

NEWSLETTER

IGBO STUDIES ASSOCIATION





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PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dr. Mrs. Ada Uzoamaka AzodoPresident, Igbo Studies Association (USA)

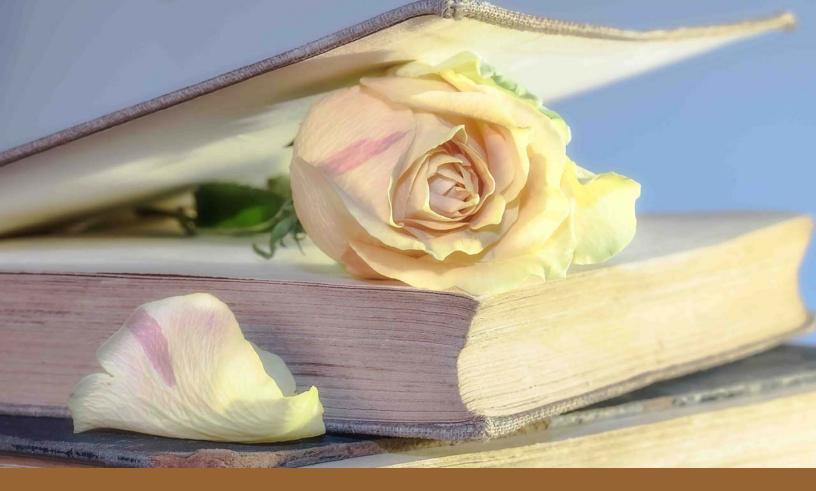
A SALUTE TO IGBO STUDIES ASSOCIATION (ISA)

Dear ISA Members, Colleagues, Conference Participants and Attendees:

What a coincidence! Today, March 8, 2017, the International Women's Day (IWD) and implicitly the International Men's Day (IMD), with the theme of "A Day to Be Bold," I welcome you to 2017 and to the upcoming ISA summit in Owerri in June. ISA is still celebrating our exhibition of boldness in the election of a woman at the 2016 14th annual conference and meeting at the Dominican University, River Forest, United States of America into the office of President, for the first time since the founding of the Association in 1999.

The ISA General Assembly by their bold act reenacted the duality of vision so dear to the Igbo cosmological worldview, "ife kwulu, ife ozo akwudebe ya," the balancing of the masculine and the feminine in the community for the utmost achievement and success of humankind. That is also the enduring lesson we learn from the Aba Women's war of November-December 1929 as the Igbo people saw it, when thousands of Igbo women marched on Government Hill to demand justice, gender equality in opportunities and an end to oppression by British-appointed warrant chiefs and their unfair taxation of the indigenes, men and women. The women organizers came from Calabar and Owerri. These womanist leaders effectively and successfully unionized their kind from as far afield as Ndoni, Ibibio, Bonny, Ogoni, Opobo and Igbo for justice, solidarity and respect for all. It took the British not a few months to quell what they saw as the riots of the fighting women.

In a few months only, participants and attendees at this historic time shall converge in Owerri from the East, the West, the North, and the South. The Igbo and Igbophones shall come literally from all over the world: Nigeria, Europe, Asia, United States of America, Australia, the Caribbean, South America, West Indies, and the Poles of the Arctic and the Antarctic. Indeed, I have had the privilege of reading through over a hundred impressive abstracts already submitted, and counting. We shall be retelling the Igbo story from various perspectives: languages, literatures and linguistics, communication, identity, gender and sexuality, development, law, music, history, cinema, mythology, architecture, art, fashion and design, medicine, agriculture, religion, ritual and folklore, family and marriage, politics, economics, education, philosophy, you name it, in order to understand better our individual and collective lives, our place in the world as a people, and for posterity and legacy to our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.



We shall recognize that moral order could also come from peaceful collaboration, reasoning and blending of masculine and feminine orders.

The theme of the 2017 ISA Conference, as you very well know already, is "Nto Ala Igbo: Retelling Our Story, Rekindling Our Values." As teachers and scholars in service to humanity, on the one hand we shall come out strongly in Owerri against injustices and oppressions of all sorts, and on the other for respect and dignity for all human beings, despite biological differences and the intersections of varied isms in society. Nonetheless, our language and style shall be neither offensive nor counterproductive, knowing fully well as we do that the youth look up to us as models and mentors. As the Igbo say, "Nne ewu na-ata mbibo, umu ya a na-ene ya anya n'onu."

