

Ezenwa Olumba

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Substantive areas: Migration, Memory & Identity, African Politics, International Relations, Conflict and Security, Environmental Governance, Drone Warfare.

Methodological approaches: qualitative analysis, autoethnography, phenomenology.

EDUCATION

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

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

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

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Journal articles

- **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*.
- **Olumba, E. E. (2025)** [Choosing to stay: The Resilience-Accessibility Framework as a New Perspective on Immobility Amidst Adversity](#). *Migration Studies*, 13(3).
- **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.
- **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.
- **Olumba, E. E. (2025)** ['The Necropolitics of Drone Bases and Use in the African Context'](#), *Critical Studies on Terrorism*. 18(1), 139–161.
- **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*.

- **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.
- 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*.
- 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*.
- 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>
- **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.
- **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](#).
- **Olumba, E. E.** (2023) [Anchored in History: Understanding the persistence of Eco-violence in Nigeria's Middle Belt through Collective Memory](#), *Genealogy*, 7(3).
- 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.
- **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.
- 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., Oyewole, S. & Oche Tony.** *Regulating Autonomous Weapons: Searching for African Solution to Global and Regional Problems* (under-review).
- **Olumba, E. E. (conditionally accepted for publication in a Special Issue).** Aid in Landlocked Conflict Zones: Managing Humanitarian Efforts in Biafra and Modern Lessons, *Journal of Refugee Studies*.
- **Olumba, E. E.** [*Immobility Phases*](#) (pre-print).
- **Olumba, E. E.** Who Belongs Where? The Politics of Internal Deportation, Nativism and Migration in Nigeria. (under-review)

Work In Progress

Book Proposal (under review)

- **Olumba, E. E.** *Homeland or Nothing: The Fight to Remain in Nigeria's Conflict Zones* (provisional). Proposal submitted to **Oxford University Press**, based on my doctoral research at Royal Holloway University of London.

Book Proposal in Preparation

- **Olumba, E. E.** *Invisible Chains: How We Become Trapped in Time and Place* (Working Title). Planned submission to **Bristol University Press**.
- **Olumba, E. E.** *Aerial colonialism: The Current Phase of Domination in Africa* (Working Title). Planned submission to **Palgrave Macmillan**.

Peer-reviewed Article Proposal (in preparation)

- **Olumba, E. E.** *Reverse Remittances: How the 'Japa Syndrome' Fuels Financial Flows to the Global North*.
- **Olumba, E.E. & Nwosu, B.U.** *Ghost Houses in Igbo Land, Nigeria: Exploring Diasporic Identity through Uninhabited Village Mansions*.

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.** (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. & 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*.

CURRENT ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2025 – present **Leverhulme Early Career Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, Aston University

PREVIOUS ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2020 – 2025 **Doctoral Research Fellow**, *Conflict, Violence, & Terrorism Research Centre*,
Royal Holloway, University of London, UK.

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 **Seminar Leader**, **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 and Chapter 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

- **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.** (30 May-6 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 <i>Skills of Teaching to Inspire Learning (inSTIL)</i> (Teacher Training), Royal Holloway, University of London, UK, (November, 2020)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Member, *Millennium Editorial Board (EB)*

Journal Reviewer

Current Psychology, African Security, Millennium: Journal of International Studies, Journal of Sustainability Research, Cogent Social Sciences, Frontiers in Political Science.

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)