

Kirk B. Sides
Department of English
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Positions/Education

2017–present
Lecturer in World Literatures
Department of English
University of Bristol, U.K.

2014–2017
Postdoctoral Research Fellow/Associate, WiSER,
Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research
University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

2014
Ph.D., Comparative Literature
University of California, Los Angeles
Fields: Post-colonialism; Race Studies; Anglophone and
Francophone Africa and Diaspora Literatures; Apartheid; Eco-criticism.

2004
Université de Perpignan, Perpignan, France
Major: French
Minor: Modern Western Europe

2003
B.A., History
University of South Florida
Major: Modern European History

Publications

“Seed Bags and Storytelling: Modes of Living and Writing after the End in Wanuri Kahiu’s *Pumzi*.”
(Forthcoming in *Critical Philosophy of Race: Special Issue on Race and the Anthropocene*, 2019).

“Narratives of Modernity: Creolization and Early-Postcolonial Style in Thomas Mofolo’s *Chaka*.” *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry* v. 5.3, April 2018.

“Precedence and Warning: Global Apartheid and South Africa’s Long Conversation on Race with the United States.” *Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Studies* v. 18.3, June 2017.

“Relating to and Through Land: An Ecology of Relations in Thomas Mofolo’s *Chaka*.” *The Postcolonial World*.
Eds. Jyotsna Singh and David D. Kim. New York: Routledge Press, September 2016.

“Exile in Mauritius: Colonial Violence and Indian Ocean Archives.” (co-authored with Ronit Frenkel) *Critical Arts: South-North Cultural and Media Studies* v. 30.2, July 2016.

“Ecologies of Relation: Post-Slavery, Post-Apartheid and Rethinking Race Across the Atlantic in Zakes Mda’s *Cion*.” *Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Studies* v. 17.1, February 2016.

“The Ethics of Listening and Empathy’s Movements.” *The Johannesburg Salon* v. 8, March 2015.

“Framing the Debate on Race: Global Historiography and Local Flavor in Berni Searle’s *Colour Me* series.” *Image and Text* v. 17.1, 2011.

“Photography and the Archive: 15th ACASA Triennial Conference, 2011.” *African Arts* v. 44.3 Fall, 2011.

Book Manuscripts in Preparation

African Anthropocene: Race and the Ecological Imaginary in African Literature.

Global Apartheid: Empire and Ecological Difference.

Articles in Preparation

“Global SciFi: Thinking Worlds and Planetary Change.”

Selected Invited Presentations and Keynotes

“We Spend Our Days Trying to Read the Lines of Nature’: Landscapes of Exile in the Indian Ocean”, Taube Center for Jewish Studies, Stanford University, November 2018.

Workshop Facilitator for Arts Management and Literary Activism’s ‘Early Career Academic Writing Workshop.’ “Writing and Revising your Journal Article: From Conference Paper to Peer Review to Publication.” Makerere University, Kampala Uganda, August 2018.

“Hydrofutures: Watery Ecologies in African Speculative Fiction.” Keynote Lecture at Nelson Mandela University, Colloquium on ‘Nautical Metaphors in Film, Language, Literature, Art and Music’, Port Elizabeth, June 2018.

“Seed Bags and Storytelling: Modes of Living after the End in Wanuri Kahiu’s *Pumzi*.” Sponsored panel of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment: ‘Afronatures and Afrofutures: Speculation, Technology, and Environment in African Literature and Film’, MLA, New York, January 2018.

“African Literature and Filmmakers from Africa”, Panel Host at ‘Africa Writes Festival’, Bristol U.K., September 2017.

“Ecological Pedagogies: Writing the Apocalypse in Afrofuturist Film.” Yale University, MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, New Haven, July 2017.

“Africa and the Anthropocene: A ‘Common Geo-Story?’” University of Western Ontario, Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism Colloquium, London Ontario, October 2016.

“Thinking the Anthropocene from Africa: Apocalypse and the End of (Neo-)Liberal Time.” University of Wisconsin, Madison, African Studies Seminar Series, Madison, October 2016.

“Reconciliation and Reparations: Reading Race and Righting Injustice in Post-Slavery America and Post-apartheid South Africa.” Beloit College, Weissberg Program in Human Rights, Beloit, October 2016.

“Thinking the Anthropocene from Africa: Apocalypse and the End of (Neo-)Liberal Time.” The Climate of Race Conference. WiSER, The Rock Ethics Institute, and the Philosophy Department at Pennsylvania State University, Johannesburg, August 2016.

“Post-apartheid, Post-Slavery and Post-Racial: The Limits of Memory and Rethinking Race Across the Atlantic.” Workshop Leader. Invited by The Literary Cultures of the Global South Consortium. University of Tübingen, Germany, July 2016.

“Histories of Empire through Film.” Guest Lecture, Honors Global Cinema Seminar, Department of Media Studies, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, April 2015.

