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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy
Communication Studies

Ohio University, Athens, Ohio
Dissertation: *The Moving Finger: A Rhetorical, Grammatological, and Afrinographic Exploration of Nsibidi in Nigeria and Cameroon*

Master of Arts
Communication Studies

Ohio University, Athens, Ohio

Master of Arts
History

North Carolina Central University, Durham, North Carolina
Thesis: *The Rise of African Resistance in British Central Africa: The Struggle for Liberation in Nyasaland, Northern Rhodesia, and Southern Rhodesia, 1890-1980*

Bachelor of Arts
History, Religion,
and Philosophy

Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee
Senior Thesis: *George Edmund Haynes and the Founding of the National Urban League, 1909-1918*

PROFESSIONAL TEACHING POSITIONS

Assistant Teaching Professor of Communication, Department of Communication, University of Missouri in Columbia, College of Arts and Sciences, Columbia, MO. August 2022-Present

Visiting Assistant Professor of Communication, Department of Communication, University of Missouri in Columbia, College of Arts and Sciences, Columbia, MO. August 2019-July 2022.

Lecturer of Africana Studies, Africana Studies Program, University of Tennessee in Knoxville, College of Arts and Sciences, Knoxville, TN. August 2016-August 2019.

Communication Studies Graduate Teaching Associate, School of Communication Studies, Ohio University, Scripps College of Communication, Athens, OH. August 2011-May 2015.

JOURNAL EDITORIAL BOARD

The University of Oran 1, *Africa and the Western World*, Oran, Algeria. October 2016-Present.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD

Temple University, Diopian Institute for Scholarly Advancement (DISA), Director of Educational Initiatives. February 2021-February 2022.

Tennessee Historical Commission, Cemetery Advisory Committee, African American Cemetery Project. 2020-2023.

EKPE/MGBE SOCIETY INVESTITURE AND RESEARCH

In October 2014, I was officially initiated into the ancient royal Ekpe Society of Nigeria and Cameroon. Part of my doctoral fieldwork in Cross River State involved going through the entire process of traditional investiture. Ekpe/Mgbe often referred to as the “Leopard Society” in Western literature, is one of the oldest so-called “secret societies” in Africa. I have reframed and repositioned Ekpe, and its sister group Mgbe, as African communication societies.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI COMMITTEE SERVICE

Department of Communication

Department of Communication Alumni Committee. September 2022-Present.

Public Speaking Director Search Committee. September 2022-Present.

Preparing Future Faculty-Faculty Diversity (PFFFD) Committee. August 2021-Present.

Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity (IDE) Committee. August 2019-Present.

University Committee

University of Missouri Online Course and Program Quality Committee, October 2022-Present.

Title IX and Equity Resolution Process Hearing Panelist, August 2020-August 2021.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

During my time at the University of Missouri, I have taught many of the upper division At the University of Missouri. I teach four classes each semester which include sections on Communication Competencies for a Diverse Workplace (COMMUN 4478), Political Communication (COMMUN 4473), Culture as Communication (COMMUN 3470), and Research Methods (3442). Since Mizzou is attempting to expand its communication course offerings, I asked J. Brian Houston, our departmental chair, asked if I could create a new course entitled Black Speak: Communication Among the African-Descended (COMMUN 3701) as a Special Topics class. We have offered the class since the spring of 2020. Many other communication studies programs have a “Black Rhetorical Styles” course in their catalogs, but this was a first for Missouri. I greatly expanded the ordinary subjects covered in this type of class. Because of this, my syllabus includes investigations of the birth and growth of hip-hop/rap music, the Black athlete, regional “Black speaks” (New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago, Atlanta, and Los Angeles),

Krio/Upper Niger linguistic connections, Hollywood/Nollywood/Ghallywood, Blaxploitation films, and the Gullah/Geechee of the American Lowcountry South.

In the fall semester of 2022, I revived the department's undergraduate Nonverbal Communication (COMMUN 3441) course, which had been dormant since 2016. My version of this class includes little-known information on nonverbal systems in places like Nigeria, Cameroon, Sierra Leone, and Mali. I have taught at Missouri since 2019; before that, I was part of the Africana Studies faculty at the University of Tennessee.

