

Austin C. Okigbo (Public Vita)

I am an associate professor at the University of Colorado Boulder, College of Music. He is affiliate faculty in Ethnic Studies, Global Health, and the Center for African and African American Studies (CAAAS).

I have continued to expand on my scholarship in ethnomusicology as an integrated and interdisciplinary field of academic music inquiry. Having now fully established my record internationally as a leading voice in the ethnomusicological study of music and health through publications, organizing of international symposiums, and international teaching, I am now working on two projects, *Performing Ubuntu: African Musical Creativity for Community, Wellbeing, and Sustainability* and *Music and Culture in the African Church*. The first builds upon the interdisciplinary book that I co-authored with a philosophy professor from the Massachusetts College of the Liberal Arts titled *Ubuntu: A Comparative Study of an African Concept of Justice* published by Leuven University Press and Cornell Press, February 2024. *Performing Ubuntu* is an exclusive focus on four musical case studies. Ubuntu is an African concept of justice and a form of relational ethics that manifests in different spheres of human activities. The current ethnomusicological project examines the ways that ubuntu permeates processes of musical creativity, articulation, and spirituality and cultural meanings in the contexts of health, hydro-politics, and gender. *Music and Culture in the African Church* uses a combination of historical and ethnographic methods to examine the issues of culture in African Christianity in colonial, post-colonial, and post-Apartheid contexts.

In these scholarly works, I continue to push the boundaries in African Studies by using the interdisciplinary study of music to understand and to clarify some persisting confusions around African history, the peoples of Africa and their social organization in post-colonial and post-apartheid contexts. Just as my work on music and health and new African musical diasporas have engendered new understanding and therefore new conversations in the field of ethnomusicology and African Studies, these two projects will further lay out some of the issues that I had already begun to address in my previous journal publications on musical inculturation and the newly released text on *ubuntu*.

I continue to feature regularly in several local and international radio and television programs including BBC, Channels TV Lagos, Nigeria, and Black Radio Consortium as contributor and analyst on the entertainment industry, and cultural education and policy.

My World Music of the Front Range, Colorado remains on-going as I am using it to mentor undergraduate and graduate students in ethnographic methods while documenting world music artists and ensembles to help produce the composite cosmopolitan cultural image of the Front Range part of Colorado. This on-going project is already beginning to yield some scholarly output as I am now co-authoring a peer-review journal article "Multigenerational Music Making in the Diaspora: A Shona Family Story in Denver Colorado" with a student who helped to collect the data with support from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP).

Finally, my scholarship continues to inform my teaching as evidenced my undergraduate and graduate courses or in specific topics in my course schedules.

Selected Courses Taught at CU Boulder

Graduate Seminars: *Music of Disease & Death*, *Ethnomusicology Proseminar*, *World Music Pedagogy*; *Black Atlantic*, *Black American Music*, *Music in African Life*, *Music Ethnography*.

Undergraduate Seminars: *Sounding Epidemic; Music and Global Health; Music and Politics in Africa; Art Music of Africa; Music in African Religious Experience; and Ethnomusicology Senior Seminar.*

Selected Publications

Okigbo, Austin C. and Paul C. Nnodim (Eds.). 2024. *Ubuntu - A Comparative Study of an African Concept of Justice*. Leuven: Leuven University Press.

Okigbo, Austin C. 2024. "Music Igbo." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia*, London: OUP Online.

Okigbo, Austin C. "Liturgy and Musical Inculturation in a Post-apartheid South African Catholicism." *Yale Journal of Music and Religion*. Vol. 7, No. 2 (2021).

Nnodim, Paul, and Austin C. Okigbo. "Justice as Fairness and" Ubuntu": Conceptualizing Justice through Human Dignity." *Ethical Perspectives* 27, no. 1 (2020): 69-91.

Okigbo, Austin C. 2019. "Medical Ethnomusicology." *The Sage International Encyclopedia of Music and Culture*. Janet Sturman, Ed. New York and London: Sage Publications.

Okigbo, Austin C. 2018. "Art and National Development: The Nigerian Experience in Perspective." In *Mentoring Grace: Exploring the Confluence of the Arts and the Humanities*. Alaribe, Gilbert N. and Okwuosa, Lawrence N. (Eds.), Owerri, Imo State: DFDC, pp.122-132.

Okigbo, Austin C. "South African Music in the History of Epidemics." *JFR, The International Journal of Folklore and Ethnomusicology*, Vol. 54, no. 1-2, pp.87-118, (2017).

Okigbo, Austin C. *Music, Culture, and the Politics of Health: Ethnography of a South African AIDS Choir*. New York and London: Rowman and Littlefield (2016).

Selected Newspaper Articles

Okigbo, Austin C. "Burning History and Heritage: The Problem of Africans' Cultural Self-immolation." *Afrik Digest Magazine*, Denver, CO (December. 2021).

Okigbo, Austin C. "Unknown Gunmen, Unknown Soldier: A Familiar Language in the History of State-Sponsored Violence in Nigeria." *AfrikDigest Magazine*, Denver Colorado (October 2021).

Okigbo, Austin C. "Africans and Black Lives Matter: Exhibitions of Naiveté and Ignorance of History." *Pointblank News*, Abuja, Nigeria (July 29, 2020).