

John Kelechi Ugwuanyi, PhD

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EDUCATION

PhD, Heritage Studies. University of York. 2019.

MA, Archaeology and Tourism. University of Nigeria, Nsukka (Distinction). 2013.

BA, Archaeology and Tourism. University of Nigeria, Nsukka (First Class Honours). 2010.

Diploma, Tourism and Museum Studies. University of Nigeria, Nsukka. 2006

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE

Certified Project Manager (CPM). International Project Management Professionals, Nigeria. 2011

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Critical heritage studies, cultural landscapes, posthumanism, Anthropocene, museum, indigenous knowledge systems, world heritage, contemporary archaeology.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

University of Bonn, Germany

Postdoc Research Fellow, Global Heritage Lab, TRA: Present Past October 2022 -

University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Senior Lecturer, Department of Archaeology and Tourism October 2020 -

University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Lecturer I, Department of Archaeology and Tourism October 2017 - September 2020

University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Lecturer II, Department of Archaeology and Tourism April 2014 - September 2017

University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Assistant Lecturer, Department of Archaeology and Tourism April 2013 - March 2014

University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Graduate Assistant, Department of Archaeology and Tourism December 2011 - March 2013

Government Secondary School, Igbanke, Edo State, Nigeria

Geography Teacher to Senior Classes 1, 2, and 3 August 2010 - July 2011

PUBLICATION

Book Chapters

“Institutional ethics versus field experience: a perspective from heritage research in Nigeria.” *The Routledge Handbook of Heritage Ethics*. Eds. Andreas Pantazatos, Tracey Ireland, John Schofield and Zhang, R. London: Routledge. (2023). (Invited: going through review).

“Coloniality and decoloniality of heritage institutions in West Africa.” *Routledge Handbook for Cultural Heritage Studies in Africa*. Eds. Ashton Sinamai, John Giblin and Shadreck Chirikure. London: Routledge. (2023). (Invited: going through review).

- “Heritage and posthumanism: seeking harmony in a precarious and unstable world.” *Rethinking heritage in precarious times*. Ed. Nick Shepherd. London: Routledge, (2023). (In press. Co-authored with John Schofield).
- “Archaeology of Igbo land – the pride of our ancestors and the joy of the living.” *Learning about ndi Igbo*. Ed. Chinedu Uchechukwu. Lagos, Nigeria: Integrated Work Solutions Ltd., (2022), 2-19. (Co-authored with Stanley J. Onyemechalu).
- “Human-nature offspringing: indigenous thoughts on posthuman heritage.” *Deterritorializing the Future: Heritage in, of and after the Anthropocene*. Eds. Rodney Harrison and Collin Sterling. London: Open Humanities, (2020), 266-288.
- “Authoritarianism in Nigerian museums: a study of the ethical injustice in ‘Igbo masks’ exhibition.” *Museologies in Authoritarian Regimes*. Eds. Yunci Cai and Sarina Wakefield. London: Routledge. (Invited).

Journal Articles

- “Our gods are as powerful as the God of Abraham: analysing the impetus-agitat on the rise of ézénwànyì in Nsúkkà-Ìgbò, Southeastern Nigeria.” *Social Dynamics: A Journal of African Studies*, 48 (3), 475-490, (2022). Co-authored with Agbo, P. O. and Okwueze, M. I. DOI: [10.1080/02533952.2022.2152544](https://doi.org/10.1080/02533952.2022.2152544).
- “Ìhé Ñkètá and Òkè: concepts and practice of indigenous cultural heritage management in the Igbo cultural area of south-eastern Nigeria.” *Journal of Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainable Development*, 12 (4), 609-624, (2022). Co-authored with Onyemechalu, J. S. DOI: [10.1108/JCHMSD-12-2020-0177](https://doi.org/10.1108/JCHMSD-12-2020-0177).
- “Pottery production in Obinagu, Ezebinagu community: an insight from archaeology field school”, *Journal of Archaeology and Tourism Research*, 2 (2), (2022). Co-authored with C. C. Oguamanam, H. N. Anunobi and H. C. Ezezim.
- “Time-space politics and heritagisation in Africa: understanding where to begin decolonisation.” *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 27:4, 356-374, (2021). DOI: [10.1080/13527258.2020.1795907](https://doi.org/10.1080/13527258.2020.1795907).
- “Heritage ontologies in Nigeria: an analysis of how heritage connects and disconnects people.” *Journal of African Archaeology*, 19:2, 131-145, (2021). Co-authored with Itanyi, E. I. and Obieluem, H. U. DOI: [10.1163/21915784-bja10007](https://doi.org/10.1163/21915784-bja10007).
- “Masking and oral tradition in the re-enactment of village-based hierarchy among the acephalous Igbo of Southeastern Nigeria.” *World Archaeology*, 52:5, 746-764, (2021). Co-authored with Ugwu, C. and Okwueze, M. DOI: [10.1080/00438243.2021.1938197](https://doi.org/10.1080/00438243.2021.1938197).
- “Contemplating public engagement as an empowerment approach in archaeology and heritage management in Nigeria.” *Nsukka Journal of the Humanities*, 29:2, 42-58, (2021). Co-authored with Obieluem, U. H. and Agbo, G. E.
- “Occupy Nigeria and the inception of online visual mobilisation of street protest.” *Mgbakoigba: Journal of African Studies*, 9:1, 19-32, (2021). Co-authored with Agbo, G. E. and Obieluem, U. H. <https://www.ajol.info/index.php/mjas/article/view/220491>
- “Permanence, temporality and the rhythms of life: exploring significance of the village arena in Igbo culture.” *World Archaeology*, 50:1, 7-22, (2018). Co-authored with Schofield, J. DOI: [10.1080/00438243.2018.1473164](https://doi.org/10.1080/00438243.2018.1473164).