During the fall of 2021, I modified our COMMUN 3470 course to meet the College of Arts and Science Diversity Requirement through its intentional and intensive focus on areas such as the study of stereotypes, prejudice, discrimination, ethnocentrism, intercultural relationships, and intercultural communication. The class now teaches students various methodological approaches and accommodation theories that focus on concepts such as "race," class, the hierarchy of status, social inequalities, Foucault and notions of power, and interpretations of human communication styles. Missouri is dedicated to the principles of diversity, inclusion, and equity in teaching and learning. During spring 2023, I will work to bring COMMUN 3441 and 4478 into compliance with the diversity requirement.

As a Lecturer of Africana Studies at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville (UTK), I taught the African American and African studies introductory courses from 2016 through 2019. At this time, I began working on two communication studies textbooks scheduled for publication by Cognella Academic Publishing in 2024 and 2025. The first is entitled *Nsibidi:*

The Markings and Movements of Ancient Africa. Each offers a rhetorical and intercultural examination of Nsibidi, an ancient West African system of nonverbal communication. Ekpe and Mgbe practitioners among Efik, Efut, Qua, and Igbo communities in the Lower Niger River tributary region of Nigeria and Cameroon still utilize Nsibidi after four thousand years. The second book, *An Anthology of The Markings and Movements of Ancient Africa: Nsibidi in the New World*, will feature a foreword by Molefi Kete Asante, one of the most influential African American communication scholars of the past fifty years. I will demonstrate the influence of Ekpe/Mgbe and Nsibidi in areas of the American South where there is evidence that they survived the Middle Passage voyage and became part of plantation life and culture. Next, I wanted the committee to know that I have long viewed myself as a public scholar committed to being a voice for the marginalized. Because of this, I work with several local scholars in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, South Carolina, and Georgia.

While at Ohio University, I lectured sections of Intercultural Communication, Techniques in Interviewing, Fundamentals of Communication, and Public Speaking.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION

The Ohio University Program of Intensive English (OPIE) requested that I teach sections of Intercultural Communication courses for their Japanese exchange students from Chubu University, and groups of Fulbright students from Afghanistan, Oman, Myanmar, and China from 2012 through 2014.

ONLINE TEACHING TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS

I also have had extensive online teaching opportunities in Missouri, Tennessee, and Ohio. I was accepted into the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE)/Missouri Teaching for Learning Center course, “Effective Online Teaching Practices” for the 2021-22 academic year. As an ACUE Fellow, I had the opportunity to spend an entire academic year designing new content for my online modules.

During the fall of 2020, I completed the Online Teaching Certification Seminar: Excellence in Online Teaching training at the Missouri Teaching for Learning Center.

TEACHING AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

2024 Class of Mizzou '39, 2024 Mizzou 18 and '39 Awards Committee, University of Missouri-Columbia, 2024. Selected faculty were recognized by members of the 2024 Class of Mizzou '39. These students have distinguished themselves among their peers by demonstrating academic success and service to the campus and community. They have been selected as one of 39 undergraduate individuals as this year's award ceremony.

Faculty Success Program, The National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD). University of Missouri-Columbia, 2023. The Provost Office (Division of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity) awarded me a full scholarship to participate in the Spring 2023 National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity Program. Two metrics for winning the scholarship included my excellence in teaching and dedication to the department.

National Society of Collegiate Scholars Lifetime Membership, National Society of Collegiate Scholars University of Tennessee in Knoxville Chapter. The UTK and national chapters voted to award me this membership because of my dedication to teaching excellence in the classroom. 2018-19. I was the first UTK Africana faculty member selected for this honor.

Ohio University Graduate Associate Outstanding Teaching Award, Ohio University, Center for Teaching and Learning, Graduate Associate Outstanding Teaching Award Committee. March 2013.

Scripps College of Communication Teaching Enhancement Fellowship, Ohio University, Scripps College of Communication, School of Communication Studies. August 2012-May 2013.

Only one graduate student from the five Scripps schools at Ohio University is annually awarded this fellowship.

RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS

Black Book Interactive Project (BBIP) Scholar, Black Book Interactive Project Scholars/Digital Humanities Program (The History of Black Writing Program), University of Kansas, 2022-23.

