

**Contested Solidarities:  
Agency and Victimhood in Anglophone Literatures and Cultures**

33rd Annual Conference of the Association for Anglophone Postcolonial  
Studies (Gesellschaft für anglophone postkoloniale Studien / GAPS)  
Goethe University Frankfurt, 26–29 May, 2022

**Wednesday 25 May**

7pm, **Conference Warm Up**, Venue: TBA

**Thursday 26 May**

8:30 – 10:00	Conference Registration
9.30 – 10:00	<b>Opening Ceremony</b>  Enrico Schleiff, President of Goethe University Frankfurt Cecile Sandten, President of GAPS Kathrin Bartha, Pavan Kumar Malreddy, Frank Schulze-Engler, Conference Organizers
10:00 – 11:00	<b>Arundhati Roy in Conversation</b>

**11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break**

**Panel 1, Moving the Center: Affect, Implication, and Agency in Colonial and Postcolonial Literatures (I)**

**11:30 – 13:00, Room:**

*Chair:* Delphine Munos (Liège and Ghent)

Bastien Bomans (Liège)	Rhizomatic Reading/Feeling of the Wor(l)d: Unexpected (Queer) Connections in David Chariandy's <i>Soucouyant</i>
Caroline Kögler (Münster)	Implicated Affect, or: Traumatic Attachments – Historical Perspectives
Cedric Van Dijck (Ghent)	Mud-besmeared Hulking Forms: Affect and Agency in Mulk Raj Anand's War Trilogy

**Panel 2, Ecological Solidarities, Vulnerabilities and Resistances, Part I:**

**Climate Vulnerability**

**11:30 – 13:00, Room:**

*Chair:* Jennifer Leetsch (Bonn)  
(15 min. papers)

Baldeep Kaur (Potsdam)	Wetland Futures: Narratives of Colonialism’s Ruderal Ecologies in the Climate Crisis
Rebecca Macklin (Edinburgh)	“Still there are those who see us”: Uranium, Empire and Poetic Networks of Care
Trang Dang (Nottingham Trent)	Indigenous Resistance and Kinship in Cherie Dimaline’s <i>The Marrow Thieves</i>
Hannah Nelson-Teutsch (Würzburg)	Towards a Scrappy Approach to Reading in the Anthropocene

**Panel 3, Mobilities and Contested Identities**

**11:30 – 13:00, Room:**

*Chairs:* Sheelalipi Sahana (Edinburgh) and Michelle Stork (Frankfurt)  
(15 min. papers)

Marian Ofori-Amofo (Bayreuth)	Beyond “Victim Diaspora(s)”: Aesthetic Solidarity, Mobility, and Agency in Contemporary Anglophone Immigrant Novels
Michelle Stork (Frankfurt)	Constructing Middle-Class Identities and Solidarities via Automobility in Goyal’s Indian Road Novel <i>Colourful Notions</i>
Sigrid Thomsen (Vienna)	“You no deserve I speak to you in Spanish”: Mechanisms of Linguistic Exclusion and Inclusion in Junot Díaz
Sheelalipi Sahana (Edinburgh)	Negative Agency and Negotiating Power in Indian Women’s Travel Narratives

**Panel 4, Implicated Subjects: Theory and Practice**

**11:30 – 13:00, Room:**

*Chair:*

Robert Kusek (Krakow)	Unlikely Comrades? South Africa, Poland, and the Solidarity of “Implicated Subjects”
Jarula MI Wegner (Frankfurt)	The Implicated Object and the Irritating Subject of Power: Michael Rothberg’s <i>The Implicated Subject</i> in dialogue with Hazel Carby’s <i>Imperial Intimacies</i>
Vahid Aghaei (Münster)	An Exploration of Michael Rothberg’s Concept of the “Implicated Subject” in Ian McEwan’s <i>Saturday</i> and Edward Ball’s <i>Life of a Klansman: A Family History in White Supremacy</i>

**13:00 to 14:00 Catered Lunch (pre-order only)**

**Panel 5, Narrative Agencies (I)**

**14:00 – 15:30, Room:**

*Chair:*

Felipe Espinoza Garrido (Münster)	“Just remember not to believe everything you read”: Variations of Victimhood and the Ambivalence of Agency in Sara Collins’s “The Confessions of Frannie Langton”
Miriam Fernandez Santiago (Granada)	Internal Rifts. M.G. Sánchez’s ‘Postcolonial Crip’ in <i>Gooseman</i> (2020)
Deniz Gundogan Ibrism (Sabanci)	Implication as an Aesthetic Paradigm in the Anthropocene: Pakistan Anglophone Literature

