



# Tradition and Change in Contemporary West and East African Fiction (Matatu)

*Edited by Ogaga Okuyade*

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The essays in this volume capture the exciting energy of the emergent novel in East and West Africa, drawing on different theoretical insights to offer fresh and engaging perspectives on what has been variously termed the 'new wave', 'emergent generation', and 'third generation'. Subjects addressed include the politics of identity, especially when (re)constructed outside the homeland or when African indigenous values are eroded by globalization, transnationalism, and the exilic condition or the self undergoes fragmentation. Other essays examine once-taboo concerns, including gendered accounts of same-sex sexualities. Most of the essays deal with shifting perceptions by African women of their social condition in patriarchy in relation to such issues as polygamy, adultery, male domination, and the woman's quest for fulfilment and respect through access to quality education and full economic and socio-political participation. Themes taken up by other novels examined include the sexual exploitation of women and criminality generally and the exposure of children to violence. Likewise examined is the contemporary textualizing of orality (the trickster figure). Writers discussed include Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Okey Ndibe, Helon Habila, Ike Oguine, Chris Abani, Tanure Ojaide, Maik Nwosu, Unoma Azuah, Jude Dibia, Lola Shoneyin, Mary Karooro Okurut, Violet Barungi, Adaobi Tricia Nwaubani, Abidemi Sanusi, Akachi Ezeigbo, Sefi Atta, Kaine Agary, Kojo Laing, Ahmadou Kourouma, Uwen Akpan, and Alobwed'Epie

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