



RIKSBANKENS
JUBILEUMSFOND

FRÄMJAR HUMANIORA
OCH SAMHÄLLSVETENSKAP

FORMS AND FORMATIONS OF AFRICAN LITERATURE



RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn

ALL WELCOME!



University of
Salford
MANCHESTER

March 22

Universitetshuset

Sal IV

**Biskopsgatan 3
753 10 Uppsala**



**Stockholm
University**



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Please contact

maria.zirra@english.su.se for details!



RIKSBANKENS
JUBILEUMSFOND

FRÄMJAR HUMANIORA
OCH SAMHÄLLSVETENSKAP

ALL WELCOME!

Please contact

maria.zirra@english.su.se for details!

March 22

Sal IV

Universitetshuset
Uppsala University

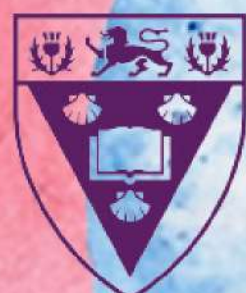
FORMS AND FORMATIONS OF AFRICAN LITERATURE



Stockholm
University



University of
Salford
MANCHESTER



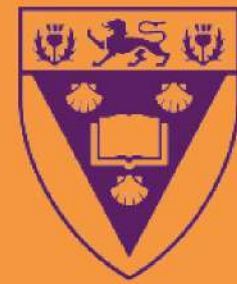
RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET



PUBLISHING POPULAR FICTION AND FORM: A DISCUSSION OF GORETTI KYOMUHENDO'S *WHISPERS FROM VERA*



RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn

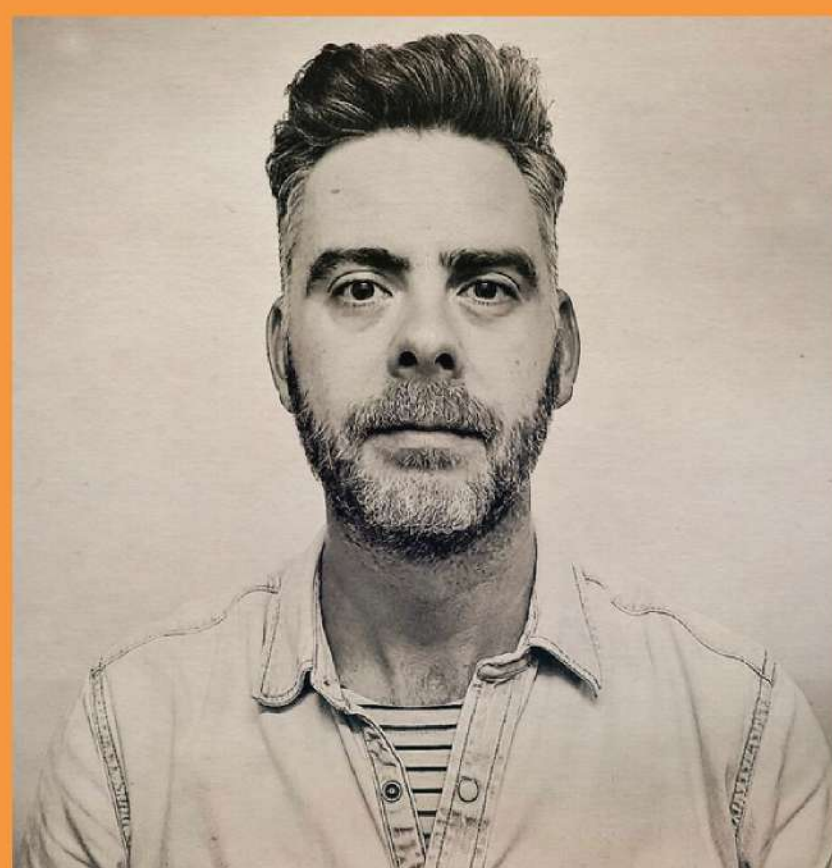
**LYNDA GICHANDA SPENCER
(RHODES UNIVERSITY)**

In 2002, one of Uganda's most prolific authors Goretti Kyomuhendo published a novella titled *Whispers from Vera*. On the 20th anniversary of the novella, she re-published the novella as a novel. In both narratives Kyomuhendo like Mariama Bâ in *So Long a Letter* offers us portrayals of different romantic relationships and marriage. Told from the perspective of the eponymous protagonist Vera, we are introduced to her circle of female friends and family who are involved different love relationships. They are either married, divorced, separated cohabiting, single but looking or single and not interested in love relationships or entanglements. Kyomuhendo's representation of love is a critique of heteronormative relationships in a patriarchal society that seeks to continually confine women to particular roles. In this talk I would like to begin by tracing the origins of the novel, and then examining the various love relationships by focussing on Vera's romantic relationships and marriage. I will argue that it is through the depiction of love, and self-love that Vera and some of her friends are able to subvert these traditional roles and assert their independence and identity.

Lynda Gichanda Spencer is an associate professor in the Department of Literary Studies in English at Rhodes University. Her research interests include contemporary women's popular writing, popular culture in Africa, African women's writing, Eastern African fiction, African cultural studies and transnational literatures. She is the principal investigator of **Urban Connections in African Popular Imaginaries** and one of the editors of **The Journal of Eastern African Cultural and Literary Studies**.