Owerri 2017 shall soon be upon us. I look forward to discussions and debates for a fulfilling professional experience at the various constituted panels, roundtables and addresses from invited dignitaries and luminaries.

I thank immensely the Conference Convener, the workforce on the ground, the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) at Owerri, and the entire Conference Planning Committee, for putting together what promises to be a conference whose story shall be told for a very long time to come in the annals of the history of Igbo Studies Association and the Igbo people.

I am also grateful to my fellow officers of the Executive Management Team, including the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Public Relations Officer, and the Immediate Past President, for long and useful deliberations running often far into the night, for advice and quality service to ISA throughout the year.

On behalf of the ISA Executive Management Team, I welcome you all to our conference and meeting at Owerri, Nigeria, on June 8-10, 2017.

Long Live the ISA!

Long Live the Igbo People!

Long Live the Igbo Race!

Dr. Mrs. Ada U. Azodo President, Igbo Studies Association (USA)



FROM ISA SECRETARIAT

Abstract Submission Deadline Extension

As we plan to hold what promises to be another successful conference in Owerri, please keep the following in mind:

First, the deadline for submitting abstracts has been extended. It is now March 31, 2017. There will be no more extensions. Many thanks to those who submitted their abstracts already. Please encourage your colleagues who have not submitted to do so on or before March 31.

Second, those whose abstracts have been approved should pay a non-refundable acceptance fee of \$50 by March 31. You can pay via PayPal through ISA website. If you are paying in Naira, please pay N15,000 to the following account (**Account Name**: Professor Uchenna Mariestella Nzewi; **Bank**: Fidelity Bank PLC; and **Account No**: 6052163125).

Please make sure to forward an electronic copy of proof of payment to Dr. Ogechi Anyanwu, isaconference@yahoo.com and Dr. Christine Ohale, cohale@csu.edu.

This payment will ensure that you are scheduled to make a presentation at the conference and your information is included in the conference brochure.

Third, I have notified everyone who submitted abstracts. If for any reason you did not receive my email, please let me know immediately.

Fourth, the deadline for submitting adverts for the ISA 2017 conference brochure is March 31. If you intend to place an advert in the brochure, please contact us for the submission form, which contains the rates. Members and non-members can use our conference brochure to promote their companies, businesses, institutions, publications, events, etc.

Thanks for your continued support,

Ogechi E. Anyanwu Conference Chair Email: isaconference@yahoo.com Phone: 859-248-1394.

IGBOSTUDIESASSOCIATION.ORG PAGE 4

ADVERTISING IN FUTURE ISSUES

We are finalizing the ISA Newsletter Media Kit with page sizes and rates breakdown to provide an opportunity for you to purchase pages and advertise your products in future issues. For all advertising opportunities, please contact the editor using the coordinates below.

