CONTINGENT CANONS

African Literature and the Politics of Location

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Abstract: This study explores the mechanisms through which ‘African literature’, as a market category, has been consecrated within the global literary field. Drawing on archival, textual, and field-based research, it proposes that the normative story of African literary writing has functioned to efface a broader material history of African literary production located on and oriented to the continent itself.

Keywords: African literature, book history, canonisation
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