



جامعة سيدي محمد بن عبد الله - فاس

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Université Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah - Fès



The Centre for Digital Humanities University of Lagos (CEDHUL), Nigeria
in conjunction with

University Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah, Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences Fez/Sais, Morocco

Organises

***The 1st African Electronic Literature Alliance International Workshop Conference
(AELAIWC- 2021)***

Theme: **Digital Tools & Hypertext Praxis in African Digital Literature**

Conference Date: 22nd –25th November, 2021.

Venue: University of Lagos, Nigeria/University Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah, Morocco
(Hybrid: Virtual/in person).

Conference Languages: French, Arabic & English.

AELAIWC 2021: Call for Participation

In recent times, increased attention is being paid to digital technologies, especially how they impact research and innovation in the fields of natural and human sciences, and more recently how these tools enhance affect the mechanics and dynamics of our day-to-day activities. Scholars across diverse fields have equally tapped into the potential of digital tools in their research as well as teaching and learning. In furtherance of this, human science researchers from the domain of literature have been engaging the available tools and have also been fashioning out diverse means whereby scholarship in electronic literature can be advanced. It is within this framework that the **Centre for Digital Humanities University of Lagos (CEDHUL), Nigeria & University Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah, Morocco**, are organising the first of its kind academic gathering of like- minds and interested individuals or groups through the **First African Electronic Literature Alliance International Workshop Conference (AELAIWC 2021)**.

African Electronic Literature Alliance International Workshop Conference (AELAIWC 2021) is an online/in person workshop and lectures designed to train and form all African scholars, electronic literature artists, digital poets and students in the field of African Electronic Literature(AEL), African Diasporic Electronic literature (ADELI) by providing them with opportunities to learn digital creative writing, connect with peers around the world and established electronic literature experts, and explore computational creativity in literature. The workshop will be divided into four-day intensive classes. An hour lecture, 30 minutes break, self-practice for an hour. Then, lecturer comments on 2-3 participants ' works in 30 minutes. It means, lecturer 's time is 1hr 30 minutes. All lectures will be presented on the first and second days of the conference except workshops anchor by Prof. Nick Monfort and Prof. Andrew Demirjian which will be held on the 22nd and 23rd respectively. The training workshop will be on the third and fourth days 24th-25th, in the mornin whereas the African Electronic Literature Festival will be in the evening of the 25th.

The **African Electronic Literature Festival (AELF)** showcases for free the best works of all the participants created during the conference on the Multilingual African Electronic Literature Database and African Diasporic Electronic Literature Database (MAELD & ADELD)s website: <https://africanelit.org> .

Registration is free but membership is mandatory. Please register here: <https://africanelit.org/membership.php> .

Programme and Resource persons

1. ***Le récit interactif (Interactive digital narrative)*** by Prof. Serge Bouchardon, University of Technology of Compiègne, France, 22/11/2021. (Lecture in French)
2. ***The African Electronic Literature Festival (AELF)*** by Yohanna Joseph Waliya, MA Student in Twitterbot Poetry & French Twitterature, Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria 25th/11/2021.
3. ***Twine for interactive creative writing*** by Alexander Boyd, University of Central Florida, USA. (Workshop).
4. ***Generative literature*** by Prof. Michael Michael Hurtado, Universidad de Ciencias Aplicadas in Perú, Chile. (Workshop)
5. ***Arabic African e-lit***, Dr. Reham Hosny, University of Leeds, UK. (Lecture in Arabic)
6. ***Creating African e-lit using Web Tools*** by Associate Prof. Mariusz Pisarski, Poland. (Workshop)
7. **Mapping African Electronic Literature:** Guest speaker Kwabena Opoku-Agyemang moderated by Professor Mourad El Fahli (Webinar).
8. **Teaching Electronic Literature in an African Context:** Animated by professors Mimoune Daoudi, Yohanna Joseph Waliya and Mourad El Fahli (Webinar).
9. **Mapping Moroccan Electronic Literature:** Guest speakers: professors Fatima Gueddou and **Brahim AMRI** moderated by professor Mimoune Daoudi Arabic (Webinar).
10. **Histoire et lecture de la littérature numérique** by Prof. Alexandra Saemmer, University Paris 8, France. (Lecture in French)

