



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures

Department of French

Symposium on *Francophone African Voices in Ireland*

Wednesday 31 May 2023 (10:00-17:30)

Trinity Long Room Hub, Neill Lecture Theatre (Trinity College Dublin)

Francophone African Voices in Ireland is a symposium that provides a forum for teachers, researchers, materials development experts, students and other professionals interested in the exploration and exchange of research findings, experiences, perspectives and trends in *Francophone African Studies*, particularly in Ireland.

Today there is a strong Irish will to strengthen political, economic and cultural ties with Francophone African countries. The Irish *Department of Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science* has published its strategy for the **Internationalisation of Irish Universities**, which is a major asset to North-South cooperation and academic solidarity. In many higher education institutions in Ireland, there are strong teaching and research profiles in *Francophone African Studies* in many forms and shapes, from the Northern to Sub-Saharan Africa and Caribbean. Various schemes are used to examine the correlative bond between Francophone Africa and its diaspora. Nonetheless, despite the available synergies within the French Departments that could and should enhance the visibility of *Francophone African Studies* in Ireland, working in isolation seems to be a major hindrance. In Trinity College Dublin, *Francophone African Studies* are now part of the French Department's strategic plan for teaching and research. Hence, establishing a French Departmental Research Network for *Francophone African Studies* is a strategic ambition that responds to that call for academic solidarity.

The key questions are: What are the available academic provisions for *Francophone African Studies* in Irish higher educational institutions? To what extent are *Francophone African voices* echoed in public debates, in academia and industry in Ireland? How such voices create a new horizon for North-South interaction and transaction in terms of knowledge transfer and culture? How can they harness Irish strategic ambitions of cooperating with Francophone African countries? Since the conceptualisation of *Francophone* includes all French speakers, including those in countries where French is not an official or widely-spoken language, how can academics, NGOs, agencies and grassroots organisations from Francophone communities in Ireland contribute to North-South knowledge exchange and academic solidarity?

The symposium will consist of a **keynote**, paper **presentations** (20 minutes each) or **posters**, and a **roundtable**. We welcome abstracts of papers studying any aspect of *Francophone African Studies* in Ireland, including but not limited to Francophone African literature, history of (de)colonisation, intercultural communications, postcolonial/decolonial thoughts, migrations, and literary representation theories. In addition to the debates, the symposium will also mark the launch of the French Departmental Research Network for *Francophone African Studies*.

✓ **Keynote:**

Prof. Mary Gallagher, Professor of French and Francophone Studies, University College Dublin (UCD)

✓ **Network launch address:**

Prof. Roger Little, Quondam Professor of French (1776), Trinity College Dublin (TCD)

✓ **Cost:** Free attendance, but booking is required for catering purposes

✓ **Abstracts** submission and arrangements for the publication of the symposium proceedings in a standalone volume, please contact the Symposium Chair, Dr Théophile Munyangeyo at MUNYANGT@tcd.ie

✓ **Booking:** Contact **Dr Niall Kennedy** (Member of the Symposium Organising Committee) at NIKENNED@tcd.ie

✓ **Abstracts submission deadline:** 1 May 2023. Ensure you use *Francophone African Voices in Ireland* as the **email subject**.

✓ **Language** (abstract and presentation): English or French

✓ **The suitability of the abstracts** will be announced by 10 May 2023

Dr Théophile Munyangeyo (Chair) and **Dr Niall Kennedy** (Organising Committee)

Department of French, Trinity College Dublin