

JACOB KEHINDE OLUPONA

Curriculum Vitae

Professor of African and African-American Studies, Faculty of Arts & Sciences
Professor of African Religion, Harvard Divinity School
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ADDRESS

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EDUCATION:

1983 Ph.D., History of Religions, Boston University, Boston
1981 M.A., History of Religions, Boston University, Boston
1975 B.A., Religious Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

2010-- Director, Graduate Studies, African and African American Studies,
Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University

2006-2009 Chair, Harvard University Committee on African Studies

2006 - present Professor of African and African-American Studies, Faculty of Arts & Sciences
Professor of African Religious Traditions, Harvard Divinity School, Harvard University

- 2000 – 2005 Director African-American and African Studies, University of California, Davis
- 1999 Edna Gene and Jordan Davidson Chair in the Humanities, Florida International University, Miami, Florida (Visiting Fall of 1999)
- 1998-2000 Director, Religious Studies Program, University of California, Davis
- 1995-2006 Professor, African-American and African Studies, University of California, Davis.
- 1976-1999 Lecturer/Senior Lecturer, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife , Nigeria
- 1975-1976 Lecturer, Kwara College of Technology, Ilorin (NYSC)

ACADEMIC HONORS, GRANTS, LECTURESHIP, AND FELLOWSHIPS:

- 2012 Visiting Fellow, Trauman Research Institute, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Spring of 201
- 2011 Founder’s Day Lecture, Caleb University, Lagos, Nigeria, March 2011
- 2009 Doctor of Letters, Honorary Degree, The University of Abuja, Nigeria

Harvard Divinity School Convocation Address, “Africa Matters: Religious Creativity and Africans’ Encounter with the World,” September 1, 2009
- 2008 “A Collaborative Field Research on Religious Pluralism in West Africa: Insights from Oral Traditions,” Trusts Africa Grant, Dakar, Senegal

Social Sciences Faculty Lecture, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Nigeria, “Faith and Practice: Religion and Socio-Cultural Transformation of Africa,” March 26, 2008

“Reconciling the Faiths: Strategies for Enhancing Religious Harmony for National Development, Annual Lecture, Center for Black African Arts and Culture, Lagos, Nigeria, March 30, 2008
- 2007 Nigerian National Order of Merit (NNOM). Federal Republic of Nigeria Highest Scholarly Honor
- 2005 Fellow, Aspen Nigerian Leadership Institute
- 2005 Bellagio Rockefeller Center Fellowship, Bellagio, Italy
- 2001 Desmond Lee Professorship in African & African American Studies, Department of History and Center for International Studies, University of Missouri, St. Louis (Declined)
- 2000 Honorary Degree of Doctor of Divinity, University of Edinburgh, Scotland

Ford Foundation Research Grant for the Study of African Immigrant Religious Communities in the United States of America

1997/98 John Simon Guggenheim Fellow

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

- 2011 *The City of 201 Gods: Ile-Ife (Nigeria) in Time, Space and the Imagination* (University of California Press: The book will be out in the Spring of 2011)
- 2008 *Orisha Devotion as World Religion: The Globalization of Yoruba Religious Culture*, University of Wisconsin Press (co-editor)
- 2007 *African Immigrant Religious Communities in America*, New York: New York University Press (co-editor)
- 2004 *Beyond Primitivism: Indigenous Religious Traditions and Modernity*, London/New York: Routledge Press (editor)
- 2000 *African Spirituality: Forms, Meanings, and Expressions*, (Volume 3 of the World Spirituality: An Encyclopedic History of Religious Quests), New York: Crossroads Press (editor)
- 1996 *The Study of Religions in Sub-Saharan Africa: Past, Present and Prospects*, Cambridge: Roots & Branches and University of Zimbabwe Press (co-editor)
- 1993 *Religious Plurality in Africa: Essays in Honor of John S. Mbiti*, Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter (co-editor)
- 1992 *Religion and Peace in Multifaith Nigeria*, Ile-Ife: Obafemi Awolowo University Press (editor)
- 1991 *Kingship, Religion and Rituals in a Nigerian Community: A Phenomenological Study of the Ondo Yoruba Festivals* (Stockholm Studies in Comparative Religion 28), Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiskell International
- Religion and Society in Nigeria: Historical and Sociological Perspectives*, Ibadan: Spectrum Press & Channel Islands / England: Safari Press (co-editor)
- 1990 *African Traditional Religion in Contemporary Society*, New York: Paragon Press (editor)

Articles and Chapters

- 2010 "African Indigenous Religion," In *Introduction to World Religions: Communities and Cultures*, Jacob Neusner, ed. Nashville: Abington Press, 291-308.

