

EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION TO SPECIAL ISSUE

As promised, the *Cahiers ivoiriens d'études comparées* (CIEC)/*Ivorian Journal of Comparative Studies* (IJCS) is a platform of academic expression and this special issue attests this. We have a gamut of works showcasing new directions and approaches in contemporary literary and cultural on the African continent. *CIEC/IJCS* seeks to further diversity of opinion in order to take readers on a tour and farther from the mono-lens used for apprehension of people things around us. Therefore, our invitation to readers, editors and writers to ensure academic conversations is renewed.

The second volume of the year 2015 closes with a special issue dealing with subjects in literature, culture and philosophy. Each piece contributes in its own specific way to take part in the conversation on literature in francophone Africa and beyond.

The first article is by Bedia Jean-Fernand. It is titled “Il était une fois l’ethnie : pour une critique du paradigme ‘guerre ethnique’ dans *Les Petits-fils nègres de Vercingétorix* d’Alain Mabanckou.” Dr. Bedia’s work provides an overview of the literary historiography of the African continent through the civil unrest and wars that wrought havoc on African countries like Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cote d’Ivoire, etc. This overview builds on Mabanckou’s *Les petits-fils nègres de Vercingétorix* dealing with ethnic wars and what spurred them and how it was seen by political commentators in the media.

The second contribution is by Amah Nathalie Kouamé and is titled “Le génocide rwandais dans les récits autobiographiques de Yolande Mukagasana” (Yolande Mukagasana’s accounts of Rwandan genocide in her autobiographies). The Rwanda-genocide survivor and author, according to Amah Kouame, seeks, through a form of resilience-based writing, to memorialize her experience of the genocide in order to give eternal cloak to the truth about it, thereby favoring the coming of age of true justice and reconciliation among her countrymen and

women. This is incursion into the societal, political and cultural turmoil the African continent went through in the 1990's.

The third contribution in this series is a philosophical analysis titled “Rousseau et Hegel face à l’antinomie de l’histoire” by Atyoub Lawani. This article sets back to back two opposing conceptions of history, each focusing on one of the two branches of the antinomy of history. According to Lawani, when faced with the antinomy of history Hegel proposes a solution that estranges from Jean-Jacques Rousseau's understanding of antinomy. And yet, Hegel himself, according to Lawani fails to escape the trap of antinomy. Antinomy appears to be a zero sum game.

The last issue of this volume closes with a review essay “Conceptually Recalibrating ‘Griotique’: Aboubakar Toure’s Resuscitation of an Authentically (West) African Concept of Dramaturgy” dealing with African artistic inventiveness. This critical review explains what prompted Aboubakar Toure to seize pen and tell his part of the story about the invention of “griotique” in Cote d’Ivoire. This is in line with academic attempts at debunking negative constructions about African personality. Tapping into the cultural wealth of the Mande people, i.e., drawing from the attributes of the West African custodian of history and communal values (the griot), Toure and Niangoran Porquet follow in the footsteps of predecessors like Senghor, Césaire and Damas who advocated the Negritude movement in 1930's to re-represent Africa and her people.

CIEC/IJCS brings this eclectic issue to show how diversified called Comparative Literature /Studies. We hope readers will enjoy this addition, and we encourage the entrenchment of renewed academic conversations.

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