- 11. Computer generation of poetry** by Prof. Nick Monfort, MIT Director, The Trope Tank USA. November 22, 2021(workshop)
- 12. Creating generative poetry and audiovisual poetry using P5.js** by Andrew Demirjian, Specialist Professor, Monmouth University, New York 23/11/2021 (Workshop)
- 13. Game Logic and Models** by Prof. Erik H. Zepka, DeTao Masters Academy, Shanghai, China (Lectures).
- 14. The history of electronic literature** by Dr. Giovanna Di Rosario, Polytechnic of Milan, Italy (lectures).
- 15. Comparative study of the genres in Cartografia Digital and MAELD & ADEL** by Carolina Gainza, Diego Portales University, Chile & Nohelia Meza , (Lectures)

OUR FACILITATORS/SPEAKERS



Professor Dr. Tunde Ope-Davies (Opeibi)

Tunde Ope-Davies is Professor of English, Digital Cultures and Discourse Studies at the University of Lagos. He is the founder and Director, Centre for Digital Humanities, University of Lagos (CEDHUL, www.cedhul.com.ng). He is a Fellow of the prestigious Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany and the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, United Kingdom. He is a Grantee of the Volkswagen Foundation, Germany and TETFund, Nigeria. He has held visiting positions at Chemnitz University of Technology, Germany, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK, Westminster University, London, UK, and Leipzig University, Germany. He is the founding president of the Digital Humanities Association of Nigeria (DHAN), and a former Executive Member on the Board of Global Outlook for Digital Humanities (GO:DH). He was once a Senior Special Assistant to the Governor of Lagos State on Speech & Communication. His current Digital Humanities research projects include the Corpus of

Nigeria New Media Discourse in English (CONNMDE), Corpus of Nigeria Digital Political Discourse (CONDPD), LitTech: Lagos. His current research interests are in digital cultures, new media discourse, general discourse studies, Science, Technology, and Society (STS) and Digital Health Humanities (DHH).



Richard Oko Ajah, Ph.D

Richard Oko Ajah teaches literature, criticism and French language in the Department of Foreign Languages at the University of Uyo in Nigeria where he graduated with First Class and with several awards. He obtained M.A with distinction and Doctorate degrees from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria as ETF Scholar. Dr. Ajah's areas of specialization are comparative, African and Maghrebian literatures, cultural studies, postcolonial studies, graphic novels/BDS, travel writing and digital humanities. His current research is centered on what he calls Pictographic criticism and Computer-Assisted Literary Analysis (CALA) as part of his Digital Humanities scholarship. His articles have appeared in international and national learned journals such as *Wagadu*, *Meridian Critic*, *Caleidoscopio* among others; he has applied postcolonial theory to African francophone war narratives, travel writing, graphic novels and other literary multimodal texts. He has participated in conferences in Europe, America and other parts of Africa. Dr. Ajah is a published poet, coeditor of *Language and Literature in the Dis/Service of Humanity* (2016) and author of *From Letters to Images* (forthcoming). He is a member, organizing committee of Lagos Summer School in Digital Humanities, Nigeria, the national treasurer of Digital Humanities Association of Nigeria, member of African Electronic Literature Alliance, ELO, executive member of GO::DH among others.



Prof. Serge Bouchardon, University of Technology of Compiègne, France.

Serge Bouchardon (<http://www.utc.fr/~bouchard>) is Professor of *Information and Communication Sciences* at the University of Technology of Compiègne and director of the Costech research laboratory (<http://www.costech.utc.fr/>). His research concerns digital writing, and more particularly electronic literature. Within the context of the PRECIP project (<http://precip.fr>), he turned his attention to the teaching of digital writing. He is the author of *La valeur heuristique de la littérature numérique* (The Heuristic Value of Electronic Literature), Hermann, Paris, 2014



Alexander Boyd, University of Central Florida, USA.