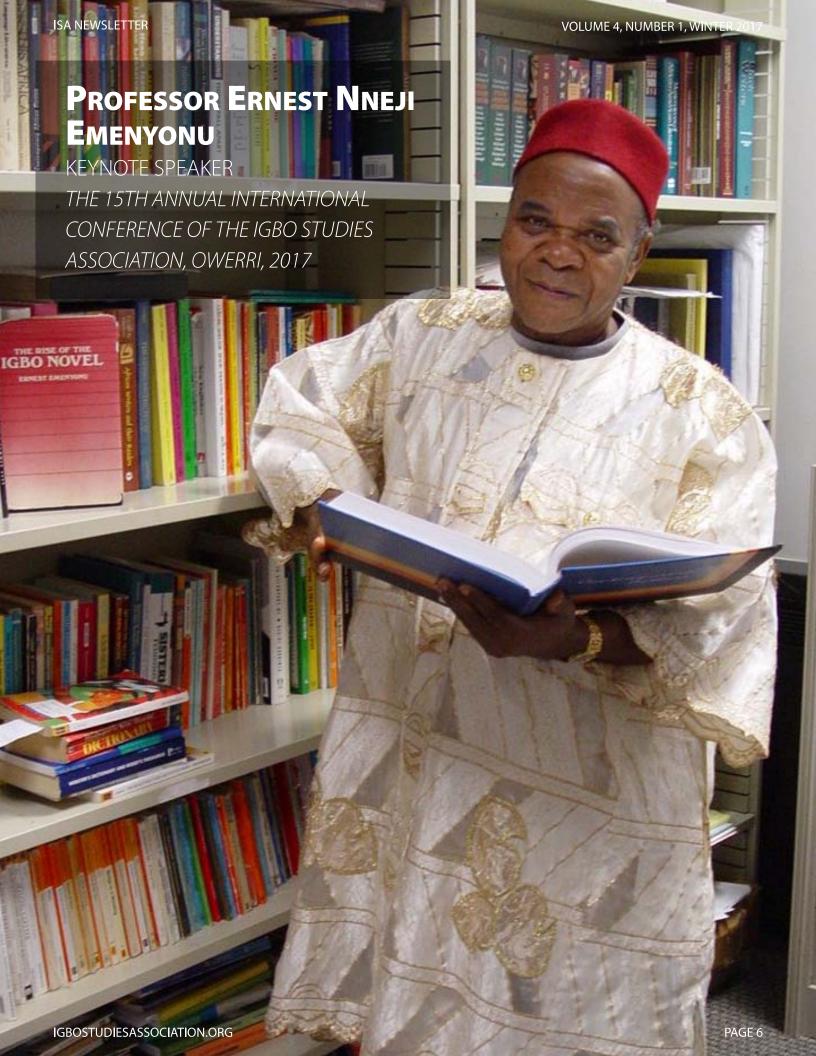


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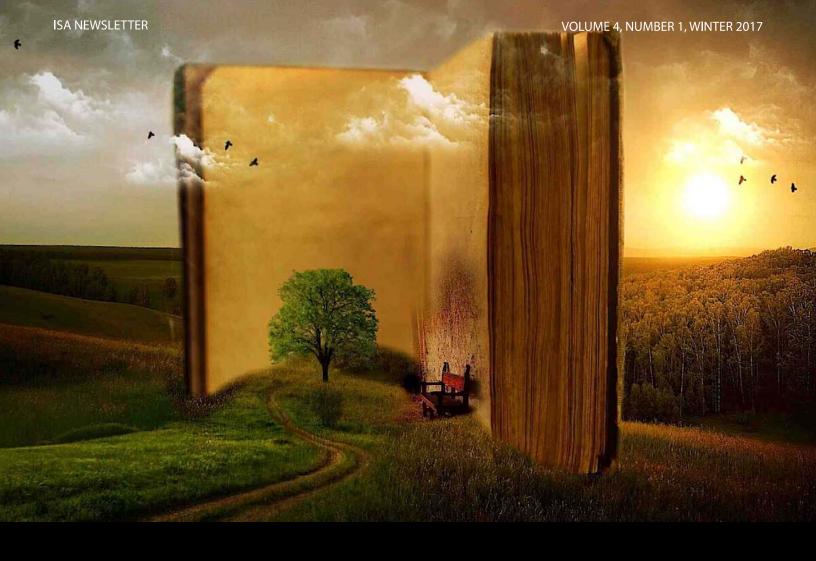
profile Professor Ernest Nneji Emenyonu

rofessor Ernest Nneji Emenyonu, arguably the most prominent lgbo scholar today and a notable Chinua Achebe, Cyprian Ekwensi, and Flora Nwapa scholar, partly due to his rich and voluminous critical works on these luminary Igbo sons and daughters, his world-renown in creatively (re)telling the Igbo story, and partly due to his reputation as a gynandrist, is a life member of the Flora Nwapa Society, a member of the Women's Caucus of the African Literature Association (USA), generally supports women's visibility in society, academics and politics. Since 2003 Prof, as he is very often addressed by younger Igbo scholars whom he has mentored both as students and university professors, has been the Editor of African Literature Today, the oldest international iourna of **African** Literature, published annually in November in the UK, USA, and Nigeria, and has had published critical works on many African women writers. Since 2014, he has been the Examiner of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Igbo Literature, Cardiff, UK, solely administering charged with examination on Igbo Studies. He was the first to translate the first Igbo novel Omenuko by Pita Nwana from the Igbo into the English, and has written a classic, The Rise of the Igbo Novel, to document the affirmation of the Igbo language and world view as a field worthy of research for Igbo Scholars.

