

INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE

Laboratoire CECILLE, ULR 4074
Laboratoire TIL, UR 4182

ABDULRAZAK GURNAH: A REAPPRAISAL



OCTOBER 9-10, 2025

UNIVERSITY OF LILLE
CAMPUS PONT-DE-BOIS
MAISON DE LA RECHERCHE

PROGRAMME

THURSDAY OCTOBER 9, 2025

8.30 | **Welcome & coffee**

9.00 | **Opening**

Cédric COURTOIS (Université de Lille)
& **Mélanie JOSEPH-VILAIN** (Université
Bourgogne-Europe)

9.15 | KEYNOTE LECTURE

Chair: **Mélanie JOSEPH-VILAIN**

Tina STEINER (Stellenbosch University)
“**Capacious Worlds: Situating *Paradise*
in Abdulrazak Gurnah’s Life & Œuvre**”

10.15 | Coffee break

10.30 - 12.15 | PANEL 1

“***Paradise in Context***”

Chair: **Ida HADJIVAYANIS**

Delphine FROMENT (Université de
Lorraine)
“**East Africa on the Brink of the 20th
Century: Political, Socio-Economic,
and Cultural Shifts under Colonial
Rule**”

Christine LORRE (Université de Caen)
“**Webs of Empire in Abdulrazak
Gurnah’s *Paradise* (1994)**”

Maëlle JEANNIARD DU DOT
(Université de Rennes 2)
“**The Implac(e)ability of Place in
Abdulrazak Gurnah’s *By the Sea*
(2001) and *Paradise* (1994)**”

12.15 - 13h15 | Lunch break

[\[Zoom\]](#)



13.15 - 15.00 | PANEL 2

“**Affects in Gurnah’s Œuvre**”

Chair: **Élodie RAIMBAULT**

Emmanuel KILATU (University of
Dodoma) [\[Zoom\]](#)
“**Examining the Panoramic View
of Gurnah’s *Paradise*: A Focus on
Individual Characters’ Aspired and
Achieved ‘Paradises’**”

Vanessa GUIGNERY (ENS Lyon)
“**“Laugh[ing] now before life knots
you up’: The Poetics of Laughter in
Abdulrazak Gurnah’s *Paradise***”

Cédric COURTOIS (Université de Lille)
“**“Yusuf sighed heavily, shamed by his
failure and dishonour’: Poetics and Po-
litics of Shame in Abdulrazak Gurnah’s
Paradise (1994) and *Theft* (2025)**”

15.00 | Coffee break

15.15 - 17.30 | PANEL 3

“**Re-reading and Re-Telling (Colonialism)
in Gurnah’s work**”

Chair: **Christine LORRE**

Mélanie JOSEPH-VILAIN (Université
Bourgogne-Europe)
“**Performing and Interpreting
Identities in *Paradise***”

Sandeep BAKSHI (Université Paris Cité)
“**“Swear loyalty to the German sultan’:
De-authorising the Precolonial/
Colonial Divide in Abdulrazak
Gurnah’s *Paradise***”

Nina BERMAN (Arizona State
University) and **Rachel MUCHIRA**
(Universität Leipzig): [\[Zoom\]](#)
“**The Other Stories: East African Voices
on German colonialism in Abdulrazak
Gurnah’s *Paradise* and *Afterlives***”

FRIDAY OCTOBER 10, 2025

9.00 | KEYNOTE LECTURE

Chair: **Vanessa GUIGNERY**

Maria OLAUSSEN (University of
Gothenburg)
“**“There was something I needed
to say’: Moments of Learning in
Abdulrazak Gurnah’s Fiction**”

10.00 | Coffee break

10.15 - 12.00 | PANEL 4

“**Materiality in *Paradise***”

Chair: **Guillaume CINGAL**

Élodie RAIMBAULT (Université
Grenoble Alpes)
“**Goods, Dogs and Men in *Paradise*.
Abdulrazak Gurnah’s Postcolonial
Poetics of Materiality**”

Kerry-Jane WALLART (Université
d’Orléans)
“**Slavery, Exploitation and
Extractivism: Reading *Paradise*
through the Prism of Decolonial
Ecology**”

Jaine CHEMMACHERY (Sorbonne
Université)
“**“Time cheats all of us like that’: Time
as Writing Matter in A. Gurnah’s
Paradise (1994)**”

12.00 - 13h30 | Lunch break

13.30 - 15.15 | PANEL 5

“**Gurnah in Translation**”

Chair: **Jaine CHEMMACHERY**

Ida HADJIVAYANIS (SOAS, University
of London)
“**“Why do we have so many uncles?”
Navigating Choice in Translating
Abdulrazak Gurnah**”

Nathalie CARRÉ (INALCO)
“**“Kurudi nyumbani’: Reflections on
a Return to the Native Land. The
Swahili Translation of *Paradise* by
Abdulrazak Gurnah**”

Guillaume CINGAL (Université de
Tours)
“**Translation, Plurilingualism and
German(y) as Everywhere Ghost in
Abdulrazak Gurnah’s *Paradise***”

15.15 | Coffee break

15.30 - 16.45 | PANEL 6

“**Worldly Gurnah**”

Chair: **Kerry-Jane WALLART**

Charne LAVERY (University of Pretoria)
“**Worldly Africa: Abdulrazak
Gurnah’s *Paradise* Rewrites African
Histories as Global Histories**” [\[Zoom\]](#)

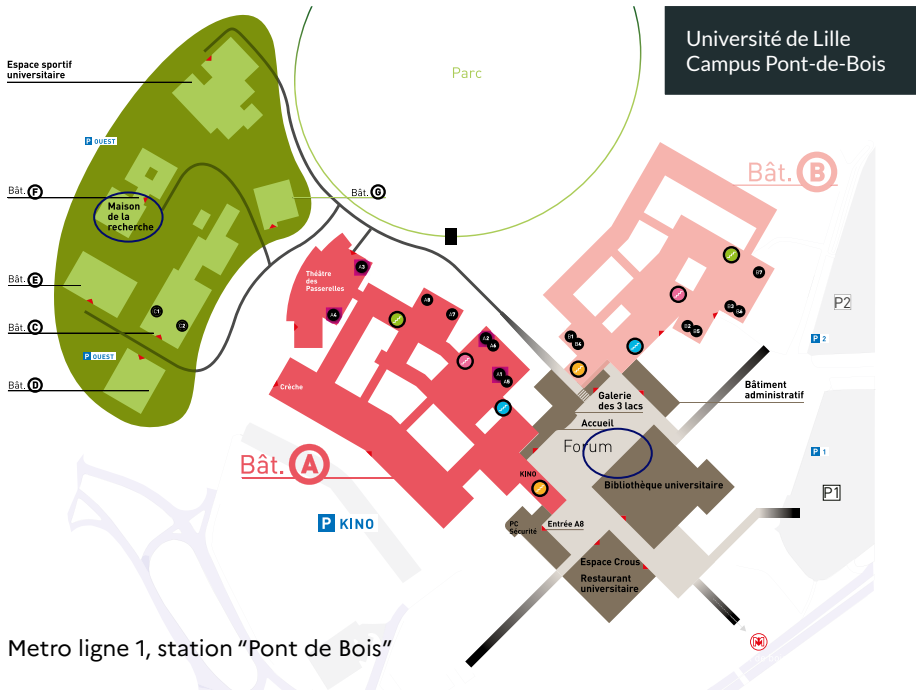
Erik FALK (Uppsala University)
“**The Global Dissemination of
Abdulrazak Gurnah**” [\[Zoom\]](#)

16.45 - 17.00 | CLOSING WORDS

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