

Panel Proposal for Ife Institute for Advanced Studies First Annual Conference (IIAS 2026)

Conference Theme: Roots and Futures: Advancing the African Scholarly Imagination.

Conference Date: 30th-31st July, 2026

Venue: Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria (Hybrid)

Call for Panelists

Panel Theme: Nigerian Academy and the Sustenance of Yorùbá Indigenous Knowledge System

Description

Indigenous knowledge is the native knowledge shared within a particular community. This knowledge is usually developed from the belief and value system of a community. It is informed by a people's worldview of their environment and cultural leanings. The focus of this proposal is on the indigenous knowledge system of the Yorùbá of Southwestern Nigeria. Yoruba indigenous knowledge system, which will henceforth be acronymised as YIKS, is foregrounded in the Yorùbá oral traditions. Historically, YIKS has guided people's daily engagements in environmental management, peace-building, health practices, and spirituality, among other areas. Despite the richness of YIKS, it is still being marginalised.

The intervention of Nigerian academia in the sustenance of YIKS is germane to the consistent deployment of native epistemologies and their preservation. As a matter of duty, academics need to re-strategise and partner with the custodians of YIK in the validation of such knowledge. For this to be achieved, intentional efforts must be made towards integrating IKS into teaching curricula and methodologies. For instance, if every subject/course is taught in the three major Nigerian languages, more understanding of course contents would be fostered, and students' performances would be enhanced, especially in the Sciences and Engineering.

YIKS is so rich that all hands must be on deck to disallow it from suffering prolonged marginalisation and eventual extinction. Thus, every available means must be deployed to sustain and preserve it. This research seeks answers to such questions as: How can the three tenets of academia- teaching, research and community development be used to boost indigenous knowledge systems and make them the focal point? How can digital platforms be leveraged to impart formal knowledge in local languages? How can stakeholders, teaching staff and students in particular, identify their various roles and contribute positively towards the sustenance of indigenous knowledge? What challenges need to be addressed? How could undue dependence on eurocentric models be curbed? To ensure proper sustenance and preservation of YIKS, more deliberate efforts are necessary.

While we recommend the following topics, other relevant topics are welcome:

- ◆ The Infiltration of Foreign Cultural Norms on Yorùbá Indigenous Knowledge System
- ◆ Documentation and Digitisation of Yoruba Language and Culture
- ◆ The Place Communication in the Preservation of Yorùbá Indigenous Knowledge
- ◆ Yorùbá Linguistic Shift in the Age of Globalisation: Present and Future Endangerment
- ◆ Hybridisation of Yorùbá Narrative Styles with Western Narrative Styles on Social Media
- ◆ Translation and Global Accessibility of Yorùbá Folklores
- ◆ The Role of Religion in the Digital Dissemination of Yorùbá Indigenous Knowledge
- ◆ Social Media as a tool for Film Preservation
- ◆ The Effects of Globalisation on the Survival of Yoruba Cultural Heritage
- ◆ Music as a tool for the Sustenance of Yorùbá Indigenous Knowledge

Panel Organisers: Dr Taiwo Akinduti (Oşun State University, Nigeria)

Dr Luqman Kiaribęę (Oşun State University, Nigeria)

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Important Notice

Presentations are welcome in English and **Yorùbá** Languages

Submission

Abstracts of between 250 words, accompanied by a short bio of 100 words maximum, should be submitted via <https://ias-ife.com/ias-first-annual-hybrid-conference/> (indicating along your name in bracket “**Breaking Nervousness Panel**”); submit your proposal to: Taiwo Akinduti PhD (taiwo.akinduti@uniosun.edu.ng) by 15 April, 2026. All abstracts should please include the name of author(s), title of proposed paper, institutional affiliation(s) and email address.

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