

UCHECHUKWU PETER UMEZURIKE

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EDUCATION

Degrees

Ph. D English, University of Alberta, June 2021

Dissertation Title: "Receptive Subjects: Gender and Sexuality in Novels by Igbo Authors."

M.A. English and Literary Studies, University of Port Harcourt, August 2014.

Dissertation Title: "Sexual Objectification in African Fiction: An Ideological Study of Amma Darko's *Beyond the Horizon* and Chika Unigwe's *On Black Sisters' Street*."

B.Sc. Honours, Government and Public Administration, Abia State University, September 1997.

Teaching/Research Fields

African Literature / Literatures of the Black Diaspora / Global Literatures / Postcolonial Theory/ Gender and Sexuality Studies / Masculinity Studies / Cultural Studies / Critical Race Theory / African Studies / Creative Writing.

Academic Positions

2020-2021	Assistant Lecturer, English and Film Studies Department	University of Alberta
2017-2018	Principal Instructor, English and Film Studies Department	University of Alberta
May 2021-July 2021	Research Assistant, Health and Immigration Policies and Practices	University of Alberta
September 2020-March 2021	Research Assistant, CRC Tier 1, Feminism and Intersectionality	University of Alberta
July 2020-August 2020	Research Assistant, Energy Humanities	University of Alberta
November 2017-December 2019	Research Assistant, Women's and Gender Studies	University of Alberta

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Scholarships

2018	Vanier Graduate Scholarship Award, 2018-2021	\$150,000
2016	University of Alberta Doctoral Recruitment Scholarship	\$10,000

Grants

2021-2022	Grantee, Edmonton Arts Council Grant	\$5,000
2021	Grantee, Intersections of Gender Thesis Grant, University of Alberta	\$1,100
2021	Graduate Students' Association Academic Travel Grant	\$340
2020	Graduate Students' Association Academic Travel Grant	\$500
2020	FGSR Graduate Student Online Conference Award	\$230
2017	Sarah Nettie Christie Travel Bursary	\$1,500

Prizes (Academic)

2021	Winner, Nigeria Prize for Literary Criticism	N1million
2021-2023	Provost Awards for Indigenous and Black Scholars, University of Calgary	\$50,000 p.a.
2021	Congress Graduate Merit Award	\$500
2021	African Literature Association's Abioseh Porter Best Article	\$250
2020	Andrew Stewart Memorial Graduate Prize	\$5,000
2018	President's Doctoral Prize of Distinction	\$21,600

Prizes (Creative Writing)

2021	Africa@2050 Competition, Centre for Energy Ethics	£500
2021	African Literature Association's Short Story Award	\$250
2020	James Patrick Folinsbee Memorial Scholarship in Creative Writing	\$6,500
2019	Norma Epstein Foundation Award for Creative Writing	\$1,400
2008	Finalist, Commonwealth Short Story Competition, UK	£100
2008	Winner, BSU/BOAC Creative Writing Competition, UK	£200
2007	Finalist, Nigeria Prize for Literature	---
2006	Winner, ANA/Funtime Prize for Children's Literature	₦150,000
2006	Finalist, Commonwealth Short Story Competition, UK	£100

Awards through Association Activities

2021	GSA President's Citation Recipient.
2021	Graduate Student Group Award Winner.
2021	Dean of Students' Commendation.
2019	Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Award.

Fellowships

2012	Civitella Ranieri Foundation	Italy
2010	Chateau de Lavigny	Switzerland
2009	UNESCO/Aschberg Bursary, Sanskriti Kendra Foundation	India
2008	International Writing Program	USA

PUBLICATION: PEER-REVIEWED

Books

March 2023: *there's more* (poetry). University of Alberta Press.

Manuscript under review by the University of Michigan Press.

“Receptive Subjects: Masculinity in Nigerian Novels” (monograph).

Journal Articles

2022: “‘Omelora’: Orthodox and Disciplinary Masculinities in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s *Purple Hibiscus*.” *Men and Masculinities*, 1-15.

2021: “‘A son who is a man’: Receptive Masculinity in Chinua Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart*.” *NORMA: Nordic Journal for Masculinity Studies* 16, no. 4: 205-216.

2019: “Self-publishing in the Era of Military Rule in Nigeria, 1985-1999.” *Journal of African Cultural Studies* 31, no.3: 212-230.