**Panel 6, Ecological Solidarities, Vulnerabilities and Resistances, Part II: Multi-Species Encounters**

**14:00 – 15:30, Room:**

*Chair:* Jennifer Leetsch (Bonn)

(15 min. papers)

Apala Bhowmick (Emory)	Mechanics of Authoritarian Power and Collapsing of Species Boundaries in Ahmadou Kourouma’s <i>Waiting for the Wild Beasts to Vote</i>
Christina Slopek (Düsseldorf)	“Making Generative Oddkin”? Female Bodies as a Site of Connectivity in Edwidge Danticat’s <i>Claire of the Sea Light</i>
Kylie Crane (Rostock)	Cross-Species Imaginaries in the Anthropocene: Tade Thompson’s Wormwood Trilogy and SF-Worlds-Beyond-Us
Arunima Bhattacharya (Leeds)	Island Ecologies and the Indian Nation State: Andaman Islands in <i>Glorious Boy</i> and <i>Latitudes of Longing</i>

**Panel 7, Beyond Victimhood in African Literature**

**14:00 – 15:30, Room:**

*Chair:*

Alex Wanjala (Nairobi)	Agency for the Victims of the Postcolonial Condition in Kenya? Yvonne Owuor’s <i>Dust</i>
Silke Stroh (Münster)	Re-imagining Zimbabwean and Global Crises: Victimhood and Agency in Tendai Huchu’s short fiction
Tanaka Chidora (Zimbabwe & Frankfurt)	The Parenticide of NoViolet Bulawayo’s <i>We Need New Names</i> (2013)

**Panel 8, Collaborations (I)**  
**14:00 – 15:30, Room:**

*Chair:*

Anke Bartels; Judith Coffey; Sérgio Costa; Lars Eckstein; Regina Römhild; Anja Schwarz; Nicole Waller; Dirk Wiemann (Potsdam and Berlin)	Rethinking Collaborations
Fernando Baldría (FU Berlin); Keith Camacho (UCLA); Satish Poduval & Madhumeeta Sinha (EFLU, Hyderabad); Stephen Muecke (Flinders); Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung (Berlin)	Video Statements

**15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break**

**Panel 9, Collaborations (II) Plenary Roundtable**

16:00 – 17:30	<i>Panel Leads:</i> Anke Bartels; Judith Coffey; Sérgio Costa; Lars Eckstein; Regina Römhild; Anja Schwarz; Nicole Waller; Dirk Wiemann (Potsdam and Berlin)  <i>Speakers:</i> Encarnación Gutiérrez Rodríguez (Gießen) Max Czollek (Berlin) Ira Raja (Delhi)
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**18:00 – 19:00 Reception**

19:00 – 20:30	<b>Literary Roundtable with Tara June Winch and Sinan Antoon</b> <i>Moderators:</i> Pavan Malreddy and Kathrin Bartha
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**Friday 27 May**

9:30 – 10:30	<b><i>Sinan Antoon</i></b> <b>Discursive Violence and Dismembered Memories</b> <i>Chair:</i>
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**10.30 – 11.00 Coffee Break**

**Panel 10, Victims and/or Agents? The Limitations of Empathy in Postcolonial Fiction and Non-Fiction**

**11:00 – 13:00, Room:**

*Chair:* Jaine Chemmachery (Sorbonne)

Jaine Chemmachery (Sorbonne)	Victimhood and Agency in Contexts of Colonisation and Migration: Sunjeev Sahota's <i>Year of the Runaways</i> (2015) and Shailja Patel's <i>Migritude</i> (2010)
Cédric Courtois (Université de Lille)	"I am a survivor": The Victimhood and Agency of Boko Haram Abductees and the Poetics/Politics of Empathy
Vanessa Guignery (École Normale Supérieure de Lyon)	Victimhood, Agency, Vulnerability: Portraits of Delhi Manual Workers in Aman Sethi's <i>A Free Man</i> (2011) and Mridula Koshy's <i>Bicycle Dreaming</i> (2016)
Fiona McCann (Université de Lille)	Affective Political Agencies in Cauvery Madhavan's <i>The Tainted</i> (2020)

