



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Convener's Welcome Address [2]
- Opening Remarks of the Host [3]
- A Synopsis of the July 2022 Keynote Address [4]
- Interrogating the Works of IIAS [7]
- IIAS Launches Annual Research Grant Competition [15]
- IIAS SCIENCE, 2022 [16]
- What did the 2022 "IIAS Science" Facilitators Say? [18]
- "Once a Fellow, Now a Facilitator..." [22]
- IIAS Fellows Speak [23]
- The IIAS Webinar Series [26]
- IIAS 2022 in Pictures [27]

# Convener's Welcome Address

## At the 6th Summer Institute on the Features and Future of IIAS



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

The Ife Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS) Convener, **Prof Jacob Olupona** welcomed fellows, facilitators and friends to the sixth IIAS Ife Summer Institute held between Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> July and Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> August 2022 with the theme, “The Future of the Academy: Skills for Transformative Pedagogy, Theory, and Practice”. He expressed deep pleasure at the success of the Institute. Apart from the main Summer Institute programme that takes place yearly in July/August, the Institute will now also begin to host a new STEM programme known as the “IIAS Science Summer Institute.” The first in the series is scheduled to take place between the 29<sup>th</sup> of November and 3<sup>rd</sup> of December, 2022. Prof Olupona said the goal of the “IIAS Science” is to cater for the needs of 23 young academics in the pure sciences, just as the July/August annual IIAS program has majored in mentoring early career academics in humanities and the social sciences. He anticipated that discussions and interactions at the program would encourage the building of new capacities and acquisition of new skills following the challenge that the year's theme had set before us.

The Convener thanked the Mastercard Foundation, and its illustrious director, Dr. Tade Aina, for the generous Grant made to the IIAS in 2022. He remarked that the Institute was excited to partner with the Foundation in the great act of walking alongside young scholars to think beyond

the confines of academic practice, particularly in these difficult times. He also thanked the Coordinators of the Summer Institute, the organizers, the planning team, and all who had worked diligently to make the 2022 IIAS program a reality. He noted that as always, “the hard work that goes into curating the presentations, coordinating the plans for the event, and ensuring a productive Summer Institute year after year is always a **marvel to see**”.

He noted also, that fifty-four fellows had enrolled at the Institute for the 2022 program, comprising thirty men and twenty-three women from eleven countries around the world. Fifteen of the fellows attended in-person in Nigeria and thirty-eight joined online from countries as far as Latin America, Europe, Asia, and other countries in Africa. He remarked on several emerging key issues pertaining to the academy and the Institute. Issues such as the (1) Regional Hub Creation – Regionalizing Global Representation, by centering on how to develop depth and expand to regions of Africa and giving stronger interest to other parts of Africa and the world; (2) Centralizing Research Efforts – by building an IIAS Home Hub and (3) Measuring Success and Benchmarking.

He posed some questions that are critical to advancing scholarship and the noble activities of the institute such as (a) “How do we measure success and failure in terms of our objectives, mission and topical issues such as our (the Institute's) current theme?” (b) “How do we respond to challenges facing fellows that strike at the core of higher education in Africa – for example, faculty not doing their best at teaching and mentoring?”, (c) “How can they do the best in the face of empty stomachs and insecurity?”, (d) “What is the relevance of curriculum development in a top-down system?”, and (e) “How do we fortify IIAS internal structures to harness the enormous energy of our fellows to provide relevant education that is missing from their training in African universities?”

# Opening Remarks of the Host Professor Simeon Bamire

The Vice Chancellor Of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife



In his welcome address, the Vice Chancellor of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria, Prof Simeon Adebayo Bamire

thanked Prof Olupona, the Convener of the IIAS and the coordinators of the program for their admirable investment in the future scholars from Nigeria and around the world. He encouraged fellows and participants to draw from the wealth of knowledge of the facilitators who would teach them during the two weeks at the institute. He promised continued support of Obafemi Awolowo University to the Institute. He also called for a sustained relationship between Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife and the Ife Institute of Advanced Studies.



IIAS 2022 Opening Ceremony. From Left: Prof. Bamire, Prof. Olupona, Mrs Olupona & Prof. Bickersteth



Prof Olubola Babalola  
DVC Academic, OAU



Prof Yomi Daramola  
DVC Administration, OAU



Participants at the 2022 IIAS Opening Ceremony

# A Synopsis of the July 2022 Keynote Address By Prof Olufemi Vaughan

“ African-centered Episteme and the Study of African Societies: Endeavors in Research, Scholarship, And Public Policy ”



**Professor Olufemi Vaughan**  
*(Alfred Sargent Lee and Mary Farley Ames Lee  
Professor of Black Studies, Amherst College,  
MA, USA.) College, MA, USA.*

Prof Olufemi Vaughan was the keynote speaker at the July/August 2022 IIAS program. In his keynote address, titled "African-centered Episteme and the Study of African Societies: Endeavors in Research, Scholarship, and Public Policy", Prof. Vaughn challenged a new generation of African and Africanist scholars to reflect more intentionally on how African-centered-knowledge might complement academic training in conventional academic disciplines so that they can respond effectively to the experiences of African societies. He stated that there is a need to excavate new knowledge by carefully reflecting on African experiences in the study of African societies. He noted that as we continue to engage in the study of African societies, African scholars should be more intentional in how they merge research and scholarship derived from conventional academic disciplines including in the arts, humanities, STEM fields and social sciences with concrete

objectives of actionable public policy that can have positive transformative consequences on African societies. He said this approach takes for granted the analytical tools, methods, theories and concepts derived from academic disciplines and focuses more intentionally on the challenges and potentialities of African experiences in our research and scholarly endeavors. He highlighted the various challenges (economic, environmental, social, political, demographic, technological, scientific) affecting Africa and he underscored the need for a new generation of African and Africanist scholars to reflect more deeply on the utility of their research projects for the progressive transformation of Africa's diverse societies.

Prof Vaughan argued that this perspective is essential because African societies face a lot of challenges including persistent communal conflicts, breakdown in security, environmental degradation, severe demographic pressures, massive youth unemployment, infrastructural decay, failed educational systems, collapse in healthcare systems, and structural poverty among many more. He urged IIAS scholars to explore innovative ideas, concepts and methodologies derived from African experiences to critically interrogate the wide range of issues confronting African societies rather than join the chorus line that catalogues Africa's crises. He highlighted the challenges that scholars in Africa, especially in Nigeria are saddled with. He spoke extensively about what scholars should be engaging in to ensure intellectual vitality and help the course of development. He further highlighted the importance of approaching African realities from Africa-centered theoretical standpoints. He

challenged young scholars to develop research agendas that critically engage with African realities and past, to be able to chart a path for indigenous and independent understanding of African experiences.