“Ecologies of Relation: Post-apartheid, Post-slavery and Rethinking Race across the Atlantic.” Stellenbosch English Department Seminar Series, Stellenbosch, April 2015.

Selected Conference Presentations

“African Speculative Fiction”, Panel Discussion at The Writivism Festival, Kampala Uganda, August 2018.

“Africa and End Times: Writing the Apocalypse from the Continent.” American Comparative Literature Association, Los Angeles, March 2018.

“Africa and the Anthropocene: Apocalypse and the end of (Neo-) Liberal Time,” African Studies Association, Washington D.C., December 2016.

“Relating to and Through Land: An Ecology of Relations in Thomas Mofolo’s *Chaka*,” African Literature Association, Atlanta, April 2016.

“Post-apartheid and Post-Slavery: The Limits of Memory and Rethinking Race Across the Atlantic,” African Literature Association, Atlanta, April 2016.

Conference Organizer, “Literature in the Age of the Anthropocene,” Special Two-Day Symposium, WiSER, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, November 2015.

Panel Organizer, “Alien Bodies: Trashy Futures and Modernity’s Losses,” African Literature Association Conference; paper: “Searching for a Syntax: Landscapes of Slavery, Creaturely Bodies, and the Untimely Futurity of Amos Tutuola’s Writing.” Bayreuth, Germany, June 2015.

“Apartheid’s Transnational Other: Remembering Slavery and Re-thinking Race Across the Atlantic.” Special Session of the Division on African Literatures, “Memory and Circulation in African Literatures,” MLA, Vancouver, January 2015.

Panel Organizer, “African Literatures in/and the World.” ACLA, New York, March 2014.

“Holocaust in the Indian Ocean: Jewish Exile in Mauritius and the Exotic Other of Africa.” Arts Council of the African Studies Association Triennial, New York, March 2014.

“Apartheid’s Transnational Other: Remembering Slavery and Re-thinking Race Across the Atlantic.” African Studies Association, Baltimore, November 2013.

“The Geographies of Creolization: Thomas Mofolo’s *Chaka* and Negritude’s Ethnic Bodies.” “Thinking the South Atlantic: Africa, Latin America Exchanges,” MLA Panel, Boston, January 2013.

Prepared Courses

“City Futures: Migration, Citizenship and Planetary Change”, Interdisciplinary Urban Studies Workshop.

“African Anthropocene: Writing Apocalypse from Africa”, Advanced Humanities Seminar.

“Global Apartheid in World Literatures”, Advanced Literature Seminar.

“Race Across the Water: Oceans in African and Diaspora Literature and Film”, Literature Survey.

“The Global Epic: Myth, History and World Literatures”, Literature Survey.

“Anglophone World Literatures from ‘Conquest’ to the Present”, Literature Survey.

Academic Honors and Awards

2011, 2014, 2015

Member of the Johannesburg Workshop in Theory and Criticism,
University of Witwatersrand, South Africa.

2010

Fulbright-Hays, GPA Fellowship,
University of Pennsylvania and University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

Andrew W. Mellon, Holocaust in American and World Culture Fellowship (Awarded twice),
UCLA.

UCLA International Institute Fieldwork Fellowship,
UCLA.

Office of Instructional Development Instructional Improvement Grant,
Department of Comparative Literature Pedagogy Digitization Project, UCLA.

2009

Andrew W. Mellon, Holocaust in American and World Culture Fellowship,
UCLA.

2008

Harry and Yvonne Lenart Research Award,
Fowler Museum.

Professional Service, Teaching and Affiliations

2015

Social Media Coordinator, Johannesburg Workshop in Theory and Criticism

2015–2016

Commissioning Co-Editor, *The Johannesburg Salon*

2014–present

Evaluator, Fourth Year Critiques of Fine Arts Students’ Projects, Wits Department of Fine Arts.

2013

Secured Grant/Oversaw Digitization of UFAHAMU: Journal of African Studies Archive.

Orchestrated multi-institutional collaborative project to digitize 42 years of African Studies scholarship.

2012–present

MLA (Modern Language Association), Member.

ASA (African Studies Association), Member.

ALA (African Literature Association), Member.

2011–2014

Editor-in-Chief of *Ufahamu: A Journal of African Studies*.

2010–2013

Teaching Fellow, Department of Comparative Literature, UCLA.

International Professional Service

2011

Volunteer, Keleketla Library, Drill Hall, Johannesburg, South Africa

Writing Facilitator for afterschool program.

Student writing project: “How do You See Your City?” Multimedia creative project centered on youth urban experiences in Johannesburg.

2010

Volunteer, Maqongqo Primary School, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Volunteered in teaching primary school students.

1999

Volunteer, Sydney, Australia Public School System

Formed reading program with high school students within a department for ‘At-Risk’ students.

Acted as coordinator/advisor in a work-experience program with same students.

Languages

French – fluent; Spanish – functional; isiZulu – functional