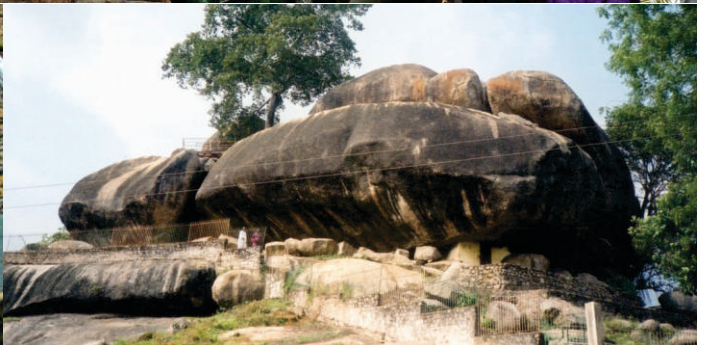


IFE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES



NEWSLETTER (2020 - 2021)



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The convener speaks

At the 5th summer institute on the focus and future of IIAS



The Ife Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS) convener, Prof Jacob Olupona, welcomed 234 new fellows, 99 women and 139 men in 89 institutions, to the 2021 summer training. He noted that this was the largest the Institute has had since it began in 2017 and up from 181 participants in 2020. Fellows came from all over Africa, including Nigeria, Senegal, Cameroon, Morocco, South Africa, Algeria, Ethiopia and Ghana, and from outside Africa like Brazil, Switzerland and the UK, to name a few. He said the Institute's theme for 2021 – “Research, Teaching and Service in an Uncertain Age”, represents the critical strength of scholarly engagement in our profession as academics worldwide. He noted that research had been talked about as if it is the only occupation of academics, while less emphasis has been placed on teaching and service, whereas it is clear to most knowledgeable professors in the academy that the three are intertwined. He further said that teaching and service should not in any way be seen as inferior to research and publication. That the quality of a scholar's research and publication should reflect teaching and service to the academy, the university, the community, the nation, the continent and the world at large, as all three work in tandem to sustain the intellectual life of a scholar and of the community where the scholar is domiciled. He reiterated that what is needed is to reimagine how these themes intercept and begin to revisit what we consider to be the best practices in Africa and the world. This should be done in Africa's peculiar environment, society and culture. Regarding the focus on 'Uncertain Times', this, he said, refers not only to the Covid pandemic which has taken its toll globally and on academic institutions worldwide and in Nigeria more broadly, but also to the uncertainty of nation-

building, the disturbances in our societies and the crises in institutions across the country that we have experienced in the recent past. He observed that news about the abduction of hundreds of peace-loving students is common and a major concern to us as Scholars. The theme of the 2021 Summer Institute, therefore, transcends predictable conditions and situations, part of which had necessitated that the program be held online rather than as an in-person event for which we, the organizers, would have had to be concerned about how to guarantee the safety of our participants according to covid protocols. The convener urged participants to reflect on how best to do serious scholarship in the current dispensation of uncertainty.

He asked, “How do we do scholarship in the serious warlike conditions we have inevitably found ourselves in today?” He posited that as Scholars, we must proffer solutions to these challenges that we know are beyond the grasp of the leadership. These were to be the focus in the two weeks within which many general topics under the rubrics of our theme - “Research, Teaching and Service in an Uncertain Age” would be explored. He also used the opportunity to highlight that as we continue to grow, we are building the Institute to run throughout the whole year with various initiatives and projects. The first of these initiatives is our webinar series which took off in 2020 and has become one of our most active programs. The webinar series, curated and cultivated by fellows of the Institute, provides a platform for young scholars to workshop their works in progress and receive real-time feedback from mentors who are experts in their fields. New fellows were encouraged to keep the webinar series on their radar.

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The convener speaks

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Prof Jacob K. Olupona, *Ph.D. FNAL, NNOM Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA Founder, Ife Institute of Advanced Studies, Nigeria*

He brought to the attention of the new fellows some of the new initiatives that the Institute will be embarking on from the year 2022, which will include a new journal, *Journal of Culture and Ideas* which will provide an outlet for scholarly research, and guest lecture series where scholars

will be brought from all over the world to discuss their work and answer questions about research and service in the academy. He also informed that there had been a periodic Newsletter which keeps members all connected during the months between the summer institute and that all these initiatives will be setting the institute on the path to the next five years which the Institute trusts will be even more fruitful than its first five years. He hinted that in 2022 the Institute will enter a new phase as all will be working hard to ensure that Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics - STEM is integrated into the Summer Institute which is in addition to the focus on humanities and social sciences broadly defined. Prof Olupona urged all to look forward to utilizing the opportunities that the Institute provides to scholars worldwide, and even more critically in the Institute's focus on raising the community of scholars with the ability to change the world.



From Left - Prof. Olupona, one of the guests, Prof. Ogunbodede and Prof. Togonu-Bickersteth



Josephine Olupona (2nd to the left) with the OAU Registrar and friends of ILAS.



An excursion to the palace of the Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Ogunwusi



Prof Afe Adogame and Chief Lanre Togonu-Bickersteth at an opening ceremony of the ILAS Summer Institute

Opening remarks

*of the host, Prof Eyitope Ogunbodede, Vice Chancellor,
Obafemi Awolowo University at the 2021 Summer Institute*

The Vice Chancellor of Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Prof Eyitope Ogunbodede acknowledged all dignitaries expressing great delight in being given the honour of serving as host of the international programme which was established in July 2017 - the Ife Institute of Advanced Studies. Speaking on behalf of the Management, Staff and students of Obafemi Awolowo University, Professor Ogunbodede said Professor Jacob Kehinde Olupona, the initiator, visioner and main sponsor of the project is a renowned scholar with a passion for excellence and fervent drive for mentorship. He remarked that Prof Olupona has proven through the Ife Institute of Advanced Studies and similar initiatives that it pays to invest in grooming a new generation of scholars. That he has given birth to a unique institution that has, in the last four years, provided a veritable international platform for training researchers and teachers of diverse orientations in the Humanities and the Social Sciences and has through the IIAS, in these few years, transformed the African academic landscape.

He noted that the IIAS had its first Summer Institute in 2017, a few weeks after he assumed office as Vice-Chancellor. He can confidently say that it has grown in leaps and bounds, surpassing every benchmark for the assessment of success. He said further that the IIAS Summer Institute has attracted a crop of World-Class scholars as facilitators offering significant contributions to the promotion of scholarship, research and development beyond the initial thought of serving Nigeria and other African countries. He stated that the Institute has nurtured a cohort of dynamic, assiduous and vibrant scholars equipped with the right tools to propel the African continent to global academic and research prowess and reckoning. The Vice Chancellor said Professor Olupona stands out among those who have mentored academics from the Obafemi Awolowo University. He added that even before the IIAS was established, Professor Olupona had facilitated the



training of many OAU promising faculty members in the best universities abroad and therefore, no surprise that the university acknowledged his worth and sense of dedication to scholarship by awarding him an honorary doctorate degree a few years ago.

