Dr Ezenwa Olumba

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Substantive areas: Migration, Memory & Identity, African Politics, International Relations, Conflict and Security, Emerging military technologies.

Methodological approaches: qualitative analysis, autoethnography, phenomenology.

EMPLOYMENT

2025 – present **Leverhulme Early Career Fellow**, Aston University, UK
2023 – 2024 **Visiting Lecturer**, University of Bedfordshire, Luton, UK
2022 – 2023 **Politics Tutor**, Royal Holloway, University of London, UK
2019 – 2020 **Guest Lecturer**, Royal Holloway, University of London, UK

EDUCATION

PhD in Politics, Royal Holloway, University of London, UK (2025).

MSc in International Relations, Royal Holloway, University of London, UK (2018).

BA (Hons) in International Relations, Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences, Germany (2016).

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Journal articles

1. **Olumba, E. E.** (2026)'Mapping the States of Immobility: A Conceptual Model of Migratory Trajectories Across Origin, Transit, and Destination', *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, 47(5), 913–928.
2. **Olumba, E. E.** (2026) We Will Stay-put or Die Remaining: Why Some Communities Choose Active Immobility in Conflict Zones in Nigeria, *Mobilities*.
3. **Olumba, E. E.**, Samuel Oyewole, Christopher Isike, and Tony Onzi (2025) Regulating Autonomous Weapon Systems: Searching for African Solutions to Regional and Global Problems, *Regulation & Governance.*
4. **Olumba, E. E.** (2025) From Students to Refugees: Student's (Im)mobility in the Wake

of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies.*

5. **Olumba, E. E.** (2025) Choosing to stay: The Resilience-Accessibility Framework as a New Perspective on Immobility Amidst Adversity. *Migration Studies*, 13(3).
6. Samuel Oyewole, Christopher Isike, Tony Onzi and **Olumba, E. E.** (2025) Autonomous Weapons Systems in Africa: Emerging Realities, Prospects, and Risks, *Journal of Applied Security Research*.
7. **Olumba, E. E.** (2025) 'The Necropolitics of Drone Bases and Use in the African Context', *Critical Studies on Terrorism*. 18(1), 139–161.
8. **Olumba, E. E.**, Gola, Alessandra and Lowe E. Mfon (2024) Trapped in Time and Place: Cognitive Immobility Among Diaspora Communities. *Diaspora Studies,* 18(1), 57-78.
9. **Olumba, E. E.** (2024) 'Preserving the Future through the Past: Collective Memory and Immobility in Adversity', *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology.* 30(4), 483–494.
10. **Olumba, E. E.** (2023) 'The Homeless Mind in a Mobile World: an Autoethnographic Approach on Cognitive Immobility in International Migration', *Culture & Psychology*, 29(4), pp.769–790

    → Featured in media outlets such as ***Yahoo News***, ***MSN***, ***Insider***, and ***Gulf News*** etc.

    → 2024 **Best Article and Chapter Award**, *International Studies Association.*
11. **Olumba, E. E.** (2024) 'Navigating Credibility and Approachability in Conflict Zones: Insights from Fieldwork in Nigerian Communities Facing Eco-Violence', *The Qualitative Report*, 29(7), 1876-1891.
12. Nwosu, B., Okoli, C. R., **Olumba, E. E.** and Okpaleke, F. N., (2025) Farmer-Herder Crises, Uncivil Discourses and the Politics of Nigeria's Security Responses, *Human Affairs*.
13. Onyebueke, Victor; Nwosu, Bernard; Uwaezuoke, Nonso; Akalameaku, Juliet; Nnamani, Collins; **Olumba, E. E.** (2024) Patriarchal Restrictions and Maternal Manoeuvres: Igbo Women's Quest for Land Inheritance Rights., *Gender and Sustainability in the Global South*, 1 (1), 23-52. https://doi.org/10.1515/gsgs-2024-0001
14. **Olumba, E. E.** (2024) 'The Politics of Eco-violence: Why is Conflict Escalating in Nigeria's Middle Belt?', *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 36(2), pp. 180-197.
15. **Olumba, E. E.** (2023) 'The Case for a 'Cognitive Turn' in Conflict Analysis: Lessons from Afghanistan and the Sahel of Africa', *Global Change, Peace & Security.* 35(3), 229–

246.

→ Shortlisted for the **Cedric Smith Prize 2025**, *Conflict Research Society*.