His chronicle of the father of the African novel, Chinua Achebe, in a way that no other Igbo Scholar has done are in such volumes as Emerging Perspectives on Chinua Achebe, Volume 1, Omenka the Master Artist, Critica Perspectives on Chinua Achebe's Fiction. New Jersey: Africa World Press, 2004, and Emerging Perspectives on Chinua Achebe. Vol.2. ISINKA, the Artistic Purpose: Chinua Achebe and the Theory of African Literature (with Iniobong I. Uko). New Jersey: Africa World Press, 2004.

Professor Emenyonu has taught and served far and afield in the United States, Lebanon, Denmark, England, India and Nigeria. In the United States he has been at various universities in North Carolina, Colorado, Tennessee, Connecticut, Montana, ending up as Head/Chair of the Department of African Studies at the University of Flint, Michigan until 2014, where he initiated in 2003 a project with the Flint Public Library known as the "Renowned Africa Writers Visit Series", ater known as "African/African Diaspora Visit Series" which, for a period of one week in the month of March annually, brought to campus for interaction with faculty and students such eminent Igbo scholars as Buchi Emecheta, Chis Abani, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, also and other Nobel Laureate Wole Nigerians, Soyinka, Niyi Osundare, and Africans, the Egyptian Nawal el Saadawi Dennis Brutus, Ngugi was Thiong'o, and Sindiwe Magona. In Nigeria he has mentored young scholars at Mbieri-Mbaitoli, Owerri, Abuja, Lagos, Jos, Nsukka, Ile-Ife, and Calabar where he rose to the rank of Vice Chancellor. In Nigeria, he was the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of Calabar, and later the Provost and Chief Executive Officer at the Alvan Ikoku College of Education, Owerri.

Professor Emenyonu had received several awards in recognition of his contributions to the Humanities and society, including, but are not limited to, David M. French Distinguished Professorship and Alvin D. Loving Senior Faculty Initiative Award at Flint, Michigan, Fellow of the Literary Society of Nigeria (FLSN), ICON of Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education Award, Owerri, Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) Imo State Chapter, organized and named International an conference in his honor: "Ernest Emenyonu International Conference on African Literature" (Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, Owerri, August 4-7, 2010), Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Letters (FNAL), Association Nigerian **Authors** (ANA): Outstanding Contributions to Nigerian Literature Award, Professor Emeritus, University of Calabar, Nigeria, Mbieri Nwaotuoke Association. U.S.A.: Excellence in Civic Engagement and



Development Award, Chieftaincy Title: UGWUMBA I of Mbieri by the Paramount Ruler of Mbieri, Mbaitoli Local Government Area, lmo State, Nigeria, Eze S.U. Achuko, Eze Ozuzuoha II of Mbieri, Knighted by the Anglican Diocese of Owerri, Nigeria (Knight of St. Christopher), gave а keynote Address at the University of Beirut's first International ever Conference on African literature in Honor of the legendary African Chinua Achebe, "The Legacy of Chinua Achebe" (Lebanon, March 21-22, 2014), delivered a "Special

Lecture" at an international conference in honor of a leading pioneer **African** novelist, Chukwuemeka Ike (Akanu Ibiam Federal Polytechnic, Unwana, Ebonyi State, Nigeria, Oct 13-17, 2016), and will deliver the Keynote Address at the 9th University of Uyo, Nigeria, Conference Language and Literature, Feb. 21—24, 2017.

Among his most recent academic activities are conference presentations.

In 2016, "A Literary History of the Igbo Novel, 1857-Present," a Research Report at the 11th International

Conference of the Society for the Oral Literatures of Africa (ISOLA), University of Florida, Gainesville: "Research **Priorities** African Literature: Responding to Challenges and Standards in the 21st Century," at the 24th Conference of the University of Calabar International Conference on African Literature and the English Language (ICALEL).

In 2015, "Pita Nwana's Omenuko and the Evolution of the Novel in Igbo Language," at the 1st International Conference of the African Studies Association of Africa (ASAA),

University of Ibadan Nigeria; "New Nigerian Writing—Transforming, Rehabilitating, or Regenerating Nigerian Literature?: A close study of Recent **Fiction** Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Teju Cole, Chika Unigwe and Chigozie Obioma," at the International Conference of the Literary Society of Nigeria (LSN) Niger Delta University, Bayesla, Nigeria; "Depiction of Home and Exile in the African Language Novel (ALN): a case study of Omenuko (1933) by Pita Nwana," at the African Literature Association (ALA) International Conference,

ISA NEWSLETTER ISSN: 2375-9720

University of Bayreuth, Germany.

