



**CENTRE FOR GENDER STUDIES (CGS) IN COLLABORATION WITH CENTRE FOR MIGRATION STUDIES (CMS-NAU), NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY, AWKA, HOST THE 1<sup>ST</sup> PROFESSOR AKACHI EZEIGBO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GENDER 17<sup>TH</sup> & 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2024**

**ABSTRACTS AND PAPER PRESENTATION SCHEDULE**  
**DATE: 18/10/2024, TIME:10AM, VENUE: Centre for Migration Studies Halls**

		Time: 1.30pm- 3pm	GROUP 6 : HALL 1 : CHAIR: Prof. Thecla Udemmadu
S/N	AUTHOR	TITLE	ABSTRACT
1	Rebecca Ufuoma DAVIES	Neo-African Feminism: Emerging Themes in Chinelo Okparanta's <i>Under the Udala Trees</i>	<p>This paper explores the emerging themes of Neo-African feminism in Chinelo Okparanta's novel <i>Under the Udala Trees</i>. Neo-African feminism is a cultural and political movement that is characterized by a renewed interest in African traditions, as well as a desire to connect with the globalised world. The study examines the complexities of gender nonconformity, queer identity, sexuality, and culture within African societies, offering an objective portrayal of feminist struggles and identities. Through the protagonist, Ijeoma's journey of self-discovery and resistance against societal norms, the novel addresses key themes such as queer identities, cultural oppression, intergenerational dynamics, agency, and solidarity. These themes reflect the evolving landscape of feminism in Africa, highlighting the intersections of gender, sexuality, and African heritage in shaping women's experiences and struggles for equality. By analyzing Okparanta's narrative through a Neo-African feminist lens, this paper contributes to the ongoing discussions on feminist literature, social justice, and cultural empowerment in African contexts.</p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Neo-African feminism, queer identities, culture, intergenerational dynamics, agency.</p>



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2	Kayode Niyi AFOLAYAN	Space and Buffers of Gender Freedom in Yejide Kilanko's <i>Chasing Butterflies</i> (2018) and <i>A Good Name</i> (2021)	<p>Over the years, feminist writers have achieved at a convergence that identifies the typologies of oppression against women. The contexts of such deprivations have narrowed down to the domestic space and the diaspora. Although few novelists, such as Akachi Adimora Ezeigbo in <i>Last of the Strong Ones</i> (1996) <i>House of Symbols</i> (2001) and <i>Children of the Eagle</i> (2002) achieved a relative success in their contextualisation of women's struggles within the domestic space, many writers, like Buchi Emecheta did in <i>Second Class Citizens</i> (1974), have now begin to situate the ordeal of African women within diaspora landscape. This article engages with Yejide Kilanko's <i>Chasing Butterflies</i> (2018) and <i>A Good Name</i> (2021) accentuate the prevalence of gender deprivations within the context of marriage and its manifestations in diaspora settings. The article also critically examines the alternative pathways at navigating gender deprivations in the studied texts and applauds the egalitarian ideals in diaspora spaces which give women in the latitude that powers resistance. The conclusion of the article hopes for the replication of those ideals in the domestic space where gender abuse is more entrenched. However, mutual collaboration between men and women remains elusive in domestic and the clog on the wheel of achieving a radical shift.</p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Gender, oppression, diaspora, resistance, resolution</p>
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3	<b>Uzoamaka Tessy Oguchi</b>	<b>Women and the Nation in Postcolonial African Literature</b>	<p>In postcolonial African literature, female characters often occupy a complex space in narratives centered on nation-building and decolonization. While men are frequently depicted as the architects of the new nation, women are often relegated to the background or portrayed primarily as symbols of tradition, motherhood, and the nation's cultural heritage. This representation often reflects patriarchal expectations, where women's identities are tied to their roles within the domestic sphere, leaving their voices, agency, and struggles marginalized in the broader narrative of national identity. However, many African women writers and some male authors challenge these conventions, offering nuanced depictions of women as active participants in the postcolonial struggle, agents of change, and critics of the patriarchal structures. This study addresses the problem of the often overlooked or symbolic representation of women in postcolonial literature and examines how their roles reflect or challenge societal expectations and contribute to the discourse on nationhood. The objective of this study is to critically analyze the representation of female characters in postcolonial African literature, focusing on how these depictions engage with themes of national identity, decolonization, and the postcolonial state's formation. Specifically, the study aims to investigate how female characters are positioned in relation to the nation-building process, whether as passive symbols or active participants. This study employs a qualitative approach, utilizing close textual analysis of selected postcolonial African novels written by both male and female authors. Key texts that will be examined include works by authors such as Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Tsitsi Dangarembga, Mariama Bâ, among others. The study concludes that while postcolonial African literature often reflects societal expectations by positioning women as symbols of tradition and moral virtue, many authors especially women use these depictions to critique and subvert patriarchal and colonial ideologies. Female characters in postcolonial African literature play a vital role not only in representing the nation's cultural continuity but also in interrogating and reshaping the political and social order of the postcolonial state. This study reveals the complexities of their roles in relation to national identity and postcolonial struggles. Women are not mere symbols of the nation but are instead active participants in the nation-building process.</p>



