

subject index. While a full-length bibliography of historical Bornoana is a research tool which may be expected from such a dedicated editorial board, in the meantime no researcher or librarian should overlook the extensive bibliographies attached individually to some of the present articles — of which the Thambyapillay (his name is spelled differently *passim*) and Lavers ones are admirable examples of scholarship.

The editor, Professor C.M.B. Brann, has already warned how "in Nigeria, the relatively short history of academic periodicals is punctuated by ephemeral volumes, the first and the last of their kind, often initiated by young scholars in a burst of enthusiasm" (the same can be said for student journals everywhere). But if the University of Maiduguri can turn this maiden issue into a genuine and regular serial (a fate which has eluded too many of its Nigerian predecessors, including the once admirable *Journal of the Historical Society of Nigeria*, *Nigerian Field*, and *Kano Studies*), then Vice-Chancellor Jibril Aminu's hope of "through the *Annals of Borno* giving readers an insight into this fascinating part of Nigeria and of Africa" can be realised.

Few academic journals originating from Nigeria's younger universities over the past two decades can have been characterised by such an excellent and exciting maiden issue. It is sincerely to be hoped that the editorial board will ensure the continuance of this substantial item of credit to the University of Maiduguri's academic reputation and of furtherance to Nigerianist scholarship everywhere.

A.H.M. Kirk-Greene

\* \* \*

*Research Priorities in African Literatures* ed. by Bernth Lindfors. Oxford: Zell; München; New York; London; Paris: Saur, 1984. pp.222. ISBN 0 905450 17 5. £21.

'Is anything wrong with African literary studies?', asks Albert Gérard in arguably one of the most comprehensive and challenging papers in this collection originally presented at a conference organised by Bernth Lindfors, with the support of the Joint Committee on African Studies of the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Social Sciences Research Council (sic), which took place at the Africa Centre, London, in May 1983.

Both Ngugi wa Thiong'o, the Kenyan writer and the Nigerian critic Chinweizu say yes, in that they see so much contemporary scholarship concerning itself almost exclusively with literatures written in European languages and imbued with Eurocentric if not pervasive colonialist presuppositions and attitudes. Gérard himself acknowledges that too often too much has been said about too little and that not very well (a point reiterated by Alastair Niven in another paper), and argues for more research into African languages and African-language literatures, closer contextual studies, and more controversially, a greater awareness of the methods of Comparative Literature leading to 'a genuine understanding of the collective psychological problems with which the whole of mankind is beset'.

Insofar as this conference was concerned with research priorities it set itself more specifically scholarly objectives than the 1984 London Conference *New Directions in African Literature* (signalled in part by its reference to *literatures* rather than literature). The various papers setting out priorities

