



Institute of
African Studies
CARLETON UNIVERSITY

Institute of African Studies

Presents

Dr. Nduka Otiono

***“Street Stories in the Postcolony: Democracy and the Politics of the
Everyday in Africa”***

ALL WELCOME
Friday April 12, 2013
10:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m.
D382 Loeb Building

The presentation focuses on the seemingly simple and commonplace but peripheralized genre of everyday life which I call “street stories” rumors, gossip, myths, and urban legends, etc produced and circulated as weapons of political resistance (or compromise) in postcolonial Africa. The talk will address questions such as: What forms of empowerment and social justice emerge when ordinary citizens gather in pubs, mass transit stations, urban newsstands, and other arenas of socialization in the “public sphere” and conduct impromptu “mock trials” of rulers and traducers of human rights in the context of postcolonial tyranny? How do street stories mediate, and are modulated by the critical press, popular films and musical works, and their producers?

Nduka Otiono holds a Banting postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute of African Studies, Carleton University. He obtained his PhD in English from the University of Alberta. He held a one-year postdoctoral fellowship at Brown University where he was also appointed a Visiting Assistant Professor. He is the author of *The Night Hides with a Knife* (short stories), which won the ANA/Spectrum Prize; *Voices in the Rainbow* (Poems), a finalist for the ANA/Cadbury Poetry Prize; *Love in a Time of Nightmares* (Poems) for which he was awarded the James Patrick Folinsbee! Memorial Scholarship in Creative Writing. He has co-edited *We-Men: An Anthology of Men Writing on Women* (1998), and *Camouflage: Best of Contemporary Writing from Nigeria* (2006).