Alex Boyd has Master in Game Design at the University of Central Florida and received his Bachelor's Degree in Game Design from the same university. He currently works as a Marketing Coordinator at a small software company in Oviedo and teaches Server-side Scripting and Evolution of Videogames at the University of Central Florida.

Alex is passionate about making games that illicit personal reflection and encourages looking at life through the lens of other people.



Associate Prof. Alexandra Saemmer, Laboratoire Paragraphe-University Paris 8, France.

Alexandra Saemmer enseigne comme maître de conférences en sciences de l'information et de la communication à l'université Paris 8. Ses travaux de recherche portent sur une approche sémiotique et rhétorique du discours numérique, la lecture sur support électronique et la littérature numérique. Aux Publications de l'université de Saint-Étienne, elle a notamment publié *Matières textuelles sur support numérique* (2007), et codirigé avec Monique Maza *E-Formes 2 : les arts et littératures numériques au risque du jeu* (2011) et *E-Formes 1 : écritures visuelles sur support numérique* (2008).



Dr. Reham Hosny, University of Leeds, UK.

Dr. Reham Hosny is a lecturer at the University of Leeds, UK. Her research focuses on electronic literature and digital culture, in addition to digital pedagogy. My Ph.D. dissertation, *Digital Media Poetics: Remapping Electronic Literature in the Arabic and Anglo-American Contexts* (2018), conducted between Minia University, Egypt and RIT, New York, contributed to finding a place for the Arabic electronic literature (e-lit) on the international e-lit map.

She is directing [arabiceLit](#), the first initiative focusing on globalizing Arabic electronic literature in English language. She is an international consultant for the Electronic Literature Organizations ELC4. She was also the key organizer of the first international conference on Arabic electronic literature at RIT Dubai, Feb. 25-27, 2018. I delivered the first electronic literature workshop in the Arab World in collaboration with the President of the Electronic Literature Organization (ELO) at RIT Dubai, and co-curated the first e-lit exhibit in the Arab World at RIT Dubai.



Prof. Michael Hurtado, University of Applied Sciences, Peru, Chile.

Michael Hurtado is a Peruvian mathematician, technologist, poet and new media artist. He is a professor in the Department of Architecture at the Universidad de Ciencias Aplicadas in Perú, co-director in Masmédulab: laboratory of poetry and new media (@masmedulab) and FabLearn fellow hosted at Columbia University. He has received the VIDA16 award from Fundación Telefónica in the category of production incentives for art and artificial life projects in Spain. In 2020 he won the first edition of Hub Musical Chile in the category of immersive experiences with the virtual reality project MVX0. His digital poetry work is part of ELO-ELC4 and Cartografía de la Literatura Digital Latinoamericana. He is on Instagram as @michaelmobius.



Associate Professor Mariusz Pisarski, University of Information Technology and Management: Rzeszów, Poland.

Electronic literature researcher, editor, producer and translator. Author of "Xanadu. Hypertextual metamorphosis of fiction" (Kraków, 2013). Holds a PhD degree on communication and semiotics of new media from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan. In 2012 dissertation received an award from the National Centre for Culture (Warsaw). His digital literary projects, as well as talks about digital art and culture, were presented at contemporary art spaces in Paris (Centre Georges Pompidou, Biblioteque Francais), Warsaw (Galeria Foksal, Czuły Barbarzyńca), Kraków (Bunkier Sztuki, Mocak), Polish Institute in Bratislava, Kosice and Vancouver. His translations of American digital literature include: hypertext novels afternoon, a story and Twilight. A Symphony by Michael Joyce, Hypertextual Counciosness by Mark Amerika, L0ve0ne by Judy Malloy Hegirascope by Stuart Moulthrop , Sea and Spar Between by Stephanie Strickland and Nick Montfort (with Monika Górską-Olesińska). Chief editor of "Techsty" – journal on new media and literature and creative director for multimedia in Korporacja Ha!art from Cracow.



