

# I Was An Elephant Salesman Adventures Between Dakar Paris And Milan Global African Voices Paperback 2010 Author Pap Khouma Rebecca Hopkins Graziella Parati

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Immigrant and Ethnic-Minority Writers since 1945

Queen of Flowers and Pearls

Africa and France

Bismarck's Testament

Concrete Flowers

The Silence of the Spirits

Linguistic Borders, Racial Formations, and Diasporic Imaginaries

Geyer's Stationer

Senegalese Afro-Cuban Music and Tropical Cosmopolitanism

Race on Display in 20th- and 21st Century France

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Narrating Africa in Europe

*I Was An Elephant Salesman  
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OMB No. 6399745042853 edited by

## HESS ADRIENNE

*Immigrant and Ethnic-Minority Writers since 1945* Indiana University Press

This book on cultural studies aims to identify the status of the field in Italian cultural studies. It contains articles that will interest a variety of undergraduate and graduate classes and it is an invaluable resource for scholars of Italian studies.

*Queen of Flowers and Pearls* Rodopi

Explores the experiences of Senegalese in Paris, Rome, and New York as they make sense of who they are and how they fit into their local communities, the countries where they live, and the larger global Senegalese diaspora. They shape their identities through the creative ways they use multiple languages.

*Africa and France* Univ. Press of Mississippi

An "excellent [and] incisive" look at identity, immigration, and

culture in postcolonial France (*Journal of West African History*).

This stimulating and insightful book reveals how increased control over immigration has changed cultural and social production in theater, literature, and even museum construction. Dominic Thomas's analysis unravels the complex cultural and political realities of long-standing mobility between Africa and Europe. Thomas questions the attempt to place strict limits on what it means to be French or European and offers a sense of what must happen to bring about a renewed sense of integration and global Frenchness. "Essential reading for anyone investigating the debates surrounding contemporary French identity and the ever-changing relationship between France and her former colonial possessions." —*African Studies Bulletin*

*Bismarck's Testament* Indiana University Press

"[An] intellectually dense collection . . . Mabanckou's challenging perspective on African identity today is as enlightening as it is provocative." —*Publishers Weekly* In *The Tears of the Black Man*, award-winning author Alain Mabanckou explores what it means to be black in the world today. Mabanckou confronts the long and entangled history of Africa, France, and the United States as it

has been shaped by slavery, colonialism, and their legacy today. Without ignoring the injustices and prejudice still facing blacks, he distances himself from resentment and victimhood, arguing that focusing too intensely on the crimes of the past is limiting. Instead, it is time to ask: Now what? Embracing the challenges faced by ethnic minority communities today, *The Tears of the Black Man* looks to the future, choosing to believe that the history of Africa has yet to be written and seeking a path toward affirmation and reconciliation. Praise for Alain Mabanckou and his works "Mabanckou counts as one of the most successful voices of young African literature." —Internationales Literaturfestival Berlin "Africa's Samuel Beckett . . . one of the continent's greatest living writers." —The Guardian "One of the most compelling books you'll read in any language this year." —Rolling Stone *Concrete Flowers* BRILL

Multilingualism is a crucial if often unrecognized marker of new European identities. In this collection of essays, we observe how a plurilinguist and pluricultural political entity practices and theorizes multilingualism. We ask which types of multilingualism are defined, encouraged or discouraged at the level of official policies, but also at the level of communities. We look at speakers of hegemonic or minority languages, at travellers and long-term migrants or their children, and analyse how their conversations are represented in official documents, visual art, cinema, literature and popular culture. The volume is divided into two parts that focus respectively on "Multilingual Europe" and "Multilingual Europeans." The first series of chapters explore the extent to which multilingualism is treated as both a challenge and an asset by the European Union, examine which factors contribute to the proliferation of languages: globalisation, the enlargement of the European Union and EU language policies. The second part of the volume concentrates on the ways in which cultural productions represent the linguistic practices of Europeans in a way that emphasizes the impossibility to separate language from culture, nationality, but also class, ethnicity or gender. The chapters suggest that each form of plurilingualism needs to be carefully analysed rather than celebrated or condemned.

