

Eleni Coundouriotis
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EDUCATION

Columbia University, Comparative Literature, PhD, 1992
Columbia University, Comparative Literature, MPhil, 1989
Columbia University, English, MA, 1986
Georgetown University, English, BA cum laude, 1984
St. Hugh's College, Oxford University, matriculated student reading English, 1982-1983

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Professor, English, University of Connecticut with affiliations in Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies, Human Rights Institute, and Africana Studies, 2014 to the present.
Associate Professor, English, University of Connecticut, 1999-2014.
Assistant Professor, English, University of Connecticut, 1993-99.
Lecturer, Committee on Degrees in Literature, Harvard University, 1991-3.
Assistant Head Tutor, Committee on Degrees in Literature, Harvard University, 1992-3.

RESEARCH FIELDS

Postcolonial studies with specialization in African literatures.
Human rights and critical humanitarianism.
Comparative novel studies
The narration and documentation of war.

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

Narrating Human Rights in Africa. Routledge (Contemporary Africa), 2021.

The People's Right to the Novel: War Fiction in the Postcolony. Fordham University Press, 2014.

Claiming History: Colonialism, Ethnography, and the Novel. Columbia University Press, 1999.

Edited

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“What Is and Isn’t Changing: Critique after Postcritique.” Special issue of *Modern Language Quarterly* 81.4 (2020). Co-edited with Lauren M. Goodlad.

“Comparative Human Rights: Literature, Art, Politics.” Special issue of the *Journal of Human Rights* 9.2 (2010). Co-edited with Lauren M. Goodlad.

Journal Articles

“Unruly Stories: Opening up to History in Helon Habila’s *Travelers*,” *Études Anglaises*, special issue “Contemporary Nigerian Writing,” Vanessa Guignery, editor. Forthcoming spring 2022.

“History of the In-Between: World Literature and the Contemporary African Novel” in *What Is and Isn’t Changing: Critique after Postcritique*. Special Issue, *MLQ* 81.4 (2020): 441-464.

“Introduction: What Is and Isn’t Changing.” Co-Authored with Lauren M. Goodlad. In *What Is and Isn’t Changing: Critique after Postcritique*. Special Issue, *MLQ* 81.4 (2020): 399-418.

“Narration in the Second Person: Destabilizing the Real in *This Mournable Body*.” *Journal of African Cultural Studies* 32.4 (2020): 447-450. DOI: 10.1080/13696815.2019.1704695

“Torture and Textuality: *Guantánamo Diary* as Postcolonial Text.” *Textual Practice* 34.7 (2020): 1061-1080.

“The War Novel and Human Rights.” *The Journal of Human Rights* 18.4 (2019): 474-483.

“Memory and the Popular: Rwanda in Mukoma Wa Ngugi’s Fiction.” *The Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry* 4.3 (2017): 382-397.

“Improbable Figures: Realist Fictions of Insecurity in Contemporary African Fiction.” *NOVEL: A Forum on Fiction* 49.2 (2016): 236-261.

“Things of Poverty and War: Ben Okri and Thing Theory.” *Callaloo* 38.5 (2015): 1087-1099.

“‘You Only Have Your Word’: Rape and Testimony.” *Human Rights Quarterly* 35.2 (2013): 365-385.

“Congo Cases: The Stories of Human Rights History.” *Humanity: An International Journal of Human Rights, Humanitarianism, and Development* 3.2 (2012): 133-153.

“An ‘Internationalism of the Planted Earth’: Ronald Blythe’s and Bessie Head’s Ideas of the Village,” *Comparative Literature Studies* 48.1 (2011): 20-43.

“The Child Soldier Narrative and the Problem of Arrested Historicization,” *Journal of Human Coundouriotis*, p. 2

Rights 9.2 (2010): 191-206.

“Comparative Human Rights: Literature, Art, Politics” with Lauren M. Goodlad. Introduction to special issue of *Journal of Human Rights* 9.2 (2010): 121-6.

“The Dignity of the “Unfittest:” Victims' Stories in South Africa.” *Human Rights Quarterly* 28.4 (2006): 842-867.

“Rethinking Cosmopolitanism in Nadine Gordimer's *The Conservationist*.” *College Literature* 33.3 (2006):1-28.

