

JACOB KEHINDE. OLUPONA
Curriculum Vitae

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

2006- Chair, Harvard University Committee on African Studies
2006- 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, FL. (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.
- 1991-95 Associate Professor, African and African-American Studies, University of California, Davis.
- 1993 Senior Fellow, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (Fall semester).
- 1991 Visiting Fulbright Professor, Muhlenberg College, Allentown PA (Spring semester).
- 1990 Visiting Professor, Department of Religion and African-American Studies, Smith College, Northampton, MA (Fall semester).
- 1989 Research Affiliate, Department of Religionswissenschaft, Bayreuth University, Bayreuth, Federal Republic of Germany (Summer).
- 1988 Copeland Visiting Fellow, Department of Religion, Amherst College (Spring).
- 1987 Commonwealth Universities Academic Fellow, Center for New Religious Movements, Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham, U.K. (Fall).
- 1987-90 Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor), Department of Religious Studies, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria.
- 1983-86 Lecturer (Assistant Professor), Department of Religious Studies, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria.
- 1977-80 Instructor, Yoruba language, African Studies Center, Boston University, Boston, MA.
- 1976-77 Graduate Assistant, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria.

ACADEMIC HONORS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

- 2006 Honorary Degree of Artium Magistrium, Harvard University, October 2006
- 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, July 22, 2000
- 2000 Ford Foundation Research Grant for the Study of African Immigrant Religious Communities in the USA.

- 1997/98 John Simon Guggenheim Fellow
- 1997 Visiting Professor, Center for Black Studies & Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara.

University of California, President's Fellowship in the Humanities.

Louisville Institute Summer Grant, "Singing the Lord's Song in a New Land: African Churches in the USA." (Summer).
- 1996 Faculty Research Grant, U.C. Davis, Archival Research, University of Birmingham, U.K. (Summer 1996).
- 1995 American Philosophical Society (Grant in support of field research in Nigeria on Yoruba thought and Culture: Insights from Ifa divination Poetry (Summer 1995).

Conference Grants provided by the following foundations and agencies in support of the International conference Beyond "Primitivism": Indigenous Religious Traditions and Modernity, University of California, Davis, March 28-31, 1996: University of California Humanities Research Institute, Irvine; Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, New York; the Spalding Trust, Cambridge, U.K.; Davis Humanities Institute, Davis; Niwano Peace Foundation, Tokyo, Japan.
- 1993 Senior Fellow, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (Fall).

Senior Research Grant, J. Paul Getty Grant Program. (Funded a collaborative research project titled "Aesthetics of Validation: Rethinking Yoruba Art and Religion." (Summers of 1993 and 1994, Winter 1994).
- 1992 Undergraduate Instructional Improvement Grant.
- 1991 Faculty Research Grant, UC Davis.
- 1990 Foreign Affairs, Ministry, Federal Republic of Germany, Bonn (Grant-in-aid of publication of Religion and Society in Nigeria).
National Geographical Society (Grant in support of field research on "Sacred Cosmos: Myths, Rituals and Kingship in Ile-Ife, Southwestern Nigeria).

Swedish Council for Research in Humanities and Social Science (Grant-in-aid of publication of *Kingship, Religion and Rituals in Nigerian Community*).
- 1989 Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, NYC (Grant for ethnographic research in Idanre, Southwestern Nigeria).
- 1988 Copeland Visiting Fellowship, Department of Religion, Amherst College (Spring).
- 1987 Commonwealth Universities Academic Fellowship, Center for New Religious Movements, Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham, U.K. (Fall).

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

2007

African Immigrant Religious Communities in America (co-ed., (NYU Press, Forthcoming)

The City of 201 Gods: Ile-Ife (Nigeria) in Time, Space and the Imagination (In Press)

Orisa Tradition In Global Context: Yoruba Religion in West Africa and the Americas, co-ed., (University of Wisconsin Press, Forthcoming)

2004

Beyond Primitivism: Indigenous Religious Traditions and Modernity, (editor), Routledge Press, London/New York, 2004

2000

African Spirituality, volume 3 of the *World Spirituality: An Encyclopedic History of Religious Quests*, New York. (Crossroads Press, NY, 2000).

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, 1993. (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), Almqvist & Wiskell International Stockholm, 1991.

Religion and Society in Nigeria: Historical and Sociological Perspectives, Ibadan, Nigeria, Spectrum Press & Channel Islands, England: Safari Press, 1991 (co-editor).

1990

African Traditional Religion in Contemporary Society, New York, Paragon Press, 1990 (editor).