### THE SILENCE OF THE SPIRITS

Indiana University Press

The award-winning author of *Black Moses* is at his satiric best in this novel that catalogs the pain and suffering caused by the ravages of civil war. Set in the imaginary African Republic of Vietongo, *The Negro Grandsons of Vercingetorix* begins when conflict breaks out between rival leaders and the regional ethnic groups they represent. Events recorded in a series of notebooks under the watchful eye of Hortense Loki show how civil war culminates in a series of outlandish actions perpetrated by the warring parties' private militias—the Anacondas and the Romans from the North who have seized power against Vercingetorix (named after none other than the legendary Gallic warrior who fought against Caesar's army) and his Little Negro Grandsons in the South who are eager to regain control. Translated into English for the first time, this novel provides a gritty slice of life in an active war zone. "Nearly twenty years removed from its French publication, Mabanckou's aptitude for characterization and his unflinching glimpse of plight echo within every movement of Vercingetorix . . . With *The Negro Grandsons of Vercingetorix*, Mabanckou stresses that even as violence is an accomplice to life, perseverance is synonymous." —World Literature Today *Linguistic Borders, Racial Formations, and Diasporic Imaginaries* Oxford University Press

A landmark bestseller in Italy, *I Was an Elephant Salesman* gives a name and a face to the thousands of anonymous African street

vendors in cities across Europe. Through the voice of a thinly veiled first-person narrator, Pap Khouma offers us a chilling, intimate, and often ironic glimpse into the life of an illegal immigrant. Khouma invents a life for himself as an itinerant trader of carved elephants, small ivories, and other "African" trinkets, struggling to maintain courage and dignity in the face of despair and humiliation. Constantly on the run from the authorities, he finds insight into the vicissitudes of law and politics, the constraints of citizenship, national borders, skin color, and the often paralyzing difficulties of obtaining basic human needs. His story reveals a contemporary Europe struggling to come to terms with its multiracial, multireligious, and multicultural identity.

**Geyer's Stationer** Oxford University Press

Jazz, aliens, and witchcraft collide in this collection of short stories by renowned author Emmanuel Dongala. The influence of Kongo culture is tangible throughout, as customary beliefs clash with party conceptions of scientific and rational thought. In the first half of *Jazz and Palm Wine*, the characters emerge victorious from decades of colonial exploitation in the Congo only to confront the burdensome bureaucracy, oppressive legal systems, and corrupt governments of the post-colonial era. The ruling political party attempts to impose order and scientific thinking while the people struggles to deal with drought, infertility, and impossible regulations and policies; both sides mix witchcraft, diplomacy, and violence in their efforts to survive. The second half of the book is set in the United States during the turbulent civil rights struggles of the 1960s. In the title story, African and American leaders come together to save the world from extraterrestrials by serving vast quantities of palm wine and playing American jazz. The stories in *Jazz and Palm Wine* prompt conversations about identity, race, and co-existence, providing contextualization and a historical dimension that is often sorely lacking. Through these collisions and clashes, Dongala suggests a pathway to racial harmony, peaceful co-existence, and individual liberty through artistic creation.

*Senegalese Afro-Cuban Music and Tropical Cosmopolitanism* BRILL

Frieda Ekotto, Kenneth W. Harrow, and an international group of scholars set forth new understandings of the conditions of contemporary African cultural production in this forward-looking volume. Arguing that it is impossible to understand African cultural productions without knowledge of the structures of production, distribution, and reception that surround them, the essays grapple with the shifting notion of what "African" means when many African authors and filmmakers no longer live or work in Africa. While the arts continue to flourish in Africa, addressing questions about marginalization, what is center and what periphery, what traditional or conservative, and what progressive or modern requires an expansive view of creative production. *Race on Display in 20th- and 21st Century France* Indiana University Press

