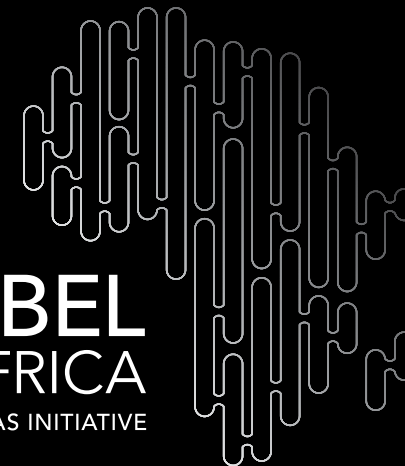


Making African Literature Visible

Wednesday, 5 November 2025 | 10:00 until 15:00
School of Public Health, University of the Western Cape

NOBEL
IN AFRICA
A STIAS INITIATIVE



Akachi Ezeigbo – Essayist, literary theorist, novelist, playwright, poet, short story writer and children's author – Akachi Ezeigbo is a Professor of English who taught for three decades at the University of Lagos before moving eastwards to teach at Federal University Ndufu-Alike, Ikwo, in Ebony State.

A multiple award-winning writer and scholar, she has received several national and international awards including a Commonwealth Fellowship (1989/90) and a British Council Fellowship at Cambridge University (1998). She received the first Best Researcher Award in the Arts and Humanities at the University of Lagos. Other prizes and awards include the Cadbury Poetry Prize, WORDOC Short Story Prize, Flora Nwapa Prize, the Nigeria



Prize for Literature, and the African Literature Association's Best Short Story and Fonlon-Nichols Awards.

She has authored and edited over sixty books and published over fifty articles in scholarly journals and edited volumes.

Aminatta Forna is a novelist, memoirist and essayist. Her novels are *Happiness*, *The Hired Man*, *The Memory of Love* and *Ancestor Stones*. In 2002 she published an investigative memoir of her dissident father and Sierra Leone, *The Devil that Danced on the Water*. *The Window Seat*, an essay collection, was published by Grove Press in 2021. She is currently at work on a volume about the nature, ecology and history of the East African Rift Valley.

She is the winner of a Windham Campbell Award from Yale University and the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and has been a finalist for, among others, the Neustadt Prize, the Orange Prize, the Samuel Johnson Prize, the IMPAC Award and Ondaatje Prize. Aminatta is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and was made Officer of the



British Empire in the Queen's 2017 New Year's Honours list.

Aminatta Forna is Director of the Lannan Center at Georgetown University.

Maaza Mengiste is a novelist, essayist, and photographer. She is the author of the novel, *The Shadow King*, which was shortlisted for the 2020 Booker Prize, and was a 2020 *LA Times* Book Prize Fiction finalist. It was named best book of the year by *The New York Times*, NPR, *Elle*, *Time*, and more. Her debut novel, *Beneath the Lion's Gaze*, was selected by *The Guardian* as one of the 10 best contemporary African books and named one of the best books of 2010 by *Christian Science Monitor*, *The Boston Globe*, and other publications. Her story, "Dust, Ash, Flight," which appeared in *Addis Ababa Noir*, edited by Maaza, was awarded a 2021 Edgar Award for Best Short Story.

She is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, an American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Literature, a DAAD Artists-in-Berlin Fellowship, a Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers Fellowship, the Premio von Rezzori, the Premio il ponte, a Fulbright Fellowship, a National Endowment for the Arts Award, and a Creative Capital Award. Her work can be found in *The*



New Yorker, *The New York Review of Books*, *Granta*, *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, *Esquire*, *Rolling Stone*, and BBC, among others.

She has taught at New York University, Princeton University, Northwestern University, and Queens College/CUNY, and is Professor of English at Wesleyan University. She is at work on her third novel.

RSVP:



<https://forms.gle/MYRAnaES8Zz2naSh9>

The Nobel in Africa – NOBEL SYMPOSIA Series is a STIAS initiative in partnership with Stellenbosch University, under the auspices of the Nobel Foundation and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences with funding from the Knut & Alice Wallenberg Foundation and the Marcus & Amelia Wallenberg Foundation. This event is organised as part of the Nobel Symposium in Literature, the fifth in the Nobel in Africa – NOBEL SYMPOSIA Series.



UNIVERSITY of the WESTERN CAPE
IYUNIVESITHI yaseNTSHONA KOLONI
UNIVERSITEIT van WES-KAAPLAND



stias
STELLENBOSCH INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
STELLENBOSSE INSTITUUT VIR GEVORDERDE NAVORSING

NOBEL
IN AFRICA
A STIAS INITIATIVE



Nobel in Africa Symposium
University of the Western Cape | 5th November 2025

MAKING AFRICAN LITERATURE VISIBLE		
9:00	Registration	
9:30	Welcome & Introduction	Hein Willemse, Fiona Moolla
10:00	Opening	Shaun Pather
10:45	Decentred Performances	
11:15	Panel discussion	Making African Literature visible Akachi Ezeigbo Aminatta Forna Maaza Mengiste
	Facilitator	Meg van der Merwe
12:30	Lunch	
	Jazz	Centre for Performing Arts
	Creative Performances	
14:00	Master Class	Aspiring UWC writers Akachi Ezeigbo Aminatta Forna Maaza Mengiste
15:00	Ends	

