

Bojana Coulibaly, Ph.D.

Department of African and African American Studies
Harvard University
Barker Center, 12 Quincy Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

bojana_coulibaly@fas.harvard.edu
T (617) 495-4113 C (857) 707-5423
<https://scholar.harvard.edu/bojanacoulibaly>

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

African Literary and Cultural Studies; African Languages and Literatures; Critical Theory; Comparative Studies; Postcolonial Studies, Film and Media Studies; Gender Studies; African Oral Tradition; African Precolonial Cultural History; Trauma Literature and Theory; Genre Theory

EDUCATION

- 2015** **Ph.D. in English and Cultural Studies**, François Rabelais University
- 2008** **M.A. in English and Intercultural Studies**, University of Orleans/ University of Rhode Island
- 2007** **B.A. in English**, University of Orleans

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2019 -** **College Fellow in African Literary and Cultural Studies**, Department of African and African American Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Project: *A History of Wolof Literature and Film* (Book manuscript in preparation)
- 2017-2019** **Fulbright Teaching and Research Fellow in Comparative Literature**, English Department, Gaston Berger University, Saint Louis, Senegal
Project 1: Dissidence in Senegalese Contemporary Literature and Popular Culture
Project 2: Wolof Literature and Cultural Liberation
- 2009-2014** **Ph.D. Candidate in African Literary and Cultural Studies**, English Department, François Rabelais University, Tours, France
Dissertation: “Performance of Everyday Life in West African Postcolonial Short Fiction”
Adviser: Philip Whyte

PUBLICATIONS

Books

L'invention du quotidien dans les récits brefs ouest-africains d'expression anglaise. Paris: L'Harmattan, 2017

Book chapters

"(Re)defining the Self Through Trauma in African Postcolonial Short Fiction" in *The Critical Imagination in African Literature*, Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2015 (pp. 94-109)

"Reclamation of the Arena: Traditional Wrestling in West Africa" in *Writing Through the Visual and Virtual: Inscribing Language, Literature, and Culture in Francophone Africa and the Caribbean*, Ed. Ousseina Alidou and Renée Larrier. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2015 (pp. 149-160)

Refereed Journal Articles

"Senegalese Theater Unabashed: Wolof Drama and Cultural Liberation" in *Alif: Journal of Comparative Poetics* 39: 2019 (pp. 123-148)

"Haunting of the Return in Boubacar Boris Diop's *Thiaroye terre rouge* and *Murambi*" in *La Revue La Revue du Groupe d'Etudes Linguistiques et Littéraires*, Saint Louis: Gaston Berger University Press, 2014 (pp. 27-47)

Manuscripts in Preparation

A History of Wolof Literature and Film, book manuscript in progress

Performance of Everyday Life in West African Postcolonial Short Fiction, dissertation revised and translated from French, ready for review

"'Vendredi Slam': The Voice of Resistance in Urban Senegal," article ready for review

Our Africa, translation from Wolof of *Bokk Afrig*, a play by Cheik Aliou Ndao

"Cinema in Contemporary Africa and the African Diaspora: A Transnational Cultural Movement," article in preparation

"African Literature and the Rise of Censorship," article in preparation

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of African and African American Studies, Harvard University

College Fellow in African Literary and Cultural Studies

"Writing Africa Today"

Fall 2020

"African Voices for Freedom, Citizenship and Social Justice"

Fall 2020

"African Literature and the Poetics of Memory"

Spring 2021

Department of African and African American Studies, Harvard University

College Fellow in African Literary and Cultural Studies

"African Literature and the Poetics of Memory"

Spring 2020

"Literature, Society, and Politics in Africa"

Fall 2019

"Introduction to African Literature and Film"

Fall 2019

Department of English, Gaston Berger University

Fulbright Teaching and Research Fellow in Comparative Literature

"Advanced Seminar in Literary Theory"

Fall 2018

- “The Art of the Ordinary: 20th and 21st Centuries African Short Fiction” Fall 2017/Spring 2018
“Theories of Trauma and African Contemporary Trauma Narratives” Fall 2017/Spring 2018

Department of French, International School of Dakar

Teacher in French Language and French and Francophone Literature of Africa and the Caribbean, International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

- “French and Francophone Literature” 2015-2017
“French Language” 2015/2016

Department of African, Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Literatures, cross-listed with the Department of Comparative Literature, Rutgers University

Lecturer in African Literature

- “African Short Fiction” Spring 2013
“Political Thought in African Literature” Fall 2012
“Introduction to African Literature and Film” Fall 2012

Guest lecturer

- “Islam in African Literature” Fall 2013

Department of English, University of Orleans

Lecturer in American and African American Literature and American History

- “19th and 20th Centuries American and African American Literature” Spring 2010
“American Political Institutions” Fall 2009/Spring 2010
“American History Since Reconstruction to World War II” Fall 2009/Spring 2010

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- Postdoctoral Award for Professional Development, Harvard University, Cambridge MA, 2020
 College Fellowship, Harvard University, Cambridge MA, 2019-2021
 Fulbright US Scholar Teaching and Research Fellowship, Senegal, 2017-2019
 PIER Summer Institute Grant, Yale University, New Haven CT, June 2017
 Dissertation Research Fellowship, University of Orleans-Tours, France, 2008-2011
 Graduate Research Fellowship, University of Rhode Island, Kingston RI, 2007-2008