- 2009 "Foreword," *Religion and Poverty: Pan African Perspectives*, Peter J. Paris, ed. Durham: Duke University Press, ix-xx
- "Emerging Communities: The Religious Life of New African Immigrants in the United States," *The New Africa Diaspora*, Isidore Okpewho and Nkiru Nzegwu, eds. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 333-346
- "Comments on the Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature," Journal of the American Academy of Religion 77: (1999) 60-65
- 2008 Center for Black African Arts and Civilization (CBAAC) Annual Lecture (Monograph), "Reconciling the Faiths: Strategies for Enhancing Religious Harmony for National Development"
- 2007 "African Religions," *The Oxford Handbook of Global Religions*, Mark Juergensmeyer, editor. NY: Oxford University Press, 527-536.
- "Sacred Ambiguity: Global African Spirituality, Religious Tradition, Social Capital and Self-Reliance," *Global African Spirituality, Social Capital and Self-Reliance in Africa*, Tunde Babawale and Akin Alao, eds. Lagos: Malthouse Press Ltd., xvii-xxxii
- 2006 "Religion and Ecology in African Culture and Society," *The Oxford Handbook of Religion and Ecology*, Roger S. Gottlieb, ed. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, 259-282
- 2006 "African Traditional Religions," *World Mark Encyclopedia of Religious Practices*, Stephen Myer, ed. Farmington Hills: Thomas Gale, Vol. 1: 1-23
- "Engaging Africa: Reflections on the Study of African Religions and the African Diaspora", Religious Studies News, American Academy of Religion, Vol. 21, No. 4, October 2006: 6 & 24
- 2005 "Ekun Iyawo: Bridal Tears in Marriage Rites of Passage among the Oyo-Yoruba of Nigeria" (with Sola Ajibade), *Holy Tears: Weeping in the Religious Imagination*, Kimberly C. Patton and J.S. Hawley, eds. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 165-177
- 2004 "Introduction," *Beyond Primitivism: Indigenous Religious Traditions and Modernity*, Jacob K. Olupona, ed. London, New York: Rutledge Press, 1-19
- "Owner of the Day and Regulator of the Universe: Ifa Divination and Healing among the Yoruba of Southwestern Nigeria," *Divination and Healing: Potent Vision*, Michael Winkelman and Philip M. Peek, eds. Tucson: The University of Arizona Press, 103-117
- 2003 "A Sense of Place: The Meaning of Homeland in Sacred Yoruba Cosmology," *Experiences of Place*, Mary N. MacDonald, ed. Cambridge: Center for the Study of World Religions/Distributed by Harvard University Press, 87-114
- 2002 "To Praise and To Reprimand: Ancestors and Spirituality in African Society and Culture," *Ancestors in Post-Contact Religion*, Steve Freisen, ed., Center for the Study of World Religions, Cambridge, MA and distributed by Harvard University Press, 50-71

