

**ENGLISH ACADEMY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA**

**2017 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa**

**6 – 8 September 2017**

**Decolonial Turns, Postcolonial Shifts  
and Cultural Connections**

**KEY-NOTE SPEAKERS**

The English Academy of Southern Africa  
is pleased to announce that

**Professor Elleke Boehmer**

Professor of World Literature in English,  
University of Oxford

and

**Professor Pitika Ntuli**

South African poet, sculptor, public intellectual, *insanusi*  
and former University of Durban-Westville  
Fine Arts professorial academic

are key-note speakers at

The English Academy of Southern Africa's  
International Conference in September 2017

## **Professor Elleke Boehmer**

Professor Boehmer's research in the field of postcolonial studies interrogates migration, identity and resistance in both postcolonial literature and writing of the colonial period with particular emphasis on the literature of sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Indeed, she is an important figure in the field of postcolonial studies. Some of the issues central to the discipline have been set out and debated in her critical work. This includes, *Colonial and Postcolonial Literature: Migrant Metaphors* (1995); *Empire, the National and the Postcolonial, 1890 – 1920: Resistance in Interaction* (2005) and most recently, *Indian Arrivals 1870 – 1915: Networks of Empire* (2015) which explores how Indian ideas helped shape the British Empire.

Professor Boehmer is also a prolific writer of fiction emphasising that, in fact, she was a published novelist first. Her oeuvre includes several award winning novels: *Screens against the Sky* (1990), *Bloodlines* (1997), *Nile Baby* (2008) and *Shouting in the Dark* (2015); and a volume of short stories: *Sharmilla and Other Portraits* (2010). The theme of postcoloniality is always a subtle undercurrent in her fiction.

## **Professor Pitika Ntuli**

Professor Ntuli (1942) is a South African poet, sculptor, public intellectual, *insanusi* and a retired University of Durban-Westville Fine Arts professorial academic.

Having spent 32 years in various countries in exile between 1962 and 1994, Ntuli returned to South Africa a consummate and well-accomplished cosmopolitan philosopher. In its experimentation with various art disciplines, Ntuli's creative productivity collectively constitutes a multi-layered archive to consult when researching post-humanism and cosmopolitanism.

As *insanusi*, his first port of call is African indigenous knowledge system. From this point of entry, he teases out the limitations of the modern Western episteme, particularly as enshrined in the written word and overburdened with scientific positivism. What he surfaces are alterities that remain valent and politically empowering. These are apparent in the academic articles that he has published.

Ntuli's book, *Scent of Invisible Footprint – the sculpture of Pitika Ntuli* (Unisa Press, 2015), contains his poetry and images of his sculptures made of wood, bone, stone and metal – all of which he exhibited in 2010. This book also includes essays authored by himself and other cultural activists on his art. His post-apartheid notable exhibitions include the 2012 'Marikana' massacre sculptures, those commemorating the *Umkhonto we Sizwe* soldiers killed by apartheid and the ones continuing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Aside from running an open studio on a full-time basis, Ntuli is a constant presence in various media, commenting on the arts, African rituals, education and current matters.

## THIRD CALL FOR PAPERS

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

1st announcement and call for papers:	20 September 2016
2nd announcement and further call for papers:	30 October 2016
3rd announcement and further call for papers:	23 January 2017
Final Deadline for abstract submission:	30 April 2017

This conference focusses on decolonial turns and postcolonial shifts in English writings, and on the ownership of English today: how the Commonwealth and other English-using polities are assimilating, adapting and re-inventing the global lingua franca to advance education and reflect the culture, individuality and rapidly changing nature of these societies. Is English proving itself a malleable and useful instrument in economic advancement and cultural development, or is it dominating countries and regions as an oppressive political or cultural behemoth, and thwarting advance? That is the question.

The English Academy of Southern Africa interests itself in all aspects of English literary and language studies, encouraging research and debate in these fields across the globe. Uniquely in the world, the multilingualism underwritten by the South African Constitution guarantees rights for all the official languages of South Africa. This challenging constitutional provision and the Academy's commitment to an evolving and inclusive linguistic and cultural ecology, nationally, regionally and internationally, coalesce in its concern for preserving and developing linguistic and cultural ecologies. Consciously treating language, literature and culture from an ecological perspective invites the fresh and innovative perspectives which form the central focus of this conference.

Papers are welcome in all areas of English scholarship but particularly where research explores English as a force for effective change in postcolonial environments. Engagement with literacy in its broad Freirean definition is particularly welcomed. This conference examines how English literacy is being used, and could be used further, as a means of individual enlightenment and effective social amelioration and advance. Literacy is at the heart of basic education for all and can play a large role in eradicating poverty, ensuring sustainable development and disseminating democratic principles. Language education papers should reflect the conference focus on English as a transformative and dynamic force, whether within the southern African region or elsewhere in the world.

Papers dealing with topics and issues related to any of these areas in English literature, education, language and literacy are invited from colleagues throughout the world. There will be a 20 minute time slot for each paper with 10 minutes associated discussion. Presentations should not exceed 20 minutes. Selected papers will be offered publication in the English Academy of Southern Africa's accredited and peer-reviewed journal, *The English Academy Review*.

The conference programme will be organised around themes and issue-centred concerns, and there will be a core of invited contributions on these topics. We invite papers on the following or related themes:

**Sub-themes include but are not confined to the following areas:**

The decolonial turn in English literature  
Disrupting the English curriculum  
Circling definitions: Commonwealth/ Postcolonial/ Transnational/ Diasporal  
Postcolonial writings  
Short-circuiting genre: literary experimentation  
Linguistic ecologies  
Cross cultural translation  
Writings from the Commonwealth  
Language and education  
Language policy, theory and practice  
Language and (social) media, television and film  
Language, culture, gender and identity  
Language and transformation  
Technology and the teaching of English

Several outstanding speakers of international stature will deliver plenary addresses at the conference. The programme consists of three days of plenary presentations and a diverse range of concurrent workshops and parallel sessions for paper presentations. The academic programme will be complemented by social activities including a welcome reception, a poetry reading festival and a closing gala dinner. This conference will be one of the most significant events on the English studies calendar for 2017.

**Guidelines and instructions:**

An abstract not exceeding 300 words should be submitted by e-mail as an Ms Word file accompanied by the following information:

Title, full names and surname:

Institutional affiliation:

E-mail address:

Telephone:

Postal address and postal code:

Full title of the paper:

**Submission of abstracts:**

Colleagues are encouraged to send their abstracts early as the conference can accommodate only a limited number of papers. Abstracts should be sent to the English Academy: [englishacademy@societies.wits.ac.za](mailto:englishacademy@societies.wits.ac.za).

All abstracts will be peer reviewed.