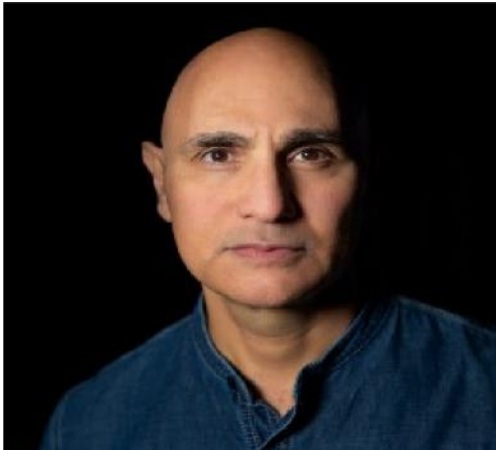
Yohanna Joseph Waliya, University of Calabar, Nigeria.

Yohanna Joseph Waliya is a Nigerian digital poet, distant writer, novelist, playwright, winner of the Janusz Korczak Prize for Global South 2020, Curator of MAELD & ADEL, Executive Director of AELA & ADELI, <https://africanelit.org> , Electronic Literature Organization Research Fellow and UNESCO Janusz Korczak Fellow . He writes in English and French. Among his works are : La révolte de vie (play), Monde 2.0 (play), Hégémonie Disparue (novel), Quand l'Afrique se lèvera (novel), Homosalus (digital poetry), Momenta (digital poetry), @TinyKorczak (Twitterbot-poetry), @KorczakD (Twitterbot playwright), Climatophosis (digital poetry: Winner of the best use of Digital humanities for fun 2020) etc.. He is a lecturer at the Department of Modern Languages and Translation Studies, University of Calabar as well as a Postgraduate student at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria.



Prof. Nick Monfort, professor of digital media, MIT. director, The Trope Tank, USA.

Nick Montfort studies creative computing. As a poet and artist, he uses computation as his main medium and seeks to uncover how the material and formal qualities of computing are entangled with each other and with culture. His computer-generated books of poetry include #! and Golem. His digital projects include the collaborations The Deletionist and Sea and Spar Between. His MIT Press books, collaborative and individual, range from The New Media Reader to Exploratory Programming for the Arts and Humanities. He is a rapper and a member of the Society of Spoken Art. At MIT, he is professor of digital media and director of the Trope Tank. He lives in New York City.



Prof. Andrew Demirjian, Monmouth University, New York, USA.

Andrew Demirjian is a media artist whose work focuses on creating alternative relationships between audio, video and text that take the form of single-channel videos and multi-channel installations. The works often explore mass media effects on the individual and the psychology of male identity. Andrew employs conceptual systems of juxtaposition, categorization and randomness as structuring devices versus conventional narrative arcs and character development.

His work has been featured in numerous exhibitions and galleries including the White Box gallery, Harvestworks, LMAK Projects, The Center for Book Arts and GAS in Manhattan. Over the last year he has had

multiple international exhibitions including the Garden of Earthly Delights in Korea, Kūf/Mold in Belgium, Artist in Wonderland in Poland and Analogue/Digital in England.



Dr. Kwabena Opoku-Agyemang, University of Ghana, Ghana.

Kwabena Opoku-Agyemang earned his PhD from West Virginia University in 2017 and is a lecturer at the University of Ghana's Department of English. His scholarly interests revolve around African digital literature, while his research has appeared in journals such as *Research in African Literatures*, *Postcolonial Text*, and *Sens Public*, as well as in peer reviewed volumes. He is the Editor for West African Anglophone Writing at the South African journal *Tydskrif vir Letterkunde*, and has also guest edited special editions of *Journal of Gaming and Virtual Worlds* and *Hyperrhiz*.



Prof. Erik H. Zepka, DeTao Masters Academy, China.

