

## **2024 CRG African Literatures Workshop**

Places in African Literatures / Les lieux dans les littératures africaines

Date: **January 17<sup>th</sup> 2024**

Place: **Bordeaux, France (tbc)**

### **Morning session (10am - 1pm)**

#### **Critical extension of the "Situated Ecopoetic Anthology of African Literature" project**

The project titled "Situated Ecopoetic Anthology" proposes an online cartography of ecologically threatened places on the African continent and their literary and artistic consideration. The aim of the project is to reflect both the scale and variety of current ecological aggressions (the effects of global warming, major mining or industrial projects, hydrological pressures, etc.) and the diversity of cultural and social responses to these challenges.

The project maps artistic and literary practices in defense of the environment in different parts of the African continent. Indeed, the purpose is to understand the environmental crisis at the local level, where it is experienced by populations. This can take the form of a literary and artistic approach that records, observes and condemns environmental degradation etc. Such mapping shows that local dynamics are the basis for sketching out a cosmopolitics of place.

The broader aim of this project will be to bring together, for us researchers in African literature and/or environmental humanities, the continent's critical, literary, artistic and ecological references. This could constitute a specific database that we could add to as we go along.

Participants of the African Literatures CRG workshop in January 2024 will be encouraged to add a point to the "Situated ecopoetic" project's map, and to briefly present their work and its ecological context. All languages are welcome at the workshop – we only ask that the presenter provide a Powerpoint or introduction in English where another language is the presenter's mother tongue. We suggest you come with a point in mind, i.e. a work corresponding to an ecological problem, and to be able to present it briefly (maximum 15 minutes) to the other participants. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the organisers: Elara Bertho [elara.bertho@gmail.com](mailto:elara.bertho@gmail.com) ; Xavier Garnier [xavier.garnier@sorbonne-nouvelle.fr](mailto:xavier.garnier@sorbonne-nouvelle.fr) ; Camille Lavoix [camille.lavoix@uni-wuerzburg.de](mailto:camille.lavoix@uni-wuerzburg.de) or Margaux Vidotto [margauxvidotto@orange.fr](mailto:margauxvidotto@orange.fr)

### **Afternoon session (14.30 – 16.30)**

#### **The role of places in African literary research**

The more and more frequent reference to specific places in African literary studies has effects on the research methodologies that we would like to question during the afternoon session of the workshop. This will be an opportunity to exchange our experiences of the texts that we study, the places where they are written, archived or published, and the places which are referred in the texts. How might we consider the territoriality of literary texts and archives? What place do we give to the field in our research work? How do specific methodologies take into consideration the emplacement of African literatures? How can we talk about an attachment to place? What of situated research? We welcome proposals that consider any aspect of place and African literature, including but also beyond the questions listed above.

Once again, presentations can be in any language, but we require a Powerpoint or an introduction in English. There is space for FOUR presentations followed by discussions in the afternoon session. To that end, please send your proposals (for a presentation that is max 20 minutes long) to the afternoon coordinators, Xavier Garnier [xavier.garnier@sorbonne-nouvelle.fr](mailto:xavier.garnier@sorbonne-nouvelle.fr) and Elara Bertho [elara.bertho@gmail.com](mailto:elara.bertho@gmail.com) by **Friday 01 December 2023**.