- “Hegemonic heritage and public exclusion in Nigeria: a search for inclusive and sustainable alternatives.” *West African Journal of Archaeology*, 48, 71-93, (2018).
- “Conserving the unknown heritage: a testimony from Oku N’erere Adoration Museum, Nsukka, Southeast Nigeria.” *IKENGA International Journal of African Studies*, 16:1-2, 18-30, (2014). Co-authored with Agu, C. S. and Ugwu, C.
- “Interpreting women’s history through museum relics: lessons from the National Museum of Unity Enugu.” *IKORO Journal of African Studies*, 10:1 & 2, 332-352, (2014). Co-authored with Alozie, B. C; Ihediwa, N. C; Nwashindu, V. C; Ngonadi, J. U.
- “Extraction of wood for fuel: a threat to landscape conservation in Nigeria.” *Research on Humanities and Social Sciences*, 4:1, 42-48, (2014). Co-authored with Itanyi, E. I.

FELLOWSHIP/GRANT//SCHOLARSHIP/AWARD

- Alumni Fellow of the CAA-Getty International Program. 2023.
- Nigeria’s Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) training grant. 2022.
- Fellow of the CAA-Getty International Program. 2022.
- AHP Postdoctoral Fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). 2020-2021.
- Wenner-Gren conference organization grant. 2018.
- Department of Archaeology Research Grant, University of York. 2016 & 2018.
- Hardship Fund, University of York. 2017.
- International Promovere in Wuperttal (IPIW)/DAAD conference grant. 2017.
- Tweedie Exploration Fellowship of the University of Edinburgh. 2016.
- Gilchrist Educational Trust, United Kingdom. 2016.
- World Archaeological Congress (WAC-8) conference grant. 2016.
- Overseas Research Scholarship (ORS), University of York. 2015-2018.
- Department of Archaeology and Tourism fund for field school, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. 2015.
- Prize for the Best Graduating Student, Department of Archaeology and Tourism, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. 2010.