Articles and Chapters:

2007

"African Religions" In Mark Juergensmeyer, *The Oxford Handbook of Global Religions*. NY: Oxford University Press.

2006

"African Traditional religions" In Stephen Myer, *World Mark Encyclopedia of Religions Practices*, Farmington Hills: Thomas Gale 2006, Vol. 1, pp1-23

"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. pp 6 & 24

- 2002 To Praise and To Reprimand: Ancestors and Spirituality in African Society and Culture In Steve Freisen Ancestors in Post-Contact Religion Center for the Study of World Religions and Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2000, 50-71.
- “Global African Religion, “In Mark Jorgensmeyer Global Religion, New York: Oxford University Press, 2002, In Press.
- “A Tale of Two Germans in Africa. Leo Frobenius (1837-1938 and Uli Beier (1922-) Among the Yoruba of Nigeria “In Afe Adogame European Traditions of the Study of Religion in Africa, University of Bayreuth African Studies, Bayreuth, Germany, 2000. In Press.
- Comparing Ancient Religions of Japan and Nigeria: Shinto and Yoruba Orisa in Dialogue In Takeshi Kimura, A Festschrift in Honor of Michio Araki, Kyoto: Minerva, 2002. In Press
- 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, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, pp11-21.
- 2000 “Sacred Cosmos: African Indigenous Religion in the Contemporary World" In African American and The Bible , Vincent Wimbush ed (Continuum Press, 2000. Pp 163-178
- “Orisa Osun: Yoruba Sacred Kingship and Civil Religion in Osogbo, Nigeria,” Osun Across the Waters, Joseph M. Murphy and Mei Mei Sanford. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press. (In Press)
- “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, edited by Michael Winkel and Philip Peek.
- “Yoruba Goddesses and Sovereignty in Southwestern Nigeria,” Goddesses Who Rule, edited by Elisabeth Benard and Beverly Moon. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2000. Pp 19-132
- 1999 Introduction to Religion and Social Transformation in Southren Africa , edited by Thomas G. Walsh and Frank Kaufman St Paul, Minnesota: Paragon Press, 1999
- "Agricultural Rituals," Encyclopedia of Women and Religion, NY: MacMillan Press, 1999 pp. 19-21.
- 1998 "Christianity: Independent and Charismatic Churches: Western Africa," The Encyclopedia of Sub-Saharan Africa, edited by John Middleton. New York: Scribner, 1998.

- 1997 "Religious Solidarities, State, and National Integration in Nigeria," Africa and the New World Order: Proceeding of Georgia Humanities Institute Conference, Athens, GA. (In Press)
- "Yoruba Identity: Between Traditional Religion, Christianity and Islam," in Bend Scherer, Religion: A Eurochristian Invention, Berlin: Hause der Kulturen Publications. (In Press)
- "Women's Rituals, Kingship and Power among the Ondo-Yoruba People of Nigeria," for Queens, Queen Mothers, Priestesses and Power: Case Studies in African Gender, edited by Flora S. Kaplan, New York Academy of Science, NYC.
- 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, pp. 33-34.
- 1996 "The Spirituality of Matter: Religion and Environment in Yoruba Indigenous Tradition, Nigeria," Dialogue and Alliance, Spring 1996.
- "The Academic Study of Religion in West Africa: Past, Present and Future Developments" in The Study of Religions in Sub-Saharan Africa, pp. 211-220.
- "The Study of Religion in Nigeria" in The Study of Religions in Sub-Saharan Africa, pp. 185-210.
- 1993 "The Study of the Yoruba Religious Tradition in Historical Perspective," Numen, 40 (3), pp. 240-273, 1993.
- "Some Notes on: Animal Symbolism in African Religion and Culture," Anthropology and Humanism Quarterly, 18 (1), pp. 3-12, 1993.
- 1991 "New Religious Movements and the Social Order in Nigeria," Bayreuth African Studies, University of Bayreuth, West Germany, 1991, pp. 31-52.
- 1990 "Religion, Law, and Order: State Regulation of Religious Affairs in Nigeria," Social Compass: International Review of Sociology of Religion 37 (1), 1990, pp. 127-135.
- 1989 "New Religious Movements in Nigeria," Journal of Religious Thoughts, Howard University, Washington, D.C., 46 (1), 1989, pp. 53-69.
- 1988 "Religion and Politics in the Second Republic," in Victor Ayeni and Kayode Soremekun, eds., Nigeria's Second Republic: Presidential Politics and Administration in a Developing State, 1979-83, Lagos, Daily Times Publication, 1988, pp. 121-134.
- "Religious Pluralism and Civil Religion in Africa," Dialogue and Alliance, New York, 2 (4), Winter 1988-89, pp. 41-48.
- "Metaphoric Associations and the Indigenous Conception of Death: An Analysis of Yoruba Worldview in Proverbs and Myths," Journal of Religion in Africa, Leiden, 19 (1), 1988, pp. 1-14 (co-author).

