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Philosophy Department
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PRESENT POSITIONS

- Associate Professor, University of Colorado-Boulder
- Director, Law and Philosophy Program, Department of Philosophy, University of Colorado-Boulder
- Fellow at Duke University Center for WaSH-AID, Durham, North Carolina [Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, and Infectious Disease]

EDUCATION

- **University of Wisconsin–Madison**
Ph.D., 1997, Philosophy
M.A., 1995, Philosophy
- **University of California–Berkeley**
B.A., 1991, Philosophy
- **University of Yaounde–Cameroon, Faculty of Law and Economic Sciences**
Full-time study, 1985–1988
- **Cameroon College of Arts, Science and Technology**
Studied Economics, History and Geography, 1981–1983

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Social, Moral and Political Philosophy
- Comparative Social and Political Philosophy
- African Political Thought

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

- Art and Aesthetics
- African Philosophy
- Ethics

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor, University of Colorado Boulder (Fall 2009 – Present)
Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts-Boston (Fall 2006 – Spring 2008)
Assistant Professor, University of Massachusetts-Boston (Fall 2000 – Spring 2006)
Visiting Assistant Professor, Emerson College (Fall 1999 – Spring 2000)

Visiting Lecturer, Botson Health Education Center (Summer 1999)
Visiting Assistant Professor: African Art and Aesthetics, Clark University

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

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|-----------------------|---|
| 2013-2016 | Senior African Research Fellow at the African Institute of South Africa (AISA), Pretoria, South Africa. |
| Fall 1997–2007 | W.E.B. Du Bois Institute, Harvard University |
| Fall 1998–Spring 2000 | Institute on Race and Social Division, Boston University |

SELECTED GRANTS/AWARDS

The Jefferson Award 2024: This award honors a member of the faculty whose life and work promote a Jeffersonian commitment to broad intellectual pursuits, the strong advancement of democratic principles and for a profound commitment to education, civic responsibility and the welfare and the rights of the individual.

Immortality Project/Templeton Foundation (2014-2015). Co-principal investigator (with Dan Demetriou) for project “Civic Immortality: Honoring Liberal Heroics in Africa and Abroad” (\$100,000).

Leverhulme Trust International Network, “Domesticating Global Justice: Global Normal Theorizing in African Contexts” (£12,890).

Research Innovation Office (RIO) Seed Grant for \$44,530 with Julia Uhr to Make a Virtual Reality Programming Language Based on African Philosophy.

PUBLICATIONS

Book

- *Veil Politics in Liberal Democratic States* (Cambridge University Press, 2003). Published in Cambridge Studies in Philosophy and Public Policy Series.

Edited Volume

- With Nicasius Achu Check, Korwa Gombe Adar, *France's Africa Relations-Domination, Continuity and Contradiction* (Pretoria SA: Human Research Council Press, 2019)

Articles

- “In the Shade of Power: The Sacred Art of Leveling up the Powerless, *The Monist*, Volume 107, Issue 3, July 2024, Pages 294-306.
- “Offensive Heritage in an Era of Globalization and Mass Migration,” co-authored with Dan Demetriou), *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, 2024.
- “Could the Prosecution of Trump Weaken Democracy,” Ope-ed, *Daily Camera*, May 8, 2024.
- “Preface” in *Climate Change and Socio-Political Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa in the Anthropocene: Perspectives from Peace Ecology and Sustainable Development*, Jean Chrysostome K. Kiyala & Norman Chivasa, eds., Springer Publishers, 2024.
- “A Free Person as a Maker of Suprises,” in Uchenna Okeja, ed., *Routledge Handbook of African Political Philosophy* (Routledge Taylor & Francis Group: New York), 2023.
- “The Refounding of America: A Matter of Black Lives,” Alberto Ghibellini, ed., Cashiers di Scienze Sociali, Rivista Semestrale, Italy, 2021.
- “Human Dignity and Modern Democracies,” in Danielle Allen and Rohini Somanathan, eds., *Difference without Domination: Pursuing Justice in Diverse Democracies* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020).
- “The Ethics of Racists Monuments” (coauthored with Dan Demetriou), David Boonin, ed., *The Palgrave Handbook of Philosophy and Public Policy* (Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018), pp. 341-355.
- “Philosophical Perspectives on the History of African Socialism,” *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History* (Oxford University Press, 2018).
- “A Matter of Unbound Leaders in the Lives of Africans,” *Theoria*, Vol. 63, Issue 148, Sept. 2016, pp. 53-71
- “Life in Death: Democracy and Civic Honor,” in Laurie M. Johnson and Dan Demetriou, eds. *Honor in the Modern World* (Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2016), pp. 177-196.
- “The Centrality of Gender Equality in Living Free,” in Ernest-Marie Mbonda and Thierry Ngosso, eds. *Theories de la Justice: Justice Globale, Agent de la Justice et Justice Genre* (UCL Presses Universitaires de Lovain, 2016).

