

DREAMT TERRITORIES AND DIASPORIC POLITICS: ART, FUTURITY, PHILOSOPHY

A pre-publication workshop with Yala Kisukidi

Wednesday, MAY 25, 2022

3:30-5:30, Kresge Hall, 2351 (Kaplan Institute Seminar Room)

(with coffee and cake served from 3, and dinner served at 5:30)

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION: Evan Mwangi, evan-mwangi@northwestern.edu

Dept/Program: English/African Studies and Comparative Literary Studies

REMARKS FROM THE AUTHOR: Yala Kisukidi

GRADUATE STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Decolonizing Philosophy

- (1) “Decolonizing Philosophy (Or Philosophy as Anthropological Object)” no translation yet
o Décoloniser la philosophie Ou de la philosophie comme objet anthropologique, *Présence Africaine “Pensée contemporaine et pratiques sociales en Afrique: penser le mouvement”* 192 (2016), pp. 83-98

Commentator: MAÏTÉ MARCIANO, MaiteMarciano2019@u.northwestern.edu

Comparative Literary Studies, Department of French & Italian,
Critical Theory Cluster, Critical Studies in Theatre and Performance Cluster

- (2) “Laetitia Africana: Philosophy, Decolonization and Melancholy”, no translation yet
o “Laetitia Africana. Philosophie, décolonisation, mélancolie”, in Felwine Sarr and Achille Mbembe (ed.) *Écrire l’Afrique-monde* (Paris/Dakar: Philippe Rey/Jimsaan, 2017), pp. 147-174

Commentator: MICOL BEZ, micolbez2027@u.northwestern.edu

Comparative Literary Studies, Department of French & Italian, Critical Theory Cluster

Universality and Race

- (3) “The Universal in the Bush”, English translation by Rob Garcia Translation Services, rgarcia@languageservices.com
o “L’universel dans la brousse”, *Revue Esprit* (January/February 2020), pp. 48-59

Commentator: YEMI AJISEBUTU, omoyemijisebutu2023@u.northwestern.edu

Comparative Literary Studies, Department of English, Program of African Studies,
Critical Theory Cluster, Poetry and Poetics Colloquium

(4) “Black Universalism (Or The Happy Aporias of Antiracism)”, trans. Graham Wetherall

Commentator 1: SREDDY YEN, sreddyen@u.northwestern.edu
Department of English, Program of African Studies, Critical Theory Cluster

Commentator 2: ISHAN MEHANDRU, ishanmehandru2025@u.northwestern.edu
Comparative Literary Studies, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures

Négritude, Temporality and Racial Hospitality

(5) “Racial Hospitality”, English translation by Armelle Chrétien

Commentator 1: SPENCER NABORS, spencernabors2026@u.northwestern.edu
Department of Philosophy, Critical Theory Cluster

Commentator 2: KANG KANG, kangkang2026@u.northwestern.edu
Comparative Literary Studies, the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, Critical Theory Cluster

(6) “Nostalgia and Post-Colonial Utopia in Senghor’s Négritude”

o “Nostalgia and Post-Colonial Utopia in Senghor’s Négritude”, in Katharina Niemeyer (ed.) *Media and Nostalgia: Yearning for the Past, Present and Future* (Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014), pp. 191-202

Commentator: JORDAN MULKEY, jordanmulkey2025@u.northwestern.edu
Department of African American Studies, Critical Theory Cluster

Geopolitics

(7a) “As an Ideal, You are Yet To Come Into Being: Letter to Europe”, trans. Callisto McNulty
o “As an Ideal, You are Yet To Come Into Being: Letter to Europe”, *Versopolis*, 4 November 2019,
<https://www.versopolis.com/times/opinion/821/as-an-ideal-you-are-yet-to-come-into-being>

o “Lettre a l’Europe de Nadia Yala Kisukidi: ‘En tant qu’idéal, tu es encore a naître’”, *L’Obs*, 12 May 2019,
<https://www.nouvelobs.com/debat/20190512.OBS12808/lettre-a-l-europe-denadia-yala-kisukidi-en-tant-qu-ideal-tu-esencore-a-naître.html>

(7b) “Geopolitics of the Diaspora”, trans. Gila Walker
o “Geopolitics of the Diaspora”, *e-flux journal* 114 (December 2020)

Commentator: MARLON MILLNER, marlonmillner2021@u.northwestern.edu
Department of Religious Studies, Critical Theory Cluster

Art and Cities

(8) “Kinshasa, Dreams of Remembrance”

- o “Kinshasa, Dreams of Remembrance”, *Off To Mag* (2020), pp. 132-139, <https://www.offtomag.com/episodes/dreamsofremembrance>

Commentator: **SOUMYA RACHEL SHAILENDRA**, soumyashailendra2027@u.northwestern.edu
Comparative Literary Studies, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures

(9) “In Congoville, the ‘Belgian-Negros’ (Senghor) Never Saw The Light of Day: Travelling (back) In Time”

- o “In Congoville, the ‘Belgian-Negros’ (Senghor) Never Saw The Light of Day: Travelling (back) In Time” in Sandrine Colard and Pieter Boons (eds.) *Congoville: Contemporary Artists Tracing Colonial Tracks* (Leuven: Leuven University Press, 2021), pp. 82-95

- o “In Congoville zagen de ‘Belgo-Negers’ (Senghor) nooit het daglicht: een (terug)reis in de tijd” in Sandrine Colard and Pieter Boons (eds.) *Congoville: Hedendaagse kunstenaars bewandelen koloniale sporen* (Leuven: Leuven University Press), pp. 82-95.

Commentator: **IBOU TALL**, gorguitall2015@u.northwestern.edu
Department of French & Italian, Program of African Studies

(10) “Sleeping Standing Up (Notes on Lucid Dreams)”, trans. Callisto McNulty

- o “Sleeping Standing Up (Notes on Lucid Dreams)”, *Revue du Palais de Tokyo* 32 (2021), pp. 104-111.

Commentator: **RUSLANA LICHTZIER**, ruslanalichtzier2025@u.northwestern.edu
Department of Art History, Critical Theory Cluster, MENA (Middle East and North Africa)

RESPONSES AND CONCLUDING COMMENTS: Yala Kisukidi

Bio: Nadia Yala Kisukidi is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint-Denis University where she specializes in French and Africana Philosophy. She has served as vice president of the Collège International de Philosophie (2014-2016) and as a co-curator of the Yango II Biennale, Kinshasa RDC (2021). She has also contributed to the creation of a "Global South" research network between Haïti, France and Colombia. She has taught in Switzerland and France and lectured widely in the United States and on the African continent. In 2022-23 she will be a visiting fellow at the Institute for Ideas and Imagination, Columbia University. She is the author of books on Bergson, and (with Djamila Ribeiro) on African diasporic and feminist Black thought (*Bergson ou l'humanité créatrice*, 2013; *Dialogue Transatlantique: Perspectives de la pensée féministe noir et des diasporas africaines*, 2021). She has edited and co-edited a number of special issues and anthologies at the intersections of Philosophy, African studies, French and Francophone studies, and Religious Studies. She is the author of numerous articles on the négritude tradition, twentieth century French philosophy, diasporic micro-politics, critical, decolonial, and feminist theory, and trans-national Black studies. She has contributed extensively to recent public debate about art restitution and also the teaching of decolonial thought and African philosophy in the French university system and beyond.