



OXFORD IGBO UNION 2017 ANNUAL LECTURE AND NEW YAM FESTIVAL

Lecture

Is Igbo Language in Danger of Extinction?

Shami Chakrabarti Lecture Theatre, Oxford Brookes University, Headington Campus,

Oxford, OX3 0BP

Saturday August 26th 2017

13:30 – 16:30

New Yam Festival

Blackbird Leys Community Centre, Oxford, OX4 6HW

Saturday August 26th 2017

17:00 – 23:00



Asụsụ na omenala Igbo ga-adi



About Oxford Igbo Union:

The Oxford Igbo Union is a local community organisation formed in 2005 for the Igbo residents of Oxfordshire. We offer support and assistance to Igbo Community members - promoting social integration and friendship among members and other ethnic groups in the wider community.

One of our aims is to promote and maintain the Igbo language, culture and tradition. We run a very successful children's Igbo language class - coordinated by Pearl Akomas, a PhD student at Oxford Brookes University and supported by Prof Chukwumerije Okereke, Paul Omeje and Chukwudi Okeke (OIU Chairman).

We promote Igbo culture and tradition within the community by actively participating in local community events, for example the annual Cowley Road Carnival - we also celebrate the New Yam Festival annually.

Oxford Igbo Union has formed alliances with other regional UK and international Igbo organisations in the promotion of the Igbo cause.

The Oxford Igbo Union Annual Lecture aims to bring together different organisations to raise awareness and discuss the issues facing the Igbo region.

The Union is chaired by Chukwudi Okeke

About the Oxford Igbo Union Chairman

Chukwudi Okeke has been the Chairman of Oxford Igbo Union since 2014; his leadership has transformed the Union into a very successful local community organisation. His philosophy is that for an organisation to be successful there must be a clear understanding of its aims and an effective approach to achieving them.

Chukwudi gained a degree in Automotive Engineering from Oxford Brookes University. He works for Wipac Ltd in the design and development of high technology automotive LED lighting for premium cars. His work at Wipac is focused on the computational modelling and simulation of mechanical behaviour of lighting assembly under vibration and impact loading. Before joining Wipac Ltd, Chukwudi worked in the area of Noise, Vibration & Harshness (NVH) of automotive and railway brake development at Federal Mogul Corporation. Chukwudi is currently working on his PhD research (sponsored by Wipac Ltd) on the fatigue failure of engineering polymers.

Chukwudi provided support to the Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University in setting up a formula student team. This involved bringing seven members of the team to Oxford Brookes University for training in the design of racing cars.

Chukwudi is from Ama-okpala, in Orumba North, Local Government, Anambra State. He is married and has two children.

Lecture theme: Is Igbo Language in Danger of Extinction?

Overview:

It is estimated that 40% of the world's languages are in danger of extinction.

The Nigerian language of Igbo is listed as one of these languages.

Igbo language is spoken by an estimated 34 million people worldwide. However, in 2012 UNESCO predicted that the Igbo language will be extinct within the next 50 years.

Language embodies the unique cultural wisdom of its people. A lost language is a lost culture and a lost identity.

The Lecture will look at:

The reasons why Igbo language is in decline;

What efforts are currently being made to keep it;

What needs to be done in the future to ensure the continuation of the language?

Speakers

Moderator:

Prof. Joe Ukemenam

Biography

Joe Ukemenam Ph.D. FRSM, is a Professor of Criminology. He is a Senior Researcher at Enugu State University of Science and Technology.

Professor Ukemenam is the Chairman of Enugu State Diaspora United Kingdom and Ireland. He pioneered the formation of Igbo Community Organisations in the UK and Ireland with the setting up of Enugu Nsukka and Agwu (ENA) Community Organisation in 1985. Since then, he has built up and currently mentors over 650 community and charitable organisations in Europe and Africa. He received the traditional title 'Omelu Oha Nwa Di ka Agbo ya' of Oruku in 1993. He is now a UK Labour Party Parliamentary Candidate. His many achievements include: Lead, BAME Labour Party Mentoring and Political Education Programmes; United Nations Expert on African Development & Confliction Resolution; Chairman: Africa Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS UK); Mental Health Act Manager, National Health Service, UK.

Speaker: Dr Androula Yiakoumetti (Senior Lecturer, Oxford Brookes University)

Discussion of Igbo in the context of lessons learned from the situation of other threatened languages.

Biography

Dr Androula Yiakoumetti is a Senior Lecturer at Oxford Brookes University. Before joining Oxford Brookes, Dr Yiakoumetti was an Associate Lecturer at the University of Cambridge, UK, where she obtained her M.Phil and PhD respectively.