He noted that the Ife Institute of Advanced Studies' vision is noble and unique, and Obafemi Awolowo University is very proud to identify with the ideals of the Institute. He said further that the Summer Institute has given numerous scholars in Nigeria and other parts of Africa the opportunity to partner with their colleagues and institutions in other parts of the world to revitalise scholarship and propagate the best practices and values. He commended the Institute stating that it has convincingly proven its leadership position as a catalyst for the flow of knowledge and competencies across institutional, national and international borders. He reiterated the commitment of Obafemi Awolowo University to propagating the right academic and research values saying the vision of the Institute to nurture young academics aligns with the commitment of OAU to attain excellence in research and teaching and promised that Obafemi Awolowo University will continue to support and assist the IIAS in realising its vision, Mission and noble objectives.

In his concluding remarks he submitted that it has been very fortuitous for OAU working with the Institute to realise their common goals. He said Obafemi Awolowo University represents the best among her peers in attracting very young,

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A synopsis of the 2020 keynote address

Boundedness, boundaries and the Illusion of knowledge taxonomies

Prof Francis Egbokhare was the Keynote speaker at the 2020 Summer Institute. In addressing the theme, “Boundedness, Boundaries and the Illusion of Taxonomies”, he explained the old logic of knowledge practice as one that promotes boundedness and boundaries. He noted that even though we are socialized to believe that knowledge taxonomies and disciplinary boundaries have some naturalness, they are illusions built over the years due to the epistemologies of knowledge production and creation. He described knowledge as vast and fluid, necessitating its division for us to be able to study portions of it and bring reality cumulatively within human understanding.

He said further, that we draw disciplinary demarcations that are necessary for practical and pragmatic purposes. He noted that the hierarchization and ranking of knowledge fields has no reality of its own but it is the product of culture, the history of the growth of learning and the dominant ideological orientation of humanity. He asserted that we make an argument for the unity of knowledge and multidisciplinary and collaboration as the new logic of knowledge enterprise. He argued further that the sharp bifurcation between disciplines as humanistic and science-based is not borne out by the nature of reality but due to the tyranny of labels, the cultural construction of learning, the structure of institutions arising from such constructions, the current hegemony of technology boom and the preference of the forces in control of the direction of civilizations. Ideologies of knowledge practice shape the classification of disciplines, the distribution of privileges and opportunities and if we accept that all knowledge is a unity, the distinction between knowledge fields as humanities and sciences and the boundaries drawn between them and within them are therefore illusions, or at best, convenient demarcations dictated by levels of understanding of practice.



He opined that, all disciplines are sciences with respect to convergence of methodologies, empiricism, search for patterns and principles and utilization of new tools of research; and humanistic to the extent that science and technology are inserted in cultural environment and the products, whether knowledge products or tools are culturally influenced and they in turn influence direction of cultural flow. Thus, all sciences are humanistic because they are human enterprises and man bears the burden and opportunities of culture. The corollary is that all knowledge is scientifically discovered because they involve discovering patterns and principles of the material and non-material reality. Disciplines may be classified into Sciences and Arts not on any clearly defined criteria of methodology but on the nature of questions they ask. Boundaries are therefore set by questions asked and methodologies determined by the nature of answers sought. He emphasized the understanding of theories and methodologies as critical to inquiry since reality is brought under control by methods proved by evidence. He said, theories and methodologies are not mere descriptive artefacts for constructing and deconstructing reality; they are not unreal, abstract and convenient inventions of the imagination, they help to frame and discipline our thinking, train our minds to approach reality with a set of assumptions about the real world and behaviour of things.

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A synopsis of the 2021 keynote address

Embracing uncertainty

Prof Olufemi Taiwo was the keynote speaker at the 2021 two-week summer Institute. The theme was **“Research, Teaching, and Service in an Uncertain Age”**. He noted that Research, Teaching, and Service (RTS) are the commonplace, almost pedestrian terms all modern universities use to describe what those they employ as academics are employed to do. He said, to begin with; there seems to be some hint of certainty in the assertion of RTS, some assumption of convergence on what they mean and entail and the terms remain constant in our imaginary as academics while the present or near or far future introduces an element of apprehension, if not uncertainty, into the mix. It is this assumption of some stability to the idea of RTS in what is termed “an uncertain age” that Prof Taiwo made the focus of his presentation. He said, there exists a hint of irony in what he described as RTS and they are precisely what should be marked by uncertainty and the time in which they unfold is the one that on the face of it, should supply us with some element of stability, not stillness, to be sure, but it is the uncertainty of which we make the object of concern in our formulation. When was any age ever certain? He asked, and responded that certainly, for those of us who follow closely the evolution of time, the very object of history, we know, first, the only thing that we can be sure of is change. Second, since the inauguration of the modern age, an age whose temporal horizon is defined by “the open future”, marked by a lunatic obsession with the new, forever becoming, never being, in a revolt against all previous ages we know was marked by near static certainty undergirded by revelation, tradition, and authority, is forever the age of uncertainty! He asked that we embrace uncertainty, saying it was the reason for his title being an almost a requirement, a defining orientation towards the understanding of RTS. He



noted that wherever we may be, whatever our discipline, especially as we undergo formation into academia and its ancillary spheres, the age in which we are as defined by uncertainty and agitated by the search for certainty, makes working in it, what we call an uncertain age, a core concern. He said that, if uncertainty is the hallmark of our age, ruminating on the problem posed to RTS in it would almost become a description of what we do all the time. He asserted that

once modernity schooled us that certainty is to be sought, not already in the bag, our attention should devolve to how we approach RTS in our respective locations, institutions and disciplines. He argued that we may have allowed ourselves too much certainty about the primary object of our RTS strivings, especially when it comes to the study of African phenomena.

He spelt out what he meant by the title of this address: “Embracing Uncertainty”, explaining that his immediate focus is on research and assuring that someday soon, he will be able to share its application to teaching and service, respectively. He then asked participants if the following sound familiar to them - “Precolonial Africa”, “Africa south of the Sahara”, “Sub-Saharan Africa”, “Black Africa”, ...”He asked if when they encounter the following locutions, they are immediately recognizable to them, and if they assume that they know what is being talked about? “Precolonial African societies ...” “In traditional Africa,...Traditional Africans believe ...” He said for all occurrences of “Africa” in those usages, they should please substitute, as they desired, “Yoruba”, “Zulu”, “Asante”, ...and take any substantive referring to institutions, processes, performances, and practices and attach them to the preceding qualifiers, for example, “Asante philosophy”, “Yoruba family”, etc. He argued that when we deploy the preceding usages, they are built on an

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Boundedness, boundaries...