A nameless young man lives in the housing projects outside of Paris. When he was a child, his parents moved with him from the Congo to France, hoping in vain to escape poverty and violence. His best friend, Drissa, is in a psychiatric hospital and now Mireille, his girlfriend, the woman with whom he has shared his childhood and hopes, has left him to reconnect with her Jewish roots in Israel. During a night out to drown the pain of his heartache, there is a fight with a policeman, the policeman dies, and the young man is arrested and taken to jail. Between police beatings and abrupt interrogations, his memory becomes his sole ally to escape from the exiguous space in which he is confined. Half-conscious and delirious, he reflects on his journey from the land of his ancestors to his life in the projects with Drissa and

Mireille. In *The Heart of the Leopard Children*, N'Sondé explores the themes of love and pain, belonging and uprooting, desire and fear—all with an implacable and irresistible accuracy. Wilfried N'Sondé's first novel awakens the reader with an urban symphony of desire and lost love, attuned to the violence that accompanies the struggle for social ascension and a sense of belonging, and the paralyzing sentiment of betrayal that inhabits a young man caught between traditions and cultures. Awarded the Prix des Cinq Continents de la Francophonie and the Prix Senghor for the originality of his work, the author captures the sounds, rhythms and pleas of a young man who pulls on the alarm from his prison cell to warn against the multiple barriers of confinement that risk the future of certain sectors of French youth today.

Conscripts of Migration Fairleigh Dickinson

This is the first volume to present an international overview of immigrant and ethnic-minority writing in 14 national contexts and a conclusion discussing this writing as a vanguard of cultural change.

*Neoliberal Globalization, Nationalism, and the Literature of New African Diasporas* Africa and the Diaspora: Histo

The Oxford Handbook of Arab Novelistic Traditions is the most comprehensive treatment of the subject to date. In scope, the book encompasses the genesis of the Arabic novel in the second half of the nineteenth century and its development to the present in every Arabic-speaking country and in Arab immigrant destinations on six continents. Editor Wail S. Hassan and his contributors describe a novelistic phenomenon which has pre-modern roots, stretching centuries back within the Arabic cultural tradition, and branching outward geographically and linguistically to every Arab country and to Arab writing in many languages around the world. The first of three innovative dimensions of this Handbook consists of examining the ways in which the Arabic novel emerged out of a syncretic merger between Arabic and European forms and techniques, rather than being a simple importation of the latter and rejection of the former, as early critics of the Arabic novel claimed. The second involves mapping the novel geographically as it took root in every Arab country, developing into often distinct though overlapping and interconnected local traditions. Finally, the Handbook concerns the multilingual character of the novel in the Arab world and by Arab immigrants and their descendants around the world, both in Arabic and in at least a dozen other languages. The Oxford Handbook of Arab Novelistic Traditions reflects the current status of research in the broad field of Arab novelistic traditions and signal toward new directions of inquiry.

**Rethinking African Cultural Production** BRILL

"Much has changed in Africa and in African studies . . . but one constant has been the enduring excellence of the anthology *Africa*." —International Journal of African Historical Studies Since the publication of the first edition in 1977, *Africa* has established itself as a leading resource for teaching, business, and scholarship. This fourth edition has been completely revised and focuses on the dynamism and diversity of today's Africa. The latest volume emphasizes contemporary culture—civil and social issues, art, religion, and the political scene—and provides an overview of significant themes that bear on Africa's place in the world. Historically grounded, *Africa* provides a comprehensive view of the ways that African women and men have constructed their lives and engaged in collective activities at the local, national, and global levels. "From all indications, the fourth edition of *Africa* should not only endure the test of time, but also be found exceptionally useful by a wide spectrum of scholars, including college professors and their students in general."