16. **Olumba, E. E**. (2023) Anchored in History: Understanding the persistence of Eco-violence in Nigeria's Middle Belt through Collective Memory, *Genealogy*, 7(3).
17. Okpaleke, F.N., Nwosu, B.U., Okoli, C.R. and **Olumba, E.E.** (2023) The case for drones in counter-insurgency operations in West African Sahel, *African Security Review*, 32(4), 351-367.
18. **Olumba, E.E.**, Nwosu, B.U., Okpaleke, F.N. and Okoli, R.C. (2022) 'Conceptualising eco-violence: moving beyond the multiple labelling of water and agricultural resource conflicts in the Sahel', *Third World Quarterly*, 43(9), 2075-2090.
19. Okoli, C. R., Nwosu, B., Okpaleke, F. N., and **Olumba, E. E.** (2022) Security in the Lake Chad Basin and Sahel Region after Idris Déby, *Small Wars & Insurgencies*, 34(6), 1130-1153.

Work Under Consideration

- **Olumba**, **E. E**., Canefe, E. N., Düvell, F. Citizenship and Nativism in Nigeria: Internal Deportation as Mobility Governance (Revised & Resubmitted).
- **Olumba**, **E. E.** (Special Issue). Humanitarian Aid under blockade: Displacement, Involuntary Immobility and State (Un)making during the Nigeria–Biafra War*, Journal of Refugee Studies.* (Revised & Resubmitted).
- **Olumba**, **E. E**., Canefe, E. N., Düvell, F. Critical Immobility Studies: The Case for a Distinct Field of Inquiry (under review).
- **Olumba, E. E.** Citizenship and Nativism in Nigeria: Internal Deportation as Mobility Governance (Revised & Resubmitted).
- **Olumba, E. E. and Cletus Famous Nwankwo,** Visa Application Fees as Institutional Reverse Remittances from Africa to the Global North (Revised & Resubmitted).

Book Proposals in Preparation

- **Olumba, E. E.** *Why and How Communities Stay in Conflict Zones* (provisional). Based on my doctoral research at Royal Holloway University of London.
- **Olumba, E. E.** *Invisible Chains: How We Become Trapped in Time and Place* (Working Title).
- **Olumba, E. E.** *The Current Phase of Domination in Africa* (Working Title).

Book Reviews

- **Olumba, E. E.** (2025) 'Book Review: The Migration of Albanians from Montenegro and Kosovo to the United States: In Search of Home', *International Migration Review*.
- **Olumba, E. E.** (2024) 'A Country of Defiance: Mapping the Casamance in Senegal. By Mark W. Deets', *Journal of Strategic Security*, 17(1 (2), pp. 134-136.
- **Olumba, E. E.** (2023) 'Book review: Mobility, mobilization, and counter/insurgency: the routes of terror in an African context', *Contemporary Voices: St Andrews Journal of International Relations*, 3(1).
- **Olumba, E. E.** (2023) 'Review of the book: Written Out: The Silencing of Regina Gelana Twala, by Joel Cabrita', *Africa Today*, 70(2), pp.112-114.

Selected General Audience Writing

For a full list of articles, visit: Psychology Today, The Conversation

- **Olumba, E. E.** (27 April 2026) Ukraine's killer robots show how war is changing, *The Conversation*.
- **Olumba, E. E.** (22 May 2026) Why Some Places Never Leave Us, *Psychology Today*.
- **Olumba, E. E.** (5 November 2025) Private tech entrepreneurs are quietly shaping tomorrow's warfare. *LSE Blog*
- **Olumba, E. E.** (6th November 2025). Nigeria's violent conflicts are about more than just religion – despite what Trump says. *The Conversation*.
- **Olumba, E. E.** (17 March 2025) Senegal sees French troops depart as west Africa reassesses colonial ties *The Conversation*.
- **Olumba, E. E.** & Ben Nwosu (11 December 2024) Chad's break with France: why it happened and what it means for power dynamics in the Sahel region *The Conversation*.
- **Olumba, E. E.** (17 November 2024) Nigeria's terror group Lakurawa is nothing new – it exists because of government's failure: analysts *The Conversation*.
- **Olumba, E. E.** (1st January 2025) Break Free from the Past and Stay Committed to Your Goals: How to create lasting, positive change. *Psychology Today*.
- Olumba, E. E. (17th February 2025) Why Some Identities Stay: Why a celebrated supermodel insists "I am still a refugee.". *Psychology Today*.
- **Olumba, E. E.,** Oyewole, S. & Oche Tony (12th August 2024) 'Killer robots' are becoming a real threat in Africa. *The Conversation*.
- Oyewole, S. & **Olumba, E. E.** (17th June 2024) Space arms race may be underway – it comes with enormous risks. *The Conversation*.
- **Olumba, E. E.** (17 November 2024) Nigeria's terror group Lakurawa is nothing new – it exists because of government's failure: analysts *The Conversation*.
- **Olumba, E. E.** & John Sunday Ojo (29 April 2024) Russia has tightened its hold over the Sahel region – and now it's looking to Africa's west coast . *The Conversation*.
- **Olumba, E. E.** (17 March 2024) The Niger River and the Dearth of History Deconstructing the Myths of Mungo Park *The Republic.*
- **Olumba, E. E.** & Ajala, O. (28 Feb. 2024) Ecowas: west African trade bloc shaken as three member states withdraw and form their own alliance. *The Conversation*.
- **Olumba, E. E.** (11 October 2023) How collective memories fuel conflicts *The Conversation*.

