

**KOMOLAFE, MICHAEL OLALEYE**  
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### **AREAS OF RESEARCH INTEREST**

**Primary Areas of Research Interest:** Philosophy of Law, Political Philosophy, Applied Ethics

**Secondary Areas of Research Interest:** African Philosophy, Critical Theory, Bioethics

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### **EDUCATION**

**PhD Student** (Philosophy),  
University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC. 2023-Date

**Master of Arts** (Philosophy), University of Ibadan 2017  
**Topic of Thesis:** Towards a Rights-Centred African Jurisprudence

**Bachelor of Arts** (Philosophy), Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. 2013  
**Topic of Project:** The Problem of Distributive Justice in Federalism

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### **CERTIFICATIONS**

- Social Norms, Social Change I. University of Pennsylvania, USA, and UNICEF. 2022.
  - Introduction to International Legal Framework on Environmental Impact Assessment. United Nations Training and Research (UNITAR). 2022.
  - Online Negotiations. United Nations Training and Research (UNITAR). 2022.
  - Introductory Course to International Environmental Law. United Nations Training and Research (UNITAR). 2022.
  - Introduction to Human Rights and the Environment. United Nations Training and Research (UNITAR). 2022.
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### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, USA. 2023-Date
  - Teaching Assistant (Centre for General Studies), University of Ibadan 2022-2023
  - Assistant Lecturer, Dominican University, Ibadan, Nigeria. 2019-2021
  - Teaching Assistant (Centre for General Studies), University of Ibadan 2017-2019
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### **TEACHING ACTIVITIES**

**Teaching Assistant**  
University of South Carolina  
Spring 2025  
Communicating Moral Issues

University of South Carolina  
Fall 2024  
Medical Ethics

**Teaching Assistant**

University of South Carolina  
Spring 2024  
Communicating Moral Issues

**Teaching Assistant**

University of South Carolina  
Fall 2023  
Introduction to Symbolic Logic

**Teaching Assistant**

University of Ibadan  
2022-2023  
Philosophy, Logic, and Critical Thinking

**Assistant Lecturer**

Dominican University, Ibadan  
2019-2020  
Introduction to Epistemology  
Philosophy of Religion (with Prof. Jude Mbukama)  
Philosophy of Language

**2020-2021**

Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy  
Contemporary Issue in Ethics  
Contemporary African philosophy  
Philosophy of Law

**Teaching Assistant**

University of Ibadan  
2017-2019  
Philosophy, Logic, and Critical Thinking

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**EDITORIAL AND REVIEW EXPERIENCE**

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- Reviewer, *Phronimon: A Journal of the University of South Africa*.
- Editorial Adviser and Reviewer, *IJIRORO: African Students' Journal of Philosophy*.
- Reviewer, *KUJUA: Journal of African Studies Students' Association, Ibadan*.

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**PUBLICATIONS**

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- Leye Komolafe (Under Review). Is a Foundationalist Account of Epistemic Justification Sufficient? A Critique of Laurence Bonjour's 'nonapperceptive cpnstitutive awareness'. *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*.
- Leye Komolafe (2023). Hegel's Historical Denialism and Epistemic Eclipse in African Philosophy. *Journal of Contemporary African Philosophy*, 4(2), 36-45.

- Leye Komolafe (2022). African Jurisprudence as Historical Co-Extension of Diffused Legal Theories. *Thought and Practice: A Journal of the Philosophical Association of Kenya*, 8(1), 51-68.
- Leye Komolafe. (2020). Racial Complexities in Kenny Leon's 'American Son'. *Reflector Africa*. <https://reflectorofafrica.com/racial-complexities-in-kenny-leons-american-son/>

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## MANUSCRIPTS

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- The Paradox of Equality in Plato's *Republic*
- Is an Internalist-Secularist Conception of Moral Normativity Sufficient for Morality?
- Can External Reasons Motivate Ethical Action? Alasdair MacIntyre and Bernard Williams on the Self.
- A Critical Analysis of H.E. Alisson's Response to the Neglected Alternative in Immanuel Kant's Transcendental Idealism.
- Transitional Justice and Reverberating Question of 'Democratic Impartiality'.
- Selective Identity and Social Performativity.

