

# Curriculum Vitae

## *John Olatunde Uwa*

Academic/Research Fellow |Mountain Top University| Magoro- Ogun State| Nigeria | E-mail: [uwa.jmo@gmail.com](mailto:uwa.jmo@gmail.com) GSM+234 8038815379

### **Research Profile**

My research interests, within the boundless field of literature, have been focused on theorising the production and reception of popular entertainment forms, documenting how historic and allied entertainment forms reinvent themselves across medialities and make themselves available for contemporary scholarship. With a PhD on the “Transformation and Transmediation of Nigerian Popular Drama,” and research trajectories in popular entertainment, my expertise is niched within the larger frame of contemporary media culture, and more specifically in digital literature, literary theories, literary anthropology and popular drama. In achieving this niche, I analyse stand-up performances in Nigeria using interpretive tools common to literary stylistics, anthropology, ethnography and digital media. I seek to provide newer theoretical/methodological frameworks for evaluating popular entertainment forms that have either fallen under the radar in the criticism of Africa literature or have been considered as non-literary, but are now taking over spaces that were exclusive to mainstream literary forms. My other specific research interests are in literary theory, literary stylistics, and gender studies.

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

<b>Degree/Institution</b>	<b>Date</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PhD English (Literature) University of Lagos</li></ul>	Dec. 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advance Research Methodology (Cert. Course) NatCen Research Institute, London</li></ul>	March 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Master of Arts in English (Lit.) University of Lagos. Lagos, Nigeria</li></ul>	January 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bachelor of Arts in English Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma, Edo, Nigeria</li></ul>	June 2006

### **THESES**

- **PhD:** Transformation and Transmediation of Nigerian Popular Drama: The Agency of Nigerian Stand-up Comedy (2021)
- **M.A:** Socio-Political Issues in Ayi Kwei Armah’s *Why Are We So Blest?* and Ken Saro

Wiwa's *Sozaboy* (2011)

- **B.A:** Themes in the Literature of African Americans: A Study of Richard Wright's *Black Boy*, Claude McKay's 'If We Must Die' and Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon* (2004)

## **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

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<b>Designation</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Date</b>
• Lecturer 1	Mountain Top University, Ogun State	2023
• Researcher Fellow	Institute. of African and Diaspora Studies University of Lagos	2022-2023
• Research Assistant	Merve Fejzula, Project: "Nigerian Negritude, 1947-77, University of Missouri	2021-2022
• Project Researcher	"The Cultural Politics of Dirt in Africa, 1880-present" Principal Investigator: Stephanie Newell) Yale University	2015-2017
• Project Researcher	DirtPol "The Cultural Politics of Dirt in Africa, 1880-present" European Research Council Senior Investigator Award, Sept 2013 (AdG. 323343, PI Stephanie Newell) Univ. of Sussex)	2013-2015
• Graduate Assistant	University of Lagos	2012-2013

## **SPECIALISATION**

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- **Literary Anthropology , Cultural Studies & Media/Popular Culture**
  - Popular Drama
  - Digital Literature
  - Literary Stylistics
  - Literary Theories

## **TEACHING/ RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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- **Lecturer/Project Supervision:** Presently, I teach literature and Language courses in the Department of English, Mountain Top University, Ogun State. Some of the courses are: Poetry: Forms, Convention and Techniques, Introduction to Prose Fiction, Literary Appreciation, Oral African Literature, Advance English Composition and General Studies (GST). I am also the course adviser to 200 level students of the English department.
- **DirtPol Project Researcher/Cultural Archivist:** DirtPol was an ambitious project which **search Associate:** I worked as a researcher at the Institute of African and Diaspora Studies, University of Lagos where I provided theoretical, methodological and evaluative support to research teams investigating aspects of African knowledge within the fields of aesthetics, religion, art and culture. The kind of research support I provide comes from a deep and sustained experience gained while working as a project researcher across funded research projects at Yale University, Kenyatta University and

the University of Sussex, over a period of 4 years.