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Conceptual clarity and methodological elaborations are central to informed engagement of the real world, the world of chaos that data represents. They are relevant beyond the immediate needs of a discipline by helping us to impose order on the world and discipline on our thinking.

Prof Egbokhare reiterated that nations that invest in quality education, training and skills development outpace others and individuals who take time to develop themselves outperform others, because of expected knowledge outcomes, in addition to the accompanying discipline of leadership and critical thinking. Also, he said there are additional benefits for convergence within a manageable knowledge cycle beyond the accumulation of knowledge outcomes. He observed that extensive collateral damage occur due to widening cycles of meanings created by the creation of knowledge silos and more problematic but less obvious is the failure to draw links, interconnections and implement knowledge systems which creates a level of disorder in educational institutions.

Professor Francis O. Egbokhare, FNAL
University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria.
Keynote Speaker of the 2020 Summer Institute

Embracing uncertainty

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unfounded or, at least, dubious certainty about them in our RTS and they indicate that we all quickly largely deploy gross representations that they embody, and pay little attention to the granular dimensions of our subjects. We almost casually talk about convergences, and fail to pay attention to the complexities and heterogeneities resident in a bewilderingly diverse continent.

He urged that we should always be sceptical towards our themes, methods, and tools, always anxious about the terms that we deploy to represent our subject-matters, refrain as much as possible from trying to eat Africa whole; as it is best eaten in morsels, and generally abandon the widespread practice, however many caveats are introduced, of thinking that Africa is an adequate unit of analysis in most contexts. This is where we should embrace uncertainty in our estimation of the subjects of our RTS, and the payout will be more sophisticated and more correct explanations of African phenomena.

Professor Olufemi Taiwo
Cornell University, USA
Keynote Speaker at the 2021 Summer Institute

Opening remarks...

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outstanding and highly talented students and that the university has recorded some modest achievement in research and innovation and currently occupies the leading position among Nigerian institutions in the Tertiary Education Trust Funded research. He appealed to foundations, corporate organisations and individuals genuinely interested in revitalising scholarship and promoting academic mobility to identify with the laudable vision of the Institute and support its programmes. He noted that the theme of the Summer Institute for 2021 was very apt; “Research, Teaching and Service in an



Uncertain Age”, and again virtual due to the ravaging effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. After declaring the ceremony open he expected that the presentations and discussions would be highly educative and exceedingly useful in navigating the relatively unknown and unpredictable post COVID-19 pandemic era with its “New normal”.

He thanked all participants for their attention wishing them a very rewarding experience as in previous years.

Governor Rotimi Akeredolu

Addresses participants at the opening ceremony of the 2021 IAS summer institute



Mr. Rotimi Akeredolu was one of the special guests at the opening ceremony of the 2021 summer institute which was held virtually on the 26th of July, 2021. He is the governor of Ondo State, Nigeria, a scholar and statesman. Addressing the theme, “research, teaching and service in an uncertain age,” he said, “quality research yields bountiful dividends, encourages sure footedness and is the bedrock of proper planning”. He said any society which benefits from research undertaking will experience rapid development. He urged those in position of authority (like himself) to harness the benefits of research, through diligent and painstaking implementation of policies conceived to address the challenges encountered locally, nationally and at the international Level. Governor Akeredolu posited that there should be ideological underpinning driving the quest for discovery for optimum service delivery.

Research findings he said, should normally form the basis for well-conceived, structured and robust curricula at all levels of education. He emphasized the importance of the specific needs of the society, noting that the training of teachers must take this into account, apart from the acquisition of general knowledge in relevant subject areas. On teaching, he said teachers must be guided strictly to toe the line of empiricism and capacity building and they must be specific and current.

The governor addressing the service issue, said service must be rendered to achieve set objectives, whether private or public. Those who serve people must be knowledgeable and patriotic, remaining focused on the journey towards development. To him, all research and training must be tailored to benefit the community otherwise such research would be a waste. In light of the current challenges being faced by Nigeria which militate very greatly against productivity, in addition to the global economic melt-down occasioned by the corona virus pandemic and for which the summer institute was being held via *Zoom*, he urged all intellectuals to come together to find abiding solutions to existing and existent problems in our immediate locality.

He observed that the theme of this 5th summer institute “research, teaching and service in an uncertain age” could not have come at a better time than now when there appears to be pervasive confusion in the polity. He said, the country needs direction on socio-political cum economic challenges and researchers should be able to explain the paradox ensuring that a vast arable land parades malnourished and famished multitudes. For him, there must be compelling reasons which predispose a land richly endowed to remain underdeveloped despite the presence of intellectuals and seasoned professionals in all fields of human endeavours.

He admitted that “this is no doubt an uncertain age” and we (including the participants of the summer institute) should assist in redefining the concept of education beyond esoteric preferences. In his opinion, no other condition defies hopelessness than the embarrassing presence of young, agile and intelligent but illiterate youths. He concluded that until we redefine our research methodologies to address the current embarrassment we run as a system; the whole venture remains academic and distant from the realities on the ground.

Mr. Rotimi Akeredolu, SAN
Governor of Ondo State, Nigeria

Chief Afe Babalola

Addresses participants at the opening ceremony of the 2021 IIAS summer institute



Aare Afe Babalola, OFR, CON, SAN, was one of the Special Guests at the opening ceremony of the 5th Ife Institute of Advanced Studies, Summer training held on July 26, 2021. He welcomed all participants to the programme while paying special tribute to the erudite Prof. Jacob Olupona, Ph. D, FNAL, NNOM, for his efforts in ensuring that our universities remain focused and relevant in teaching, research and community service. He urged the convener to count on his support as he undertakes the excellent works being done by the Institute. He pointed out that from time immemorial, the three major functions of a good university have been quality teaching, research and community service, which have been spelt out and repeated by the World Bank.

The senior advocate of Nigeria and a two-term Pro-Chancellor of the university of Lagos said that experience has made him know that the major reason Nigerian public universities cannot provide quality teaching, research and community service is the epileptic supply of electricity. He reiterated that one of the biggest threats to productivity in Nigeria has been poor electricity supply, despite Nigeria's position as the country with the largest Natural Gas reserves in Africa and one of the largest exporters of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) in the world, electrification rate remains abysmally poor throughout the country. He noted that in light of the foregoing agonizing scenario, the Summer Institute is relevant and timely because Nigerian Universities will continue to score low grades in teaching, research and community service unless we have a regular supply of electricity.