**Panel 11, Beyond Victimology: War Narratives in a Decentred World**

**11:00 – 13:00, Room:**

*Chair:*

Lukas Lammers (FU Berlin)	Triangulating Histories – Contested Solidarities: Anglophone Fictions of World War II in East Africa
Victoria Herche (Cologne)	"Sometimes it's better to forget": Ethnic literature and Literary Ethics in Nam Le's Short Fiction
Alessandra Di Pietro (Bern)	Reversing Victimology: Maaza Mengiste's <i>The Shadow King</i> as a War Narrative of Female Agency
Nuha Askar (Frankfurt)	Who is the Enemy? Disassembling Postcolonial Binaries by Self-reflexivity in <i>What Strange Paradise</i> (2021)

**Panel 12, Convivial Imaginaries: Resources of Hope in Cultural Production**

**11:00 – 13:00, Room:**

*Chair:*

Jan Rupp (Heidelberg)	Contested Solidarities and Hospitable Form in World Refugee Life-Writing
Asli Ergün (Frankfurt)	The Italian Restaurant Around the Corner: Convivial Encounters and New Solidarities in Nikita Lalwani's <i>You People</i>
Elisabeth Knittelfelder (Graz)	Reimagining Care, Community, and Activism in Mojisola Adebayo's <i>The Interrogation of Sandra Bland</i> (2017), Yaël Farber's <i>Nirbayah</i> (2012), and the Workshop Play <i>#JustMen</i> (2018)
Tatjana Milosavljević Mijučić (Novi Sad)	Of Friends and Foes: Recovering the Community in Zadie Smith's <i>NW</i> and <i>Swing Time</i>

**Panel 13, Moving the Center: Affect, Implication, and Agency in Colonial and Postcolonial Literatures (II)**

**11:00 – 13:00, Room:**

*Chair:*

Jennifer Leetsch (Bonn)	'The Power to be Affected': Love, Desire and other Sticky Feelings in Postcolonial Literature
Bénédicte Ledent (Liège)	Liberating structures of feeling in Caryl Phillips's <i>Cambridge</i> and <i>A Distant Shore</i>
Caroline Kögler (Münster)	Memorialising African Being and Becoming in the Atlantic World: Affective Herstories by Yaa Gyasi and Bernardine Evaristo

**13:00 – 14:00 Lunch in the University Canteen (Self-pay)**

**Panel 14, Moving the Center: Affect, Implication, and Agency in Colonial and Postcolonial Literatures (III)**

**14:00 – 15:30, Room:**

*Chair:*

Delphine Munos (Liège and Ghent)	This is Not Postcolonial Literature: Happiness, Ambivalence, and Sentimentality in Chick-Lit of the Global South (on Anita Heiss' <i>Not Meeting Mr. Right</i> , Anuja Chauhan's <i>The Zoya Factor</i> , and Cynthia Jele's <i>Happiness is a Four-Letter Word</i> )
Marie Herbillon (Ghent)	Dancing for Salvation: Performance and the Transformative Power of Affect in J.M. Coetzee's <i>The Death of Jesus</i>
Silvia Schultermandl (Münster)	Respondent

**Panel 15, The Poetics and Politics of Agency**

**14:00 – 15:30, Room:**

*Chair:*

Hannah Pardey (Hannover)	A Poetics of Digital Agency: Adichie, Braithwaite, Nwaubani
Clare Kelly (Dublin)	Authorial Agency and the Postcolonial Literary Archive: The sale of Amos Tutuola's Manuscripts to the Harry Ransom Centre
Miriam Hinz, (Düsseldorf)	"The trump card that God has wedged in between their legs": Solidarity and Agency in Chika Unigwe's <i>On Black Sisters' Street</i>

11:30 – 13:00	Teacher Training Workshop: Environmental (In)Justice and Ecological Solidarities (I) <i>Chair(s):</i> Pavan Malreddy & Roman Bartosch
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**Panel 16, Moving Solidarities and Affective Alliances in Contemporary Afro-diasporic Literature and Performance**

**14:00 – 15:30, Room:**

*Chair:* Emilia María Durán Almarza

Emilia María Durán Almarza (U. Oviedo)	Gestures of Contested Solidarities in Contemporary Afro-diasporic Collective Theatre
Elena Igartuburu (U. Oviedo)	Moving Bodies, Moving Words: Dance, Grief, and Redaction in Dionne Brand and Edwige Danticat
Ángela Suárez Rodríguez (U. Oviedo)	Hopeful Solidarities and Resistance in the Contemporary African Novel