Rural Scholar, The Rural Scholar Program, The Rural Communication Institute/Texas Social Media Research Institute, Tarleton State University, August 2021-August 2023.

Project S.T.A.N.D. Fellow, Project S.T.A.N.D., Atlanta University Center/University of Maryland. August 2021-September 2022.

Visiting International Research and Teaching Scholar, The University of Makeni (Sierra Leone, West Africa). December 2019-January 2020.

Cognella Academic Publishing Writing and Research Grant, Cognella Academic Publishing. October-December 2018.

The Marco Institute for Medieval and Renaissance Studies/Newberry Library Consortium Travel and Research Grant, The Marco Institute for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. July-August of 2018.

National Endowment for the Humanities/Jackson State University Summer Fellow, Mississippi in the National Civil Rights Narrative, National Endowment for the Humanities and The Fannie Lou Hamer Institute at COFO/The Human and Civil Rights Interdisciplinary Education Center). June-July 2017.

Scripps College of Communication Multicultural Research Grant (Nigeria and Cameroon), Scripps College of Communication, Ohio University. October 2014-January 2015.

Summer Cooperative African Language Institute Intensive Summer Language Fellowship (FLAS-SCALI), Center for International Studies, African Studies Program, Wolof Language Program, Ohio University. May 2014-June 2014.

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS), Center for International Studies, African Studies Program, Wolof Language Program, Ohio University. August 2013-May 2014.

Scripps College of Communication Teaching Enhancement Summer Travel Research Grant (The Dominican Republic and Haiti), Scripps College of Communication, Ohio University. July 2013-August 2013.

National Endowment for the Humanities/The Johns Hopkins University Summer Fellow in Mexico, Belize, and Guatemala, Revisioning the Maya World: New Directions in Scholarship and Teaching, National Endowment for the Humanities and Johns Hopkins University (Advanced Academic Programs-Center for Liberal Arts). June-July 2011.

Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture Short-Term Research Fellowship, College of Charleston. July-August 2006.

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Research Grant, Landmarks of American History Program, Portland State University (Center for Columbia River History and the Portland State University Department of History). Currents of History: The Columbia River and the Making of the West, 1800-1945 Workshop. July 2005.

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Research Grant, Landmarks of American History Program, Mars Hill College (Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies and the Mars Hill College Department of History). Working the Woods: Economies and Cultures in the Blue Ridge Mountains, 1650-1950 Workshop. June 2005.

Post-Secondary Curriculum Development Program Grant, The Center for Russian and Eastern European Studies (CREES), the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. June-July 2004.

Visiting Scholar Series, Center for Advanced Study of International Development (CASID), Michigan State University. March 2004.

Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Research Program in Southern Africa (Botswana, Swaziland, and South Africa). June-August 2003.

Fulbright Scholar Program (Student Program-Institute of International Education), J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, National Museums and Monuments Board of the Republic of Ghana, West Africa (Ghana). January-December 1998.

United States Department of State Internship Program (Bureau of African Affairs Research Intern), United States Embassy in Accra, Ghana (West Africa). June-September 1994.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Hales, K.J. (2024). *Nsibidi: The markings and movements of ancient Africa* (Preliminary ed). San Diego: Cognella Academic Publishing.

Hales, K.J. (Ed., in production and expected January 2025). *An anthology of the markings and movements of ancient Africa: Nsibidi in the New World* (Preliminary ed). San Diego: Cognella Academic Publishing.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Tellmann, B., Patterson, R., & Hales, K.J. (2022). Rhetorical rurality and its metaphoric expressions. *Rural Communication Journal* 2, 20-25.

Hales, K.J. Africanity as rurality: Building a theory of rhetorical rurality expressed. (in progress).

Hales, K.J. Voice and visibility: Afrirurality, rhetorical rurality expressed, and communicating African-descended identities. (in progress)

Popular Cultural Magazines and Other Publications

Hales, K.J. (2000). *A matter of record: Black photography in Africa*. American Visions Magazine. 1(8), 22-25.

Hales, K.J. (1998). *African ingenuity: The advent of black photography in Ghana*. Next Step Magazine. 9(1), 48-52.

Hales, K.J. (1998). *In the camera eye of the beholder: The origins of black commercial photography in the Gold Coast, 1860-1930*. Amannee: United States Information Service News Journal. 6(14), 9-10.

