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“The Limitations of Nostalgia: The Past, Present, and Future of Displaced Zimbabwean Women”

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In 2008 Zimbabwe's citizens braced themselves for the runoff election between Robert Mugabe and Morgan Tsvangirai. After almost a decade of upheaval, the election was a critical point in the country's history. Many citizens were living outside of Zimbabwe, displaced by legal order or displaced by the deteriorating conditions. White Zimbabweans documented their experiences in numerous memoirs and newsletters, along with countless news stories covering the land redistribution that pushed white farmers off their land and often out of the country. Black Zimbabwean experiences of displacement were far less documented. This paper uses interviews to examine the language of displacement from both black and white Zimbabwean women living in exile. Both groups of women revealed nostalgia for the pre-Independence era, when white minority rule was firmly in place. I consider the similarities in the ways both black and white women chose to remember that colonial past and analyze why nostalgia was not enough to allow those two groups to bridge their differences and organize together.

Dr. Arrington is on the faculty of the Department of History and the African and African American Studies Program at Indiana State University. She is the author of *Victoria Falls and Colonial Imagination in British Southern Africa: Turning Water into Gold*, available March 2017 and is co-author of *Africanizing Democracies: 1980s-Present*. Dr. Arrington's current research examines access to emergent care for neonates in colonial Southern Africa.

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