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## ADDITIONAL RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

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- Ongoing Edited Book Project: "Justifying the State (Palgrave Macmillan)" with Dr. Gene Callahan
- Research Assistant for Dr. Chris Tollefsen "The Bioethics of Disability and Some Neglected Goods", June-August 2024.

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## SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- 2025: Book Discussant "An African Feminist Philosophy of Language (Routledge, 2024)" by Olayinka Oyeleye. Lagos Studies Association Conference, Lagos, Nigeria, June 17-21, 2025.
- 2024: "Should a Modern African Constitution Cede Autonomous Power(s) to Monarchs?" African Studies Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois, December 12-14, 2024.
- 2024: (Accepted) "Oliver Wendell Holmes' 'The Path of the Law' as a Pragmatist Theory of Law". Australasian Society of Legal Philosophy Conference and PhD Workshop, Melbourne, Australia, July 17-19, 2024.
- 2023: Panelist, A Critical Evaluation of Sola Olorunyomi's "Talking Futures with Literature as Wombiture". Lagos Studies Association Conference, Lagos, Nigeria, June 20-24, 2023.
- 2022: Transitional Justice and Reverberating Questions of Democratic Impartiality. *Justice and Generations*. Universite Catholique d'Afrique Centrale, Yaounde, Cameroon: August 22-27, 2022.
- 2022: "An Existential Critique of Eliminative Decolonisation". *Decolonial Remains: Scrutinizing African Studies in Africa and the Unfinished Business of Decolonization*. Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria: July 16-20, 2022.
- 2021: "Existential Essentialism: A Case for Healthcare as a Right in Nigeria". *Justice and Generations*. Universite Catholique d'Afrique Centrale, Yaounde, Cameroon: August 15-22, 2021.
- 2021: "Gendering the Humanities". *Graduate Students' Conference*. University of Ibadan, Nigeria: June, 2021.

- 2019: "Epistemic Indeterminacy of Praise Narratives". *The Poetics of African Adulation*. Leadcity University, Ibadan, Nigeria: January, 2019.
  - 2018: "Why God may not suffice: A Humanistic Reinterpretation of Natural Law Theory". Fela Kuti International Conference, Ibadan, Nigeria: October 10-12, 2018.
  - 2018: "African Jurisprudence: Igniting the Ontological Primacy of the Human-Subject". *Justice and Generations*. Universite Catholique d'Afrique Centrale, Yaounde, Cameroon: August 20-26, 2018.
  - 2018: "A Yoruba Postmodern Identity and an Ethico-Epistemological Critique of Cosmopolitanism". *African Knowledges and Alternative Futures*. University of Ibadan, Nigeria: January 29-31, 2018.
  - 2017: "The Dialectics of Yoruba Human-Animal Relations and a Moral Imperative for Animal Rights". *The Yoruba Nation Since the Nineteenth Century*. Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, Nigeria: October 9-11, 2017.
  - 2017: "Cultural Infidelity: Can an African Culture Define Personhood?" *Philosophy and Culture*. Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria: July 26-28, 2017.
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### SELECTED INVITED TALKS AND PANEL MODERATIONS

