

# OLUWAFUNKE B. OGUNYA

Department of World Languages and Cultures  
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## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in English: Literature, Media, and Culture** Anticipated 2023  
Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL  
**Dissertation Title:** “Perilous Crossings: (Re)presentations of Papa Legba in the Fictions of Nnedi Okorafor, Nalo Hopkinson, Paule Marshall, and Gloria Naylor”  
**Dissertation Committee:** Dr. Maxine Montgomery (Chair), Dr. Jerrilyn McGregory, Dr. Candace Ward, Dr. Christopher Okonkwo, and Dr. Maxine Jones
- Non-Degree Special Graduate Student** May 2016  
Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut
- Master of Arts in English** June 2014  
University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria  
**Thesis Title:** “Sickness as Metaphorical Allegory in Hyginus Ekwuazi’s *The Monkey’s Eyes and That Other Country*”  
**Thesis Supervisor:** Dr. Adedoyin Aguru
- Bachelor of Arts in English Studies** April 2009  
Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria
- TRAINING /CERTIFICATION**
- Pedagogy Research Workshop  
The National African Language Resource Center (NALRC) June 2023
- Assessment for Language Instructors: The Basics  
Center for Applied Linguistics May 2023
- Learning Management System (LMS):  
Essentials Howard University Center for Excellence in Teaching Learning Assessment Spring 2023
- “Security Awareness Training”  
Howard University, Washington DC Fall 2022
- “Online Writing Instruction Certification Course”  
Department of English, Florida State University Spring 2021

“Professional Development Program for Less Commonly Taught Language Instructors”  
The National African Language Resource Center, Indiana University, Bloomington Summer 2018

“Teaching in the American Classroom.”  
English Language Program, Yale Center for Language Study, Yale University, Connecticut Fall 2015

“Professional Communication Skills”  
English Language Program, Yale Center for Language Study, Yale University, Connecticut Fall 2015

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Lecturer**, Department of World Languages and Cultures, Howard University Aug 2022-Present

**Courses: YORU 001- Beginning Yoruba I**  
**YORU 002- Beginning Yoruba II**  
**YORU 003 Intermediate Yoruba I**  
**YORU 004 Intermediate Yoruba II**

- Prepare course syllabus that aligns with student’s learning outcomes,
- Teach the Yoruba Language at different proficiency levels,
- Grade course assignments and provide helpful feedback, and
- Mentor students and monitor their progress.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Florida State University English Department Aug 2016-July 2022  
**Courses:**

LIT 2000: Introduction to Literature,  
LIT 2010: Introduction to Fiction,  
LIT 3024: The Short Story,  
LIT 3383: Women in Literature,  
ENG 1101: Freshman Composition and Rhetoric,  
ENC 1905: Improve Writing Skills,  
ENC 2135: Research, Genre, and Context

- Develop course content for freshman and upper-level English literature and composition courses that align with students’ learning goals and relate to my field of research.
- Teach course, review, and grade course assignments.
- Provide helpful feedback and monitor students’ progress.

**Tutor**, Florida State University Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement (CARE LAB)  
Summer 2017/2018/2020/2021/2022

**Tutor**, Florida State University Reading /Writing Center  
Fall 2016/Summer 2021

- Tutor first-generation students on writing skills
- Work with students through all the writing processes
- Provide helpful feedback on their essays/papers.

**Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant**, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut 2015-2016

**Courses:** YORU 110/YORU 610: Beginning Yoruba 1 (Fall),  
YORU 120/YORU 620: Beginning Yoruba 2 (Spring),  
YORU 130/YORU 140: Intermediate Yoruba 1 (Fall),  
YORU 160/YORU 660: Intermediate Yoruba 2 (Spring),  
YORU 160/YORU 660: Advanced Yoruba (Spring)

- Teach the Yoruba Language at different levels.
- Organize Yoruba Language Table conversations for students.
- Grade Course assignments and provide helpful feedback on the assignment.
- Monitor students' progress.

**Tutorial Assistant**, University of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria  
**Course:** GES 102: The Use of English 2

2013-2014

### **AWARDS/RECOGNITION**

**2022 University at Buffalo Visiting Future Faculty (VITAL) Program**

Spring 2022

Office of Inclusive Excellence, University at Buffalo

**Graduate Conference Travel Award**, Florida State University Department of English      Fall 2020

A financial award is given to a select number of graduate students for professional conference registration.

**Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Scholarship**, Yale University  
Yale Macmillan Center: Council on African Studies

2015-2016

### **CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS**

**Presenter**, “The Impact of Educational Technology in Enhancing an Equitable and Inclusive Language Classroom.” The 26th African Language Teachers Association Conference, Howard University, Washington, DC, April. 2023

**Panel Chair**, “The Role of Technology in Language Instruction”

The 26th African Language Teachers Association Conference, Washington, DC, April. 2023

**Participant/ Co-Author**, Yoruba Language Medical Materials Development

North-East Regional Consortium for Programs in African Languages -NERCPAL Workshop, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Nov.2022

**Presenter**, “The Impact of Transatlantic Migration on African Language and Literature in the Diaspora” South-East African Language and Literature Forum- SEALLF Conference 2022, Chapel Hill, North Carolina Nov. 2022

**Presenter**, “*Iya Mi Aje*”: The Concept of Mothers on African/African American Religious Spheres African Literature Association Virtual Conference, May 2022

**Presenter**, “Re-imagined Resistance in Nnedi Okorafor’s “The Shadow Speaker.”

Southeastern American Studies Association Virtual Conference, March 2022

**Presenter**, “History, Trauma, and Loss of Identity in Yaa Gyasi’s “Homegoing”  
South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Virtual Conference, Nov 2021

**Presenter**, “A Bridge Between Worlds: Nalo Hopkinson’s Black Feminist Future in *Brown Girl in the Ring*.” South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Virtual Conference, Nov 2020

**Panel Chair**, “Of Literature and the 2020 Pandemic.”

Annual International Conference on Japanese Studies in Africa, Virtual Conference, Oct 2020

**Participant**, “Centers/Peripheries: Connecting Beyond the Binaries.”

American Folklore Society, Virtual Conference, Oct 2020

**Participant**, “Embracing Diversity and Inclusion Through LCTL Education.”

22<sup>nd</sup> Annual NCOLCTL Conference Atlanta, Georgia, April 2019

**Participant**, 2019 Marvalene Hughes Research in Education Conference,

Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, March 2019

**Presenter**,” Shifting Learning from the Classroom

20<sup>th</sup> Conference of the African Language Teachers Association (ALTA), Atlanta, Georgia, April 2016.

**Participant**, “Stewardship for a Sustainable World: Education in the Sustainable Development Goals.” 17<sup>th</sup> CTAUN Conference, United Nations Headquarters, New York, Jan 2016

**Presenter**, “Audiovisual Aids in Teaching Yoruba Language and Culture.”

Fulbright FLTA Conference, Washington DC, Dec 2015

**Presenter**, Micro Teaching Presentation on *Functions of the body part in Yoruba*

CLS Pedagogy Workshop, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, August 2015

**Presenter**, Micro Teaching Presentation on *Eya Ara* (Part of the Body)

Fulbright FLTA Summer Orientation, Michigan State University, East Lansing, August 2015

**Presenter**, “Sickness as Metaphorical Allegory in Hyginus Ekwuazi’s *The Monkey’s Eyes*.

Nov 2014. Colloquium in honor of Professor Toyin Falola on Contemporary issues in Education, Arts, the Social Sciences, and Science.

**Participant**, Mentoring: A Key Issue in Human Resource Management.”

Annual Benchmark Conference of Psychology, Ile-Ife, March 2014

**Participant**, “Ethnicity, Race, and Place in Africa and in the African Diaspora.”

Toyin Falola Annual International Conference on Africa and African Diaspora, Ibadan, Nigeria, July 2013

### **INVITED PRESENTATION/LECTURE**

“Òrìsà ní ilẹ̀ Yorùbá”

Guest lecture for Yoruba Intermediate class at the Center for Language Studies, Brown University, Oct. 2022

“Diaspora Daughters: Re-Reading Papa Legba in Black Women’s Fiction

Department of English/Inclusive Excellence, University at Buffalo, March 2022

Discussant: Abi Dare’s *The Girl with the Louding Voice* (2020)

Florida State University Libraries Book Discussion, March 2022

“Maximizing the Present” *FLTA Experience: Maximizing the Opportunities that Lie Ahead*

American Association of Teachers of Yoruba (AATY), February 2022

“What is C.A.R.E?”,

Florida State University: English Department Summer Pedagogy Course, July 2021

“Teaching Remotely with Padlet” *Integrating Digital Media into Classroom Instruction*, American

Association of Teachers of Yoruba (AATY): 2020 Summer Workshop, August 2020

### **RESEARCH PROJECTS IN PROGRESS**

**“Perilous Crossings: Representations of Papa Legba in Africana Women Writing.”**

2020-Present

This project focuses on the cross-cultural literary analysis of the fictional representation of the folkloric trickster figure (Papa Legba) and how it fits into the black feminist agenda. Nnedi Okorafor, Nalo Hopkinson, Paule Marshall, and Gloria Naylor depend solely on folklore to reconsider, recreate, and restore black female agency in writing. By exploring how crossing over was made possible for the female characters in their works and in the process of journeying/traveling, mobility creates opportunities for the formation of radical subjectivity and the reinvention of their identities, which allow them to challenge established gender roles in their society. This process thereby envisions a future in which black women are not bound by patriarchy and other societal norms. This research is my dissertation.