**Panel 17, Narrative Agencies (II)**

**14:00 – 15:30, Room:**

*Chair:*

Eva Ulrike Pirker, Tasun Tidorchibe (Düsseldorf)	The Agency of Words: Rereading Ama Ata Aidoo's Works of Fiction through a New Formalist Lens
Silvia Anastasijevic (Frankfurt)	Beyond the Victim-Perpetrator Paradigm: Overcoming 'Single Stories' through Humor
Laura A. Zander (Münster)	Cautious Hope and Broken Promise – Haunted Imaginaries in Recent South African Fiction

14:00 – 15:30

Teacher Training Workshop: Environmental (In)Justice and Ecological Solidarities (II)  
*Chair:*

***15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break***

16:00 – 17:15

Goethe University Westend Campus Tour

17:30 – 19:00

**Roundtable with Michael Rothberg**

***19:15 Conference Dinner (pre-order only)***



**Saturday 28 May**

**Panel 18, Colonial and Postcolonial Memories**

**9:30 – 11:00, Room:**

*Chair:*

Rita Maricocchi (Münster)	(Trans)national Memory and Implication in Priya Basil's Video Essay "Locked In and Out"
Sayan Chattopadhyay (IIT, Kanpur)	Neoliberalism, International Charity, and the Premodern: A Reading of Anuradha Roy's <i>Sleeping on Jupiter</i>
Oluwadunni Talabi (Bremen)	Recipes for Colonial Undoing

**Panel 19, Arab Anglophone Solidarities**

**9:30 – 11:00, Room:**

*Chair:*

Saleh Chaoui (Debrecen)	Ensouling Agential Praxis in a Secular World: A Sufi Spiritual Turn in Leila Aboulela's <i>The Kindness of Enemies</i>
Aya Chelloul (Szeged)	Wealth, Loss, and Islamic Faith in Leila Aboulela's novel <i>Minaret</i> .
Lindsey Moore (Lancaster)	In the Laboratory: Cultivating 'Palestine' through interminable catastrophe in Larissa Sansour's <i>In Vitro</i> (2019) and Saleem Haddad's 'Song of the Birds' (2019)

**Panel 20, Canons and Counter-Canons**

**9:30 – 11:00, Room:**

*Chair:*

Mridula Sharma (Delhi)	Colonial Currencies of Nationalism in the Postcolonial State: Questions of Nationality and Citizenship
Thayeeekrishna K K (Delhi)	The Poetics and Politics of Postcolonial Shakespeares
Muddasir Ramzan (Aligarh)	Understanding Contemporary Migration: A Study of Mohsin Hamid's <i>Exit West</i>

**Panel 21, Under Construction (I)**

**9:30 – 11:00, Room:**

*Chair:*

Eman Alasah (Northumbria)	Exophony, Agency and Decolonization in Anglophone Palestinian Autobiographical Writing
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Saambaviy Sivaji (Frankfurt)	Memory, Agency, and Solidarity in the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MMCA) Sri Lanka
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**11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break**

**Panel 22, Indigenous Agency**

**11:30 – 13:00, Room:**

*Chair:*

Annika Beer (Frankfurt)	Breaking Binaries: Exploring Queer Indigenous Identities in Contemporary Anglophone Literatures
Angela Benkhadda (Bonn)	Survivance and Sovereignty in Native American Historical Fiction
Angela Kölling (Mainz)	Uneasy Linkages: German anti-Covid19 measures protesters performing the Maori Haka

**Panel 23, Violence and Survivance**

**11:30 – 13:00, Room:**

*Chair:*

Peri Sipahi (Münster)	“not yet / under water” – Rejecting Victimhood and Negotiating the Implicated Subject in Kathy Jetñil-Kijner’s Ecocritical Poetry
Sanghamitra Dalal (MARA, Malaysia)	Locating “We”: The Implicated Readers in Tash Aw’s “We, The Survivors”
Zoë Miller (Manchester)	‘A black devil kissing her sad mouth. Like you kissed mine’: Sexual and Colonial Violences in Jean Rhys’ <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>

**Panel 24, Intimate Enemies: ‘Traitors’ in Contemporary Anglophone Literatures and Cultures**

**11:30 – 13:00, Room:**

*Chair:*

Leonie John (Cologne)	“[H]ow dare it be his people”? Family, Agency, Terrorism and Victimhood in Kamila Shamsie’s <i>Home Fire</i>
Durba Mukherjee (IIT, Kanpur)	Dom Moraes: A ‘Traitor’ who ‘Fractured’ India, or an Empathizer who Felt with the Marginalized?
Kristin Aubel (Dortmund)	We Are Doing This to Her – Victims and Villains in Helen Oyeyemi’s <i>Boy, Snow, Bird</i>

