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Guest Lecture:

**Ainehi Edoro**

**Tuesday, June 04th, 09:45 – 11:15 (KII, 17.02)**

## **Beyond the Colonial Library:**

# **Historical Fiction from Chinua Achebe to Chimamanda Adichie**

The lecture traces the African tradition of historical fiction from Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* (1958) to a body of contemporary historical narratives, most of which are written by women. Placing *Things Fall Apart* in conversation with Yaa Gyasi's *Homegoing* (2016), Jennifer Makumbi's *Kintu* (2014), Wayetu Moore's *She Would Be King* (2017), and Nnedi Okorafor Afrofuturist classic *Lagoon* (2014), I argue that what distinguishes contemporary re-writings of the past is the suspension of colonialism as the sole organizing framework for Africa's past. Unlike Achebe's iconic text and the tradition it inaugurated, contemporary historical fiction gestures towards a past that does not rely on colonial discourse for the terms of its intelligibility.



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