2018: “Postcolonial Ogres: The Grotesque in Ngugi wa Thiongo’s *Wizard of the Crow*.” *Postcolonial Text* 13, no. 2: 1-13.

2018: “Land of Cemetery: Funereal Images in Musa Idris Okpanachi’s *Music of the Dead*.” *Tydskrif vir letterkunde* 55, no. 2: 134-145.

2015. Sexuality and Subjectivity in Chika Unigwe’s *On Black Sisters’ Street*.” *UJAH: Journal of Arts and Humanities* 16, no. 1: 1-25.

Book Chapters

2021. The Eco(centric) Border Man: Masculinities and the Nonhuman in Jim Lynch’s *Border Songs*.” *Men, Masculinities, and Earth*. Eds. Martin Hultman and Paul Pule: Palgrave Macmillan. 463-479.

Book Chapters (forthcoming)

2022. “‘Write only the truth’: (Re) Imagining the Nation in Chimeka Garricks’s *Tomorrow Died Yesterday*, and Helon Habila’s *Oil on Water*. *National Literature in Multinational States*. Eds. Paul Morris and Albert Braz: University of Alberta Press.

2023. “‘You are not one thing’: Narrative and Memory in Zalika Reid-Benta’s *Frying Plantain*.” *Digital Memory Agents in Canada*. Eds. Matthew Cormier and Amanda Spallacci. University of Alberta Press.

Journal Article (accepted with minor revision)

2022: “‘Something like you’: Niche Homosexuality, Class, and Peril in Jude Dibia’s *Walking with Shadows*.” *Research in African Literatures*.

Journal Article (under review)

2022: “‘We’re all just dreaming’: The Surveillance of Blackness and the (Im)possibility of Black Life in David Chariandy’s *Brother*.” *Studies in Canadian Literature*.

Reviews

- 2022: *Justice and Human Rights in the African Imagination: We, Too, Are Humans* (Chielozone Eze). *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, 1-2.
- 2021: *To Be a Man is not a One-day Job: Masculinity, Money, and Intimacy in Nigeria* (Daniel Jordan Smith). *Canadian Journal of African Studies* 55, no 2: 1-2.
- 2021: *Beyond the Doctrine of Man: Decolonial Visions of the Human* (Joseph Drexler-Dreis and Kristien Justaert). *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry* 8, no 2: 294-296.
- 2019: "Ubuntu as Cosmopolitanism: Openness and Otherness." Review of: *Race, Decolonization, and Global Citizenship in South Africa* (Chielozone Eze). *Cultural Studies* 34, no 3: 495-497.
- 2019: *For Every Homeland* (Obari Gomba). Narrative Landscape Press. *Journal of African Literature Association* 13, no. 2: 285-287.
- 2017: *Music of the Dead* (Musa Idris Okpanachi). Boydell & Brewer Ltd. *African Literature Today* 35: 317-319.

PUBLICATION (NOT PEER-REVIEWED)

Books (Creative Writing)

- 2021: *Double Wahala, Double Trouble* (short stories). Winnipeg: Griots Lounge Publishing.
- 2021: *Wish Maker* (children's novel). Lagos: Masobe Books.
- 2018: *Gogo and the Slimy Green Grub* (children's novel). Lagos: Lantern Books.
2004. *Dark through the Delta* (poetry). Owerri: Edu-Edy Publications.

Co-edited Book (Poetry)

- 2021: Co-editor, with Nduka Otiono. *Wreaths for a Wayfarer*. Ottawa: Daraja Press & Lagos: Narrative Landscape Press.

Manuscript in progress (Novel)

What We Find When We Leave Home.

PRESENTATIONS

Conferences

- 2021 "Global Diasporic Sexualities." 46th Annual Conference of the African Literature Association, Washington DC, US. May 26-29.
- 2021 "That Other Thing": Reworking the Scripts to Perform/Affirm the Unnameable in Chinelo Okparanta's *Under the Udala Trees*." 46th Annual Conference of the African Literature Association, Washington DC, US. May 26-29.

