

# OLUBUKOLA OLAYIWOLA

School of World Studies  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
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## **RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

Economic anthropology; applied anthropology; the anthropology of policy, the anthropology of development, complex organizations, the anthropology of ethnicity, women, and gender, transnational feminisms, anthropological political economy, the anthropology of disability, microfinancialization and sustainability, the informal economy and entrepreneurial practices, and West Africa.

## **EDUCATION**

|            |                                                                       |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ph.D. 2020 | University of South Florida (Anthropology) & Grad Cert in WGSS (2022) |
| M.A. 2014  | University of Ibadan (Anthropology)                                   |
| B.A. 2010  | University of Ibadan (Anthropology)                                   |

## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

|                |                                                                                                                 |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2026 – Present | Adjunct Instructor, the School of World Studies, Virginia Commonwealth University.                              |
| 2026 – Present | Adjunct Lecturer of Anthropology, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Richmond.             |
| 2022 – 2026    | Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Richmond. |
| 2020 – 2022    | Adjunct Faculty, Judy Genshaft Honors College, U of South Florida.                                              |
| 2018 (Spring)  | Instructor and Teaching Associate, Department of Anthropology, U of South Florida.                              |

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

|             |                                                                                 |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2016 – 2020 | Wadsworth International Fellow, Wenner-Gren Foundation (USA).                   |
| 2016 – 2020 | Teaching Assistantship, Department of Applied Anthropology, U of South Florida. |

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|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2016        | Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa Fellowship Program, Social Science Research Council (USA).                    |
| 2016        | Funmi-Adewole Foundation, Chicago (USA).                                                                                |
| 2013        | Oyo State Scholarship Award (Nigeria).                                                                                  |
| 2009 – 2010 | Best 400-level Student, Award of Recognition by Archaeology & Anthropology Students' Association, University of Ibadan. |
| 2008 – 2009 | Oyo State Scholarship Award (Nigeria).                                                                                  |
| 2007        | AOOF Sponsorship Scholarship for Superior Academic Achievement and Outstanding Service to the Community (Nigeria).      |

### **GRANTS AND RESEARCH FUNDING**

|      |                                                                          |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2024 | The A&S Faculty Scholarship, University of Richmond (\$2,456.90)         |
| 2023 | The A&S Faculty Scholarship, University of Richmond (\$2000)             |
| 2019 | Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Completion Grant (\$17,500).         |
| 2018 | Wadsworth International Fellow Grant (\$17,500).                         |
| 2017 | Wadsworth International Fellow Grant (\$16,250).                         |
| 2017 | The University of South Florida Student Government Travel Grant (\$500). |
| 2016 | Wadsworth International Fellow Grant (\$12,507).                         |
| 2016 | The U of South Florida Department of Anthropology Travel Grant (\$150).  |
| 2016 | Funmi-Adewole Foundation Travel Support (\$1000).                        |

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### ***JOURNAL ARTICLES, BOOK CHAPTERS (\*Peer Reviewed)***

|       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2025* | ““Having Experience of What to Do to Succeed”: Unsettling Neoliberalism Through the Lived Experiences of Microcredit Trader-Borrowers in Ibadan.” <i>Economic Anthropology</i> (2025): e70012.” <a href="http://doi.org/10.1002/sea2.70012">http://doi.org/10.1002/sea2.70012</a> |
| 2023  | “Making sense of animist philosophies: Enhancing spirituality and religious freedom through the practice of prayer mountain visit.” In <i>Human Rights, Religious Freedom and Spirituality: Perspectives from the Dharmic and Indigenous Cultures</i> , edited by Pathak,         |

Yashwant, and Adit Adityanjee, 262-67. MH Bharat: Official Publication of Bhishma School of Indic Studies.

- 2022\* (with Rachael Pierotti and Sophia Friedson-Ridenour) “Women farm what they can manage: How time constraints affect the quantity and quality of labor for married women’s agricultural production in southwestern Nigeria.” *World Development*, Vol. 152: 105800.
- 2021\* “Microcredit schemes of tension: Women and the economic violence of credit mobilization in Ibadan, Nigeria” *Research in Economic Anthropology*, Vol. 41: 97-114.  
<https://doi.org/10.1108/S0190-128120210000041005>
- 2020\* “*Placing our breasts on a hot kerosene lantern*”: *A Critical Study of Microfinancialization in the Lives of Women in the Informal Sector in Ibadan, Nigeria*. PhD diss., University of South Florida.
- 2018\* “When practices of inclusivity-exclusivity become a strategy: Igbo ethnic identity and the building materials’ trade in Ibadan, southwest Nigeria.” *ABD: An Interdisciplinary Student Journal*, Vol. 5 (2018): 51-62.
- 2015 “Culture and Informal Marketing.” In *Engaging the Future in the Present: Issues in Culture and Philosophy*, edited by A. J. Ademowo and T. D. Oladipo, 86-92. Ibadan: Hope Publications.

