

2019 Paula J. Giddings Best Article Award

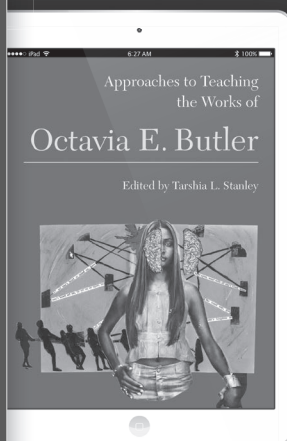
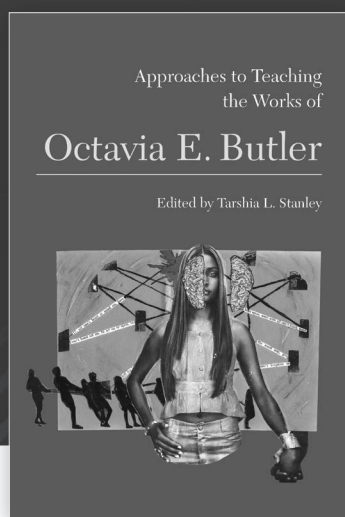
Abosede George for her article “Saving Nigerian Girls: A Critical Reflection on Girl-Saving Campaigns in the Colonial and Neoliberal Eras,” *Meridians* 17:2

Abosede George is an associate professor of history at Barnard College and Columbia University in New York. She teaches courses in urban history, the history of childhood and youth in Africa, and the study of women, gender, and sexuality in African history. Her book *Making Modern Girls: A History of Girlhood, Labor, and Social Development in Colonial Lagos* (2014) received the 2015 Aidoo-Snyder Book Prize from the African Studies Association Women’s Caucus, as well as Honorable Mention from the New York African Studies Association. She is currently working on the Ekopolitan Project, a digital forum dedicated to historical research on migrant communities in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Lagos, West Africa.

Abstract: This essay discusses girl-saving campaigns in Nigerian history, focusing on the two that have been most extensively documented: the girl hawker project of the early twentieth century, which climaxed with the 1943 passage of the first hawking ban in Nigeria, and the #BringBackOurGirls campaign, which started in 2014 and is still ongoing. Though separated by time and space, in order to inspire salvationist impulses in their respective audiences both campaigns have relied on a gendered notion of imperilment that centers the image of the youthful female body threatened by sexual violence from male aggressors. Yet through its reliance on certain restrictions, gendered and otherwise, the portrait of the vulnerable girl that campaigners outline inadvertently prompts disidentifications as well.

Read the article: doi.org/10.1215/15366936-7176461

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