

WENDY LAURA BELCHER

Associate Professor
Department of Comparative Literature &
Center for African American Studies
Princeton University
133 East Pyne
Princeton, NJ 08544

609-258-1683
wbelcher@princeton.edu
www.wendybelcher.com

EDUCATION

University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA. *Ph.D., English Literature*, 2001-2008.
Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA. *B.A., English Literature*, 1980-1984.

SELECTED HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS

African Studies Association Bethwell A. Ogot Award Finalist 2013. Nominated for *Abyssinia's Samuel Johnson* as the best book on East Africa published in the previous year.

Fulbright U.S. Scholar Research Award 2010-2011. For U.S. faculty of merit and leadership potential to conduct international research.

UCI International Center for Writing and Translation Grant 2007. For translations from languages that have been marginalized. Ngũgĩ wa Thiongo, director.

Washington State Governors Writers Award 1989. For outstanding books published by Washington authors the previous year.

PEN Society Martha Albrand Award Finalist 1988. For outstanding first book of nonfiction; judged by Annie Dillard & Allen Ginsberg.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

The Life and Struggles of Our Mother Walatta Petros: A Translation of a Seventeenth-Century African Biography of an African Woman (with Michael Kleiner). Princeton: Princeton University Press, forthcoming fall 2015. 600 pages.

- Articles about the translation in Princeton's *Discovery: Research at Princeton*, *Princeton Alumni Weekly*, *News at Princeton*, and *CAAS Newsletter*. Barr Ferree Foundation Fund for Subvention \$25,000.

Abyssinia's Samuel Johnson: Ethiopian Thought in the Making of an English Author. New York: Oxford University Press. May 2012. 304 pages.

- Reviewed by CHOICE: *Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*; *Review in English Studies*; *Leeds African Studies Bulletin*, *SEL(Studies in English Literature 1500-1900)*, *Eighteenth-Century Intelligencer*, *The Year's Work in English Studies*, and *Comparative Literature*.
- African Studies Association Bethwell A. Ogot Award 2013 Finalist.

Writing Your Journal Article in Twelve Weeks: A Guide to Academic Publishing Success.

Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. February 2009. 376 pages.

- Reviewed by *Journal of Scholarly Publishing*; *The Academic Author*; *Reference & Research Book News*; *CHOICE: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*; *Chronicle of Higher Education*; *Journal of English for Academic Purposes*, *Sigma Tau Delta: International English Honor Society Newsletter*, *Primary Health Care Research and Information Service*, *Rhetoric Review*, *Daily Eastern News*, and numerous blogs.
- Sold over 30,000 copies in first five years.
- Translations into Spanish, simplified Chinese, and traditional Chinese:
 - *Cómo escribir un artículo académico en 12 semanas: Guía para publicar con éxito*, trans. by Sylvia Podolsky Ostrowiak and Alejandra Medrano. Mexico City: FLASCO.
 - 12周写出一篇学术期刊论文--走向学术成功的写作指南, trans. by Zhong Sun. Beijing, China: Educational Publishing House, 2013.
 - 刊登吧! Journal 倒數的黃金十二週, trans. by Li-Shiue Gau. Taipei, Taiwan: TingMao Publishing, 2013.

Honey from the Lion: An African Journey. New York: E. P. Dutton. 1988. 188 pages.

- Winner of Washington State Governor's Writers Award.
- Finalist in the Martha Albrand/PEN Society Award for first book of nonfiction (judged by Annie Dillard and Allen Ginsburg).
- Reviewed in the *New York Times Book Review*; *Library Journal*; *Booklist Review*; *Publishers Weekly*; *Kirkus Reviews*, *The Seattle Times*; *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, etc.
- Translated into French by l'Ecole des Loisirs as *Le Miel du Lion*.

SELECTED CO-EDITED VOLUMES

Contemporary African Politics and Development: A Comprehensive Bibliography, 1981-1990. Editor, Vijitha Mahadevan; Associate editor, Wendy Laura Belcher. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers. 1994. 1,314 pages. Reviewed by *CHOICE: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*; *American Book Review*; *Commonwealth & Comparative Politics*.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

"Same-Sex Intimacies in an Early Modern African Text: The Women's Partnerships of the Ethiopian Female Saint Hagiography *Gädlä Wälättä Petros* (1672)" *Research in African Literatures*, special issue Queer Africa, fall 2015.

"The Melancholy Translator: Sirak Həruy's Amharic Translation of Samuel Johnson's *Rasselas*." *Age of Johnson: A Scholarly Journal* 23 (December 2013, but still in press).

"Sisters Debating the Jesuits: The Role of African Women in Defeating Portuguese Proto-Colonialism in Seventeenth-Century Abyssinia." *Northeast African Studies* 13, no. 1 (spring 2013): 121-166.

"From Sheba They Come: Medieval Ethiopian Myth, U.S. Newspapers, and Modern American Narrative." *Callaloo: A Journal of African Diaspora Arts and Letters*. 33, no. 2 (spring 2010): 239-257.

