

David Olali

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Education

PhD., Religion (Critical Comparative Scriptures) Claremont Graduate University, 2018
M.A., Religious Studies (Philosophy of Religion) University of Ibadan, Nigeria, 2008
B.A., Religious Studies (Religious Studies) University of Ibadan, Nigeria, 2005
MDiv—Columbia Theological Seminary (*in view*)

Publication

Book Chapters

Upcoming

- 1) “Naira Marley’s Scripturalectics,” in James Yeku and Paul Ugor (eds.), *Young People and Popular Arts Culture in Africa* (2020)
- 2) “African Traditional Religion, Sexual Orientation, Trans-Gender, and Homosexuality,” in Ibigbolade Aderibigbe and Toyin Falola (eds.), *The Palgrave Handbook of African Traditional Religion* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020)
- 3) “African Traditional Religion and Religious Ethics,” in Ibigbolade Aderibigbe and Toyin Falola, eds., *The Palgrave Handbook of African Traditional Religion* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020)

Completed

- 4) “Carcasses of Memory: Intersectionality, Institutionalized Terrorism, and the Play on Black Bodies in America,” in *For the Sake of Peace: Africana Perspectives on Racism, Justice, and Peace in America*, Charles L. Chavis, Jr. and Sixte Vigny Nimuraba, eds (Rowman & Littlefield, 2020)
- 5) “Scriptures, Social Media, and Social Power,” in Jim Willis and Bala Musa (eds.) Volume 2 *From Twitter to Tahrir Square: Ethics in Social Media and New Media Communication* (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2014), 301-318. Co-authored

- 6) “Defending the Existence of and Solidarizing with Alleged Child-Witches: Significations on the Nigerian Witchcraft Phenomenon,” in Adeyemi Johnson. Ademowo, Gary. Foxcroft, Temidayo David. Oladipo (eds.) *Suffereth not a witch to Live: discourse on child-witch hunting in Nigeria* (Ibadan, Ayomide Publications, 2010), 27-35

Book Reviews

Upcoming

Completed

- 1.) Review of J. Kabamba Kiboko’s *Divining the Woman of Endor: African Culture, Postcolonial Hermeneutics, and the Politics of Biblical Translation* (New York, NY: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2017), *Reading Religion*, a publication of *American Academy of Religion (AAR)* <http://readingreligion.org/books/religion-media-and-marginality-modern-africa>.
- 2.) Review of Felicitas Becker, Joel Cabrita, Marie Rodet’s *Religion, Media, and Marginality in Modern Africa* (Ohio: Ohio University Press, 2018), *Reading Religion*, a publication of *American Academy of Religion (AAR)* <http://readingreligion.org/books/divining-woman-endor>.
- 3.) Review of *Dynamics of Difference: Christianity and Alterity: A Festschrift for Werner G. Jeanrond, Ulrich Schmiedel and James M. Matarazzo Jr., eds.*, (New York: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, February 2016), *Reading Religion*, a publication of *American Academy of Religion (AAR)*

Ongoing: Journal Articles Awaiting Publication

Upcoming continued

17) “Toni Morrison and the Script-Ure for Terror,” sent out for publication in *The ABENG: A Journal of Transdisciplinary Criticism*, Institute for Signifying Scriptures, Vincent L. Wimbush (ed.)

“Nigerian History and the Archival Possibilities of Social Media,” in “Digital Humanities and the Future of Chronicling the African Past” issued by *History in Africa* (2021). Co-authored

Lecture(s), Conference(s), Seminar(s), and Symposium(s)

Upcoming

- 1.) “Anti-Pentecost, Anti-Gospel, and Prosperity Theologies in Postcolonial Africa.” *The Philosophy of Nimi Wariboko* Conference (via Zoom and Webinar), The University of Texas at Austin and Boston University (Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs, School of Theology, and African Studies Center, Saturday, November 21, 2020.

