



Global Awareness Lecture
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Happiness is Possible in Africa

Aminata Sow Fall

Senegalese author

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Aminata Sow Fall is one of the pioneers of women's literature in Africa, and the founding director of several organizations: the Bureau for the Defense of African Authors' Rights, the African Center for Cultural Exchanges in Dakar, the International Center on the Study of Literatures, Arts, and Cultures in Saint-Louis (Senegal), and Khoudia Publishing. Fall has authored several novels as well as co-authored four high school texts. The most recent novel, *Festins de la détresse* (Feasts of Anguish, 2005) was preceded by *Douceurs du bercail* (Home, Sweet Home, 1998), *L'Appel des arènes* (the Call of the Ring, 1982) and *La Grève des bâttu* (the Beggars' Strike, 1979), both of which have received international acclaim and have been made into films. Her first novel *Le Revenant* (the Ghost, 1976) was the first written by a woman writer in Francophone Black Africa. In 1997, Fall was awarded an honorary degree from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts. Educated at the Sorbonne, in Paris, she returned to her native Senegal to teach French literature and language. Amidst the woes of Africa, Fall has become known around the world as the voice of hope and human dignity.