African-centred research projects will strive for the ingenuity that will liberate millions from ignorance, promote an enterprise ethos that can lift many Africans out of squalor, shine a light on impunity and flagrant abuse of power and build a Community of Practice emblematic of this wonderful Institute, the keynote speaker, added. He said further that the economic themes underscored issues relating to the nation state, agriculture, natural resources, infrastructural development and socio-political issues. For him, the present research questions are of national interest. He mentioned the need to reflect carefully on laws derived from European/colonial encounters and ideas of law derived from contentious claims of African custom and tradition. In his keynote address, Prof. Vaughan

outlined the need to sustain vibrant African societies in the neoliberal world.

The keynote speaker in his conclusion underscored a list of issues that he believed should be the priority of a new generation of African scholars for careful analysis and policy rendering. On the socio-political themes, he explicated the crucial role of education in African states. These are issues relating to health care policy and strategy and the critical question of security and social intervention policy. He enunciated important African socio-political themes that the research agenda of young scholars can address. They include political systems and political leadership, the question of law and order within the framework of State Society relations, education, healthcare policy and strategy, security, social infrastructure, role of the new African diaspora and transnational African populations in the development of African countries, national identity and reputation, and African regional relations.



IIAS participants in session during the July/August 2022 IIAS Summer Institute

## Academic Excellence: Standards versus Practice



**Prof Taiwo Soneye** described excellence as the principles of decency to which every academic should aspire. She urged fellows to see their mind as the greatest resource that should be receptive to innovative ideas. She underscored the importance of individuality in striving for excellence and advised fellows to be circumspect and knowledgeable about their environment which has a lot of capacity to influence the quality and quantum of their research and community service.

---

## STEM and the Humanities:

### Collaborations for Pedagogical Transformation



**Prof Morenike Ukpog** described science as “an exploration of the world around us in an effort to find universal, indisputable truths and an “extrospective” for understanding external reality.” She noted that the Arts is often introspective – used to understand consciousness and a product of expression which is practiced to make sense of our reality and may also be used to create a manifestation of the consciousness of the artist itself. Prof Ukpog added that the intersection of science and humanities requires fusing humanistic thought with scientific discovery and that the fusion deepens the respective perspectives and expressions of reality. She opined that a perfect separation will indeed be a major obstacle to the progression of human society, though science and the humanities seem to have evolved with time into two growing distinct cultures through specialized institutions, organizations, and departments. She acknowledged that “now, more than ever, it is necessary for scientific experimentation and creative expression to cooperate in order to navigate the needs, demands, and desires of the ever-growing global population”. She opined that the dichotomy between science and technology versus arts and humanities is false, as the two are not mutually exclusive.

---

## Post-doctoral Experiences:

### Academic Writing And Research



**Dr Tunde Decker** explained that a Ph.D. candidate must be one who is thoughtful, persistent, diligent, analytical, systematic, quality oriented, meticulous, reflecting, methodical and focused following the 'blue scholarship' model by Thomas Erikson. He spoke on how his PhD experiences were basically qualitative documents, possessed far more potential for further research, and how it could be re-engaged and also serve as 'new' data. He said Postdoctoral experiences expose the gaps in one's PhD thesis, and one is able to learn the ethics of grammar, and identify the information they conceal. He posited that the ability to critically engage his PhD thesis and his first postdoctoral opportunity objectively birthed another proposal titled “selfie: everyday agency in everyday people in colonial Lagos” – that facilitated another grant opportunity with African Humanities Program (AHP). He reiterated that Postdoctoral opportunities are anchored on ingenuity, creativity, studying and keeping track of the status of one's PhD.

# Interrogating the Works of IIAS: IIAS Visions, Mission, Goals, Objectives, Perspectives & Challenges



**O**n questions about the visions and objectives of the institute, posed by Mathias Orhero, a 2020 IIAS fellow, Prof Olupona responded that the creation of the Ife Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS) came out of concerns he had in the 1980s when he was on the faculty of the Obafemi Awolowo university campus and a similar institute was inaugurated in the Faculty of Arts but failed because there was no attempt to collectively own the institute. He explained that the attempt to do things differently made friends and colleagues in the diaspora come together to create a structure under which we would continually mentor graduate students and imbibe academic values while identifying challenges they face. He said further that the institute was not going to be named after an individual but as 'Ife Institute of Advanced Studies'. This, he said, was with a vision to

fostering the participation of senior and junior scholars in interdisciplinary research in various areas of knowledge in order to actively engage non-university intellectuals, Nigerian and African thought-leaders and civil servants in matters related to Africa's economic growth and policy development; host several research programs and themes that will be initiated and develop under the supervision of critical subgroups created by and reporting to the institute's research committee. He said the summer institute works to find a way to empower students by engaging them intellectually to be able to build confidence in themselves and become excellent scholars that are able to stand up for themselves and defend their values and that it is set to: (i) facilitate and foster innovative research of young scholars in the academy by exposing them to relevant theoretical and methodological tools in their respective disciplines, (ii) encourage the participation of senior and junior scholars in interdisciplinary research and in various areas of knowledge by providing them with access to a strong infrastructure to carry on important research, (iii) foster deliberations about how to shape Nigeria's future through scholarships and establish a network of non-university intellectuals, Nigerian and African society thought-leaders and civil servants; and (iv) equip fellows with active platforms (like the webinar on the institute's website) that afford them the opportunity to share their research activities while getting feedback. He posited that one of the main challenges of IIAS is funding.

## Finding Your Voice: Elevator Speeches and the Self-pitch



According to Dr Nkatha Kabira, in a researcher's scholarly journey he/she must be able to identify their scholarly interventions, identify their modes of argument and design elevated speeches to reflect their scholarly interventions, the research gaps they have identified and the new knowledge they are bringing to the table.

## Evolving Learning and Teaching: Decolonizing the Curriculum



**Prof Francis Egbokhare** affirmed that “Curriculum is a knowledge deployment blueprint and a very important factor in the idea of decolonization”. He noted that in a system where the curriculum is hardly enforced, there is a need for institutional awareness in addressing the issues around curriculum and change in the system as a whole. He added that curriculum provides knowledge about what is to be taught and how it should be taught and where attention is moving from just dissemination of information to the application of knowledge. He emphasized that the curriculum has to be able to respond to this need and ensure the sustainability of the technology it adapts. He reiterated that the curriculum has to be revised in order to accommodate courses and training that will enable a change in the mindset of the new generation of people who pass through tertiary education in order to embrace the idea of decolonization. He underscored the need to address how the language of the colonizers can be used to decolonize the curriculum without causing recolonization.

