



Aminatta Forna Visit

On Thursday, 14 November, at 5:00 pm, in the Hall Center Conference Hall, **Aminatta Forna** will discuss her new novel, *The Hired Man*, which takes place in the Croatian town of Gost, during the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s. Her talk, this year's Frances and Floyd Horowitz Lecture, is entitled, "Writing War: Civil Conflict and Memory." The novel is receiving its American launch this month. Aminatta Forna was born in Glasgow, raised in Sierra Leone and Britain and also spent periods of her childhood in Iran, Thailand and Zambia. She is the award-winning author of two other novels, *The Memory of Love* and *Ancestor Stones*, and a memoir, *The Devil That Danced on the Water*, which was shortlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize. She has also written short stories and essays as well as for radio and television and presented arts magazine and documentary programs. Forna is Professor of Creative Writing at Bath Spa University in Bath, England. She has just begun an appointment as the Sterling Brown Visiting Professor of Africana Studies at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts. See Hall Center website (from which most of the foregoing was taken) for further information. The Frances and Floyd Horowitz Lecture is devoted to issues related to our multi-cultural society.



Aminatta Forna

KU English Hosts Chinese Scholar

Wu Meiqun (Rebecca Wu), a Ph.D. student at Hunan Normal University in Changsha, People's Republic of China, will be working in the English Department with **Geraldo Sousa** for the next calendar year doing research on Ben Jonson's comedies. Wu arrived in the country on 20 October. She has taught for five years in the Department of English Language and Literature at HNU since receiving her M.A. there in 2007. Her year at KU is funded by a State Scholarship Fund sponsored by the China Scholarship Council. According to Wu, Shakespeare's work and works about him dominate the scholarly conversation about Western Renaissance literature in China. She would like to see Ben Jonson more widely represented and discussed. Wu has also published several articles on William Faulkner while supported by a grant from Hunan Province (2010-2012) and enjoys teaching Faulkner in the classroom. Wu is married, with one daughter (4). She hopes that her husband and daughter can visit her in



Rebecca Wu

the U.S., perhaps at the start of next year. They would love to travel around the country. Rebecca would especially like to visit Seattle, one setting for a favorite film, *Sleepless in Seattle*. In the meantime, she is enjoying the beautiful fall colors in Lawrence, a place she "loved at first sight." She has also been impressed by the clean air, the peaceful ambience, and the friendly, kind-hearted people. Rebecca Wu does not currently have an office in the Department, but please welcome her if you see her in the halls.

Calendar

- F 1 Day of the Dead Reading**, presented by *Beecher's*, featuring, among others, **Joe Harrington**, **Chris McKitterick**, **Darren Canady**, **Marta Caminero-Santangelo**, **Gabriella Lemmons**, **Trevor Alexander**, and **Amy Ash**, 7:00 pm, The Raven Bookstore, 6 E. 7th St.
- T 5 Senior Staff Meeting**, 4:00 pm, 4019 Wescoe. Agenda: TBA
- W 6 CTE Workshop**, "Strategies for Effective Graduate Advising," Leigh Stearns, Geology (faculty perspective); **Ann Martinez**, English and Sahana Mukherjee, Psychology (graduate student perspective), 12:00-1:00 pm, 135 Budig Hall. Register by 11/4.
- R 7 Digital Humanities Seminar**, "Revising Ekphrasis: Using Topic Modeling to Tell the Sister Arts' Story," **Lisa Rhody**, English, University of Maryland, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.
 - M.F.A. Visiting Writers Series**, featuring poets **Matthew Cooperman**, English, Colorado State University; **Aby Kaupang**; and **Callista Buchen**, English, KU, 7:00 pm, Malott Room, Kansas Union.
- F 8 Louise Krug, Ph.D. Defense**, 1:00 pm, 3001A Wescoe (Harrington, Kaminski, *Lorenz*, Moriarty, Loomis)
 - Reading by KU English Creative Writing Alumni**, featuring **Ben Pfeiffer**, **Mary Stone Dockery**, and **Kara Bollinger**, 7:00 pm, Raven Bookstore.
- T 12 Department of English Undergraduate Reading Series**, 7:00 pm, Jayhawk Room, Kansas Union.
- R 14 The Frances and Floyd Horowitz Lecture**, "Writing War: Civil Conflict and Memory," **Aminatta Forna**, Creative Writing, Bath Spa University, 5:00 pm, Hall Center Conference Room.
 - Reading and Presentation by Wyatt Townley**, Poet Laureate of Kansas, Lawrence Public Library, 7th and New Hampshire.
- F 15 Callista Buchen, Ph.D. Comprehensive Exam**, 9:00 am, 3025 Wescoe (Carothers, *Harrington*, W. Harris, Kaminski, Mayhew)
- M 18 Humanities Lecture Series**, "An Evening with Junot Diaz: Literature, Diaspora, Immigration," **Junot Diaz**, Writing, MIT, 7:30 pm, Woodruff Auditorium.

