

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT
African Literature Conference
At
Makerere University
July 12-14, 2012
Commemorating the June 1962 Conference of 'African Writing of English Expression'

Introduction

Department of Literature, Makerere University, will host a Conference in African Literature between July 12-14, 2012, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the June 1962 '*Conference of African Writing of English Expression*' at the then Makerere College. In view of the significance of the June 1962 Conference in charting the terrain of African Literature, we plan to make the 2012 Conference an occasion for reflection on the key strands and developments in African literature since the 1962 Conference. It is planned that participants will analyze the new issues and directions, manifest or latent, in contemporary African literary scholarship. We now invite submissions of abstracts and panels from writers and critics, publishers and distributors, and all who are interested in African literature.

Key Reflections

The June 1962 '*Conference of African Writing of English Expression*' was not only the very first major international gathering of writers and critics of African literature on the African continent; it was also held at the very cusp of political independence for most African countries. The 1962 Conference especially provided platform for designating the field of African literature. As such it is planned that the July 2012 Conference will provide opportunity for analysis of the constellation of the forces that called African literature into being, and provided impetus to African literary, artistic, and cultural imaginaries. The July 2012 Conference also comes at a time when neoliberal regimes and dispensations have sought to undermine humanities knowledge productions sites, and to entrench commercialization of artistic creativity. All this has attracted diverse responses from artists, scholars, and the broader publics, and which merit critical attention at this opportune moment.

Themes

The Conference organisers ask intending participants to submit abstracts and panel proposals that address – but are not limited to – the following themes:

- African literature and the language question
- Gender, feminism, sexuality in African literature
- African literature and allied arts
- African and African diaspora literatures
- Orality, writing, and visuality, and African literature
- Intellectual and cultural property issues in African literary economies
- Prison writing, censorship, and political repression and African literature
- New media and the circularity of African literary and cultural forms
- Politics of literary prizes
- African popular arts and cultures in local, national and global perspectives
- African literature after apartheid and the cold war
- Literary theory and contemporary African literary scholarship
- The fate of and future of African literary societies, magazines, and journals

Abstracts and Proposed Panels

Abstracts and proposed panels of not more than 300 words, and inquiries, will be received at the following email address: litconference@chuss.mak.ac.ug up to January 14, 2012. They will also be reviewed anonymously. The organisers will respond to all submissions by February 14, 2012.

Conveners

Okello Ogwang
Sarah Namulondo