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4	Judith Ume A.	<b>Exploring Dance as a Medium for Challenging Gender Discrimination in Traditional Igbo Society: The Nkwanwite Dance Performance as Example</b>	<p>Despite the robust engagements and campaigns on gender equality that have gone on over the years in Nigeria, Igbo women continue to face patriarchal norms and discriminatory practices. This study therefore explores the potency of dance as a tool for challenging gender discrimination in traditional Igbo society. Feminist Performance Theory was adopted for this study while qualitative methodology which involved observation, interview and analysis of selected dance was adopted in investigating how the Nkwanwite dance, traditionally performed by women tends to challenge and possibly subvert the patriarchal order through its choreography, lyrics and performance context. The study found that dance is a potent communicative medium that can be employed for gender-based pedagogy. More Dances like the Nkwanwite should therefore be created and encouraged to fester as it fosters solidarity and empowerment among women. By highlighting the significance of traditional performances like the Nkwanwite dance in promoting gender equality and social justice in Igbo society, the study contributes to the growing body of scholarship on gender dynamics and women liberation.</p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Dance, Medium, Gender Discrimination, Traditional, Igbo Society, Performance</p>
5	Adaoma Igwedibia	<b>Intersectional Liberation: Audre Lorde's Poetic Resistance to Patriarchy</b>	<p>This paper examines Audre Lorde's poetic resistance to patriarchal systems, intersecting with racism, sexism, homophobia, and classism. Through a close reading of "A Woman Speaks" and "A Burst of Light," this study demonstrates how Lorde's poetry reclaims her voice and body as a Black lesbian woman, challenging dominant narratives. Lorde's work exemplifies intersectional liberation, highlighting the interconnectedness of oppressive systems. "A Woman Speaks" boldly asserts female agency, while "A Burst of Light" defies patriarchal erasure in the face of cancer. This analysis contributes to ongoing discussions on feminist theory, intersectionality, and queer studies, underscoring Lorde's significance as a pioneering voice.</p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Audre Lorde, intersectionality, patriarchal resistance, poetic liberation, Black feminism, queer theory.</p>



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6	<b>Ebuka Ilukwe E.</b>	<b>Examining the Portrayal of Women in Nigerian Hip Hop Music: A Critical Analysis of Lyrics, Imagery and Themes in Selected Videos</b>	Negative portrayal of women has become a common feature of Nigerian hip-hop music videos. This trend poses grave implications for the female gender and the Nigeria society at large. Hence this study investigates the implications of the objectification, sexualization and marginalization of women in Nigeria hip hop music by analyzing the lyrics, imagery and themes in selected videos. The study relied on Fredrickson and Robert's Objectification Theory to interrogate the research problem. It was found from the contents of the music videos that the portrayal of the female gender by male hip hop artists has affected the image of women in contemporary society. It has reduced the self-worth of the younger generation of females as they now confidently wear some of the sexually suggestive costumes they see in the videos to various outdoor events thereby perpetuating a culture of objectification and other harmful gender stereotyping. The study therefore recommends that government regulatory bodies should ensure that songs by hip hop music artists are properly censored in order to mitigate the harmful effect of negative contents on audiences. Music artists, video directors and producers should concern themselves with making musicals that can project the rich cultural values of the Nigerian nation while ensuring that womanhood is positively represented.
7	<b>Obianuju Gladys Nwosu</b>	<b>Film Narratives as a Vehicle for Effective Conscientization: An Analysis of <i>Code of Silence</i> and <i>Cluster</i></b>	A society where security has taken a nose-dive crash leaves its inhabitants exposed to unwelcoming developments and experiences. Rape is one experience that is devastating. Conscious efforts have been made to curb its occurrence and address victims of rape. This study is set to expose the possible negative consequences rape victims may be exposed to if not probably managed or the challenge they may be passing through if the victims refuse to share the bitter experience. The research will lay emphasis on the importance of standing firm and expressing themselves. Gene-based evolutionary theories in criminology will be adopted for this study and the research will include the rape trauma syndrome concept which will be used to investigate the reason most victims of rape are unwilling to share the gruesome experience. The movies selected purposively for this research are <i>Code of Silence</i> and <i>Cluster</i> .



