



Royal African Society

AFRICA  
WRITES

The Royal African Society's  
annual literature  
and book festival **2016**

FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> – SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2016  
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## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Fresh Perspectives on African Literature

Africa Writes Festival, 14:00-15:30, Friday 1 July, British Library, London

[Africa Writes](#) invites abstract submissions from PhD students, early career scholars and independent researchers that open up ideas of, and approaches to, 'African literatures'.

**Africa Writes** is an annual festival organised by the Royal African Society, which aims to promote contemporary African writing and writers as well as to explore Africa's long literary past and its future.

Academic discourse on African literatures is characterised by a continuous process of debate, reassessment of theories and redefinition of terms. The very concept of 'African literature' is a problematic one because it conveys a certain homogeneity, ignoring the wide diversity of written and oral literature stemming from the continent and the diaspora. By bringing together a range of exciting new scholarship, this session hosted at the British Library aims to open up the ideas of and approaches to 'African literature' represented at the festival.

The call is open, but we are particularly keen to receive submissions relating to these broad areas:

- 50 years since the publication of texts such as Flora Nwapa's *Efuru* and Grace Ogot's *The Promised Land* and Okot p'Bitek's *Song of Lawino*
- The presence and contribution of African women in literature and literary practice (including publishing) over the last 100 years
- 'Disruptive writing' looking at texts or practices that trouble binaries of gender and sexuality
- Themes of border crossing, migration, displacement and identity
- Literature across genres, media and forms: romance, crime, newspapers, popular culture, blogging, young adult, speculative and sci-fi
- Contemporary oralities: spoken word, Youtube poetry and neo-traditional genres

Chaired by Rebecca Jones (*University of Birmingham*), the panel will feature 4 short presentations (no longer than 10 minutes) that reflect new research across these diverse fields of study. We are particularly keen to showcase work that explores African literature with a long historical view and in African languages, as well as present-day African narratives and contributions that reflect on the changing landscape of the publishing industry.

Please email an abstract of no more than 200 words, your name and affiliation to the panel coordinator Caitlin Pearson (Royal African Society)

[ras\\_events@soas.ac.uk](mailto:ras_events@soas.ac.uk)

**Deadline: Monday 16 May 2016**