'SOUTH AFRICAN MODERNISM, PEDAGOGY AND DECOLONISING ACROSS FORMS: PROSE, POETRY, AUDIO AND VISUAL'

**EMMA BARNES, SIMON STANTON-SHARMA AND JADE
MUNSLOW ONG (UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD)**



In this talk, we outline the ongoing activities, early outcomes and future plans of an impact project entitled 'Decolonising Literary Studies in and Beyond the Classroom'. This emerged out of research undertaken by a multidisciplinary team and affiliates of the 'South African Modernism 1880-2020' project led by the University of Salford. Since January 2021, we have worked with over 1100 16-18 year olds and their teachers across 15 UK colleges, delivering curriculum-targeted teaching designed to support decolonising efforts in English Studies (most particularly in relation to the English Literature A-Level qualification offered in the UK).

We will show through two case studies how the introduction of South African texts and postcolonial and decolonial theories and methods is helping to change the taught content of the English Literature A-Level in select colleges; and outline how we mobilise the discipline's signature pedagogies such as the lecture and seminar, as well as more novel approaches including creative workshops and 'podagogy' (creating podcasts in educational settings), as part of our work towards developing decolonial pedagogical praxes. We are working alongside two of the UK's five A-Level exam boards and with teacher focus groups to embed research-led and decolonising content, delivery and support into English Literature education for 16-18 year olds through innovative, multimedia methods. This includes the creation of a freely available online educational resource about South African literature, hosted on a bespoke platform. The platform comprises two distinct streams: expert-led audio, video and written content and co-produced content with international 16-18 year-old learners from Sweden, South Africa and the UK.



Emma Barnes is Lecturer in Nineteenth-Century and World Literatures, and Knowledge Exchange Fellow at the University of Salford. Emma previously worked on the South African Modernism 1880-2020 project as a Research Assistant. She has published an article on Mary Kawena Pūku'i for *Transmotion* journal, has co-written articles out and forthcoming with *Media Practice and Education* and *English in Education*, and has chapters out and forthcoming in collections with Edinburgh University Press, Routledge and Palgrave.



Jade Munslow Ong is Professor of World Literatures in English at the University of Salford. She is author of *Olive Schreiner and African Modernism: Allegory, Empire and Postcolonial Writing* (Routledge, 2018), co-editor (with Andrew van der Vlies) of *Olive Schreiner: Writing Networks and Global Contexts* (Edinburgh University Press, 2024), and has a co-authored book with Matthew Whittle entitled *Global Literatures and the Environment* out with Routledge in August this year. Jade is currently Principal Investigator on the AHRC-funded research project, *South African Modernism 1880-2020* and is a BBC New Generation Thinker who presents programmes for BBC Radio 3.



Simon Stanton-Sharma is stream leader and Lecturer at the University of Salford on the MA in Drama Production for TV and Film. He is an award-winning filmmaker and television director with over twenty years experience across scripted, commercials, entertainment and current affairs, mainly at the BBC. In 2017 he spent two years launching the BBC's new Africa service across West and East Africa and for 7 years was director of BBC 2's *Newsnight* programme. He is currently Research and Innovation Associate on the South African Modernism 1880-2020 project. He co-directed (with Maire Tracey) the project's documentary, *All That Is Buried*, now screening internationally, and co-wrote an associated article 'The Making of All That Is Buried: Dialog, Chronotope and Decoloniality' for the journal *Media Practice and Education*.



University of
Salford
MANCHESTER

Venue: Universitetshuset, sal IV, Biskopgatan 3, Uppsala

08:45-09:00 Welcome by Maria Zirra (Stockholm University)
and Sanja Nivesjö (Uppsala University)

09:00-10:00 Keynote “South African Modernism, Pedagogy and Decolonising Across
Forms: Prose, Poetry, Audio and Visual” – Jade Munslow Ong, Emma Barnes, Simon
Stanton-Sharma (University of Salford)

10:00-10:15 COFFEE BREAK

10:15-11:45 Roundtable: Decolonising Form – Stefan Helgesson (Stockholm University),
Maria Olaussen (Gothenburg University), Gül Bilge Han (Mälardalen University), Tasnim
Qutait (Mälardalen University), Emma Barnes (University of Salford)

11:45-12:15 South African Literature in Sweden Network meeting (open to all)

12:15-13:15 LUNCH (Café Alma) - video exhibition *South African Modernism Project*

13:15-14:45 Early Career Scholars Project Workshop - Nomonde Ntsepo (Rhodes
University), Kudzai Barure (Rhodes University), Sondos Qutait (Stockholm University),
Lobke Minter (Stellenbosch University), Tesfaye Ayele (Stockholm University)

14:45-15:45 Roundtable: “Interrogating Prose” - Ashleigh Harris (Uppsala University),
Nicklas Hållén (Karlstad University), Rebecca Duncan (Linnaeus University), Oulia
Makkonen (Uppsala University)

15:45-16:00 COFFEE BREAK

16:00-17:00 Keynote: “Publishing Popular Fiction and Form: A discussion of Goretta
Kyomuhendo’s *Whispers from Vera*” - Lynda Gichanda Spencer (Rhodes University)

17:00-18:00 Film *All That Is Buried* and Q&A – Maire Tracey, Simon Stanton-Sharma,
Jade Munslow Ong, Emma Barnes (University of Salford)

18:00-18:15 Closing session

19:30-22:00 Conference Dinner – Meza (Östra Ågatan 11, Uppsala)