- 1987 "The Celestial Church of Christ (Ijo Mimo Ti Kristi lati Orun Wa): A Phenomenological Perspective," in New Religious Movements in Nigeria, eds., Rosalind Hackett, Lewiston, Queenston, New York, Edwin Mellen, 1987, pp. 45-73.
- "Making Sense of Aje Festival, Wealth, Politics, and the Women Status in Ondo Society of Southwestern Nigeria," in Journal of Ritual Studies, vol. 2, University of Pittsburgh, USA, 1987, pp. 89-108 (co-author).
- 1985 "Some Notes on the Religion of the Ondo-People in Nigeria: A Phenomenological anthropological Study," in Bulletin of the International Committee on Urgent Anthropological and Ethnological Research, No. 27, 1985, pp. 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, 1984, pp. 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, 1982, pp. 55-65.
- 1981 "Beyond Ethnicity: Civil Religion in Nigeria," in Church Divinity, Monograph Series, Notre Dame, Indiana, 1981, pp. 30-45.

RESEARCH AN

Mapping African immigrant Religious Communities (In preparation for Rutgers Press
The City of 201 Gods: Ile-Ife in Time, Space and Imagination (Completed)
Yoruba Thought and Culture: Insights from Ifa Divination Poetry

LECTURES AND CONFERENCES:

- 2003 Imagining the Power of The Goddess: Gender and the Yoruba Religious Traditions, The Princeton University Center for the Study of Religions, Nov12, 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, TN, Nov. 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.
- 1998 Organized a symposium on "Religion, State and Society in Eastern Europe," for the AAR, Cracow, Poland July 18-22, 1998
- International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) Conference in Hildersheim, Germany May 22-25, 1998

Institute for Advanced Study & Research in the African Humanities (Identity Construction: Performing and Writing the African Diaspora, 1880-2000. Presented a paper titled "Singing the Lord's Song in a New Land: African Churches in the United States of America," May 2, 1998

1997 Organized a Symposium in Honor of Charles Long, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Nov 1997

Organized & Chaired a symposium on "Internationalizing the Academic Study of Religion," American Academy of Religion, American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, November 1997

Religion and Globalization Research Seminar Series 1997, sponsored by Davis Humanities Institute.

Symposium on African Americans and the Bible: An Interdisciplinary Research Project, Union Theological Seminary, April 11 & 12, 1997

International Conference on "Africa, Pan-Africanism, and the New World Order," The University of Georgia Humanities Center, Athens, Georgia (presented a paper on "African Religions and the New World Order"), Jan 22-24, 1997.

1996 Conference on Religion: A Eurochristian Invention, "Yoruba Identity: Between Traditional Religion, Christianity and Islam," House of Culture, Berlin, Germany, July 2-4, 1996.

Christianity and Indigenous Religions, Dept. of Religion, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, May 6, 1996.

Pentecostal/Charismatic Identity at the end of the 20th Century, "Reflections on Africa," March 7-9, 1996, Wycliffe College, University of Toronto, Canada
Beyond "Primitivism": Indigenous Religious Traditions and Modernity, University of California, Davis, March 28-31, 1996 (Conference Convener and presented Keynote paper)

Conference on The African Diaspora: African Origins and New World Self-Fashioning, To Present "Tradition and Transformation, Yoruba Religion in West Africa and the New World," April 11-13, 1996

Ford Foundation sponsored symposium-- The Religious Consultation on Population, Reproductive, Health and Ethics, Washington D.C., August 1996

1995 Conference on African Religions in Europe, University of Leiden, Leiden, Leiden, Dec 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, August 5-12, 1995; organized a panel on "Religion, State and Society in Africa" and presented a paper on Religion and Civil Society in Africa.

1994

Scandinavian Institute of African Studies, Uppsala, Sweden. International Conference on Christians and Muslims in Contemporary Africa, Uppsala. Presented "Muslim-Christian Relations in Contemporary Nigeria 1976 to the Present Period," August 25-28, 1994.

XII World Congress of Sociology. Presented Religious Solidarities, State and National Integration," Bielefeld, Germany July 17-24 1994.

