transition* 47 (1): 3–27.
15. 2004. "J. M. Stuart-Young: The Englishman who Married a Nigerian Mermaid." *Africa* 73 (4): 506–530.
[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, pp. 13–34. NY: Nova Science Publishers, Human Sexuality Series, 2010]
16. 2005. "Devotion and Domesticity: The Reconfiguration of Gender in Popular Christian Pamphlets from Ghana and Nigeria." *Journal of Religion in Africa* 35: 296–323.
17. 2008. "Corresponding with the City: Self-Help Literature in Urban West Africa." *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* 44 (1): 15–27.
[Republished in *African City Textualities*, ed. Ranka Primorac, pp. 15–27. London and New York: Routledge, 2009]
18. 2008. "Dirty Whites: "Ruffian-Writing" in Colonial West Africa." *Research in African Literatures* 39 (4): 1–15.
19. 2008. "An Introduction to the Writings of J. G. Mullen, an African Clerk, in the *Gold Coast Leader*, 1916–1919." *Africa* 78 (3): 384–400.
20. 2009. "Newspapers, New Spaces, New Writers: The First World War and Print Culture in Colonial Ghana." *Research in African Literatures* 40 (2): 1–15.
21. 2009. "Introduction: Postcolonial Masculinities and the Politics of Visibility." *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, Special Issue: Postcolonial Masculinities, Guest Editor Stephanie Newell. 45 (3): 243–250.
22. 2010. "Something to Hide? Anonymity and Pseudonyms in the Colonial West African Press." *Journal of Commonwealth Literature* 45 (1): 9–22.
23. 2011. "Local Cosmopolitans in Colonial West Africa." *Journal of Commonwealth Literature* 46 (1): 103–117.
24. 2011. "Articulating Empire: Newspaper Readerships in Colonial West Africa." *New Formations* 73: 26–42.

25. 2016. "Paradoxes of Press Freedom in Colonial West Africa." *Journal of Media History* 22 (1): 101–112.
26. 2016. "Life Writing in the Colonial Archives: The Case of Nnamdi Azikiwe (1904-96) of Colonial Nigeria." *Life Writing* 33 (3): 307–321.
27. 2017. "The Last Laugh: African Audience Responses to Colonial Health Propaganda Films." *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry* 4 (3): 347–361.
28. 2018. "Screening Dirt: Colonial Film Audiences and the Problem of Spectatorship." *Social Dynamics* 44 (1): 6–20.
29. 2020. "Graphic Fictions: Reader Research and the Making of a Comic Strip in 1950s 'British West Africa'." *Research in African Literatures*, 51 (1): 1–20.
30. 2020. "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.
31. 2021. "The Work of Repetition in 1960s Nigerian Epistolary Pamphlets." *Journal of African Cultural Studies*, 33 (3): 251–271.

(iii) Book Chapters & Encyclopaedia Entries

1. 2000. "Acada Girls in Yorùbá Marriages: Funmilayo Fakanle's Domestic Scenes." In *Kiss and Quarrel: Yorùbá/English, Strategies of Mediation*, ed. Stewart Brown, pp. 123–140. African Studies Series No. 5, Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham.
2. 2003. "Popular Literature." In *Routledge Encyclopedia of African Literature*, ed. Simon Gikandi, pp. 440–443. London and NY: Routledge.
3. 2006. "Entering the Territory of Elites: Literary Activity in Colonial Ghana." In *Africa's Hidden Histories: Person, Text and the Colonial State*, ed. Karin Barber, pp. 211–235. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
4. 2008. "The Past in the Present: Adimora-Ezeigbo's Woman-Centred Frameworks." In *The Fiction of Akachi Adimora-Ezeigbo*, Patrick Oluke (ed.), pp. 88–102. Lagos: University of Lagos Press.
5. 2011. "Writing Out Imperialism?: A Note on Nationalism and Political Identity in the African-Owned Newspapers of Colonial Ghana." In *Exits: Essays in Honour of Raoul Granqvist*, ed. Stefan Helgesson, pp. 81–94. Amsterdam: Rodopi.
6. 2012. "West African Literature." In *The Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century Fiction*, ed. Brian Shaffer. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.
7. 2012. "African Popular Literature and the Postcolonial Literary Imagination." In *The History of Postcolonial Literature*, ed. Ato Quayson pp. 106–23. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
8. 2013. "Remembering J. M. Stuart-Young of Onitsha, Colonial Nigeria." In *Onitsha at the Millenium*, ed. Uwecha Nzegwu, pp. 221–233. New York: Africa Resource Press.
9. 2013. "African Literary Histories and History in African Literatures." *Oxford Companion to Modern African History*, eds. Richard Reid and John Parker, pp. 475–491. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
10. 2015. Karin Barber & Stephanie Newell, "Speaking Out: Dissent and Creativity in the Colonial Era and Beyond." In *West Africa: Word, Symbol, Song*, eds. Gus Casely-Hayford, Janet Topp-Fargion and Marion Wallace, pp. 100–131. London: The British Library.