In 2014, "A Literary History of the Novel in African Languages: A Focus on the Igbo language novel, 1857-2010;" "African Languages and Literature in the 21st Century." Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya; a Keynote, "The Legacy and Memories of Chinua Achebe." Anambra State (Nigeria) Association, Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter, and Paper: "The Place of Chinua Achebe in African Literature;" International Conference on "The Legacy and Memories of Chinua Achebe." Anambra State (Nigeria) Association, Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter. Paper: "The Place of Chinua Achebe in African Literature:" "Arrow of God: New insights into Achebe's Magnum Opus," at The Achebe Colloquium on Africa—African as Restoration: Chinua Literature Achebe as Teacher, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island; on Also Paper: "Arrow of God at 50: Achebe's Magnum Opus." "Chinua Achebe: There a Writer," African Literature was Association (ALA). University Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa; Keynote on "The Legacy of Chinua Achebe: Dialogical Explorations in Philosophy, Literature and Politics," Notre Dame University, Beirut, Lebanon; Keynote address on "Our Universities, Academic Standards and National Integrity," at the International Conference of the Literary Society of Nigeria (LSN) "In honor of Prof. Ernest N. Emenyonu, President 1982-1984," University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria.

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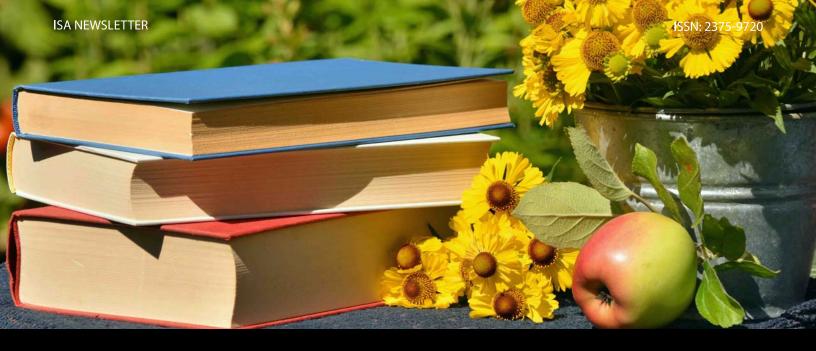
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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Dear Professors:

was pleased to attend my third Igbo Studies Association conference in Chicago in May of this year. I am thrilled that we will be having the ISA conference in Owerri June 8-10. I have submitted my abstract already. I have not been in Owerri since 1969, when I was serving as a member of an International Committee of the Red Cross team based in Elele. It will be a pleasure to return! I have met many of you in the past at ISA or other African-related conferences.

Some of you purchased copies of my book, War Stories: A Memoir of Nigeria and Biafra. If you are not familiar with it, it details my experiences working with the Red Cross (1968-69), first at Ikeja Airport in Lagos and then on the medical/food team in Elele. We worked in such places as Elele, Elele Elimini, Umu Nelu, Ahoada, Owerri, Obinze, and Umuakpu. War Stories contains several photos I shot during the war and is also illustrated with some of the items I collected during that time, including a Biafran propaganda poster. The book also describes my experiences (1966-67) as a Peace Corps Volunteer teacher at Ascension High School in Eleme, near Port Harcourt. After the civil war began, I was evacuated and spent the rest of my Peace Corps time in Malawi. On my own, I returned to Nigeria to work with the Red Cross, as described above.

I have also written an opera, Biafra, with music composed by

Nathaniel Blume. If you visit my website, www.mesaverdepress.com, you may view the portion of the opera that has thus far been scored and performed. We are currently seeking to raise the funds to complete the opera (I have written the libretto of the three-act opera, but, thus far, we have only this 20 minutes' worth of it scored and performed). Also, on that website, you can see my large-format posters of my poetry and photography, some of which share my images and words about my experiences in Nigeria/Biafra.