- “Global African Religion,” *Global Religion: An Introduction*, Mark Juergensmeyer, ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 78-86
- “A Tale of Two Germans in Africa: Leo Frobenius (1837-1938) and Ulli Beier (1922-) Among the Yoruba of Nigeria,” *European Traditions of the Study of Religion in Africa*, Afe Adogame, ed. Bayreuth, Germany: University of Bayreuth African Studies
- “Comparing Ancient Religions of Japan and Nigeria: Shinto and Yoruba Orisa in Dialogue,” *A Festschrift in Honor of Michio Araki*, Takeshi Kimura, ed. Kyoto: Minerva
- 2001 “Pentecostal-Charismatic Churches in Africa: The West African Case Study,” *The New International Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements*, Stanley Burgess and Eduard Wan Mass, eds. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 11-21
- 2000 “Sacred Cosmos: African Indigenous Religion in the Contemporary World,” *African Americans and the Bible*, Vincent Wimbush ed. New York: Continuum Press, 163-178
- “Orisa Osun: Yoruba Sacred Kingship and Civil Religion in Osogbo, Nigeria,” *Osun Across the Waters: A Yoruba Goddess in Africa and the Americas*, Joseph M. Murphy and Mei-Mei Sanford, eds. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 46-67
- “Owner of the Day and Regulator of the Universe: Ifa Divination and Healing Among the Yoruba of Southwestern Nigeria,” *The Yearbook of Cross-Cultural Medicine and Psychotherapy*, Michael Winkel and Philip Peek, eds.
- “Yoruba Goddesses and Sovereignty in Southwestern Nigeria,” *Goddesses Who Rule*, Elisabeth Benard and Beverly Moon, eds. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 19-132
- 1999 “Introduction” to *Religion and Social Transformation in Southern Africa*, Thomas G. Walsh and Frank Kaufman (eds.) St Paul, Minnesota: Paragon Press
- "Agricultural Rituals," *Encyclopedia of Women and Religion*, NY: MacMillan Press, 19-21.
- 1998 "Christianity: Independent and Charismatic Churches: Western Africa," *The Encyclopedia of Sub-Saharan Africa*, John Middleton, ed. New York: Scribner
- 1997 "Yoruba Identity: Between Traditional Religion, Christianity and Islam," *Religion: A Eurochristian Invention*, Bend Scherer, ed. Berlin: Hause der Kulturen Publications
- “Women’s Rituals, Kingship and Power among the Ondo-Yoruba People of Nigeria,” *Queens, Queen Mothers, Priestesses and Power: Case Studies in African Gender*, Flora S. Kaplan, ed. New York: New York Academy of Sciences, 315-336
- Review Essay: "Parallel Worlds: An Anthropologist and a Writer Encounter Africa," Alma Gottlieb and Philip Graham, New York: Crown Publishers 1993 (348 pp.) in *American Anthropologists*, Vol. 99, No. 1, March 1997: 33-34.
- 1996 "The Spirituality of Matter: Religion and Environment in Yoruba Indigenous Tradition, Nigeria," *Dialogue and Alliance*, Spring

- "The Study of Religions in Nigeria: A Brief Survey," *The Study of Religions in Sub-Saharan Africa: Past, Present and Prospect*, (Proceedings of the Regional Conference of the IAHR, Harare, Zimbabwe, 1992), Jan Platvoet and Jacob Olupona, ed., 185-210
- "The Academic Study of Religion in West Africa: Past, Present and Future Developments," *The Study of Religions in Sub-Saharan Africa: Past, Present and Prospect*, Jan Platvoet and Jacob Olupona, eds. (Proceedings of the Regional Conference of the IAHR, Harare, Zimbabwe, 1992), 211-219
- 1993 "Introduction: Issues and Perspectives on Religious Plurality in Africa" (with Sulayman S. Nyang), *Religious Plurality in Africa: Essays in Honour of John S. Mbiti*, Jacob K. Olupona and Sulayman S. Nyang, eds. Berlin & New York: Mouton de Gruyter, 11-40
- "The Study of the Yoruba Religious Tradition in Historical Perspective," Numen, 40 (3): 240-273.
- "Some Notes on: Animal Symbolism in African Religion and Culture," Anthropology and Humanism Quarterly, 18 (1): 3-12.
- 1991 "New Religious Movements and the Social Order in Nigeria," Bayreuth African Studies, University of Bayreuth, West Germany: 31-52.
- 1990 "Religion, Law, and Order: State Regulation of Religious Affairs in Nigeria," Social Compass: International Review of Sociology of Religion 37 (1): 127-135.
- 1989 "New Religious Movements in Nigeria," Journal of Religious Thoughts, Howard University, Washington, D.C., 46 (1): 53-69.
- 1988 "Religion and Politics in the Second Republic," *Nigeria's Second Republic: Presidential Politics and Administration in a Developing State, 1979-83*, Victor Ayeni and Kayode Soremekun, eds. Lagos, Nigeria: Daily Times Publication, 121-134.
- "Religious Pluralism and Civil Religion in Africa," Dialogue and Alliance 2(4): 41-48
- "Metaphoric Associations and the Indigenous Conception of Death: An Analysis of Yoruba Worldview in Proverbs and Myths," Journal of Religion in Africa 19(1): 1-14 (co-author)
- 1987 "The Celestial Church of Christ (Ijo Mimo Ti Kristi Lati Orun Wa): A Phenomenological Perspective," *New Religious Movements in Nigeria*, Rosalind Hackett, ed. Lewiston: Edwin Mellen, 45-73
- "Making Sense of Aje Festival, Wealth, Politics, and the Women Status in Ondo Society of Southwestern Nigeria," Journal of Ritual Studies vol. 2: 89-108 (co-author)
- 1985 "Some Notes on the Religion of the Ondo-People in Nigeria: A Phenomenological anthropological Study," Bulletin of the International Committee on Urgent Anthropological and Ethnological Research No. 27: 47-58.