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8	Uka, Carol Nkemdirim	Emancipation and Self Actualization in the Selected Works of Akachi Adimora's <i>The Last of the Strong Ones</i>	This research examines emancipation and self-actualization in selected works of Akachi Adimora Ezeigbo's, <i>The Last of the Strong Ones</i> . Female emancipation and self-actualization remains a big challenge to women in most African countries where culture and patriarchy dominate women's freedom, and desire to grow. The purpose for this study is to present instances of these challenges women face in the African society and how they are able to overcome. The theory that informs this study is the African feminist theory known as Womanism. This theory recognizes the African husband as the head but reminds them that the woman must be respected. This study underscores that Ezeigbo creates powerful female characters that are fearless when faced with problems, as opposed to the negative representation of women by male writers as second fiddles and insignificant. This study contains that the misrepresentation of women in African literature is hinged on the patriarchal nature of the traditional African society. This is a qualitative research as information are collected from journals, the internet, among others. Findings show that most African women who strive to forge ahead still do, despite the challenges. The study concludes that, women are achievers, given the numerous roles their play as presented in the work. The study recommends that re-orientation among men, especially with regards to their perception and treatment of the female folk while archaic traditions should be abolished. This work has informed us that women are able to grow beyond societies traditional and cultural expectations.
9.	Bentina Alawari Mathias  &  Miriam David	Impact of Contemporary dressing trends on the academic performance of female students in Tertiary Institutions: A Study of Nnamdi Azikiwe University.	This study explores the impact of contemporary dressing trends on the academic performance of female students. The research investigates how different styles of attire, influenced by the school, social media, celebrity culture, and peer pressure, affect perceptions of competence and academic outcomes in Nnamdi Azikiwe University. Three Faculties were purposively selected. The researchers employed the mixed research method involving qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques. Social learning theory, labelling theory and Rational theory were adopted as the theoretical frame work Findings indicate that while professional attire is often associated with higher perceived competence and better academic performance, more casual or revealing clothing can lead to negative judgments and lower academic expectations from peers and educators However, the direct correlation between dressing trends and academic performance remains inconclusive, with some studies suggesting no significant impact Based on the findings, the study underscores the importance of understanding the social dynamics and stereotypes that influence academic environments and calls for a more inclusive approach to evaluating student performance beyond appearance. The study further recommends that students should dress the way they wish to be addressed. <b>Key words:</b> Academic performance, Dressing trends, Female students, Peer pressure, Social dynamics





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10	<b>Onuora Benedict Nweke</b>  <b>&amp;</b>  <b>Ogonna Nkereuwem</b>	<b>Queerness and the Perverse Psychology in Nigerian Literature: Exploring Sexual Perversion in Two Novels</b>	<p>Queerness, previously known to project 'gayism' and lesbianism, has now expanded and assumed a broader intellectual spectrum covering all areas that challenge the notion of heterosexuality as normal. This has given rise to its emergence as a field of study and its theorization as a field of poststructuralist critical theory. Its rejection of the self-sufficiency of structuralism and the interrogation of the binary oppositions of established socially constructed structures pitted the structuralists against such theorists as Roland Bathes, Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, Gilles Deleuze and Jean. But the concern here is that in the interpretation of social relationships, the poststructuralist contends that 'history and culture actually condition the study of underlying structures, and these are subject to biases and misinterpretations.' Therefore, the idea of singleness of meaning is inexistent and it is on that basis that this paper intends to examine in two novels the underlying structures that compel the perverse psychology that results in queerness in narratives of relationships. Drawing from Roland Bathes and Michel Foucault's focus on linguistics structures to yield meaning, the paper reveals how interpretations of human and social relationships are manipulated to biased conclusions. Therefore, heterogeneity is challenged as normative in exposing the motivations and actions behind the sexual relationships in the narratives examined in this paper. The two novels to be used to aid the investigation of the subjects include <i>Freshwater</i> by Akwaeke Emezi and <i>Under the Udala Tree</i> by Chinelo Okparanta.</p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> perversity, transgender, binary opposition, interpretive structure, homosexuality, lesbianism and gay.</p>
11	<b>AIGBODU WA, Stephen Ayemwenre &amp; MAXWEL L, O. Arimonu</b>	<b>Gender Effect on Students' Performance in Block-Laying and Concrete Works in Government Science and Technical Colleges in Edo State</b>	<p>The study examined the gender effect on students' performance in block-laying and concrete works in government science and technical colleges in Edo State. One research question was raised to guide the study and one hypothesis formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance. No sampling technique used, due to the manageable size of the population. The research instrument was subjected to test-retest reliability test technique. The reliability coefficient was calculated using Cronbach-Alpha coefficient. The data collected were analyzed using Mean and Standard Deviation and t-test. Mean and standard deviation were used to analyze the research question and t-test was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. The results of the study showed that even though the male students had slightly better performance compared to the female students, it was not significant. Based on the findings of this study, recommendations were made. Parents are encouraged to provide the right education they can afford for their children irrespective of gender. Also, there should be a deliberate Federal Government policy to encourage absorbance of female students into further studies in block-laying and concrete works. Furthermore, it was recommended that stake holders in the education industry should make use of these findings and try to research into ways of making gender sensitive policies.</p>

			<b>Keywords:</b> Education, Gender, Students' Performance, and Technical Colleges.
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