He said he was not too sure of how much of impactful teaching and research a University can embark upon in the face of poor funding and a non-conducive learning environment because for universities to be able to perform their pivotal roles of teaching, research and community service, the government must be willing to fund education adequately by following UNESCO's recommendation that each country should devote at least 26% of annual budget to education and provide the enabling environment for scholarship. He alluded largely to the leading position of the Afe Babalola University which he founded and the efforts and agitations of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) to ensure the development of university education in Nigeria. He insisted that the government of Nigeria must play a pivotal role if the country must remain an indivisible entity by providing a new constitution and requisite infrastructure.

He hoped and prayed regarding the outcome (in the form of recommendation and/or communiqués) of the ten-day Summer Institute, that it will be meaningful, relevant and deemed useful to the government. He said, on a final note, that all of us as stakeholders in the Education sector have pivotal, sacred and indispensable roles to play in contributing our voices, ideas and opinions to enhancing the abilities of our Institutions to adapt to the current and emerging challenges effectively and that together, we can join forces to tackle and address the major challenges facing education in Nigeria today.

Aare Afe Babalola (CON, OFR, SAN), President, Founder, and Chancellor, Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti



The Ford foundation Spokesperson

Addresses the 5th IIAS summer institute

Dr Dabesaki Mac-Ikemenjima

Dr Dabesaki Mac-Ikemenjima was the spokesperson of the Ford Foundation at the 5th Summer Institute in 2021. He thanked Prof Olupona for the good work the Institute has been doing and for his kind words about the late Innocent Chukwuma of the Ford Foundation who was quite supportive of the IIAS initiative.

Dr Dabesaki said he thinks about everything that happens in his surroundings as a possible opportunity for social science intervention and research. He mentioned some familiar concepts on entrepreneurship, and concepts related to our public political space such as the “Stomach Infrastructure”, “End SARS”, “Bring Back our Girls” and “Restructuring”. He mentioned youth related concepts like “lazy youth” used by a very senior political leader; and youth restiveness; politics-related concepts such as “fantastically corrupt”, “herder-farmer crisis” and “dividends of democracy” and concepts on “Black Lives matter” etc. These concepts, he said, are important avenues for important social science interrogation noting that some of them are harmful in the way they described young people and the endeavours young people can engage in but; they are ideas that young social scientists might find interesting as entry points for interrogating the society that we live in. He suggested five areas of research scholars might interrogate which are as follows:

1. **Behavioural questions:** These are related to the current pandemic that we are dealing with in Nigeria and other parts of Africa with the limited supply of vaccines and the high degree of hesitancy, and the conspiracy conversations around hesitancy
2. **Policy questions:** These are related to

government behaviour, education delivery, education infrastructure, and the types of things that are prioritized in the policy spaces and how we address ideas of corruption as we have had different eras in the fight against corruption and the question of the effective methodology to use

3. **Question on research, teaching and service delivery or services in a period of uncertainty:** This is the question of pedagogy as COVID has brought us on Zoom, we are learning, teaching and engaging via zoom and there are questions about which groups are being left behind and how do we innovate pedagogy to ensure that the young people in rural areas and other places who do not have access to the same level of technology are not left behind and that learning is taking place along with whether we want to shift the methodologies for assessment from being exam focus to other aspects of learning that young people might be able to demonstrate
4. **Political questions:** concern the dividends of democracy as democracy is being equated with some kind of investment. What then is the dividend that citizens should anticipate from a democratic experiment? Is it freedom of speech? Is it freedom of association? Is it essentially all the rights and freedoms that are guaranteed in a democratic constitution? Is it infrastructure that is provided by the state? What is the notion of a dividend of democracy and can there be some sort of index that helps us understand and deepen our knowledge of this so-called dividend that is associated with democratic practice? These require investigation.

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**FONDLY REMEMBERED
BY IIAS FELLOWS & FACILITATORS!**

IN MEMORIAM

**BABATUNDE
OGUNNAIKE**

1956 - 2022

The Ife Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS) joins the Ogunnaike family in remembering the life of Prof Babatunde A. Ogunnaike, born on 26, March, 1956 and passed on, February 20, 2022 after an illness. Professor Ogunnaike was a renowned scholar of chemical engineering and a great friend to the Institute. At the time of his passing, he held the William L. Friend Chair of Chemical Engineering at the University of Delaware where he had taught full-time for 20 years and as an adjunct professor for six years before that. He served as the Dean of the University of Delaware's College of Engineering from 2011 to 2018, and in 2021 the university awarded him the Medal of Distinction, one of the highest honours it can bestow. Professor Ogunnaike came from a family of educators; his own father, Pa Jacob Adesijibomi Ogunnaike, had a long career in the Ministry of Education for the now-defunct Western Region, and he excelled in academics from a young age. He attended the prestigious Government College Ibadan, (GCI) graduating at the young age of 16 as part of the class set of 1966. He then attended the University of Lagos where he received his B. Sc. Degree with First Class Honours in 1976. He proceeded to the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the US where he received an M. S. in Statistics and a PhD in Chemical Engineering in 1981. Upon returning to Nigeria in 1982, he served as lecturer and senior lecturer at the Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Lagos until 1988. He always had an eye for how the academy could connect with industry and society and when he moved to the US, he became a

research fellow at DuPont. He was the recipient of a number of prestigious awards and fellow of numerous professional academies including the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (2009), Nigerian Academy of Engineering (2012), the US National Academy of Engineering (2012), and the US National Academy of Inventors (2015). He authored five books, including *Process Dynamics, Modeling, and Control*, used worldwide as the authoritative textbook for undergraduate courses in chemical engineering among several other related fields. He was a talented researcher, inventor, and also a gifted and dedicated teacher. He won several teaching awards at the University of Delaware and ensured that he could continue teaching graduate and undergraduate students even while serving as dean.

In recognition of his great efforts and impact on students, the University of Delaware established the Babatunde Ogunnaike Global Engineering Student Enrichment Fund in 2018 to continue support for the work he began with programmes like *Engineers without Borders*. He was a true renaissance man, a gifted athlete, a musician, a poet, and a patriot, who composed part of Nigeria's national anthem and had a strong passion for developing the Nigerian and African academies. He was involved with the African University of Science and Technology in Abuja and won a Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Grant to further develop the graduate program in Chemical Engineering at the University of Lagos and other engagements with universities across Africa and the African diaspora. It was this passion for the

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FONDLY REMEMBERED

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Nigerian academy that drew him to the Ife Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS) several years ago when he began conversations with Professor Jacob Olupona about how to integrate STEM fields into the curriculum in a manner that would develop the skills of early-career academics and potentially transform the African society at large. At the 2021 Summer Institute he gave an energizing and memorable lecture entitled, “STEM as Possibility: Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Multidisciplinary Approaches”

in which he laid out the methodological approach of blending experts in Humanities, Social Sciences, and STEM, to address real world problems that he was helping the Institute to develop for subsequent programmes.