## **“Yoruba Women Folklore in Nigeria, and in the Diaspora”**

2016-Present

This is an ethnographic research project that I started some years ago. This project intends to explore the folklore of the Yoruba women in Nigeria and women in the diaspora who migrated to the New World involuntarily due to slavery. The project will look at the similarities and differences in terms of the women’s folklore from the Yoruba tribe of Nigeria, focusing on retained folklore and those substituted with other things after contact with foreign cultures in the Americas. This research will also focus on the practices of some of these lores.

## **LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

**Director**, Fulbright-Hays Intensive Advanced Yoruba Group Project Abroad

August 2022-Present

**Communication Officer**, South-East African Language and Literature Forum (SEALLF)

Nov. 2022-Present

**Co-Editor**, Ìmò èdè: Journal of Yoruba Language Pedagogy (JYLP)

July 2022-Present

**Treasurer/ Membership Officer**, Sigma Tau Delta, Florida State University Chapter

August 2021-Present

**Treasurer**, The American Association of Teachers of Yoruba

April 2021-Present

**Financial Secretary**, Fulbright Language Scholars Association, Nigeria

2020-Present

**Graduate Assistant to the Undergraduate Chair**, English Department

2019- July 2021

**Membership Officer**, Sigma Tau Delta, Florida State University Chapter

2019-July 2021

**Secretary**, The American Association of Teachers of Yoruba

2019-March 2021

**President**, Sigma Tau Delta, Florida State University Chapter

2018

**Outreach Officer and International Student Liaison**, Graduate English Student Organization (GESO)

2018/2019

## **ADMINISTRATIVE / DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

**Member**, Local Organizing Committee, African Language Teachers Association (ALTA) Conference  
April 2023

**Director**, Fulbright-Hays Intensive Advanced Yoruba Group Project Abroad  
August 2022-Present

**Member**, Study Abroad Program, Department of World Languages and Culture, Howard University  
August 2022-Present

**Member**, Research Committee, Department of World Languages and Culture, Howard University  
August 2022-Present

**Member**, Publicity and Special Event, Department of World Languages and Culture, Howard University  
August 2022-Present

## **MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

African Literature Association (ALA)

African Language Teachers Association (ALTA)

American Folklore Society (AFS)

American Association of Teachers of Yoruba (AATY)

American Studies Association (ASA)

Fulbright Alumni Association of Nigeria (FAAN)

Fulbright Language Scholars Association, Nigeria (FULSAN)

South-East African Language and Literature Forum (SEALLF)

Sigma Tau Delta, International English Honor Society

Southeastern American Studies Association (SASA)

South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLMA)

National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages (NCOLTCL)

North-East Regional Consortium for Programs in African Languages (NERCPAL)

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**Volunteer**, Instructor, Yoruba for the Young  
2021-2022

Yale Programs for Children and Youth

**Instructor**, Yoruba for Kidz and Adults.

2020-Present

A Yoruba community-based program for Kids and Adults

**Volunteer**, Sunday School Children/Adult Teacher, RCCG Go, Ye Chapel, Tallahassee, Florida.

2017-2022

**Volunteer**, Mentor, Bond Elementary School, Tallahassee, Florida

Fall 2018

Migrant and Refugee Education Alliance (MREA)

**Volunteer**, Mentor, Swift-Creek Middle School, Tallahassee, Florida

Spring 2018

Migrant and Refugee Education Alliance (MREA)

**Volunteer**, Pamela Davis Early Learning Center, Tallahassee, Florida.

2018-2022

Kids Incorporated of the Big Bend

## **LANGUAGES**

English and Yoruba

## **REFERENCES**

Dr. Oluseye Adesola

Senior Lector, Yoruba, and African Studies

Yale Macmillan Center, Council on African Studies

Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

Email: [oluseye.adesola@yale.edu](mailto:oluseye.adesola@yale.edu)

Dr. Adeola Agoke

Teaching Faculty and Associate Director of the African Language Program

Department of African Cultural Studies,

University of Wisconsin, Madison

Email: [adeola.agoke@wisc.edu](mailto:adeola.agoke@wisc.edu)

Dr. Kazeem Saunth

Faculty, African Studies Program

Associate Director, National African Language Resource Center,

Indiana University, Bloomington

Email: [ksaunth@iu.edu](mailto:ksaunth@iu.edu)