



African Cosmologies across the Atlantic: *Literary, Linguistic, Artistic and Cultural Representations*

AISCLI Two-Day Seminar

University "G. d'Annunzio" of Chieti-Pescara, Italy

Room 31 – University Campus of Pescara

10-11 November 2025

FREQUENZA: È aperta a studenti di tutti i CdS afferenti al Dipartimento di Lingue, Letterature e Culture moderne

Per l'acquisizione dei CFU la frequenza è obbligatoria e verrà rilevata tramite firma di presenza

ACQUISIZIONE CFU: La partecipazione darà la possibilità di acquisire 0,5 CFU (AAF "Stages, corsi e tirocini") per ogni giornata (1 CFU totale)



Associazione
Italiana di Studi
sulle Culture e
Letterature di
Lingua Inglese



Con il patrocinio di:

ASAI

Programme

Monday, 10th November

9:00 – 9:15

Registration

9:15 – 9:30

Opening remarks

Ugo Perolino · *Director of the Department of Languages, Literature and Modern Cultures*

Mariaconcetta Costantini · *Full Professor of English Literature and President of the AISCLI Association*

9:30 – 10:30

Keynote Speaker

Zainabu Jallo

Collegium Helveticum ETH Zurich / University of Basel, Switzerland

“Corporeal Semiology: Somatic Literacy and Transmission”

Chair: Mariaconcetta Costantini

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30

Panel 1: Linguistic and Epistemological (Re)Locations

Chair: Mara Mattosio

Laura Centonze · *Universitas Mercatorum, Rome, Italy*

“Decolonising Language through Spirit: Linguistic Traces of African Cosmologies in Afro-Diasporic Narratives”

Angelo Monaco · *“Aldo Moro” University of Bari, Italy*

“Akan Cosmology and Elemental Saturation in *Homegoing* (2016) by Yaa Gyasi”

Elena Barreca · *Independent scholar*

“The Topos of Babylon in Rastafari-Reggae: A Lyrical Analysis”

12:30 – 13:30

Lunch break

13:30 – 15:15

Panel 2: Spirituality and Multiple Selves in West African Diasporic Fiction

Chair: Aminat Emma Badmus

Isabel Jacobs · *Ludwig-Maximilians University Munich, Germany*

“Spirit Does Not Heal the Way Flesh Does: Regeneration and Ontological Multiplicity in Akwaeke Emezi’s *Dear Senthuran. A Black Spirit Memoir*”

Sandra Nwagboso · *University of Oye-Ekiti, Nigeria*

“The Way Up is the Way Down: An Analysis of Akwaeke Emezi’s *Freshwater*”

Osbert Uyovwiewoywe Isiorhovoja · *University of Delta Agbor, Nigeria*; **Chukwuemeke Buzome** · *Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria*; **Ikanonee Endurance** · *Delta State Ministry of Information, Nigeria*

“Decolonizing the Tongue: Linguistic Disobedience and the Reclaiming of Indigenous Language Systems in African and Diasporic Literatures”

Oluwale Coker · *Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria*

“Nigerian-British Fiction and the Question of Nigeria Diaspora Science Fiction”

15:15 – 16:45

Panel 3: Artistic Representations of Afro-Caribbean Cosmologies

Chair: Lisbety Mirabal Díaz

Anita Trivelli · *University “G. d’Annunzio” of Chieti-Pescara, Italy*

“Maya Deren’s Representations of Alternative Knowledge Systems: The Haitian Footage and the Book *Divine Horsemen. The Living Gods of Haiti*”

Isachi Durruthy Peñalver · *Independent scholar*

“Editing Nkame Mafimba: the New Catalogue Raisonné of Belkis Ayón”

Francesca D’Andrea · *University of Genoa, Italy*

“Africa–Cuba–Italy: Visual Art and the Diasporic Process of the Afro-Cuban Imaginary”

16:45 – 17:15

Coffee break

17:15 – 19:00

Panel 4: (De)colonial Imaginations: Beyond Western Interpretative Frames

Chair: Maria Paola Guarducci

Costanza Mondo · *University of Turin, Italy*

“Resistance to the Colonial ‘Medievalisation’ of East African Worldviews: Cartographies of Storytelling in Abdulazak Gurnah’s *By the Sea* (2001) and *Theft* (2025)”

Mariaconcetta Costantini · *University “G. d’Annunzio” of Chieti-Pescara, Italy*

“South African Cosmologies Under Western Eyes: A Reading of Rider Haggard’s *Black Heart and White Heart*”

Ramatu Musa · *University of Lausanne, Switzerland*

“A Writer’s Self-Excavation: The Role of Africana Cosmologies in *Portrait of Lysbeth*”

Bouteldja Riche and Sabrina Zerar · *University of Mouloud Mammeri, Tizi-Ouzou, Algeria*

“Modern West African Literature as a Mode of Knowledge: The Tragic Figure of the Child-born-to die in the African Cosmology”

20:00

Conference dinner

Tuesday, 11th November

9:30 – 11:00

Panel 5: The Yoruba Cosmovision: Beliefs, Values and Culture

Chair: Lisbety Mirabal Díaz

Temitope Adefarakan · *University of Toronto, Canada*

“Yoruba Worldsense: Decolonizing Biblical Hegemony & Cosmological Imperialism in the (Re)Constitution of a Yoruba Deity as ‘The Devil’”

Emmanuel Adeniyi · *University of Oye-Ekiti, Nigeria*

“Ìyàwó-Bride or Iyawo-Initiate? Examining African Ritual Metaphors and Mutation of Continental Yorùbá Cultural Practices in Santeria”

Abayomi Awelewa · *University of Lagos, Nigeria*

“Literary Reinscriptions of Àjẹ Spirituality in Contemporary Nigerian Fiction”

11:00 – 11:15

Coffee break

11:15 – 13:00

Panel 6: Mapping Caribbean Spiritualities: Queerness, Poetry, and Diaspora

Chair: Alessandra Di Pietro

Emilio Amideo · *Parthenope University of Naples, Italy*

“Queering the Epic: African Cosmologies and Fluid Identity in Marlon James’s *Black Leopard, Red Wolf*”

Jessica Nogueira Varela · *Central European University, Austria*

“‘You Who Hear Tell the Others’: Caribbean Spaces in the poetry of Una Marson, Claudia Jones and Audre Lorde (1932-1992)”

Emanuela Maltese · *Independent scholar*

“Lòt bò dlo: Vodou Resistance and Rasanblaj in the United States”

Khedidjia Chergui · *École Normale Supérieure de Bouzaréah, Algeria*

“Contesting Epistemicide in the Postcolonial Afro-Caribbean: The Role of African Cosmologies”

13:00

Closing remarks

Scientific Committee

Carmen Concilio · *University of Turin, Italy*
Mariaconcetta Costantini · *University “G. d’Annunzio” of Chieti-Pescara, Italy*
Pietro Deandrea · *University of Turin, Italy*
Alessandra Di Maio · *University of Palermo, Italy*
Maria Paola Guarducci · *Roma Tre University, Italy*
Mara Mattoscio · *“Guglielmo Marconi” University, Italy*
Valerio Pisaniello · *University “G. d’Annunzio” of Chieti-Pescara, Italy*
Nicoletta Vallorani · *University of Milan, Italy*

Convenors

Aminat Emma Badmus · *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy*
Alessandra Di Pietro · *University “G. d’Annunzio” of Chieti-Pescara, Italy*
Lisbety Mirabal Díaz · *University “G. d’Annunzio” of Chieti-Pescara, Italy*