

Blessing Diala-Ogamba

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS:

- PhD in English & Literature, 1995
- M. ED in Secondary Education, 2001
- M. PHIL in English & Literature, 1990
- M.A. in English, 1985
- B.A. (HON) English/Education, 1984; (bachelor's with certification in English, Grades 5-12)
- N.C.E. (National Certificate in Education- Nigeria), 1980

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ATTENDED:

- University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, 1990-1995, Ph. D
- Worcester State College, Massachusetts, 1998-2001, M. Ed
- University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, 1987-1990, M. Phil
- University of Calabar, Nigeria, 1984-1985, M.A.
- University of Calabar, Nigeria, 1982-1984, B.A. in Education (HONS)
- Alvan Ikoku College of Education, Owerri, Nigeria, 1977-1980, Associate degree in English.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

FULL PROFESSOR:

- Presently teaching World Literature, English Composition1 and 2, Children's Literature, African Literature and Victorian Literature—Online and Face to Face.
- Taught as an adjunct at Baltimore City Community College, 2000-Fall 2011
- Taught ESL at Worcester Public Schools, Massachusetts, spring 2000
- Taught Literary Genre, World Literature and Critical Theory at the University of -- Uyo, Akwa-Ibom State, Nigeria, 1995-1998
- Abia State Schools Management Board, Aba, Abia State Nigeria, 1981-1991

COURSES TAUGHT: (AT UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE LEVELS)

- Critical Approaches to Literature
- The African Novel and Drama
- Literary Genre
- Oral Literature (African Tradition and Folklore)
- Comparative African Literature (works of selected African Novelists)
- The African American/Caribbean Literature
- Use of English (Literary & Communication Skills Development)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION:

- Violence in South African Fiction: The Novels of Sol T. Plaatje, Peter Abrahams, Alex La Guma, and Bessie Head.

ONGOING RESEARCH:

- Chants and Incantations as aspects of Igbo Oral Tradition
- Rhythm of Violence in Alex La Guma's Novels
- Trends in South African Fiction: Apartheid and Post-Apartheid

Book Publications:

Ogbujah, Columbus and Diala-Ogamba. *Deconstructing Boundaries: A Festschrift in Honor of Prof. Chioma Carol Opara*. University Press, Ibadan, 2024.

Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. *Visions of Womanhood in Contemporary African literature*. Lanham: Lexington, 2021.

Sackeyfio, Rose and Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. Eds. *Emerging Perspectives on Akachi Adimora-Ezeigbo*. Lanham: Lexington, 2017.

Diala-Ogamba, Blessing and Elaine Sykes. Eds. *Literary Crossroads: An International Exploration of Women, Gender, and Otherhood*. Lanham: Lexington, 2015.

PUBLICATIONS—Chapters in Books:

Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Politics of Resistance in Nuruddin Farah's Trilogy". *Deconstructing Boundaries: A Festschrift in Honor of Prof. Chioma Carol Opara*. University Press, Ibadan, 2024.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "From Passivity to Defiance: The Portrayal of Women in Yvonne Vera's Novels" in *Legacies of the Departed African Female Writers*. Eds. Helen Chukwuma and Chioma Carol Opara. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2022.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Narratives of Trauma and Struggle in Chimamanda Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun*". *Women and the Nigeria-Biafra War: Reframing Gender and Conflict in Africa*. Eds. Gloria Chuku and Sussie Aham-Okoro. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2020.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Sisters in the Struggle; Women's Resistance in Akachi-Adimora-Ezeigbo's *Trafficked* and Chika Unigwe's *On Black Sisters Street*". *Emerging Perspectives on Akachi Adimora-Ezeigbo*. Eds. Sackeyfio, and Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. Lanham: Lexington, 2017.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Global Issues: Gender and Socio-Cultural Awareness in Elizabeth Nunez' *Beyond the Limbo Silence and Prospero's Daughter*" *Meeting Points in Black/Africana Women's Literature*. Eds. Chukwuma, Helen and Preselfannie Whitfield McDaniels. Trento: Africa World Press, 2016

- Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Supernatural Elements in Toni Morrison's *Beloved*". *Critical Insights: Beloved by Toni Morrison*. Ed. Maureen N. Eke. Ipswich, Massachusetts, Salem Press, 2015.
- Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "On Their Own Terms: Renegotiating Patriarchal Laws According to Farah's *Ebla* and El Sadaawi's *Firdaus*". *Literary Crossroads: An International Exploration of Women, Gender, and otherhood*. Eds. Diala-Ogamba, Blessing and Elaine Sykes. Lanham: Lexington, 2015
- Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Women's Struggles and Resistance in Sembene Ousmane's *God's Bits of Wood*." *Writing the Female Image in African Fiction*. Ed. Sophie Ogwude. Ibadan: University of Ibadan Press, 2013.
- Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Canons of Victimization and Non-Conformism in Nuruddin Farah's *Blood in the Sun Trilogy*". *Critical Issues in African: Twenty-First Century and Beyond*. Port Harcourt: University of Port Harcourt Press, 2013
- Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Children of the Home: Ezinma, Beauty to Behold". *Achebe's Women: Imagism and Power*. Ed Helen Chukwuma. Trenton: Africa World Press. 2012
- Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Portrayal of Womanhood in Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* and Ezeigbo's *The last of the Strong Ones*". *Achebe's Women: Imagism and Power*. Ed Helen Chukwuma. Trenton: Africa World Press, 2012.
- Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Corruption and Rape of the Land in Osonye Tess Onwueme's *Shakara, Dance Hall Queen, Then She said, What Mama Said and No Vacancy*". *From Boom to Doom: Protest and Conflict Resolution in the Literature of the Niger Delta*. Ed.Chinyere Nwahunanya. Owerri: Springfield, 2011.
- Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Abuse of Power in Nawal El Saadawi's *Love in the Kingdom of Oil* and *God Dies by the Nile*". Eds. Emenyonu. Ernest and Maureen Eke. *Emerging Perspectives on Nawal El Saadawi*. Trenton: Africa World Press, 2010.
- Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Gender, Ethnicity and Sexuality in Recent Nigerian Movies". Ed. Udumukwu, Onyemaechi. *Nigerian Literature in English: Emerging Perspectives*. Port Harcourt: M&J Grand Orbit, 2007.
- Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "The Non-Conformist Women in Nurrudin Farah's *Blood of the Sun Trilogy*" in Mezu, Rose. (ed). *A History of Africana Women's Literature*. Baltimore: Black Academy Press, 2004.
- Diala, Blessing. "Achebe the Traditionalist: A Critical Analysis of *No Longer at Ease*" Ed. Emenyonu, Ernest. *Emerging Perspectives on Chinua Achebe* Vol. 1. Trenton: Africa World Press, 2004.

Journal publications:

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Folktales as African Children's Literature: A Study of Archetypal Symbols in Selected Igbo Folktales". *African Literature Today*. Suffolk: James Currey, 2015.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Exposition of Apartheid South African Violence and Injustice in Alex La Guma's Short Stories". *African Literature Today*. Suffolk: James Currey, 2013.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Psychological Violence in Bessie Head's *Maru* and *A Question of Power*". *African Literature Today*. Ed. Ernest Emenyonu, Suffolk, UK: James Currey, 2012

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Archetypes and Voodoo Elements in Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*". *Journal of Gender Studies*. Vol. 5. No. 5 September 2012.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Teaching African Literature in an Era of Technology: A Case Study of Coppin State University". *African Literature Today*. Ed. Ernest Emenyonu. Suffolk, UK: James Currey, 2011.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Gothic Elements in Toni Morrison's *Beloved* and Elechi Amadi's *The Concubine*". *CLA Journal*. Vol. LIV, No. 4 June 2011

---Diala, Blessing Ogamba. "The Non-Conformist Women in Nawal El-Saadawi's Novels". Eds. Gbenga Ajileye et al. *Ogele (Special Edition)*. Owerri: Taurus, 2009.

--- Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Music As social Poetry: A Critical Evaluation of Fela Anikulapo-Kuti's Afro-Beat Lyrics". *Langston Hughes Review*. Fall, 2007.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "A Re-examination of Sembene Ousmane's *God's Bits of Wood*". *African Renaissance Journal*. May/June, 2006.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Rhetoric of Violence in Alex La Guma's Novels" *African Renaissance Journal*. Nov/Dec issue, 2005.

---Luke Eyoh and Diala, Blessing. "Character Delineation and National Consciousness in Saro-Wiwa's *Sozaboy*" Ed. Ikiddeh, Ime. *Journal of Language Literature and Communication*. Vol. 1 no.2, 1999.