Professor Ogunnaike has helped IIAS greatly in identifying excellent partners and developing our STEM programming, but now, his unique vision, energy, and talent is a huge loss felt by all of us! We are grateful that the Ogunnaike family had listed the IIAS as one of the charitable foundations where friends and loved ones could make donations in his honour to continue the important work to which he had dedicated his career. While the Institute looks forward to many years of productive collaboration with Professor Ogunnaike's family; his departure has left a deep impact on the IIAS and its trajectory for the future.

Professor Ogunnaike is survived by his wife Anna, sons Oludamini, Ayodeji, and Olumakinde, and grandchildren Jibril, Sakinah, and Anuoluwapo.



FONDLY REMEMBERED

BY IIAS FELLOWS AND FACILITATORS!

Dr. Innocent Chukwuma

Dr Innocent Chukwuma was until the time of his death on Saturday, April 3, 2021, the representative of the Ford Foundation, Lagos to the Institute. He loved the IIAS Initiative and actively participated in its programs. He held a Bachelor's degree in Religion from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka Enugu State, Nigeria and a Master's degree in criminal justice from the University of Leicester.

He facilitated the generous financial support the Ife Institute of Advanced Studies received from the Foundation in 2019. He was versatile and productive. Both fellows and faculty remember him as the Institute's hope to sustain its healthy relationship with the Ford Foundation.

Fellows speak

about their experience at the 2020 summer institute



Most wonderful experience! Professors and senior fellows are very helpful, and Prof Olupona is the gold mine of information. Most amazing and enlightening experience, informative, helpful, engaging and most definitely enlightening! Firstly, I gained a lot of knowledge in areas which I did not connect in the past. I learned a lot about communication and how senior fellows interacted with professors.

Aarshi Dua

Jawaharlal Nehru University, India



The Institute was a great learning experience. Coordinators and experts all kept the ten days program lively and interesting. The best sessions in my view, were one on Gender, history and publication. The great mentors also provided insights into the techniques and ethics of being a supportive university teacher.

Dr Rafida Nawaz

Babauddin Zakariya University, Multan Pakistan



It was very organized, intellectual, stimulating and a breeding ground for real scholarship. The institute has a clear vision and demonstrable understanding of what researchers face especially those on the African continent. The institute is a fast-emerging powerhouse of quality mentors and inspiring mentees in academia. The institute has reassured me that hard work, critical thinking, persistence and collaboration are the keys to opening academic doors of excellence.

Dr Tertsea JIkyoive

University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa



A true reflection of the academy! The Institute is a fountain of knowledge for early career scholars since the speakers not only came from diverse fields of study but also had deep understanding of the challenges that young early career scholars experience. The Institute was also gender sensitive, as speakers were of different genders; thus, injecting diverse experiences in the academic. Publication requires a lot of effort, and rejection of one's article should not be the end of everything. I also learned the need for an interdisciplinary approach in research.

Ochieng' A. Okinda,

KCA University, Nairobi, Kenya



The Institute is a life-changing organization! They believe in hard work, persistence and selfless services to scholars and the academic world. It has broadened my horizon, and I clearly see that scholarship is anchored on READ, READ and READ. It is an eye-opener; it makes me realize that I can work outside my field and it has built my confidence, that I should not feel inferior or compare myself to anybody.

Dr. (Mrs) Oluwatoyin Mary Olaiya

Ekiti State University, Ado - Ekiti, Nigeria

Fellows speak...



A well-knit family of mentors and scholars dedicated to the cause of African Studies and ethical studies! The Summer Institute 2020 helped me understand the methodological approaches to African Studies, to perceive the gender perspectives and to realize the academic and institutional challenges in contemporary scenario.

Dr. Poulami Aich Mukherjee

Assumption College Autonomous, Changanacherry, Kerala, India



It is a coming together of senior faculty motivated to help graduate students and young faculty understand what it takes to be an academic. They are coherent in their approach to doing things, highly professional and very organised. It has increased my knowledge of what being academic entails. It has also boosted my morale for my academic career and changed how I think with respect to paper publications.

Dr. Ugochukwu D. Abasilim

Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria



A great platform availing/imparting early career scholars the necessary skill-set and training fundamental to making a distinguished academic career! The institute is indeed a great learning experience for young scholars and budding academics. This year's organising team displayed great mastery of technologies to enable the programme run smoothly. It helped me get a better grasp of theory, theorising and theory building. I began to see rejection in a more positive light. More than ever, I got motivated to pursue nothing but a prestigious academic career.

Oluwaseun Otosedede Williams

Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva

Continued from Page 10



The Ford Foundation...

5. **Culture-related questions** concern the notion of norms, when and how the historical practices emerged, the position of women in societies and the questions around gender equality, were they challenged or arbitrarily imposed? Before we uncritically accept what we see as a culture today, we need to ask those questions about when they came about, what their composition was and whether they require transformation given the change in the society. These notions that

are taken for granted he said, will be interesting areas of inquiry for young social scientists, as we embrace Western and other religion we must inquire if there are tensions between these established taken for granted norms with these religions and new practices that we accept as a society.

Dr Dabaseki said; that the Ford Foundation is always interested in engaging thought partners in interrogating these questions as well as in some cases, funders in engaging these questions and he really hoped that the fellows at the Institute would really think about some of those questions that have a bearing on how we organize society, and how we advance.

Experience at the summer institute: 2021 fellows speak



It was a wealth of experience for me from day one. I particularly enjoyed listening to masters of their trade talk about their experiences and share stories with us. My highlight is the mentoring process that the institute embodies. It is really one of a kind and my only regret was that it was virtual considering the pandemic. I look really forward to attending these fora more in the future considering the fact that I am a beginner in my field. I owe the institute a debt of gratitude. With heartfelt sincerity, I say a big thank you to Prof. Olupona, Prof. Adogame, Prof. Soneye, Prof. Nalu Binaisa, to mention a few, and to the IIAS team, May God bless you all richly. Gracias!

Ikechukwu Alamezie

Pan-Atlantic University, Lagos, Nigeria



It's beyond words and I am determined not to alienate myself from this remarkable and astonishing scientific communities' panel.

Zemenework Yohannes Melesse

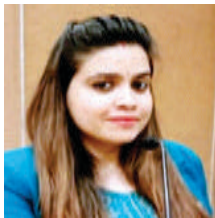
Debre Berhan University, Ethiopia



The Institute is an interesting experience for me.

Maurice Dianab Samb

University of Alcalá / National University of Distance Studies (UNED), Spain



It was informative and helpful to scholars like us. Thank you so much once again for the opportunity.

Chbandani Tiwari

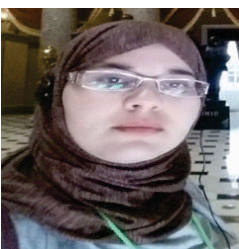
Centre for African Studies, SIS, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India



It was a great learning experience in diverse fields of social sciences. Most significantly, the importance given on the publication and grant search was up to the mark. I have learnt innovative concepts and means of critical inquiry; the summer school experience will help me excel in my research and collaboration. Thanks a lot for making me part of such a fruitful platform.