“Self-Inflicted Wounds in Yvonne Vera’s *Butterfly Burning*.” *World Literature Today* September/December 2005, 64-67.

“Nation, History and the Idea of Origin in Melville Herskovits.” *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies* 10.1 (2001): 29-51.

“Hetty and History: The Political Consciousness of *Adam Bede*.” *Dickens Studies Annual* 30 (2001): 285-307.

“*Dracula* and the Idea of Europe.” *Connotations* (Münster, Germany) 9.2 (1999-2000): 143-159.

“Writing Stories about Tales Told: Anthropology and the Short Story in African Literatures.” *NARRATIVE*. 6.2 (1998): 140-156.

“Materialism, the Uncanny, and History in Toni Morrison and Salman Rushdie.” *Lit: Literature, Interpretation, Theory* 8.2 (1997): 207-225.

“Authority and Invention in the Fiction of Bessie Head,” *Research in African Literatures* 27.2 (1996): 17-32.

Book Chapters

“War and Humanitarianism.” *War and Literary Studies: Cambridge Critical Concepts*, eds. Anders Engberg-Pedersen and Neil Ramsey. Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2022.

“Narrate or Describe: Documentation and the Tasks of Realism.” *Landscapes of Realism: Rethinking literary realism in comparative perspectives*. Volume II: Pathways through Realism. Edited by Svend Erik Larsen, Steen Bille Jørgensen and Margaret R. Higonnet [CHLEL XXXIII]. John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2022. 737-749.

“Imagining New Forms of Belonging: The Futurity of the Stateless.” *Beyond Borders: The Human Rights of Non-Citizens at Home and Abroad*. Edited by Molly Land, Kathryn Libal, Jillian Chambers. Cambridge University Press, 2021. 113-125.

“Freedom and Development in the Cultural Cold War.” *The Cultural Cold War and the Global South: Sites of Contest and Communitas*. Edited by Kerry Bystrom, Monica Popescu, and Katherine Zien. Routledge, 2021. 252-268.

“War, Human Rights, and Historical Representation: Torture as Synecdoche.” *A Companion to African Literatures*. Edited by Olakunle George. Wiley-Blackwell, 2021. 411-424.

“Humanitarianism’s Way in the World.” Co-Authored with Kerry Bystrom. *Cambridge Companion to Human Rights and Literature*. Edited by Crystal Parikh. Cambridge University Press 2019. 27-41.

“The Historical Novel in Africa.” *The Novel in Africa and the Caribbean Since 1950. Oxford History of the Novel in English*, Vol 11. Edited by Simon Gikandi. Patrick Parrinder, General Editor. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016. 269-284.

“In Flight: The Refugee Experience and Human Rights Narrative.” *The Routledge Companion to Literature and Human Rights*. Edited by Sophia A. McClennen and Alexandra Schultheis Moore. New York: Routledge, 2015. 78-85.

“Why History Matters in the African Novel.” *Teaching the African Novel*. Edited by Gaurav Desai. NY: MLA 2009. 53-69.

“Landscapes of Forgetfulness: Reinventing the Historical in Ben Okri's *The Famished Road*,” *The Post-Colonial Condition of African Literature*, vol. 6. Edited by Daniel Gover, John Conteh-Morgan, and Jane Bryce. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2000. 41-48.

“Tsitsi Dangarembga.” *Postcolonial African Writers*. Edited by Pushpa Parekh. Greenwood Publishing GroUniversity Press, 1998. 118-122.

Digital Publications

“Ivory Dust.” Lynn Nottage’s *Mlima’s Tale* at the Westport Country Playhouse (October 2019). <https://www.westportplayhouse.org/MlimasTaleBlog4>

“Between the Exile and the Refugee: An Ethics of Reading.” *Politics/Letters* 11 (March 2018). <http://politicsslashletters.org/exile-refugee-ethics-reading/>

Book Reviews and Review Essays

The Fury Archives: Female Citizenship, Human Rights, and the International Avant-Gardes by Jill Chambers (Columbia University Press 2020), a review. *Human Rights Quarterly* 43.3 (2021): 607-610.