- **Undergraduate Instructor:** I have had experience teaching courses in the Use of English and General Studies at undergraduate level. As an instructor, I was also involved in the grading of exam scripts and term papers using a recommended grading system.
- **Project Supervision:** In the last 3 years I have assisted with the supervision of undergraduate projects. My duty is to guide students in reframing their topics to reflect their thoughts, recommend relevant texts, guide students in the structure of their thesis, and play the role of peer reviewer.
- **Private Instructor to Masters Students:** Based on the recommendation from senior faculty, I have acted as private instructor to postgraduate students who were challenged by the rigour of the Master's Programme. My duty is to help students, through group discussion, to stimulate and shape their analytical skills as demanded by the programme. A prominent aspect of this exercise is to help graduate students understand and apply the deeper imports of classical ideas of literature, and how those ideas have come to shape contemporary thoughts about literary studies.
- **Examiner:** I have been a member of a team of examiners in an annual national essay competition among secondary schools in Nigeria. Part of my brief as an examiner has been to check for plagiarism, mark the essays, study the trends in the performances between students of public and private schools, and between male and female students, and make recommendations to the schools through the organisers of the competition.

## ASSOCIATION/MEMBERSHIP

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| • Literary Society of Nigeria                 | Member |
| • American Comparative Literature Association | Member |
| • African Studies Association                 | Member |
| • Lagos Studies Association                   | Member |

## HONOURS/AWARDS

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- 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up in Rahman Bellow Award for Best PhD Thesis in African Studies (2022)
- Recipient of IADS African Cluster Centre (ACC) Doctoral Scholarship Award 2021
- Recipient of Delta State Postgraduate Scholarship Award 2010
- Recipient of NYSC State Honours Award for Best-Passing-out Corp Member 2007

## SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

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### International

- John Uwa. "The Text and Textual Fields of African Popular Literature: The Agency of Nigerian Stand-Up Comedy". *African Literature Today*. Vol. 40, 2022, pg. 145-155.

- John Uwa. “Griot Dramatic Performance in Urhobo Land: From Igbesia/Otota to Nigerian Stand-up Comedy”. *ARIDON: The International Journal of Urhobo Studies*. Eds. Tanure Ojaide, G.G Darah and Rose Aziza. No. 2&3, 2022. Pg 177-191
- John Uwa. “Anthroliterary Discovery of a Novel Form in Nigeria: *Itan Igbesi-Aiye Emi ‘Segilola, Eleyin’ju Ege’* & the Re-Reading of Print Culture, Events & Images in the First Nigerian Novel”. *African Literature Today*. Vol. 37, 2019, 104-116.
- John Uwa. “Transcultural Tension and the Politics of Sewage Management In (Post) Colonial Lagos.” *Social Dynamics: A Journal of African Studies*. Vol. 44, 2018, 221–238.
- Stephanie Newell et al. “Dirty Methods as Ethical Methods? In the Field with Cultural Politics of Dirt in Africa, 1880-Present: Methodological and Ethical Challenges”. *Routledge International Handbook of Interdisciplinary Methods*, eds. Celia Lury et al. London and NY: Routledge, 2018, 248–265.
- John Uwa. “Christianising Death, Animating an Ideology: Structuralist Reading of *Death, Not A Redeemer*”. In *Theory and in Practice: Engaging the Writings of Hope Eghagha*. Ed. Oloko, Patrick. Houston: African Diaspora Press, 2015, 75–88.

