

## **Sisters And Wives Against Vulnerability: Theatricalizing Otherness and Power in *Medea*, *Aetu* and Their Doubles**

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### **Abstract**

Motherhood is a recurring theme in cultural representation – in mythology, literature and the arts, and these representations of the mother(hood) include a multitude of tropes – incestuous or devouring mothers, mother-lovers, witches as anti-mothers etc, which invariably mirrors societal anxieties. In my presentation, I will explore deviant varieties of motherhood in literature, specifically sample texts from Greek tragedy and Nigerian drama, namely; Euripides' *Medea* and Ahmed Yerima's *Aetu*. I will stress how in both plays, social perceptions conditioned actions that position the central characters of both plays as monstrous mothers, or those considered as 'monstrous feminine' (Creed 1993). Conclusively, I will discuss ways in which cultural and political perceptions work to undermine social cohesion and ultimately social disintegration

**Keywords:** culture, drama, mother(hood), social perception, tragedy.