

Arawomo Oluwayinka

Application for:

African Studies Program Student Awards and
Tejumola Olaniyan International Student Travel Award

Project Proposal

I am applying for these awards to defray the cost of traveling to Nigeria for fieldwork (archival research and oral history) for my dissertation. My project examines Nigerian women's digitally-mediated sexual discourses to understand (i) the affordances of networked digital media as alternative spaces for enabling women's sexual conversations which are limited in conventional public spaces (ii) how these discourses engage and critique dominant/institutional sexual discourses (iii) women's own rhetorical construction of sexual pleasure and agency. From an African-feminist rhetorical perspective, I am analyzing (i) digital texts on Nigerian women and sex, which are publicly available on digital platforms; and (ii) primary data I am collecting from online surveys, online focus groups and online in-depth interviews with content creators.

The proposed fieldwork includes archival research and oral history collections. I will visit two key Archives: National Archives Ibadan and the Lagos State Archive. I will also be visiting the Archives section of the Obafemi Awolowo University Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library in Ife. I will be weaving together the sexual narratives and their rhetorical work about Nigerian women from historical documents on sex work in colonial Nigeria, government policies and regulations, and newspapers. The fieldwork will fill in the gap created by my online research methods by including the historical perspectives on Nigerian women and sex as women's sexual discourses are better understood within the socio-historical contexts shaping these discourses and how they impact contemporary women's sexual knowledge, beliefs and practices. Also, academic conversations on the historical contexts/perspectives on Nigerian women and sexual pleasure and agency is limited. The fieldwork will provide a richer and fuller understanding in articulating Nigerian women's sexual rhetoric online. Also gathering oral histories from older women about the sexual beliefs and norms in their times will help me understand the social groups women created as alternative spaces for sexual conversations before the prevalence of digital media. This will highlight the prevalent sexual conventions and norms and how these have changed over time. This is also important because the voices and views of certain women without access to digital technologies will be excluded if I use online research methods only.

Undertaking this study contributes to understanding how sexual dialogues shape what we know about Nigerian women's sexual experiences as they (de)construct knowledge and disrupt dominant discourses that limit their possibilities of sexual agency and pleasure. It also

contributes to understanding the complexity of women’s sexual rhetorics in global and digital contexts, particularly from an African-feminist rhetorical perspective. I articulate rhetorical dialoguing as an analytical and theoretical framework for accounting for Nigerian women’s sexual discourses and rhetorical strategies for engaging sex, highlighting the contexts and functions of such dialogue as rhetorically significant. I argue that their sexual discourses are rhetorically significant because they reveal the socio-cultural contexts that they navigate their sexual desires, pleasure and agency; the dominant sexual discourses that they engage and critique. Through their counter sexual narratives, they demonstrate that they do not necessarily conform to sexual norms, articulate the possibility and evidence of sexual pleasure and agency while redefining what these mean for a Nigerian woman.

My project makes a rhetorical intervention which can also be extended to issues characterized by silence or dominant views that exclude the experiences of those historically marginalized and oppressed. In particular, my work is in dialogue with other theorists and theories that acknowledge rhetorical practices that foster honoring differences and a more equitable society. Two of such are Ratcliffe’s Rhetorical Listening and Sonja and Griffin’s Invitational Rhetoric. Building on theorizing rhetoric as invitation and rhetorical listening sets the stage for dialoguing as a rhetorical practice that seeks to trouble dominant and privileged ways of knowing, lessen the hierarchical relations between online users, and allow for multiple viewpoints towards understanding an issue and the people experiencing them, and not necessarily towards truth. By

Budget

Flight (Yinka)	\$1800 (MSN-LOS, roundtrip)
*Flight (Nathan and Ethan)	\$1500 X2 = \$3000
Accommodation (Lagos)	N/A (staying with family) for 1 month
Accommodation (Ile-Ife) - Yinka	\$300/month X 1 month
Yinka only Accommodation (Ibadan) - Yinka	\$300/month X 1 month
Meals & incidentals	\$25/day X 90 days = \$2250
Local transport (within Lagos)	\$15/day X 30 days = \$450
Local transport (within Ife)	\$10/day X 30 days = \$300
Local Transport (Within Ibadan)	\$10/day X 30 days = \$300
CISI travel insurance (\$41.50/month)	\$41.50 x 3 months \$124
CISI Dependent Enrollment	\$57.43 X 2 kids X 3 months = 344.58
Other (supplies, writing support, etc.)	Portable recorder = \$150

	Writing supplies = \$60
TOTAL BUDGET	\$9378.58
Requested from African Studies and/or Tejumola Olaniyan Int'l Student Award	\$6000
Other support	\$3000 Applied for IRIS (yet to hear from them)
	\$1500 - I plan to apply for the Graduate School Student Research Grant in April Cycle 4)

* I will be traveling with my two kids. This will make me incur an additional \$3000 for their round trip from MSN to Lagos. I wasn't sure if I should include this in the budget. This is one of the reasons I need financial support to defray the cost of traveling with them. They will be with my mom in Lagos while I am on the field.