INVITED TALKS

- “Communicating heritage to the public.” Virtual roundtable, in conversation with Osasona, C.; Costa, C. R. and Tofa, R. on Ilojo Bar: 5 Years Later. The Legacy 1995. 11 September 2021.
- “African World Heritage during a pandemic: perspectives from the field, class, and museum.” Virtual roundtable, in conversation with Esterhuysen, A. and Beldados, A. Cambridge African Archaeology Group, University of Cambridge. 5 May 2021.
- “Landscape, knowledge and sense of place: what does indigeneity mean in the African context.” International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS Nigeria) webinar series, in conversation with Ukelina, B.; Kuzooka, C. and Omoyele, T., 13 November 2020.
- “The geo-politics of heritage: understanding national and local community boundaries in Nigeria.” The Centre for African Art and Archaeology (CFAAA) Lecture Series, University of East Anglia. 21 January 2020.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Disempowerment, exile and imprisonment: interrogating African objects of authority and sovereignty in MAA, Cambridge.” 111th Conference of the College Arts Association, New York, USA. 15-19 February 2023.
- “Understanding *mgbochi*, the Igbo heritage of protection against communicable disease during the COVID-19 lockdown.” 2nd Multidisciplinary Conference of the Department of Archaeology and Tourism, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria. 23-25 November 2022.
- “Material migrations, adaptation and the debates on the restitution of arts/cultural materials.” 110th Conference of the College Arts Association, Chicago, Illinois, USA. 16-19 February and 3-5 March 2022.
- “*Eziokwu by ndu*: an evaluation of Otobo, the Igbo landscape for ‘truth’ in a post-truth era.” 1st Multidisciplinary Conference of the Department of Archaeology and Tourism, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria. 9-12 May 2021.
- “Are Igbo Forests ‘No One’s Land’? Igbo settlement, Heritage and the Fulani Herders’ Occupation of Forests.” 10th Igbo Conference, SOAS University of London, UK. 8 – 10 April 2021.
- “In-use paradigm as a methodological option for heritage continuum in and after the Anthropocene.” 5th biennial conference of the Association of Critical Heritage Studies (ACHS), University College, London, UK. 23 – 30 August 2020.
- “Identity, duality, hybridity - epistemic valences in post-colonial Africa.” Biennial Conference of the Society for Cultural Anthropology and Society for Visual Anthropology, University of Toronto, Canada. 7 - 9 May 2020. (presented with Ugwu, C.; Agbo, G. E. and D. Odugu).
- “Place/material, discovery and discourse in Africa: questioning ‘Our’ power in the neoliberal regime of heritage studies.” African Archaeology Research Day (AARD), Institute of Archaeology, University College, London, UK, 9 November 2019.
- “Igbo heritage ontologies in the Anthropocene: perspectives on epistemic reconciliation for heritage futures.” International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) University Forum Workshop organised by the UNESCO World Heritage Chair on Heritage Futures at Linnaeus University, Sweden in collaboration with the ICOMOS International and the University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands. 11 – 14 June 2019.
- “Colonial legacy and the crisis of values in sustainable forest resource management in Nigeria, the need for indigenous knowledge paradigm.” 1st International Conference of the Africanity Scholars Network (AfriScoN), University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria. 9 – 13 December 2018. (presented with Onyekuru, N. A. and C. Ugwu).
- “Time-space politics and heritagisation in Africa: understanding where to begin decolonisation.” 4th Biannual conference of the Association of Critical Heritage Studies (ACHS), Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China. 1 – 6 September 2018.
- “‘Human-nature offspringing’: indigenous thoughts on posthuman heritage.” 4th Biannual conference of the Association of Critical Heritage Studies (ACHS), Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China, 1 – 6 September 2018.
- “Ethnography and the insider/outsider disparity – rethinking community engagement in heritage studies.” Arts and Humanity Research Council (AHRC) and Association of Critical Heritage Studies (ACHS) UK chapter, British Academy, London, UK, 4 – 6 October 2017.

- “‘We live in the past’: heritage, ‘Igbo calendar’ and variegations among the Igbo of Nigeria.” International Conference for PhD Candidates in Humanities and Cultural Studies, International Promovieren in Wupetal (IPIW) and Bergischen Universitat Wupertal, Germany, 26 – 29 September 2017.
- “Hegemonic archaeology and public exclusion in heritage management in Nigeria: an historical analysis.” World Archaeological Congress (WAC-8), Kyoto, Japan, 28 August – 2 September 2016. (presented with John Schofield).
- “Liberating archaeology and heritage in Africa: meeting the needs of today through an empowerment approach.” 23rd International Congress of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAFA), Toulouse, France, 26 June – 2 July 2016. (presented with Ashton Sinamai).
- “Institutional framework for tourism: a critique of Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC).” 3rd World Research Summit for Tourism and Hospitality and 1st USA-China Tourism Research Summit, UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management, Orlando, Florida, USA, 15-19 December 2015. (presented with Peter Dieke and Chidozie S. Agu).
- “Heritage, memory and identity: the unabating crisis of patrimony and its implications on tourism development in Nsukka Igbo, Nigeria.” 2nd Annual Conference of the Association for Tourism Development in Nigeria (ATDiN), University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria. 7-9 September 2014.
- “‘Dying with dignity’: perspectives on euthanasia among the Igbo of southeastern Nigeria.” School of General Studies Conference, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria, 22-25 April 2013. (presented with Bright C. Alozie).
- “Extraction of wood for fuel: a threat to landscape conservation in Nigeria.” 20th Annual Conference of the Archaeological Association of Nigeria (ANN), University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria, 21-24 November 2010. (presented with Edmond I. Itanyi).

WORKSHOP AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- “Research proposal writing and grant management”. Organised by the Nigeria’s Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) and the University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany. 22-26 March 2022.
- “Doing public/community archaeology in Igbo Ukwu, Nigeria”. Organised by the Department of Archaeology/McDonald Institute, University of Cambridge. 20 June 2019.
- “Heritage Encounters”. Organised by the Association of Critical Heritage Studies, UK Chapter (ACHS-UK), University of Newcastle. 3 - 4 July 2018.
- “Publishing research through the media”. Organised by the White Rose College of Arts & Humanities and University of York, UK. 6 February 2018.
- “Policy engagement training for historians: government and beyond”. Organised by the WRoCAH and the Midlands3Cities AHRC DTP. Sheffield, UK. 12 January 2018.
- “Arts and Activism”. Organised by the White Rose College of the Arts and Humanities (WRoCAH) and Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). Nottingham, UK. 25 November 2015.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN MEDIA

- “Why stolen objects being returned to Africa don’t belong just to museums - podcast”. *The Conversation Weekly* podcast, 10 November 2022. <https://theconversation.com/why-stolen-objects-being-returned-to-africa-dont-belong-just-in-museums-podcast-194273>.

