



WOMEN AND THE NIGERIA-BIAFRA WAR

An International Conference in Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the War

Theme:

**Women and Wartime Experiences in Africa: Theorizing Gender,
Conflicts and Human Rights**

Ambassador Inn @ Marquette, Milwaukee, WI, USA

Conference Website: <https://www.conflictsandgenderights.com>

May 8-9, 2018



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Conference Chair

Sr. Dr. Carol Ijeoma Njoku, CODESRIA Fellow
University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus

CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Carol Ijeoma Njoku, Ph. D
Chima J. Korieh, Ph. D
Kanayo Odeluga, MD
Chinyere Odeluga, MD
Ejikeme Obasi, MD
Chidi Igwe, Ph. D



WOMEN AND THE NIGERIA-BIAFRA WAR

MONDAY, MAY 7, 2018

4.00pm - 7.30pm: Conference Pre-Registration

4.30pm – 7.00pm: Opening Banquet/Film Documentary on the Biafra war and Genocide: Sponsored by the Igbo League United States

Venue: Conference Hall, Ambassador Hotel, Marquette, Milwaukee
Facilitators: Dr. Kanayo K. Odeluga, MD Internist, Chicago Heights Illinois
Dr. Ejikeme Obasi, MD Nephrologist, Evergreen Park, IL

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2018

8.00 – 9.30 am: **Conference Registration Continues**
Venue: Conference Hall Ambassador, Inn

9.00am: Call to Order
Conference Moderator: Professor Chima Korieh

9.15am Ecumenical Invocation
Fr Gerald Rush aka Fr. Gary, Order of Franciscan Missionaries, Milwaukee
Former Member of the US Army

9.30am: Address/Opening Remarks:
Carol Ijeoma Njoku, Conference Chair

9.40am: Welcome Remarks by the Igbo League, US

9.50am: Presentation/Breaking of Kola nuts

10.00am -10.50am: **Special Plenary Roundtable Session**
Topic: **Gender and Genocide: How Igbo Women Saved the Population from Complete Annihilation** (Sponsored and Chaired by Ifeanyi Ezeonu, Ph. D)

Venue: AMH Rm 203
Chair: **Ifeanyi Ezeonu**, Ph. D, Associate Professor of Sociology, Brock University, Canada

Discussants
Prof. Chima Korieh, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Dr. K.K. Odeluga, Chicago Heights Illinois
Prof. Oby Okonkwo, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka
Dr. Ejikeme Obasi, Evergreen Park, IL
Nkuzi Nnam, Dominican University, Forest Hill, Chicago
Sr. Dr. Carol Ijeoma Njoku, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

11.00am – 12.15pm: **Keynote Speech**

Topic: Creativity and War: Narratives and Counter-narratives in the Gendered Writings on the Nigeria-Biafra War

Speaker: Prof. Akachi Ezeigbo, PhD, FNAL, FLSN, FESAN, FANA Professor of English, Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike, Ikwo Ebonyi State, Nigeria

12.30pm – 1.30pm: LUNCH (*Courtesy of Igbo Women, Milwaukee*, Sponsored by Lady Lilian Ndu and Mrs. Vicky Ohaka)

1.35pm – 2.30pm CONCURRENT SESSION I

A: WAR, VIOLENCE AND TRAUMA: MATERNAL AND CHILD'S HEALTH CONSEQUENCES

Venue: AMB Conference Room A

Chair: **Nkechi Onyenehu**, Ph. D, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka; Fellow Harvard University, Cambridge Massachusetts.

