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Department of Philosophy Kent State University

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Education

B.A., 1981, Philosophy, University of Ibadan, Nigeria (Best Graduating Student)

M.A., 1983, Philosophy, University of Ibadan, Nigeria (Post-Graduate Scholarship Award and Best Graduating Post-Graduate Student)

Ph.D., 1993, Philosophy, Wayne State University, Detroit, USA

Areas of Specialization

- Social and Political Philosophy
- Philosophy of Law
- Africana Philosophy
- Moral Philosophy
- Philosophy of Race and Racism
- Informal Logic, Argumentation, and Critical Thinking

Professional Academic Honor

2016 Kent State University Outstanding Research and Scholarship Award

Current and Prior Appointments, and Experience

August 2007 to date: Professor of Philosophy, Kent State University.

Spring 2009, Acting Chair, Department of Philosophy

2001—2004, Graduate Coordinator, Department of Philosophy.

August 2001—2007: Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, Kent State University.

August 1997—2001: Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Kent State University.

August 1993—May 1997, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Alverno College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA.

1985—1987, Lecturer II, Department of Philosophy, Bendel State University, Ekpoma, Nigeria.

1983—1985, Assistant Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, Bendel State University, Ekpoma, Nigeria.

Publications

Singly Authored Book

1. *Philosophical Perspectives on Communalism and Morality in African Traditions* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, April 2006), xi+329 pages.

Reviews:

- (i) *International Journal of African Studies*, Vol. 5, No. 2, 2007, pp. 141-146
- (ii) *Philosophy in Review*, Vol. 27, No. 2, April 2007, pp. 119-121.
- (iii) *Dialogue*, Vol. 49, No. 2-3, pp. 74-79
- (iv) *African American Review*, Vol. 41, No. 4, 2007, pp. 807-809
- (v) *Africa Today*, Vol. 54, No. 3, 2008, pp. 129-131
- (vi) *African Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 10, No. 1, Spring 2008, pp. 1-2
- (vii) *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, Vol. 26, No. 2, 2008, pp. 236-238
- (viii) *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, Vol. 44, No. 2, 2009, pp. 255-256

Edited Books

1. ***Symposia, Readings in Philosophy: Justice*** (Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing, 2001), v+170 pages, with "Introduction" to Text, and Introduction to each Reading.
2. ***Symposia, Readings in Philosophy: Democracy*** (Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing, 2001), v+174 pages, with "Introduction" to Text, and Introduction to each Reading.
3. ***Symposia, Readings in Philosophy: Libertarianism*** (Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing, 2001), v+182 pages, with "Introduction" to Text, and Introduction to each Reading.
4. ***Symposia, Readings in Philosophy: Legal Positivism*** (Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing, 2001), v+214 pages, with "Introduction" to Text, and Introduction to each Reading.
5. ***Symposia, Readings in Philosophy: Natural Law*** (Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing, 2001), v+218 pages, with "Introduction" to Text, and Introduction to each Reading.
6. ***Symposia, Readings in Philosophy: African Philosophy*** (Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing, 2001), v+173 pages, with "Introduction" to Text, and Introduction to each Reading.
7. Edwin Etieyibo and Polycarp Ikuenobe (eds.), ***Menkiti On Community and Becoming a Person*** (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2020), 278 pages.

Articles

1. "The State: Its Interference With Individual Rights and Liberties," ***IRORO: A Journal of the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences***, Bendel State University, Vol. 1, Nos 1 & 2, 1988, pp. 49-61.
2. "The Problem of the State and Religion: The Case of the Religious Violence and Conflict in Nigeria," ***International Third World Studies Journal and Review***, Vol. 4, No 2, 1992, pp. 99-108.
3. "African Aesthetics and the Music of Fela Anikolakpo Kuti: A Semiotic Analysis," ***The Literary Griot: International Journal of Black Expressive Cultural Studies***, Vol. 6, No. 2, Fall 1994, pp. 1- 13.
4. "Cognitive Relativism, African Philosophy, and the Phenomenon of Witchcraft," ***Journal of Social Philosophy***, Vol. 26, No. 3, Winter, 1995, pp. 143-160.
(A discussion by Heikki Saari, "On Believing in Witches," ***Philosophical Papers***, Vol. 30, No. 3, 2001, pp. 307-318.)
5. "An Examination of the Universalist Trend Regarding the Nature of African Philosophy," ***Journal of Social Philosophy***, Vol. 27, No. 2, Fall, 1996, pp. 187-203.
6. "The Parochial Universalist Conception of 'Philosophy' and 'African Philosophy',"

