Abdilatif Abdalla
Swahili Poet and Political Activist

Abdilatif Abdalla is best known for his poetry volume ‘Sauti ya Dhiki’ (Voice of Agony, published in 1973), written in prison in Kenya between 1969-1972. He had been imprisoned for authoring the critical political pamphlet ‘Kenya: Twendapi?’ (Kenya: where are we going? 1968), condemning the dictatorial features of Jomo Kenyatta’s KANU rule. Abdalla has also been involved in a multitude of translation and editing projects, between postcolonial novels (Ayi Kwei Armah), Qur’an translations, historic Swahili poetry, and critical academic works, next to being a driving-force in the shaping of a democratic opposition to the Moi-regime from exile in London (with Ngugi et al.) through the 1980s and 1990s.

Wednesday, November 12th, 2014
207 Knox Hall

4:00PM - 4:50PM: Presentation in Swahili: Poetry and discussing politics in Kenya
5:00PM - 6:15PM: Presentation in English: Poetry and discussing politics in Kenya
*Introduced and Moderated by Kai Kresse (MESAAS)

Thursday, November 13th, 2014
207 Knox Hall

4:00PM - 6:00PM: Seminar on "Poetry and Society on the Swahili Coast" as part of a public Ifriqiyya seminar