---Diala, Blessing. "Form and Technique in Alex La Guma's *In the Fog of the Season's End* and *Time of the Butcherbird*", Volume 5 *Journal of Humanities*, University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria, 1997.

BOOK REVIEWS:

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. *Blessing After the Rain*. Nnedi Okorafor. Megascope. 2021

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. *The Tortoise and the Princess*. Oke Ikeogu. Manila Publishers, 2015

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. *The Uncoiling Python: South African Storytellers and Resistance*. Harold Scheb. *JALA* Vol. 7 No. 1 Summer/Fall 2012.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. *The Mines of His Mind: Critical Reflections on the Works Tayo Olatoye* eds. Beth L. Virtanen and Sola Owonibi. Trenton: Africa World Press, 2008. *JALA*. Vol. 3 no. 2. Summer/Fall, 2009.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. *Creolization in Nigerian Theatre*. Bayreuth: Bayreuth African Studies 61, 2002. *JALA*. Vol. 3. No. 2. Summer/Fall, 2009.

REVIEWED PROMOTION PACKET:

University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe---Candidate for Full Professor, 2018

University of Nigeria, Nsukka---Candidate for Full Professor, 2016

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS:

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. “Canons of Victimization and Non-Conformism in Nuruddin Farah’s *Blood in the Sun* Trilogy. Coppin State University Faculty Research and Development. Eds. Elias Taylor et al. Vol. 111 November 12, 2010. Baltimore, MD.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. “Global issues in Elizabeth Nunez’s *Beyond the Limbo Silence* and *Prospero’s Daughter*”. *Faculty Research and Development Conference Papers*. Eds. Anoruo, Emmanuel. et al. Baltimore: Coppin State University, 2008.

PRESENTATIONS: ---

Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. Panel chair “Maneuvering Censorship: Women in Alex La Guma’s Novels”. Presented at the Virtual Conference of the African Literature Association. May 26 – May 29, 2021.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. “Using OER Materials to Enhance Teaching and Learning in the Era of Pandemic”. Presented at the Virtual Conference of the African Literature Association. May 26-May 29, 2021.

Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. “Bridging the Physical in Online classroom”. Presented at The College language Association conference in Chicago, Illinois. April 4-7, 2018.

Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. Panel chair. “Remembering the women: conflict and Oppression in Loretta Ngocho’s *And The Didn’t Die*”. Presented at The African

Literature Association conference at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. June 14-17, 2017

Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Using Digital Storytelling as a Strategy to Enhance Online and F2F Student Engagement". Presented at Campus Technology 2017 in Chicago, Illinois, July 17-20, 2017.

Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Feminist Narratives in Africa". (Round Table). Presented at The African literature Association conference at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. June 14-17, 2017.

Diala-Ogamba, Blessing "From Passivity to Improved Visibility in Achebe's novels. Presented at Northeast Modern Language Association. Baltimore, March 23-26, 2017.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Social Change and Women's Struggle in Zukiswa Wanner's *The Madam*". Presented at 42nd Annual Conference of African Literature Association in Atlanta, Georgia. April 6-9, 2016.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Criticism of African Women's Writing: Moving Forward" presented at the 41st Annual Conference of African Literature Association in Bayreuth, Germany from June 3-6, 2015.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Narratives of Trauma and Struggle in Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun*" presented at the 7th Faculty Research and Development conference at Coppin State University Baltimore Maryland, November 20, 2015

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "The Confused Returnees: Traditional Versus Modern Values in Salih's *Season of Migration to the North* and Buchi Emecheta's *Kehinde*" presented at the 41st Annual Conference of African Literature Association in Bayreuth, Germany from June 3-6, 2015.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Political Struggle and Revolution in Alex La Guma's *In the Fog of the Season's End* and *Time of the Butcherbird*" presented at 75th convention of the College Language Association in Dallas, Texas from April 8-11, 2015.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Archetypal Symbols in Children's Folklore in Nigeria" presented at the 40th Annual Conference of the African Literature Association at the University of Witwatersrand, South African from April 9-13, 2014