I am writing you for two reasons:

- (1) While I am eager to return to Owerri for the conference, to see old friends and make new ones, I am also looking forward to giving lectures at various schools before and after the conference. I have discussed this in the past with some of you at the ISA conferences. I would like to work with you to arrange a visit to your school to lecture on my experiences before and during the war and have the opportunity to reflect with students and faculty on post-war Nigeria. I will also bring photos with me that I shot in Nigeria/Biafra during the 1960s (before and during the war) that do not appear in my book.
- (2) I am also seeking to have my book adopted for use in classrooms. It is suitable for secondary schools and

for university classes. Thus far, it has been used in the U.S. at Northwestern University in Evanston, in the Chicago area, and in Nigeria at Pan-Atlantic University in Lagos. I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss with you the adoption of this book. I can ship boxes of books to you, either for English classes - memoir writing, for example – or Nigerian history, African history, conflict resolution, etc.

In Lagos, the book has been used with students in English classes. At Northwestern, it has been used in a class having to do with youth and war. Of course, it would be wonderful to have the book in the hands of your students prior to my arrival, so we could have lively discussions about the war and how one can take such experiences and turn them into artistic expressions, as I did with the book and with the opera.

The book originally sold for U.S. \$15 (4,500 Naira), but I am offering it for U.S. \$5 (1,500 Naira). If you purchase a large enough number of books for your classes, we can work together on the price of the shipping by air.

I hope to visit many institutions in the former Eastern Region, as you will see from the list above, but I am also interested in visiting Lagos (both the U. of Lagos and Pan-Atlantic U.), to lecture and to see my book used in classrooms.

I will be responsible for my airplane ticket from the U.S. to/from Nigeria. But, I am asking for you to take care of my lodging and meals, and provide ground transportation to get me from one school to the next.

Please let me know of your interest in having me lecture at your school and in adopting my book for your classes. Once I have heard from you and from faculty at other schools I am contacting, I can work with you and others to make travel plans, ship books, and so forth.

Thank you for your consideration. I am most grateful for your interest. I look forward to hearing from you.

On May 30, 2017, as you know, we will commemorate the 50th anniversary of secession. It was on that day I turned on my radio at breakfast at Ascension High School and discovered that, while I had gone to sleep in Nigeria the night before, I had awakened in Biafra.

John Sherman 3801 N. Meridian, #603 Indianapolis, IN 46208 317-923-6775 phone 317-459-5074 cell www.mesaverdepress.com





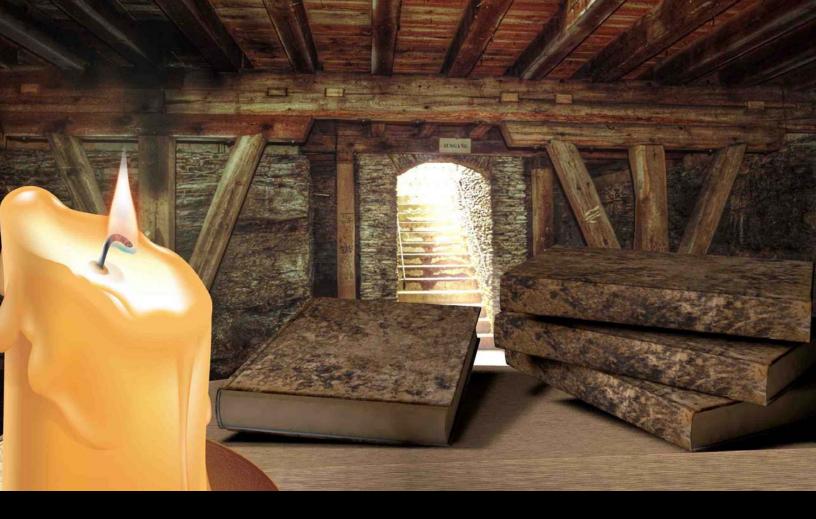








IGBOSTUDIESASSOCIATION.ORG PAGE 13



CALL FOR SUBMISSION

ISA Newsletter, Volume 4, No. 2, Summer 2017

Dear Members,

The Igbo Studies Association is seeking submissions from members for the Summer 2017 issue of the ISA Newsletter. You may submit the following types of item:

- Short research notes of between 500 and 1000 words.
- Academic events such as conferences and workshops that will be of interest to members.
- Vacancies.
- Recent publications such as monographs or edited collections with full publication information including a high resolution image of the cover.
- Other events that will be of interest to members.

We plan to publish the Summer 2017 issue in July 2017. All submissions must reach Dr. Chidi Igwe via the editor's coordinates below by June 30, 2017.

Visit the ISA website to enjoy our previous issues!

Thanks.

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