Syed Hussain Murtaza

Babauddin zakariya University Multan, Pakistan



I participated in different online summer and winter schools for the last couple of years but the Ife Institute of 2021 marked me in many special ways. It was really exceptional in terms of organization, professional updating, punctuality, richness of topics and themes provided, the profile of the speakers invited, and above all, the kind of family environment espoused by the different facilitators and the convener Prof. Jacob Olupona which made this academic endeavour a great success. I really congratulate you all for this; I am sure what is yet to come will be even more impressive.

Khbedidja Chergui, L'école Normale Supérieure de Bouzaréah, Alger, Algeria

The IIAS webinar series

The Ife Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS) provides a bi-monthly webinar series as a veritable platform where fellows present their ongoing research and are mentored by experienced faculty of the Institute. The Guest Lecture series has been introduced into the webinar series and will commence in January, 2022. The first five editions featured presentations from 14 fellows of the Institute with responses from 24 senior Professors. These are listed in the table below.

DATE	TITLE OF PRESENTATION	PRESENTER (S)	DISCUSSANT(S)/RESPONDENT(S)
24.02.2021	The Discourse of Ori in the Poetry of Arinpe Adejumo and Oluyemisi Adebawale	Taiwo Araroba (Osun State Univ. Nigeria)	Prof. Olusola Ajibade (Obafemi Awolowo Univ.)
	A Tale of Two Fighters: Images of Child Soldiers in Jewish and African Child Soldier Narratives	Ademola Adesola (Univ. of Manitoba)	Prof Olufemi Vaughan (Amherst College)
	Traditional Funeral Insurance and the Socioeconomics of Burial Ceremony in Ikorodu of Lagos State, Nigeria	Faruq Idowu Boge (Univ. of Ilorin)	Prof. Oyeronke Olademo (Univ. of Ilorin)
28.04.2021	Pseudo-Feminism: Engaging and Interrogating the State of Feminism in Nigeria	Dr. Kemi Wale-Olaitan (Obafemi Awolowo Univ.)	Prof. Patricia Kameri-Mbote (Univ. of Nairobi) & Prof. Sheriff Folarin (Covenant Univ.)
	Covid-19 Pandemic: Challenges, Perception, and Attitudes of Commercial Motorists in Rivers State, Nigeria	Chinwendu Onyeche Ignatius Ajuru Univ. of Education)	Prof. Margaret Lombe (Boston College)
	Re-mapping the Post-colonial Landscape: Oral Performativity as Modern Poetic Metaphor in Okinba Launko's Dream-seeker of the Divining Chain	Utifon Inyang (Univ. of California)	Prof. Oyeshile Olatunji (Univ. of Ibadan) & Dr. Binaisa Naluwembe (Univ. College London)
30.06.2021	Impact of Imperial Discourses on Changing Subjectivities in Core and Periphery (Study of British India and British Nigeria)	Dr. Rafida Nawaz (Assumption College Autonomous)	Prof. Femi Mimiko (Obafemi Awolowo Univ.) & Prof. Charles Ukeje (Obafemi Awolowo Univ.)
	Memory and Victimhoods in Post-Genocide Rwanda: Legal, Political, and Social Realities	Samantha Lakin (Clark Univ.)	Prof. Ebenezer Obadare (Univ. of Kansas) & Prof. Simeon Ilesanmi (Wake Forest Univ.)
	Dimensions of Interculturality and Gender Sensitization in Contemporary World.	Poulami Aich Mukherjee (Bahauddin Zakariya Univ.)	Prof. Abiodun Alao (King's College London) & Prof. Oyeronke Olademo (Univ. of Ilorin)
25.8.2021	Return of Asians to Uganda after Expulsion: Their Role, Contributions and Challenges, 1991-2017	Aarshi Dua (Jawaharlal Nehru Univ.)	Prof. Mojubaolu Okome (Brooklyn College) & Prof. Tang Xiaoyang (Tsinghua Univ.)
	Sexual Health Behaviours and Nigerian Video Films: Issues, Nexus and Solutions	Oladimeji Ogunoye (Obafemi Awolowo Univ.)	Prof. Maha Marouan (Pennsylvania State Univ.) & Prof. Akanni Akinyemi (Obafemi Awolowo Univ.)
	Temporalizing Osun: Balancing Religious and Professional Commitments in a Nigerian Heritage Site.	Eniola Afolayan (Univ. of Virginia)	Prof. David Ogungbile (Obafemi Awolowo Univ.) Prof. Jacob Olupona (Harvard Univ.)
27.10.2021	Inclusive Cities: Makers or Breakers of Pandemics?	Dr. Tolu Osayomi (Univ. of Ibadan)	Prof. Omolade Adunbi (Univ. of Michigan) & Prof. Kwasi Ampene (Univ. of Michigan)
	Multi-layeredness in Fuji and the Yoruba Urban Experience	Dapo Ajayi (Univ. of Bayreuth)	Prof. Adéléké Adéèkó (Ohio State Univ.) & Prof. Saheed Aderinto (West Carolina Univ.)

Success stories

As fellows utilize the IIAS webinar series initiative



The IIAS Faculty and Facilitators provide Fellows with theoretical and practical knowledge on issues concerning scholarship, research, writing and publication skills through various methods such as the webinar series. This has been rewarding as the following instances attest:

Ademola Adesola (University of Manitoba) presented his work on “A Tale of Two Fighters: Images of Child Soldiers in Jewish and African Child Soldier Narratives” at the IIAS webinar in February 2021. He received deep enlightenment from the Discussant: Prof Olufemi Vaughan (Amherst College). Adesola has published his presentation as a journal article in the *Journal of the African Literature Association*. Please see the link to the paper below:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/WEQNAKQRE DZCIPIRN7NG/full?target=10.1080/21674736.2021.2015824>

He also won the Graduate Fellowship of the Centre for Globalization and Cultural Studies (2020), the Dr. Vernon B. Rhodenizer Graduate Scholarship (2021) and the Berdie and Irvin Cohen Scholarship in Peace and Conflict Studies (2021) all of the University of Manitoba.

Ademola Adesola (University of Manitoba)



Samantha Lakin (Clark University) presented a chapter of her ongoing doctoral dissertation on “Memory and Victimhoods in Post-Genocide Rwanda: Legal, Political, and Social Realities” at the webinar Series. The discussants were Prof. Ebenezer Obadare (University of Kansas) and Prof. Simeon Ilesanmi (Wake Forest University). Samantha Lakin has now successfully defended her Ph.D. thesis.