Dr Yiakoumetti's biography can be found here: <http://yiakoumetti.github.io/>

Speaker: Ezike Bon Ugwu (Writer)

Ezike will discuss the efforts currently being made to sustain the language, focusing on the activities and role of the government in sustaining Igbo language.

Biography

Ezike Bon Ugwu is a graduate of Linguistics/Igbo from the University of Nigeria Nsukka. He is the author of Igbo – Our Mother Language, now in its second edition. Through his books and an online interactive tutor, he is striving to bring the Igbo language to all Igbo children growing up around the world and anyone else with a genuine interest in learning to read and write and speak the Igbo language.

Speaker: Kanayo Akabuike (President of OADC UK & Ireland)

Kanayo will discuss the reasons why Igbo language is in decline, the importance of sustaining it and approaches to take.

Biography

Chief Kanayo Akabuike is the President of the Old Awka District Community (OADC), UK and Ireland. Formed in 1990, OADC is made up of over 70 communities in the current day Anambra State of Nigeria. The organisation has been at the forefront of promoting Igbo language, culture and tradition both here in United Kingdom and Nigeria. Chief Akabuike is also the President of Nawfia Community in U.K. and Ireland.

Chief Akabuike holds a degree in Business Management and is a Company Director for Vako UK Ltd, a procurement and export firm for Auto and medical equipment, Kay Private Chauffeur Services London and Zebby Home of Music Nig. Ltd

Chief Akabuike is a native of Nawfia in Njikoka Local Govt Area, Anambra State, Nigeria. He is married with three children. A football enthusiast, former footballer and coach of Santos FC Nawfia, that faced the famous Rangers International of Enugu in the 1985 Challenge Cup semi-finals in Enugu.

Panel Discussion

Moderator:

Prof Joe Ukemenam

Panellists:

Dr Androula Yiakoumetti

Mr Kanayo Akabuike

Mr Ezike Bon Ugwu

Lecture Timetable

1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Arrival
2:00 pm – 2:05 pm	OIU Chairman's welcome speech
2:05 pm – 2:10 pm	Moderator introduces event and speakers
2:10 pm – 2:40 pm	1 st speech
2:40 pm – 3:10 pm	2 nd speech
3:10 pm – 3:20 pm	Break
3:20 pm – 3:50 pm	3 rd speech
3:50 pm – 4:35 pm	Panel discussion
4:35 pm – 4:40 pm	Closing remarks
4:40 pm	All proceed to the New Yam Festival hall (address on front page)

New Yam Festival

Oxford Igbo Union celebrates the New Yam Festival annually. Yam is known to be the most important crop in Igbo land. Igbos hold a festival during the harvesting period to celebrate yam and give thanks for the harvest and pray for a better season in the coming year. The New Yam Festival provides the Union an opportunity to celebrate and showcase Igbo culture to the wider community as part of its aims of promoting Igbo culture and traditions.



Igwe of the day (*Chief Celebrant*)

Chief Christian Ebede

Biography:

Chief Christian Ebede is a Nigerian businessman, politician and an inventor. A chemical Engineer by profession, he is also the CEO of KPAKPANDO Radio Station Awka, Director of Ozone Security Services Ltd, Director Ozone Technology Nigeria, Director Maid 4u forensic cleaning, Director Ozone Plaice and Director 25PLUS night club, Enugu.

Born on November 16th 1954, he attended Holy Cross High School, and University College, Ibadan. Chief Ebede is a member of the Igwe Council, Mbaukwu and was once a Special Adviser to Governor Jim Nwobodo on Natural Resources.

Chief Christian Ebede is a proud father of four children

New Yam Festival Timetable

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Arrival and the introduction of MC Charles Oforka
6:00 pm – 6:15 pm	Opening prayer and introduction of yam
6:15 pm – 6:30 pm	Igwe of the day entry
6:30 pm – 7:15 pm	Cutting of yam
7:15 pm – 8:00 pm	Dining and networking
8:00 pm – 8:10 pm	Oxford Igbo Union Children’s dancing performance
8:10 pm – 8:25 pm	Igbo Progressive Union, Slough dancing performance
8:25 pm – 8:40 pm	Oxford Igbo Union dancing performance
8:40 pm – 9:10 pm	DJ and traditional music
9:10 pm – 9:55 pm	Auction / Raffle draw / Contribution towards the success of the Igbo classes
9:55 pm – 11:00 pm	DJ and traditional music
9:55 pm – 11:00 pm	Closing remarks / Closing prayer