

# ASRF NEWS

The African Studies & Research Forum

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### Acknowledgment, Piety, Humility, and Love: Major Lessons from African and Abrahamic Traditions as My Guide

By Dr. Abdul Karim Bangura

As an old school African, when many members of African Studies and Research Forum (ASRF) family asked me to run for the organization's presidency, the first thing I did was to call my spiritual elder brother for advice. As an adherent of the Abrahamic faiths (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam), when I was elected to serve as your servant, I went to my imam on Friday, to my rabbi on Saturday, and to my pastor on Sunday to ask for their prayers and blessings for the ASRF family as a whole. I pray that the major lessons I learned from them will help guide me during my tenure as your servant.

To commence with, my elder spiritual brother, using the Yoruba concept of *ifowosi* (i.e. "acknowledgment") taught me that I should always ask for assistance, as no one person can perform the tasks of an organization, and to be unfailing in always acknowledging those who render assistance and the achievements of all members. He then assured me of his assistance to me and steadfast commitment to the ASRF.

Next, my imam, quoting from many passages in the Holy Qur'an, taught me that being faithful, having obedience ability, truthfulness, tolerance, fear of God and giving alms, fasting, self-preservation, and remembering God are all equal to Allah (SWT). He then added that in extract of all these virtues is Piety and, thus, should be at the core of my service to the ASRF.

Thereafter, my rabbi apprised me that Judaism emphasizes justice,

truth, peace, love, compassion, humility, charity, ethical speech, and self-respect. He said that in the Jewish tradition, Humility is the most paramount of the virtues, as its opposite, pride, is among the worst of the vices. He added that Moses, the greatest of men, is described as the most humble. He then noted that by me serving the ASRF with humility, which is directly related to one's ability and willingness to learn, will help me to extend more compassion and empathy to members.

Thereupon, my pastor inculcated that Paul the Apostle or Saint Paul distinguished faith, hope, and love as the three specifically Christian virtues, but that Paul singled out Love as the chief of the three as follows: "So these three; but the greatest of these is love." My pastor added that with love as the foundation of my service to the ASRF, I would see and understand things that I could not otherwise do or see or understand.

In closing, we can dislike some of the things that we do because we are humans and can call upon the Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr as follows: "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference, living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; taking this world as it is and not as I would have it; trusting that You will make all things right if I surrender to Your will; so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen." But please, none of us must stop building and serving the ASRF.

We have seen some of our once great institutions on the Motherland and in the Diaspora face doom because we sat on our laurels touting past legacies and engaging in cliquish fights instead of building upon those legacies. We are condemned to leave the younger scholars and those yet to become members of the ASRF who will replace us a fitting legacy so that they can do better than us!

May the Almighty Creator and our African ancestors continue to guide and protect us.



# MEMBERS' PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH

## BOOKS & BOOK CHAPTERS

Abidde, S. O. (2022). (Eds.). *Africa-China-Taiwan relations, 1949–2020*. Rowman Littlefield.

Abidde, S. O. (2022). (Eds.). *Taiwan in Africa: Seven decades of certainty and uncertainties*. Lexington Books.

Babatunde, E., & Bangura, A. K. (2022). *Great books written by Africans across the academic disciplines*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Bangura, A. K. (2022). *Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang's eulogy of the Prophet Muhammed*. Lexington Books.

Bangura, A. K., Hill, W. W., & Williams, M. K. (2022). *The United States 2020 presidential election: Administration, strategy and future challenges*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Edeagu, E. (2022). "Living on the fringes: Boarding secondary schools in Nigeria and the paradox of colonialism." In F. Jenz (Ed.), *Global perspectives on boarding schools in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Kumah.Abiwu, F., & Abidde, S. O. (2022). *Jerry Rawlings: Leadership and legacy. A Pan-African perspective*. Springer Books.

Mallard, I. G. (2022). *The politics of being Afro Latino/Latina: Ethnicity, colorism and political representation in Washington, D.C.* Lexington Books.

Ogungbemi, S. (2022). *Deconstructing African thoughts and practices*. Cornerstone Creativity Groups.

Uchendu, E., & Egbe, O. D. J. (2022). *Nigeria's 2019 Democratic Experience*. DeGruyter.

Uchendu, E. (2022). "Interrogating democratisation deficits in Nigeria from the 2019 general election." In Uchendu, E., & O. D. J. Egbe (Eds.), *Nigeria's 2019 Democratic Experience* (pp. 3-14). DeGruyter.

## ARTICLES

Uchendu, E. (2022). "Patriarchy persists in Nigeria – and men aren't the only ones who keep it that way," *The Conversation*, 4 August 2022, <https://theconversation.com/patriarchy-persists-in-nigeria-and-men-arent-the-only-ones-who-keep-it-that-way-183462>

