

# TOBI IDOWU

Ph.D. Candidate, University of Wisconsin–Madison  
1220 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706 • ojidowu@wisc.edu • tobioidowu@gmail.com  
ORCID: 0000-0001-5862-3866 • tobiidowu.com

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Global Black Literatures • African Literature • Popular Music and Afrobeats • Media and Digital Cultures  
• African Diaspora Studies • Public Humanities

## EDUCATION

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| <b>University of Wisconsin–Madison</b>                                                                      | 2023 – present |
| Ph.D. Candidate, African Cultural Studies; Doctoral Minor in English                                        |                |
| Dissertation research: African literature, popular music, and digital media across Africa and its diasporas |                |
| Advisor: Professor Luis Madureira                                                                           |                |
| <b>Bowling Green State University</b>                                                                       | 2021 – 2023    |
| Master of Arts, Literary and Textual Studies                                                                |                |
| <b>University of Ibadan</b>                                                                                 | 2014 – 2018    |
| Bachelor of Arts, English                                                                                   |                |

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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| <b>University of Wisconsin–Madison</b>                                                       |                |
| Graduate Teaching Assistant and Instructor of Record, Department of African Cultural Studies | 2023 – present |
| Lecturer, Wisconsin Intensive Summer Language Institutes (WISLI)                             | Summer 2025    |
| <b>Bowling Green State University</b>                                                        |                |
| Graduate Teaching Associate, University Writing Program                                      | 2021 – 2022    |
| Research Assistant, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program                   | 2022 – 2023    |
| Program Coordinator, Cross-Cultural Conversation Connection                                  | 2022 – 2023    |

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Dissertation Fellowship, University of Wisconsin–Madison                                | Fall 2026   |
| Aliko Songolo Summer Research Award, Department of African Cultural Studies, UW–Madison | 2026        |
| Graduate Summer Field Research Grant, University of Wisconsin–Madison                   | 2026        |
| Graduate Student Conference Travel Grants, Department of African Cultural Studies       | 2024 – 2026 |
| Graduate School Fellowship (funded by WARF), University of Wisconsin–Madison            | 2023 – 2024 |

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Book Reviews

Idowu, Tobi. Review of *The Algorithmic Age of Personality: African Literature and Cancel Culture*, by James Yékú. *African Studies Review* (2026): 1–2. <https://doi.org/10.1017/asr.2026.10330>.

Idowu, Tobi. Review of *Sòròsókè: An #EndSARS Anthology*, edited by Jumoke Verissimo and James Yékú. *Democracy & Development: Journal of West African Affairs* 5, no. 3 (2021): 31–32.

## Public Writing and Criticism

- Idowu, Tobi. "On Fela, Wizkid, and the Politics of Afrobeats." *Olongo Africa*, February 2026.
- Idowu, Tobi. "Meeting Abdulrazak Gurnah the First Time." *African Writer*, 2021.
- Idowu, Tobi. "Young Writers Expand Frontiers of Nigerian Literature on Social Media." *The Guardian* (Nigeria), July 2018.
- Idowu, Tobi. "At Ake Festival, Artists Interrogate Fantastical Futures." *The Guardian* (Nigeria), 2018.
- Idowu, Tobi. "Afropolitanism and Nigerian Literature: Beyond the Sceptical Shrugs." *The Guardian* Literary Series, April 1, 2018.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- "Africana Intimacies and the Deterritorialized Afrobeats Imaginary." African Literature Association Annual Conference, Knoxville, Tennessee, May 2026. Peer-reviewed.
- "From 'Fem' to #EndSARS: Digital Youth Culture and the Precarious Politics of Afrobeats." 12th Annual Africa Conference, Tennessee State University, April 2026. Peer-reviewed.
- "Pan-African Imaginaries and Global Consciousness: Contemporary African Cultural Forms and Digital Media." African Studies Association Annual Meeting, 2024.
- "African Identities: Peoples, Cultures, and Institutions in Motion." Lagos Studies Association Conference, 2024.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Literature and Cultural Studies Courses

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| AFRICAN 210 – The African Storyteller (Teaching Assistant), UW–Madison                                         | 2025 – 2026 |
| AFRICAN 203 – Migration and Diaspora in African Literature (Communication-B; Instructor of Record), UW–Madison | Summer 2024 |

### Writing Courses

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| WRIT 1120 – Seminar in Research Writing (Instructor of Record), Bowling Green State University | Spring 2022 |
| WRIT 1110 – Seminar in Academic Writing (Instructor of Record), Bowling Green State University | Fall 2021   |

### Language Courses (Instructor of Record), University of Wisconsin–Madison

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| AFRICAN 372/373/672 – Intermediate/Advanced Yoruba, WISLI                                                                             | Summer 2025 |
| AFRICAN 372 – Beginning Yoruba                                                                                                        | Spring 2025 |
| AFRICAN 371 – Beginning Yoruba (including University of Minnesota students through the Big Ten Academic Alliance CourseShare program) | Fall 2024   |
| AFRICAN 374 – Intermediate Yoruba                                                                                                     | Spring 2024 |
| AFRICAN 373 – Intermediate Yoruba                                                                                                     | Fall 2023   |

### Guest Lecture

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| "Music and Politics in African Cities," AFRICAN 100 – Introduction to African Cultural Expression, UW–Madison | March 2026 |
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## CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

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- Designed syllabi, assignments, assessments, and instructional materials for literature, writing, and language courses.
- Designed multimodal assignments, including remix projects, video and audio compositions, digital writing portfolios, and collaborative short-film projects.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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| Peer Reviewer, <i>Journal of Contemporary African Studies</i>                                           | 2025        |
| Invited Book Reviewer, <i>African Studies Review</i>                                                    | 2026        |
| Language Proficiency Evaluator, Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship Program, UW–Madison | 2023 – 2025 |
| Panel Moderator, Festival of Ideas: Gathering Dialogues Across Genres, Medias, Disciplines, UW–Madison  | 2025        |
| Graduate Student Representative, Department of African Cultural Studies, UW–Madison                     | 2025 – 2026 |
| Chair, Organising Committee, scholarly event honoring Professor Ayo Banjo                               | 2018        |

## EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

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| <b>Publishing Editor</b> , Kraft Books Ltd., Nigeria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Sept. 2020 – July 2021 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evaluated manuscript submissions and prepared editorial recommendations.</li><li>• Edited fiction and nonfiction manuscripts; worked with authors on structure, clarity, and style.</li><li>• Developed editorial briefs and coordinated publication workflows.</li></ul> |                        |
| <b>Arts Reporter and Book Reviewer</b> , <i>The Guardian</i> (Nigeria)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Apr. 2018 – Mar. 2019  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Covered literary festivals and cultural events; wrote criticism, book reviews, and feature essays.</li><li>• Interviewed writers, publishers, and cultural practitioners.</li></ul>                                                                                       |                        |

## MEDIA AND INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

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| Graduate Student Spotlight, Graduate School, University of Wisconsin–Madison         | 2025          |
| Featured interview, “A Career in Book Editing with Tobi Idowu,” <i>Book Republic</i> | 2020          |
| Featured in “For Ayo Banjo, Scholars Seek Rebirth of English Language,” <i>Punch</i> | Jan. 19, 2018 |