



MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH  
UNIVERSITY OF MOHAMED BOUDIAF - M'SILA -  
FACULTY OF LETTERS AND LANGUAGES



LABORATORY OF THEORETICAL AND APPLIED LINGUISTIC STUDIES

CALL FOR BOOK CHAPTERS

EDITED BOOK WITH ISBN

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# BETWEEN ROOTS AND ROUTES

*Narratives of Diaspora,  
Identity, and Belonging*

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EDITOR

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## PREAMBLE

Diasporic literature has long been a powerful medium for articulating the complexities of displacement, identity, and belonging. As Stuart Hall (1990) contends in *Cultural Identity and Diaspora*, diasporic identities are not fixed but rather exist within an ongoing process of transformation, shaped by history, power, and cultural representation. The movement between ancestral homelands and adopted nations creates a liminal space where individuals and communities grapple with questions of selfhood, memory, and hybridity. These narratives not only document the physical and emotional realities of migration but also challenge rigid conceptions of home and nationality, offering instead a fluid and dynamic understanding of identity in an increasingly interconnected world.

This volume, *Between Roots and Routes: Narratives of Diaspora, Identity, and Belonging*, seeks to explore the ways in which diasporic writers give voice to the experience of living between worlds. Whether through the haunting memories of lost homelands, the negotiation of racial and cultural identities, or the struggle to belong in unfamiliar spaces, these narratives capture the tensions between past and present, tradition and reinvention, memory and imagination. Writers such as Jhumpa Lahiri, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Salman Rushdie, Edwidge Danticat, and Maxine Hong Kingston have vividly explored these themes, crafting stories that reveal both the pain and the possibilities of diasporic existence.

Jhumpa Lahiri's *Interpreter of Maladies* (1999), for instance, explores the dissonance of cultural displacement through characters who navigate the spaces between their South Asian heritage and their lives in the West. Through her precise and restrained storytelling, Lahiri portrays the loneliness, miscommunication, and subtle alienation that mark the diasporic condition. Similarly, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Americanah* (2013) offers a profound meditation on race, migration, and identity, following the journey of Ifemelu, a Nigerian woman who moves to the United States and experiences the disorienting process of racialization in an unfamiliar cultural context. Adichie's novel highlights the ways in which diaspora is not merely a movement across borders but also a transformation of self, shaped by the ways race and nationality are perceived and constructed in different societies.

The question of home and belonging is central to Salman Rushdie's *Imaginary Homelands* (1991), a collection of essays that interrogates the nature of exile and the ways in which memory reconstructs lost places. Rushdie famously describes the diasporic experience as one of inhabiting "imaginary homelands," where home is no longer a fixed geographical location but rather a shifting and fragmented construct shaped by memory, longing, and imagination. This idea resonates with Edwidge Danticat's *Breath, Eyes, Memory* (1994), which explores the legacy of migration and trauma within the Haitian diaspora.

Danticat's novel reflects on the intergenerational transmission of memory, where the stories and experiences of those who left their homelands continue to shape the identities of future generations. Maxine Hong Kingston's *The Woman Warrior* (1976) further illustrates how memory and storytelling become tools for negotiating identity within the diasporic condition. Blending autobiography and myth, Kingston constructs a narrative that reflects both the struggle of assimilation and the resilience of cultural heritage, revealing how diasporic identities are formed through an intricate interplay of personal history, collective memory, and storytelling.

In addition to exploring themes of memory, identity, and belonging, this volume will also consider the role of translation as a crucial site of cultural negotiation. As Homi K. Bhabha (1994) argues in *The Location of Culture*, translation is not merely a linguistic act but a space of hybridity where cultural identities are reshaped and redefined. Diasporic writers often navigate multiple languages and cultural registers, and their works reveal the tensions and possibilities inherent in translation, whether it be the literal translation of words or the metaphorical translation of experiences across different cultural and historical contexts.

Through this collection, we aim to contribute to the growing discourse on diasporic literature and its significance in understanding global human experience. These narratives compel us to ask pressing questions: What does it mean to belong? How do we reconcile the past with the present? And how can literature bridge the divides between cultures, fostering deeper empathy and understanding in an increasingly fractured world? By engaging with these works, we invite readers to reflect on the ways in which diasporic literature not only documents migration but also actively reshapes our conceptions of identity, home, and belonging.

We invite scholars, researchers, and writers to contribute chapters that explore the diverse themes, forms, and voices within diasporic literature. Contributions may address, but are not limited to, the following sub-themes:

- The Role of Memory and Nostalgia in Shaping Diasporic Narratives
- The Intersection of Gender, Race, and Class in Diasporic Identities
- The Redefinition of "Home" and Belonging in Transnational Contexts
- The Impact of Migration and Displacement on Language and Storytelling
- The Role of Translation in Bridging Cultural and Linguistic Divides
- The Role of Diasporic Literature in Challenging National and Cultural Boundaries
- The Interplay Between Diaspora and Postcolonialism in Literary Discourse

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We welcome interdisciplinary approaches and encourage submissions that engage with a wide range of diasporic experiences, including but not limited to the African, South Asian, Caribbean, Latin American, and Middle Eastern diasporas. By bringing together diverse perspectives, this volume aims to contribute to the ongoing scholarly conversation about the power of literature to illuminate the intricacies of diasporic life.

## GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION

Interested researchers are invited to submit a 300-word abstract outlining their proposed chapter, along with a brief biographical note. Selected contributors will be notified and asked to submit full chapters of 6,000–8,000 words. Chapters should abide by the requirements of academic research methodology and MLA referencing system and should be written in Times New Romans font, size 12, spacing 1.5).

Submissions should be original and unpublished, and all chapters will undergo a peer-review process.

Please send your abstracts and inquiries to: **researchinletters@gmail.com**. We look forward to your contributions and to creating a vibrant and thought-provoking collection that celebrates the richness of diasporic literature.

**Deadline for Abstract Submissions:** 15/05/2025

**Notification for acceptance:** 30/05/2025

**Chapter Submission:** 15/07/2025

**Notification of chapter acceptance:** 15/09/2025

**Language of the Book:** English