Panelists:

Chinyelu I. Odeluga, MD, Immanuel Family Health Center, East Chicago

Starvation, Infant and Child Mortality during the Biafra-Nigeria Civil War, 1967 to 1970
Eugene Ikechukwu Ukaoha, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Access to healthcare services for women and children in camps of Internally Displaced Persons in Niger

Ijeoma Igwe, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu State

Ngozi I' Aronu, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Aloysius Odii, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Rape as an act of Moral Attack against Women in the Nigerian Civil War

Sr. Mary Rose-Claret Ogbuehi, University of Bonn Germany

B: WAR, PATRIARCHY AND REVERSAL OF ROLES: THE BIAFRAN STORIES

Venue: AMB Conference Room B

Chair: Onuora Benedict Nweke, Ph. D, Federal University, Ndufu Alike, Ikwo, Ebonyi

State, Nigeria

Househusband in Nigeria/Biafra War

Prof. Marie Pauline Eboh, Director, Institute of Foundation Studies, Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Igbo Maidens, Social Rubrics and the Nigeria/Biafra War: Violations and Disruptions in Selected Novels by Women

Onuora Benedict Nweke, Ph. D, Federal University, Ndufu Alike, Ikwo, Ebonyi State, Nigeria

Dialectics of Gender Equity in Rivers State Socio-Cultural Advancement Since Creation In 1967 To the Present Day

Isaac Eyi Ngulube, Ph. D, Rivers State University, Port Harcourt & Harry Sandra, Federal University Ndufu-Alike Ikwo [FUNAI], Abakiliki Ebonyi, State

Socio-cultural Construct of Fashion in Biafra War: Interrogating the Nigerian Woman Fashion Bias

Okpara, Tochukwu Felicia, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Igbo Women at Conflict Situations: Rewriting the Male-Chauvinistic Narrative of Valour

Oguejifo C. P. Ezeanya, PhD, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

2. 40pm – 3.40pm CONCURRENT SESSION 11

C: ENTREPRENUERSHIP, TECHNOLOGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: THE BIAFRAN WOMEN'S SURVIVAL STRATEGIES

Venue: AMB Conference Room A

Chair: **Aghanya Ikenna Obumneme**, Federal Polytechnic Oko, Oko, Anambra State, Nigeria

Women and Community Development in Nigeria: A Case Study of the Post-War Eastern States
JnGospel Ebere, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Women, War and Work: the Biafran Case

Chinwe E. Obianika, Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki, Nigeria

Women and War Memories during the Nigeria – Biafra war: a textile encounter.

Chika Chinyeogwa Chudi-Duru, Imo State University, Owerri

The Relics of The Biafran War: The Engineering Wonders of Colonel E.O. Aghanya (Rtd) and the Research and Production (RAP) Group

Aghanya Ikenna Obumneme, Federal Polytechnic Oko, Oko, Anambra State, Nigeria
D: WOMEN, WAR & THE MATRIX OF RELIGION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Venue: AMB Conference Room B

Chair: Rev. Fr. Lawrence Okwuosa, Ph. D, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Igbo Maidens, Social Rubrics and the Nigeria/Biafra War: Violations and Disruptions in Selected Novels by Women

Onuora Benedict Nweke, Ph. D, Federal University, Ndufu Alike, Ikwo, Ebonyi State, Nigeria

Religion in Biafran War: The Igbo Experience

Ngozi M. Amaechi, Ph.D, Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, Owerri

Mammy Water and Her Oguta Female Religious Cult During the Nigeria-Biafra War

Lawrence Nwachukwu Okwuosa, Ph. D, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

The Nigeria-Biafra War and its Survival Stories: A Religious Perspectives

Betty Akunnaya, University of Lagos

3.45pm – 4.45pm CONCURRENT SESSION 111

E: BIAFRAN GIRLS' MEMORIES AND CHALLENGES ON GIRLS' EDUCATION

Venue: AMB Conference Room A

Chair: Prof. Uche Nzewi, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Panelist: **Dr. Mrs. Ada Agbasimalu**, CEO, Forest Dame Peace Initiative (FDPI), Mangoro Ikeja, Lagos

Dr. Ada Uzoamaka Azodo, Indiana University Northwest

Pauline A. Uwakweh, Associate Professor of English, North Carolina A & T University

Prof. Akachi Ezigbo, Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike, Ikwo Ebonyi State

Prof. Oby C.N. Okonkwor, Ph. D, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka,

B: WAR, MEDIA & GENDER RE-PRESENTATION

Venue: AMB Conference Room B

Chair: Rev. Sr. Adaoma Igwedibia, Ph. D, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

