Oghenetoja H. Okoh

Department of History
Loyola University, Maryland
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Education

New York University, New York City, NY
Ph.D., African History, 2012
Making Minorities: The Western Niger Delta in Colonial Nigeria, 1927-1960
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI
M.A., African History, 2003
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Minneapolis, MN
B.A. (Summa cum Laude), History and African/African American Studies, 1999

Research Interests

Primary Research and Teaching Fields: 19th & 20th Century African History, History of West Africa, Social and Political History of Nigeria, History of Gender, Migration and Citizenship Studies.
Secondary Research and Teaching Fields: Empire and Postcolonial Studies, African Diaspora History, and Studies of Race and Ethnicity.

Courses Taught

Loyola University Maryland, Department of History
Africa in the Age of Globalization
Ethnicity and Political Violence in Modern Africa
The Historian's Craft
Colonial Africa
Encountering the Past: The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade
Minority Identity and Citizenship in the Modern World
World History
Gender and Power in Modern Africa
Contesting Empire
Making of the Modern World, Africa

Awards and Honors

New York Public Library, Short Term Research Fellowship, Summer 2026
Loyola University Summer Research Grant, Summer 2026
Peace and Justice Studies Research and Publication Grant, Summer-Fall 2024
Center for the Humanities Publication Grant, Fall 2023-Spring 2024
Faculty Award for Excellence in Transformative Teaching, Spring 2024
Office of Digital Teaching and Learning Award, Fall 2020
Center for the Humanities Summer Research Grant, Loyola University, Summer 2020
Peace and Justice Studies Course Development Grant, Spring 2020
Dean's Summer Writing Grant, Loyola University Maryland, Summer 2019
University of Akron Faculty Research Grant, Summer 2018**;** Summer 2014

Doris Quinn Award, Doris Quinn Foundation, Fall 2008 – Spring 2009
Fulbright IIE, June 2006 – August 2007
History of Women and Gender Program Travel Grant, New York University, June 2005
IHR Mellon Fellowship for Pre-Dissertation Research in the Humanities, Summer 2005
Henry M. MacCracken Fellowship, New York University, 2003-2008
Foreign Language HEA Title VI Fellowship, Center for African Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison (Yoruba language study). 2002-2003

Publications

"Imagine Lagos: Mapping History, Place, and Politics in a Nineteenth-Century African City," Book Review for *The American Historical Review*, 131, n. 1 (March 2026): 335-336.

Minority Identities in Nigeria: Contesting and Claiming Citizenship in the Twentieth Century, Cambridge University Press. (2025)

"Bornu: Territorial and Cultural Endurance in Nigeria," Book Review for the *Journal of African History*, v. 60, n. 3 (November 2019): 497-499.

Cruz, Joelle, Oghenetoja Okoh, Amoaba Gooden, Kamesha Spates, Chinasa Elue, and Nicole Rousseau, "The Ekwe Collective: Black Feminist Praxis," *Departures in Critical Qualitative Research,* v. 5.3 (Fall 2016): 77-99.

"Who Controls Warri? How Ethnicity Became Volatile in the Western Niger Delta (1928-1952)," *Journal of African History* v. 57 (July 2016): 209-230.

Siro Masinde and Toja Okoh, "Challenges of broadening access to scholarly e-resources in Africa—the JSTOR example," *African Research and Documentation*, no. 117 (September, 2011): 49-57.

"District 9: A 'Real' Sci-Fi Flick in Africa?" *eSymposium on the significance of District 9 for the Zeleza Post*. October 2009 [www.zeleza.com/symposium/949 (Accessed November 9, 2009)].

"60/60: Notes from the Field," *Sable Literary Magazine.* Fall/Winter 2007.

Selected Conference Papers, Workshops, Expert Commentary and Public Presentations

Conference Roundtable: "Author Meets Reader: Engaging Minority Identities in Nigeria: Contesting and Claiming Citizenship in the Twentieth Century" (June 2026)

"Boko Haram and Nigeria," Guest Interview, *Long History Short*, November 2025

"Hidden Treasures in Private Archival Collections in Nigeria," Lagos Studies Association, June 2024 (Panel Chair, Virtual Conference)

"From Palm Oil to Crude Oil: Minority Citizenship in the Niger Delta," Rutgers University, New Brunswick, March 2024

"Rethinking Nigeria's Nationalist Narrative: The Role of Ethnic Minorities in Shaping Post-Colonial Nigerian Politics," Peace and Justice Studies Program Lunch Talk, Loyola University Maryland, February, 2024.

