

2023 AFRICA, WORLD LITERATURE AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND
LITERARY STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF
NIGERIA, NSUKKA

THEME: LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND BORDER ENCOUNTERS



Conference Date:
14th - 16th Nov., 2023

Arrival: November 14, 2023

Opening ceremony: Nov., 15, 2023

Time: 11.00 AM

**Venue: Princess Alexandra
Auditorium (PAA), UNN**

'We live in a very bordered world,' write Alexander C. Diener and Joshua Hagen (2012). They are right. In fact, the twenty-first century is animated by what might be called a border crisis, and this crisis has a transcendent quality, implicating physical, epistemological, ideological, political, etc., spheres of borders. The contemporary world is one in which there is an intense crisscrossing of borders, an increased incidence of migration and re-migration, a continuous (re)negotiation of political, physical, and socio-cultural borders, in fact, a frequency of bordering, debordering, and rebordering. Thus, border thinking transcends tangibility without excluding it. Furthermore, in our collective and individual lives, we are continually making borders as well as encountering and contesting them; we are perpetually engaged in the different processes of border-making known as bordering, 'the everyday construction of borders through ideology, cultural mediation, discourse, political institutions, attitudes and everyday forms of transnationalism' (Nshimbi, Moyo, and Laine: 2021).

Perhaps the most significant feature that language and literature share with borders is that they are all 'sites of encounter and contestation.' Nshimbi et al's inclusion of 'ideology, cultural mediation, discourse' as media through which borders are constructed already implies that literary and linguistic scholarship can enrich our understanding of borders and the encounters that take place there. Therefore, the relationship between language, literature, and borders calls for more critical interrogations. Some of the questions that this conference would attempt to answer are, how might linguistics and literary studies help us understand the notions of bordering and border encounters, in terms of imaging and (dis)enabling them? How might insights from border discourse deepen our contemplation and apprehension of the status and nature of language and literature in the twenty-first century? Where in fact do the fields of language and literature stand in this overarching border crisis that is animating scholarship and the world in general? As regards literature, how does it represent border encounters, the transgression of borders, or the fluidity or liminality of borders, be these borders gender, sexual, racial, political, epistemological, and so on? What about the borders of literary cultures, forms, themes, stories, and genres? How do literary texts complicate the borders that supposedly exist among various forms/domains of art like history, philosophy, photography, music, plastic arts, and so on? Regarding language, how might we (re)interrogate the

borders of language(s) and the language of borders? Playing upon J. L. Austin's pragmatics of doing things with words, we ask: how do we make borders with words, in politics, relationships, and other areas of human life? How might borders be thought of as sites of linguistic encounters and contestations?

We thus invite scholars to submit abstracts that engage any of the questions above, any of the subthemes below, or related ones.

SUBTHEMES

1. Language, literature and transnationalism
2. The borders of intimacy: queer encounters
3. Language, literature and border contestations
4. Language, literature and the borders of gender
5. Literature and border drawing/making
6. Migration, return, and re-migration in literature
7. Bordering, debordering and rebordering African languages and literatures
8. Literature and the decolonization of borders
9. Liminality and transculturalism
10. Generic borders in literature
11. Language, literature and border securitization
12. Globalization, global north/south dichotomy, and borderscapes in literature
13. Globalisation and the borders of English
14. Varieties of English as borders
15. Language without borders
16. Black Atlantic and Refugee Crisis
17. Trauma, memory and identity formation in border encounters
18. Border-crossing and tragic modalities
19. Afropolitanism and African Futures in border discourse
20. Border and theatre
21. Digital media and border studies
22. Eco/oikos poetics and bordering
23. Orality and borders
24. Pragmatics of border encounters
25. Border talk/discourse, phonetics and phonology
27. Stylistics of border encounters
28. Migration linguistics
29. Multilingualism and translanguaging in migration
30. Music, arts, and bordering

Keynote Speaker:

Prof. (Mrs) Ngozi Chuma-Udeh, Honourable Commissioner for Education, Anambra State

Lead Paper Presenters:

Prof. Onyemaechi Udumukwu, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Port Harcourt
Prof. P-J. Ezeh, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Host:

Prof. Stella U.N. Okoye-Ugwu
Head, Department of English and Literary Studies
08161652669

Principal Host:

Prof. Paul Obi-Ani
Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Chief Host:

Prof. Charles Arizechukwu Igwe
Vice Chancellor, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Payment:

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Paper Assessment: N5,000 (for those who would want to have their paper published in the AWLEL journal after the conference)

Extra Certificate: N5,000

Please note that all payment tellers and soft copy of transfer should be made clear enough and sent to the following WhatsApp line bearing the payers' names as they appear on their abstract: 08131065321.

Call for Papers:

Abstract should not be more than 250 words, with at least four keywords, in Microsoft Word format. Submissions should include the following: full name, institutional affiliation, e-mail and telephone contacts, and should be sent as an e-mail attachment to the LOC at: awlel2023@gmail.com not later than the absolute deadline: October 31, 2023.

Notes To Contributors

1. The full text of the paper for presentation should not be more than 8,000 words, A4 size, double line spacing, including tables and references.
2. A softcopy of the full paper with full contact details for presenters should be submitted at awlel2023@gmail.com. Participants within the host institution should submit at the office of the Head, Department of English and Literary Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.
3. The latest APA and MLA styles of citation and referencing should be adopted. In addition, quality research papers that meet peer review process will be published in the next Volume 22 of AWLEL.
4. All certificates will be available in electronic copies.

Send your entries to: awlel2023@gmail.com

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