- “The Immortals in our Midst: Why Democracies in Africa Need Them,” *Journal of Ethics*, Vol. 19, Issue. 3, Dec. 2015, 237-255.
- “African Socialism,” in Michael Gibbons, ed., *Encyclopedia of Political Thought* (New York: Blackwell Publishing, 2014).
- “Elections by Contract: A Covenant of Peace in African Communities,” in Laura DeLuca and Sylvester Maphosa, eds. (Pretoria: Africa Institute of South Africa Press, 2014).
- “Freedom in the Grounding of Transitional Justice,” in Allen Spieght and Alice Maclachlan, eds, *In the Wake of Conflict: Justice, Responsibility and Reconciliation*, Notre Dame Press, 2013.
- “The Odyssey of Human Rights: Reply to Diagne,” *Transition*, 202, 2010, pp. 120-138.
- “The Aesthetics of Freedom,” in Boudewijn de Bruin and Christopher Zurn, eds., *New Waves in Political Philosophy* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan 2009), pp. 198-219.
- “To Love your Country as your Mother: Patriotism after 9/11,” *Theory and Research in Education* 5 (2007), pp. 23–39.
- “Akan Philosophy of Personhood,” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2007.
- “The Joy in Living Together: Towards an Appreciation of Laughter,” *Journal of Political Philosophy* 18 (2006): 186–202.
- “Africa at Crossroads: From Subject to Citizen” (co-authored with Michael Kruse, translated into Italian by Elena Alonzo), *Iride* 18, no. 45 (2005): 1–15.
- “The Many Layered Aesthetics of African Art,” in Kwasi Wiredu, ed., *Companion to African Philosophy* (Blackwell, 2004), pp. 425–32.
- “Fellowship Associations as a Foundation for Liberal Democracy in Africa,” in Kwasi Wiredu, ed., *Companion to African Philosophy* (Blackwell, 2004), pp. 450–459.
- “What Makes Liberal Democrats Tick? The Role of Non-Rationality in Liberal Democratic Politics,” *Politeia* 19, no. 71 (2003): 84–98.

- “Living Legitimacy: A New Approach to Good Government in Africa,” *New England Journal of Public Policy* 16, no. 2 (2001): 49–71.
- “Good Government is Accountability,” in Tedros Kiros, ed., *Perspectives in African Politics* (Routledge, 2001), pp. 151–71.
- “African Art and the Aesthetics of Hiding and Revealing,” *British Journal of Aesthetics* 38, no. 1 (1998): 251–65.
- “Civic Education: A New Proposal,” *Studies in Philosophy and Education* 16, no. 3 (1997): 277–91.

FORTHCOMING

- “Unbound: The Zeroth Factor of Production,” Patrice Petro and Eric Herhuth, Eds., *After Capitalism*, Rutgers University Press.

UNDER REVIEW

- With River Campbell, “Vitality, Consent and Compliance: Power as an End in itself,” *Journal of Political Philosophy*.

PROJECT IN PROGRESS

- *In the Shed of Power*. Book Manuscript.
- *The Citizen of Africa*. Book Manuscript.
- *The Guide for the Perplexed: The Peril of Leadercentrism in Contemporary Political World*: Book Manuscript.
- “In Followers, Leaders: Followership Education in a Liberal Democracy, paper.
- Hey, You Never Know: Thrift in the Age of Lottery” (co-authored with Glenn Loury), forthcoming from the Institute on American Values, to be published as a working paper.
- “Learning How to Lose: Coping with Political Defeat in Honor/Shame Cultures,” *African Studies Review*.
- “Promises to Keep: Rationality, Morality, and Diversity” (co-authored with Michael Kruse), *Open Philosophy Journal*.

INVITED WORKS

- “The Shape of the State: The Future of Fellowship Associations in Modern African States,” Fanon Ngomo, Ed, *Festschrift: Living African Philosophers’ Series*.