"The Digital Turn in Nigerian History: Archives Preservation and the Politics of Access and Patrimony," Lagos Studies Association, June 2022. (Virtual Conference)

"When the Government Does Not See Its Citizens: Civil Society and the Political Economy of Crude Oil in Nigeria," African Studies Association, November 2021.

Commentary on Robin Chapdelaine, *The Persistence of Slavery: An Economic History of Child Trafficking in Nigeria*, Lagos Studies Association, June 2021. (Virtual Conference)

"Silencing the History of the Niger Delta: How the Archive Contributes to its Marginalization," ENIUGH 2020-21, June 2021 (Virtual Conference).

Expert Interview: Baltimore Museum of Art exhibition, "A Perfect Power: Motherhood in African Art," March 2020.

Guest Interlocutor: Halimat Somotan, "Who Speaks for Lagos? The Political Debates and Mobilization Surrounding the Status of Lagos, 1949-67," Carter G. Woodson Institute, University of Virginia, November 2019.

"Crisis and Resistance: The Decline of the Palm Oil Economy and Formal Colonial Incorporation," Junior Faculty Symposium, February 2019.

"Crisis and Resistance: The Decline of the Palm Oil Economy and Formal Colonial Incorporation," The Africa Seminar, Johns Hopkins University, April 2019.

"Minority Citizenship: Rethinking the Nigerian National Project," African Studies Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, November 2018.

Invited Panel Participant: "Teaching with CFR and *Foreign Affairs* Resources," Council on Foreign Affairs College and University Educators Workshop, Council on Foreign Relations Headquarters, New York, NY, April 2018.

"Rich Literature, Fragmented Archive: Doing Historical Work in the Niger Delta," Mid-Atlantic and Great Lakes African Studies Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, March 2018.

"Ekwe: Creating Supportive Spaces in the Academy," Summit on Women Faculty, Kent State University, Kent OH, February 2018.

Academic Service

Loyola University Maryland

Co-Chair, President's Council on AI, Fall 2026 – present

Director, African and African American Studies Program, Fall 2024 – present

Member, Standard III Working Group, Middle States Assessment, Summer 2026 – present

Member, Faculty Success Advisory Board, Spring 2026 – present

Steering Committee Member, Diversity-Justice Course Requirement Committee, Fall 2025 - present

Faculty Fellow, Career Development in the Humanities, Fall 2025-Spring 2026

Faculty Fellow, Untold Truths Project, Spring 2024 – present

Member, Peace and Justice Studies Program Steering Committee, Spring 2025 – present

Vice President, AAUP Loyola University Maryland Chapter, Spring 2025 – Spring 2026

Member, President's Council on Equity and Inclusion, Spring 2023 – present

Humanities Representative, Faculty Evaluation Committee, Faculty Senate, Fall 2022-2023

Member, Steering Committee, African & African American Studies Minor, Spring 2019 – Spring 2024

Advisor, Messina Program, 2021 – present

Faculty Mentor, ALANA Services, Fall 2019 – Fall 2025

Steering Committee Member & Advisor, Global Studies Program, Fall 2019 – 2021

Baltimore Museum of Art

Member, Accessions Committee for the Arts of Africa, the Americas, Asia & Pacific Islands, Fiscal Year 2021-present.

U.S. Asylum Cases

Expert Witness on the Social and Political History of the Niger Delta (New Jersey), May 2019

Contemporary Journal of African Studies

History Editor, Spring 2019 – present

Nigerian Studies Association

Secretary, Fall 2012 – Fall 2014; *Website Manager*, Fall 2012 – present; *Social Media Officer*, Fall 2018 – Fall 2019

University of Akron

Rethinking Race Committee Member, Fall 2016-Spring 2018
Faculty Advisor – African Students Association, Fall 2013 – Spring 2018

African Studies Association

Lead organizer, Emerging Scholars Caucus, Fall 2007-Fall 2008

Other Professional Experience

University of Akron, Department of History: Assistant Professor, African History, August 2013 – June 2018

Council on Foreign Relations: Consultant, Education Strategy & Marketing, January 2016 – June 2017

JSTOR: Content Development Associate, March 2009 – October 2012

ITHAKA Harbors, Inc., New York City: Research Consultant and Content Developer, Aluka Initiative (Mellon Foundation/ITHAKA), Summer 2004 – Summer 2008

Professional Membership

African Studies Association, Nigerian Studies Association, Lagos Studies Association, American Historical Association