- 1984 "Personal Insults and Humor as a Way of Transcendence: Myth and Rituals of Social Control among the Ondo-Yoruba of Nigeria," *Proceedings of the Fourth Annual Congress of the Nigerian Folklore Society*, University of Ife, Ile-Ife: 615-639
- 1982 "Towards a Phenomenological / Anthropological Study of Religion of the Ondo-Yoruba of Nigeria," Bulletin of the International Committee on Urgent Anthropological and Ethnological Research, 55-65
- 1981 "Beyond Ethnicity: Civil Religion in Nigeria," Church Divinity, Monograph Series, Notre Dame, Indiana, 30-45

LECTURES, SEMINARS, AND CONFERENCES (SELECTED)

- 2010 Convenor, Workshop on Pentecostalism in Transnational Contexts, Harvard University, Cambridge, May 21, 2010
- Keynote Address, "The Changing Face of Christianity in Africa," *Christianity in the 21st Century*, Annual Conference of the British Association of Sociology of Religion, Edinburgh University, Scotland
- 2009 "Religion and the Environment: A Cultural Perspective" International Forum of Universities, University of Rome and the Congregation for Catholic Education on the theme "Gospel and Culture for a New Humanism," , Rome, Italy March 12-15, 2009
- Chaired the Session on "The Bible and Public Life in Africa," The Society for Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 21-24, 2009
- Respondent to the papers presented in my honor in the panel on "The Work and Scholarship of Jacob K. Olupona in Religion," The American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, November 7-10, 2009
- Respondent to the remarks delivered at the reception organized in my honor by the African Association for the Study of Religion, American Academy of Religion, Montreal, Canada, November 7-10, 2009
- "When the King Renounced His Divine Status: Pentecostalism and Sacred Kingship in Contemporary Ile-Ife, Nigeria," Yale University African Studies Lecture
- Chaired and delivered the opening remarks at the one-day "Forum on Africa" organized by the Committee on African Studies and the Weatherhead Center for International Studies
- Gave a lecture on "African Studies at Harvard" to the African Ambassadors Forum, Washington, D.C. and to the Development Office Staff at Harvard University

- “Muslim-Christian Relations in Africa,” Guest Lecture, Professor Jane Smith’s Class, Harvard Divinity School
- 2008 “Religion and Transnationalism: Globalization in Africa,” Breman College, New Hampshire.
- A Plenary Address , “The Bible, Biblical Culture, and Public Life in Africa.” Society for Biblical Literature (SBL) Annual Meeting, Boston, Nov.2008
- American Academy of Religion (AAR), “Twins: Ìbejì in Yoruba Cosmology, Ritual and Iconography”
- “The Role of Religion in Social Transformation of Nigeria,” Social Sciences Faculty Annual Lecture, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, March 25, 2008
- “Reconciling the Faith: Strategies for Enhancing Religious Harmony for National Development,” Center for Black African Arts and Civilization (CBAAC) Annual Lecture, March 27, 2008
- “Educating Leaders Religious Literary in Global Context,” March 17, 2008
- 2007 “Global African Spirituality, Social Capitals and Self-Reliance in Africa,” Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization (CBAAC) International Conference, Whydah, Republic of Benin, November 4-7, 2007
- “Religious Institutions and Ideas,” University of Bayreuth, Germany.
- “Transition to Democracy in Africa,” University of California, Los Angeles.
- 2002 “Imagining the Power of The Goddess: Gender and the Yoruba Religious Traditions,” The Princeton University Center for the Study of Religions, November 12, 2002
- 2001 Social Science Research Council Planning Meeting, New York, July 17, 2001
- 2000 Organized a symposium on African Immigrant Religious Communities in the United States. American Academy of Religion Meeting Nashville, Tennessee, November 18-21, 2000 (Presented a paper on African Immigrant Religious Communities: The State of Research)
- The XVI Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions, Durban, South Africa, August 4-11, 2000. Organized a session on Religion, Politics in Post Independence Africa, and presented a paper on Sacred Space in Yoruba Religion.
- 1999 Davidson Endowed Lecture, “Tradition and Transformation: African Religions in Africa and the Americas,” November 6, 1999
- 1998 Organized a symposium on "Religion, State and Society in Eastern Europe," for the American Academy of Religion, Cracow, Poland July 18-22, 1998
- International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) Conference in Hildersheim, Germany, May 22-25, 1998

