



# DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND LITERARY STUDIES

## University of Nigeria, Nsukka



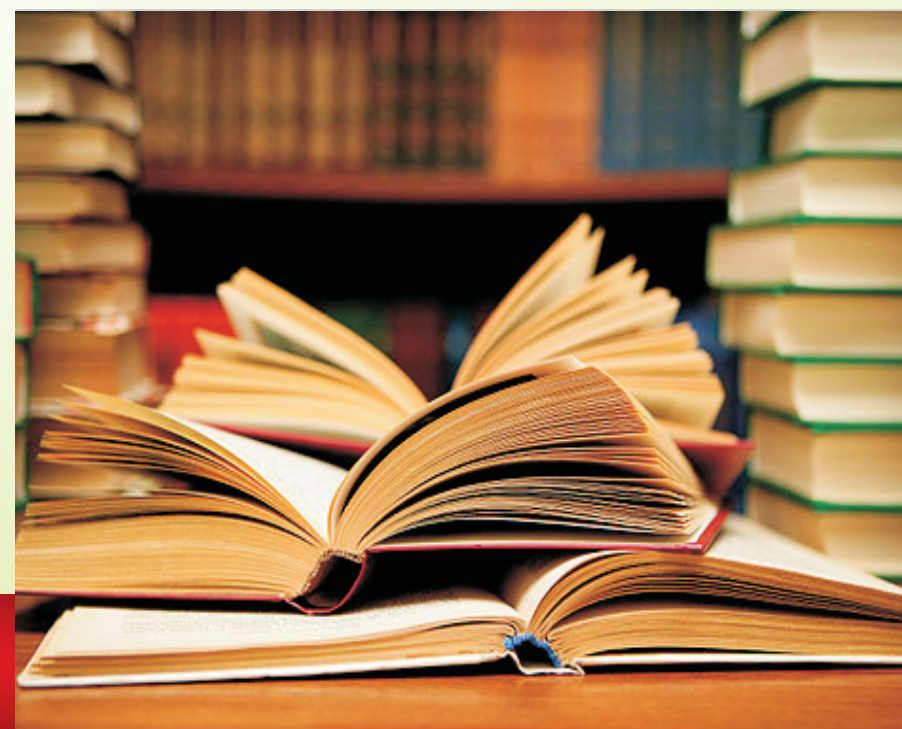
AFRICA, WORLD LITERATURE AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE (AWLEL)

**VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**

**THEME**

**CENTRE-MARGIN DIALECTICS:**  
Emergent issues in language and literature

**DATE: 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2020**



Despite its origin in 20th century postcolonial studies, the centre-margin phenomenon appears to be applicable to a vast range of discursive fields. We elect, on the one hand, to think of the centre as a position of influence, of power and control, of privilege, whether occupied by a group, world view, theory or any other category. On the other hand, the margin is a position of little or no influence, exerting little or no control and often lacking the privileges of the centre. The centre/margin power structure, which has been (re)theorised from different academic persuasions and in many strands such as exclusion-inclusion, centre-periphery, or marginal experience, or marginalization, new 'Othering', etc (Crewe, 1991), has enjoyed undue attention from literary and cultural critics, and discourse analysts in past years. However, its recent manifestations involving new topographies—referring to textual and discursive constructs and meanings, and new ways of thinking about the social relations need to be reconsidered. This open reading crystallises the immanence of centre-margin relations in the critical enterprises in the broad fields of language and literature. The event therefore offers an opportunity of critically expanding, rearticulating and analysing the phenomenon not only as a survey of different units of society (the margin), but also as an examination of their relationships, relations, and claims to power, in textual representation. It therefore hopes to assemble scholars, researchers, writers, critics, and thinkers from various academic fields of the humanities with a view to providing fresh perspectives and hence shedding new light on the ever-increasing tension between centre and margin in modern African societies. We therefore invite abstracts that engage this theme in relation to, but not limited to, the areas mentioned in the sub-themes.

### SUB-THEMES

- Centre-margin Dialectics: North to South Migration in Representational Discourses
- The Queer, Identity and Centre-margin Dialectics in Postcolonial Literature
- New Media Technology/Folk Culture/Media Culture/Mass Media/Digital Culture
- Afropolitanism, Black Diaspora and Neo-PanAfricanism in Contemporary Literature
- Liminality, Border Discourse and Emerging Identities in Literature
- Globalisation, Cosmopolitanism and Afrofuturism in Literature
- Centre-margin Dialectics in Gender and Sexuality Discourse
- Language, Identity and Politics of the Centre/Margin
- Centre-periphery Discourse in Oral Literature and Ethno-poetics
- Memory, Violence and Religion in Postcolonial Discourse
- Poverty, Politics and Centre-margin Dialectics
- Centre-margin Dialectics: Theories and Methodologies in Language and Literature
- Digital Humanities, Artificial Intelligence and Medical Humanities
- Language, Centre-margin Conflict and Peace Studies
- Language of the Centre/Margin in Computer-mediated Communication
- Multi/Bilingualism and the English Language in Nigeria
- Applied Linguistic Theory and Practice and Centre-margin Realities in Nigeria
- Meaning Construction, Humour and Culture of the Centre/Margin

**OPENING CEREMONY: 11.00am | VENUE: Zoom**

### CALL FOR PAPERS:

Abstracts should not be more than 250 words, with at least four keywords, in Microsoft Word format. Submissions should include the following: full name, institutional affiliation, e-mail and telephone contacts, and should be sent as an e-mail attachment to the LOC at: [awlelconference@gmail.com](mailto:awlelconference@gmail.com) not later than the absolute deadline, 15th October, 2020

### NOTES TO CONTRIBUTORS

- The full text of the paper for presentation should not be more than 15 pages, A4 size, double line spacing, including tables and references.
- A softcopy of the full paper with full contact details for presenters should be submitted at [awlelconference@gmail.com](mailto:awlelconference@gmail.com). Participants within the host institution should submit at the office of the Head, Department of English and Literary Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.
- The latest APA and MLA styles of citation and referencing should be adopted. In addition, quality research papers that meet peer review process will be published in the next Volume of AWL.
- All certificates will be available in electronic copies.

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Professor Emeka Nwabueze  
Department of Theatre and Film Studies  
University of Nigeria, Nsukka  
Nigeria

### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION:

Registration	-	N7,000
Conference Registration without paper	-	N5,000
Paper Assessment	-	N3,000
Extra Certificates	-	N2,000

### HOST:

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### PAYMENTS:

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