Erik Zepka (erik rzepka, ek rzepka, erik hoff zepka, xoxoxcom, xoxox) is Biological Laboratory Professor and Researcher · Professor of Literature and Empirical and Instrumental Innovation · Caput Magnum Professor of Memes and Genes, a conceptual media artist whose work looks at science and technology from a social and aesthetic perspective. This work takes the form of digital art, material art, and social events. Virtual work has been shown on Peer to Space, The Wrong Biennale, The Odyssey Simulator, Furtherfield, Underacademy, Gallery T, Extropia, Remixworx, Super Art Modern Museum, and Gallery Online. Material or installed work has been shown throughout the world in venues such as the Tate Modern, the Nabi Museum, The Whitney Museum, Pikselfest, Videographe, VIVO Media Arts Centre and ISEA etc.



Dr. Giovanna Di Rosario, Polytechnic of Milan, Italy.

Giovanna Di Rosario (MA, M.P.S, MSSc, PhD) teaches Digital Culture at the Department of Design at the Polytechnic of Milan. She is the director of HStudies Research Group, University of Jyväskylä (Finland). Giovanna has been an invited lecturer in several countries worldwide and has published books, articles, and reviews on literature, digital literature, and digital culture. Her PhD thesis "[E-poetry: Understanding Poetry in the Digital Environment](#)"(2011) is a pioneering critical and multilingual anthology of digital poetry. She has also translated a number of works of digital literature and organized several e-lit exhibitions. In 2018, she gave a talk for the TEDx (TEDXUC Louvain), "From Binary to Infinity". Currently, she is the managing editor of the International Journal of Transmedia Literacy.



Dr. Nohelia Meza, Mexico

Nohelia Meza is a researcher in Latin American Digital Literature and Culture. She holds a PhD in Translation and Language Sciences from Pompeu Fabra University (Barcelona). She was a visiting research fellow at the University of Leeds UK (2018-2020), where she developed her project: “Towards a Digital Rhetoric of Latin American Works of Electronic Literature”. Her research interests encompass digital rhetoric, discourse analysis, literary translation and Latin American cultural studies. Nohelia is a member of the Latin American Electronic Literature Network (litElat), HStudies Research Group (University of Jyväskylä, Finland), and a collaborator of the e-literature publishing group at The Centre for Digital Culture in Mexico City.



Associate Professor Carolina Gainza, Director Revista Laboratorio, Diego Portales University, Chile.

Chilean researcher of digital literature and culture in Latin America, focusing on aesthetics, forms of production, circulation and reception. Directs the Revista Laboratorio (www.revistalaboratorio.udp.cl). [Carolina Gainza](#) developed the Latin American Electronic Literature Database: <https://www.cartografiadigital.cl>

Dr. Brahim Amri is a professor of contemporary Arabic literature at The Polydisciplinary Faculty in Taza/Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah University. Professor Amri has published a number of books and articles on contemporary Moroccan and Arabic novels, including electronic hypertext narratives. His work on electronic literature is central to the understanding of Arab E-writing.

Dr. Fatima Gueddou is a professor of Arabic literature at the Faculty of Arts and Languages/ Ibn Tofail University. Her critical works on electronic Arab literature, particularly the Moroccan one, won her an international acclaim, culminating in a number of prizes and rewards such as Allal El Fassi Intellectual Prize.

Dr. Mourad El Fahli is a professor of literature and Cultural Studies at the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences, Fes/Sais. Dr. El Fahli's areas of academic interest include World literature, literary theory, and electronic literature. He has published a number of writings on cultural narratives, postcolonial arts & literatures, global/local dynamics, Afropolitanism and language & identity politics. His current research interests center on Digital Humanities with a focus on Electronic literature, Contemporary Spanish literature and African futurism.

Dr. Mimoune Daoudi is a Professor of Literature and Cultural Studies at the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences, Fez/ Sais. Dr. Daoudi's areas of academic interest include Moroccan diasporic literature, digital humanities and digital religion.

****African Electronic Literature Alliance (AELA) is an association of all African e-literary and interactive digital art enthusiasts, scholars, independent scholars/artists and postgraduate students across the globe who are projecting African worldviews in interactive digital arts and electronic literatures.***