At Penpoint: African Literatures, Postcolonial Studies, and the Cold War by Monica Coundouriotis, p. 4

- Popescu. Duke UP, 2020. *Canadian Journal of African Studies / Revue canadienne des études africaines*, 2021. DOI: [10.1080/00083968.2021.1890930](https://doi.org/10.1080/00083968.2021.1890930)
- Cold War Assemblages: Decolonization to Digital* by Bhakti Shringarpure. Routledge, 2019. *Journal of the African Literature Association* 14.2 (2020): 326-329.
- Black Cultural Life in South Africa: Reception, Apartheid, and Ethics* by Lily Saint. University of Michigan Press, 2018. *Safundi* 20.4 (2019): 507-508.
- African Freedom: How Africa Responded to Independence* by Phyllis Taoua. Cambridge UNIVERSITY PRESS: 2018. *Journal of the African Literature Association* 13.3 (2019). 352-354.
- Allan Hepburn, editor. *Around 1945: Literature, Citizenship, Rights*. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2016. *Space Between Journal* 13 (2017). http://scalar.usc.edu/works/the-space-between-literature-and-culture-1914-1945/vol13_2017_-coundouriotis_review?path=vol13_2017_contents
- Vulnerability and Security in Human Rights Literature and Visual Culture* by Alexandra Schultheis Moore (Routledge 2015). *Human Rights Quarterly* 39 (2017): 774-777.
- The Victorian Geopolitical Aesthetic: Realism, Sovereignty, and Transnational Experience* by Lauren M. E. Goodlad (Oxford UNIVERSITY PRESS 2015). *Modern Language Quarterly* 78.1 (2017): 125-127.
- British Colonial Realism in Africa: Inalienable Objects, Contested Domains* by Deborah Shapple Spillman (Palgrave) and *Bodies and Things in Nineteenth-Century Literature and Culture*, edited by Katharina Boehn (Palgrave). *Victorian Studies* 57.4 (2015): 751-754.
- “The Limitations of Dignity: The Novel and Human Rights.” Review of Elizabeth Anker, *Fictions of Dignity: Embodying Human Rights in World Literature*. Ithaca: Cornell UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2012. *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* 48.1 (2015): 151-154.
- Dance of Life: The Novels of Zakes Mda in Postapartheid South Africa* by Gail Fincham (Ohio UNIVERSITY PRESS 2012). *Safundi: the Journal of South African and American Studies* 15.1 (2014): 143-145.
- “Prophecy as History in Postcolonial Literature”. Review of Jennifer Wenzel, *Bulletproof: Afterlives of Anticolonial Prophecy in South Africa and Beyond* (Chicago 2009). *Contemporary Literature* 53.1 (2012), 196-203.
- The Nation Writ Small* by Susan Andrade (Duke UNIVERSITY PRESS 2011). *Research in African Literatures* 44.1 (2013): 201-203.
- “Joseph Slaughter, *Human Rights, Inc.*, and James Dawes, *That the World May Know*.” *Human Rights Quarterly* 30.4 (2008): 1002-1011.

Can Literature Promote Justice? Trauma Narrative and Social Action in Latin American Testimonio by Kimberly Nance (Vanderbilt UNIVERSITY PRESS 2006). *Human Rights Quarterly* (2007) 29.2: 533-7.

Imperialism and Human Rights: Colonial Discourses of Rights and Liberties in African History by Bonny Ibhawoh, (New York: State University of New York Press, 2006). *Left History* (2007) 12.2: 206-8.

“The ‘Contemporaneous Local’ in Time: Problems of History in Shalini Puri’s *The Caribbean Postcolonial*.” *Small Axe: A Caribbean Journal of Criticism* 19 (February 2006): 198-205.

At the Heart of Empire by Antoinette Burton (U. of California Press, 1998) and *Indian Traffic* by Parama Roy (U. of California Press, 1998). *Signs* (2001) 26-3: 899-902.

Work in Progress

“The Fiction of Life in Crisis: The Hospital and the State” monograph in progress.

“Politics and the Novel: Irving Howe, American Letters and the African Novel,” article in progress.

“Ernest Cole’s *The House of Bondage* and African Freedom” in preparation for a special issue of JALA edited by Phyllis Taoua and Grace Musila.