### National

- “John Uwa. The Politics of ‘Allah’ or the ‘Allah’ of Politics?: Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria”. *LARES: Lagos Review of English Studies* (Forthcoming 2023)
- John Uwa. “Between Chinua Achebe and Sigmund Freud: Theoretical Contradictions and Coincidences of Psychosexual Determinants and Culture in Nigeria”. *Nigerian English in Linguistic, Literary and other Perspectives*. Eds. Anyokwu C. Shodipe M. and Anyagwa C. (Forthcoming 2023).
- John Uwa. “Beyond the Limit of Culture, Within the Enclave of Disgust: Prostitution and Polygyny in Africa”. *Functional Approaches to Language and Literary Studies: Essays in Honour of Segun Awonusi*. Eds. Adepoju B. & Anyagwa C. Univ. Press Ibadan, 2022, 511–523.
- John Uwa. “The Role of Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) in the Commercialisation of Nigerian Stand-up Comedy”. *Language and Literary Studies in Society*. Eds. Ushie G, Inyabiri I & Ebim A. University of Lagos Press, 2022, 1119–1131.
- Afolayan B.F & John Uwa. “Reader-Response Theory”. *Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism, a Student-friendly Approach*. Ed. Abiodun Adeniji, University of Lagos Press, 2021, 129–143.
- John Uwa. “The Theory of Remediation”. *Linguistic and Literary Theories: An Empirical Exploration*. Ed. Babatunji Adepoju. Ife: Obafemi Awolowo University Press, 2020, 349–375.

- John Uwa. “Eruvbetinean Humanistic Approach to Pedagogy and Literary Criticism: An Interview with Five Critics in Honour of Prof. A.E Eruvbetine”. *Literature, Language and the Human Essence*. Essays in Honour Professor Eruvbetine Ed. Augustine Nwagbara. UEW Printing Press 2019.
- John Uwa. “A Thing Greater Than Nte Had Been Caught in Nte’s Trap: The Consequences of Leadership Complacency in Chinua Achebe’s *Arrow of God*.” *Arrows or Gods? Essays on the Leadership Question in Chinua Achebe’s Arrow of God*. Eds Joseph Ushie and Denja Abdullahi. A Publication of Association of Nigerian Authors. Ibadan: Kraft Books, 2017, 132–149.
- John Uwa. “Griotization and (Re)Structuring of the African Novel: Form, Techniques and Style in Achebe’s Creative Works”. *Okike: An African Journal of New Writing*. No, 52, Nov. 2014, 200–215..
- John Uwa. “*I Just Dey Joke*” The Emergent Nigerian Theatre and the Poetics of Subversion”. Eds Charles Nnolim, Akachi Ezeigbo and Ngozi Chuma-Udeh. *Language, Literature and National Consciousness*. Onitsha: Devine Publishers, 2013, 247–253.

## **BOOK REVIEWS**

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- John Uwa. “Towards a Paradigmatic Canvas for (Re)Negotiating Human Relation and Behaviour.” A Review of Winfried Menninghaus’ *Disgust- Theory and History of Strong Sensation*. 2015 (Online) <http://blogs.sussex.ac.uk/dirtpol/2015/04/13/>
- John Uwa. “Blogging the Caine Prize: Segun Afolabi’s ‘*The Folded Leaf*.’” A Review of Segun Afolabi’s *Folded Leaf*. *Africa in Words*, 2015. (Online) <https://africanwords.com/2015/06/26/blogging-the-caine-prize-segun-afolabis-the-folded-leaf/>
- John Uwa. “Aesthetic Appeals in Contemporary Nigerian Poetry.” A Review of Akachi Ezeigbo’s *Dancing Mask*. *The Nation*, Vol. (1) and (2), March 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014, pp. 140. (Online) <https://thenationonlineng.net/aesthetic-appeals-in-contemporary-nigerian-poetry/> <https://thenationonlineng.net/aesthetic-appeals-contemporary-nigerian-poetry-2/>

## **PAPERS ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION**

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- John Uwa. “Radicalisation or De-Radicalisation? A Post-Feminist Re-Reading of Activism and Power Relation in Akachi Ezeigbo’s *Roses and Bullets* and Chimamanda

Adichie's *Purple Hibiscus*." Ed. Patrick Oloko. *The Fiction of Akachi Adimora Ezeigbo*. Cambridge Scholar 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.