PRESENTATIONS

- “The Zeroth Capital: The African Marketplace is Open for Business for all,” Conference on Business, Society, and Culture, Nelson Mandela University, April 11, 2024.
- “In the Shade of Power,” Keynote Speaker, Menkiti Inaugural Lecture, Nelson Mandela University, April 9, 2024.
- “Relevance of Nation Building in Africa: A Benchmark to Strategic Security and Prosperity,” Diplomatic Room, Webinar, November 18th, 2022.
- “Personhood as Honorific/accomplishments and Achievements,” University of Minnesota Morris, Webinar, Oct. 13th, 2022.
- “The Pedagogy of Power for the Powerless, JLF Colorado, September 17, 2022.
- “In the Shade of Power: The Pedagogy of Power for the Powerless,” Keynote Speaker: “A Broader History of Thought,” Webinar, Feb. 11, 2021.
- “In the Shade of Power,” presented at *Force of Myth: Authority, Illusion and Critique in Modern Imaginaries*, Workshop organized by Jacob Abolafia and Carmen Dege at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute and Tae-Yeoun Keum, UC, Santa Barbara, 2021. Presented over zoom.
- “Civic Immortality,” Keynote Speaker at Yaoundé Seminar “on Utopia,” organized by Juliana Bidadanure and Thierry Ngosso from August 22-28, 2016, at the Catholic University of Central Africa, Yaoundé, Cameroon.
- “Human Dignity and Modern Democracy,” Edmond Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard, workshop on Diversity, Justice and Democracy, Sept. 15-16, 2016.
- “Human Dignity and Modern Democracy,” Edmond Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard, workshop on Diversity, Justice and Democracy, May 23-27, 2016.
- “Civic Education in a Liberal State,” Edmond Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard, workshop on Diversity, Justice and Democracy, Sept. 18-19, 2015.
- “Africa and the Aesthetics of Freedom,” University of California at Santa Cruz, October 2014.
- “Political Freedom: Life in Death and Death in Life,” Catholic University of Central Africa, Yaoundé, Cameroon October 17th, 2014
- “The Centrality of Gender Equality in Living Free,” presented at the Yaoundé Ph.D. Seminar on Gender and Justice at the Catholic University of Central Africa, Yaoundé, Cameroon, and September 19, 2014.
- “The Shape of a Free African State, Wellesley College, May 2014.
- “Unbound: The Zeroth Factor of Production in Africa after Capitalism,” University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, April 2014.
- “Unbound: The Zeroth Factor of Production in Africa after Capitalism,” Think! Lecture, University of Colorado at Boulder, April 2014.
- “Freedom as the Making of Surprises” University of Texas at El Paso, March 2014
- “The Shape of a Free State,” University of Ghana at Lagon, Sept. 2013.

- “The Good State and the Legitimate State,” University of Hawaii Philosophy Dept. April 24, 2013.
- “Focus: On Political Power and Its Promises,” Think! Lecture, CU Boulder, April 16, 2013.
- “The Point of the Unconscientious Objectors,” CU Philosophy Center Talk, April 12, 2013.
- “On the Nature of Electoral Corruption in African States,” Brown University’s Department of Africana Studies, Oct. 15, 2012.
- “Governance, Development and Transformation in Africa: Research, Learning, and Policy Priorities,” Workshop, Brown University’s Watson Institute for International Studies, Oct. 16, 2012.
- “Virtue (Moral and Epistemic): Can we be taught to Act and Believe Wisely?” Conference, Stanford University, School of Education, Oct. 12-13, 2012.
- Africa Command Academic Symposium: A Partnership of the U.S. Africa Command and Africa Center for Strategic Studies, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, July 9-12, 2012.
- “Elections by Contract in African Communities,” London School of Economics (LSE), at a conference entitled “Domesticating Global Justice: Africa Perspective,” July 6-7, 2012.
- “Elections by Contract,” African Studies Program 50th Anniversary and Reunion, University of Wisconsin, Madison, April 21, 2012.
- “Elections by Contract: A Covenant of Individual Freedom and Legitimacy,” THINK! Lecture, University of Colorado, Boulder, April 2012.
- “The Perils of Leadercentrism in African States,” Conference on Cooperative Engagement for Partnership Capacity: Africa as a Model for Whole of Government, Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) Monterey, January 2012.
- “The Perils of Leadercentrism,” presented at *Empire and Economics* Conference, University of Johannesburg, Jan. 5-6, 2012.
- “Elections by Contract: A Covenant of Individual Legitimacy and Peace in African Countries,” Africa Institute of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa, January 2012.
- “Elections by Contract,” Institute for Security Studies, Pretoria, South Africa, January 2012.
- “Human Rights and Community,” University of Colorado at Colorado Spring, May 2011.
- “Individual and Community,” Metropolitan College, Denver, June 2011
- “The Politics of the Apolitics of Racism,” Center for Values and Social Policy, University of Colorado at Boulder, November 12, 2010.
- Planning session of the Transformative Education Forum, United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, May 27-30, 2010.
- “In Followers, Leaders: Followership Education in a Liberal Democracy, Harvard Graduate School of Education, November 19, 2009.