“The Humanitarian Lens: Quoting Photographs in Contemporary African Fiction,” article in progress.

CONFERENCES AND OTHER PROGRAMMING ORGANIZED (selected)

Connect Africa Research Workshop, co-organized with Bhakti Shringarpure. Sponsored by the Humanities Institute, University of Connecticut. November 9, 2018.

“Narratives of Torture.” Research Workshop co-organized with David L. Richards. Sponsored by the Human Rights Institute, October 1-2, 2018.

“On the Distinction between Human Rights and Humanitarianism.” Seminars for the “Theory Initiative” of the Research Program on Humanitarianism. Magnet Scholar: Michael Barnett, George Washington University.

“On Evidence and Human Rights.” Seminars for the “Theory Initiative” of the Research Program on Humanitarianism. Magnet Scholar: Thomas Keenan, Bard College. University of Connecticut, Storrs. Fall 2015-Spring 2016.

“The Narration and Documentation of War.” Workshop of faculty research at University of Connecticut, February 28, 2014.

“Humanitarianism and the Photograph Rethought: Ariella Azoulay, Joseph R. Slaughter, Carolyn J. Dean.” Panel for *Contexts of Human Rights: An International Conference*. Human Rights Institute 10th Anniversary Conference, University of Connecticut, September 19-21, 2013.

“The Identity of the Perpetrator in Human Rights Discourse,” workshop conference organized with Samuel Martinez (Anthropology), Glenn Mitoma (Human Rights Institute), and Cathy Schlund-Vials (English), received competitive funding from Human Rights Institute (\$10,000). October 28-29, 2011.

Short Term Visiting Professor Grant, Provost’s Award, to bring political philosopher Adi Ophir (Tel Aviv University) to Storrs for 8 weeks in Fall 2010.

“The Human Rights of the Global Poor,” organized two-week visit by Thomas Pogge (Yale) which included a public lecture, two faculty seminars, and lecture to the Philosophy department, April 2010.

Research Program on Humanitarianism, “Narrative and Human Rights,” faculty study groUniversity Press co-leader, 2011-12.

Foundations of Humanitarianism, “Narrative and Human Rights” faculty study groUniversity Press leader 2005-7, 2008-09.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS (last 5 years)

“On Narrative” a discussion of *Narrating Human Rights in Africa* with Olakunle George, editor of *The Blackwell Companion to African Literatures*. Connect Africa 2021, New Books Forum, April 30, 2021

“The War Novel and Human Rights.” Invited Lecture, English Department Speaker Series. Binghamton University, October 22, 2019.

“What Measure of the Real: Torture and Historical Fiction.” Symposium on Archives, Institutions, Imaginaries: Human Rights and Literature, New York University, March 2-3, 2018.

“The Hospital and the State in Nuruddin Farah’s Maps.” Fellowship Lecture, University of Connecticut Humanities Institute, February 14, 2018.

“Narrate or Describe: Documentation and the Tasks of Realism,” “Worlding Realisms Workshop,” Brandeis University, March 25, 2017.

CONFERENCE PAPERS (last 5 years)

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“Politics and the Novel: Irving Howe, American Letters and the African Novel,” ACLA, April 9, 2021.

Roundtable on Monica Popescu’s *At Penpoint: African Literatures, Postcolonial Studies, and the Cold War*, African Studies Association Conference, November 21, 2020.

“Historicizing the Human in Human Rights,” panel chair, MLA, January 10, 2020.

“MLQ and the Project of Literary History,” panel chair, MLA, January 11, 2020.

“Narration in the Second Person: Destabilizing the Real in *This Mournable Body*.” African Literature Association, May 16, 2019.

“On Phyllis Taoua *African Freedom: How Africa Responded to Independence*.” New Book Forum, African Literature Association, May 16, 2019.

“On Lily Saint’s *Black Cultural Life in South Africa: Reception, Apartheid, and Ethics*.” African Literature Association, May 16, 2019.

“Theory, How?” Connect Africa Research Workshop. New York University, April 26, 2019.

“Realism/History.” Connect Africa Research Workshop. Wesleyan University. April 5, 2018.

