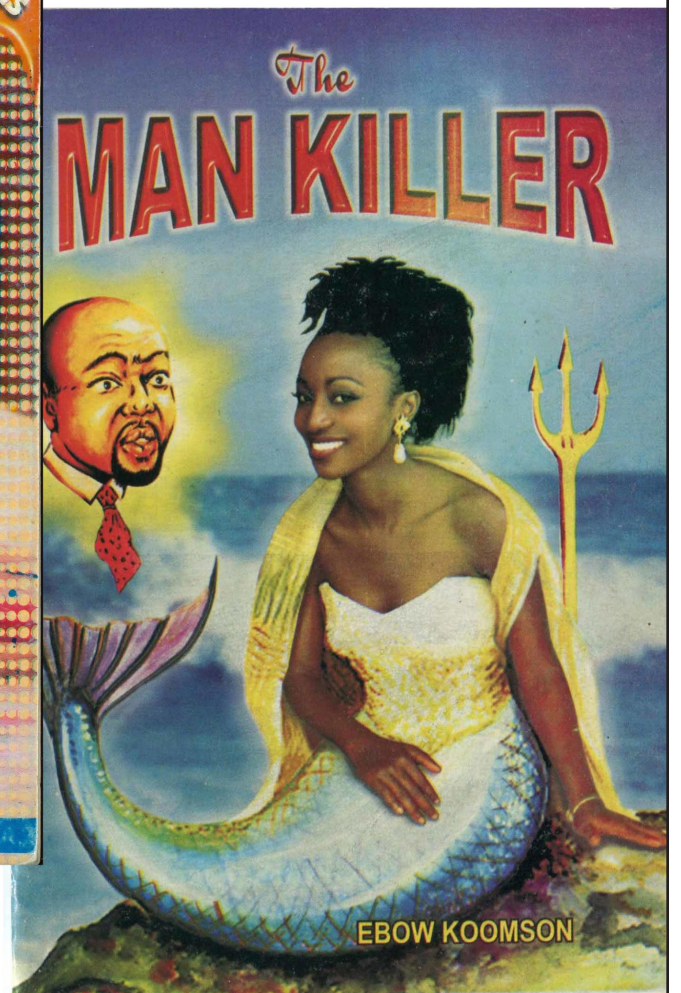
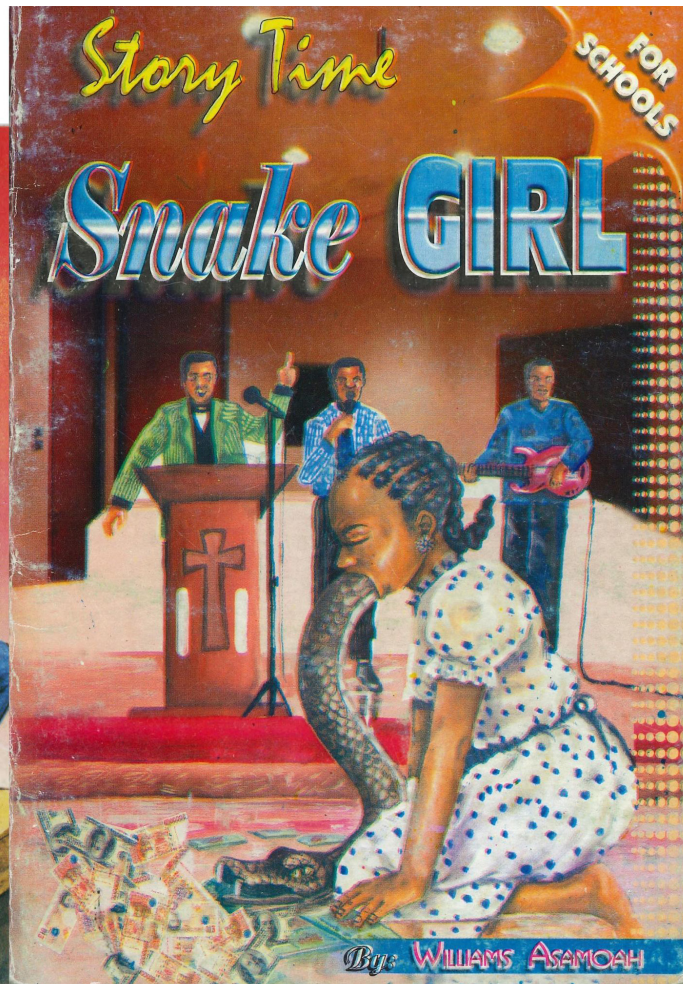
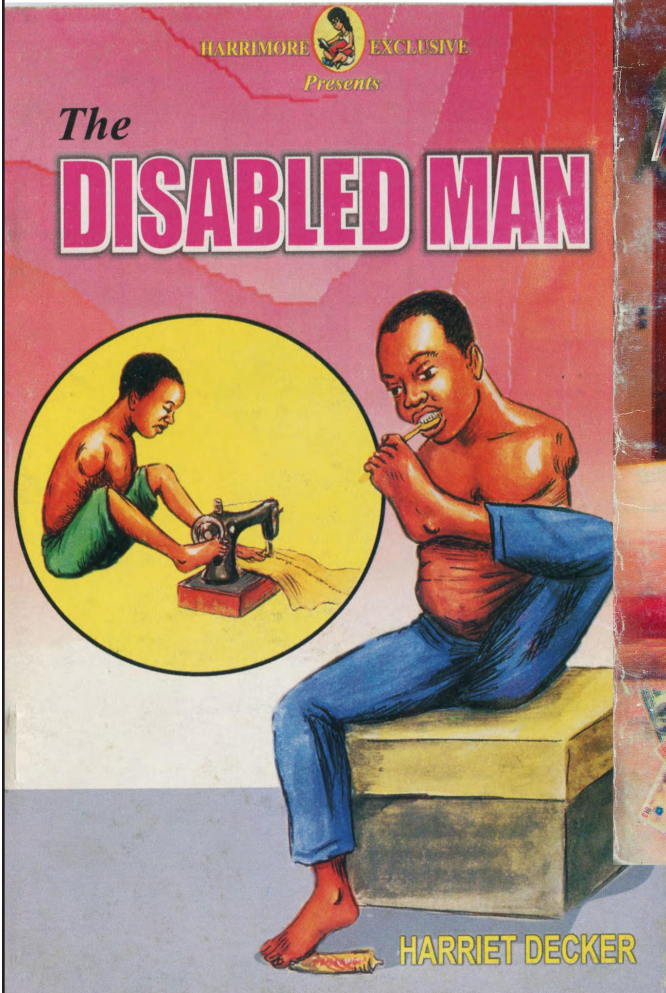




MODERN LANGUAGES SPEAKER SERIES

FREE PUBLIC TALKS



**Dr. Esther
de Bruijn**

**Augmenting
Affect Theory
with Léopold
Sédar Senghor's
Aesthetic
Theory: Vitalism
in Ghanaian
Market Fiction**

**Monday,
January 22, 2018
2:00 – 3:00 PM
B660**

The sensational style of contemporary chapbook fiction of Ghana, West Africa, demands attention to its distinctive aesthetic. Recent affect theory, in its intersection with aesthetic theory, offers a valuable set of questions for this analysis. Because Ghana's market fiction is produced within a lively popular cultural matrix of vibrant oral narrative and performative genres, Daniel N. Stern's notion of how "vitality dynamics" may be transmitted from one aesthetic experience to another is particularly valuable. What is intriguing is that several of Stern's ideas were preconceived in the much earlier Negritudist aesthetic theory of Léopold Sédar Senghor (now largely dismissed, especially by Anglophone Africanists). My study returns to Senghor's concept of "la force vitale" in African artistic expression and

argues that Senghorian vitalism, with its emphasis on the arts' force for binding community, draws important attention to how, in the market fiction, social vitalism inheres through affective transmission.

Questions?

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