

## Virtual Symposium

# Speaking and Writing, Performing and Being: Discursive Trajectories in Eastern African Expressive Cultures

### Participants:

#### **Dr. Roberto Gaudio**

Tema: Language and Freedom: The criticized development of Shona and Swahili poetry in comparison

Roberto Gaudio is a researcher who focuses on poetry and song lyrics in African languages. He carried a post-doc research on Swahili Literature of DR Congo at the University of Napoli “L’Orientale.” His PhD thesis is on the poetics and philosophy of Euphrase Kezilahabi (University of Napoli “L’Orientale” and University of Bayreuth). He wrote *The voice of the text and its body. The continuous reform of Kezilahabi’s poetics.* (ed. Köppe 2019). His research interests include the literatures in African languages (in particular Shona and Swahili), comparative literature, the theories and practices of translation, the aesthetics of literature.

#### **Emiliano Minerba, M.A.**

Tema: *Swahili poetry between Arabic influence and internal continuity.*

Emiliano Minerba graduated from the University of Naples “L’Orientale”. He is currently working on his PhD research, *Comparative historical analysis of Swahili and Wolof metrical systems.* Besides Swahili and Wolof prosodies and classical literatures, one of his other research interests is modern Swahili literature, particularly theatre.

#### **Dr. Aaron L. Rosenberg**

Tema: Making Tools from Chains: Trajectories of Liberation in and through the Music of Siti binti Saad and Louis Armstrong

Aaron Rosenberg is Profesor Investigador Titular (Associate Professor) in the Centro de Estudios de Asia y África at El Colegio de México where he teaches African literature and oversees the Swahili language program. He has published on African song and literature in *Research in African Literatures*, *Wasafiri*, *The Journal of African Cultural Studies*, *The Journal of The African Literature Association* and *Estudios de Asia y África* among other journals. Together with his books on East African songs as verbal art he has recently co-edited the volumes *África: nuevos horizontes de la etnografía mexicana*, *Tras la huella del monstruo femenino. Sirenas, brujas y otros personajes demoníacos en el arte y la literatura*, and *The Political Economy of Poverty and Social Transformations of the Global South.*