

2nd Annual Igbo Language Conference: Igbo Language and Performance

This year's conference will feature keynote addresses from:

Amaka Igwe - Pioneer of modern Nigerian TV and Nollywood, whose productions include 'Rattle Snake', 'Violated', 'Checkmate' and 'Fuji's House of Commotion'.

Obi Emelonye - Nollywood director whose productions include 'Last Flight to Abuja' and 'Mirror Boy'

Chika Unigwe - Author of the 2012 NLNG prize winning novel *On Black Sisters' Street*

Dr Akin Oyèládé –Senior Lecturer in Yorùbá at SOAS

Friday 5th April:

Morning:

Registration

Welcome address from Dr Kwadwo Osei-Nyame, Jnr (SOAS) and Dr Martin Orwin (SOAS)

Keynote: Dr Akin Oyèládé (SOAS) 'Language Preservation through the Medium of Performance: the Case of Igbo'

Interactive session with Dr Nnamdi Ichongiri and Mr James Asoh who use drama and the AKAN'UHIE Board Game as tools for exploring and examining the complexities of the Igbo calendar

Lunch

Afternoon:

Panel: *Performativity and the Igbo Language*

Mrs Violet Ogochukwu Okoye (Federal Polytechnic, Oko) 'Relevance of Language and Culture in Performance: The Igbo Experience'

Nkechi Okonkwo (Middlesex University) 'Digesting Words and Meaning: Proverbs as Palm Oil for Problem solving'

Fr (Dr) Chikwendu Anyanwu (Umu Igbo Katolik Community) 'Igbo Language and Performance'

Performance: Umuaka Igbo Taa, a children's organisation based in Owerri, will perform Igbo Language songs, demonstrating how music is used as a tool to promote the Igbo Language.

The performance is followed by a presentation by founder of *Umuaka Igbo Taa*, Mrs Chidi Opara-Ibeleche, on 'Performing the Curriculum: A Valuable Learning Method' and a presentation on the use of folk songs to promote the Igbo Language by Mrs Vivian Chikodi Chibundu (Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education)

Performance: Iroko Theatre will dramatise Igbo folk stories

Evening:

Panel: *Preserving Igbo Language and Culture*

Ernest Onyebuchi Onwukwe (Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education) 'Maximizing the Potentials of Igbo Science Drama in Enriching the Teaching and Learning of Science in Igbo Land'

Amaka Edomobi (Igbo Cultural Support Network) 'The challenges of leading an Igbo Organisation in the UK'

Performance: ICSN Dance Troup will perform a combination of traditional and contemporary Igbo dance

Film Screening and Interactive Session: One of Amaka Igwe's films will be screened followed by a Q&A Session

Saturday 6th April:

Morning:

Registration

Panel: *Igbo Language and Identity*

Nena Ubani (Igbokwenu Radio) 'Igbo Popular Music: An Effective Tool in Promoting Igbo Language'

Oluwatoyin Sogbesan (City University) 'Identity formation beyond the English Language'

Mrs Cecilia A. Okonkwo (Federal College of Education) 'The Place of the Mother-Tongue in the Socio-Cultural Development of the Child: Focus on Igbo Families in Diaspora'

Keynotes: Amaka Igwe and Obi Emelonye

Roundtable: Nollywood in Conversation featuring Amaka Igwe, Obi Emelonye, Professor Osita Okagbue (Goldsmiths) and Dr Ndubuisi Anike (Independent)

Lunch

Afternoon:

Chika Unigwe in conversation with Louisa Uchum Egbunike (SOAS)

Performance: *Igbo Masquerade Performance*

Panel: *Igbo Masquerades and their Social Function*

Uzoamaka Anyanwu (Imo State University) 'Atunma Masquerade as a Social Critic in Eziowelle: The Idemili Igbo Experience'

Boniface Nwabuike (Federal Polytechnic, Oko) 'Igbo Masquerades and Language in Symbiosis for Societal well-being: The "Nwanyi Oye" Ukpo Example'

Gladys Ogochukwu (Imo State University) 'Socio-Cultural Symbolism of Ogwugwu-Uga in Aguata Igbo'

Evening:

Panel: *Igbo Narratives and Cosmology*

Onyekachi Wambu (AFFORD) 'Chukwu, Chi and the Igbo High God'

Dr Uche Okonkwo (Ebonyi State University) 'Pita Nwana's Omenuko: A Historical Reality or Fiction?'

Panel: *Igbo Language and Culture: the Arts and the Community*

Dr Victor Okoye (Federal Polytechnic, Oko) 'Marketing of Igbo Language to International Community'

Ikenna Aghanya (Federal Polytechnic, Oko) 'The Role of Computer Graphics in Producing Igbo-Themed Movies for the Dissemination of the Igbo Language to a Global Audience'

Victoria Konkwo (Imo State University) 'Visual Art as a Means of Promotion of Igbo Language and Cultural Identification in Nigeria'

Keynote: Chika Unigwe will be reading from her novels *On Black Sisters' Street* and *Night Dancer*

Closing remarks

In addition to the main conference in G2 we will be offering:

- **A tour of the SOAS Library's Africa Collection** on Friday 5th April at 11:30am (this must be signed up for in advance – email le7@soas.ac.uk to register)
- **Igbo Master classes** on Friday 5th April and Saturday 6th April at 11:30am (this must be signed up for in advance – email le7@soas.ac.uk to register)
- **Nollywood Film Screenings** with dedicated rooms showing back to back films on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th April.