- 2021 “Class, Sexuality, and the Nation in Jude Dibia’s *Walking with Shadows*.” 20th Annual African Conference, University of Texas at Austin, Texas, US. April 1-4.
- 2021 Plenary Session: “Pius Adesanmi: A Service and an Honour.” 20th Annual African Conference, University of Texas at Austin, Texas, US. April 1-4.
- 2021 3rd MenEngage Ubuntu Symposium organised by MenEngage Alliance and Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden. Feb. 25.
- 2020 “‘A Freedom to Be, to Do’: Receptive and Disciplinary Masculinities in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s *Purple Hibiscus*.” 63rd Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Washington DC, US. November 19-21.
- 2020 “‘I Want a Normal Man’: Be(com)ing Adrian in Jude Dibia’s *Walking with Shadows*.” American Men’s Studies Association, Colorado, US, March 19-22. (*cancelled. COVID-19*)
- 2019 “‘Things Started to Fall Apart’: Masculinity and Empathy in Chinua Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart* and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s *Purple Hibiscus*.” 2nd International Symposium on men and Masculinities, Istanbul, Turkey. September 12-14. (*cancelled due to illness*)
- 2019 Ojabo, M. and U. Umezurike. “No Sanctuary across the Border: Otherness and Abjection in Jane Urquhart’s *Sanctuary Line*.” Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies. Auckland, New Zealand, July 15-19.
- 2019 “Write Only the Truth”: (Re) Imagining the Nation in Chimeka Garricks’s *Tomorrow Died Yesterday*, and Helon Habila’s *Oil on Water*. Canadian Comparative Literature Association. University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. June 2-4.
- 2019 “Troubling the Norm in Chinelo Okparanta’s *Under the Udala Trees*.” MLCS Graduate Student Conference. University of Alberta. February 14-15.
- 2017 “Spectre of the East & National (Dis)Unity.” EFS End-of-Year Symposium: “Ctrl + Alt + Dlt”. University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. April 21.
- 2017 Umezurike, U. and Madueke, S. “*Yori Yori*: Music and Happiness in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s *Americanah*.” Graduate Music Students' Association Ncounter. University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. April 1-2.
- 2017 “Care-less-ness in Jane Urquhart’s *Sanctuary Line*.” CLC Research Seminar. University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. February 27.
- 2017 “Land of Cemetery: Funereal Images in the Poetry of Musa Idris Okpanachi.” Humanities Graduate Student Association. York University, Toronto, Canada. February 17-18.

Conference Poster

- 2018 “‘I Need a Real Man’: Masculinities in Contemporary Nigerian Fiction.” PDF/A/GSA Research Day. University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. October 24.

Invited Presentations

- 2022 “Beyond Alberta, National and International Reach for Alberta Authors.” Writers’ Guild of Alberta, *Shifting Creative Gears*, June 5.
- 2022 “A Refusal to Hate: Black Wellness and Creative Writing.” University of Calgary, February 24.
- 2021 “A Scar Can Tell a Story.” BIPOC Creative Writing Faculty and Student, Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English (ACCUTE), May 31-June 1.
- 2021 “Exploring Blackness.” Harriet Tubman Institute, York University, York’s Centre for Feminist Research, and the Pan African Collaboration for Excellence, University of Alberta. Feb. 24.

Literary Engagements

- 2022, April Guest Poet, Edmonton Public Library, Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada.
- 2022, January Guest Poet, Brown Bag Lunch Reading Series, University of Alberta.
- 2021, Dec Guest Writer, The Dialogue, Igbo Studies Association, USA.
- 2021, Dec Guest Poet, *Isele* Magazine Reading, USA.
- 2021, April Poet, ACCUTE Creative Writing Webinar, Canada.
- 2021, March Poet, World Poetry Day Virtual Launch of *Wreaths for a Wayfarer*.
- 2020 August Panelist, Association of Nigerian Authors, Nigeria.
- 2019, March Guest Writer, Olive Reading Series, Edmonton, Canada.
- 2015, October Panel Moderator, Lagos International Poetry Festival, Lagos, Nigeria.
- 2015, August Guest Poet, Okigbo Poetry Festival, Awka Literary Society Nigeria.
- 2014, November Guest Writer, Ake Arts & Book Festival, Abeokuta, Nigeria.
- 2012, April Guest Poet. Lagos Black Heritage Festival, Lagos, Nigeria.
- 2009, November Storyteller. Children’s Workshop, Sanskriti Kendra, India.
- 2008, November Guest Author. Howard University, Washington, USA.
- 2008, October Guest Writer. Senior Citizens, Iowa City, USA.