- "Singing the Lord's Song in a New Land: African Churches in the United States of America," Institute for Advanced Study & Research in the African Humanities (Identity Construction: Performing and Writing the African Diaspora, 1880-2000), May 2, 1998
- 1997 Organized a Symposium in Honor of Charles Long, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting
- Organized & Chaired a symposium on "Internationalizing the Academic Study of Religion," American Academy of Religion, American Academy of Religion, San Francisco
- Religion and Globalization Research Seminar Series 1997, sponsored by University of California, Davis Humanities Institute
- Symposium on African Americans and the Bible: An Interdisciplinary Research Project, Union Theological Seminary, April 11 & 12, 1997
- "African Religions and the New World Order," presented at the International Conference on "Africa, Pan-Africanism, and the New World Order," The University of Georgia Humanities Center, Athens, Georgia, January 22-24, 1997
- 1996 Ford Foundation sponsored symposium—"The Religious Consultation on Population, Reproductive Health, and Ethics," Washington, D.C.
- "Yoruba Identity: Between Traditional Religion, Christianity and Islam," Conference on Religion: A Eurochristian Invention, House of Culture, Berlin, Germany, July 2-4, 1996
- "Christianity and Indigenous Religions," Dept. of Religion, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon May 6, 1996
- "Tradition and Transformation: Yoruba Religion in West African and the New Worlds," Conference on the African Diaspora: *African Origins and New World Self-Fashioning*, April 11-13, 1996
- Beyond "Primitivism": Indigenous Religious Traditions and Modernity, University of California, Davis March 28-31, 1996 (Conference Convener and presented Keynote paper)
- "Reflections on Africa," Pentecostal/Charismatic Identity at the end of the 20th Century, Wycliffe College, University of Toronto, Canada, March 7-9, 1996
- 1995 Conference on African Religions in Europe, University of Leiden, Leiden, December 2-5, 1995
- Symposium Organized by the New Theology on Population Consumption and Ecology Research Team, Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, University of Victoria, October 19-22, 1995

- XVII International Congress of the History of Religions, Mexico City; organized a panel on "Religion, State and Society in Africa" and presented a paper on Religion and Civil Society in Africa, August 5-12, 1995
- 1994 "Muslim-Christian Relations in Contemporary Nigeria 1976 to the Present Period," Scandinavian Institute of African Studies, Uppsala, Sweden. International Conference on Christians and Muslims in Contemporary Africa, Uppsala, August 25-28, 1994
- "Religious Solidarities, State and National Integration," XII World Congress of Sociology, Bielefeld, Germany, July 17-24, 1994
- "IFA: Owner of the Day and Regulator of the Universe: Arts and Rituals of Divination among the Yoruba of Nigeria (with slides)," Museum of Anthropology, U.C. Berkeley
- Keynote speaker on "Religion and Civil Society in Africa," at the inauguration of the South African Academy of Religion; invited by the South African Association for the Study of Religion
- 1993 "Sacred Cosmos: Ile-Ife in Time, Space, and the Imagination" (Slide and video presentation), Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, December 13, 1993
- Thirty-sixth Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, CO-chair, Panel on Triadic Production: Art, Ritual and Ecology in West African Societies, and presented a paper on "The Spirituality of Matter: Towards an Ecology of Yoruba Religion," Boston, Massachusetts, December 4-7, 1993
- North American Association for the Study of Religion, "Reflexivity and Experience in the Study of Religion: A Roundtable Discussion," November 19, 1993
- Guest speaker, "Ondo: Religious Pluralism in an African City," in the Afro-Atlantic Lecture and Film Series, Afro-American Studies, Harvard University, October 20, 1993
- Focus Group on Magic: Proposal for a multi-volume encyclopedic treatment of magic, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, co-sponsored by Oxford University Press, New York, October 13, 1993
- Guest speaker, "Religion in Contemporary Africa," Center for Religious Studies, Central Missouri State University, February 15-16, 1993
- 1992 Keynote speaker on "The Academic Study of Religion in West Africa: Past, Present, and Future Development," International Association for the History of Religions Regional Conference entitled "The Study of Religions in Africa," The University of Zimbabwe, Harare, September 15-19, 1992
- Fourth Conference on World Spirituality, "Animal Symbolism in African Religions and Cultures," East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii June, 14-21, 1992
- "Religion and the State in Contemporary Africa," Global Conflict and Cooperation Program, University of California at Davis, June 7, 1992