---

## Radical Pan-african and Feminist Intellectual Traditions: New Synergies



**Prof Amina Mama** was of the opinion that the word radical needed to be understood in its positive or negative forms. This she said, could also mean a trajectory to get to the root of matters and the motive for getting to know the root course of question and situations- not just to scratch issues on the surface but to dig deep enough to understand the situation in its entirety. To Prof Mama, the word radical is revolutionary and our radical tradition, she asserted, must be subjected to greater scrutiny. She noted that a lot of people are still conflicted about the concept of feminism and she defined a feminist as one who is alert to the issues of subjugation of the female person. She added that to own science, we have to interrogate it as it has over the years encouraged sexism and racism. She emphasized that liberation is never given freely, 'you have to push for it, fight for it and knowledge making is entirely social'. Prof Mama said, we Africans need ourselves, that we are to generate our theories starting from our community and our culture and that this will help us generate our ideas and knowledge. She remarked that under colonialism, the liberation of women deteriorated, and that the concept of feminism is actually postcolonial, and as such, the idea that the feminism issue was learnt from the western women is in fact not true and as a matter of fact they, the western women learnt feminism from the black woman.



**Dr Sharon Adetutu Omotosho** asserted that radicalism is a word that can really be confusing and sometimes the way feminism is presented makes people shift from it, and that it is impossible to break academic barriers without being radical. She elaborated that when we dig deep into the root of issues, it helps us bring something to the table which will inform what we write, how we do it. She urged fellows to be conscious of what they do at all times, ranging from doing what people would rather ignore or be silent about to looking into how they research, and communicate their research; how they deploy it for change, how they sustain it and how they reproduce it. She said to do that, there is the need to ponder on the following questions;” how do we theorize, frame and reframe our ideas?” She concluded that misconceptions around the issues of feminism should be cleared up through different interventions.



## Ensuring Sustainable Development through Research and Technology



**Prof Douglas J. Buttrey** explained multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary studies by citing the example of his student who had her bachelor's degree in chemical engineering, her master's degree in economics and her MEd in STEM education. He advised that we should not push students into boxes but encourage their imaginations. In other words, they should be allowed to explore fields without being constrained in their thinking thereby, helping them to develop their creativity and critical thinking. “It is good to grab STEM but don't let's go off Humanities” he finally remarked.

---

## Service in the Academy: Heading Departments, Committee Appointments, and Working with Administration



**Emeritus Prof Togonu-Bickersteth** urged all to note that in addition to our academic journey, we would be called to apply our skills in other internal formal organizations which will need our maturity which will be reflected by our behaviour, diligence, confidence, carriage, and input in the system. She highlighted the major skills needed to take on leadership roles in academia including being focused on our goals and not on side talks that might be misleading, communicating effectively, being respectful and culturally, sensitive so that, our words are not misunderstood. She underscored the need to lead from the front and be exemplary, guarding against laxity. She said leaders are meant to be involved, to actively share their thoughts and opinions and not be passive. She advised that we should have social and emotional intelligence, be approachable and consciously develop ourselves for leadership positions, have a fairly work-life balance, choosing our mentors wisely and intelligently because their values, cultures and way of life will rub off.



**Prof Olatunde Olawuyi**, said the fact that we are not interested in administration does not mean we would never be in the seat one day. He noted that some goals can only be achieved through administration. He emphasized “Time management” as one of the most important skills needed to succeed in any leadership role in the university. He cautioned that when one gets into administration, one will be dealing with self-consciousness and other consciousness, and that the latter cannot exist on its own, and the two are constantly at war with each other, if the two is not well balanced to work with each other, it could alter one's consciousness and give one an identity that one does not have.



**Prof Abiodun Alao** highlighted the differences between being a dedicated administrator and an academic administrator. He emphasized the importance of good timing, the understanding of one's weakness(es) and application of wisdom. He said there was the need to be conscious of cultural Idiosyncrasies, and not allow ourselves to be suppressed because of cultural biases. He urged participants to learn how to take their stand without being rude about it. He noted that, one of our greatest strengths is to know our weaknesses as scholars.

## Funding Research: Writing Successful Grant Applications



**Prof Cyril Obi** opined that grants and funding are like oxygen that keep research going. He advised that before approaching any funder, it is important to familiarize ourselves with their research goals and agenda, get to know and understand our funders, what their guidelines are, how to apply and their eligibility criteria. He said it is also important to be time conscious when applying and applicants need to defeat the temptation to start writing their proposal close to the deadline. Prof Obi agreed to the saying that there is nothing new under the sun but encouraged that as researchers, we should be creative about our research whether in the approach to the study or areas that have been neglected. He said further that we also need to be strategic about writing our proposal and be conscious of the mind of our reviewer, be careful not to overly use jargon and make the aim of our research known in our proposal at least in the first two paragraphs.

## Putting Yourself out there: Networking Tips and Tricks



**Dr Oluwabunmi Bernard** shared her personal experiences about networking, starting from the time she attended the IIAS summer institute in 2017 as a fellow, to how the Institute shaped her research journey and the inspiring and kind scholars and Professors that she met through the institute who also helped improve her network locally and internationally. She shared some of the tips that could come handy in networking and mentioned that we can meet people accidentally but relationships are built over time by continuous and intentional communication. She said, it is important to be conscious of people's time and schedule. She urged fellows to read, as reading shapes our minds, and be ever ready to sell themselves and research intelligently when they meet people and manage their time well, to be diligent in assignments and duties they have to do with people with whom they are networking. "You'd get some "Yes" and some "No", but the key thing is to never give up, she added. She mentioned the importance of having a peer mentor and being very calm and humble in networking. She highlighted the importance of reading extensively before applying for any grant and urged fellows thus: "your recommenders play a very important role in your success with your grant application, and they must have an idea about what you are working on because they are like your publicists" so it is important to wisely choose your recommenders". She emphasized the importance of application submission before the deadline and having the resilience to never give up.



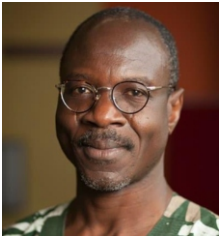
New fellows at the 2022 Summer Institute



Dimeji Ogunoye, with the IIAS Convener



## Critical Thinking for the Future of the Humanities



**Prof Olufemi Taiwo** in his intervention asserted that “The functions of **Critical thinking** could mean what is wrong with a phenomenon and can it be fixed or what is right with it and can that be all or finding fault or exploring all sides of an idea? What reason might there be to engage this thought? Why are all these points critical to the future of scholarship? Quoting Tony Morrison, he emphasised that “humane decisions are better than expedient ones”. He concluded that criticism does not mean destruction as it would always bring out the best in any phenomenon.