- Philosophy East & West**, Vol. 47, No. 2, April 1997, pp. 189-210.
7. "A Defense of Epistemic Authoritarianism in African Cultures," **Journal of Philosophical Research**, Vol. XXIII, 1998, pp. 417-440.
 8. "African and African-American Philosophies," (Course Design and Syllabus) **APA Newsletter on Black Experience in Philosophy**, Vol. 97, No. 2, Spring 1998, pp. 34-38.
 9. "Moral Education and Moral Reasoning in Traditional African Cultures," **Journal of Value Inquiry**, Vol. XXXII, No. 1, 1998, pp. 25-42.
(Reply by L. D. Keita, "A Reply to Ikuenobe: Moral Education and Moral Reasoning in Traditional African Cultures," **Journal of Value Inquiry**, Vol. 35, No. 1, 2001, pp. 113-117.)
 10. "Colonialism in Africa, Culturally Induced Moral Ignorance, and the Scope of Responsibility," **Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour**, Vol 28, No. 2, June 1998, pp. 109-128.
 11. "Cultural Particularism, Relativism, and Incommensurability," **Proceedings of the Ohio Philosophical Association Meeting**, April 1998, pp. 1-19.
 12. "In Search of Human Universality: Context and Justification in Cultural Philosophy," **Humanitas**, Vol. XI, No. 1, 1998, pp. 58-90.
 13. "Communitarianism, Liberalism, and an Epistemic View of Critical Thinking," **Inquiry: Critical Thinking Across the Disciplines**, Vol. XVIII, No. 1, Autumn 1998, pp. 73-91.
 14. "Moral Thought in African Cultures?: A Metaphilosophical Question," **African Philosophy**, Vol. 12, No. 2, 1999, pp. 105-123.
(A Discussion by Kola Abimbola "Spirituality and Applied Ethics: An African Perspective," **West African Review**, Vol. 3. No. 1, 2001).
 15. "Procedural Morality and Hart's Separation Thesis," **Proceedings of the Ohio Philosophical Association Meeting**, April 1999, pp. 13-31.
 16. "Internalism and the Rationality of African Metaphysical Beliefs," **African Philosophy**, Vol. 13, No. 2, 2000, pp. 125-142.
 17. "Is Begging the Question Really a Fallacy?" **Proceedings of the Ohio Philosophical Association Meeting**, April 2000, pp. 36-49
 18. "Libertarianism: An Introduction," in Polycarp Ikuenobe, ed., **Symposia, Readings in Philosophy: Libertarianism** (Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing, 2001), pp. 1-6.
 19. "Social Justice, Welfare Rights, and Charity," in Polycarp Ikuenobe, ed., **Symposia, Readings in Philosophy: Justice** (Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing, 2001), pp. 69-87.
 20. "Teaching and Assessing Critical Thinking Abilities as Outcomes in an Informal Logic Course," **Teaching in Higher Education**, Vol. 6, No. 1, 2001, pp. 19-32.
 21. "Justice: An Introduction," in Polycarp Ikuenobe, ed., **Symposia, Readings in Philosophy: Justice** (Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing, 2001), pp. 1-6.
 22. "Flying and Myth in Song of Solomon: African Cultural and Philosophical Foundation," **The International Journal of African Studies**, Vol. 2, No. 2, Spring 2001, pp. 49-78.
 23. "Participation, Rational Inquiry, and the Justification of Democracy," in Polycarp Ikuenobe, ed., **Symposia, Readings in Philosophy: Democracy** (Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing, 2001), pp. 137-157.
 24. "Democracy: An Introduction," in Polycarp Ikuenobe, ed., **Symposia, Readings in Philosophy: Democracy** (Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing, 2001), pp. 1-6.

