

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

Employment History

- Curator, Comparative Heritage (formerly Living Effective Heritage), 2014-Date
www.comparativeheritage.org
- Research Fellow, Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta GA, 2012-2013
www.itc.edu
- Graduate Research Assistant, Claremont Graduate University, 2010-2012
www.cgu.edu

Research Interests

- Africa and Its Diaspora
- Comparative Enslavements: Arab, European, and North American
- Culture Politics
- Digital Humanities
- Ecology, Environment, and Spirituality
- Gender and Society
- Heritage Comparativity
- Peacemaking and Conflict Resolutions
- Philosophy: Religions, Ethics, and Heritage
- Phenomenology of Scripture
- Postcolonialism
- Race and Ethnicity
- Religion: Histories of Religions
- Religion and Healthiness
- Social Justice and Economics

Publications

Book Chapters

- 1) "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, editors (Rowman & Littlefield, 2019).
2. "Scriptures, Social Media, and Social Power," *From Twitter to Tahrir Square: Ethics in Social Media and New Media Communication*, eds. Jim Willis and Bala Musa, Volume 2 (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2014), 301-318. With Gbenga Dasylva, and Saliu Funmi Saliu.
- 3) "Defending the Existence of and Solidarizing with Alleged Child-Witches: Significations on the Nigerian Witchcraft Phenomenon," *Suffereth not a witch to live: discourse on child-witch hunting in Nigeria*, eds. Adeyemi Johnson. Ademowo, Gary. Foxcroft, Temidayo David. Oladipo (Ibadan, Ayomide Publications, 2010), 27-35.

Book Reviews

Ongoing

- 1) 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 2015), *Reading Religion*, a publication of *American Academy of Religion (AAR)*

Completed

- 2) 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, February 2017), *Reading Religion*, a publication of *American Academy of Religion (AAR)*
<http://readingreligion.org/books/religion-media-and-marginality-modern-africa>.
- 3) Review of Felicitas Becker, Joel Cabrita, Marie Rodet's *Religion, Media, and Marginality in Modern Africa* (Ohio University Press, February 2018), *Reading Religion*, a publication of *American Academy of Religion (AAR)*
<http://readingreligion.org/books/divining-woman-endor>.

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

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Completed: Invited Lecture, Conference, Seminar, and Symposium

- 4) “Signifying Afrocentrism and Africanity: 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.
- 5) “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.
- 6) “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.
- 7) “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.
- 8) “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.
- 9) “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.
- 10) “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.
- 11) “Performing Darkness,” A Biography of Darkness Conference, RHAW conference, Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta Georgia, November 4-6, 2013.
- 12) “The African Ifa Heritage and the Discursive World of the King James Bible,” RHAW Brown Bag, Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta Georgia, April 10, 2013.

13) “Whence the African World?” Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta Georgia, February 28, 2013.

14) “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.

15) “Ethno-Religious Conflicts in Nigeria: Reconciliation in Perspective,” Department of Religious Studies Postgraduate Seminar (Nigeria, June 25, 2008).

16) “Ethno-Religious Conflicts in Nigeria: Reconciliation in Perspective,” Race, Religion and Reconciliation Conference (Pittsburgh, PA: April 4, 2008).

Ongoing Journal Articles Awaiting Publication

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, Editor-in-Chief.

(With James Yeku), “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).

Blog Pieces

1) “Could Africa's Most Educated Liberator and Destroyer, Robert Mugabe, Heed Deaths call?” September 6, 2019, <https://davidolali.com/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.com/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.com/blog/2016/07/09/do-black-lives-really-matter>.

4) “Metering Black Lives: Making MarShawn McCarrel Matter,” February 11, 2016, <https://davidolali.com/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.com/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.com/blog/2013/12/04/slavery-by-its-english-name>.

Media and Outreach

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.

Ongoing Projects and Research

- 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>

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