Hales, K.J. (1997). *Africa and the camera: Black commercial photography in Ghana, 1860-1960*. West African Research Association Newsletter. 10(1), 13-16.

PEER-REVIEWED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

Center for Igbo Studies, University of Nigeria-Nsukka, Bridging the Igbo Homeland-Diaspora Disconnect for Transforming Our Present and Future Together World Igbo Conference 2024 (online), Nsukka, Nigeria. *Island Enslavement: The Lowcountry Sea Islands and their Caribbean Connection to the African American Ourstory*. (Virtual-March 2024).

Center for Igbo Studies, University of Nigeria-Nsukka, Reimagining Igbo Studies in 21st Century Nigeria Conference (hybrid), Nsukka, Nigeria. *African Americans and African Ancestry: The Science of DNA and Other Igbo Matters*. (Virtual-August 2023).

Council of Igbo States in America (CISA), Igbo Worldwide Festival of Arts and Culture, Igbo Landing (St. Simon's Island/Brunswick), Georgia. *From Georgetown on Down: Connecting Gullah/Geechee Culture and People from South Carolina to Igbo Landing*. (August 2023).

Birmingham Centre for Media and Cultural Research and the Cultural Theory Cluster, Disruption, Voice and Listening (flipped) Conference, Birmingham City University, Birmingham, United Kingdom. *Voice and Visibility: Afrirurality, Rhetorical Rurality Expressed, and Communicating African-Descended Identity*. November 2022. I was asked to do a special stand-alone segment. This segment features a discussion on Black rurality in Europe and the United States with a respondent (Kirsten Forkert) from Birmingham City University. (Virtual).

University of Kansas and Black Book Interactive Project, Mini Conference, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas. *Africanity as Rurality: Building a Theory of Rhetorical Rurality Expressed*. October 2022. (Virtual).

Coastal Carolina University and the Charles W. Joyner Institute for Gullah and African Diaspora Studies, Without Borders: Tracing the Cultural, Archival and Political African Diaspora, Conway, South Carolina. *The Shadow of the Leopard: Understanding Ekpe/Mgbe and Nsibidi*. March 2020.

National Communication Association (NCA), Communication at Play, Salt Lake City, Utah. My paper *Playing Ekpe on the Frontstage, Backstage, and Offstage: Goffman, the African Communication Society, and the Presentation of the African Self in Everyday Modern Nigerian Life* was selected as a Scholar-to-Scholar presentation and contender in the Top Paper Awards for the Nonverbal Communication Division of NCA. November 2018.

Cheikh Anta Diop International Conference, Diopian Institute for Scholarly Advancement (DISA), African Philosophy, Ethics, and Aesthetics, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. My paper *The Ancient African Origins of Nsibidi in Nigeria and Cameroon* received an award as one of the three best papers at this conference. November 2016.

8th Global Meeting of the Diasporas Research Stream, A Culture, Traditions, and Societies Project. Mansfield College, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom. July 2016.

8th Global Meeting of the Visual Literacies Project, Visual Literacies as Visual Imageries. Mansfield College, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom. July 2016.

University of Oran International Conference, Africa, Land of History and Culture: History, Memory, and Future Challenges. Littérature et Civilisation/Histoire en Afrique, University of Oran 2, Oran, Algeria. May 2016.

College of New Rochelle and Manhattanville College International Conference, Word, Image, and Power in Africa and the African Diaspora. New Rochelle, New York. April 2016.

2016 Joint Journalism and Communication History Conference (JJCHC). Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute, New York University, New York City, New York. March 2016.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION PRESENTATIONS

Zeta Beta Tau (fraternity), Male vs. Man Conversation and Diversity Training, University of Missouri in Columbia. November 2021.

Alpha Omega Epsilon (engineering sorority), Communicating Across Differences Training, University of Missouri in Columbia. November 2021.

Relevant Youth (student organization), Understanding Diversity and Inclusion Training, University of Missouri in Columbia. October 2020.

AFRICAN AMERICAN LIBATION PRESENTATION AND SERVICES

The Diopian Institute of Scholarly Advancement (DISA), 33RD Annual Cheikh Anta Diop International Conference, Temple University. October 2021.