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Manipulation and Deceit in Roby's *Too Much of a Good Thing* and Kenney's *Preacha' Man*" presented at the College Language Association. New Orleans, March 26-29, 2014.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing "Power Play in Nuruddin Farah's Trilogy" presented at African Literature Association Conference held in Charleston, South Carolina. March 20-24. 2013.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. Panel Chair, “Women in Mahgreb North African Literature” panel at the Northeast Modern Language Association Conference, Rochester, New York from March 16-18, 2012.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. “On Their Own Terms: Renegotiating Cultural and Patriarchal Laws According to Farah’s *Ebla* and Saadawi’s *Firdaus*”. Presented at the Northeast Modern Language Association Conference, New York. March 16-18, 2012.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing “Women’s Struggle and Resistance in Sembene Ousmane’s *God’s Bits of Wood*”. Presented at College Language Association conference in Atlanta from March 29-April 1, 2012

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. “Seeking Justice through Technique and Form in Alex La Guma’s Novels” Presented at African Literature Association conference in Dallas from April 11-15, 2012.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. “From Passivity to Concerted Action and Psychological Liberation: The Novels of Alex la Guma’s”. Presented at the African Studies Association in Washington D.C. November 16-19, 2011.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. “Like Father Like Son: An Analysis of Femi Anikulapo Kuti’s Lyrics”. Presented at CLA conference in Spartanburg, South Carolina. April 6-9, 2011.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. “Cannons of Victimization in Nuruddin Farah’s *Blood of the Sun Trilogy*”. Presented at Coppin State University Faculty Research and Development Conference. Baltimore, Maryland, 2010.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. “Teaching African Literature in an Era of Technology: A Case Study of Coppin State University, Baltimore”. Presented at Arizona, March 10-14, 2010.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. “From Docility to Concerted Action: *Firdaus* in Nawal El Saadawi’s *Woman at Point Zero*”. Presented at the Coppin State Faculty Research and Development Conference. Baltimore, Maryland, 2009.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. “Dying with Pride: Nawal El Saadawi’s *Woman at Point Zero*”. A paper presented at Northeast Modern language Association Conference, Boston, February 26-March I, 2009.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. Double Consciousness in Kane Hamidou Cheik’s *Ambiguous Adventure*”. A paper presented at College Language Association Conference in Cambridge, Maryland. March 25-29, 2009.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. “Socio-Cultural Issues in Zukiswa Wanner’s *The Madam*.”

A paper presented at African Literature Association Conference in Burlington, Vermont. April 15-19, 2009.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Legacies: Flora Nwapa, Bessie Head, Yvonne Vera, Zulu Sofola, Mariama Ba. Roundtable Discussion at African Literature Association Conference, Burlington, Vermont. April 15-19, 2009

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Global Issues in Elizabeth Nunez's *Beyond the Limbo Silence* and *Prospero's Daughter*". A paper presented at the College Language association Conference in Charleston, South Carolina. April 9-12, 2008.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Abuse of Power in Nawal El Saadawi's *The Fall of the Imam* and *God Dies by the Nile*". A Paper presented at the African Literature Association Conference in Macomb, Illinois. April 22-27, 2008.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Gothic Elements in Toni Morrison's *Beloved* and Elechi Amadi's *The Concubine*". A Paper Presented at the Northeast Modern Language Association Convention, March 2-5, 2006 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. "Gender, Ethnicity and Sexuality in Recent Nigerian Movies". A Paper Presented at the 66th Annual Convention of the College Language Association. April 5-8, 2006 at Birmingham, Alabama.

---"Music As social Poetry: A Critical Evaluation of Fela Anikulapo-Kuti's Afro-Beat Lyrics". A paper presented at the College Language Association's 65th Annual Conference, in Athens, Georgia, April 6th-9th, 2005.

---"The Wind of Change: A Re-examination of Sembene Ousmane's *God's Bits of Wood*". A paper presented at the College Language Association's 64th Annual Conference, in Nashville, Tennessee, April 14th-17th, 2004.

---"The Non-Conformist Women in Nuruddin Farah's *Blood of the Sun Trilogy*". A paper presented at the College Language Association's 63rd Annual Conference, in Washington DC. April 23-26, 2003.

--- "Satire in Ken Saro-Wiwa's *Sozaboy*". A paper presented at 59th College Language Association Conference at Fayetteville, North Carolina, April 9-14, 1999.

---"Orature in the African Novels: An Evaluation of Ezeigbo's *The Last of the Strong Ones* and Udoh's *Martial Bliss*", presented at the Conference on Cultural Connection in the Diaspora: Africa and the Americas, April 16-18, 1998, Tallahassee, Florida

---"The Place of Technology in the Preservation of Orality in African Literary Tradition". Paper presented at the 14th ICALEL Conference, May 1997, University of Calabar

CONFERENCE ATTENDED ONLY:

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. Attended 3rd Annual Quality Matters Conference. Baltimore, Maryland. November 7-9, 2011

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. Attended Technology Conference at Coppin State University, May 23, 2008.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. Attended Educause Conference at Marriot Inner Harbor Hotel in Baltimore, January 15-17, 2008.

