Londoner, Americanah, Afropolitan: Three States of Being Global in African Literature

Adélékè Adéekọ, Ohio State University

Friday, March 22, 2019
3:30 pm in 1080 Derby Hall

The presentation follows in African, Anglophone, writing the itineraries of a select set of characters whose reflections on their global travels become reference points of Africanist cultural and communal self-assessments. Illustrations are drawn from a mixture of missionary letters, fiction, poetry, and mixed media, from the 18th century till early 21st century.

Adélékè Adéékọ is a Humanities Distinguished Professor and Vice Chair of the Department of English. His pre-OSU itineraries passed through Ìjẹbú-Imusin, Ìjẹbú-Òde, Sàgàmù, and Ilé-Ife in Nigeria. In the US, he passed through Gainesville, Florida, and Boulder, Colorado, from where he arrived at Columbus in 2006, where he has been since then. Adélékè Adéékọ is the author of Proverbs, Textuality, and Nativism in African Literature (1997), The Slave’s Rebellion: Literature, History, Orature (2005), and Arts of Being Yorùbá (2017). He is also editor of Philip Quaque’s Letters to London (2017), and Celebrating D.O. Fagunwa (2017).