## Advertising Your Research: The Art of Abstract Writing



**Prof Afe Adogame** emphasized the importance of avoiding story-telling in **abstract writing**. He spoke about mastering the art of winning small research grants before applying for large grants, saying 'grants are very competitive'. Your road to success in grants first depends on whether you choose to make sense or nonsense of a proposal abstract, he added. He said an abstract condenses a longer piece of writing and that originality and conciseness remain crucial features of a good abstract.

## Ethnographic Field Research & Methodology



**Prof. Corey Williams** explained the way ethnographic research is being carried out in the post- Covid era. He posited that digital ethnography has been introduced into field work in recent decades and emphasized that, if ethnography wants to remain valuable in the future, it must find a way to situate itself in the digital world. Also, he said it must also be human-centered. He described Digital ethnography as cost effective and more productive than on-ground ethnography with which data collection could be quickly gathered from different parts of the world.

## Creating Long-term Research Agenda: Refreshing Your Academic Voice



**Prof Muhammad Zaman** spoke on encouraging self-discovery, identifying our areas of expertise and recognizing the need for other people. He urged fellows to “be selfish and selfless” and highlighted qualities of an excellent researcher such as, doing the work of reading, writing and reflecting, not jeopardizing opportunities, not being blind to them and having research agenda. He underscored the need to share experiences, discuss with people, and read. He mentioned some of the skills needed to be a successful researcher such as, open mindedness, good listening skills, and ability to accept criticism. He added that we need to constantly and consistently engage the literature and not ignore new knowledge.





## From Proposal Writing and Submission to Grant Management and Reporting



**Prof. Afe Adogame** advised fellows to pay attention to the call for proposals, decide whether a project is collaborative or not, and determine who needs to be brought on board. He said the ideas must be framed with everyone engaged from the beginning and the ideas must be modified to fit the parameters of the study and the available time. He urged fellows to ensure the task they are attempting is appropriate for the time allotted, be concise, prudent and deliberately plan.



**Prof Remi Sonaiya** emphasized the building of a good character which would help build good relationships. She underscored essential qualities researchers need to possess such as, genuineness, openness, transparency and curiosity towards the world and not remaining in their own silo. She added that “before we became scientists, we were first human beings” and advised that we pay attention to developing good relationships with people.



**Prof Matthews Ojo** highlighted the need to build a personal research profile. He said the proposal writing demonstrates the competence of the researcher in carrying out research, and the title of any research should be brief, precise, and explanatory and the researcher should clearly state why the study is relevant to their field of study.



**Dr Tayo Owoeye** was of the opinion that collaborative research improves multidisciplinary research by providing the chance to approach challenging problems from several angles. He said to avoid ambiguity and confusion, it is crucial to clearly describe our expectations, assign tasks and deliverables, and outline the problems that each person will be tackling in the joint research project.

## Academic 'Fathers' and 'Sons': Mentorship, Creating Opportunities, and Building a Legacy



**Prof. Akanni Akinyemi** told the story of how his perspective on academia was altered after meeting his mentor. He argued academics to be balanced and not hesitant in putting themselves out there. He stated that critical thinking should extend beyond the classroom and into every aspect of our lives as academics, including creating many versions of our CV that are customised and attractively designed to fulfilling various purposes. He advised fellows to draw attention to their skill set and hone their networking abilities.



**Tosin Elufowoju**, a lawyer and 2017 Fellow of the IIAS cautioned that as academics we must be aware of our contract of engagement and familiar with the rules of engagement. She said there should be a balance between our side business and our day job to prevent conflicts of interest. She added that we must be resourceful in how we work around our contract of engagement, and be aware of the guidelines that govern engagement at our place of employment. To avoid frustration, she advised fellows to only explore and invest in an enterprise that they are enthusiastic about.



## The Long Goodbye: 'Leaving the Academy Well'



**Emeritus Professor Funmi Togonu-Bickersteth** advised fellows to stand out in their scholarship, take good care of their health since it is wealth, spend their money wisely so they can save and join local, national, and worldwide organisations to form networks. She encouraged fellows to invest in capacity building early in life and sometimes take on assignments without requiring a financial return in order to develop capacity and get ready for retirement.

## Walking The Line: The Scholar as Public Intellectual



**Professor Ebenezer Obadare** recalled the great guidance he received from mentors during his undergraduate and graduate studies and how it helped him strengthen his critical thinking. He said “being an intellectual is a prerequisite for becoming a public intellectual” and that being an intellectual is expensive and requires giving up some joys.



**Professor Wale Adebaniwa** discussed his upbringing and how he was made to read aloud to his parents as a young child. He added that what we imagine repeatedly while forgoing relationships and resources will finally materialize. On the *influence of friendship and peer-mentorship in career building*, he said, their friendship is based on considerate interactions, shared objectives, and constructive criticism of one another's creative output and they serve as one another's peer mentors

---

## Africa in the World: Shaping African Knowledge For Global Research



**Prof Charles Ukeje**, on "Shaping African Knowledge for Global Research," said as Africans, we must speak up about the realities of our circumstances in our home countries. He added that, we must engage in and create approaches specific to our circumstances and problems and our research is supposed to reflect our identities, viewpoints, and ideals. He urged us as African scholars to look at scholarly endeavors and Africa's contributions to knowledge from a long-term and cross-generational perspective.



**Prof. Williams Alade Fawole** contributed to the discussion stating that as African scholars, we need to support our native education and philosophy, because even in our fortress of learning, Africans exhibit an inferiority complex. He emphasized that Africans have a lot of doable but challenging work to perform.

---

## The Future of the Academy: Skills for Transformative Pedagogy, Theory and Practice



**Prof. Leslye Obiora** reaffirmed the need for Africans to fund their own education and research in order to develop our continent. She said there is a need to institutionalise and include local philanthropies into academic research in Africa. She questioned how colleges should capitalize on philanthropists and motivate supporters to foster this culture even among regular people. She noted that for regulatory authorities in the United States, philanthropy is the poor's business and suggested that, instead of relying on funding from Western foundations and organisations, Nigeria has to set up certain

bodies to handle finances and create endowments to fund research.



## The July/August 2022 IIAS Summer Institute Closing Ceremony



**Prof. Olutayo Adesina** delivered the keynote address at the closing ceremony of the July/August 2022 IIAS Summer Institute. He noted with dismay that within the intellectual context, universities in Africa have almost become mere clones of the Western Academy. He called for the awakening of our Africanness to involve local relevance and not mere global visibility. He said further, that unfortunately, the way our universities have been programmed has led to a decline of knowledge in the real sense of it; and that we have created a community that is a mere parody of the Western. Africa

Universities must be reborn from their ashes and take their place in the sun. He affirmed that our universities require purification, and we must think thoroughly so that, the purposes which our universities are meant to serve are fulfilled.