- John Uwa. " 'Complementarity' and 'Snail Sense': A Post-Feminist Interrogation of the Theory and Practice of Feminism in Africa". Literary Society of Nigeria..

## **WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS/CONFERENCES**

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- International Conference of Sanitation Workers Forum on "*Global Histories of Sanitation Work*." 29<sup>th</sup> Nov. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec. 2021 (Virtual)  
**Paper Presented:** "The Histories and Politics of Sanitary Policies in Precolonial, Colonial and Postcolonial Nigeria."
- Institute of African and Diaspora Graduate Conference, Lagos ACC Graduate Conference, "Studying Contemporary Africa: Politics, Society and Decoloniality". Sept. 22-24, 2021  
**Paper Presented:** "What is Entertaining About my Social Experience?": Anthroliterary Theory of Everyday Life in Nigerian Popular Drama."
- Lagos Studies Association Zoom Conference. Session 1A (June 24, 2021) 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM: "Author Meets Readers: Engaging Histories of Dirt: Media and Urban Life in Colonial and Postcolonial Lagos by Stephanie Newell (Duke University Press, 2020)."  
**Participation:** Respondent
- African Study Association ASA, 64<sup>TH</sup> Annual Conference on "Re-Centering Africa: Resistance and Renewal in a World Beyond Covid-19", 2021 (Online)  
**Panel theme:** "Toward a New Africanist Moral Economy in the Wake of the Pandemic: Redefining Research Norms."  
**Paper Presented:** "Frozen by Print, Defrosted by Digital: Rethinking the History of Print Cultures and Popular Entertainments from Global South."
- International Webinar On African Literature, Orature and Culture. Organised by Department of English, Rishi Bankim Chandra College, India. 22-23 August 2020.  
**Paper Presented:** " 'If You Want to Marry this Girl, You Must Wait Until I am no More': Oedipus, or Superiority Complex in Chinua Achebe's *No Longer at Ease*?"
- DirtPol Conference – Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, United States of America. Nov. 2016.

***Paper Presented:*** “The Politics of Sewage Management in (Post) Colonial Lagos.”

- DirtPol Workshop – Mediating Waste: Media & the Management of Waste in Lagos. University of Lagos, March 16 2016.

***Paper Presented:*** “Sewage Management in Colonial Lagos.”

- International Conference On Sexuality And Culture In Postcolonial Africa. The Institute of African Studies University of Nigeria Nsukka, In Collaboration With Centre For Black And African Arts And Civilization (CBAAC) Date: November 20–22, 2015.

***Paper Presented:*** “Between Prostitution and Polygyny in Africa: Beyond the Limits of Culture.”

- International Conference on the Literary Achievements of Chinua Achebe. Godfrey Okoye University, Enugu, 2014.

***Paper Presented:*** “Between Achebe, Freud and Jung: Theoretical Contradictions and Coincidences of Psychosexual Forces.”

- 50 Years Of Arrow Of God: International Colloquium On Literature, Leadership And National Unity. Lagos Symposium, University Of Lagos, 16 April 2014.

***Paper Presented:*** “A Thing Greater Than Nte Had Been Caught in Nte’s Trap”: Leadership, Complacency and Consequences.”

- International Conference on Language Literature and National Consciousness. Department of English, Anambra State University, Igbariam. 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2012.

***Paper Presented:*** “The Emergent Nigerian Theatre and the Poetics of Subversion.”

## **REFEREES**

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- **Professor Patrick Oloko** – Department of English, University of Lagos +234 (0) 8023 212 000 [p\\_oloko@yahoo.com](mailto:p_oloko@yahoo.com)
- **Professor Hope Eghagha** – Department of English University of Lagos +234 (0) 806 325 9454 [heghagha@yahoo.com](mailto:heghagha@yahoo.com)
- **Professor Stephanie Newell** – MacMillan Centre for International and Area Studies and English Department, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut +1 203-432-2233 [stephanie.newell@yale.edu](mailto:stephanie.newell@yale.edu)