Samantha Lakin (Clark University)

IIAS Inaugurates the *Journal of Culture and Ideas: An African Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies (JOCAI)*

The Ife Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS) has inaugurated its own journal. This is an international and interdisciplinary journal that seeks to extend the scope of scholarly debate about Africa and African issues. The new addition to the Institute's initiatives is the 'Journal of Culture and Ideas: An African Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies.' It is designed to serve the full spectrum of humanistic and social sciences disciplinary communities including anthropology, archaeology, history, law, economics, political science, psychology, sociology, demography, development studies, education, gender, peace and conflict studies, language and literature, and urban studies. Other fields are accepted insofar as they impact on culture. The journal will accept empirical and research papers as well as theoretical and practice-oriented papers that contribute to a better understanding of the African experience in all its ramifications. It will be published twice in a year (June and December). The Editorial Board of the Journal of Culture and Ideas (JoCAI) welcomes authors' submission of papers for the December 2022 edition of the journal. The deadline for the submission of papers is September 30, 2022. All manuscripts should be submitted electronically to the Editor, c/o IIAS Office, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Email: journal@ias-ife.com.

AMAZING REWARDS OF FELLOWS' NETWORKING WITH THE IAS FACULTY GRANTS, FELLOWSHIP, AWARDS



Mathias Orhero won the Abner Kingman Fellowship in Arts, University of McGill, Canada, and the STP-Piper Fellowship SSHRC, Canada both in 2021



Olusegun Titus won the Africa Humanities Program Postdoctoral Fellowship of the American Council of Learned Societies in 2020, and the PROSPA Fellowship of Andrew Mellon Foundation Rhodes University, South Africa in 2021. The fellow also won the Carson Fellowship of LM University Munich, Germany and sponsorship to six international conferences from various institutions he currently utilises.



Opeyemi Ekundayo, won the Coimbra African Young scholar award from the University of Padua, Padova, Italy (2021) and the Travel and Conference Award Grant for the 9th Africa Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ACLARS), which will hold on May 15 to 17, 2022 in Kenya



Ajibola Ogunsola won the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme of the University, Hong Kong, China.



Oluwabunmi Bernard won the UMAPS Fellow, and Visiting Scholar, University of Michigan, USA and the A.G. Leventis Fellow and Visiting Scholar of SOAS, University of London both in 2020

Fellows that have won grants for **collaborative research**



Olatunde Ogunbiyi



Olusegun Titus
Engaging African Realities Grant (2021)
NAGEL Institute USA



Omotayo Owoeye



Eunice Uwadinma-Idemudi



Tolu Osayomi



Dimeji Ogunoye

IIAS faculty have national and international visibility and here are a few...



Prof. Akanni Akinyemi, Professor of Demography, Population and Health at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria will be delivering the Keynote titled “Policies Supporting Younger People in Africa” Berlin Demography Days in May, 2022 at IUSSP



Professor Funmi Togonu-Bickersteth a Professor of Psychology and Pro-Chancellor Federal University, Birnin-Kebbi, Nigeria will be delivering the Lecture on “Today's Global University: Strategies for Reviving International Enrolments” at the 6th Biennial Conference of Committee of Pro-Chancellors of State-owned Universities in Nigeria in March 23, 2022)



Prof Simeon Ilesanmi of Wake Forest University, will be delivering the Keynote titled “Human Dignity in the Age of Disrespect” at the 22nd Annual Hubert McNeill Poteat Lecture on April 6, 2022. He will also be delivering another Lecture at the 24th Convocation of the Nigerian Academy of Letters, Lagos- Nigeria, on August 11, 2022.



Prof Jakob Kehinde Olupona of the Harvard University was awarded an honorary degree of D. Litt by his Alma Mater, the University of Nigeria (UNN) Nsukka, on June 12, 2021 in recognition of his immense contributions to scholarship in Africa and beyond.



The Ife Summer Institute is anchored annually by an impressive number of senior scholars from Nigeria and abroad, engaging a wide range of themes and issues designed to deepen the understanding of research and teaching mission in the academy. The scholars lead discussions on various conceptual, methodological and theoretical topics central to their various fields of interest, including tools of research in the fields of humanities and social sciences, networking techniques and ethical principles of the profession.

Some 2020-2021 IIAS summer institute

Faculty and facilitators



Jacob Olupona
Professor of African Religious Traditions & African American Studies, Harvard University (IIAS Convener)



Josephine Olupona
(Jacob's partner)