Second Annual Conference on the Black Religious Experience in USA, Schomburg Center, New York, May 28-30, 1992

Annual Spring Conference, Berkeley-Stanford Joint Center for African Studies. Chaired a panel on "Ghana and Nigeria: Transitions to Constitutional Rule," May 2, 1992

"Religious Fundamentalism in Nigeria: Cross Cultural Comparisons," Humanities Institute, University of California at Davis, May 1, 1992

"To Praise and To Reprimand: Ancestor Spirituality in Africa," Third Conference on World Spirituality, East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii, January 7-14, 1992

1991 "More Bones than Flesh: Teaching African Religions in Nigeria and USA: A Comparative Study," The Annual Conference of the American Academy of Religion, Kansas City

During a lecture tour in Sweden I gave four lectures on aspects of African Religions, Culture, and Society at the following institutions and research centers: Department of Comparative Religions, Stockholm University, Stockholm; African Studies Center and Department of the History of Religions, University of Uppsala, Uppsala; and the Department of Theology, University of Lund, Lund, October 7-11, 1991

Religious Conflicts and the State in Nigeria," United States Institute of Peace, Washington, D.C., International Conference on Religion, Nationalism and Intolerance in Nigeria and Sudan, October 3-5, 1991

"Encounters between African Religions and Christianity," Third International Conference on World Spirituality, An Exploration of Contemporary Spirituality: "Axial Age Civilizations and Primal Traditions," East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii, June 10-14, 1991

Conference on "Queens, Queen Mothers, Priestesses and Power: Case Studies in African Gender," New York University, New York. Presented a paper on "Women's Ritual, Kingship and Power among the Ondo-Yoruba of Nigeria," April 8-11, 1991

"Yoruba Religion in Nigeria and the New World," Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, April 2, 1991

Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA. Conference entitled "Tradition and Transformation: The Influence of Christianity, Islam and West African Traditional Religion on One Another." Presented the keynote address on "The Study of Yoruba Religious Traditions in Historical Perspective," March 13-14, 1991

"Civil Religion in Africa," Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, February 27, 1991

1990 XII World Congress of International Sociological Association, Madrid, Spain, "Religious Fundamentalism in Nigeria," co-organized a panel on Religion and the States of Africa, University of California at San Diego

The Annual Conference of the American Academy of Religion, New Orleans (Responded to two papers on African Religions)

African Studies Association Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland

I organized for lectures for the Africa Today Lecture Series at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts

- 1989 “Religion, Law and Order: State Regulations of Religious Affairs in Nigeria,” XXth Congress of the International Association for the Sociology of Religion, Helsinki, Finland, August 21-25, 1989
- “New Religious Movements and the Nigerian Social Order,” University of Bayreuth, Bayreuth, West Germany
- “Sacred Kingship in Africa,” University of Marburg, Marburg, West Germany
- “Religion and the State in Africa: The Christian Perspective,” World Council of Churches Conference on Muslim-Christian Relations in Africa, Arusha, Tanzania
- 1988 “Continuity and Change in Conversion: A Study of Religious Change in Ondo Yoruba Society of Southwest Nigeria,” Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Conference on Conversion in Africa, May 12-15, 1988
- Boston University Humanities Foundation and Department of Anthropology, Conference on “Conversion to World Religions: Ethnographic and Historical Interpretations.” Responded to Terence Ranger’s paper “Rethinking the Local/Global Dichotomy in Southern African Religious History,” April 14-15, 1988
- Conference on “Ere Ibeji: A Symposium on Twins in an African Culture,” Department of Art, University of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland, April 8-9, 1988
- “Religion and Politics in Contemporary Nigeria,” Towson State University, Baltimore, Maryland, April 8, 1988
- “New Religious Movements in Contemporary Nigeria,” West Africa Seminar, Department of Anthropology, University College, London, U.K., November 13, 1987. Also presented the same paper at the Department of Religious Studies, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, April 7, 1988.
- 1987 “Muslim-Christian Relations in Nigeria: Then and Now,” Oxford University Africa Seminar, November 16, 1987
- Conference entitled “Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft: Structures of Belief in Everyday Life,” Oxford Center for African Studies, New College, Oxford University, October 30-31, 1987
- “Civil Religion in Nigeria,” The World Lutheran Federation Consultation on Civil Religion and the World Order, August 31, 1987