25. "Questioning as an Epistemic Process of Critical Thinking," *Educational Philosophy and Theory*, Vol. 33, No. 3, 2001, pp. 325-341.
26. "Legal Positivism, Rules, and Adjudication of Hard Cases," in Polycarp Ikuenobe, ed., *Symposia: Readings in Philosophy--Legal Positivism* (Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing, 2001), pp. 88- 109.
27. "Cognitive Relativism Without Incommensurability, Truth, and Particularism," *International Studies in Philosophy*, Vol. 33, No. 2, 2001, pp. 31-57.
28. "African Philosophy: An Introduction," in Polycarp Ikuenobe, ed., *Symposia, Readings in Philosophy: African Philosophy* (Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing, 2001), pp. 1-7.
29. "Liberty, Welfare, and Consent," in Polycarp Ikuenobe, ed., *Symposia, Readings in Philosophy: Libertarianism* (Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing, 2001), pp. 143-160.
30. "Rationality, Practical Reasonableness, and the Social and Moral Foundation of a Legal System," *Journal of Social Philosophy*, Vol. 32, No. 3, 2001, pp. 245-267.
31. "Natural Law: An Introduction," in Polycarp Ikuenobe, ed., *Symposia, Readings in Philosophy: Natural Law* (Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing, 2001), pp. 1-7.
32. "African Tradition, Philosophy, and Modernization," *Philosophical Papers*, Vol 30, No. 3, 2001, pp. 245-259.
33. "Moral Basis for Social Acceptance of Rules in a Legal System," in Polycarp Ikuenobe, ed., *Symposia, Readings in Philosophy: Natural Law* (Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing, 2001), pp. 147-169.
34. "Natural Law, Liberal Principles, and the Moral Acceptance of Rules," *Vera Lex*, Vol. 2, Nos 1 & 2, Winter 2001, pp. 133-162.
35. "Legal Positivism: An Introduction," in Polycarp Ikuenobe, ed., *Symposia, Readings in Philosophy: Legal Positivism* (Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing, 2001), pp. 1-8.
36. "Moral Epistemology, Relativism, African Cultures, and the Distinction Between Custom and Morality," *Journal of Philosophical Research*, Vol. 27, 2002, pp.641-69.
37. "The Meta-Ethical Issue of the Nature of Lying: Implications for Moral Education," *Studies in Philosophy and Education*, Vol. 21, No. 1, 2002, pp. 37-63.
38. "In Search of Criteria for 'Fallacies' and 'Begging the Question'," *Argumentation*, Vol. 16, No. 4, 2002, pp. 421-441.
39. "Epistemic Foundation for Teaching Critical Thinking in Group Discussion," *Interchange*, Vol. 33, No. 4, 2002, pp. 371-393.
40. "A Natural Law Critique of Liberal Approaches to a Multicultural Consequence of Globalism," *Vera Lex*, Vol. 3, Nos 1 & 2, 2002, pp. 1-37.
41. "Optimizing Reasonableness, Critical Thinking, and Cyberspace," *Educational Philosophy and Theory*, Vol. 35, No. 4, 2003, pp. 407-424.
42. "Culture of Racism, Self-Respect, and Blameworthiness," *Public Affairs Quarterly*, Vol. 18, No. 1, January 2004, pp. 27-55.
43. "On the Theoretical Unification and Nature of Fallacies," *Argumentation*, Vol. 18, No. 2 April 2004, pp. 189-211.
44. "Logical Positivism, Analytic Method, and Criticisms of Ethnophilosophy," *Metaphilosophy*, Vol. 35, No. 4, July 2004, pp. 479-503.
45. "Diverse Religious Practices and the Limits of Liberal Tolerance," in David Odell-Scott, ed., *Democracy and Religion: Free Exercise and Diverse Visions* (Kent, OH: Kent State