Prof David Ogungbile



Prof Olutayo Adesina



Prof Wale Adebani



Prof Egodi Uchendu



Late Prof Babatunde Ogunnaike



Prof Maha Marouan



Prof Afe Adogame



Prof Mojubaolu Okome



Prof Abiodun Alao



Prof. Tang Xiaoyang



Prof Oyeronke Olademo



Prof Margaret Lombe



Prof Olatunji Oyeshile



Prof Charles Ukeje



Prof. Dianne Stewart



Prof. Ebenezer Obadare



Prof Sherrif Folarin



Prof Omolade Adunbi



Prof Morenike Ukpong



Dr Naluwembe Binaisa



Prof Olufemi Vaughan



Prof Oyeniyi Okunoye



Prof Corey Williams



Dr. Olunmi Asaolu



Prof Patricia Kameri-Mbote



Prof Taiwo Soneye



Prof Mathews Ojo



Prof Funmi Soetan



Prof Chris Ajila



Dr Enoch Gbadegesin



Prof Remi Sonaiya



Prof Gbemisola Adeoti

Some facilitators of the IAS Webinar



Prof Sola Ajibade



Prof Kwasi Ampene



Prof Adeleke Adeeko



Prof Saheed Aderinto



Dr Abosede Babatunde



Dr Adwoa Opoku-Agyeman



Prof Howard Stein



Prof Akin Adesokan

Fellows that have been very supportive of the IIAS initiative



Dr Nkatha Kabira



Dr Tunde Decker



Dr Tayo Owoeye



Dr Bunmi Bernard



Dr Tolu Osayomi



Dimeji Ogunoye



Sheila Othieno

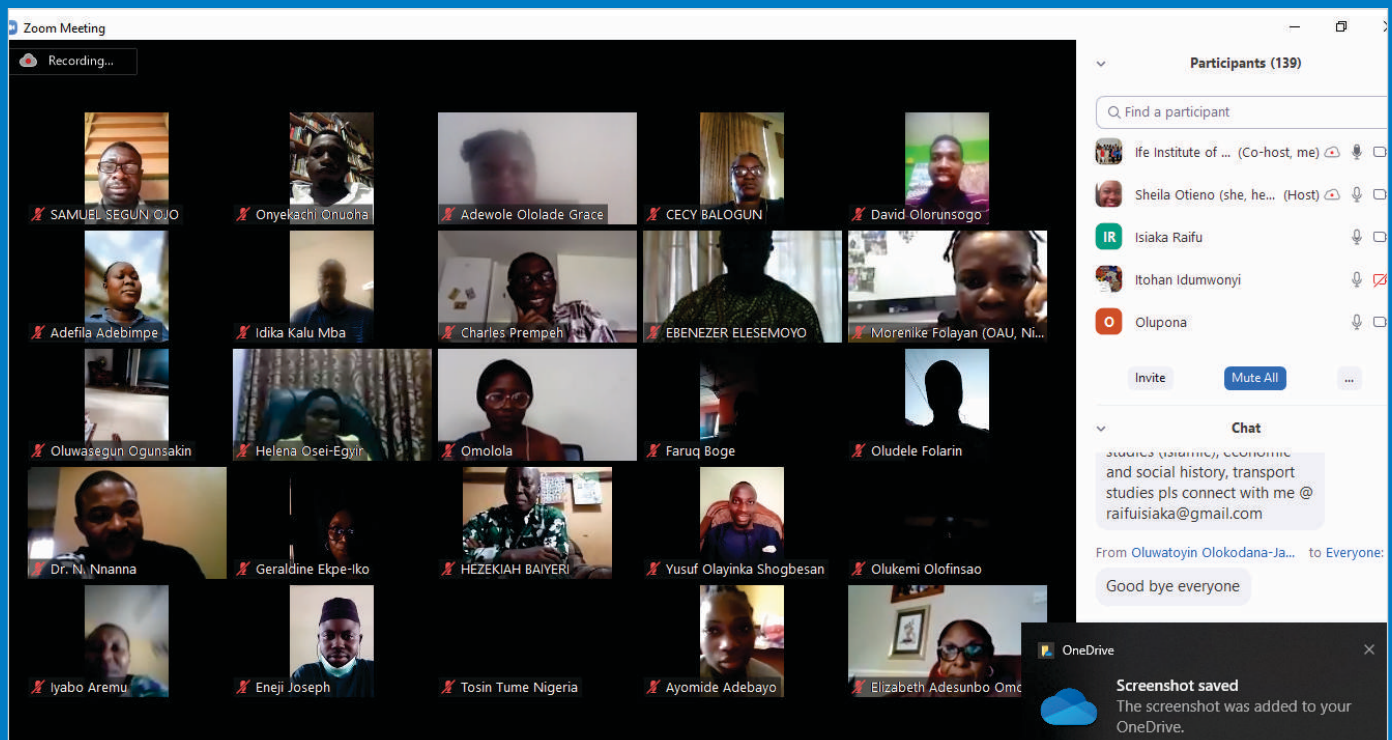
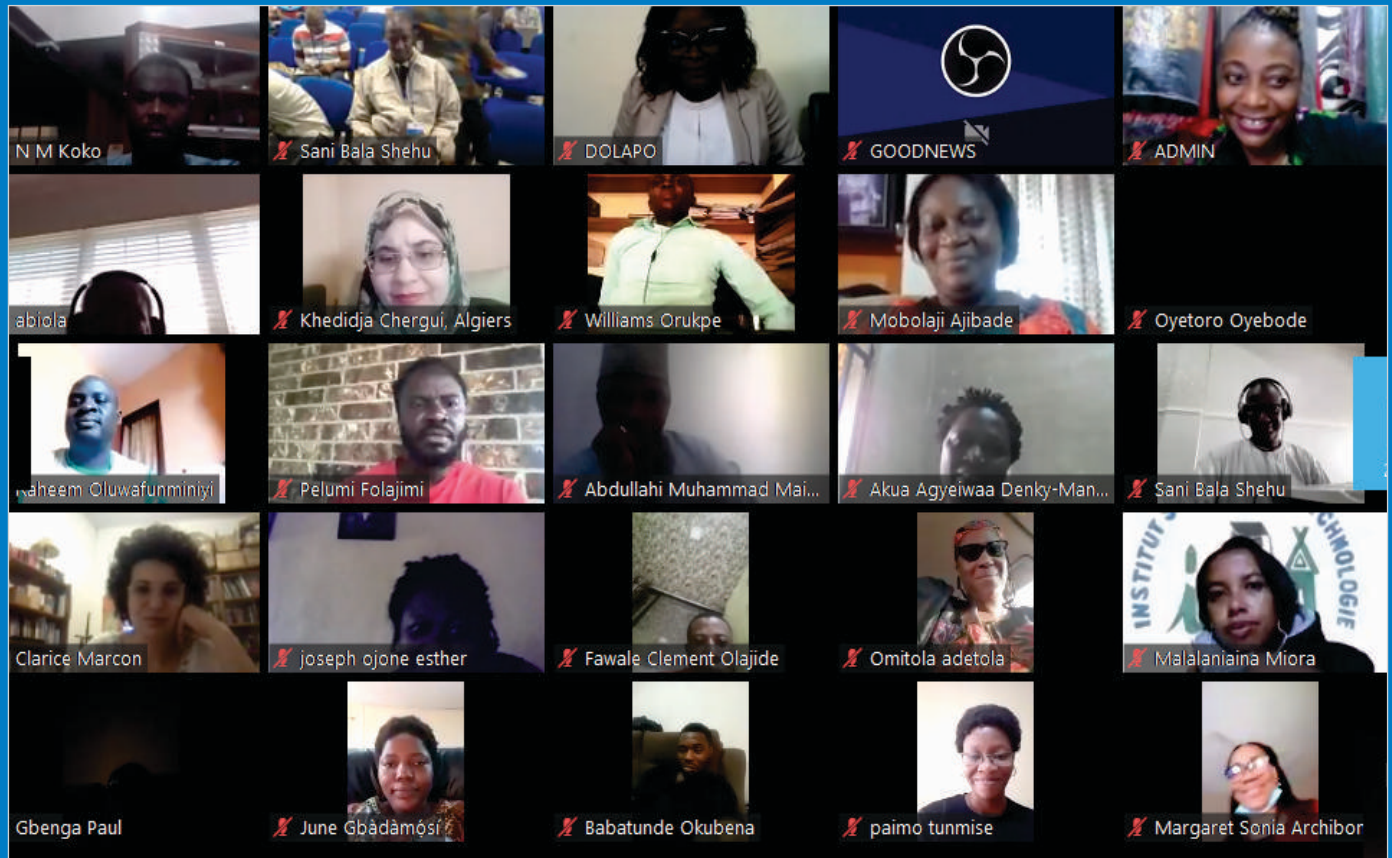


Dr Opeyemi Ekundayo



IIAS DINNER PARTY

Some IIAS fellows at the virtual summer institute



The Ife Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS) appreciates the continued support of Ford Foundation, Obafemi Awolowo University and Michael & Henrietta Olupona Foundation.

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