## IIAS Launches Annual Research Grant Competition for Early Career Researchers



**Prof. Afe Adogame**, reaffirmed the willingness of the IIAS family to launch an incentive platform for the IIAS research grant competition on annual basis from the year 2022. This he made clear at the closing ceremony of the 2022 July Summer Institute. Early career researchers who are IIAS fellows had earlier been invited to apply for the grant and twenty-seven applications were submitted. Among them, five proposals were chosen after double peer review. Each of the five winners got a five-

hundred-dollar (\$500) grant. The titles of the proposals that won the grants alongside the names and pictures of the awardees are listed below:



**Title of Proposal:** “On our way to appease the Gods! Asserting Gender and Religious Ritual Capitals in the Nigerian Public Sphere”

~ *Ruth Annue*



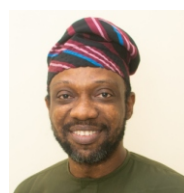
**Title of proposal:** “Oba ni koro (The king has Coronavirus): Punning as Yoruba Naming Strategy in Covid-19 Pandemic in Southwest, Nigeria”

~ *Ibukunola Isaac Olodude*



**Title of proposal:** “Hip-hop music and moral decadence among youth in Lagos State, Nigeria”

~ *Oluwasina Moruf Adebisi*



**Title of proposal:** “Geographies of divine health and healing: Ori-Oke (Prayer mountains) as Therapeutic Landscapes”

~ *Tolu Osayomi*



**Title of proposal:** “Tete wo bii ka, tete wo bi Kyere” (“The remaking of a church community through Adinkra symbolism)”

~ *Felicity Apaah*

# IIAS SCIENCE, 2022

November 29 – December 3, 2022



**Professor Olurinde Life**  
*Director, Centre for Renewable Energy  
Technology, Federal University of Technology, Akure*

Prof Olurinde Life started his lecture with a quote of one of his favourite Professors, “Fundamentals don't change”, He mentioned that, STEAM is Science, it is Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. He said, to build any society, we must get the fundamentals right, every discipline and field of study is very important, and the way the world runs now, everything comes together. To build a wholesome system, all these fundamental pillars must be built into them, he added. He appreciated the work of Late Professor Babatunde Ogunnaike, how he combined different fields of research and incorporated them into his works.

He illustrated, using 3 notable developers namely Steve Jobs, who together with Steve Wozniak collaborated to found the Apple company although he had not studied engineering; Mateo Jaramillo, who has an A.B in Economics and a Masters in Theology, and is currently a cofounder of “Form Energy”, a company combining Iron and

A Synopsis of  
the November 2022

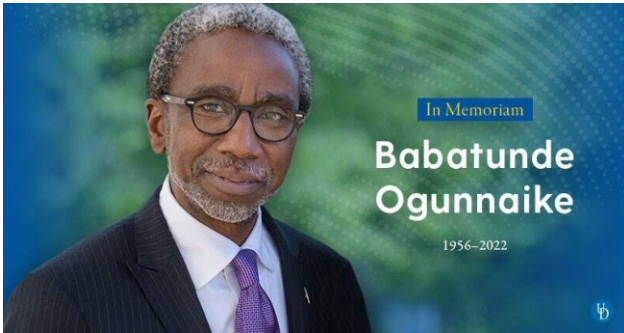
## “IIAS Science” Keynote Address

*STEAM as a Possibility: Interdisciplinary  
Collaboration and Multidisciplinary  
Approaches*

Air for Grid scale energy storage, and Elon Musk, who has about two unconventional degrees, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Physics and a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics. He mentioned that Elon musk didn't have a degree in Aeronautic Engineering but has been able to solve problems that the NASA has not been able to solve in years and though he did not study Electrical Engineering, he is now the one making the world's famous electrical car.

He recalled that despite the fact that Steve Jobs was not an engineer, his perspective was very essential to building a wholesome product, his perspective gave context to the designs being built. Although he dropped out of college, he learnt about calligraphy. With this, he was able to bring beauty and artistic touch to the products designed by the Apple company. He mentioned that Steve Jobs' input brought a major advancement to the products from the Apple computers. He said all this implies that idea is needed from all fields of study, and that individual's fields of study should not be a limitation to the development of cutting-edge technology. He opined that specialization and technicality of the STEM fields is not enough,





that we need the artistic input from the humanities to bring about a wholesome invention. He advised that inventions should not be tied to a particular field, people should be allowed to freely think and invent. That we live in an interconnected and interdisciplinary world. He gave an example of one of his works where he created a computer program that imitates the actions and interactions of cells in the body and used this program to encode data. He said this model can be used to accelerate the way data moves through the internet. He used this illustration to explain how knowledge from different fields could inspire inventions in another field and how the knowledge from these other fields is used to shape, interpret and produce new technologies in other fields. He explained the different ways how different fields collaborate to build things, he gave an example of how an automobile company is consulting a person with music background to produce a synthetic sound in electric cars, how a civil engineer would need the help of a biological scientist to make use of waste, how an architect and engineers could collaborate with an Animal Scientist or an Entomologist. He encouraged that people know their fundamentals and be well rooted in their fields of study but still intentionally collaborate with people from other fields of study to be able to create something

innovative. He advised that the African Scholars go beyond their silos and not put unnecessary limitations in the educational system which would not move us forward. We have to grow from the point where we expect that only people with background in a particular field of study can address some specific issues, everyone from every field of study should be given the opportunity to evaluate and proffer solution to different issues from the community and the world at large, he added.

Prof Lafe said interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research help to create affordable, sustainable and reliable inventions. He urged that we go beyond our comfort zone and expand our thinking scope beyond the conventional to be able to do something phenomenal and impactful. He emphasized that in the subject of STEAM, everything comes together and no field is less important. Some other examples of inventions from interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary collaborations given by Prof Lafe were Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR), Spider Silk, Electricity-Free Room Cooling, building with indigenous materials, and bridging Based-ranking, Prof Lafe concluded by giving seven keys to STEAM and Interdisciplinary Collaboration, namely (i) exercise an open-tent attitude, (ii) be age, experience and field agnostic, (iii) get outside your academic comfort zone, (iv) quit your silo and think outside the box, (v) patiently communicate concepts and ideas without fixation on your parochial field jargon, and (vi) do not fear “take-off” setbacks, strive to overcome them and (vii) teach, preach, and promote interdisciplinary practice.



## *What did the 2022 “ILAS Science” Facilitators Say to the Academic Community?*



**Dr. Adesanmi Akinsulore**

The inability to be able to effect a change at a particular time, should not mean we should stop thinking, we can have plans that we can execute in the future when the opportunity presents itself.