- Okpaleke, F. **& Olumba, E.** (25 August 2023) Niger's resource paradox: what should make the country rich has made it a target for predators *The Conversation*.
- **Olumba, E. E.** (3 August 2023) Niger coup: west African union has pledged to intervene – but some members support the plotters. *Yahoo News.*
- **Olumba, E. E.** (4 August 2023) Golpe de Estado en Níger: ¿qué harán los estados de África Occidental? The Conversation.
- **Olumba, E. E**. & Uba, D. (22 June 2023) How new UK immigration rules will separate more international students from their families. *Yahoo News*.
- **Olumba, E. E**. (28 February 2023) We need a new way of understanding violence in the Sahel. *LSE Blog*.
- Aina, F., & **Olumba, E. E**. (17 January 2023) Nigeria's homegrown armoured vehicle industry is thriving. *The African Report*.
- **Olumba, E. E.** (31 August 2023) Supporting refugees by addressing cognitive immobility. *The Conversation*.
- Olumba **E. E.** (15 July 2022) https://www.newsecuritybeat.org/2022/07/whats-name-making-case-sahel-conflict-eco-violence/ *Wilson Center*.
- **Olumba, E. E.** & Stubbs, T. (12 July 2022) Herder-farmer conflict in the Sahel needs a new description: why 'eco-violence' fits. *The Conversation*.
- **Olumba, E. E**. (29 June 2022) 'Cognitive immobility' – when you're mentally trapped in a place from your past. *The Conversation*.
- **Olumba, E. E. (**4 April February 2022) States must invest in drone research and development to tackle insecurity in the Sahel. *LSE Blog*.

TEACHING ROLES

2025 – present **Aston University, Birmingham, UK (Modules)**
LP3047 African Politics
LPM224 Migration and Forced Displacement

2023 – 2024 **Visiting Lecturer** (Led Courses).
School of Applied Social Sciences, **University of Bedfordshire, Luton, UK**
ASS099-2 The Social Sciences at Work (Undergraduate Level).
ASS058-3 Care of Older People (Undergraduate Level).
ASS134-3 Health Services Planning and Management (Undergraduate Level).
ASS071-1: Law, Society and Controversy (Undergraduate Level).
ASS114-2: Inter-Professional Working in Health and Social Care (Undergraduate level)

2022 – 2023 **Politics Tutor, Royal Holloway, University of London, UK**
PR1500: Introduction to International Relations (Undergraduate Level).

2019 – 2020 **Guest Lecturer, Royal Holloway, University of London, UK.**
PR5957: Development Politics in Africa (Postgraduate level).

AWARDS

2024 **Best Article Award**, *International Studies Association* (Ethnicity, Nationalism, & Migration Studies Section).

2024 Named among **'16 of the UK's best scientific minds'** by the *British Science Association*

2024 **Section President** – *British Science Association*

2024 BISA 2024 Bursary Award for ECR, *British International Studies Association* (£150)

2022 **Doctoral School Research Awards** 2021-22, Royal Holloway University of London (£1,982)

2020 College Studentship (Maintenance Award), Royal Holloway, University of London (£10,000)

2019 College Studentship (Fee Waiver for PhD), Royal Holloway, University of London (£17, 628)

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

2025 Travel Grant, Canadian Political Science Association CPSA-ACSP ($500 CAD)

2024 PhD Financial Research Support Scheme, PIR Royal Holloway, University of London (£570)

2023 Travel Grant, *International Studies Association* (ISA) $500

2022 Doctoral Student Research Grant, PIR, Royal Holloway University of London (£250)

2021 Tuition for Oxford Spring School, University of Oxford, PIR Royal Holloway (£450)

2019 PhD Financial Research Support Scheme, Royal Holloway, University of London (£250)

2019 Travel Grant, HAPP, Queen's University Belfast (£150)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & RESEARCH DISSEMINATION

- 8 July 2026 – Invited by the ***NCCR – on the move*** at the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, to serve as a panel mentor at the *Swiss Conference of Migration and Mobility Studies*.
- 2 July 2026 – Invited by two panels to present my work on the *Resilience–Accessibility Framework* and *Cognitive Immobility* at the 23rd IMISCOE Annual Conference, held at the University of Girona, Spain.
- **Olumba**, E. E. (8 -9 July, 2025) From Students to Refugees: Students' (Im)mobility in the Wake of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine In: *'8th Neuchâtel Graduate*

Conference of Migration and Mobility Studies', **University of Neuchâtel**, Neuchâtel Switzerland.