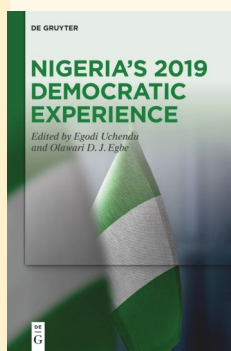
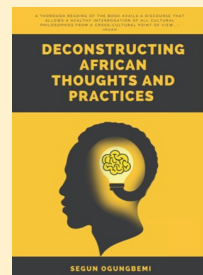
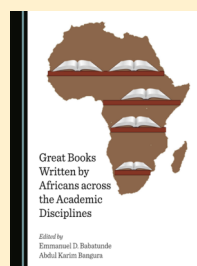
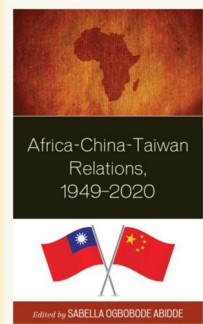
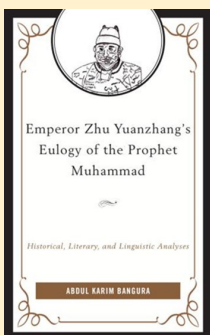
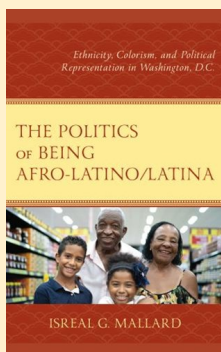
Uchendu, E. (2022). "Islam has a small presence in Nigeria's Igbo region: what a new Quran translation offers," *The Conversation*, 19 July 2022, <https://theconversation.com/islam-has-a-small-presence-in-nigerias-igbo-region-what-a-new-quran-translation-offers-186482>

## PRESENTATIONS

Edeagu, N. (2022, June 24). "Nigerian non-elite women's everyday survival and resistance during and after the Second World War." Recasting subjects and subjectivities in the writing of history. Paper presented at Scuola Superiore Meridionale - Università di Napoli Federico II, Naples.

Edeagu, N. (2022, June 9). "The unofficial secretary of state: Claude Barnett and Pan-African Internationalism during the Cold War, 1947-1957." Cold War Disconnections and the Transformation of Internationalisms conference, LMU Munich.

Edeagu, N. (2022, July 30). Discussant, "Educating a transnational elite." Rencontre des Études Africaines en France (African Studies in France Conference - REAF). University Toulouse Jean Jaurès, Toulouse.



# Congratulations!



**Dr. Saidat Ilo** received her tenure and was promoted to **Associate Professor of Political Science** at the University of Houston-Victoria, Texas, USA.

**Dr. Egodi Uchendu** is the **2022 recipient of the Alexander von Humboldt Alumni Award** for Innovative Networking Initiative for her "Responsible Waste Management for University of Nigeria Nsukka Community" [#Don't Litter Initiative] project.

She was also elected into the **Royal Historical Society** (RHS) as a postgraduate member





# Pictures from the 2022 ASRF Conference in Liberia



Pictures by  
Mrs. Doris  
Kieh



## Conference

The African Humanities Research and Development Circle (AHRDC) is pleased to officially announce its annual conference for 2023. The theme of the 2023 Conference is **Navigating Nigerian Archives: Experiences, Opportunities, and Advancements.**

Date: February 20-22, 2023

Location: Virtual (Via Zoom)

For more information visit [www.ahrdc.academy](http://www.ahrdc.academy)

To send an abstract: email [conference@ahrdc.academy](mailto:conference@ahrdc.academy)  
& [navigatingarchives.ahrdc@gmail.com](mailto:navigatingarchives.ahrdc@gmail.com)

## New Journal

The African Humanities Research and Development Circle (AHRDC) announces its flagship scholarly journal, the **Journal of African Humanities and Research Development (JAHRD)**, an open access, peer-reviewed journal. The journal promises unique, ground-breaking, and innovative perspectives and approaches to interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary study of historical and contemporary issues on African Humanities, African Studies, the African Diaspora, Development and Policy Studies, Africa in Global Politics and Economy, Religions, African Philosophy, Arts, and Culture, and Methodologies in African Studies. The journal will publish well-researched scholarly articles about various topics on Africa.

JAHRD will publish two volumes annually in June and December. For our first volume coming out in December 2023, papers will be drawn from the African Humanities Research and Development Circle's (AHRDC) 2023 Conference, scheduled to hold from February 20 to February 22, 2023. The theme is "Navigating Archives in Nigeria: Experiences, Opportunities, and Advancements." The focus of this inaugural volume will be **methodologies in African Studies**.

The June issues will be randomly dedicated to papers from our conferences, seminars, workshops, public lectures, and other fora. Papers not selected for publication in the journal will be considered for our book volumes if the authors so wish. For more information, visit [www.ahrdc.academy](http://www.ahrdc.academy)

# ABOUT ASRF

The African Studies and Research Forum (ASRF) was founded on October 5, 1996, in Montgomery, Alabama, USA. The organization is an academic one primarily aimed at contributing to producing knowledge and carrying out activities that will help empower Africans to build democratic and prosperous societies based on pluralism, respect for diversity, and peaceful co-existence.

The association's charter structures the organization as follows: The General Assembly (comprising all members), the Executive Committee (consisting of the elected officers and chairs of the various standing committees), and Standing Committees. In addition, there are special committees on "The Best Book" award and "The Best Graduate Student Paper" award (presented at the association's annual conference).

The organization holds an annual conference where Africanist scholars and practitioners present papers and participate in roundtables on various issues of importance to Africa. In addition, the organization holds research conferences that focus on pressing issues (each research conference focuses on a single issue) facing Africa. The organization also has "The African Policy Dialogue Series" that serves as a forum in which Africanists based in Africa and the diaspora can dialogue with policy-makers in Africa about various public policy issues.

The association has various important publications. These include **The ASRF Book Series** (managed by the Research and Publications Committee), **The ASRF Monograph Series** (managed by the Journal Committee), the *Journal of African Studies and Research* (managed by the editor, associate editor and editorial board), and the *ASRF News* newsletter.

Membership in the ASRF is open to anyone who is interested in studying Africa. An application can be submitted through the organization's website at **[www.asrfonline.org](http://www.asrfonline.org)**. Join us today!