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My paper, *South Sudanese Women Refugees in Cairo: Writing as a Means of Transporting Identity and Negotiating Selfhood in Asylum* explores how authorship empowers female African refugees in Egypt by restoring agency and creative personhood, the cost of receiving humanitarian aid in exile. Research is based on women in my refugee writing workshop, for whom the act of writing functions as a tool to affirm existence in limbo, and to establish a unique, portable identity that can cross borders without being subsumed by a racist host culture.

African refugee women in Cairo suffer double discrimination as black skinned women in a patriarchal society whose identity is diminished by refugee status. But who were these women in their home countries? What wisdom and wiles did they employ to stay alive and feed their families? How women in South Sudan survived the war is key to how they will survive asylum in classist and racially hostile Cairo.

The story *Five Ways to Eat Termites*, written by South Sudanese refugee Anna Andrew, speaks of near-starvation during Sudan's first Civil War. In a society informed by hegemonic masculinity, women had no role in formal social or political change, serving only on the domestic front—in Anna's case as food gatherers making midnight runs for a high-protein delicacy, termites. When war drove South Sudanese women to seek asylum in Egypt, another patriarchal domain, their selfhood was defined solely by the persecution they fled. It is critical that they identify and transport an impermeable identity, derived from their own war service, to Cairo, where it is most needed.