Panels Organized (ACCUTE/Congress 2022)

2022: Panel co-organizer with Kevin Hutchings. “Imagining Home in Canada: Migration, Diaspora, and Globalization.” ACCUTE conference at Congress May/June, Montreal, Quebec.

2022: Panel co-organizer with Chigbo Arthur Anyaduba. “Diasporic Tides: Contemporary ‘Nigerian’ Writing in Canada.” ACCUTE conference at Congress May/June, Montreal, Quebec.

Panels Chaired

- 2021 Panel Chair, “Nationalism and Culture” 20th Annual African Conference, University of Texas at Austin, Texas, US. April 1-4.
- 2021 Panel Chair, “Nationalism in African Art, Films, and Literature (2).” 20th Annual African Conference, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, US. April 1-4.
- 2019 Panel Chair. “Narrating the Self and the Archive.” Graduate Students’ English Collective, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, May 3.
- 2017 Panel Chair. “Masculinities.” African Literature Association, Yale University, New Haven, USA. June 14-17.

2017 Panel Chair. “Music Compositions, Improvisation and Cultural Identity.”
Graduate Music Students’ Association Ncounter Conference, University of
Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. April 1-2.

Events Hosted/Organized

2022. with Sarah Krotz. Readings and Discussions by Bertrand Bickersteth and Karina Vernon. Canadian Literature Centre and the Department of English, University of Alberta, Edmonton, February 18.

2022: “Writing across Nations:” Readings by African Canadian Writers. Department of English, University of Calgary, February 11.

2022. with Michael O’Driscoll. Readings and Discussions by Ifeoma Chinwuba and Titilope Sonuga. UAlberta SpokenWeb and the Department of English, University of Alberta, Edmonton, February 7.

OTHER

Selected Interviews (by me)

2021 – till present. Columnist, *Read Alberta*, Alberta, Canada.

40+ interviews of Canadian and African writers on *Read Alberta* (Canada), *Prism International* (Canada), *Africa in Words* (United Kingdom), and *Brittle Paper* (United States) on poetry and fiction. For more samples, see: <https://motleylit.com/>

2022: Mason-John, Valerie. *Read Alberta*. January 19.

2021. Wint, Brandon. *Prism International*. November 18.

2021. Dunning, Norma. *Read Alberta*. November 15.

2021. LeBlanc, Amy. *Read Alberta*. October 12.

2021. Ede, Amatoritseo. *Prism International*. August 19.

2021. Yeku, James. *Prism International*. August 5.

2021. Bickersteth, Bertrand. *Read Alberta*. July 16.

2021. Dumont, Marilyn. *Read Alberta*. June 9.

2021. Patel, Nisha. *Prism International*. June 3.

2.1.6 Selected Interviews (by others)

2022: “Fictionalising History and Home.” Interview with Nzube Nlebedim, *The Shallow Tales Review*.

2021: “Things that Matter.” Interview with Katie Reid, *Africa in Words*.

2021: “In Conversation.” Interview with Hope Eze, *Isele Magazine*.

2021: “The Resonances of our Dappled World.” Interview with Kufre Usanga, *Prism International*.

2021: “The Sensuality of Language.” Interview with Chijioke Onah. *Brittle Paper*.

2021: “Trouble ‘Haunts Everyday Life’.” Interview with Bev Sandell Greenberg. *Prairie Books NOW*.

2.1.6 Selected Literary Publications in Online Magazines

- 2022: “The Story is an Egg.” *The Shallow Tales Review*. Nigeria.
- 2022: “This is How I Remember Her.” *The Angle*. Canada.
- 2021: “A Poet Sees a New World.” *Maple Tree Literary Supplement*. Canada.
- 2021: “Humming Nina Simone on the Train.” *Chiron Review*. USA.
- 2020: “I am Set in a Burden to Sing.” *African Literature Today*. USA.
2019. “Journey.” *Evergreen Review*. USA.
2018. “Neighbours.” *The Lamp*. Canada.

2.1.6 Selected Literary Publications in Print Anthologies

- 2014: *Onomonresoa*. Nigeria: Hornbill.
- 2014: *On Broken Wings*. USA: DLite Press.
- 2012: *Dream Chasers*. Nigeria: Nelson Publishers Ltd.
- 2011: *Daughters of Eve and Other Stories*. UK: CCC Press.
- 2009: *Works in Progress and Other Stories*. UK: New Internationalist.