ARAWOMO Oluwayinka Oluwakemi

6154 Helen C. White
703 Eagle Heights Drive
Apt B 53705, Madison Wisconsin_

arawomo@wisc.edu
6083589504

Education

2018 – date

Ph.D. in View (Composition and Rhetoric), University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA

2014 – 2016

M. A. (English Language) Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria

2007 – 2011

B. A. (English Language) Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria Degree Obtained 2012; Grade Obtained: Second Class, Upper Division

Work Experience

May 2022 – date

TA Assistant Director, University of Wisconsin-Madison Writing Center

January 2020 – May 2022

Writing Tutor/Mentor, University of Wisconsin-Madison Writing Center

August 2018 – May 2022

Instructor, Introduction to First-Year College Composition

The Department of English, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA

August 2017 – May 2018

Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant,

The Department of African Cultural Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA

June 2015 – July 2017

Research Assistant to Dr. K. A. Ayoola, Senior Lecturer, Department of English, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun state, Nigeria

Research Experience/Publication

Dissertation

Nigerian Women Sexual Rhetoric Online: Possibilities of Pleasure and Power (2 Chapters drafted out of 5)

Encyclopedia Entry

Arawomo, Oluwayinka. "Reflection (Yancey's Version)". *Constructing the Threshold: A Reference Work of Concepts between Teaching for Transfer and Teaching Writing*. (Forthcoming)

Book Chapter

Arawomo, O. (2018). "Telling our Stories: The Representation of Gender-Based Violence in Stella Dimoko Korkus' Blog." Essays in Honour of Rotimi Taiwo, edited by Unuabonah Folake, Ayoola Kehinde and Adegoju Adeyemi. Glienicke: GaldaVerlag, pp. 147-167.

Thesis

Arawomo, Y.K. (2016). Representation of Gender-based Violence in Victims' Narratives in Stella Dimoko Korkus' Blog (Unpublished Graduate Thesis). Department of English, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria.

Arawomo, Y.K. (2012). A Critical Discourse Analysis of Readers' Comments on a News Report on the Extradition of a Murder Suspect from the UK, (Unpublished Undergraduate Thesis). Department of English, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria.

Work-place Research

Assistant research executive at Market Knowledge and Insight: (Focus Group Discussions, In-depth Interviews, In-home Visits, Telephone Interviews, Proposal and Report writing, and Language Interpretation/Translation).

Conferences and Symposium

“Evolving Multimodality in Contexts: Defining an Online Writing Center” -- Presenter Online Writing Centers Association (OWCA) Conference on Multimodality (April 13- 14, 2023)

“Writing: The Power of Our Stories”. Guest Speaker at Prayog: An Interdisciplinary Place, Vellulla, Telangana India. (Virtual) April 29, 2022.

“Digital Technologies for Research in a Pandemic: Possibilities and Limitations” – Presenter 18th Annual Bouchet Conference on Diversity and Graduate Education (April 7, 2022)

“The Cs of College Composition” -- Presenter and Panelist High School to College Writing Symposium at University of Wisconsin-Madison (November 12, 2019)

Media and Outreach

Oluwayinka Arawomo International Research Ambassador <https://iss.wisc.edu/staff/arawomo-oluwayinka/>

“FLTA Yinka Arawomo teaches PEOPLE about Yoruba culture”

<https://african.wisc.edu/2017/11/06/flta-yinka-arawomo-teaches-people-about-yoruba-culture/>

“FLTA Oluwayinka Arawomo Introduces Yoruba Culture to the Community”

<https://african.wisc.edu/2017/11/27/flta-oluwayinka-arawomo-introduces-yoruba-culture-to-the-community/>

“Yoruba Projects” Spring 2018” (Main Instructor and Director)

<https://african.wisc.edu/languages/yoruba/projects/>

Awards/Service

Dec. 15, 2021 – Present Creator & Facilitator,

Online Writing & Support Group for Nigerian Women Graduate Students in Diaspora

Jan. 2021 – May 2023

Ambassador for International REACH (International Student Services) at University of Wisconsin-Madison

April 2021- May 2022

Awardee, College of Letters & Science Teaching Fellow, University of Wisconsin-Madison

May 2021

Volunteer, Marshal Duties at Spring Commencement (May 8, 2021)

Aug 2017 - May 2018

Awardee, Fulbright Teaching Assistantship in the USA

Membership Professional Association

Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric & Composition

Conference on College Composition & Communication

Future Faculty Partner with Teaching Academy

International Writing Centers Associations

National Council of Teachers of English Online Writing Centers Association

Rhetoric Society of America

References

Morris Young msyoung4@wisc.edu

Gottschalk Druschke Caroline caroline.gottschalk.druschke@wisc.edu