The theme chosen for the 2017 African Literature Association conference at Yale seeks to engage with and interrogate recent shifts in critical and theoretical frameworks from regional, national, and “postcolonial” models towards “world literature” as a framework for understanding the literatures of the Global South.

The conference also addresses the ongoing implications for the continent of global analytical frameworks, including those used to think about urbanization, gender and sexuality, public health, politics, regional identities, and the environment.

More information available on the back and on the web: ala2017.macmillan.yale.edu.

Proposals are invited for papers, pre-constituted panels, seminars, and roundtables in the following areas, and on other topics relating to ALA members’ research, and caucus interests: African literatures, world literatures; Audiences and readerships; Conflict and literature; Diasporic and transnational connections; Digital and social media; Global aftermaths of slavery; Popular arts; Publishing in Africa; Urbanism and literature.

Deadline for proposals: December 15, 2016
ala.macmillan.yale.edu

While Africa is often portrayed negatively in Western media outlets and makes an occasional appearance in countless social studies textbooks in U.S. schools, few K-12 and community college curricula demonstrate the aesthetic diversity and riches of the continent. African literatures broadly defined engages with questions of what it means to be framed as regional, national, “postcolonial”, or “world” in a globalized context. In collaboration with the African Literature Association (ALA), the institute will offer an intensive four-day program for K-12 and community college educators who are passionate about using creative literary works to explore Africa’s diverse social histories, politics, and cultural identities. Participants will have access to reputable African authors and leading literary scholars who will present on themes of migration and creativity, teaching canonical African texts, film in the classroom, and poetry and performance, as well as have the opportunity to attend special events held throughout the conference. The institute will offer a broad range of resources for teachers interested in integrating this content into their classroom curriculum. These include pedagogical workshops on how to analyze and teach literary sources from Africa, as well as to utilize materials from the Yale Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Collection and the Yale Art Gallery visits.

Human Rights in Africa and the Middle East
July 10 - 13, 2017
Visit the website for more information: pier.macmillan.yale.edu

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Writers Writing on Conflicts and Wars in Africa
American
Okey Ndibe
Cameroonian man named Jende Jonga and his wife Neni. New Yorkers, her future was uncertain. Drawing from her personal experiences, Imbolo began to write her highly-anticipated novel, (2014) and (2009), winner of the Commonwealth Writers' Prize Best Book Award and shortlisted for the Orange Prize; and (2016) was published by Indiana University. And after (2006), a fictional story inspired by Diop's stay in Kigali, Rwanda, in 1998. In the years following the 1994 genocide, he and eight other Francophone African authors were invited by the literary festival "Fest'Africa" to take up residence at a writer's house in Kigali to participate in the Duty of Memory Project. Deeply influenced by what he had learned of the genocide against the Tutsis of Rwanda, Diop's novel blended the voices of genocide victims with those of the perpetrators. Murambi, The Book of Bones has since been listed by the Zimbabwe International Book Fair's Africa's 100 Best Books of the 20th Century.

Diop has won several awards for his extensive works in French, including the Senegalese Republic Grand Prize in 1990 for Les Tambours de la mémoire, as well as the Prix Tropiques for Le Cavalier et son ombre in 1997. Beyond his writing in French, however, Diop is also passionate about promoting literatures in Wolof. Now available in English and in Spanish, Doom Golo, was originally published in Wolof in Dakar in 2003 and translated six years later by himself into French.

Boubacar Boris Diop is currently visiting professor at the American University of Nigeria and has created, at the Editions Zulma in Paris, Céytu, a literary collection named after Cheikh Anta Diop's birthplace. In collaboration with Laure Leroy, the Director of Éditions Zulma, and Rodney Saint-Eloi, the Director of Mémoire d'Encrrier in Montreal, Céytu aims to publish literary masterpieces from all languages and all cultures into Wolof with the first series of translated works by authors such as Mariama Bâ, Aimé Césaire, JMG Le Clézio, and released in March 2016. He has himself translated into Wolof Aimé Césaire's A Season in the Congo.

Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi is a Ugandan novelist and short story writer based in Manchester. Her debut novel, Kintu, won the Kwani Manuscript Project in 2013 and was longlisted for the 2014 Etisalat Prize. It has been called "a masterpiece, an absolute gem, the great Ugandan novel you didn't know you were waiting for." After winning the 2014 Commonwealth Short Story Prize for her story "Let's Tell This Story Properly", Makumbi stated in her acceptance speech, "For Uganda, once described as a literary desert, it shows how the country’s literary landscape is changing and I am proud to be a part of it."

Imbolo Mbue is a native of Limbe, Cameroon and has lived in the United States for over a decade, currently residing with her husband and children in New York City. Born to a single mother in a small village in Cameroon, Imbolo spent most of her childhood in houses without electricity or running water. Relates paid for Imbolo to study in the United States, where she graduated from Rutgers and went on to earn a master's degree from Columbia University by working during the day and going to school at night. She began her career in New York, married, and started a family. When the financial crisis hit in 2008, Imbolo lost her job in marketing, and like thousands of other New Yorkers, her future was uncertain. Drawing from her personal experiences, Imbolo began to write her highly-anticipated novel, Behold the Dreamers, recently published in August 2016 by Random House. In what NPR calls a "remarkable debut", Mbue tells the story of a Cameroon man named Jende Jonga and his wife Neni.