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- “African Literature and the Rise of Soft-Power Censorship,” Presentation at *Off The Ladder*, The Mahindra Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, May 2019
 “Writing for Posterity: The Role of Boubacar Boris Diop in the Framing of a Senegalese National Literature,” Interview and Discussion with the author, International School of Dakar, Senegal, January 2019
 “Reaching Across Borders: Transcending Hyphenated Identities in Safia Elhillo’s *The January Children*,” paper presentation, Department of English and Comparative Literature, The American University of Cairo, Egypt, February 2018

- “Society in Mutation: Radicalism in Senegalese Literature,” paper presentation, Department of English, Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal, December 2017
- “Le syncrétisme religieux et l’expression culturelle de la tolérance dans les communautés musulmanes, chrétiennes et religieuses autochtones de Mar Lodi,” paper presentation, Cultural Center of Mar Lodi, Senegal, February 2016
- “In-Between Two Worlds: Experiences of Trauma in Chimamanda N. Adichie’s Short Fiction,” Department of African, Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Literatures, November 2010

Panels

- “Soft Power Censorship in African Literatures, Film, Visual Arts, and Public Cultures,” panel chair, African Studies Association 63rd Annual Meeting, Online
- “Contestation, Rule of Law, the State and Indigenous Tradition,” panel moderator, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs Colloquium, Research Cluster on Religion and Public Life in Africa and the African Diaspora, Harvard University, Cambridge MA, December 2019
- “Philosophy of Movement,” panel chair, Third Annual International Conference, African and Postcolonial Studies Laboratory, Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar, Senegal, August 2018
- “Afrophone Literatures: Reshaping African National Environment,” panel chair and discussant, African Literature Association Annual Meeting, Washington DC, May 2018
- “Oxymoriques” by Samira Fall, book presentation panel chair, La Place du Souvenir, Dakar, Senegal, October 2017
- “Retour sur la vie et la poésie de Léopold Sédar Senghor,” roundtable discussion chair, Joal Ngazobil Seminar, Joal, Senegal, February 2016
- “A la recherche des récits de nos aînés: Personnages en devenir dans *L’Appel des arènes* et *La grève Des battu* d’Aminata Sow Fall,” writer-meets-critic panel chair, International School of Dakar, Senegal, December 2015
- “Transmuting Culture, (Trans)forming Identities: Literary, Graphic and Kinetic Dynamics in West Africa,” panel chair, March 2013

Conference Talks

- “African Literature and the Rise of Censorship,” paper presentation, 63rd Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, November 2020, Online
- “Transgressing Politics of Mis(Relation): Safia Elhillo’s Aesthetics of Erasure,” paper presentation, Third Annual International Conference, African and Postcolonial Studies Laboratory, Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar, Senegal, August 2018
- “Society in Mutation: Dissidence and Radicalism in Contemporary Senegalese Literature,” paper Presentation, African Literature Association Annual Meeting, Washington DC, May 2018
- “Vendredi Slam’: The Art of the Spoken Word in Urban Senegal,” paper presentation, African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Chicago IL, November 2017
- “L’invention du quotidien dans la nouvelle ouest-africaine,” book launch presentation, L’Harmattan, Dakar, Senegal, May 2017
- “Risquer sa vie dans le ventre de l’Atlantique: la jeunesse sénégalaise à la recherche d’un nouvel espoir dans *Mbëkë mi* d’Abasse Ndione,” writer-meets-critic paper presentation, International School of Dakar, Dakar, Senegal, December 2016
- “La poétique du *no man’s land* dans *D’où tu vas* de Bérandère Brooks, paper presentation, Theater Performance Seminar, International School of Dakar, Dakar, Senegal, October 2016
- “Reclamation of the Arena: Traditional Wrestling in West Africa,” paper presentation, Writing Through the Visual/Virtual in Francophone Africa and the Caribbean Conference, Rutgers University, New Brunswick NJ, March 2013
- “Appel à l’oralité en tant que stratégie de rupture dans la nouvelle ouest-africaine d’expression anglaise,” paper presentation, Doctoral Students Seminar, University of Orléans, Orléans, France,

April 2011

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Modern Languages Department Chair, International School of Dakar, 2015-2016

Responsibilities included curriculum design and reform, budget planning, community service outreach, educational and cultural outreach, faculty coordination

LANGUAGES

English, French, Wolof, Spanish, Serbo-Croatian

REFERENCES

Françoise Lionnet

Professor

Departments of Romance Languages and Literatures, Comparative Literature, African and African American Studies, Women, Gender and Sexuality

Harvard University

Boylston Hall G31

Cambridge, MA 02138

Office: +1 617-384-8057

Email: flionnet@fas.harvard.edu

Jacob Olupona

Professor

Department of African and African American Studies

Harvard University

Barker Center

12 Quincy Street,

Cambridge, MA 02138

Office: +1 617-496-2871

Email: olupona@fas.harvard.edu

Alamin Mazrui

Professor

Department of African, Middle Eastern

and South Asian Languages and Literatures

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Lucy Stone Hall B Wing 301, 54 Kilmer Avenue

Piscataway, NJ 08854 USA

Office: +1 908-420-9090 (cell)

E-mail: amazrui@amesall.rutgers.edu

Ferial Ghazoul

Professor

Department of English and Comparative Literature

The American University in Cairo

AUC Avenue Road

Cairo Governorate
11835, Egypt
E-mail: fggazoul@aucegypt.edu

Khadidiatou Diallo
Associate Professor
Department of English
Université Gaston Berger
Saint Louis, Senegal
Office: +221774088782
E-mail: khadidiatou.diallo@ugb.edu.sn