- “The Nature of Justification in Political Philosophy, African Political Science Association Toronto, 2009
- “Freedom in the Making of Peace, THINK! Lecture series, Philosophy Department, University of Colorado, April 14, 2009.
- “Relational Freedom in the Making of Transitional Justice, paper presented at a conference on Reconciliation, Moral Obligation, and Moral Reconstruction in the Wake of Conflict, Boston University, March 20, 2009.
- “Constitutions as Narratives to Losers,” Philosophy Department, The College of Wooster, Sept. 25, 2008.
- “Aesthetics and Traditional African Art,” Sussel Gallery at The College of Wooster Art Museum, Sept. 24, 2008.
- “An Aesthetics Framework for Understanding Human Rights,” Philosophy Department, University of Colorado at Boulder, September 2008.
- “Trustees of Themselves: An Aesthetic Framework for Understanding Human Rights in Africa,” Harvard Kennedy School of Government, April 17, 2008.
- “The Aesthetic Basis of Equal Respect for Human Beings, Workshop on Equal Respect for Persons,” University of Genoa, Italy, Dec. 14, 2007.
- “The Aesthetics of Freedom,” Philosophy Department, University of Pavia, Italy, Dec. 12, 2007.
- “The Virtue of Outrage in Politics,” Undergraduate Philosophy Club, University of Colorado, Boulder, March 2007.
- “Learning How to Lose: Coping with Political Defeat in Honor/Shame Cultures,” Center for Values and Social Policy, University of Colorado, Boulder, February 20, 2007
- “An Image of Responsive Government,” International Conference on the State of Affairs in Africa, Institute for Justice and Development, October 2006.
- “An Image of Freedom for Imaging African Democracies,” Lecture Series on Current Issues in Africa, Primary Source, Watertown, February 2006.
- “An Image of Freedom for Imaging African Democracies,” University of Montreal, Canada, February 2006.
- “Love your Country as your Mother: Patriotism after 9/11,” Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts, April 2006.
- “Love your Country as your Mother: Patriotism after 9/11,” Association for the Philosophy of Education (APE), Eastern Division American Philosophical Association (APA), December 2005.
- “An Image of Freedom for Imaging African Democracies,” Lecture Series on Current Issues in Africa, Primary Source, Watertown, October 2005.
- “Modes of Public Reasoning in the Islamic/West Debate,” presented at the October 2005 meeting of the Malta Forum, Casablanca, Morocco, November 2005.
- (With Glenn Loury.) “Hey! You Never Know: Thrift in the Age of Lottery,” presented at the October 6–9, 2005 conference in Prouts Neck, Maine, sponsored by the Thrift and

the American Culture project and publication in *After Thrift: Culture and Practice in Late Modern America*.

- “Putting the Public Back into John Rawls’ Public Reason,” Boston University, April 2005.
- “Learning How to Lose: Coping with Political Defeats in Honor/Shame Cultures,” United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization UNESCO Conference on Philosophy and Democracy, Beirut, Lebanon, November 2004.
- “A Promising African Image of Political Freedom,” Boston College, October 2004.
- “The Ethics of Image in Business,” ASSOETHICA (a school for training future business and political leaders for the European Union), Milan, Italy, April 2004.
- “Africa at the Crossroads—From Subject to Citizen,” University of Genoa, Italy, Philosophy Department, April 2004.
- “The Trouble with Civil Society and the Palestinian/Israelis Crisis,” Boston University, January 2004.
- “The Promises and Perils of Civil Society in Africa,” Harvard University School of Education, February 2004.
- “Taking Customs and Traditions Seriously in the Medical Field: The Case of Cameroon Customs,” BBH School of Nursing, Cameroon, August 2003.
- “What Makes Liberal Democrats Tick? The Role of Non-Rationality in Liberal Democratic Politics,” *Politeia*, Milan, Italy, May 2003.
- “Freedom, Control and Nyang: A New and Usable Political Theory for African States,” University of Genoa, Italy, Philosophy Department, May 2003.
- “An African Conception of Freedom with an Image,” Smith College, March 2003.
- “The Relationship between the U.S. Supreme Court and the Nso’ Nocturnal Court: The Case for Symbolism in Supreme Courts,” University of Texas at Austin Law School, Fall 2002.
- “What Makes Liberal Democrats Tick?” University of Colorado, Boulder, Philosophy Department, November 2001.
- “Conflict of Power Resolution in an Indigenous African State,” Committee on African Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, February 2001.
- “Living Legitimacy: Accountability in African Politics,” Program on African Studies, University of Wisconsin–Madison, February 2001.
- “Why We Dance in Africa,” Dance Department, University of Wisconsin, Madison, February 2001.
- “The Joy in Living Together: Towards a Civic Appreciation of Laughter,” Conference on Moral Education in a Diverse Society, Duke University, Durham, April 2001.
- “Voluntary Social Organizations as Foundation for Liberal Democracies in Africa,” University of Wisconsin–Madison, African Studies Center, May 1999.
- “Liberating and Democratizing African States: Why Civil Society Matters,” Committee on African Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, May 1999.

