

Austin C. Okigbo (Public Vita)

Austin Okigbo is the chair of musicology and associate professor at the University of Colorado Boulder, College of Music. He also teaches in Africana Studies, and Global Health. He received his Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology and African Studies from Indiana University, Bloomington, a Master of Music degree in Sacred Music and Music Education from Westminster Choir College. He also has degrees in philosophy and theology from the Pontifical Urban University, Rome. His research focuses on religious music, musical diasporas, global health, inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogues. Prior to joining CU Boulder, Professor Okigbo taught at Williams College, MA as the Sterling Brown Visiting Professor, African and African American Studies at Harvard University, and the University of Notre Dame.

Okigbo features regularly in a number of 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. He is the author of *Music, Culture, and the Politics of Health: Ethnography of a South African AIDS Choir* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2016). His published articles appear in *Africa Today*, *Du Bois Review*, *Ethnomusicology*, *Journal of Folklore Research*, and *The Journal of the International Library of African Music*. He is the editor of the *World of Music* (Verlag, Berlin, Germany 2015) on the New African Musical Diasporas. Professor Okigbo's current work includes book projects on music and cultural imaginations in African Christianity; and new African musical diasporas. He also has an on-going project on World Music of the Front Range, Colorado.

Okigbo directs the CU World Vocal Ensemble, which has featured with the world famous South African vocal group, The Ladysmith Black Mambazo, and the multi-award winning popular musician and activist Johnny Clegg. He has conducted college, church, and community choirs in the United States, South Africa, and Nigeria. He served as the co-chair of the African Music Section of the Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM) between 2014 and 2017 in addition to serving on several committees in the organization and the African Studies Association.

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

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).

Okigbo, Austin C. Ed. *Performing the New Diasporas: Contemporary African Ritual Music in North America [World of Music Journal Themed Issue]*, Berlin: Verlag für Wissenschaft und Bildung (2015).

Okigbo, Austin C. "Ahịajịọkụ in Chicago: Festival, Music, and the Performance of Nigerian Igbo Identity in a North America City." *World of Music Journal*, Vol. 4, No. 2, pp. 99-118, (2015).

Okigbo, Austin C. and Ezumah, Bellarmine A. "Media Health Images of Africa and the Politics of Representation: A South African AIDS Choir Counter-Narrative." *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 0021909615608208, (2015).

Okigbo, Austin C. "Contesting Cultural Meaning in a Post-Apartheid South African HIV/AIDS Music Event." *African Music, Journal of the International Library of African Music*, Vol. 9, No. 4, pp. 54-70, (2014).

Okigbo, Austin C. "Siphithemba- We Give Hope: Song and Resilience in a South African Zulu HIV/AIDS Struggle" in *The Culture of AIDS: Hope and Healing Through Music and the Arts in Africa*. Eds. Gregory Barz and Judah Cohen, London and New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 285-298, (2011).

Okigbo, Austin C. "Performing Blackness in a South African HIV/AIDS Choir." *Du Bois Review*, Vol. 8, No. 1, pp. 241-251, (2011).

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).

Okigbo, Austin C. "Martial Music Choice and Nigeria's Recent Democracy Day Ceremony: A Musical Irony." *Nigerian Voice & Denver Digest* (July 12, 2019).

Okigbo, Austin C. "Recalling Nigeria's Fela Kuti and His Musical Critique of Religion in the Age of Boko Haram." *The Nigerian Voice* (June 16, 2014).

"The 2014 World Economic Forum, Abuja: What's at Stake for the Entertainment Industry?" *The Leader*. Assumpta Press, Owerri Nigeria (Feb. 8, 2014).