Publications

Schieberle, Misty

“Barnyard Pedagogy: An Approach to Teaching Chaucer’s *Nun’s Priest’s Tale*,” *Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Teaching* 20 (2013): 19-40.

Tidwell, John Edgar

“The Hard Kind of Courage: Labor and Art in Selected Works by Langston Hughes, Gordon Parks, and Frank Marshall Davis,” *Kansas History* 36.3 (Autumn 2013): 158-71.

My Dear Boy: Carrie Hughes’s Letters to Langston Hughes, 1926-1938, eds, John Edgar Tidwell and Carmaletta M. Williams, Athens: University of Georgia Press. 2013.

Presentations

Bloom, Rachel

“Pulling Teeth and Persuasive Performances: Material Rhetoric on a Medical Immersion Trip,” Western States Rhetoric and Literacy Conference, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, 26 October.

Sladek, Amanda

“From ‘Rented Rooms’ to Global Genres: Rethinking Composition’s Extracurriculum and its Role in the Writing Classroom,” Michigan College English Association Conference, Dearborn, MI, 25 October.

Taussig, Rebekah

“Experiencing the ‘Other’: Teaching Ethnography to Engage Difference,” Michigan College English Association Conference, Dearborn, MI, 25 October.

Thomas, Jane

“‘This Isn’t English Class Geek’: A Case Study of Impoliteness in Response to a Sports Article,” Michigan College English Association Conference, Dearborn, MI, 25 October.

Thonus, Terese

“Openings and Closings: Why? How?” Midwest Writing Centers Association, Chicago, IL, 18 October.

Accepted for Publication

Kaminski, Megan

“Distant hills (undulate)” (poem). *Spiral Orb* (forthcoming 2013).

Announcements, Notes, & News

• The winners of 2013’s **Trollope Prizes** are Andrew R. Lallier, University of Tennessee (graduate prize) and Emily Halliwell-MacDonald, University of Toronto (undergraduate prize). Lallier will receive a \$2000 award. Halliwell-MacDonald will receive \$1000. Both essays will be published by *The Fortnightly Review*. Kai Hainer, Halliwell-MacDonald’s instructor at Toronto, will receive a \$500 award for sponsoring the undergraduate essay. The judges for this year’s competition were **Talia Schaffer**, Professor of English at Queens College CUNY and the Graduate Center CUNY; **Lauren M. E. Goodlad**, Associate Professor of English and Director of the Unit

for Criticism and Interpretive Theory at the University of Illinois; and **Dorice Williams Elliott**, KU English. The Trollope Prize is funded by an anonymous donor and is administered by the University of Kansas English Department, with assistance from the Hall Center for the Humanities.

• **The KU Writing Center** wishes to alert faculty and graduate students that it has writing workshops available for graduate courses. Topics include writing APA, MLA, or Chicago Style; Writing a Literature Review; Responding to Peers’ Writing; Handling Writer’s Block; and more. See website for details.

KU and Regional Events

• **Peace, War, & Global Change Seminar**, “Anglo-American Relations and the Insurgency in Northern Ireland,” Daniel Sjursen, History, 1 November, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Early Modern Seminar**, “Making the Right Move: Strategic Game Play in Diego de San Pedro’s *Cárcel de amor*,” Michael O’Brien, Spanish & Portuguese, 4 November, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Nature & Culture Seminar**, “Coevolutionary History,” Ed Russell, History, 8 November, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Reimagining the City Seminar**, “Can Social Media Save a Neighborhood Organization?: Exploring the Potential and Limits of Social Media within Neighborhood Contexts,” Germaine Halegoua, Film & Media Studies; Bonnie Johnson, Urban Planning, 11 November, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **New Faculty Workshop**, “Time Balance: Teaching, Research, Service,” Kim Warren, History, and Ann Schofield, Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies, 12 November, 12:00-1:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **World War I Centennial Event**, “Catastrophe 1914,” Sir Max Hastings, author, journalist, and broadcaster, 13 November, 7:30 pm, Lied Center Pavilion.

• **Red Hot Research**, presenters from Medicinal Chemistry, Visual Art, Geography, Sociology, American Studies/History, 15 November, 4:00 pm, The Commons, Spooner Hall.

Calls for Papers, Conferences, Symposia, Etc. (Posted)

• **American Literature Symposium – The Latina/o Literary Landscape**, sponsored by ALA and the Latina/o Literature and Culture Society, 6-8 March, San Antonio, TX. Deadline: 15 November.

• **The Human, Human Rights, and the Humanities**, 5th Annual Mid-America Humanities Conference, 3-4 April 2014, Humanities and Western Civilization Program, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS. Deadline: 6 December.