Completed

- 2.) “Signifying Afrocentrism and Africinity: Comparative Hegemonies and the Case for Comparative Heritage,” a paper presented at University of Georgia African Studies Institute, Sixth International Conference on Africa and Its Diaspora (2019 BICAID), November 13 – 15, 2019
- 3.) “Warring Scriptures: The Intersections of Gender and Witchcraft in Africa’s Scriptural Economy,” a paper presented at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, *Being, Belonging and Becoming in Africa*, November 21 – 23, 2019, Boston Marriott Copley Place.
- 4.) “A Scriptural Economy: Magics, Meanings, and Massages of Lagos,” The Crossroads of Spiritualities: New and Old religions of Lagos in Transition Panel Sponsored by Lagos Studies Association, African Studies Association, 61st Annual Meeting—Energies: Power, Creativity and Afro-Futures, Atlanta Georgia, November 29-December 1, 2018
- 5.) “Runagate, Signified Christianities: The Impossibility of Embracing a Wakanda Without Sankofa,” post-interview lecture delivered to graduate a class at the Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta Georgia, March 28, 2018
- 6.) “Building Castles in the Sky? In Search of the Missing Nexus in Ijaw Leadership Equation,” Keynote Lecture, Ijaw Leaders & Niger Delta Development, Ijaw Convention Day celebrations 2016, Bayelsa State Association of Atlanta, GA, USA, 23rd July 23, 2016
- 7.) “Scriptural Signifiers: Re-contesting Scriptures,” African and Globalization: Contents and Discontents, The Second International Conference on Africa and its Diaspora, University of Georgia, Athens, November 13-15, 2013
- 8.) “Unscripted Anxiety, Amnesia, and the Complex Duplications of Black Identity,” APERO Africana Brown Bag Speaker, Institute for African American Studies, University of Georgia, Athens, Fall 2013, August 28, 2013
- 9.) “Performing Darkness,” A Biography of Darkness Conference, RHAW conference, Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta Georgia, November 4-6, 2013

- 10.) “The African Ifa Heritage and the Discursive World of the King James Bible,” RHAW Brown Bag, Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta Georgia, April 10, 2013
- 11.) “Whence the African World?” Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta Georgia, February 28, 2013
- 12.) “Motifs—Maintaining Circles’ Chains?” Panel Discussion at Inauguration of the 8th President of the Interdenominational Theological Center, Dr. Ronald E. Peters, Atlanta, GA, April 8, 2011
- 13.) “Ethno-Religious Conflicts in Nigeria: Reconciliation in Perspective,” Department of Religious Studies Postgraduate Seminar (Nigeria, June 25, 2008).
- 14.) “Ethno-Religious Conflicts in Nigeria: Reconciliation in Perspective,” Race, Religion and Reconciliation Conference (Pittsburgh, PA: April 4, 2008).

Blog Pieces

- 1) “Could Africa's Most Educated Liberator and Destroyer, Robert Mugabe, Heed Deaths call?” September 6, 2019, <https://davidolali.net/blog/2019/09/06/could-africas-most-educated-liberator-and-destroyer-robert-mugabe-heed-deaths-call>.
- 2) “See No Evil: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Confrontations of Faith,” August 30, 2019, <https://davidolali.net/blog/2019/08/30/see-no-evil-dietrich-bonhoeffer-and-the-confrontations-of-faith>.
- 3) “Do Black Lives Really Matter?” July 9, 2016, <https://davidolali.net/blog/2016/07/09/do-black-lives-really-matter>.
- 4) “Metering Black Lives: Making MarShawn McCarrel Matter,” February 11, 2016, <https://davidolali.net/blog/2016/02/11/metering-black-lives-making-marshawn-mccarrel-matter>.
- 5) “Who Says Islam Promotes Violence? Heeding Voices of Muslim Majority,” December 24, 2015, <https://davidolali.net/blog/2015/12/24/who-says-islam-promotes-violence-heeding-voices-of-muslim-majority>.
- 6) “Slavery By Its English Name,” December 4, 2013, <https://davidolali.net/blog/2013/12/04/slavery-by-its-english-name>.