- University Press, 2004), pp. 309-335.
46. "The Descriptive Procedural Aspects of Aquinas's Natural Law Theory," *Vera Lex*, Vol 5, Nos 1 & II, 2004, pp. 65-89.
 47. "Comments on 'Erik Bahre's 'How to Ignore Corruption: Presenting the Shortcomings of Development in South Africa'," *Current Anthropology*, Vol. 46, No. 1, February 2005, pp. 112-114.
 48. "Ethnicity, Colonialism, and Democracy as an Agent of Globalization," in Charles Nieman, ed., *Democracy and Globalization* (Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 2005), e-book: http://upress.kent.edu/Nieman/Ethnicity_Colonialism.htm
 49. "Patriotism and the Conflict Between Homeland Security and Liberal Democracy," in Nawal Ammar, ed., *Democracy and Homeland Security: Strategies, Controversies and Impact* (Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 2006), e-book: <http://upress.kent.edu/Ammar/03%20Ikenobe.htm>
 50. "Modernity and African Moral Thought," in Edward P. Antonio, ed., *Inculturation and Postcolonial Discourse in African Theology* (New York: Peter Lang Publishing, Inc., 2006), pp. 267-290.
 51. "The idea of Personhood in Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart," *Philosophia Africana*, Vol. 9, No. 2, August 2006, pp. 117-131.
 52. "Citizenship and Patriotism," *Public Affairs Quarterly*, Vol. 24, No. 4, October 2010, pp. 297-318.
 53. "Conceptualizing Racism and Its Subtle Forms," *The Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*, Vol. 41, No. 2, June 2011, pp. 161-181.
 54. "Conceptualizing and Theorizing about the Idea of a 'Post-Racial' Era," *The Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*, Vol. 43, No. 4, December 2013, pp. 446-468.
 55. "Black-on-White Racism and Corlett's Idea of Racism," *Journal of African American Studies*, Vol. 18, No. 1, March 2014, pp. 108-127.
 56. "Traditional African Environmental Ethics and Colonial Legacy," *International Journal of Philosophy and Theology*, Vol. 2, No.4, December 2014, pp. 1-21. Reprinted in Brazil as an e- book: *Direito e/ao Desenvolvimento: Ensaio Transdisciplinares*, Fernando Danner, Leno Francisco Danner, Marcus Vinicius Xavier de Oliveira (Org), pp. 202-231. http://media.wix.com/ugd/48d206_2ce5c0e81965429f91d16e761cc78ca2.pdf
 57. "An Examination of Zik's Philosophy of Nationalism and His Critique of African Superstition," *Journal of African Philosophy*, Vol. 10, December 2014, pp. 79-97.
 58. "Relational Autonomy, Personhood, and African Traditions," *Philosophy East & West*, Vol. 65, No. 4, October 2015, pp.1005-1029.
 59. "Cultural Dynamics, Moral Ignorance, and a Plausible Response to Immoral Acts," *Cultura: International Journal of Philosophy of Culture and Axiology*, Vol. 12, No. 2, December 2015, pp. 7-26.
 60. "Good and Beautiful: A Moral-Aesthetic View of Personhood in African Communal Traditions," *Essays in Philosophy*, Vol. 17, No. 1, February 2016, pp. 125-163.
 61. "Tradition, Modernity, and Social Development," in Olatunji Oyeshile and Francis Offor, eds., *Ethics, Governance, and Social Order: Essays in Honor of Godwin S. Sogolo* (Ibadan: Zenith Book House Ltd, 2016), pp. 43-60.
 62. "The Prospects of Liberal Democracy in Africa: Exorcising the Ghost of Colonialism and