Keynote speaker on "Religion and Civil Society in Africa," at the inauguration of the South African Academy of Religion, January 1994. (Invited by the South African Association for the Study of Religion).

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, MA, 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.

Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, Focus Group on Magic: Proposal for a multi-volume encyclopedic treatment of magic (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 and 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, 15-19 September, 1992.

Fourth Conference on World Spirituality, "Animal Symbolism in African Religions and Cultures," East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii, June 14-21, 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.

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

- 1991 The Annual Conference of the American Academy of Religion, Kansas City, "More Bones than Flesh: Teaching African Religions in Nigeria and USA: A Comparative Study," November 1991. (To appear in the AAR Newsletter, Winter 1993).
- United States Institute of Peace, Washington, D.C., International Conference on Religion, Nationalism and Intolerance in Nigeria and Sudan. Presented a keynote paper on "Religious Conflicts and the State in Nigeria," October 3-5, 1991.
- Third International Conference on World Spirituality, An Exploration of Contemporary Spirituality: "Axial Age Civilizations and Primal Traditions." Presented a paper on Encounter between African Religions and Christianity, 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.
- 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.
- 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, San Diego, August, 1990.
- The Annual Conference of the American Academy of Religion, New Orleans (Responded to two papers on African Religions), November 1990.
- African Studies Association Meeting, Baltimore, MD, November 1990.
- 1989 World Council of Churches Conference on Muslim-Christian Relations in Africa, Arusha, Tanzania, "Religion and the State in Africa: The Christian Perspective," July 1989.
- XXth Congress of the International Association for the Sociology of Religion, Helsinki, Finland, "Religion, Law and Order: State Regulations of Religious Affairs in Nigeria," August 21-25, 1989.
- 1988 Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA, Conference on Conversion in Africa, "Continuity and Change in Conversion: A Study of Religious Change in Ondo Yoruba Society of Southwest Nigeria," 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.
- Department of Art, University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD, Conference on "Ere Ibeji: A Symposium on Twins in an African Culture." April 8-9, 1988.

- 1987 Oxford Center for African Studies, New College, Oxford University, Conference entitled "Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft: Structures of Belief in Everyday Life," October 30-31, 1987.
- The World Lutheran Federation Consultation on Civil Religion and the World Order, "Civil Religion in Nigeria," August 31-September 5, 1987.
- 1986 XIth World Congress of the International Sociological Association, New Delhi, India, "Dialectical Sociology as Applied to the Yoruba of Nigeria," August 18-22, 1986.
- Third International Congress of Orisa Tradition and Culture (a joint paper with Robert Cohen, Language Studies Center, Boston University, Boston, MA, USA), "Yoruba Religion and Culture in the New World, A Bibliographical Essay," July 1-6, 1986.
- A paper read at the Institute of Theology and Philosophy, Dominican Community, Ibadan, "Justice and Peace: An Appraisal of the Church's Role in Nigeria," June 23, 1986.
- 31st Annual Congress of the Historical Society of Nigeria, "Religion and Politics in Nigeria's Second Republic 1979-83," May 1986.
- 1985 The International Congress of the History of Religions, Sydney, Australia, "Religion and Varieties of Identity in Nigeria," August 18-25, 1985.
- The National Conference of Folklore Association of Nigeria, Ile-Ife, "Lamponing Rituals and the Social Order: Some Aspects of the Nigerian Civil Religion," February 4-12, 1985.
- 1984 The International Conference on Providence and History, San Juan, Puerto Rico, "Divine Providence and the Social Order: Some Aspects of the Nigerian Civil Religion," February 1984.
- 1983 The Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Boston, MA, "Oramfe: Salvation and Tradition among the Ondo-Yoruba," December 7-9, 1983.
- 1982 The Annual Conference of the American Academy of Religion, New York, December 19-23, 1982.
- The Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Washington, D.C., "Beyond Ethnicity: Civil Religion in Nigeria," 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, MA, August 30-September 4, 1981.