**Prof. Simeon Ilesanmi**

The job of a scholar is not just to grow for themselves but to train younger scholars. A socially conscious scholar is a public intellectual who seeks to link scholarship as “an effective vehicle for addressing issues of public importance and efforts to bring about the sort of personal and social transformation required to address many of the social and moral problems we are facing”.



**Prof. Oyewale Tomori**

We built the walls that are around us, if we would break the walls down, we would also break it down by ourselves. To make any change in the system, our desire for change is not enough, it must be backed up by commitment. We must be flexible over things that need to be done. Science brings out the truth in a matter, then Arts digests the truth and bring out wisdom in it. “When Science booms, Arts also booms”



**Prof. Eme Owoaje** It is important to always communicate our research findings to policy makers and people whose voices can bring about a change in the educational system, industrialization, and Agriculture. “Nothing succeeds better than Success”



**Prof. Kehinde Taiwo**

The educational curriculum should be reviewed frequently, and the educational system, flexible. Our curriculum design should focus on what students are able to do themselves rather than merely passing an exam. There is a point of convergence for Arts and Science, if given a chance. It is very important that we address the limitations of interdisciplinary research. Our science must address societal needs.



**Prof. Oye Gureje**

We need to build a critical mass of biomedical researchers to have a viable African-centered episteme in biomedicine. To have a viable African-centered episteme in biomedicine, we need to be committed to implementation research and community-based epidemiology.

**Prof. Iruka Okeke**

What we learn in university is how to build our skills-set to become life-long learners so, we must encourage our students to become lifelong learners and not be afraid to leave their comfort zone. If we would make a change in the academia and the educational system, we can't always take the easier route, we should learn to create time for the extra work required to make that change.

**Prof. Grace O. Ogunlusi**

To decolonize our curricula, we must examine our own discipline, identify alternative canons of knowledge which have been marginalized or dismissed because of colonialism and include and discuss them with students. Decolonizing our curricula requires that we consider the diversity of our student groups and ensure learning content moves beyond western to global frameworks.

**Prof. Wasiu Lanre Adeyemo**

A curriculum must be able to evaluate the critical thinking skills of the students and be changed if, it does not increase their critical thinking skill within one to six years. Educators should be creative in designing courses that allow students to learn actively and convert thoughts into actions.

**Prof. Michael Faborode**

Every university should have its own framework for each discipline and give lecturers (Professors) the liberty to modify their programs to fit evolving knowledge and not be tied to old ways of doing things.

**Prof. Friday Okonofua**

Understanding how today's students learn successfully is essential for effective curriculum design. Curriculum should be built to support the development of interpersonal skills, communication skills, evaluation, judgement, and entrepreneurship skills in students.

**Prof. Juliet Iwelunmor**

Socially conscious research is community-, participatory- and equity- focused. A socially conscious scholar is a visionary interpreter, a citizen scholar, that is connected to their community; a social and an imaginative thinker. Think of a people in terms of assets they have, not in terms of their limitation. A socially conscious researcher is also conscious of sustainability.

**Prof. G.A. Aderounmu**

Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary research is central to innovative research. Networking for young academics is pivotal in building and strengthening relationships with highly experienced researchers in both the academia and industry.



**Prof. Dianne Stewart**

Scholars must be dedicated to being established in their academic fields to have the necessary influence to make a change in their community.



**Dr Connie Nshemereirwe**

If the content of the African education is not carefully designed, it may be the reason why we are retarded. We may fail, if we do not learn how to look around ourselves, engage, and diagnose our own problems and take on our solutions that are given within our own education system.



**Prof. Olusegun Isaac Alatise**

A researcher must criticize every norm and practice; and must be a learner. In engaging the literature, young scholars should pay attention to the recommendation for future research and review what has been done in their area of interest locally. Young scholars should compare their new method with old and constantly do historical control.



**Prof. Emmanuel Iyayi Unuabonah**

Always be a learner, think outside your comfort zone and be a critic.



**Dr. Juri Mets**

We must collaborate with researchers from other fields, engage in critical thinking and choose a good academic mentor.



**Prof. Marcus Adebola Eleruja**

Scholars must rely on "what was" in their field or society before they can make "what would be" better for themselves. The issue of Mentorship is too important and cannot be overemphasized. For the society or our field to survive, we need to have mentors, agree to be mentored and in turn, mentor others.



**Prof Afe Adogame**

Scholars must pay attention to predatory and exploitative mentorship and be careful of intellectual and emotional smuggling. Mentoring is a lifelong experience. The mission of the IIAS is not just to mentor young scholars but also to raise them as good mentors for future scholars. Take challenges and turn them to opportunities. Be a voracious reader and be up to date with the state-of-the-art literature.



**Prof David O. Ògúngbilé**

It is necessary to invest in excellence in whatever we do.

**Prof. Olutayo Adesina**

In your research journey, every period is very important. We need not despise the days of little beginnings. Good network and mentoring also help boost your confidence and help you make better decisions. We can start to make our change with every little opportunity we get.

**Dr. Ngozi Enelamah**

Building your network within the academia requires that you maintain the relationship you have with other scholars. This could be done by collaborating with them. Volunteering is an incredibly effective way to build your network in the academia. Life is a continuum, acknowledge where you are and where you are going, show up as your authentic self and let people know who you are.

**Prof. Charles Ukeje**

It is important to share your research and research interest with people and the public. This would give you some visibility in the academic world. A scholar must never be too proud to ask others for clarity and enlightenment whenever he or she is confused.

**Prof. Maha Marouan**

Scholars should pay attention and be sensitive to gender equity in their academic space. Awareness is the first step towards changing things. Wherever you go, find an ally!

**Prof. Oyeronke Olademo**

It is important to put yourself in the virtual space. It potentially has a huge importance on the level of visibility your research gets. Your presence on the virtual space is important for posterity, globalization, financial possibilities, and multiple layered opportunities.

**Dr. Lukman O. Olasunkanmi**

We must be careful not to lose the demarcation between friendship and professionalism if we will build sustainable research. It is important to be very sincere and upright as an academic to ensure the sustainability of our academic integrity.

**Prof. Matthew Adigun**

Senior scholars must prioritize the issue of proper mentoring so that younger scholars are well guided in building their career. A conducive academic environment must be created to ensure the growth of younger scholars.

**Prof. Folasade Ogunsola**

In identifying your interest, you need to move out of your comfort zone and identify what problems are in your environment. In creating a research agenda, your interest should be coupled with impact. Never forget to invest in yourself, constantly. Investing in going for conferences is not a luxury.



**Prof Muhammad Zaman**

It is important to find the balance between what you are good at, what your passion is and what resources are available to pursue the passion. Don't spend all your time on your comfort zone, learn new skills. A healthy balance is needed in creating your long-term research agenda. Critics and supporters are always needed.