- “The Place of Race in Liberal Democratic Civic Pedagogy,” Conference on Moral Education in a Diverse Society, Duke University, Durham, April 1999 (invited panelist).
- “Lessons for the Living: A Death Ceremony as Demonstrative Civic Pedagogy,” Harvard University, W.E.B. Du Bois Institute, Cambridge, April 1999.
- “Liberating and Democratizing African States: Why Civil Society Matters,” Boston University, Institute on Race and Social Division, Boston, March 1999.
- (With Glenn Loury) “The Moral Poverty of Welfare,” Second Annual Communitarian Network, Washington National Hilton, Crystal City, Virginia, February 27–28, 1999 (invited paper).
- Panel Chair, Symposium: “Breaking the Cycles of Hatred: Memory, Law, and Repair,” Brown University, November 3, 1999.
- “Lessons for the Living: Death Ceremonies as Demonstrative Civic Pedagogy in Liberal Democracies,” American Political Science Association [APSA] Conference. Boston, September 1998 (invited panelist).
- “African Art and the Aesthetics of Hiding and Revealing,” Bell Gallery, Brown University. Providence, April 1998.
- “African Art and the Aesthetics of Hiding and Revealing,” Harvard University, Committee on African Studies, Cambridge, May 1998.
- “Lessons for the Living: Death Ceremonies as Demonstrative Civic Pedagogy in Liberal Democracies,” Conference on Moral Education in a Diverse Society, Duke University. Durham, April 1998.
- “Liberal Democracy Care of Culture,” Walter Rodney Seminar Series, Boston University. Boston, January 1998.
- “African Art and the Aesthetics of Hiding and Revealing,” Department of African American Studies, Northeastern University, Boston, February 1998.
- “African Art: The Aesthetics of Hiding and Revealing,” African Studies Center, Boston University, Boston, November 1997.
- “The Place of Rationality in Liberal Democratic Politics,” Department of Philosophy, Graduate Students’ Colloquium, University of Wisconsin–Madison, March 1997.
- “Veil Politics,” African Studies Program, University of Wisconsin–Madison, March 1996.

EDITOR

- *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Co-editor, African and African American Philosophy.

EDITORIAL BOARD

- Theoria: A Journal of Social and Political Theory.
- The African Prospect: A Journal of Contemporary African Issues.
- Cashiers di Scienze Sociali, Rivista Semestrale, Italy
- Intellectus: An African Journal of Philosophy

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Referee for Oxford University Press.
- Referee for Wadsworth Publishing.
- Referee for McGraw-Hill.
- Referee for University of California Press.
- Referee for *African Studies Review*.
- Referee and critic, annual exhibitions for the MFA program at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, Spring 1996.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Founder, Pathfinders4Peace, NGO, Colorado.
- Founder, PridePads Africa, NGO, Colorado.
- Founder, African Water Alliance, Colorado.
- The Himalayan Institute, Cameroon
- Founder, Developing Opportunities for Orphans and Residence (DOORS), an NGO operating in Cameroon and the United States.
- Founder, the Ark of Literacy Life in Africa (ALL Africa) an African Writers Colony located in Kumbo, Cameroon.

OTHER MEDIA

- Op-ED: “Nelson Mandela’s Greatness? He Stepped Aside,” *Denver Post*, December 2012
- ABC Radio Australia, Philosopher’s Zone: Interview with Allen Saunders on the African Conception of Person, archived interview available at <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/philosopherszone/stories/2010/2998440.htm>.
- Interview on Leadership and leadercentrism Following the Arab Spring, archived interview available at <http://www.kosmosonline.org/podcast/arab-spring-institutional-reform-and-leadercentrism>
- Op-Ed: “Power Sharing in Zimbabwe is the Wrong Move,” *Cambridge Chronicle*, February 2009.
- Op-Ed: “What Obama’s Presidency Means to Africans,” *Denver Post*, November 2008.