

IN SEARCH OF SRI LANKA'S DISAPPEARED: MINOLI SALGADO AND EMMA NEWPORT IN CONVERSATION

Thursday 23rd June 2022 Time: 10:00am – 11:30 am (GMT, WAT)

Benue Book & Arts Festival
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INTRODUCED BY:
S. Su'eddie Vershima Agema

**In Search of Sri Lanka's Disappeared:
Minoli Salgado & Emma Newport
in Conversation Thurs 23rd June 2022
Time: 10:00am – 11:30am (GMT, WAT)**

Join acclaimed writer and academic, Minoli Salgado as she discusses her work with a former colleague, Emma Newport (Senior Lecturer, University of Sussex), with an introduction by S. Su'eddie Vershima Agema (Director/ Convener, Benue Book and Arts Festival).

Minoli Salgado (Professor of English, Manchester Metropolitan) is an award-winning author and academic who has published extensively on the effects of the Sri Lankan civil war and currently is researching the current economic and humanitarian crisis there. Praised for her profound humanity in her writing, Salgado gives readers the real stories of individual experiences of the war and its aftermath in *Twelve Cries From Home* (2022). A novelist, poet and short-story writer, Salgado writes with a sensitivity and empathy that is as literary as it is personal; the conversation will address the role of the author in narrating - and recovering - the trauma of war.

Dr Emma Newport's research interests include eighteenth-century attitudes to China and, more broadly, women's positions in a network of global exchanges of ideas and objects. She is the chair of the Women, Money and Markets conference series, which she began in 2017 (womenmoneymarkets.co.uk). As the lead academic for Sussex Writes, Emma runs this creative writing programme with the aim of widening university participation through collaboration between the School of English and local schools. Sussex Writes brings into local classrooms talented writers from amongst undergraduate and postgraduate students. By working closely with schools, we have developed a programme that allows the younger students to gain new skills and confidence in their writing and have access to older students who have experience of attending university; at the same time, university students gain valuable experience in the classroom and reflect in new ways on their approaches to creative writing whilst testing their ideas for ways of working with and inspiring young people. Emma was nominated for a national level teaching award, the NTFs, for her innovative work on Sussex Writes and how this has contributed to transforming student experience. See www.sussexwrites.org.

S. Su'eddie Vershima Agema is an editor, culture activist, and development worker. A Chevening, University of Sussex and Benue State University alum, Su'eddie won the Association of Nigerian Authors Prize for Poetry 2014 and was awarded the Mandela Day Short Story Prize in 2016. He was shortlisted for the inaugural SDGs Short Story Award 2021 and the Wole Soyinka Prize for Literature in Africa 2018. He also has a children's book, *Once Upon a Village Tale* (shortlisted for the ANA Children's Literature Prize) and a short story collection, *The Bottom of another Tale* (shortlist, ANA Prize for Prose 2014 & the Abubakar Gimba Prize for Short Stories 2015). He blogs at <http://sueddie.wordpress.com> and is @sueddieagema on most social media platforms.