

Kirk B. Sides

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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

Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research, WiSER

University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

2014

Ph.D., Comparative Literature

University of California, Los Angeles

Selected Publications

“Apartheid’s Ghosts: Slavery in the Literary Imagination.” *Cambridge Companion to Global Literature and Slavery*, ed. Laura Murphy. Cambridge University Press (Forthcoming, 2021).

“Anthropocene Storytelling: Ecological Writing and Pedagogies of Planetary Change.” (Co-authored with Tjawangwa Dema) *Teaching Postcolonial Environmental Literature and Media*, ed. Cajetan N. Iheka. New York: Modern Language Association, (Forthcoming, 2021).

“Holocaust in the Indian Ocean: Landscapes of Exile from Eastern Europe to Mauritius.” *Quest: Issues in Contemporary Jewish History*, (Forthcoming, 2021).

“Eco-Cosmogonies: Climate Change and Ecological Form.” *Verge: Studies in Global Asias*, (Forthcoming, 2021).

“A Truly Decolonial Curriculum Means Treating Students as Citizens.” *WONKHE*, 20 August, 2020.

“Seed Bags and Storytelling: Modes of Living and Writing after the End in Wanuri Kahiu’s *Pumzi*.” *Critical Philosophy of Race: Special Issue on Race and the Anthropocene*, v. 7.1, January 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.

Book Manuscript in Preparation

African Anthropocene: The Ecological Imaginary in African Literatures.

Selected Academic Honors and Awards

Rachel Carson Center for the Environment and Society, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany, 2021 “Futures” Fellow.

Pennsylvania State University, Humanities Institute, Visiting Scholar in Residence, Spring 2021.

Brigstow Institute “Ideas Exchange” Fund, Principle Investigator: “Bristol-Beaufort Futures: Living and Imagining Environmental Change in the US and UK”, Bristol, UK and Beaufort, South Carolina.

Global Challenges Research Fund, Co-Investigator: “Arts Management and Literary Activism Study: Literary Translation and Creative Writing Training Provision for Sub-Saharan Africa”, Botswana, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

Member of the Johannesburg Workshop in Theory and Criticism

University of Witwatersrand, South Africa.

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

UCLA.

Fulbright-Hays Fellow

University of Pennsylvania and University of KwaZulu-Natal Group Project Fellowship

UCLA International Institute Fieldwork Fellowship

UCLA.

Selected Keynotes and Invited Talks

“Anthropocene Storytelling” and “Science Fiction as Method.” Lecture and Workshop Series, “Visions and Voices” Arts and Humanities Initiative, University of Southern California, February 2021.

“Seed Bags and Storytelling: Modes of Living and Writing the End.” Presidential Plenary Speaker at the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, Johns Hopkins University, May 2020. – Cancelled due to COVID19.

“Anthropocene Storytelling: Ecological Writing and Pedagogies of Planetary Change.” Visiting Lecture and Workshop Series, Penn State University, April 2019.

“‘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, South Africa, 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 the ‘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, Connecticut, 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, Wisconsin, October 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.

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

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

Selected Professional Service and Teaching

Director, Bristol Futures University level unit, “City Futures: Migration, Citizenship, Planetary Change,” University of Bristol

Convener, “Decolonizing Literature and Literary Studies,” Department of English, University of Bristol

Advisory Board, ‘Africa Writes: Bristol’, Literary Festival, Bristol, UK

Member, Center for Black Humanities, University of Bristol

Member, Center for Environmental Humanities, University of Bristol

Team Lead, Decolonize the Curriculum Action/Policy Group, University of Bristol