# Research Priorities In African Literatures

**Peter Limb, Jean-Marie Volet**



## **Research Priorities In African Literatures:**

**Research Priorities in African Literatures** Bernth Lindfors, 1984      **Comparative Approaches to African Literatures** Bernth Lindfors, 1994 Some of the essays in this book notably those concerned with examining Western influences on sub Saharan African writings tracing Shakespearean and Brechtian echoes in Nigerian drama for instance or following the footprints of Sherlock Holmes in Swahili detective fiction fit the traditional definition of comparative literature These are essays that cross national literary boundaries and sometimes transcend language barriers as well They look for correspondences in related literary phenomena from widely dispersed areas of the globe bringing together what is akin from what is akimbo But most of the essays included here involve closer comparisons Two focus on works produced in different languages within the same African nation Yoruba and English in Nigeria Afrikaans and English in South Africa and one presents a taxonomy of dominant literary forms in English in three East African nations Others concentrate on the oeuvre of a single author and on the likely future output of exiled writers who soon will be returning home One essay contrasts discursive tendencies within the same text and another investigates conflicting African and Western religious beliefs A great variety of comparative methodologies is deployed here not all of these are transnational multilingual or pluralistic in scope The last two groups of essays deal with matters of characterization and authorial reputation Studies of the depiction of African Americans politicians and women in a wide range of African literary texts are followed by an assessment of the current standing of anglophone Africa s leading authors In entering such highly contested terrain the comparatist approach adopted has been that of the neutral witness to early African attempts comparatist in their own way to define an African canon of classic texts Authors discussed include Ama Ata Aidoo Ghana Chinua Achebe John Pepper Clark Cyprian Ekwensi D O Fagunwa Wole Soyinka and Amos Tutuola Nigeria Peter Abrahams J M Coetzee Nadine Gordimer Alex La Guma Thomas Mofolo Es kia Mphahlele and Karel Schoeman South Africa      *African Literature* Jonathan P. Smithe, 2002 African literature like the continent itself is enormous and diverse East Africa s literature is different from West Africa s which is quite different from South Africa s which has different influences on it than North Africa s Africa s literature is based on a widespread heritage of oral literature some of which has now been recorded Arabic influence can be detected as well as European especially French and English Legends myths proverbs riddles and folktales form the mother load of the oral literature This book presents an overview of African literature as well as a comprehensive bibliography primarily of English language sources Accessed by subject author and title indexes      **Research in African Literatures** ,2003 Vol 1 spring 1970 include A Bibliography of American doctoral dissertations on African literature compiled by Nancy J Schmidt      **African Literatures in the Eighties** ,2023-12-21 Matatu is a journal on African literatures and societies dedicated to interdisciplinary dialogue between literary and cultural studies historiography the social sciences and cultural anthropology Matatu is animated by a lively interest in African culture and literature including the Afro Caribbean that moves beyond worn

out clichés of cultural authenticity and national liberation towards critical exploration of African modernities The East African public transport vehicle from which Matatu takes its name is both a component and a symbol of these modernities based on Western these days usually Japanese technology it is a vigorously African institution it is usually regarded with some anxiety by those travelling in it but is often enough the only means of transport available it creates temporary communicative communities and provides a transient site for the exchange of news storytelling and political debate Matatu is firmly committed to supporting democratic change in Africa to providing a forum for interchanges between African and European critical debates to overcoming notions of absolute cultural ethnic or religious alterity and to promoting transnational discussion on the future of African societies in a wider world Matatu will be published as journal as of 2016 All back volumes are still available in print Contexts of African Literature Albert S. Gérard, 2022-06-08 **Theory of African Literature** Chidi Amuta, 2017-06-15 This groundbreaking work first published in 1989 was one of the first to challenge the conventional critical assessment of African literature and remains highly influential today Amuta's key argument is that African literature can be discussed only within the wider framework of the dismantling of colonial rule and Western hegemony in Africa In exploring the possibility of a dialectical alternative critical base he draws upon both classical Marxist aesthetics and the theories of African culture espoused by Fanon Cabral and Ngugi From these explorations Amuta derives a new language of criticism which is then applied to works by modern African writers as diverse as Achebe Ousmane Agostinho Neto and Dennis Brutus Amuta's highly original and innovative approach remains relevant not only for assessing the literature of developing countries but for Marxist and postcolonial theories of literary criticism more generally The author's elegance of argument and clarity of exposition makes this a distinguished and lasting contribution to debates around cultural expression in postcolonial Africa **African Literature Studies** African Literature Association, 1985 **Contemporary Postcolonial Theory** Padmini Mongia, 2021-01-07 There is a crisis in contemporary postcolonial theory while an enormous body of challenging research has been produced under its auspices severely critical questions about the validity and usefulness of this theory have also been raised This Reader is positioned at the juncture where it can address these contestations It makes available some of the classics of the field engages with the issues raised by contemporary practitioners but also offers several of the arguments that strongly critique postcolonial theory Although postcolonial theory purports to be inter disciplinary and frequently anti foundationalist traces of disciplinary formations and linearity have continued to haunt its articulations This Reader on the other hand offers a uniquely inter disciplinary mapping It is concerned with three main areas definitional problems and contests including the current challenges to postcolonial theory the disciplining of knowledge where the multiple resonances of the word disciplining are all engaged and the location of practice where the relations between intellectual practice and historical conditions are explored Finally since the guiding principle of this Reader is simultaneous attention to the enabling and constraining mechanisms of historical realities and institutional practices the commentary