#### **POLICY BRIEFS, REPORTS, AND NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

- 2023\* (with Sophia Friedson-Ridenour, Paola Gonzalez, Rachael S. Pierotti, and Clara Delavallade) “Finding the Time and Labor to Farm: How Social Dynamics Drive Gender Differences in Agricultural Labor in Southern Nigeria.” *Gender Innovation Lab* (The World Bank Report, March).  
<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099201503142345362/pdf/P1660820a180530c90adcf00e32ffd8d47b.pdf>  
<http://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/africa-gender-innovation-lab>
- 2022\* “Understanding gender-based structural violence in microfinancialization: reflections from Ibadan” *Society for Applied Anthropology Gender-Based Violence Topical Interest Group* (August).  
<https://appliedanthro.org/news/tigs-committees/gender-based-violence-gbv-tig-2/>

#### **WORKS UNDER REVIEW/IN PROGRESS**

(with Sarah Rubin) “Owo Komulelanta: Maternal Embodiment and the Loud Critique of Microfinance in Southwestern Nigeria”  
Article Submitted to *American Ethnology* (March 2026)

“The fear of loan drive”: Gender-based violence in the lives of women borrowers in Ibadan.

## **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

### ***CONFERENCE***

- 2026 Decolonial pathways: Where is economic anthropology in the journey from macroeconomic growth to the everyday life of microeconomic gains? A paper presented at the AfAA-Ibadan Conference, Ibadan, Nigeria (July 2 – 4)
- 2026 Ties to land/home: Imagining context shifting and sentiments in the anthropology of dwelling. A poster presentation at the Society for Economic Anthropology Conference, Fort Collin, CO. (April 2026).
- 2024 “Whose stories count?: A reflection about praxis and applied anthropology.” A paper presented at the American Anthropological Association, Tampa, FL. (November 20 – 23).
- 2023 “Visible yet not seen: A glimpse of albinism and microlending schemes in Southwest Nigeria.” A work-in-progress paper presentation at the A&S Faculty Symposium, U of Richmond, Virginia. (September 22).
- 2022 Olubukola Olayiwola. *“Having experience of what to do to catch up”*: Unsettling neoliberalism through the lived experiences of microcredit loans borrowers in Ibadan.” Presented at the American Anthropological Association, Seattle, WA. (Nov. 9 – 12).
- 2022 “Gender-based structural violence and microfinancialization in everyday life: Engaging the lived experiences of women borrowers in southwestern Nigeria.” Presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Feminist Research Colloquium, USF Department of Women’s & Gender Studies (April 25).
- 2021 “The fear of loan drive”: Gender-based violence in the lives of women borrowers in Ibadan.” Presented at the Society for Applied Anthropology 2021 Annual Meeting (March 23-27).
- 2021 Clientelism and Patronage: Reevaluating Financial Inclusion in Nigeria.” Presented at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference of the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, U of Ibadan. (September 21 - 23).
- 2017 “When practices become a strategy: The Igbo ethnic identity and building materials’ trade in Ibadan, southwest Nigeria.” Presented at the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium of The USF Institute on Black Life and the Center for Africa and the Diaspora. (February 9).
- 2017 “Women and the economic violence of microcredit mobilization in southwest Nigeria.” Presented at the 116<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, (November 28 - December 3).

### ***CAMPUS VISIT***

- 2025 “Microlending and Borrowing in Ibadan, Nigeria: An Applied Anthropological Investigation of Borrowers with Albinism.” Presented at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Spelman College. (February 14).

- 2025 “Microlending and Borrowing in Ibadan, Nigeria: An Applied Anthropological Study of the Informal Economy.” Presented at the Department of History and Interdisciplinary Studies, Norfolk State University. (April 17).

### ***RADIO/PUBLIC TALK***

- 2018 “Engaging applied anthropology in problem-solving: The informal sector, ethnic identity, microlending and women in the context of national development in Nigeria.” A discussion series on Bull Radio, University of South Florida (February).

