Florian ALIX
MCF, Université Paris-Sorbonne – CIEF

La folie comme aliénation et dissidence chez Mongo Beti et V.Y. Mudimbe

Abstract: In Le pauvre Christ de Bomba and Entre les eaux, the narrator’s evolution seems a kind of madness, as Ambroise Kom defined it: a process of social exclusion based on alienation because of norms told by dominant discourses. Individuals can’t find their right place in front of “languages in madness” which rule the colonial thought and hide part of reality. Therefore novel becomes a space where individual madness appears as a dissidence against dominant discourses.

Mongo Beti, Education, Ambroise Kom, Madness, V.Y. Mudimbe, Norms, Wandering, Women

Louis Bertin AMOUGOU
Université de Dschang

La littérature africaine francophone et la théorie bourdieusienne de champ symbolique

Abstract: Pierre Bourdieu’s theory of symbolic fields as a social arena for rivalries between agents for the capture, accumulation or conservation of capitals of its own is now implemented with the same rigor to African literature as to French literature which served as the material for the French sociologist. Yet, the specific characteristics of African literary production make it a weak institution. The present article is an attempt to put in perspective the relevance of Bourdieu’s studies to an insufficiently autonomous literary institution and holds the point that any literary field is a secondary field.

African literature, Double agent, Game theory, Social mobilism, Symbolic field, Weak institution
Kasereka KAVWAHIREHI
Université d’Ottawa

Savoir et légitimation en Afrique. Ambroise Kom et la critique de l’extraversion théorique

Abstract: This article has two main objectives: to show how Ambroise Kom raises the question of the legitimation of Knowledge in Francophone Africa and to present the way he proposes to the continent to overcome subalternity and theoretical extroversion in order to become its own center of production and legitimation of knowledge. The article also shows how Ambroise Kom, a cultural and literary critic, extends the tradition of African philosophers, mainly Mudimbe, Hountondji and Laleyé, who, from 1970, put the issue of decolonization of the African discourse in the center of their work.

Africa, Decolonization, Francophonie, Knowledge, Legitimation, Subalternity, Theoretical extroversion, University

Yvette BALANA
Université de Douala/Cameroun

L’Africain et le paradigme de la modernité. Que devient l’identité ?

Abstract: Questioning the african uniqueness within the academic field of identity forces us to investigate the ability of Africans to find a way out of a painful aporia between an adulterated tradition and an overwhelming totalitarian modernity. The latter, in Africa more than anywhere else, constitutes an obstacle to individual emancipation. Thus it raises today like yesterday, the imperative of a dual liberation without which Africa will be unable to construct an identity taking into account both alterity and anteriority.

African, Alterity, Identity, Modernity, Tradition
Jean Marie WOUNFA
Université de Ngaoundéré

L’écrivain intellectuel et le destin de l’université camerounaise

Abstract: This reflection is based on a corpus of narrative texts (novels and short stories) and on an eclectic approach which theoretical and methodological tools are borrowed from the comparatism, the institutional approach and the discourse analysis. The goal is to show that as a literary theme, the University strips off its pedestal and undergoes a more or less severe criticism under the pen of Cameroonian intellectual writers. Hence, its representation is marked with prejudices, stereotypes and misconceptions that make the University a myth from which the writers free and engage themselves in a realistic representation of the university system. The result is a subversive literature reflecting the stakes of power and positioning of the intellectual writers who, in their paratopic posture, assess the academic institution from which depends however the legitimation of their works.

Discourse, Paratopy, Positioning, Representation, Subversion, University, Writers

Valentin Siméon ZINGA
Centre de Recherche en Sémiotique Appliquée (Université de Yaoundé I), Fondation Paul Ango Ela de Géopolitique en Afrique Centrale

Ambroise Kom: ce que s’indigner veut dire. Notes provisoires sur une figure de la résistance

Abstract: The purpose of this contribution is to gauge the originality, consistency and coherence of the approaches that underpin the specificity of Ambroise Kom’s intellectual trajectory. Thus, it questions the theoretical basis of this posture, by examining the articulation of his theoretical positions and his praxis. Drawing, among other benchmarks, on the experience of the Université des Montagnes in Cameroon, the study establishes that beyond
the prevailing taxonomies, the academic escapes the fixity that would otherwise sever his deployment from a decisive part of his approach.

Dissidence, Indignation, Insubordination, Intellectual, Université des Montagnes

Armelle CRESSENT
École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (Paris/France)

Transmettre et instituer contre vents et marées: Ambroise Kom, l’universitaire des populations camerounaises

Abstract: This text touches on various aspects of Ambroise Kom’s social engagement. It explores some pathways taken by Kom outside Literature, his core academic field, insisting on the most prominent threads in his career: Knowledge transmission and institutionalization in Cameroon while prioritising collective over individual action. It also highlights Kom’s interaction with a challenging political and cultural environment, the social praxis resulting from it and his writings on what should be the contribution of Education, especially, higher Education, to contribute to nation building in Cameroon.

Cameroon, Cameroon higher education system, Collective action, Education, Nation building, Students, Université des Montagnes