- “New Religious Movements in Contemporary Nigeria,” West Africa Seminar, Department of Anthropology, University College, London, United Kingdom, November 13, 1987. Also presented the same paper at the Department of Religious Studies, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, April 7, 1988.
- 1986 “Dialectical Sociology as Applied to the Yoruba of Nigeria,” XIth World Congress of the International Sociological Association, New Delhi, India, August 18-22, 1986
- “Yoruba Religion and Culture in the New World, A Bibliographical Essay,” Third International Congress of Orisa Tradition and Culture (a joint paper with Robert Cohen, Language Studies Center, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts), July 1-6, 1986
- “Justice and Peace: An Appraisal of the Church’s Role in Nigeria,” Institute of Theology and Philosophy, Dominican Community, Ibadan, June 23, 1986
- “Religion and Politics in Nigeria’s Second Republic 1979-83,” 31st Annual Congress of the Historical Society of Nigeria
- 1985 “Religion and Social Change in Nigeria,” The Department of Religion, African Studies Center and Center for International Studies, Boston University, November 13, 1985
- “Religion and Varieties of Identity in Nigeria,” The International Congress of the History of Religions, Sydney, Australia, August 18-25, 1985
- “Odun Oba: The Ideology and Ritual of Kingship in Ondo,” Institute of African Studies Seminar, University of Ibadan, Ibadan
- “Lamponing Rituals and the Social Order: Some Aspects of the Nigerian Civil Religion,” The National Conference of Folklore Association of Nigeria, Ile-Ife, February 4-12, 1985
- 1984 “Divine Providence and the Social Order: Some Aspects of the Nigerian Civil Religion,” The International Conference on Providence and History, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- 1983 “Oramfe: Salvation and Tradition among the Ondo-Yoruba,” The Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Boston, Massachusetts, December 7-9, 1983
- “Beyond Ethnicity: Civil Religion in Nigeria,” Department of Sociology Seminar, University of Ife, Ile-Ife, Nigeria
- 1982 The Annual Conference of the American Academy of Religion, New York, December 19-23, 1982
- “Beyond Ethnicity: Civil Religion in Nigeria,” The Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Washington, D.C., November 4-7, 1982
- 1981 XIth International Phenomenology Congress of the International Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences (Organ of the World Institute for Advanced Phenomenological Research and Learning), Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, August 30-September 4, 1981

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS AND SERVICES

- 2009 Publication Chair, African Association for the Study of Religion,
North America/ Africa/Europe
- Meetings with African Ambassadors in Washington, D.C., USAID and African Care
- 2008 Associate Editor, Journal of Global Christianity
- Director, Summer Institute on Religion and Governance at the Center for Social Science
Research Institute (CODESRA), Dakar, Senegal
- 2006 Advisory Council, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard Divinity School
Editorial Board, Orita: Ibadan University Journal of Religious Studies
- 1999- present External Examiner for Ph.D. dissertation, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- 2002 Editorial Assistant, *Encyclopedia of Religion* (Second Edition) New York, Macmillan
Press
- Member, University of California Postdoctoral Fellowship Selection committee
- Convenor, *Islam and the World Global Dis(order) lecture series* 2001-2002 session
- Chair, Organizing Committee for the conference on Blackness in Global Context,
University of California, Davis, March 2002 (Raised \$20,000 grant for the conference)
- Convenor, Workshop on Rethinking University of California, Davis Partnership with
African Universities, University of Ghana, Legon, August 9-12, 2002
- 1999-2002 Reviewer for the Simon Guggenheim Foundation
- 2001 Series Editor, *African and African Diaspora Religion*, University of Wisconsin Press
- Reviewer for the NOMA Award, London, England
- 1997-99 Member, Executive Committee and Board of Directors, American Academy of Religion
- 1996-99 Chair, Committee on International Connection, American Academy of Religion
- 1996-Present Editor: *Religions of Africa Series*.
- 1998 Consultant to the Pew Charitable Trusts (Religion Program)
- 1996 Reviewer for the Pew Charitable Trusts (Religion Program)
- 1995 Member, Executive Committee, International Association of the History of Religions
- Member, Editorial Board, Numen, Journal of International Association for the