“Preserving Benin’s Artefacts and Restitution”. *Arise News*, 18 October 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-1pBU8ebEdw>.

“Ancient village arenas remain a central force in Igbo life. Here’s why”. *The Conversation*, 5 December 2018. <https://theconversation.com/ancient-village-arenas-remain-a-central-force-in-igbo-life-heres-why-106791>.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Undergraduate Courses

ACH151-Introduction to Heritage Studies.
 ACH162-Introduction to Museum Studies
 ACH102-Theories and Methods I.
 ACH152-Managing Cultural Heritage Places.
 ACH104-Public Archaeology.
 ACH325-Ethnography of Africa.
 ACH442-Museum Administration.
 ACH445-Cultural Resource Management.
 ACH404-Interpretation of Data

Postgraduate Courses

ACT521/Archy0512-Fieldwork in Archaeology
 ACT533-Environmental Arch. & Climate Change
 Archy0532-Museum Management (fieldwork)

External Service

Research Fellow, Environment for Development, EfD Nigeria Centre. March 2022 – present.

Editorial Board Member, *Studies in Contemporary and Historical Archaeology in Theory* book series published as part of the British Archaeological Report (BAR) series of monograph. October 2020 - present.

Co-editor, *Journal of African Cultural Heritage Studies* (JACHS). October 2016 - present.

Coordinator, Council of Mentors, Enugu State Scholarship and Education Loans Board (ESSELB), Enugu State, Nigeria. October 2020 - present.

Member of the board of trustees, Charly Mba Educational Foundation, Nigeria. December 2020 - present.

Founder, member of the board of trustees and pioneer secretary, Africity Scholars Network (AfriScoN). November 2016 – present.

Manuscript Reviewer: *International Journal of Heritage Studies* (IJHS); *Ikenga: International Journal of Institute of African Studies*; *Human Geography*.

Research Associate, AHRC’s [Re]Entanglements project by the University of Cambridge and SOAS, University of London, September 2018 – April 2021.

Member of the four men pioneer founder, ex-officio member of the EXCO (2019 - 2021), Welfare Officer (2017 - 2019), and Chair of the 2017 and 2018 convention planning committee, University of Nigeria Alumni Association, United Kingdom (UNAA-UK).

Member, Editing Team, World Archaeological Congress (WAC-8) Conference submissions, Kyoto, Japan. August – September 2016.

Group Coordinator, state contingent to the Abuja International Carnival, Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, Enugu State, Nigeria. Every November 2007 – 2009 and 2011.

Secretary, planning committee for the *Odinana Ndi* Igbo Cultural and Traditional Festival, Oba, Anambra State, Nigeria. July 2008.

Internal Service

University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Coordinator, postgraduate studies, Department of Archaeology and Tourism, University of Nigeria.
August 2021 – September 2022.

Editorial Board Member, *Nsukka Journal of the Humanities*. Dec. 2021 - August 2022

Member, Senate Committee on Examination, University of Nigeria. September 2021 - August 2022.

Chair, Committee on Departmental 2nd Multidisciplinary Conference, University of Nigeria. 2022.

Secretary, Faculty of Arts research ethics committee. September 2020 - August 2022.

Chair, Faculty of Arts committee on research grant/fellowship/scholarship. June 2020 - August 2022.

Member, University ad-hoc committee on the establishment of Creative Leather Institute and Leather Development Centre. July 2020.

Member, University delegation to the University of York (October 2018), University of Northampton and University of Nottingham (October 2019), United Kingdom to discuss research and academic collaborations.

Chair, Departmental result committee (examination officer). November 2012 - May 2015.

Member, Faculty Committee on conference/seminar/workshop. 2014 - 2015.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATION

Association of Critical Heritage Studies (ACHS global and UK chapter)

International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS International and Nigeria Committee)

College Arts Association (CAA)

Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAFA)

West African Archaeological Association (WAAA)

Archaeological Association of Nigeria (AAN)

Africanity Scholars Network (AfriScoN)

LANGUAGE COMPETENCIES

English: Fluent; Igbo: Native Speaker Fluency; Hausa: Basic Competence

REFERENCES

To be provided on demand.