

**Rita Nnodim, PhD**  
**Department of Interdisciplinary Studies**  
**Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA)**  
**100 Porter Street**  
**North Adams**  
**MA 01247**  
**USA**  
**E-Mail: R.NNODIM@mcla.edu**

## **EDUCATION**

PhD – University of Birmingham, England: West African Studies (Cultural Studies), December 2002.

MA (**Summa cum laude-joint honors**) – Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany: African Studies, Socio-cultural Anthropology and Education, May 1996.

DAF (**Summa cum laude**) – Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany: Postgraduate Degree-German as a Foreign Language, June 1997.

## **DISSERTATION**

Ewì - Yoruba Neotraditional Media Poetry: The Poetics of a Genre  
(Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Karin Barber)

## **AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, GRANTS**

- **Vielberth-Prize for excellence** in International System of Communication Research, Institute for Research and Development (Eufo-Institute) Regensburg, Germany, 2003
- **Research Fellow** at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, 1998 – 1999
- **DAAD** – German Academic Exchange Service, Doctoral Fellowship, 1997 – 1999
- **British Academy Award**, 1997 – 2000
- **Summa cum laude**, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany, 1996 and 1997
- **Josef-Winkler Prize, Valedictorian award** by the city of Rheine for the best grade in High School diploma, Emsland-Gymnasium Rheine, Germany, June 1990

## **TEACHING & RESEARCH INTERESTS**

- Cultural Studies
- International Studies: Transnational, Trans-cultural, and Global Studies
- Globalization
- Socio-cultural Anthropology
- Western and Non-Western Civilizations
- History of Ideas and Social Institutions

- Urban Studies
- Culture, Language and Power
- Literature / Expressive Cultures: World Literature and Cinema
- Gender & Society

## **LANGUAGE COMPETENCE**

English (fluent), German (native), French (Fluent), Yoruba (good), Spanish (basic), Hausa (basic), and Kanuri (structural competence).

## **CURRENT POSITION**

Visiting Lecturer, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA): Interdisciplinary Studies, Anthropology, English /Communications, and Modern Languages.

## **COURSES TAUGHT AT MCLA**

- Globalization (Fall 08, Spring 10)
- Madness and Society (Spring 08/09/10)
- Madness, Culture and Society (Spring 10 Fast Track)
- Science, Literature and Gender (Spring 08)
- From Bollywood to Nollywood: Popular Films in India and Africa (Spring 09)
- Introduction to Socio-cultural Anthropology (Fall 08 - 2 Sections, Spring 09, Online Course Summer 09, Spring '10)
- French I (Fall 07)
- Postmodernism (Spring 07)

## **TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

Assistant Professor, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, MCLA, 2010-

Visiting Lecturer, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, MCLA, 2007 -2010

Research Fellow at the Institute for Research and Development (Eufo Institute) Regensburg, Germany, 2000 – 2007

Instructor for *Yoruba Language & Culture* at the Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham, England, 1999 – 2000

Research Fellow at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, 1998-1999

Fieldwork in Ibadan, Nigeria: Yoruba Media Poets and Audiences, 1998-1999

Lecturer for German, Roncalli College Wiesbaden, Germany, Spring 1997

## RECENT SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

R. Nnodim (2009), "City, Identity and Dystopia: Writing Lagos in Contemporary Nigerian Novels," In: Ranka Primorac (ed.). *African City Textualities*. Routledge publishers, 2009.

R. Nnodim (2008), "City, Identity and Dystopia" *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, Vol.44, No.4, December 2008, p.321-332.

R. Nnodim (2006), "Configuring Audiences in Yorùbá Novels, Print and Media Poetry." *Research in African Literatures*, Special Issue "Creative Writing in African Languages," Indiana University Press, Fall 2006, 37 (3), p.156-177.

R. Nnodim (2005), "Yorùbá Neotraditional Media Poetry: A Poetics of Interface." In: RICARD, Alain and VEIT-WILD, Flora (eds.). *Interfaces between the oral and the written / Interfaces entre l'écrit et l'oral. Versions and Subversions in African Literatures 2*. Rodopi Publishers: Amsterdam, New York, NY, 2005, p.247-266.

R. Nnodim (2003), "Encountering the 'Other': The 'Local' and the 'Global' in Recent Nigerian Popular Fiction." In: *African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific. 2003*, pp.1-15.

## WORK IN PROGRESS (BOOK PROJECT)

*Mumbai, Lagos, London & New York: Contemporary Literary Imaginings of Urban Spaces and Identities.*

## PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

"Territory, Cultural Space and Identity: Literary Imaginings of Africa in African Immigrant Writers' Literature", 35<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the African Literature Association, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont, 15-19 April 2009.

Panelist: Stereotalk: How We Use Language to Diss and Dismiss. Susan B. Anthony's Women's Center, MCLA, April 6, 2008.

"Performance Modes, Media and the Aural-Visual in African Cultural Practice." University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA, 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference of the African Literature Association of the United States of America: *Verbal Performance and Visual Cultures*, April 2004.

"Encountering the 'Other': The 'Local' and the 'Global' in Recent Nigerian Popular Fiction." Flinders University Adelaide, Australia, African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific's Annual Conference, *Africa on a Global Stage: Politics, History, Economics and Culture*, October 2003.

"Wortkunst als Kreativität zwischen Oralität und Schriftlichkeit am Beispiel der Yorùbá Mediendichtung." (Oral Art as a Form of Creativity between Orality and Writing – The Example of Yorùbá Media Poetry), Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, distinguished speaker, June 2003.

"Yorùbá Neotraditional Media Poetry: A Poetics of Interface." Humboldt-University Berlin, Germany, *Versions & Subversions: International Conference on African Literatures*, May 2002.

"Yorùbá Radio Poets." CWAS-colloquium, Center of West African Studies, University of Birmingham, England, Dec. 1997.

Rita Nnodim, p.4

“Continuity and Discontinuity of Oral Traditions in the Poetry of *Ọlátúnbosún Ọládápò* and *Lánrewájú Adépròjù*.” Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz Germany, colloquium, Dec. 1995.

“The African Substratum in Pidgin and Creole Languages.” Johannes-Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany, *Pidgins and Creoles in Africa and the New World*, June 1992.

## REVIEWS

*Journal of Commonwealth Literature* (Sage Publications),

*Journal of Postcolonial Writing* (Routledge, Taylor & Francis)

*Africa Spectrum* (publ. by GIGA Institute of African Affairs, German Institute of Global and Area Studies, Leibniz Institut fuer Globale und Regionale Studien, )

## TELEVISION / RADIO PRESENTATIONS

“Language and Communication in the Age of Globalization”  
*TV A Regensburg*, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2003.

“Discussion on the International System of Communication (KOD)”  
*NDR (North German Radio)* 15<sup>th</sup> March 2003

Interview on Yorùbá language and culture on Galaxy TV Ìbàdàn, Nigeria, 19<sup>th</sup> April 1999.

## REFERENCES

### **Prof. Karin Barber (PhD Supervisor)**

Centre of West African Studies  
School of Historical Studies  
University of Birmingham  
Edgbaston  
Birmingham  
B15 2TT  
UK

E-Mail: [K.J.Barber@bham.ac.uk](mailto:K.J.Barber@bham.ac.uk)

Fax: 00-44 121 414 3228

Phone: 00-44 121 414 5125