

In Western mainstream media Africa is often represented as “underdeveloped” and “the poorest” continent. This stereotypical view leaves Africa and Africans at the margins of the various discourses in the globalizing world. In order to offer alternative visions to this view, the **Azania Speaks** International Conference intends to host empowering “voices of partnership” coming from Africa. These voices represent a clear sign of *transformative cultures* which flow on the musical waves of oral poetry, and create harmonious visions of the future based on genuine values of partnership such as caring, cooperation and sustainability.

The strength of these transformative cultures resides in the power of rhythm and sound: music and oral poetry are ancient and powerful “medicines”. In oral poetry sound and words blend to overcome conventional linguistic stereotypes. The *rhythmic structure* of the spoken word is metaphor and representation of a healing and renewed psyche. The performing poet and the audience find mutual comfort in a renovated *inner architecture* where the spoken word embodies the restorative, regenerative Great Cosmic Dance. The conference will touch upon the following areas:

- > the power of oral poetry and storytelling
- > female voices in contemporary African oral poetry
- > contemporary African poetic production in connection to ancient African oral traditions.

At an educational level, the conference will focus on the interrelation between the partnership model and a viable and sustainable education based on three areas: intellectual (focused on partnership critical thinking), ethical (will and decision-making), and aesthetics embracing a creative and caring approach.

The conference aims at discussing literature(s) in English(es) that express a strong desire to recover and re-shape – in postcolonial aesthetic terms – a sacred pre-colonial mythological past, a past where the figure of a feminine divinity stands at the core of a narrative r-evolution.

Visual Art Exhibition (17 - 24 November)

Coordinator: Tiziana Pers

Palazzo Antonini

Alfredo Bini – Video/SlideShow
Filippo Borella – Video installation
Salifou Bance (Burkina Faso) – Mosaic Installation
Danilo De Marco – Photography
Nicoletta Fagiolo – Video installation
Tiziana Pers – Site Specific Installation
Bernarda Visentini – Sculptures
Maliki Yabre (Burkina Faso) – Drawings
Toni Zanussi – Sculptures
Carole Boubli (Tunisia) – Mosaic installation

Sala Florio

Danilo De Marco – Photography
Pier Paolo Zanussi – Video Documentary
Toni Zanussi – Sculptures
Zeliya Zoire (Burkina Faso) – Mosaic Installation



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI UDINE
DIPARTIMENTO DI LINGUE E LETTERATURE
GERMANICHE E ROMANZE



ASSOCIAZIONE LAUREATI IN LINGUE



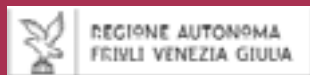
CONSORZIO UNIVERSITARIO DEL FRIULI



UNIVERSITÀ DEL SALENTO



Centro di Cultura Canadese



MUSIC PARTNER



MEDIA PARTNER



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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Azania Speaks

Visions of partnership in Africa:
the art of the spoken word

17-19 November 2008

Sala Convegni di Palazzo Antonini
via Petracco 8, Udine

17 NOVEMBER 2008

MORNING SESSION

CHAIR: ANTONELLA RIEM NATALE

8.30 Registration

9.00 Opening – Music ceremony with Seydou Dao, Kalifa Djarra, Ishaka Sanou (Burkinabe musicians) – Greetings from the authorities

10.00 Round table with:

H.E. Mrs. Cecilia Obono Ndong (Ambassador of Equatorial Guinea to Italy), Furio Honsell (Mayor of Udine), Victor Chatuè (Vice-Chancellor's Assistant for Cooperation with Africa, University of Udine)

11.30 Coffee break

12.00 Keynote speaker

Nduka Otiono (University of Alberta)
Mind Grenades, Verbal Missiles: Spoken Wor(l)d and the Impoverished Generation in Postcolonial Africa

12.30 Lunch break

AFTERNOON SESSION

CHAIR: ITALA VIVAN

14.30

Natalia Molebatsi (South African spoken word artist)
From poetry to floetry. The journey of spoken word from the bassline to digital worlds

15.00

Maria Renata Dolce (University of Salento)
Presentation of the volume: *The Goddess Awakened. Partnership Studies in Literatures, Language and Education*

15.30 Tea break

16.00

James Tsaioor (University of Ibadan)
Politics, Popular Musical Culture and National Re-Invention in Nigeria

16.30

Alberto Masala (Sardinian spoken word artist)
Street Alphabet

17.00

Giampaolo Gri (University of Udine)
Presentation of visual art exhibition

18 NOVEMBER 2008

MORNING SESSION

CHAIR: CARLA COMELLINI (UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA)

9.30

Silvia Camilotti (University of Bologna)
African Female Migrant Writers in Contemporary Italian Literature. A critical analysis

10.00

Kaha M. Aden (Somali storyteller)
The Fourth Way. My Journey Through the Streets of Mogadishu

10.30

Gabriella Ghermandi (Ethiopian storyteller)
Queen of Pearls and Flowers. A Story of Ethiopian Patriots Resisting Italian Colonization

11.00 Coffee Break

11.30

Tahar Lamri (Algerian storyteller)
The Voice's Pilgrimage

12.00

Friulafrican. Poetry and Music at the crossroads of worlds.
Readings of Daniel Samba (African-Friulian storyteller), Isabelle Grattoni (African-Friulian storyteller), Lussia Di Uanis (Friulian poet), Fabian Riz (Friulian songwriter), Raff B.B. Lazzara (Friulian poet). Music background by Guido Carrara (Friulian songwriter)

13.00 Lunch break

AFTERNOON SESSION

CHAIR: NDUKA OTIONO

14.30

Itala Vivian (University of Milan)
The Brave New World of African Women Fighting Through Words

15.00

Ntsiki Mazwai (South African spoken word artist)
MaMiya. The African Goddess Speaks

15.30 Tea break

16.00

Pierpaolo Martino (University of Bari)
Wi tired ah di degradation. Women's dub poetry

16.30

Napo Masheane (South African spoken word artist)
Caves Speak in Metaphors. Poetry as a Black Art

21.15

Concert: Mamadi Kaba (Guinea)

(Venue: Sala Madrassi, Via Gemona 60, Udine. Free entrance)

19 NOVEMBER 2008

MORNING SESSION

CHAIR: MARIA BORTOLUZZI

9.00

Nella Maccarrone
(Liceo Classico e Scientifico Leopardi – Maiorana, Pordenone)
Partnership Education through South African History.
Presentation of the book *Sources of Conflict, Visions of peace*

9.30

Round table on creative writing with:
Napo Masheane, Natalia Molebatsi, Ntsiki Mazwai and Shailja Patel

11.00 Coffee break

11.30

Giuseppe Licitra (University of Catania)
African Women's Projects in Rural Communities.
Presentation of IPWO (*International Professional Women Opportunity*) and CoRFiLaC

12.00

CheeseArt. Cheese taste of CoRFiLaC products

12.30 Lunch break

AFTERNOON SESSION

CHAIR: ANTONELLA RIEM NATALE

14.30

Lance Henson (Tsistsistas poet)
Words from the edge

15.00

Other Africas. Presentation of the latest issue of *Aut Aut* with Davide Zoletto (University of Udine), Roberta Altin (University of Udine) Raphael d'Abdon (University of Udine). Introduction by Itala Vivian

16.00

Shailja Patel (Kenyan spoken word artist)
MigrITUDE. An Epic Journey in Four Movements

16.30

Closing

Special Guest:

Jahman Anikulapo
(Culture Advocates Caucus, Nigeria)