

MULOSIGE Modules:  
The Significant Literary Geographies of African festivals: Expanding the Toolbox of  
the (World) Literary Scholar.

**Reading List Description**

In an era where cultural festivals multiply, so-called African festivals have spread in Africa, but also outside of Africa, in major cities as well as in little-known villages, for example in provincial France. What are some of their implications and effects in the case of francophone African literature? These events privilege a continental representation of literature, which often reveals itself as problematic when confronted with the complex geographies of the texts and authors represented at these festivals. Drawing on a recent shift towards a “rematerialization” of research on festivals and its findings, and using cross-disciplinary methodology, this critical inquiry reads different reallocations of this persistent African matrix through a typology and contemporary examples (Kossi Efoui’s writings, the “Étonnants Voyageurs” and “Plein sud” festivals). As an object of study, festivals bear witness to the necessity of expanding the toolbox of the (world) literary scholar by making use of documentary sources and adopting ethnographic approaches. It reveals a structural tension between an African map and various concrete territories, where local issues matter often more than this continental category, and can affect the form and content of literature itself.

This reading list developed out of a talk given at SOAS “The significant literary geographies of African festivals: expanding the toolbox of the (world) literary scholar” by Claire Ducournau on 8th May 2019.

**Reading List contributor:**

Claire Ducournau is a tenured Associate Professor in Literature at Paul-Valéry – Montpellier 3 University, and a member of the RIRRA21 research center. Her work centers on francophone African writing, publishing and media. She is particularly interested in how sociological research methods and close textual analysis can be combined to explore African literature in both its aesthetic and material facets. She dedicated her doctoral thesis to mechanisms of production of the African literary canon – her monograph *La Fabrique des classiques africains. Écrivains d’Afrique subsaharienne francophone (1960-2012)*, is a revised version published by CNRS editions in 2017. Her current research explores press archives distributed on the African continent, which challenge the canonical literary corpus mainly published in the North.

Part One: [a renewal of research on festivals \(history, sociology of culture and cultural studies\)](#)

*Readings*

Delanty, Gerard, Monica Sassatelli, and Liana Giorgi, eds. *Festivals and the Cultural Public Sphere*. Abingdon, Oxon, New York: Routledge, 2011.

- Dovey, Lindiwe. *Curating Africa in the Age of Film Festivals*. New York, London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.
- Fléchet, Anaïs. "Les festivals de musique populaire: un objet transnational (années 1950-1970)." In *Une histoire des festivals, XXe-XXIe siècle*, eds. Anaïs Fléchet, Pascale Goetschel, Patricia Hidiroglou, Sophie Jacotot, Caroline Moine, and Julie Verlaine. Paris: Publications de la Sorbonne, 2013, 63-77.
- Fléchet, Anaïs, Patricia Hidiroglou, Sophie Jacotot, Caroline Moine, and Julie Verlaine, eds. *Une histoire des festivals, XXe-XXIe siècle*. Paris: Publications de la Sorbonne, 2013.
- Giorgi, Liana. "A celebration of the word and a stage for political debate: Literature festivals in Europe today." In *European Arts Festivals: Strengthening Cultural Diversity*, report, Brussels: European Commission, 2011, 11–24. Available at: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1805104>. [Accessed online 5 April 2018]
- Regev, Motti. "International Festivals in a Small Country: Rites of Recognition and Cosmopolitanism." In *Festivals and the Cultural Public Sphere*, eds. Gerard Delanty, Monica Sassatelli, and Liana Giorgi. Abingdon, Oxon, New York: Routledge, 2011, 108-23.
- Sapiro, Gisèle, Myrtille Picaud, Jérôme Pacouret, and Hélène Seiler. "L'amour de la littérature: le festival, nouvelle instance de production de la croyance: Le cas des Correspondances de Manosque." *Actes de la recherche en sciences sociales* 206-207:1 (2015), 108-37. Doi: 10.3917/arss.206.0108
- Sapiro, Gisèle. "The Metamorphosis of Modes of Consecration in the Literary Field: Academies, Literary Prizes, Festivals." *Poetics* 59 (2016), 5-19. doi:10.1016/j.poetic.2016.01.003
- Sorá, Gustavo. "Francfort: la foire d'empoigne." *Liber: Revue internationale des livres* 34 (1998): 2-3.