“‘Straining Together In One Direction:’ Bessie Head in the Shadow of the Cold War.” ACLA conference, UCLA, March 29-April 1, 2018.

“Things that Repeat,” Seminar organized with Lauren Goodlad (University of Illinois) for ACLA conference, Utrecht University, July 6-9, 2017.

“Quoting Photographs: Iconic Images and Their Repetition in Fiction,” ACLA conference, Utrecht University, July 8, 2017.

“Formal Innovations in Contemporary African Fiction,” panel organizer. ALA conference, June 15, 2017, Yale University.

“Narratives of the Refugee Experience.” Beyond Borders: The Human Rights of Non-Citizens at Home and Abroad. Senator Joseph I. Lieberman Conference on Human Rights Practice, University of Connecticut, Stamford, April 23, 2017.

“Staging the Law in African Women’s Fiction.” Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities, Stanford University, April 1, 2017.

“Between the Exile and the Refugee.” ACLA sponsored panel, MLA, January 7, 2017.

“Realism and the Historian as Dissident.” Behind the Lines, Across Boundaries: A Conference in Honor of Margaret R. Higonnet. Department of English, University of Connecticut,

September 23, 2017.

“War Fictions: On Eleni Coundouriotis’s *The People’s Right to the Novel*,” respondent. ALA conference, April 9, 2016.

“Dissenting Voices.” Panel organizer, ALA conference, April 8, 2016.

“The Historian as Dissident.” Paper presented at ALA conference, April 8, 2016.

"Legal, Political, and Ethical Challenges: the Hospital Scene in Contemporary African Fiction." Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities, University of Connecticut Law School, April 1, 2016.

“Breaking Through: Torture and Representation in New Theoretical Contexts” with Kerry Bystrom (Bard College, Berlin). ACLA seminar organizer, Harvard University, March 18-19, 2016.

“Textuality in *Guantánamo Diary*.” Paper presented at ACLA conference, March 18, 2016, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

“Between Testimony and Realism.” Paper presented at MLA, January 8, 2016.

Awards

Faculty Research Grant, Human Rights Institute, 2019-2020

Felberbaum Family Faculty Grant, 2018

University of Connecticut, Humanities Institute, Research Fellowship, 2017-2018

University of Connecticut, Human Rights Institute, Research Fellowship, Spring 2014

Felberbaum Family Faculty Grant, 2012

University of Connecticut, Humanities Institute Research Fellowship, 2011-2012

University of Connecticut, Provost’s Research Fellowship, fall 2004

Funding to Lead Faculty Seminar on Human Rights (UCHI), 2002-2004

University of Connecticut, Chancellor’s Fellowship, fall 1997

University of Connecticut Junior Faculty Fellowship, summer 1995

Whiting Foundation Fellow, 1989-90

National Service

NEH Fellowship Reviewer, Summer 2016

Professional Organizations

Executive Committee, MLA Forum Transdisciplinary Connections: History and Literature, 2016-2021. Chair for 2019-2020.

MLA, Delegate Assembly, 2018-2021.

Chair, ACLA Program Committee, 2014-2017

Board member, ACLA 2014-2017

African Literature Association, First Book Award Committee, 2015-2016.

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Reviewer for Law and Humanities Interdisciplinary Junior Scholars Workshop, 2016.
Aldridge Graduate Essay Prize Committee, ACLA 2013
MLA Delegate Assembly, representing Comparative Studies in Twentieth-Century Literature,
2009-12

University Administration

Director, Research Program on Humanitarianism, Human Rights Institute, 2012-2017.
Acting Director, University of Connecticut, Human Rights Institute, Jan 2009-Aug 2010.
Associate Director, University of Connecticut, Human Rights Institute, 2005-fall 2008.
Acting Director, University of Connecticut, Human Rights Institute Spring 2006.
Assistant Head Tutor, Committee on Degrees in Literature, Harvard University, 1992-3.

Membership in Professional Organizations

African Literature Association
African Studies Association
American Comparative Literature Association
Connect Africa (founding member)
Modern Language Association
North Atlantic Victorian Studies Association

LANGUAGES

Fluent: French, Modern Greek
Reading knowledge: Italian