**Panel 25, Archives, Nations and Invisible Communities**

**11:30 – 13:00, Room:**

*Chair:*

Sukla Chatterjee (Bremen)	The Politics of Erasure: Hunger and the Decolonial State in the Short Stories of Mahasweta Debi
Holly Wielechowski (Wayne State)	Alternative Archives: “The 1619 Project” and the Battle for a National Narrative
Margarida Pereira Martins (Lisbon)	The Archaeology of Absence in Kamila Shamsie’s <i>A God in Every Stone</i>

**13:00 – 14:00 Lunch**

**Catered Lunch (pre-order only)**

14:00 – 17:00	<b>GAPS Annual Members’ Meeting</b> Room: Cas. 1.801
14:00 – 17:00	<b>Guided Tour of Frankfurt</b> for non-members
18:00 – 19:30	<b>Reception &amp; Award Ceremony</b> for GAPS Graduate Award and GAPS Dissertation Award
20:00 – 21:30	<b>The ZIAF Night of African Literature:</b> Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor, Abubakar Adam Ibrahim, Blessing Obada <i>Chair:</i>

**Sunday 29 May**

9:00 – 10:00	<b>Geoffrey Davis Memorial Lecture:</b> Harshana Rambukwella
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**10:00 – 10:30 Coffee Break**

**Panel 26, Contested Borders: Agency and Victimhood in Arab Anglophone  
Travel Literature**

**10:30 – 12:00, Room:**

*Chair:* Nadia Butt

Nadia Butt (Giessen)	Forms of Self-Assertion in Leila Ahmed's Memoir <i>A Border Passage: From Cairo to America – A Woman's Journey</i> (1999)
Hoda Elhadary (British University in Egypt)	The Burden of (Mis)representation in Jamal Mahjoub's <i>The Fugitives</i>
Noha Hanafy (Ain Shams University)	The Freedom and Confinement of the Journey in Hisham Matar's <i>The Return</i>

**Panel 27, Under Construction (II)**

**10:30 – 12:00, Room:**

*Chair:*

Nneoma Otuegbe (Wolverhampton)	Recalling Trauma: The Legacy of Slavery and Colonialism in Contemporary Black Women's Fiction
Mahtab Dadkhah (Erfurt)	Role of Fictional Narratives in Commonwealth Migration and Identification: A Phenomenological Study of Indian and African Academic Migrants in Germany
Sania Hashmi (Michigan)	Managing Minorities in Majoritarian Democracies: A Necropolitical Reading of Arjun Appardurai's <i>Fear of Small Numbers</i>

**Panel 28, Trauma, Gender and Agency**

**10:30 – 12:00, Room:**

*Chair:* John Greaney

Dirk van Rens (Eastern Finland)	Fire and Water: Trauma in Yaa Gyasi's <i>Homegoing</i>
Sourav Kumar Nag (Bankura)	Playing the Victim? Miya Poetry and Politics of Victimhood
Julia Wurr (Oldenburg)	Reproductive Agency and Victimhood: Visible Absences in Fictional Representations of Commercial Surrogacy

**Panel 29, Refugees, Exiles and Margins**  
**10:30 – 12:00, Room:**

*Chair:*

Deepmala Mahato and Abantika Chakraborty (Mahishadal Raj College)	Solidarity on the Margins: Corporate Aggression and Indigenous Identity in Ranendra's <i>Lords of the Global Village</i>
Asis De and Maitrayee Misra (Mahishadal Raj College)	"Bastuhara" to "Immigrati": Resistance and Refugee Solidarity in Amitav Ghosh's <i>The Hungry Tide</i> and <i>Gun Island</i>
Mursed Alam (Gour College, Gour Bang)	Ethnocratic Populism in a Postcolony: Lynchings, Barecitizens and the Search for New Solidarities

**Panel 30, Specters, Bodies and Implicated Solidarities**  
**10:30 – 12:00, Room:**

Tehmina Pirzada (Texas A & M, Qatar)	"My daughter's hands!": Amputation and Embodiment in <i>Mai</i> and <i>The Bite of the Mango</i>
Ivan Stacy (Beijing)	Subversion Subverted: 2016 and the Reactionary Appropriation of the Carnavalesque
12:00 – 12:45	<b>Final Roundtable</b>

**12:45 – 13:30 Catered Lunch (pre-order only)**

**Conference Ends**