--- Diala- Ogamba, Blessing. Attended African Studies Association Conference at Sheraton Hotel, New York, 2007.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. Attended Educause Conference at Marriot Inner Harbor Hotel in Baltimore, January 17-19, 2007.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. Attended Quality Matters Training at Towson University, January 12, 2007.

---Diala-Ogamba, Blessing. Attended Turnitin Assignment Workshop at Coppin State University, November 2007.

COMMITTEE (UNIVERSITY)

- Serve as a Chair, Institutional Review Board (IRB)
- Serve as a member of the Teacher Education Council
- serve as a member of the Faculty Workload Committee
- Serve as a committee member on Faculty Recognition ---University-wide committee
- served as a member and Co-chair of the University Faculty Review Committee
- Served as a member of the International Programs Committee
- served as a member on the University-wide Honors Council
- Served as a member of Faculty Search Committee---School-wide committee
- Served as a member on Dean Search Committee---School-wide committee
- Served as a committee member on Faculty Handbook---University-wide committee.

COMMITTEE (DEPARTMENT)

- Advisor, Sigma Tau Delta Honor's Society, Coppin State University
- Serve as member Freshman English committee
- Serve as member on the English Major committee.
- Served as Chair World Literature committee
- served as a member of the Departmental Search Committee
- Served as a committee member for "Write Now", a yearly conference organized by the Department of Humanities and Media from 2000-2004.
- Served as a member of the committee on Graduation and Retention from 2002

ORGANIZATIONS:

- Member, Sloan-C Consortium, 2013
- Co-Convener, International Women's Literary Conference (March 27-29, 2012)
- Board Member ERICA (Episcopal Refugee and Immigrant Center Alliance)
- Quality Matters Peer Reviewer
- Life Member, College Language Association
- Member, Langston Hughes Society
- Member, Northeast Modern Language Association
- Member, African Literature Association
- Member African Studies Association
- Member, Sigma Tau Delta International Organization
- Board Member, Africa Youth Development, Baltimore/DC Metropolitan Area

AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES:

- Received Mini-Grant award on Research at Coppin State University in May 2016.
- Received Certificate for presenting at Coppin State University Faculty Research and Development Conference, November 20, 2015
- Received Certificate of Completion for At-Risk for University and College Faculty, December 8, 2015
- Received Certificate of Completion for QM Rubric Update in July 2014.
- Received a Mini-Grant award on Research at Coppin State University in March 2014.
- Received Sloan-C Certificate specializing in Online Design and Delivery Track, March 2013.
- Received a Certificate for completing the Quality Matters Rubric Update, February, 2012.
- Received a Mini-Grant award on Research at Coppin State University in May 2011.
- Received a Mini-Grant award on Research at Coppin State University in May 2009.
- Certificate of Completion for the Faculty Writing Institute. June 22nd-26, 2009.
- Received a certificate for the Completion of Quality Matters Training in March 2007.
- Received an award for Communication and the Arts at Coppin State University, May 2006
- Received a certificate for completing the Tegrity/Blackboard workshop from Coppin State University, 2006
- Received the Mini-Grant award on Tegrity/Blackboard at Coppin State University, 2006
- Received an award for Advanced Blackboard Training from Distance Learning Department, Baltimore City Community College, 2003
- Received an award for Women Who Make a Difference from Sharon Baptist Church, Baltimore, Maryland, 2003
- Received a certificate for participating in the Second International Conference on Women in Africa and the African Diaspora: Health and Human rights in Indianapolis, Indiana, 1998.

VOLUNTEER:

- Habitat for Humanity, Baltimore, Maryland (Building houses for low-income People)
- Teaching Conversational English to Bhutanese refugees—Part of ERICA Assignment.
- Board Member, ERICA---helping refugees to read and fill out paperwork
- Board Member, Commission on Ministry for the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland.

HOBBIES:

---Reading, writing, traveling, swimming, and tennis.

Research Interests:

Gender Issues, World Literature and Culture, Immigration

References Available Upon Request.