SEMINARS AND PUBLIC LECTURES:

- 1999 Davidson Endowed Lecture: Tradition and Transformation: African Religions in Africa and the Americas, November 6, 1999.
- 1994 "IFA: Owner of the Day and Regulator of the Universe: Arts and Rituals of Divination among the Yoruba of Nigeria (with slides)", the Museum of Anthropology, U.C. Berkeley, April 1994
- 1993 "The City of 201 Gods: Ile-Ife in Time, Space, and the Imagination" (Slide and video presentation), Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, December 13, 1993.
- Afro-Atlantic Religions Lecture and Film Series, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, "Ondo: Religious Pluralism in a Yoruba City," October 20, 1993.
- 1992 Global Conflict and Cooperation Program, University of California at Davis, "Religion and the State in Contemporary Africa," June 7, 1992.
- Humanities Institute, University of California at Davis, "Religious Fundamentalism in Nigeria: Cross Cultural Comparisons," May 1, 1992.
- 1991 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.
- Princeton University, Princeton, NJ "Yoruba Religion in Nigeria and the New World," April 2, 1991.
- Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA, "Civil Religion in Africa," February 27, 1991.
- 1990 I organized four lectures for the Africa Today Lecture Series at Smith College, Northampton, MA.
- 1989 University of Bayreuth, Bayreuth, West Germany, "New Religious Movements and the Nigerian Social Order," August 1989.
- University of Marburg, Marburg, West Germany, "Sacred Kingship in Africa," July 1989.
- 1988 Towson State University, Baltimore, MD, "Religion and Politics in Contemporary Nigeria," April 8, 1988.
- 1987 Oxford University Africa Seminar, "Muslim-Christian Relations in Nigeria: Then and Now," November 16, 1987.
- West Africa Seminar, Department of Anthropology, University College, London, U.K., "New Religious Movements in Contemporary Nigeria." November 13, 1987. Also presented the same paper at the Department of Religious Studies, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, April 7, 1988.

- 1985 The Department of Religion, African Studies Center and Center for International Studies, Boston University, "Religion and Social Change in Nigeria," November 13, 1985.
- Institute of African Studies Seminar, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, "Odun Oba: The Ideology and Ritual of Kingship in Ondo," August 1985.
- 1983 Department of Sociology Seminar, University of Ife, Ile-Ife, "Beyond Ethnicity: Civil Religion in Nigeria," October 1983.

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS AND SERVICES

- 2007 Committee On Social Engagement (AAAS)
Admission Committee, Harvard Divinity School (HDS)

Administrative Committee Harvard Divinity School (HDS)

Chair, Committee on African Studies (University Level).
- 2006 Editorial Board , Orita: Ibadan University Religious Studies Journal
- 1999-Present External Examiner for Phd dissertation, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- 2005 Editorial Assistant Encyclopedia of Religion (Second Edition) New York, Macmillan Press

Member, UC Postdoctoral Fellowship Select 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 UC Davis Partnership with African University, 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 (1996-1999)
- 1996-99 Chair, Committee on International Connection, American Academy of Religion (1996-1999)

- Editor: Religions of Africa Series. (1996-Present)
- 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, IAHR, 1995.
- Member, Editorial Board, NUMEN, Journal of International Association for the History of Religions, (1995)
- 1994 Co-Chair, African Religions, American Academy of Religion (1994-Present)
- 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, June 25-July 9.
- External Reader for Faculty Tenure and promotion in the following Collages and Universities: Bates College, Lewiston, Maine; the Department of Philosophy and Religion, Colgate University, Hamilton, New York; Department of Religion, Duke University; External reader for Promotion to full Professor in Pan-African Studies, University of Louisville, Kentucky; Department of Sociology, University of California, Santa Barbara (with Charles Long)
- 1992 Chair, African Association for the Study of Religions (1992-).
- Co-chair, Indigenous Religious Traditions Consultations, American Academy of Religion (1992-93).
- 1990 External Examiner for the B.A. degree examination in Religious Studies, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria.
- Editorial Board, Journal of Contemporary Religion, UK (1990-)
- Editorial Board, Odu: A Journal of West African Studies, Ile Ife, Nigeria (1990-).
- 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-present).

- 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 (1987-90).
- 1986 Executive Board, Research Committee on Sociology of Religion (Research Committee 22), International Sociological Association, Madrid, Spain (1986-).
- External Examiner for the M.A. and Ph.D. thesis examinations, Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra, Ghana.
- 1984 Chairman 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:

- 1999-2003 UC 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, Davis
- 1995-97 Member, Committee on Teaching, University of California, Davis
- 1994-98 UC Regents Professor and Lecturer Advisory Committee
- 1992 Member, Faculty Committee of the Academic Senate, University of California, Davis (1992-94)
- Member, Religious Studies Program Committee (1992-present)
- 1991 Faculty Adviser, African Students Association, University of California, Davis, (1991).
- 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

Religious Studies

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, Member, Executive Board and Chair, Committee on
International Connections, 1990-97
African Association for the Study of Religion (Chair) 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