

## **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:** 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century African History, History of West Africa, Social and Political History of Nigeria, History of Gender and Citizenship.

**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**

*Minority Identity and Citizenship in the Modern World*

*World History*

*Gender and Power in Modern Africa*

*Contesting Empire*

*Making of the Modern World, Africa*

#### **University of Akron, Department of History**

*Civil Dialogues, Civil Communities*

*Humanities in the World since 1300*

*Graduate Seminar in African History*

*World Civilizations-Africa*

*History of Modern Africa*

*Historical Methods*

*Gender and Power in Africa*

*Questioning Empire: Decolonization in Africa & the African Diaspora*

### **Academic Service**

#### **Loyola University, Maryland**

*Steering Committee Member, African & African American Studies Minor, Spring*

2019 – present

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

#### **Baltimore Museum of Art**

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

### **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

### **Awards and Honors**

**Center for the Humanities Summer Research Grant, Loyola University Maryland,**  
Summer 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,** 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

**Leave of Absence:** Fall 2015-Spring 2016

### **Publications**

“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, Oghenetaja 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.

### **Publications in Progress**

*Minority Identities in Nigeria: Contesting and Claiming Citizenship in the Twentieth Century*, book manuscript under contract with Cambridge University Press.

### **Conference Papers, Workshops, Expert Commentary and Public Presentations**

"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. (Virtual Conference)

Commentary on Robin Chapdeleine, *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.

"Considering Minority Citizenship in the Context of the Nigerian Civil War," African Studies Association Annual Conference, Chicago, November 2017.

"The Evolution of Black Feminist Thought," roundtable with co-panelists Joëlle M. Cruz, Amoaba Gooden, Kamesha Spates, Chinasa A. Elue, and Nicole Rousseau, Africa and the Global Atlantic World Conference, Kent OH, April 2016.

"This is What a Feminist Looks Like: Black Feminism", workshop co-facilitator with Chinasa Elue, Amoaba Gooden, Joëlle M. Cruz, Kamesha Spates, and Nicole Rousseau, Kent State University Women's Center, March 2017 and February 2016.

"The Spirit of Black Feminist Thought: Ekwe in Practice," workshop co-facilitator with Kamesha Spates, Chinasa Elue, Amoaba Gooden, Joëlle M. Cruz, and Nicole Rousseau, Kent State University, April 2016.

- “The Importance of Self Care in the lives of Black Female College Students,” workshop co-facilitator with Amoaba Gooden and Kamesha Spates, Kent State University Sister Circle Organization, September 12, 2016.
- “Teaching World History,” Ohio Academy of History Annual Meeting/Conference, Ohio Northern University, March 2015.
- “Disciplining the Niger Delta: Taxation and Reorganization, 1928-1938,” African Studies Association Annual Conference, Baltimore, November 2013.
- “Aimé Césaire’s 100 First Lights: Aesthetics, Alternative Subjectivity, and Global Human Relations,” Symposium Moderator, SUNY-Buffalo, September 2013.
- “Methods of Showing Dislike’: the 1927 Boycott in Warri Province and the Crisis of Native Administration,” New York University/University of Amsterdam Dissertation Workshop, Amsterdam, August 2008.
- “Addressing Minority Fears in Pre-Independence Nigeria: The Willink Commission and its Aftermath, 1957-1960,” University of Ibadan, History Dept. Seminar, March 2007.
- “‘No Condition is Permanent’: Shifting Ideals of Nigerian Masculinity through Transnational Migration, 1945-Present,” Rutgers University, New York Area Symposium on African History, March 2005.

**Professional Membership**

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