- **Olumba,** E. E. (3-5 June 2025) 'Who Belongs Where? The Politics of Internal Deportation, Nativism and Migration in Nigeria', Congress 2025-Reframing Togetherness (Canadian Political Science Association), **George Brown College**, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- **Olumba,** E. E. (31 March-1 April 2025) Aid in Landlocked Conflict Zones: Managing Humanitarian Efforts in Biafra and Modern Lessons In: Special Issue Author Workshop, **Danube University Krems**, Krems, Austria.
- **Olumba,** E. E. (10th January 2025) Why We Are Where We Are In: one-day symposium on *'Nigeria in Focus: History and the Politics of Development'*, Heritage Quay, **University of Huddersfield**, UK.
- **Olumba**, E. E. (11-12 July, 2024) Trapped in Time and Place: Cognitive Immobility among Diaspora Communities In: *'7th Neuchâtel Graduate Conference of Migration and Mobility Studies'*, **University of Neuchâtel**, Neuchâtel Switzerland.
- **Olumba, E. E.** (28-29 June, 2024) From Students to Refugees: Student's (Im)mobility in the Wake of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine. In: *'Ukrainian Refugees in Germany and the United States After Russia's Invasion: Implications for Global Refugee Policy',* **American Studies, University of Passau**, Passau Germany.
- **Olumba, E. E.** (5-7 June, 2024) The Necropolitics of Drone Bases and Use in the African Context. In: *Security and political experiments in the West African Sahel, **BISA 2024 Conference,*** **Hyatt Hotel/Centenary Square**, Birmingham, UK.
- **Olumba, E. E**. (14-15 September, 2023) Choosing to Stay: Unpacking Immobility Amidst Adversity in Migration Studies. In: *ANTHROMOB 2023: Connectivities, Ecologies, Engagements: recrafting mobilities in the 2020s* (part of the **European Association of Social Anthropologists**), **University of Sheffield**, Sheffield.
- **Olumba, E. E.** (21-24 June, 2023) Preserving the Future through the Past: Unveiling the Role of Collective Memory in Conflict-Affected Communities. In: *Africa, the Middle East and the Maghreb: Society, the State, and Solidarities*, ***International Studies Association*** *(ISA)*, **Al Akhawayn University**, Ifrane, Morocco.
- **Olumba, E. E.** (4th May, 2023) Collective Memory and Active Immobility in Conflict-affected Communities, Preserving the Future through the Past. In: ***Essex***

PhD Workshop on Political Challenges, **University of Essex**.

- **Olumba, E. E.** (22-23 November, 2019) Threats and Impact of Eco-violence in the Middle Belt of Nigeria. In: ***the New Perspectives on Non-State Political Violence Conference***, **Queen's University Belfast**, Belfast, UK.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2021 Oxford Spring School in Advanced Research Methods (Qualitative Methods, Data Analysis for the Social Sciences, and fieldwork), ***University of Oxford, Department of Politics and International Relations***.

2020 **Associate Fellow of Advance HE, UK** (formally known as the Higher Education Academy), accepted for membership in December 2020.

2020 **Postgraduate Certification** in *Skills of Teaching to Inspire Learning (inSTIL)* (Teacher Training), Royal Holloway, University of London, UK, (November, 2020)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Journal Reviewer

Migration Studies, Third World Quarterly, Current Psychology, African Security, Journal of Sustainability Research, and *Cogent Social Sciences.*

Mentorship

Mentor for graduate students, Royal Holloway, University of London, 2020 – 2023

MEDIA APPEARANCES & PUBLIC OUTREACH

- *Newzroom Afrika: Live TV Appearance*
  Topic: African Union (AU) & Insecurity In the Continent
  Link to appearance
- *Newzroom Afrika: Live TV Appearance*
  Topic: Coup in Gabon
  Link to appearance
- *POWER 98.7 FM - Johannesburg: Live Radio Appearance*
  Topic: Psychology Corner: Cognitive immobility.
  Link to appearance

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Languages: English (proficient), French (intermediate), Pidgin English (fluent)

Professional Affiliations: *American Political Science Association (APSA)*; *Conflict Research Society*; *International Studies Association (ISA)*; *British International Studies Association* (BISA)