**Dr. Akindele O. Adebisi**

In deciding a research focus for a long-term research agenda, you need to balance expectations with the demand of a lifelong decision. Young scholars need to be intentional about creating networks with senior scholars.

## *“Once a Fellow, Now a Facilitator”: A Step in the Right Direction*



**Dr. Sheila Otieno**

IIAS is a space that offers opportunities for collaboration. Ife Institute is a place to find mentorship and peer to peer mentorship. At every conference we attend, we must take advantage of the network of people around and never miss an opportunity to collaborate. You can either be a bystander or an active participant anywhere you find yourself.



**Dr. Tolulope Osayomi**

IIAS gives you an academic transformation, encourages you to do interdisciplinary research. You should be keen to listening to others and do not dismiss easily, foreign ideas.



**Dr. Olusegun Titus**

The IIAS experience transforms your thinking style and encourages wide thought. IIAS is a place for good mentorship. Thinking STEAM is thinking critically, it births innovative ideas to showcase you as an excellent scholar which is reflected in your publications and has the potential to advance your scholarship and career.



Dr Ademola  
Adesola



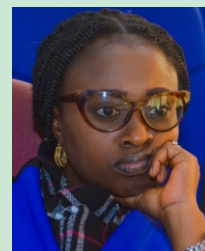
Dr Samantha  
Lakin



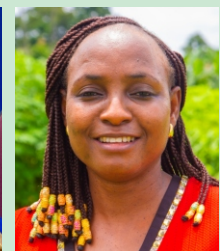
Dimeji  
Ogunoye



Dr Opeyemi  
Ekundayo



Dr Jumoke  
Alamede



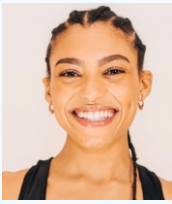
Dr Damilola  
Agbalajobi

## IIAS FELLOWS SPEAK ON EXPERIENCE AT THE JULY 2022 INSTITUTE



The summer school was very educative and impressive!

**Sunday Oluwaseun Ukaewen**  
*University of Lagos, Lagos.*



The 2022 Ife Institute served as an incredible foundation as I currently enter my first year of Doctoral Studies and nurture my training as a Dancer and Ethnographer.

**Nadia Milad Issa**  
*Harvard Divinity School, and  
The University of Texas at Austin, USA*



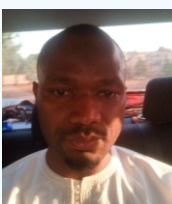
The Summer Institute is a great platform for engineering professional and career development for young scholars.

**Seun Williams**  
*The Graduate Institute of International and  
Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland*



The training was so educative. It gave me insight into proposal writing, self-development, mentorship, how to collaborate with other researchers, increase my network and be a relevant scholar. The workshop was well organized and the speakers did justice to all the topics, all questions were answered accurately and we are highly motivated by the experience of the former fellows

**Malomo Adekunbi**  
*Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria*



An excellent citadel of learning which I will recommend for all university lecturers so that they will change their current approach to teaching and mentoring.

**Yusuf Muhammad Shamsuddeen**  
*Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria*



It was beyond expectation! The various sessions catalyzed my desire to strive for excellence and to never give up. The summer institute was quite informative and well organized.

**Oluwafunmilayo Aminu**  
*Olarewaju, Olusegun Agagu University of  
Science and Technology, Nigeria.*



I have very high positive impression and opinion of the institute. I hope for sustaining and improving the tempo.

**Kamoru Aremu Salaudeen, PhD.,**  
*Fountain University, Osogbo*



It's a place where lives are changed, destinies are moulded. A place to be.

**Mofogofoluwa Victoria Ayeni**  
*University of Ibadan, Ibadan,*



The summer institute was very interesting. It gave opportunity to budding scholars to learn more. It exposed scholars to different opportunity in their various fields and gave opportunity to budding scholars to connect with scholars in their various fields.

**Dr. Sheriff Olamide Olatunji,**  
*University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria*



I'm highly impressed by the summer school. I've learnt so much about what is expected of me as a member of the academia. I've been exposed to a whole new world. My career skills have been enhanced. My network has also received a boost beyond my imagination.

**Olayinka Mary Balogun,**  
*Adekunle Ajasin University,  
Akungba Akoko, Ondo State.*



The idea of getting different people to work together, and the way knowledge and insight was transferred to us, that was very generous and sacrificial.

**Buba Chajire Pwalakino,**  
Gombe State University, Gombe, Nigeria



This is my first time of joining such conference and have not regretted for joining. I have learnt a lot'

**Iddrisu Mohammed Katali**  
University for Development Studies,  
Tamale, Ghana



It is an ivory tower with a wealth of intellectual's / human resource and capacity put Nigeria in limelight globally.

**Jite Ikechi,**  
University College Hospital Ibadan/  
University of Ibadan



The IIAS-Science is an eye-opener

**Dr. Akpojotor Princewill**



Having been a participant at the 2021 IIAS Summit, I know that IIAS is synonymous to excellence. Being a part of the Science Summit shows again the excellence that IIAS is known for, now on a greater level.

**Olajide, Oluwatosin**  
William V. S. Tubman University,  
Harper City, Republic of Liberia



The distinguished speakers, facilitators, discussants and effective time keeping as well as interesting session.

**Olademeji, Olatunji,**  
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria



IIAS Science Institute opens up young researchers to depths of knowledge required for constructive progress in one's field.

**Fabiyi Omowumi,**  
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife,  
Nigeria





## SOME IIAS FACULTY AND FACILITATORS OF THE 2022 SUMMER INSTITUTE



**Prof Elisio Macamo**



**Prof Taiwo Asaolu**



**Prof M. Okome**



**Prof O. Okunoye**



**Prof Gbemisola Adeoti**



**Prof Adeleke Adeeko**



**Prof Olatunde Oyesile**



**Prof Omolade Adunbi**



**Prof Nelson Fashina**



**Prof Adebayo Olukoshi**



**Dr Oluwakemi Adesina**



**Prof Ayodeji Ogunnaike**

### ADVISORY BOARD

Pastor Nkoyo Rapu  
Prof. Eme Owoaje  
Dr. Ngozi Enelema  
Dr. Tolu Olupona  
Mr. Nath Ude

Dr. Tope Fashoranti  
Mr. Segun Adeniyi  
Mrs Bisi Lamikanra  
Dr. Kehinde Nwani

## THE IIAS WEBINAR SERIES

The Ife Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS) provides a monthly webinar as a veritable platform for fellows to present their ongoing research and be mentored by experienced faculty of the Institute. The Guest Lecture series has been introduced into the webinar series and has commenced in January, 2022. For the 2022, the following presentations were made with experienced faculty in attendance as either discussants or respondents:

2023	TITLE OF PRESENTATION	PRESENTER (S)	DISCUSSANT(S)/RESPONDENT(S)
26 <sup>th</sup> January	“Building a Vision for a Sustainable Career in the Academia: New Year Resolution as Steppingstones”	(1 <sup>ST</sup> Guest Lecture) Prof. Morenike Ukpong (Faculty of Dentistry, Obafemi Awolowo University)	Respondent - Prof. Olusola Ajibade, Dept of Linguistics & African Languages (Obafemi Awolowo Univ.)
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	“Law, Sin and Death: Social Perception and Influence on Abortion Knowledge among Nigerians”	(Fellow) Ogunoye Oluwadamilola	Respondent - Dr. Opeyemi Ekundayo
30 <sup>th</sup> March	“The Politics of Debt Relief Under President Obasanjo (1999-2007)”	(Fellow) Inioluwa Johnson	Respondent - Dr. Tosin Adeniyi
27 <sup>th</sup> April	Masterclass series on – “Social Media and Profile Branding for Visibility and Research Impact” with focus on “LINKEDIN”.	By Adeyemi O. Olushola (PhD) 2018 IIAS fellow	Respondent; Webinar Coordinator – Dr Osayomi (University of Ibadan)
25 <sup>th</sup> May	“Diplomatic Training and State Building in Africa”	(2nd Guest Lecture) Dr. Ruth Craggs (Reader, Dept of Geography, King’s college, London, UK	Discussants –Amb. N. O. Davies (RTD) Dir. of Nigerian Foreign Service Academy; Prof Charles Ukeje, Dept of International Relations, OAU
	“Situational context of Home-based Sexual Education in urban slums of Ibadan, Nigeria – Evidence from a qualitative study”	(Fellow) Dr. Kolawole Aliyu Dept of Sociology and Anthropology, Obafemi Awolowo University	Respondent Professor Margaret Lombe Director BRIDGE, School of Social Work, Boston University, USA



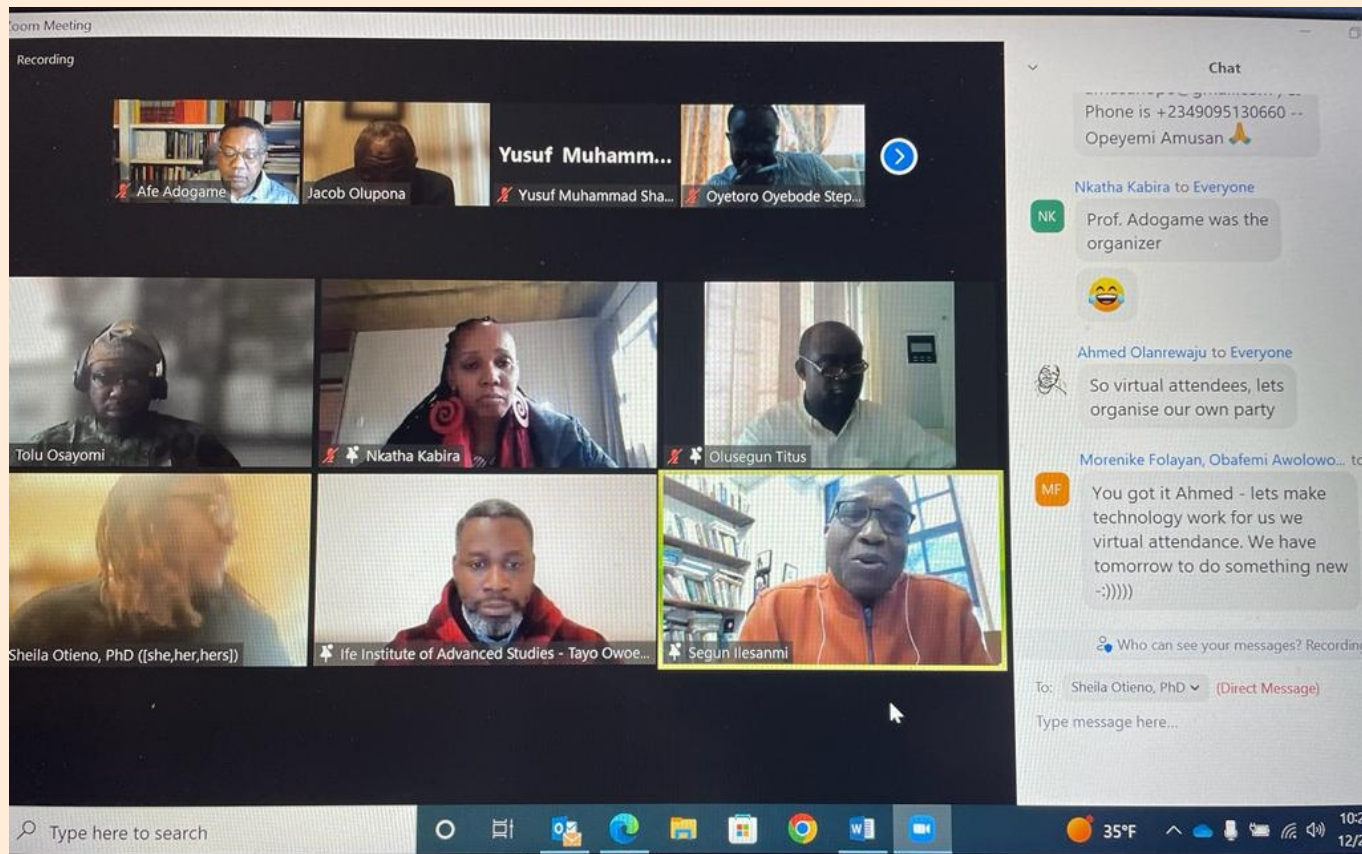
### TECHNICAL SUPPORT

**Ms. Omolola Ajimuda**  
M. Sc. Medical Microbiology  
IIAS Program Assistant  
iiasng.office@gmail.com or  
ajimudaquinn@gmail.com

# IIAS 2022 IN PICTURES



# THE "IIAS SCIENCE" VIRTUAL SUMMER INSTITUTE IN SESSION



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

**Editor: Prof Taiwo Soneye (E-mail: [soneyes2002@yahoo.com](mailto:soneyes2002@yahoo.com))**

**Assistant Editor: Dr. Nkatha Kabira (E-mail: [nkabira@sjd.law.harvard.edu](mailto:nkabira@sjd.law.harvard.edu))**

All correspondence to: The Programme Officer, Ife Institute of Advanced Studies,  
E-mails: [iiasng.office@gmail.com](mailto:iiasng.office@gmail.com), [infor@ife-ias.com](mailto:infor@ife-ias.com)