- Back to Tradition," *The Critique*, September/October 2016.
<http://www.thecritique.com/articles/the-prospects-of-western-liberal-democracy-in-africa/>
63. "The Communal Basis for Moral Dignity: An African Perspective," *Philosophical Papers*, Vol. 45, No. 3, November 2016, pp. 437-469.
 64. "Tradition and the Foundation for African Renaissance," in Vuyisile Msila, ed., *Decolonising Knowledge for Africa's Renewal: Examining African Perspectives and Philosophies* (Randburg, South African: KR Publishing, 2017), pp. 2-19.
 65. "Matolino's Misunderstanding of Menkiti's African Moral View of the Person and Community," *South African Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. 36, No. 4, 2017, pp. 553-567.
 66. "Africa and Philosophy of Democratic Governance," in Adeshina Afolayan and Toyin Falola, eds., *A Handbook of African Philosophy* (London, UK: Palgrave-Macmillan Press, 2017), pp. 571-584. https://doi.org/10.1057/978-137-59291-0_37
 67. "An Examination of Menkiti's Conception of Personhood and Gyekye's Critique," in Edwin Etieyibo, ed., *Method, Substance and the Future of African Philosophy* (London, UK: Palgrave-Macmillan Press, 2018), pp. 187-208.
 68. "Mental Emancipation in Nnamdi Azikiwe's Political Philosophy and the Decolonisation of African Knowledge," *Theoria: A Journal of Social and Political Theory*, Vol. 65, No 155, 2018, pp. 50-71. <https://doi.org/10.3167/th.2018.6515503>
 69. "Radical Versus Moderate Communitarianism: Gyekye's and Matolino's Misinterpretations of Menkiti," *Filosofia Theoretica: Journal of African Philosophy, Culture and Religions*, Vol. 7, No. 2, May-August 2018, pp. 79-100.
<https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ft.v7i2.6>
 70. "Oral Tradition, Epistemic Dependence, and Knowledge in African Cultures," *Synthesis Philosophica*, Vol. 65, No. 1, 2018, pp. 23-40. <https://doi.org/10.21464/sp33102>
 71. "African Communal Basis for Autonomy and Life Choices," *Developing World Bioethics*, Vol. 18, No. 3, September 2018, pp. 212-221.
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/dewb.12161/full>
 72. "The Monogamous Conception of Romantic Love and Western Critique of Polygamy in African Traditions," *Philosophical Papers*, Vol. 47, No. 3, 2018, pp. 373-401.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/05568641.2018.1450642>
 73. "The Practical and Experiential Reality of Racism: Carter's and Corlett's Views on Race and Racism," *Journal of African American Studies*, Vol. 22, No. 4, December 2018, pp. 373-392. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12111-018-9417-5>
 74. "Human Rights, Personhood, Dignity, and African Communalism," *Journal of Human Rights*, Vol. 17, No. 5, 2018, pp. 589-604.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14754835.2018.1533455>
 75. "Citizenship, Patriotism, and Liberal Morality," in Mitja Sardoč, ed., *Handbook of Patriotism*, Springer Publisher, 2019. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-30534-9_54-1
 76. "Social Ontology, Practical Reasonableness, and Collective Reasons for Action," *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*, Vol. 49, no. 3, September 2019, pp. 264-281.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/jtsb.12202>
 77. "White's Anti-Black Racism and the Attitude of Tolerating Racial Difference," in Elvis

- Imafidon (ed.), *Handbook of African Philosophy of Difference: The Othering of the Other*. Springer Publisher, 2020, pp 55-70. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-04941-6_3-1
78. "African Communal Ethics" in Nimi Wariboko and Toyin Falola (eds.), *Handbook of African Social Ethics* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020), pp. 129-145.
 79. "Elderhood and Ancestorhood: Exemplar of a Person in African Community," with Edwin Etieyibo, in Edwin Etieyibo and Polycarp Ikuenobe (eds.), *Menkiti On Community and Becoming a Person* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2020), pp. 147-162.
 80. "Menkiti's Account of the Social Ontology of African Community and Persons," in Edwin Etieyibo and Polycarp Ikuenobe (eds.), *Menkiti On Community and Becoming a Person* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books 2020), pp. 95-114.
 81. "Introduction" with Edwin Etieyibo in Edwin Etieyibo and Polycarp Ikuenobe (eds.), *Menkiti On Community and Becoming a Person* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2020), pp. 1-9.
 82. "Communal Moral Basis for Understanding Personhood, Health, and Suicide," (forthcoming) *Annals of Theoretical Psychology*, Volume 18, 2022.

Book Reviews

1. Book Review: African Philosophy: New and Traditional Perspectives. Lee Brown, ed., New York: Oxford University Press, 2005, 194 pp. African American Review, Vol. 39, No. 3, pp. 483-85.
2. African Philosophy: The Analytic Approach. Barry Hallen, Trenton, NJ: African World Press, Inc., 2006, viii+361 pp. African Studies Review, Vol. 49, No. 3, December, 2006, pp. 176-178.