- History of Religions (1995-2000)
- 1994-2000 Co-Chair, African Religions, American Academy of Religion
- 1993 Guest Professor, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)/The Ohio Humanities Council's Institute for Elementary School Teachers on "Narrating Our Lives: Myths, Values and Community in Multicultural America." Cleveland, Ohio
- 1992 Chair, African Association for the Study of Religions
- Co-chair, Indigenous Religious Traditions Consultations, American Academy of Religion
- 1990 External Examiner for the B.A. degree examination in Religious Studies, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria
- Editorial Board, Journal of Contemporary Religion, United Kingdom (1990-2005)
- Editorial Board, Odu: A Journal of West African Studies, Ile Ife, Nigeria (1990-2005)
- 1983-90 Supervised four Ph.D. candidates in Comparative Religion, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria
- 1989 External Examiner for the Ph.D. thesis examination in Religious Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria
- Convenor, National Conference on Religion and Peace in Multifaith Nigeria, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria
- 1988 Editorial Board, Journal of Religion in Africa, Leeds University, Leeds, England (1988-1995)
- 1987 Convenor, International Conference on African Traditional Religion in Contemporary Society, Nairobi, Kenya
- Editorial Consultant, Journal of Comparative Sociology of Religion, University of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
- 1986 Executive Board, Research Committee on Sociology of Religion (Research Committee 22), International Sociological Association, Madrid, Spain (1986-1990)
- External Examiner for the M.A. and Ph.D. thesis examinations, Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra, Ghana
- 1984 Chair and Convenor, Committee for the Review of Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programs in Religious Studies, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES AND SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS:

- 2009- Fulbright Selection/Review Committee
- President's Ad Hoc Committee, Africa America Religion Search Committee
Harvard Divinity School
- Chair, African and African American Religion course curriculum,
Harvard Divinity School
- Chair, Graduate Studies Committee, African and African American Studies
Harvard University
- Chair, Admission Committee, Graduate Studies, African and African America Studies
Harvard University
- Member, Committee on Religious Studies, Faculty of Arts and Science
Harvard University
- Member, Search Committee, African American Religion Search,
Harvard Divinity School
- Member, Diversity Committee, Harvard Divinity School
- 2007 Committee on Social Engagement, African & African American Studies Harvard U;
Admission Committee, Harvard Divinity School;
Administrative Committee, Harvard Divinity School;
Chair, Committee on African Studies, Harvard University
- 1999-2003 University of California at Davis Senate Committee on Budget and planning
- 1997 Member, Advisory Board, African American and the Bible: An Interdisciplinary Project
(Sponsored by the Lilly Foundation)
- 1996 Member, Globalization Commission, University of California at Davis
- 1995-97 Member, Committee on Teaching, University of California at Davis
- 1994-98 University of California Regents Professor and Lecturer Advisory Committee
- 1992 Member, Faculty Committee of the Academic Senate, University of California at Davis
(1992-94)
- Member, Religious Studies Program Committee, University of California at Davis
(1992-2006)
- 1991 Faculty Adviser, African Students Association, University of California at Davis

- 1989 Faculty Representative, Faculty of Arts Review Board, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria
- 1986-87 Departmental Representative, Faculty of Art, Postgraduate Committee, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria
- 1985-87 Senate Member, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

COURSES TAUGHT:

African-American and African Studies

Religion and Society in Nigeria
 African Traditional Religions
 Christianity and Civil Society in Africa
 Black Religious Experience in the USA
 African Religions in the Americas
 Religion, State and Society in Africa
 Comparative History of Religions in West Africa
 Islam in Africa and the Americas
 Introduction to African Humanities
 Society and Culture in West Africa
 Myths, Rituals and Iconography of African Religions
 Yoruba Language
 Graduate Studies Seminar, Africa and African America Studies (Convenor)

Religious Studies

Religion, Immigration, and the Diaspora in Global Context
 Indigenous Religions and Modernity
 Religion, Immigration, and African Diaspora
 Sociology of Religion
 Phenomenology of Religion
 Method and Theory in the Study of Religion
 African Theology
 Anthropology of Religion
 Introduction to Religion
 Introduction to Islam
 Myth, Symbol and Ritual
 Introduction to World Religions

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

African Studies Association
 American Academy of Religion(Executive Committee &Board of Directors for 3 years)
 Member, Executive Board and Chair, Committee on International Connections, 1990-97

African Association for the Study of Religion (President, 1992-2005)
International Association for the History of Religions (Executive Committee)
International Congress of the Sociology of Religion
Society for the Study of Black Religion
Society for Biblical Literature