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- 2025: Post-Screening Moderation of Kola Tubosun's *Ebrohimie Road: A Museum of Memory*, the Philosophy Film Club, University of South Carolina, April 17, 2025.
  - 2024: Moderator, ÌRỌRÙN IGI NI ÌRỌRÙN ÈYẸ: Engaging A Yoruba Understanding of Ecojustice, The West African Transitional Justice Centre, October 24, 2024.
  - 2024: Host, #EndSARS and the Rest of Us: (Un)Settling the Unresolved Issues about Youth-izenship in Nigeria, GRC Intergenerational Dialogue Series, October 20, 2024.
  - 2024: Panel Discussant, Interpreting Alain Kasanda's "Coconut Head Generation" Using Critical Theory. The People's Forum, Manhattan, New York, May 7, 2024.
  - 2023: Panel Discussant, Museum of the African Diaspora's sponsored screening of Alain Kasanda's "Coconut Head Generation", African Studies Association Conference, San Francisco, California: Nov. 29-Dec. 2, 2023.
  - 2023: Panelist, Post-screening discussion of "Coconut Head Generation" by Alain Kasanda. Across Generations: Unveiling the Past, Embracing the Present. Columbia University Maison Française, New York: Oct. 9, 2023.
  - 2022: Moderator, World Philosophy Day, Sophie Bosede Oluwole: The Yoruba Philosopher. Thursday Film Series, Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, Nov. 17, 2022.
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### MEMBERSHIP IN ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL BODIES/GROUPS

- African Studies Association, USA.
- United Nations, USA (UNUSA).
- The West African Transitional Justice Centre (WATJCentre), Nigeria.
- Decolonizing African Curricula Group, Ghana.
- Research Fellow, French Institute for Research in Africa (IFRA-Nigeria). Directly assisted on the project "Researching Public Spaces in African Cities", February 19-28, 2019. Yoruba language interpreter and co-model developer.

## AWARDS/HONOURS

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- 2025: \$2,500 College of Arts and Sciences Research/Travel Grant, University of South Carolina.
  - 2024: \$488 Graduate Students Association Travel Grant, University of South Carolina.
  - 2022 Lisa Maskell Fellowship. \$25, 000 awarded for a PhD placement in philosophy, Stellenbosch University, South Africa. The award was later declined for a Ph.D. position in philosophy at the University of South Carolina.
  - 2021: \$400 Organising committee's travel grant for Yaounde Seminar on Justice and Future Generations.
  - 2018: Fully-funded discussant/delegate to *All-African Peoples' Congress* (60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pan-Africanism), University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana: December 5-8, 2018.
  - 2018: \$ 1,200 travel grant for Yaounde Seminar on Justice and Future Generations by IFRA-Nigeria.
  - Head of Department Honours Roll 2010-2013
  - Dean of the Faculty Honours Roll 2011 & 2013
  - Most Hardworking Personality, National Association of Philosophy Students 2010
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## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

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- Co-founder, Philosophy Film Club, University of South Carolina, 2024.
  - Member, Colloquium Committee, Department of Philosophy, University of South Carolina.
  - Member, Departmental Handbook Committee, Dominican University, Ibadan, 2020-2021.
  - Member, Faculty Curriculum Committee, Dominican University, Ibadan, 2020-2021.
  - Panel Chair, "Franz Fanon and Toni Morrison on Race, Culture and Fascism". University of Ghana, Legon. 2021
  - Member, Organising Committee, Dominican University International Conference. 2021
  - Coordinator, Black History Film Festival, Ibadan, Nigeria. 2019
  - Member, Organising Committee of 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Human Rights Violations Investigation Commission (HRVIC). 2019
  - Secretary, Local Organising Committee, Fela Kuti International Conference, Ibadan, Nigeria 2018
  - Head of Secretariat, Black History Film Festival, Ibadan, Nigeria. 2018
  - Occasional Radio and TV analyst on philosophical issues in Nigeria.
  - Centre for Democracy and Development. Electoral Observer, General Elections in Nigeria, 2019
  - Co-Coordinator, Thursday Film Festival, Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan.
  - Keffi, Nasarawa: Polling Officer, General Elections in Nigeria. 2015
  - National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), Keffi, Nasarawa, Nigeria. 2014-2015
  - President, All Nigeria United Nations Students and Youth Association 2012 – 2013
  - Secretary, National Association of Philosophy Students, OAU, Ile-Ife 2011-2012
  - Secretary-General, All Nigeria United Nations Students and Youth Association 2011-2012
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**LANGUAGES:** English, Yoruba, and West African Pidgin