11. 2015. "Dirty Familiars: Colonial Encounters in African Cities." In *Global Garbage: Urban Imaginaries of Excess, Waste and Abandonment in the Contemporary City*, eds. Christoph Lindner and Miriam Meissner, pp. 44–64. New York and London: Routledge.
12. 2016. "From Corpse to Corpus: The Printing of Death in Colonial West Africa." In *African Print Cultures*, eds. Derek Peterson et al., pp. 389–424. Ann Arbor: Michigan University Press.
13. 2016. "Afterword." In *African Print Cultures*, eds. Derek Peterson et al., pp. 425–433. Ann Arbor: Michigan University Press.
14. 2016. "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, pp. 193–211. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
15. 2018. Stephanie Newell *et al.* "Dirty Methods as Ethical Methods? In the Field with 'The Cultural Politics of Dirt in Africa, 1880–present.'" In *The Routledge International Handbook of Interdisciplinary Research Methods*, eds. Celia Lury et al., pp. 248–265. London and NY: Routledge.
16. 2018. "Narrative." In *Critical Terms for the Study of Africa*, eds. Guarav Desai and Adeline Masquelier, pp. 245–259. Chicago: Chicago University Press.
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. 2023. "Afterword: The Temporalities of Postcolonial Print." In *A Handbook of Postcolonial Print Cultures*, eds. Toral Jatin Gajjarawala et al., pp. 465–72. London and New York: Bloomsbury.
20. 2024. *Under contract*. "'Usefully Unofficial' Literature: Onitsha Market Literature and Anglophone Print Cultures in Colonial West Africa." In *Print Cultures and African Literature, 1860–1960*, eds S. Newell and Karin Barber. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press.
21. 2025. *Under contract*. "Absence and Influence: Chinua Achebe and Onitsha Market Literature, 1950s–1960s." In *Achebe in Context*, ed. Terri Ochiagha. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press.

iv) Editorial Projects & Editions

1. 1995. Editor, "Introduction," *Images of African Women*, pp. 1–7. Centre of Commonwealth Studies, University of Stirling Occasional Papers No. 3.
2. 1996. Editor, "Introduction," *Images of African and Caribbean Women*, pp. i–v. Centre of Commonwealth Studies, University of Stirling Occasional Papers No. 4.
3. 1997. 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*, pp. 1–8; 170–190. London: Zed Books. (Republished in paperback and as an e-book in "Key Backlist Series," London: Zed Books, 2017.)
4. 2001. Editor, "Introduction," *Readings in African Popular Fiction*, pp. 1–10. Oxford, London and Indiana: James Currey, International African Institute and Indiana University Press.

5. 2002 (2nd edition 2008). Editor, "Introduction," *Marita, or the Folly of Love: A Novel by "A Native,"* pp. 1–37. African Sources of African History Series, Leiden, Boston and Köln: Brill.
6. 2004. S. Newell and Audrey Gadzekpo, Editors and "Introduction," *Mabel Dove-Danquah: Selected Writings of a Pioneer West African Feminist*, pp. xii-xxvii. Nottingham: Trent Editions. Link to free e-book: <https://onlinestore.ntu.ac.uk/product-catalogue/arts-humanities/trent-editions/trent-editions-ebooks/selected-writings-of-a-pioneer-west-african-feminist-2004-by-mabel-dove-ebook>
7. 2008. "An Extract from 'My Experience in Cameroons During the War' by J. G. Mullen," *Africa* 78 (3): 401–409; and *My Experience in Cameroons During the War* [full text] by J. G. Mullen, annotated by Stephanie Newell, *Africa Online* (www.eupjournals.com).
8. 2014. S. Newell and Onookome Okome, Editors and "Introduction," *Popular Culture in Africa: The Episteme of the Everyday*, pp. 1–23. New York: Routledge.
9. 2016. Derek Peterson, Emma Hunter, and Stephanie Newell (Eds), *African Print Cultures: Newspapers and Their Publics in the Twentieth Century*, Ann Arbor: Michigan University Press.
10. 2017. Guest editor and "Introduction: Ken Saro-Wiwa as Public Intellectual," *Research in African Literatures*. Special Issue: Ken Saro-Wiwa as Public Intellectual 48 (4): vii–xvi.
11. 2018. S. Newell and Louise Green, guest editors, "Introduction: Putting Dirt in its Place: The Cultural Politics of Dirt in Africa," and "Dirt Redeployed: The Cultural politics of Dirt, continued," *Social Dynamics*. Double Special Issue: The Cultural Politics of Dirt in Africa 44 (1 & 2): 1–5 & 1–4.
12. 2020: Cajetan Iheka with S. Newell, guest editors, "Introduction," *African Literature Today*. Special Issue: Environmental Transformations 38: 1–10.
13. 2024. *Under contract*. S. Newell and Karin Barber, editors, "Introduction," *Print Cultures and African Literature, 1860–1960*. African Literature in Transition Series (Series Editors: Ato Quayson, Stephanie Newell, Neil ten Kortenaar). Cambridge & New York: Cambridge University Press.

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. 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).

IV. Selection of Teaching at Yale

- South African Writing After Apartheid (Yale First-Year 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).