*Fictions of Europe: Imaginary Topographies and Transnational Identities across the Arts*

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Anna-Leena Toivanen

Marie Skɫodowska-Curie Fellow

CEREP, University of Liège

anna-leena.toivanen@uliege.be

**Afroeuropean Itineraries and Representations of Europe in Francophone African Literatures**

Europe occupies a special place in the African literary imaginary. In the context of Francophone African literatures, Paris as the (post)colonial metropolis has inspired authors throughout time. Yet, as a result of the continuing diversification of mobilities between Africa and Europe, Paris is no longer the axiomatic locus of Francophone African literary texts.

This paper maps out Afroeuropean itineraries in a set of Francophone African literary texts from different periods, including Ousmane Socé’s *Mirages de Paris* (1937), Tété-Michel Kpomassié’s *L’Africain du Groenland* (1981), Michèle Rakotoson’s *Elle, au printemps* (1996), and Abasse Ndione’s *Mbëkë mi : A l’assault des vagues de l’Atlantique* (2008). *Mirages de Paris* is one of the first “Parisian” novels portraying Afroeuropean student mobility and the collision between romanticized ideas about the metropolis and its harsh realities. Kpomassie’s non-fictional travelogue revisits the colonialist premises of the concept of expedition and features an African explorer of the Arctic. Rakotoson’s novel is part of the Paris-centered literary paradigm, but also revises it through its depiction of the protagonist’s journey to the provincial town of Valenciennes. Finally, Ndione’s novel gives articulation to the unreachability of Europe with its story of clandestine migrants’ risky sea-crossing in their pursuit to reach Canary Islands, an insular periphery they see as a gateway to central Europe. I read the texts from a mobility studies perspective, and pay specific attention to their uses of tropes of mobility. By analysing the texts representations of diverse Afroeuropean mobilities and itineraries, this paper demonstrates how different forms of mobility not only produce specific Afroeuropean travelling subjectivities, but also varied fictions of Europe.

Bio: Dr. Anna-Leena Toivanen is a Marie Skɫodowska-Curie Fellow (MSCA-IF) at CEREP (Centre d’Enseignement et de Recherche en Etudes Postcoloniales), University of Liège, Belgium, and holds the title of docent in postcolonial literary studies at the University of Eastern Finland. Her research focuses on mobilities and cosmopolitanisms in contemporary Franco- and Anglophone diasporic African literatures. Her recent work has been published in *Studies in Travel Writing*, *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, *Research in African Literatures*, *Journal of African Cultural Studies*, and *Matatu*. Her chapter on mobility and labour in contemporary African diasporic fiction features in *The Routledge Handbook of African Literature* (forthcoming).