"Consuming Subjects: Theorizing New Models of Agency for Literary Criticism in African Studies." *Comparative Literature Studies* 46, no. 2 (spring 2009): 213-232. Cited in *Alternation* (2009).

"Origin of the Name Rasselas." *Notes and Queries* 56, no. 2 (June 2009): 253-255.

"Reflections on Ten Years of Teaching Writing for Publication to Graduate Students and Junior Faculty." *Journal of Scholarly Publishing* 40, no. 2 (January 2009): 184-199.

"Indirect Resistance: Rhetorical Strategies for Evading Power in Colonial French West African Novels by Camara Laye, Ferdinand Oyono, and Sembene Ousmane." *LIT: Literature, Interpretation, Theory* 18, no. 1 (spring 2007): 65-87. Cited in *Neohelicon* (May 2013); *Comparative Literature Studies* (2009);

"Conjuring the Colonizer: Alternative Readings of Magic Realism in Sherman Alexie's *Reservation Blues*." *American Indian Studies and Culture Journal* 31, no. 2 (June 2007): 25-39. Reprinted in Jeffrey Hunter, ed., *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, v. 260 Gale Publishing, 2009.

"After the Freedom: Post-War Cultural Production and National Identity in Eritrea." *Third Text: Critical Perspectives on Contemporary Art and Culture* 50 (spring 2000): 87-98.

SELECTED CONFERENCES, SERIES, AND PANELS ORGANIZED

"Figuring the Queer in African Literatures and Cultures." *Princeton, NJ, December 12-14, 2014*. Conference to revise the articles for the first Queer African literature peer-reviewed special issue.

"Vampires and Zombies: The Better to Theorize You With." Princeton African Studies Lecture Series. *Princeton, NJ, Spring 2014*. Speakers included Jean Comoroff and Tobias Wendl.

"African Language Literature: Capitalizing (on) the Periphery." American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference Seminar. *New York, New York, March 21-22, 2014*. Organized eight presenters on early African-language literature.

"Semaphores and Surfaces: Reading the New African Cinemas." PIIRS Global Seminar. *Princeton, NJ, November 1-3, 2013*. Raised funding for and organized a three-day conference on African film. Identified and hosted twelve international scholars.

"Mapping the Circulation of African Literature." American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference Seminar. *Toronto, Canada, April 4-7, 2013*. Organized twelve presenters on early African-language literature.

"Discursive Possession: African Transmission, Western Texts." Modern Language Association Annual Conference, *Boston, MA January 2013*. Organized special session with five speakers.

"Looking Forward, Looking Back: Cataclysm, Representation, and African Literature." American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference Seminar. *Providence, RI, April 30-April 1, 2012*. Organized eleven presenters on early African-language literature.

"Northeast African Literature Exploratory Seminar." PIIRS Global Seminar. *Princeton, NJ, March 18-19, 2010*. Raised funding for and organized a three-day conference on the indigenous literatures of the Horn of Africa. Identified and hosted eight international scholars.

SELECTED LECTURES

"Of Pregnant Abbesses and Cannibals: French and Ethiopic Medieval Marian Tales in Comparative Perspective." *October 25-26, 2014*. For New York City Interfaces Workshop at the Center for Medieval Studies at Fordham University.

"Same-Sex Intimacies in an Early Modern African Text about an Ethiopian Female Saint, *Gädlä Wälättä Petros* (1672)" Department of Comparative Literature, *Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, September 29, 2014*.

"Diasporic African Queens: Discursive Possession and the Ethiopian Queen of Sheba in Nineteenth-Century British Fiction." *April 25, 2014*. For a symposium on African Diasporas in the Mediterranean, India and Asia at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.

"Eighteenth Century Literature by and about Northeast Africans: George Cumberland's Novel and Galäwdewos's Gädl." American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies. *Williamsburg, VA, March 22, 2014*.

"What Would Mary Do? Thirteenth-Century French and Fifteenth-Century Ethiopic Marian Miracles in Comparative Perspective." *November 21-22, 2013*. For a conference on hagiography at Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany.

"They Have Sold Us Like Cattle: African Representations of Slavery in Gə'əz Texts from Eighteenth-Century Abyssinia." Paper for "New Perspectives on the Study of Slavery and Slave-trade in Ethiopia and the Horn," International Conference of Ethiopia Studies, *Dire Dawa, Ethiopia, October 29-November 2, 2012*.

"Manuscripts, Monks, and Monasteries: Ethiopian Texts in Cultural Context." *Los Angeles, CA May 26, 2012*. For Workshop on UCLA Library Special Collections Ethiopian Manuscripts.

"No Longer His Interpreter But He': Discursive Possession, African Thought, and Samuel Johnson." *Notre Dame, IN, April 12-14, 2012*. For the Johnson Society of the Central Region.

Complete information on publications, teaching, and service does not appear in this curriculum vitae.