



# LW Research Day

Inge Brinkman

# MONSTER: OTHER/ALTERNATIVE



# RESEARCH ON MONSTERS AND ORAL NARRATIVE IN AFRICA

- Ranging from fairy-tales to popular culture, focus on gender, the body, and the nonhuman from a historical perspective.
- Crucial in building up intellectual/cultural history of African societies

Individual project; PhD project of Megersa Regassa; Research stay of James Wachira, etc.

MARCH 2022:  
PROJECT MONSTER: OTHER/ALTERNATIVE

Organised by

- \* Inge Brinkman (African Studies, Ghent University);
- \* Harold George (Dunia Dance Theatre, Brussels);
- \* AfriKera Arts Trust (Harare);
- \* in cooperation with the Voo?uit in Ghent

“This project focuses on monsters as a way to understand ourselves and others, our norms, choices and boundaries, and processes of categorization”

## **Project:**

### **1 Lecture: “Monster: Other/Alternative” by Inge Brinkman**

Tuesday 1 March 13:00-15:45

@ Blandijn 0.2, Blandijn 1, 9000 Ghent

### **2 Workshop I en II: with Harold George & AfriKera Arts Trust**

7 and 9 March 16:00-19:00

@ Vooruit, Sint-Pieters-nieuwstraat 23, 9000 Ghent

### **3 Small public performance**

Wednesday 9 March 19:00

@ Vooruit, Sint-Pieters-nieuwstraat 23, 9000 Ghent

### **4 Open rehearsal & debate + Performance of ‘Making Men’**

**By Harold George & AfriKera Arts Trust**

Saturday 12 march 2022, 18:00-20:00

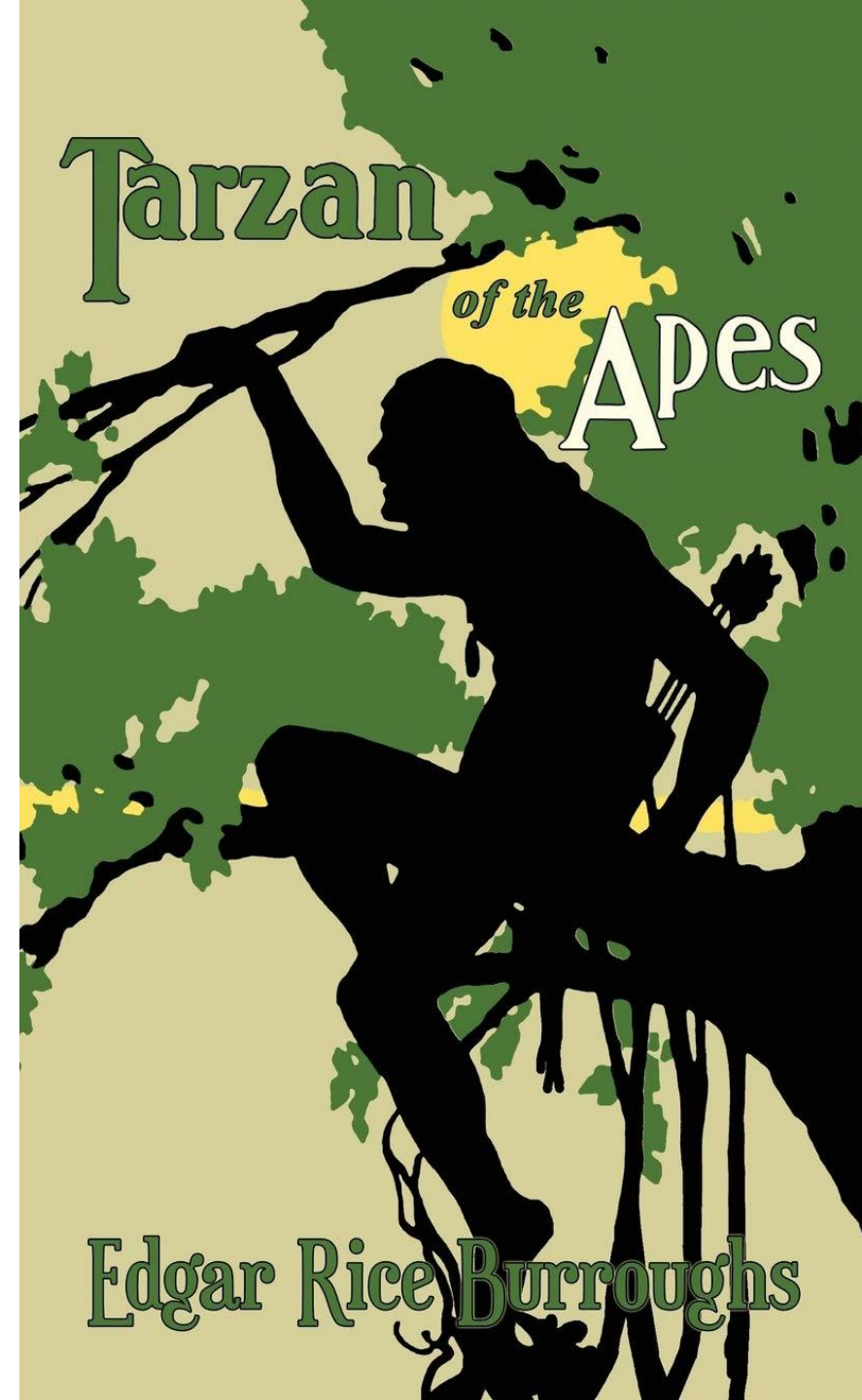
@ Vooruit, Sint-Pieters-nieuwstraat 23, 9000 Ghent

### **5 Educational tool**

To be developed still

# 1. LECTURE

- 1. Other
  - Tarzan of the Apes as 'Forest god'
  - Monsterisation, simianisation and 'race' in history
- 2. Alternative
  - The monstrous effect
  - Posthuman teratology



# ALTERNATIVE: 'THE PROMISE OF MONSTERS'

(Jeffrey Jerome Cohen)

E.g. Mami Wata:  
not good versus  
evil, but respect

'Wondrous people of Ethiopia', 1377

Ms: *Secrets de l'histoire naturelle*



# POSTHUMAN TERATOLOGY

*'we are all, and must be, monsters because none are template humans'*

(Patricia MacCornack, 'Posthuman teratology', 294)



➤ *'People Are Monkeys Who Have Forgotten That They Are Monkeys'*

Hamid's novel *Exit West* (2017) analysed by Magdalena Mączyńska



# 2 AND 3. HOTHHAUSING WORKSHOPS & SMALL PERFORMANCE



# 4. 12 MARCH 2022: OPEN REHEARSAL & DEBATE

## MONSTER: OTHER/ALTERNATIVE & MAKING MEN

By Harold George &  
AfriKera Arts,  
Moderated by Inge  
Brinkman  
In the Voo?uit, Ghent





## Valorisation:

- making knowledge suitable and/or available for economic and/or societal use
- Research;
- Research opportunities for Africa-based scholars;
- Educational activities;
- Cooperation with artists, engaging with artistic expression;
- Cooperation with cultural centres like Voo?uit

- Questioning term ‘valorisation’...
- Small-scale research projects and valorisation
- Valorisation: where, for whom?
- Research, education and valorisation as a continuum