Digital Research Projects

Ongoing

- 1) The Comparative Heritage Project (ongoing heritage series)
 - Witchcraft, Women, Medicine: An Interdisciplinary of Politics, Medical Humanities, and Discourse
 - Becoming American Through Sankofa: Black, Enslaved and Presbyterian
 - Website: www.comparativeheritage.org
- 2) Religion, Environment, and the Niger Delta (REND), A magazine in the Economics of Ecological and Spiritual Sensibilities, vol. 1. Issue 1 Fall 2018.
Website: <https://comparativeheritage.org/rend>
- 3) Stamped with Stamina: Narrating the Enduring HBCU Legacies of Morris Brown College in the Second Decade of the Twenty-First Century
- 4) Saving God from Mammon
- 5) Interrogating Boundaries in Prosperity Theologies and Marlian Culture
- 6) Engaging the Rejected Rock: Intersectionality, Unraveling Medical Humanities, and Healing in Ifá Religion of the Yoruba
- 7) Food and Security Initiatives, www.foodandsecurity.org

Conference Convener

A Biography of Darkness: The Fate of an Inert Africa in the Global Pendulum, an International Conference, November 4-6, 2013.

References

On demand

Membership of Professional Associations

- African Association for the Study of Religions
- African Studies Association
- American Academy of Religion
- American Psychological Association
- Association for the Study of Religion Economics and Culture
- Cognitive Science Society
- European Association for the Study of Religions
- Institute for Signifying Scriptures
- Institute for the Study of Religion, Economics and Society
- International Association for the History of Religions
- Lagos Studies Association
- North American Association for the Study of Religion
- Society for Affective Science
- Society for Biblical Literature

- Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion

Skills

Software Applications

Adobe Products

Microsoft Suite

e-Moodle

Hardware

Networking and applications

Windows computers

Mac computers

Strong communication skills

Excellent writing skills

Employment History

- **Curator**, Comparative Heritage Project (formerly Living Effective Heritage), 2014-Date

www.comparativeheritage.org

Ongoing responsibilities: 1) I am modelling, digitizing and developing transdisciplinary research on trans- and multicultural understandings of heritage

- **Research Fellow**, T’Ofori-Atta Institute for the Study of the Religious Heritage of the African World (TIHAW), Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta GA, 2012-13

www.itc.edu

Duties performed included:

Researched the social customs and moral/ethical values that are drawn from African and Pan-African religious dialogue and practice and their relevance for the plural contexts of the African diaspora beyond the continent; developed program curriculum for the TIAW institute, focusing on interfaith dialogue and public ministry in increasingly urbanizing, pluralizing, and globalizing societies; produced lectures as resource on African heritage; Administrative oversight of Dept programming & archival collections; scheduling/organizing periodic forums; designed, managed and had oversight of Department website and social media accounts..

- **Graduate Research Assistant**, Claremont Graduate University, 2010-2012

www.cgu.edu

Duties performed included:

Assisted the Institute director with logistics, including program planning, joined and participated in ongoing conversations around ethnology of scripture, provided administrative support for the smooth running of the Institute, and collaborated with colleagues on various aspects of ongoing research.

• **Teaching Assistant**, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria, [General Studies Program](#), Administration, 2010

Duties performed included:

Provided support to the faculty in charge of GES 102 and performed other tasks as requested by the Director, Professor Ademola B. Dasylva

• **Adjunct Support Faculty**, University of Ibadan Distance Learning Center, 2010

Duties performed included:

At the behest of faculty in charge, Dr. Helen Kunbi Labeodan, I taught the Philosophy of Religion course to final year undergraduate students:

• **Adjunct Faculty**, Saints Peter and Paul (Major) Seminary, Ibadan, Nigeria, 2010

Duties performed included:

Co-taught with Dr. Obafemi Jegede African Traditional Religion to advanced seminary students.

• **High School Teacher**, Tunmise Model College, Ibadan, Nigeria, 2007-8

Duties performed included:

Taught school schoolers English Language, Christian Religious Studies, Literature in English, and provided mentorship to at-risk students.

• **Faculty**, Veenstra Reformed Theological Seminary (VRTS), Taraba, Nigeria, 2005-6

Duties performed included:

Whilst on a compulsory national service for college graduates, I helped in redesigning the instructional materials and curriculum for the seminary, taught African Traditional Religions, Philosophy of Religion, Literature-in-English and the English Language, and served as thesis advisor for a graduating student.

Research Interests

- Urbanity & Violence
- Pre- and Post-Slavery Diasporas
- Comparative Enslavements
- Digital & Medical Humanities
- Race/Ethnicity, Religion, Reconciliation (Peace Studies)
- Scripturality
- Gender and Society
- Postcolonialism