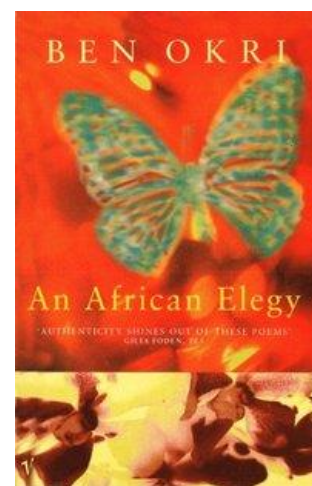
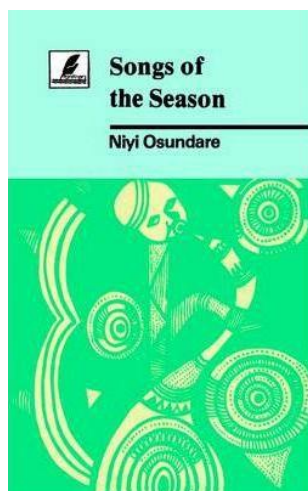




UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Forum för Afrikastudier

Friday Seminar in Africa Studies



The Violence and Persistence of the Colonial World: Slum Ecology in African Poetry

with **Douglas Kaze**, University of Jos, Nigeria

Friday 22 October 2021, Online

At **9.15-10.30** (Jos, Nigeria) and **10.15-11.30** (Uppsala, Sweden),

In his chapter on the role of violence in both colonization and decolonization, Frantz Fanon devotes a section to what he calls the colonial world - a “system of compartments” which divides the colonized space into opposing socioeconomic worlds along racial lines. This presentation, situated in the wider field of postcolonial ecocriticism, will explore the kind of spatio-economic marginalizations produced by this colonial reordering of the African city as imagined in the poetry of Agostinho Neto, Niyi Osundare and Ben Okri. The first part of the discussion focuses on the imagination of the *muceque* (slum) in Neto’s poetry. His poetry, written during the days of struggle for independence in Portuguese-ruled Angola, recurrently employs the *muceque* as a motif that interweaves environmental and political worries. The second section looks at poems by Nigerian poets Osundare and Okri, who wrote about the harrowing moment of military dictatorship in post-independence Nigeria. The discussion shows that their selected works imagine the Nigerian slum as a persistence of the colonial geography through their interest in space as a diagram of class division and power abuse. In addition to Fanon’s concept of the colonial world, the discussion will engage the focal texts in conversation with Mike Davis’ thought about slum ecology and Rob Nixon’s concept of slow violence to explore the slum as an important medium for understanding today’s environment in relation to diverse levels of power practices.

Zoom link: <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/68571646918>

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