

# Street Preaching as Performance: Aesthetics, Form, and Genre



In this workshop scholars will discuss the implications approaching street preaching as performance and oral literary genre. Viewing publicly delivered sermons as part of the literary and expressive cultures in African contexts entails looking closely at conceptualizations of performance as ever-changing and ephemeral on the one hand, and the idea of the text as ‘fixed’ on the other (Barber, 2005).

This perspective invites reflections on methods of capture of street preaching, whether through participant observation or instances of audio-visual remediations, that in turn require a closer look on the materiality and circulation of oratures. Furthermore, it requires a specific focus on the ways religious/literary genres such as street preaching emerge and become embedded in local languages.

**Thursday, 4 September 2025**

Time: 13:15 – 16:00 (Sweden); 11:15 – 14:00 (Ghana, Nigeria)

Online: <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/69550619815>

13:15-13:25 – Introductory words

13:30-14:00 – Karen Lauterbach (Center for African Studies, University of Copenhagen ) & Afan Azhang Kazé (University of Jos)

14:00-14:30 – Isaac Boaheng (Christian Service University College, Ghana)

14:30-14:50 – Break

14:50-15:20 – Joseph Oduro Frimpong, Ashesi University

15:20-16:00 – General discussion

16:00 – Closing remarks

**The workshop is hosted by the African Literary Metadata project at Uppsala University and the Centre of African Studies at Copenhagen University.**