

## Defining Moments

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As a first-timer on the editorial board, I have the grand honour of welcoming you to this issue of *postamble*. To complete this task, I have reflected on my personal journey into this work, that is: intellectual production.

I do this because of what *postamble* represents to me: a journal to provide a space for those of us still unsure of our position as ‘knowledge producers’ to think, write and share our work. A space which provides us, as a new generation of thinkers the opportunity to challenge the existing canon and enter into publication: a bold political move.

I entered into ‘knowledge production’ because of the political potential that thinking allows. I also value the opportunity to be taken seriously as a ‘knower’ amongst my peers; so *postamble* embodies something that is very significant to me.

I am one of those precarious thinkers, deeply embedded in interdisciplinary work that is aimed at interrogating social life in Africa, which has included both Africana and Women’s Studies. As I am very interested in knowledge that is politically vibrant, these fields have been a perfect fit, both having emerged out of critiques of dominant canons of knowledge to offer new epistemological positions.

Thinking about my personal commitment to this sort of thinking and what *postamble* represents to me, I want to think about how we then use this space as ‘young’ thinkers. What are we saying? What are we engaging? What political, theoretical and philosophical investments are we making? Are we saying anything new and do we have a critical position to define us as a new generation of thinkers that is different from our predecessors in the field of ‘the study of Africa’?

I am very excited about this issue, as the contributions are both diverse and interesting reflecting the multidisciplinary envisioned for this journal. We begin with a remarkable short story entitled ‘Among the Believers’, by Joseph Chikowero, a graduate student in African Languages and Literature at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

This is followed by ‘Burning Down London Bridge’ by Mitzie Jaqueline Ried, a postgraduate student at the University of the West Indies-Mona; where she explores the ‘bridge’ as a metaphor from which to consider the life and works of Kamau Braithwaite.

Gugu McLaren’s essay on ‘Pleasure and Danger’, offers an introduction to an ethnographic study of young women’s experiences in Langa Township in the Western Cape, where McLaren (African Gender Institute) explores the multiple performances of femininity in different social spaces.

Simi Dosekun (African Gender Institute) follows with the commanding ‘Defending Feminism in Africa’, which posits that the prevailing views that feminism and feminists are unAfrican rest on essentialist claims or insufficient historical analysis.

The essay by Luke Hilton (Law, UCT) on sex trafficking in South Africa offers a fascinating insight into the grim reality of this sordid – and rampant – practice; he compares international measures against human trafficking to those of South Africa, and finds the latter to come up very short. Thus, Hilton offers some suggestions for tackling this pressing problem.

We continue with a review of the book *A City Imagined*, edited by Stephen Watson, which is a collection of essays about Cape Town as a city/space.

Two works in progress, which both draws us back to questions concerning epistemological approaches to knowledge about Africa, conclude this issue of *postamble*.

Roshan Cader, a Master’s Student at the University of Stellenbosch, offers an essay entitled ‘Minding the Gap: Traversing the literary – the literary as methodology and epistemology’, which explores the epistemological and methodological potential of ‘the literary’. We then conclude with my own contribution entitled ‘An African Feminist Standpoint?’ where I explore the potential for standpoint theories for producing knowledge in Africa.

I am quite excited about this collection of work and I hope you enjoy this work as much as we have. I invite all postgraduate students to engage with us and contribute to future issues as we develop this platform for thinking!