**China, India, and Africa: Literatures of the Indian Ocean and Beyond (MA)**

PD Dr. Pavan Malreddy

SS 2025

**Thursday: 12-14 hours; Room: 1.09.14**

The rise of China and India as economic and cultural powerhouses in the late twentieth century has drawn considerable attention, not least among their respective diasporas and their growing influence on movement of people, goods and cultures beyond their national borders. Within this trajectory, [Africa occupies](https://electricliterature.com/7-books-about-the-complex-relationship-between-africa-and-china/) a significant place as a site of colonial and postcolonial confluences, a host for Indian and Chinese diasporas and economic interests and political relations. This seminar examines how the Indian Ocean or Swahili Sea features as a site of literary and cultural knowledge production through which transcultural histories of India, China, and Africa are tested and contested.

Yvonne Owuor, *The Dragonfly Sea*, 2019

Abdulrazak Gurnah, *By the Sea,* 2011

Mukuka Chipanta,[*A Casualty of Power*](https://bookshop.org/a/269/9781779222978), 2016.

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| Session 1  10.04. | 1. [*The Pearl of the Indian Ocean*](https://africasacountry.com/2021/02/the-pearl-of-the-indian-ocean), [Mohamed Duale](https://africasacountry.com/author/mohamed-duale), [Jabril Abdullahi](https://africasacountry.com/author/jabril-abdullahi)  2. Of tamarind & cosmopolitanism by Nuruddin Farah |
| Session 2  17.04. | 3. The absent pirate: exceeding justice in the Indian Ocean by [Stephanie Jones](https://www.tandfonline.com/author/Jones%2C+Stephanie)4. [*Which Way to the Sea, Please?*](https://somaliarchive77.substack.com/p/which-way-to-the-sea-please-by-nuruddin) by Nuruddin Farah |
| Session 3  24.04. | 5. India, Africa and the Indian Ocean by G.V.C. Naidu 6. The Complicating Sea: The Indian Ocean as Method by Isabel Hofmeyr |
| Session 4  08.05. | Yvonne Owuor, *The Dragonfly Sea* (story, plot, form) |
| Session 5  15.05. | Yvonne Owuor, *The Dragonfly Sea* (transcultural entanglements) |
| Session 6  22.05. | 7. From British Lake to Afrasian Sea: Recalibrations of the Indian Ocean in Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor’s The Dragonfly Sea by Frank Schulze-Engler 8. Abdulrazak Gurnah’s fictions of the Swahili coast: Littoral locations andamphibian aesthetics by Meg Samuelson |
| Session 7 &8  05.06. | Abdulrazak Gurnah, *By the Sea* (story, plot, form) |
| Session 8a  19.06. | Mid-term exam, **in class** (write one paragraph each on something you’ve learnt new: one theortical/secondary text from the reader, a scene from one of the novels; a comment from in-class discussions)  /Recap of texts and concepts |
| Session 9  26.06. | 9. Moving Beyond “China in Africa”: Insights from ZambianImmigration Data by Yang, Beibei |
| Session 10  03.07. | Mukuka Chipanta,[*A Casualty of Power*](https://bookshop.org/a/269/9781779222978) (story, plot, form) |
| Session 11  10.07. | Mukuka Chipanta,[*A Casualty of Power*](https://bookshop.org/a/269/9781779222978) (transcultural entanglements)  10. Out of the Yellow/Black Peril Discourse: Humanizing  China–Africa Relations in Mukuka Chipanta’s A Casualty of  Power by Flair Donglai Shi |
| Session 12  17.07. | Concluding Remarks |

Requirements:

In order to pass this seminar, students will be expected to hand in a mandatory midterm assignment. Details will be announced in the first session.

3 ECTS: 1500 words (should be presented as a written summary of **session leading**) + midterm assignment

6 ECTS: 6000 words (and a summary of **session leading**) + midterm assignment

**Session leading**: all students are required to **lead a session** (in groups of three maximum) with the following tasks: present the central argument of the reading/s assigned for that session with a critical and reflective perspective. At least one of the session leads is expected to bridge the session, i.e. summarize the discussion from the previous session and present it (5 minutes maximum) at the opening of the class. *Each student prepares and sends 1500 words of summary of their part in session leading to me by email one day before their session.*