



Dr Ruth Bush
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Summary

Research:

My research bridges African and African diasporic print cultures in French and in English, book history and cultural studies. I have an abiding interest how archival methods and close textual analysis can be combined to explore the structural inequalities and institutions that shape cultural production, and the circulation of knowledge more broadly between the global South and global North. This has led to research on topics such as post-war publishing history, literary translation, African women's magazines, Pan-African festivals, and writing by authors including Cheikh Hamidou Kane, Malick Fall, and Amos Tutuola. My monograph, [Publishing Africa in French: Literary institutions and decolonization 1945 – 1967](#) (Liverpool University Press, 2016), received the First Book Award of the African Literature Association in 2018. Other recent publications include a popular history of the UK's first radical black bookshop, [New Beacon Books](#) (reprinted in [paperback](#) in 2016 alongside poetry by Jay Bernard), and a special issue of *Wasafiri* magazine on 'African Print Activism in the 21st Century'.

I am currently developing a second monograph project on the role of the university in the production of an African literary commons, and the representation of this contested institution across a body of cultural texts, from novels to contemporary spoken word poetry. In parallel, I have worked since 2016 on two large-scale, collaborative projects with external partners in Senegal and Uganda. The first of these projects, funded by an AHRC Global Challenges grant, led to the digitisation of one of the earliest francophone African women's magazines, [Awa: la revue de la femme noire](#) and an exhibition which launched in Dakar in November 2017. For more information see the project website [here](#). The second project, on African Arts Management and Literary Activism, has involved a series of annual workshops at Writivism Festival and a mentorship initiative co-convened with Madhu Krishnan (Bristol), Kate Wallis (Exeter) and Bwesigye Bwa Mwesigire (Writivism). This work is funded through the ESRC Impact Acceleration Account.

My research has appeared in journals including *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, *Francosphères*, *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* and *Cahiers d'Etudes africaines*. I regularly peer-review for journals including *Wasafiri*, *African Diaspora*, *Australian Journal of French Studies* and the *International Journal of Francophone Studies*. I am a member of the steering committee for the new Centre for Black Humanities and I sit on the board of [Afrika Eye Festival](#), the largest African film festival in the South West.

I would be delighted to hear from prospective postgraduate students interested in pursuing research in any of the areas mentioned above.

Teaching:

I am on maternity leave followed by research leave in 2018/19 . I have taught literature (medieval to 21st century), cultural studies, and French language at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. I convene units on Francophone African Literature (Y2), Journeys Through Poetry (Y2), Narratives of Migration (Y4), and contribute to postgraduate units on Global Cultures of the Book and Cultural Encounters. In 2016/17 I was Programme Director on the [Foundation in Arts and Humanities](#), a 1-year course designed for students without conventional academic qualifications and which provides access to undergraduate degrees. I am committed to widening participation initiatives in Bristol.

Keywords

- African literature
- Cultural studies
- Material cultures of the book
- Postcolonial studies
- Translation Studies

Memberships

Organisations

[Department of French](#)

Organisational groups

- [Department of French](#)

Research clusters

- [Colonial, Postcolonial and Cross-Border Cultural Studies](#)

Recent publications

- Bush, R & Ducournau, C, 2020, '[Small readers' and big magazines: reading publics in Bingo, La Vie Africaine, and Awa: la revue de la femme noire.](#)' *Research in African Literatures*.
- Bush, R, 2019, '[African readers as world readers: UNESCO, Worldreader© and the perception of reading](#)'. in: Mary Hammond, Jonathan Rose (eds) *Edinburgh History of Reading*. Edinburgh UP, Edinburgh
- Bush, R, 2019, '[Culture, race, and the welfare state: the British contribution to the 1966 First World Festival of Black and African Culture](#)'. *Research in African Literatures*.
- Bush, R, 2017, '[The Sorbonne](#)'. in: Charles Forsdick, Lydie Moudileno, Etienne Achille (eds) *Postcolonial Realms of Memory*. Liverpool University Press
- Bush, R, 2017, '[The Hip-Hop legacies of Cheikh Anta Diop's Nations nègres et culture \(Paris: Présence Africaine, 1954\)](#)'. in: *Fighting Words : Fourteen Books That Shaped the Postcolonial World*. Peter Lang International Academic Publishers
- Krishnan, M, Bush, R & Wallis, K, 2017, '[Print Activism and Translating African Literature: Conversations at Writivism 2016](#)'. *In Other Words - The Journal for Literary Translators.*, pp. 46-55
- Bush, R, 2017, '["Mesdames, il faut lire!" \["Ladies, you must read!"\]: Material contexts and representational strategies in the first francophone African women's magazine.](#)' *Francosphères*, vol 5., pp. 213-236
- Bush, R, 2016, '[African Connections at New Beacon Books: A conversation with Sarah White and Ali Hussein](#)'. *Wasafiri*, vol 31., pp. 3-8
- Bush, R, 2016, '[Publishing Africa in French: Literary institutions and decolonization](#)'. Liverpool University Press
- Bush, R, 2016, '[Making history: Performances of the past at the 1966 World Festival of Negro Arts](#)'. in: David Murphy (eds) *Performing Pan-Africanism: The First World Festival of Black and African Culture, Dakar 1966: contexts and legacies*. Liverpool University Press, Liverpool

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