## Part Two: [the problematic location of Africa: real and imaginary "significant" geographies \(anthropology and literary studies\)](#)

### *Readings*

- Amselle, Jean-Loup. *Branchements: Anthropologie de l'universalité des cultures*. Paris: Flammarion, 2001.
- Appadurai, Arjun. *Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996.
- Bayart, Jean-François. "Africa in the World: a History of Extraversion." *African Affairs* 99: 395 Centenary Issue: A Hundred Years of Africa (2000), 217-267.
- Cheah, Pheng, and Robbins, Bruce, eds. *Cosmopolitics: Thinking and Feeling Beyond the Nation*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1998.
- Huggan, Graham. *The Postcolonial Exotic: Marketing the Margins*. London, New York: Routledge, 2001.
- Julien, Eileen. "The Extroverted African Novel." In *The Novel*, Vol. 1, ed. Franco Moretti. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006, 667-700.
- Laachir, Karima, Marzagora Sara, and Orsini Francesca. "Significant Geographies In Lieu of World Literature." *Journal of World Literature*, vol. 3, no. 3, Aug. 2018, pp. 290–310. Crossref, doi:10.1163/24056480-00303005.
- Moudileno, Lydie. "The Postcolonial Provinces." *Francosphères* 1:1 (2012), 53-68.
- Pollock, Sheldon. "The Cosmopolitan Vernacular." *Journal of Asian Studies*, 57:1 (1998), 6-37. doi:10.2307/2659022

### Part Three: [African festivals, on a continental, national or urban scale \(sociology, postcolonial and literary studies\)](#)

#### *Readings*

- Doquet, Anne. "Festivals touristiques et expressions identitaires au Mali." *Africultures* 73:2 (2008), 60-67.
- Ducournau, Claire. *La Fabrique des classiques africains: Écrivains d'Afrique subsaharienne francophone (1960-2012)*. Paris: CNRS éditions, 2017.
- Ducournau, Claire. « African literary festivals and world literature : from the map to the territory », *Journal of World Literature*, special issue "The Locations of (World) Literature: Perspectives from Africa and South Asia", eds. Laetitia Zechini and Francesca Orsini, vol. 4, n°2, 2019, pp. 237-257.
- Efoui, Kossi. *Volatiles*. Nantes: Joca Seria, 2006.
- English, James F. "Festivals and the Geography of Culture: African Cinema in the 'World Space' of Its Public." In *Festivals and the Cultural Public Sphere*, eds. Gerard Delanty, Monica Sassatelli, and Liana Giorgi. Abingdon, Oxon, New York: Routledge, 2011: 63-78.
- Ficquet, Éloi, Dominique Malaquais, Malika Rahal, and Vincent, Cédric. "Panafest : une archive en devenir." *Archive (re)mix. Vues d'Afrique*, eds. Maëline Le Lay, Dominique Malaquais, and Nadine Siegert. Rennes: Presses Universitaires de Rennes, 2015, 209-228.
- Jaji, Tsitsi. "'The Next Best Thing to Being Here': Covering the 1966 Fekar Festival and Its Legacy in Black Popular Magazines." In *The First World Festival of Negro Arts, Dakar 1966: Contexts and Legacies*, ed. David Murphy. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2016, 113-32.
- Le Bris, Michel, and Mabanckou, Alain, eds. *L'Afrique qui vient: anthologie*. Paris: Hoëbeke, coll. "Étonnants voyageurs", 2013.
- Murphy, David. "Introduction. The Performance of Pan-Africanism: Staging the African Renaissance at the First World Festival of Negro Arts". In *The First World Festival of Negro Arts, Dakar 1966: Contexts and Legacies*, ed. David Murphy. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2016, 1-44.
- Thierry, Raphaël. "L'édition africaine au 32ème salon du livre de Paris. Une édition mieux représentée mais encore infime dans cette grande librairie..." *Africultures* (2012) <http://www.africultures.com/php/index.php?nav=article&no=10666>. [Accessed online 27 March 2012]
- Vincent, Cédric, ed. *Africultures*, 73, "Festivals et biennales en Afrique: machine ou utopie?", Paris: L'Harmattan, 2008.

### Part Four: [cross-disciplinary methodology and the importance of the local scale \(world literature and ethnography\)](#)

#### *Readings*

- Andrieu, Sarah. "Une forme globalisée, des enjeux localisés. Les festivals culturels régionaux au Burkina Faso des années 1990 à aujourd'hui." In *Une histoire des festivals, XXe-XXIe siècle*, ed. Anaïs Fléchet, Pascale Goetschel, Patricia Hidiroglou, Sophie Jacotot, Caroline Moine, and Julie Verlaine. Paris: Publications de la Sorbonne, 2013, 123-38.
- Clifford, James, and George E. Marcus, eds. *Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography*. Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of California Press, 1986.
- Damrosch, David. *What is World Literature?* Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2003.

Orsini, Francesca. "The Multilingual Local in World Literature." *Comparative Literature*, vol. 67, no. 4, Dec. 2015, pp. 345–74. Crossref, doi:10.1215/00104124-3327481.

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