



**Title:** Underrepresentation of Forensic Methods in Africa's Crime Fiction: Issues and Prospects

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**Abstract:**

Forensic science has permeated various disciplines, including the arts and social sciences, leading to the popularity and awareness of that specialised field of crime investigation. Thus, forensic science has achieved a multidisciplinary acclaim worldwide. Beyond science and digital technology, where forensic science is domiciled, it has benefitted from creative representations in various disciplines, including movies, literature, musical videos, popular culture, and many more. However, forensic science and its different sophisticated methods are grossly underrepresented in Africa's crime fiction. Using four African novels, Mukoma Wa Ngugi's *Black Star Nairobi* (2013), Leye Adenle's *Easy Motion Tourist* (2016), Kwei Quartey's *The Missing American* (2020), and Siphwe Ndlovu's *The Quality of Mercy* (2022) this study, through the theoretical framework of deconstruction, reveals that forensic method of investigation is grossly lacking in the texts, which is why the crimes are either unresolved or the culprits are not precisely established leading to a skewed social justice system. The study further reveals that the application of forensic methods such as Forensic Pathology, Criminalistics, Forensic Biology, Forensic Toxicology, Digital Forensics, and Forensic Anthropology in the crimes recreated in the texts would have led to more conclusive and equitable investigation outcomes. The fictional representation of different types of crimes in African literature and their investigation through forensic methods would enhance forensic science with innovative technology and ultimately heighten security awareness within the African metropolis, given that literature recreates reality. In Africa today, crimes such as internet fraud, murder, identity theft, forgery, cyberbullying, and arson are on the increase. If writers recreate these crimes in their works and demonstrate how the mystery surrounding the crimes can be uncovered through forensic methods, it would inevitably lead to greater innovation in forensic science. The inadequacy of forensic science and methods in African fiction could be responsible for its low awareness on the continent among students, security agencies, and the general public. This study, therefore, recommends that, given the popularity of forensic science and methods in detecting crime in the 21st century worldwide, African fiction writers are encouraged to recreate forensic science in African literature to stimulate interest in further research in crime studies.

**Biography:**

Promise Adiele holds a PhD in English (Literature) obtained from the University of Lagos, Nigeria in 2019. He was a Research Fellow in the same department from 2006 to 2010. He currently teaches in the Department of English, Mountain Top University, Ogun State, Nigeria. His areas of research interest are drama, literary theory & criticism, African literature, and popular culture. His recent publications are “Gender Superiority: Self-Sexualization and the Victory of Women in Aristophanes’ *Lysistrata*”. *Cogent Arts & Humanities*. Taylor & Francis Group, UK. vol. 12, no. 1, 2025. pp. 1-13 and “The Dialectics of Politics and Religion in T.S. Eliot’s *Murder in the Cathedral*”. *Comparative Literature: East and West*. Taylor and Francis Group, UK. 2024. pp. 1-5. He recently released a collection of twelve short stories, *My Encounter with a Prostitute and Other Stories*, published by Malthouse Press Limited, Lagos, Nigeria.