

Friday 3rd May

Opening Keynote speaker

9.15 - 10 ▶ **Professor Neville CHOONOO**  
Specialist in autobiography writings  
State University of New York, Oneonta, USA  
"Parallel Lives: Black Autobiographical Writing in South Africa and the United States"

Pause

**Session 4 : South African & American autobiographies**

Chair : **Daniel Gunn**

10.30 - 10.50 ▶ **Karen Ferreira**, University of Swaziland, Southern Africa, Swaziland  
"In between the collective and the individual : African autofiction"

11 - 11.20 ▶ **Tlhalo S. Raditlhalo**, University of South Africa, UNISA  
"Pieces of my Life' : The Quest for Identity in Es'kia Mphahlele's *Down Second Avenue*"

11.30 - 11.50 ▶ **Marie Cordy-Levy**, University of Paris 7, Larca, France  
"Frederick Douglass's photographic strategy of auto-representation"

12 - 12.20 ▶ **Pierre-Marie-Loiseau**, University of Angers, France  
"Barack Obama's autobiography : a quest for personal and political identity?"

1 pm ▶ Lunch

3 p. m ▶ End of Conference

# Autobiography as a Writing Strategy in Postcolonial Literature

May 2 - 3, 2013

Emery Community Arts Center  
University of Maine  
at Farmington



Plenary Addresses by

**Bambo Soyinka**, University of West England  
**Neville Choonoo**, SUNY Oneonta

Organized by the University of Maine at Farmington, USA, and the University of Maine in Le Mans, France, Research Centre 3L.AM

Organizers :  
Professor Ben LEBDAI, Université du Maine, Le Mans , France  
Professor Daniel Gunn, University of Maine at Farmington, USA

For more information,  
please visit our website  
at [postcolonial.farmington.edu](http://postcolonial.farmington.edu)

**International Conference  
Autobiography as a Writing Strategy  
in Postcolonial Literature**

**Organized by the University of Maine at Farmington, USA, and the  
University of Maine in Le Mans, France, Research Centre 3 L. AM**

**At  
Farmington**

**May 2 - 3, 2013**

**Thursday 2nd May**

9 a. m ▶

**Opening ceremony of the Conference**

By **Professor Daniel GUNN**  
Vice-President for Academic Affairs  
University of Maine at Farmington  
And  
**Professor Benaouda LEBDAI**  
University of Maine, Le Mans, France  
Organizer of the Conference

9.15 - 10 ▶

**Opening keynote speaker :**

**Dr Bambo SOYINKA**

An award-winning writer, researcher and director  
University of West England, Bristol, United Kingdom  
**"Vicious Cycles - translating trauma in times of personal and social strain."**

Pause

**Session 1 : Autobiography and Trauma**

10. 30 - 10.50 ▶

Chair : **Eric Brown**

**Ben Lebdaï**, University of Maine, Le Mans, France  
**"Salman Rushdie / Joseph Anton : Deconstruction of the Fatwa mirror"**

11 – 11.20 ▶

**Laili Dor**, University of Maine, Le Mans, France  
**"Empire remembered: Kiplin's autobiography *Something of Myself*"**

11. 30 – 11.50 ▶

**Aurélia Mouzet**, University of Paris, France  
**"The Postcolonial Autobiography : Force Majeure ?"**

12.15 ▶

Lunch

**Session 2 : Women autobiographies**

Chair : **Karen Ferreira**

2. 30 - 20 ▶

**Elisabeth Lamothe**, University of Maine, Le Mans, France  
**"Autobiographies of exile: looking back at the mother/land in the writings of J. Kincaid, L. Cao and B.M. Nguyen"**

2. 30 - 2.50 ▶

**Sylvie Charon**, University of Maine at Farmington, USA,  
**"Narrative Identities (*jeux du je*) in *Kiffe Kiffe Demain* by Faïza Guène and *Grapes of Despair* by Tahar Ben Jelloun"**

3 – 3.20 ▶

**Leila Salem Aouadi**, University of Tunis , Tunisia,  
**"Arab and Jewish Women's Autobiographies : The Journey to the USA as a necessary step against the Oppression of the East and the construction of a Female Agency"**

Pause

**Session 3 : African autobiographies**

Chair : **Sylvie Charon**

3.45 – 4.05 ▶

**Natalya Naydenova**, Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (Moscow), Russia.  
**"Autobiographical Intertextuality in Novelistic and Essayistic Production of Henri Lopes and Alain Mabanckou"**

4.15 - 4.35 ▶

**Rebecca Blanchard**, University of Toronto, Canada  
**"Ferdinand Oyono and Ahmadou Kourouma: Subverting the Personal Diary in the Quest for Identity"**

4.45 - 5.05 ▶

**Amanda Rico**, University of Texas, USA  
**"Seeking Balance: Hybridity and African Philosophy in Malidoma Patrice Somé's *Of Water and the Spirit*"**

5.15 - 5.35 ▶

**Adamu Panmeshi**, University of Maroua, Cameroon  
**"Autobiographical Imperatives and Historical Consciousness in Selected Works of Bessie Head"**

**Thursday Evening : Banquet  
Reading  
Celebrating autobiographical texts**