—Africa Today

The Cambridge Companion to the African Novel University of Toronto Press

"This book offers samples of the literary and cultural production of an innovative group of new Italian-language writers whose autobiographical texts focus on exploring their identities as immigrants in a Western country. This anthology contributes to the ongoing discussions on exile, diaspora, and migration by documenting the unique Italian case."--BOOK JACKET.

**THE NEGRO GRANDSONS OF VERCINGETORIX**

Fairleigh Dickinson Univ Press

Contemporary Italian Diversity in Critical and Fictional Narratives brings together creative literary works and scholarly articles. Both address the changes and challenges to identity formation in an Italy marked by the migrations, populism, nationalism, and xenophobia, and analyze diversity and the affirmation of belonging.

Home, Memory and Belonging in Italian Postcolonial Literature Indiana University Press

To the sound of machine gun fire and the smell of burning flesh, award-winning author In Koli Jean Bofane leads readers on a perilous, satirical journey through the civil conflict and political instability that have been the logical outcome of generations of rapacious multinational corporate activity, corrupt governance, widespread civil conflict, human rights abuses, and environmental degradation in Africa. Isookanga, a Congolese Pygmy, grows up in a small village with big dreams of becoming rich. His vision of the world is shaped by his exploits in *Raging Trade*, an online game where he seizes control of the world's natural resources by any means possible: high-tech weaponry, slavery, and even genocide. Isookanga leaves his sleepy village to make his fortune in the pulsating capital Kinshasa, where he joins forces with street children, warlords, and a Chinese victim of globalization in this blistering novel about capitalism, colonialism, and the world haunted by the ghosts of Bismarck and Leopold II. Told with just enough levity to make it truly heartbreaking, *Congo Inc.* is a searing tale about ecological, political, and economic failure.

Narrating Africa in Europe Xlibris Corporation

This dark and suspenseful novel tells the story of a fictitious West African country caught in the grip of civil war. The dispassionate and deadpan narrator, Asante Kroma, is a former head of Secret Services and finds himself living with the corpse of the dictator, a man who once ruled his nation with an iron fist. Through a series of flashbacks and letters penned by the dictator, N'Zo Nikiema, readers discover the role of the French shadow leader, Pierre Castaneda, whose ongoing ambition to exploit the natural resources of the country knows no limits. As these powerful men use others as pawns in a violent real-life chess match, it is the murder of six-year-old Kaveena and her mother's quest for vengeance that brings about a surprise reckoning.

**Senegal Abroad** Indiana University Press

*I Was an Elephant Salesman* Adventures Between Dakar, Paris, and Milan Indiana University Press

A Novel Wesleyan University Press

In *Race on Display* in 20th- and 21st-Century France Knox turns the tables France's rhetoric of 'internal otherness', asking her reader not to spot those deemed France's others but rather to deconstruct the very gazes that produce them. Weaving together a vast corpus of colonial French children's comics, Francophone novels, and African popular music, fashion, and dance, Knox traces how the ways colonial 'human zoos' invited their French spectators to gaze on their colonized others still inform the frameworks through which racial and ethnic minorities are made—and make themselves-visible in contemporary France. In addition

to analyzing how literature and music depicting immigrants and their descendants in France make race and ethnicity visible, Knox also illustrates how the works she analyzes self-reflexively ask whether they, as commodities sold within wider cultural marketplaces, perpetuate the culture of exoticism they seek to contest. Finally, Knox contends that to take seriously the way the texts interrogate the relationship between power, privilege, and the gaze also requires reconsidering the visions of normalcy from which racial and ethnic minorities supposedly depart. She thus

concludes by exposing a critical 'blind spot' in French cultural studies-whiteness-before subjecting it to the same scrutiny France's 'visible minorities' face.

*Contemporary Italian Diversity in Critical and Fictional Narratives*  
Indiana University Press

Containing almost 600 entries, this impressive 2-volume reference presents detailed and authoritative treatment of the field of Italian literature, with attention both to the work and influence of individual writers of all genres and to movements, styles, and critical approaches.

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