### ***GUEST LECTURES***

- 2022 (Spring) “Microfinancialization and livelihood sustenance: An ethnographic study in Ibadan, Nigeria.” Guest Lecture in ANTH3070 Peoples & Cultures of Africa in the Department of Anthropology, California State University, Stanislaus, Turlock, California.
- 2021 Microfinancialization and everyday life in Nigeria: The lived experiences of women borrowers. Sponsored by the Department of Anthropology, Center for African Studies, and African Studies Program, Central Connecticut State University (October 28).
- 2020 (Spring) “Economic anthropology and women in the informal economy.” Peoples & Cultures of Africa (ANTH 3070), Department of Anthropology, California State University, Stanislaus, Turlock, California.
- 2019 (Spring) “Anthropology and the informal economy.” Guest Lecture, cultural anthropology class, Department of Social Sciences and Physical Education, Valencia College, Orlando, Florida.
- 2018 (Spring) “Women in the informal economy/sector in Southwest Nigeria: Ethnic identity, microfinance, and microcredit.” Applied anthropology (ANT 4701, USF).
- 2018 (Fall) “Applying ethnographic methods in marketplaces.” Cultural anthropology class, Department of Social Sciences and Physical Education, Valencia College, Orlando, Florida.

### **RESEARCH AND FIELD EXPERIENCE**

- 2023 – 2025 The Lived Experience of Albinism in Microlending and Borrowing.
- 2018 – 2020 Gender Impact Evaluation and Agricultural Labor (Nigeria).
- 2017 – 2019 A Critical Study of Microfinancialization in the Lives of Women in the Informal Sector (Southwest Nigeria).
- 2016 Impact Evaluation of Vitamin A Cassava Project (Nigeria).

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|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2016        | Lagos Trader Survey/Harvard and Yale Okrika Trader Survey (Nigeria/Benin Republic/Togo). |
| 2015        | Post-Election Audit Research (Nigeria).                                                  |
| 2014 – 2015 | Strengthening Citizens' Engagement in Electoral Processes (Nigeria).                     |
| 2009 – 2012 | Monitoring and Evaluation of MDGs Projects (Nigeria).                                    |

### **COURSES TAUGHT**

Virginia Commonwealth University, School of World Studies

- Introduction to Anthropology (ANT 103)

University of Richmond, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

- Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (ANTH 101)
- Money and Survival in West Africa (ANTH 379)
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation (FYS 100)

Hillsborough Community College, Florida.

- Introduction to Anthropology (ANT 2000)

Judy Genshaft Honors College, University of South Florida (USF).

- Global Perspectives of Financialization (IDH 4200)
- Acquisition of Knowledge (IDH 2010)

Department of Anthropology, University of South Florida.

- Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (ANT2410)

### **COURSES AS GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT**

|         |                                                            |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| ANT2410 | Cultural Anthropology (5 Semesters in person), USF.        |
| ANT4030 | Theories of Culture (3 Semesters in person), USF.          |
| ANT4930 | Anthropology of Africa (1 Semester in person), USF.        |
| ANT2000 | Introduction to Anthropology (2 Semesters in person), USF. |
| ANT4701 | Applied Anthropology (1 Semester in person), USF.          |
| ANT4462 | Health, Illness and Culture (1 Semester online), USF.      |
| ANT3610 | Linguistic Anthropology (1 Semester online), USF.          |

### **OTHER EMPLOYMENT**

#### ***RESEARCH EMPLOYMENT AND CONSULTANCY***

|             |                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2018 – 2020 | Research Associate and Short-Term Consultant, the World Bank.<br><u>Project:</u> Gender Impact Evaluation and Agricultural Labor Study.<br><u>Responsibilities:</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