The Role of Igbo Women in the Nigeria-Biafra War: Insights from Ubesie's *Isi Akwụ Dara N'ala* and Ezeigbo's *Roses and Bullets*

Okafor Ebele Eucharia, Ph.D, University of Lagos, Akoka - Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria

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Women and Children and the Biafran War as Represented in Nigerian War Novels
Evelyn Nwachukwu Urama, Federal University Ndufu-Alike Ikwo, Ebonyi State, Nigeria

Examination of communication difficulties of Biafran women in war situation 1967-1970

Diala Edwin Lionel, Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, Owerri

Documentation of Women's Life Stories and Personal Accounts of The Nigeria-Biafra War, Exposing Gallantry and Boldness

Lucy Mgbengasha Apakama, Ph. D, Alvan Ikoku College of Education, Owerri

The Effects of War and Conflicts on Women and Girls: The Biafra Experience as Narrativized in Adaokere Agbasimalo's *The Forest Dames: An Account of The Nigeria-Biafra War [1967-1970]* and Chimamanda Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun*

Mercy Chiaka Okoye, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

The Unacknowledged Heroine of the Biafra War

Uchechukwu Monica Agbo, Ph. D, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

4.10pm – 5.10pm CONCURRENT SESSION IV

C: WAR, TRAUMA AND VICTIMHOOD

Venue: AMB Conference Room A

Chair: Ijeoma C. Nwajiaku, Ph. D, Federal Polytechnic, Oko, Anambra State, Nigeria

The Pain and Sorrows of Women in the Biafran War in Festus Iyayi's *Heroes*

Onyeka Iwuchukwu, Ph. D, National Open University of Nigeria, University Village, Jabi, Abuja

Trauma and the Female Victims of the Nigerian Civil War

Joy I. Metu, National Institute for Nigerian Languages, Aba, Abia State, Nigeria
Irene Enwereji, National Institute for Nigerian Languages, Aba, Abia State, Nigeria

The War, The Traumatic and the Psychological: A Reading of Nwapa and Ezeigbo's Fiction

Ijeoma C. Nwajiaku, Ph. D, Federal Polytechnic, Oko, Anambra State, Nigeria

Experiences of Women at War: The Biafran Case Study

Rev. Fr Anthony Obinna, Missionaries of St. Paul, Diocese of Torit, South Sudan

D: WOMEN IN PEACE AND NATION BUILDING

Venue: AMB Conference Room A

Chair: Rev. Fr. Cletus Obasi, Ph. D, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

The Role of Igbo women in Peacebuilding during the Nigerian Civil War: 1967 – 1970

Cletus Onyema Obasi, Ph. D, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Between marauders, wild animals and tormented girls: Addressing perilous forest trauma and exploring the option of peace

Ada Agbasimalo, Ph. D, CEO, Forest Dame Peace Initiative (FDPI), Mangoro Ikeja, Lagos

Documentation of Women's Life Stories and Personal Accounts of The Nigeria-Biafra War, Exposing Gallantry and Boldness

Lucy Mgbengasha Apakama, Ph. D, Alvan Ikoku College of Education, Owerri

6.15pm – 7.15pm CONCURRENT SESSION V

E: SONGS, POETRY AND OPERA OF WOMEN AND THE BIAFRA WAR

Venue: Ambassador Hotel Conference, Hall

Moderators: **Obiageli Annabel Zeinab Okigbo**, Okigbo Arts Gallery Brussels
Professor Oby C.N. Okonkwor, Ph. D, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria

Igbo Songs and Dances Used by Igbo Women to Ameliorate War Hardship and Some Psychological Disorder

Prof. Oby C.N. Okonkwor, Ph. D, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria

Opera on Women and the *Biafra War*

John Sherman www.mesaverdepress.com Sherman & Co Public Relations, Indianapolis

7.30 – 9. 00pm Closing Dinner

Venue

Ambassador Inn, 2308 West Wisconsin Avenue 1 Milwaukee, WI 53233

9 May, 2018

8.30 – 11. 00am Closing events and city tour in Milwaukee Museum and Lake Side.
12.30 Departure to Chicago for the 16th ISA Conference, 2018