2.1.6 Selected Reviews

- 2021: A Review of *The Son of the House* by Cheluchi Onyemelukwe. *Olongo Africa*. September 27.
- 2021: A Review of *The Strangers of Braamfontein* by Onyeka Nwelue. *Olongo Africa*. August 20.
- 2021: A Review of “The Street Sweep” by Meron Hadero. *Olongo Africa*. July 21.
2020. A Review of *Ogadinma* by Ukamaka Olisakwe. *Olongo Africa*. November 30.

Commissioned Project

- 2022: “Driving through a Blizzard for a Taste of Home.” *Black on the Prairies*. CBC First Person. January 24.

TEACHING HISTORY

Courses Taught (University of Alberta only)

- English 294: Introduction to Writing Poetry (Fall 2021)
- English 103: Research in Case Studies (Fall 2021)
- English 222: Race and Ethnicity (Winter 2021)
- English 103: Research in Case Studies (Fall 2020)

English 102: Introduction to Critical Analysis (Winter 2018)

English 102: Introduction to Critical Analysis (Fall 2017)

Additional Teaching Activities

Women's and Gender Studies 498: Gendering Development (Winter 2017). Facilitated Grad Seminar

ACADEMIC SERVICE AND PUBLIC WORK

Academic Committees

Jan 2022-Dec 2024	Member, Intersections of Gender Steering Committee University of Alberta.
Jan 2021-May 2021	Member, Central Working Committee on BIPOC Faculty and Students, Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English (ACCUTE).
June 2020-May 2021	Member, Academic Affairs Committee Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta.
June 2020-May 2021	Member, Arts Research Committee Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta.

Student-led Committees

Nov 2019-May 2021	Member, Awards Selection Committee Graduate Students Association, University of Alberta.
Sept 2019-April 2021	Vice President, Media & Communication, Black Graduate Students Association, University of Alberta.
Oct 2018-April 2020	Creative Writing Coordinator, Graduate Students of English Collective, University of Alberta.

Editorial, Peer Reviewer

2022	<i>Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment.</i>
2021	<i>Research in African Literature.</i>
2021	<i>Cogent Social Sciences.</i>
2021	<i>Men and Masculinities.</i>
2021	<i>African Identities.</i>
2020	<i>Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment.</i>
2020	<i>Journal of African Literature Association.</i>
2020	<i>Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies.</i>

Jury

2020-2021: Jury Member, Manitoba Book Awards, Non-fiction Category, Canada.

2018-2019: Jury Member, K & L Prize for African Literature, New Zealand.

2017: Jury Member, AMAB-HBF Flash Fiction Contest, Nigeria.

Mentoring

2021-2022 Mentor, Writers' Guild of Alberta's Horizons Writers Circle.

2021 Mentor, Black Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program.

Podcast

2022: with Rayanne Haines. *Crow Reads*. McEwan University. *Read Alberta*, March 3.

2022: with Lisa Dickson, *Wyrld Words*. University of Northern British Columbia.

Organisational Position

2010-2018 Board Member, Ebedi International Writers' Residency, Nigeria.

Community Engagement

September 2018: Guest Reader. St Boniface Catholic School, Edmonton.

Oct 2016-April 2017: Guest Speaker. Queen Elizabeth II High School, Edmonton.

Boys and Girls Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Edmonton and Area.

St. Jerome Elementary School, Edmonton.

John A. McDougall School, Edmonton.

Windsor Park School and Keweehin School, Edmonton.

MEMBERSHIP

Black Canadian Studies Association.

Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English.

Canadian Association of African Studies.

African Literature Association.

African Studies Association.

CERTIFICATION

2020 Certificate in Gender Based Analysis+, Government of Canada.

2020 Certificate in Bias in Peer Review, SSHRC/CRSH, Canada.

2019 Certificate in Graduate Ethics Training, University of Alberta.

2018 Certificate in Pedagogy and Course Design, University of Alberta.

REFERENCES

Dr. Clara Joseph
Professor, Department of English
University of Calgary, Canada
cjoseph@ucalgary.ca

Dr. Chielozona Eze
Professor, Department of Africana Studies
Northeastern Illinois University, USA
c-eze@neiu.edu

Dr. Michael O'Driscoll
Professor, Department of English and Film Studies
University of Alberta, Canada
mo@ualberta.ca