- Participated in project design.
  - Developed an iterative approach to generate qualitative data collection.
  - Trained research assistants on relevant methods of data collection
  - Developed and submitted the complete project report.
  - Contributed to a co-authored peer-reviewed paper.
- 2016
- Researcher, Harvest-Plus Nigeria (in conjunction with the IITA and IFPRI)  
Project: Impacts of Vitamin A Cassava.  
Responsibilities:
- Participated in methodology development meetings/training.
  - Involved in pilot surveys.
  - Participated in the main data collection (mixed methods).
  - Led data collection team.
  - Developed/submitted complete field note/report to the PI.
- 2015
- Consultant/State Enumerator, Post-Election Audit Research, Action-Aid Nigeria.  
Responsibilities:
- Conducted FGDs among major stakeholders.
  - Carried out key informant interviews across LGAs in Oyo state.
- 2014 – 2015
- Program Facilitator, Action Aid Nigeria in conjunction with Information Aid Network of Ibadan.  
Project: ‘Strengthening Citizens’ Engagement in Electoral Processes’ project.  
Responsibilities:
- Participated in methodology development workshop.
  - Facilitated discussions with key stakeholders and groups.
  - Conducted role-play activities.
  - Organized town-square meetings among identified interest groups.
- 2010 – 2011
- Program Assistant, Socioeconomic Unit, Development Policy Centre, Ibadan.  
Responsibilities:
- Engaged in project report writing.
  - Trained in monitoring and evaluation.
  - Trained in social impact assessments.
  - Participated in M&E of MDGs Project for the Presidency (Nigeria).
- 2011
- Presiding Officer, Independent National Electoral Commission, Rijiwan-Giwa Polling Unit, Shendam, Plateau State, Nigeria.  
Responsibilities:
- Conducted election.
  - Collected electoral materials for the assigned polling unit.
  - Conducted headcount and electorates accreditation.
  - Counted ballot papers.
  - Managed the polling unit.

## **TRAINING, CERTIFICATION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

|             |                                                                                                         |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2023        | Certificate of Completion: Preventing Harassment & Discrimination: Gateway (Full Course, U of Richmond) |
| 2022        | Certificate of Completion: Early Career Faculty Seminar (U of Richmond).                                |
| 2021        | Certificate of Completion: Teaching Inclusive Sex Ed. (USF).                                            |
| 2020        | Certification: Python: Working with Predictive Analytics (LinkedIn).                                    |
| 2020        | Certification: Learning Excel Data Analysis (LinkedIn).                                                 |
| 2020        | Certification: Security Responsiveness (World Bank Group).                                              |
| 2020        | Certification: At-Risk for University and College Faculty and Staff (USA).                              |
| 2019        | World Education Services (USA).                                                                         |
| 2016        | Trainee: Academy for Teaching and Learning Excellence (USF).                                            |
| 2009 - 2010 | Research Trainee: Development Policy Center (DPC) (Nigeria).                                            |

## **COMPUTER APPLICATION SKILLS**

- Knowledge of computer skills like MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint presentations.
- Knowledge of teaching classes through computer software applications like Canvas, Blackboard Collaborate Ultra, Zoom, and MS Teams.
- Basic knowledge of data production/analysis software like SPSS, NVivo, and Dedoose.

## **SERVICES**

### ***ACADEMICS AND UNIVERSITY***

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2024 – 2026    | Co-Chair, SfAA, GBV-TIG<br><b><i>Society for Applied Anthropology, Gender-based Topical Interest Group</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 2025 – Present | Member, SEA Board<br><b><i>Society for Economic Anthropology</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2025 – Present | Co-Organizer, Radical Spotlights.<br><b><i>Radical Spotlights</i></b> is a series organized by the Society for Economic Anthropology (SEA) in the AAA (American Anthropological Association) and the Network Anthropology of Economy in the EASA (European Association of Social Anthropologists) devoted to spotlighting critical research in economic anthropology across the globe. |

2026 Co-Organizer, Association for Africanist Anthropology (AfAA-Ibadan 2026) Conference

***JOURNALS' REVIEWER POOL***

*World Development*

*Reviewer, Current Anthropology*

*Reviewer, Feminist Anthropology*

*Journal of the Community Development Society*

*African Geographical Review*

*International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship*

*Member, Editorial Board of the Department of Economics (NOUN)*

*Reviewer, Anthropology – Open Journal (ISSN 2473-4772)*

***COMMUNITY, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL***

2026 Election Officer (State of Virginia-Primary Election) Precinct 412, Richmond, Virginia (July)

2025 Election Officer (State of Virginia-Primary Election) Precinct 412, Richmond, Virginia (June)

2024 Ballot Officer (USA Presidential Election), Precinct 412, Richmond, Virginia. (November)

2012 Disaster Management Vanguard, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Nigeria

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Anthropological Association (AAA)

Society for Economic Anthropology (SEA)

Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA)

Society for Monitoring and Evaluation, Nigeria (SMEAN)

Gender-Based Violence-Topical Interest Group (GBV-SfAA)

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

Yoruba (fluent) and West African Pidgin (fluent)