problematizes the writing of histories the formations of canons and indeed the production of Readers Achebe, Head, Marechera Annie Gagiano, 2000 Concentrating on issues of power and change this analysis of texts by Chinua Achebe Bessie Head and Dambudzi Marechera teases out each author's view of how colonialism affected Africa the contributions of Africans to their malaise and how many reacted in creative progressive pragmatic ways *Catalogue of Research Literature for Development: Food production and nutrition* United States. Agency for International Development. Bureau for Technical Assistance, 1976 **The International Journal of African Historical Studies**, 1986 *African Egalitarian Values and Indigenous Genres* Eshete Gemedo, 2012 Eshete Gemedo is researcher at the University of Southern Denmark Institute of Literature Cultural Studies and Media Book Jacket **South African Literature and Culture** Njabulo Simakahle Ndebele, 1994 Described as a prophet of the post apartheid condition Njabulo Ndebele is a prize winning author poet and critic and one of the leading lights in South Africa's literary world These essays beginning in 1984 were written over the storm years of the democratic struggle and are reprinted here with a new introduction by Graham Pechey Studies in Hausa Graham Furniss, Philip J. Jaggard, 2015-06-03 First published in 1988 this book is a landmark in the study of one of the major African languages Hausa Hausa is spoken by 40 50 million people mostly in northern Nigeria but also in communities stretching from Senegal to the Red Sea It is a language taught on an international basis at major universities in Nigeria the USA Western and Eastern Europe the Middle and Far East and is probably the best studied African language boasting an impressive list of research publications As Nigeria grows in importance so Hausa becomes a language of international standing The volume brings together contributions from the major contemporary figures in Hausa language studies from around the world It contains work on the linguistic description of Hausa various aspects of Hausa literature both oral and written and on the description of the relationship of Hausa to other Chadic languages **African Research & Documentation**, 1995 **College and Research Libraries**, 1987 Includes section Book reviews Mar 1940

**Bibliography of African Literatures** Peter Limb, Jean-Marie Volet, 1996 Provides extensive coverage of the writings of both established and promising new authors in all continental African countries and Madagascar Arranged primarily by language with emphasis on literatures in English and French *Modes of Thought in Western and Non-Western Societies* Ruth Finnegan, Robin Horton, 2017-10-04 Is there a basic difference in thinking between Western and non Western societies This long debated yet highly topical problem forms the central question to which distinguished contributors in the fields of psychology linguistics history and sociology and more particularly of social anthropology and philosophy address themselves in this interdisciplinary collection They are Barry Barnes Benjamin N Colby and Michael Cole Ruth Finnegan Ernest Gellner Robin Horton J M Ita Hilary Jenkins Steven Lukes Nobuhiro Nagashima S J Tambiah W H Whiteley and Sybil Wolfram The central ideas of this classic work are reformulated and refined in the various contributions with different possible dichotomies discussed such as traditional modern industrial non industrial or scientific non scientific and thinking analyzed

in terms of its thought processes content logic or social background The material in the book which is dedicated to Sir Edward Evans Pritchard falls within the general area of the comparative sociology of knowledge and will thus particularly interest philosophers social anthropologists and sociologists The volume is however conceived in an interdisciplinary spirit and will be of interest to anyone seriously concerned to examine the nature of thinking in our own and other societies

Aquaculture Development and Research in Sub-Saharan Africa A. G. Coche, Boyd A. Haight, Michel M. J. Vincke, 1994-01-01

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