NEW MEDIA AND RELIGIOUS TRANSFORMATIONS IN AFRICA

ABUJA, NIGERIA JULY 10-12, 2008

PROGRAMME

Hosted by the Centre for the Study of African Culture and Communication (CESACC),
Port Harcourt, Rivers State, NIGERIA
Thursday, 10 July  

Venue: Reiz Continental Hotel, Continental Hall

14:00  

Opening ceremony

Chairman:  
Prof. R. Deremi Abubakr, Vice-Chancellor, Al Hikmah University, Ilorin

Welcoming remarks:  
Rev. Fr. Patrick Alumuku, PhD, 
Chair, Local Organizing Committee/ Director of Communications Department, Catholic Archdiocese of Abuja

Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett  
Conference Co-Director/ University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA/  
President, International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR)

Dr. Benjamin Soares  
Conference Co-Director/ African Studies Centre, Leiden, the Netherlands

Special guests of honour:  
His Eminence the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammad Sa’ad Abubakar III/President, Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs, Nigeria/Co-Chair, Nigerian Inter-Religious Council

His Grace Most Rev. Dr. John Onaiyekan, President of Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN)/Catholic Archbishop of Abuja/Co-Chair, Nigerian Inter-Religious Council

Hon. Minister of Information and Communications

Hon. Minister of Culture, Tourism and National Orientation

Guests of honour:  
His Excellency, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Director-General, National Broadcasting Commission, Abuja

Chairman, Broadcasting Organizations of Nigeria (BON)

President, African Union of Broadcasters

Chairman, Senate Committee on Information and Media

Chairman, House Committee on Media and Public Affairs
Chairman, House Committee on Information and National Orientation

Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, Secretary-General, Nigerian Inter-Religious Council/Vice-Chancellor, University of Ilorin

Engr. Samuel L. S. Salifu, General Secretary, Christian Association of Nigeria, Abuja, Nigeria

Prof. Ibrahim A. Mukoshy, Executive Secretary, National Mosque, Abuja

14:30 - 16:00  Plenary Session

Chair: Dr. Joseph Faniran, Director, Centre for the Study of African Culture and Communication, Catholic Institute of West Africa, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Keynote speaker: Prof. Stewart Hoover, University of Colorado, Boulder, USA

Topic: Media, Religion, Conflict, and Change: Markers for the New Century

Respondent: Dr. Walter Ihejirika, Centre for the Study of African Culture and Communication, Catholic Institute of West Africa/Federal University of Port-Harcourt, Nigeria

16:00  Tea Break

16:30 – 18:30  Plenary Panel

PANEL 1:  NEW RELIGIOUS MEDIA TRANSFORMING PUBLIC DEBATES

Chair: Professor Muslih Yahya, University of Jos

Mndende, Nokuzola, University of South Africa.  Old Tricks in the New Dispensation: Tricameral Nature of Religion in the South African Broadcasting Corporation

Larkin, Brian, Barnard College, Columbia University, USA.  Loudspeakers, Public Preaching and the Mixed Religious Soundscape of Nigeria

Adama, Hamadou, University of Ngaoundéré, Cameroon.  Islamic Communication and Media in Cameroon

Shoko, Tabona, University of Zimbabwe.  Religion and Media in a Pluralistic Context in Zimbabwe: Challenges and Constraints

20:00 – 21:30  Dinner in the grounds of the National Mosque
Friday, 11 July  Venue: Reiz Continental Hotel

9:00 – 10:30  Parallel Panels

PANEL 2: PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF MASS MEDIATED RELIGION I

Chair: Dr. Ronke Olademo, University of Ilorin, Nigeria

Merz, Johannes, SIL Togo-Benin. Mediating Transcendence: Popular Film, Visuality, and Religious Experience in West Africa

Brennan, Vicki, University of Vermont, USA. Mediating the “Voice of the Spirit”: Gospel Music, “Fast Capitalism” and the (Re)Production of Yoruba Christian Modernity


PANEL 3: PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF MASS MEDIATED RELIGION II

Chair: Professor Musa Gaiya, University of Jos, Nigeria

Omatta, Boniface Omachonu, Leuven University, Belgium. Constructing ATR through the Internet: Between Authenticity and Fakeness

Ajibade, Babson. Cross River University of Technology, Calabar, Nigeria. ‘This Delicious Manna from Heaven’: Religious Identity, Theology of Wealth and the Deprived Economy of Nigerian Church Videos

Lere, Pauline Mark, University of Jos, Nigeria. Media Coverage of Religious Conflict in Nigeria: the case of the Mohammed Cartoons

10:30 – 11:00  Tea/Coffee break

11:00 – 13:00  Parallel Panels

PANEL 4: RELIGION VIA PRINT MEDIA

Chair: Dr. Lateef Oladimeji, Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin, Nigeria

Danmole, Hakeem O., University of Ilorin, Nigeria. Transforming Islam through the Print Media: A Case Study of Friday Sermons in South-Western Nigeria Newspapers 1960 – 2005

Ojo, Matthews A. Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. Local and Global Perspectives of Nigerian Press Reportage of Religion

Gaiya, Musa A. B. University of Jos, Nigeria. Religion in Popular Newspapers in Nigeria since 1980

Mwinyihaji, Esha Faki, Maseno University, Kenya. “Sharing the National Cake”: Kenyan Muslim Sensitization through Media
PANEL 5: RISE OF RELIGIOUS VIDEO-FILMS

Chair: Dr. Charmaine Pereira, Initiative for Women’s Studies in Nigeria (IWSN), Abuja

Yusuf, Bilkisu, Citizen Communications, Kaduna, Nigeria. Impact of Islamic Revival on Hausa Home Video Industry

Dipio, Dominica, Makerere University, Uganda. Religion and Gender in Contemporary African Popular Film

Alabi, Adetayo. University of Mississippi, USA. Religions in Nigerian Drama and Nollywood

Olaiya, Kolawole, Hampden–Sydney College, Virginia, USA. Commodifying the “Enigmatic” and the “Uncanny”: Representations of Disabilities in Nollywood

13:00 – 15:00 Lunch in the grounds of the National Christian Centre

15:00 - 17:00 Parallel Panels

PANEL 6: RELIGIOUS APPROPRIATIONS OF ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Chair: Dr. Bolaji Bateye, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

Laguda, Danoye Oguntola, Lagos State University, Nigeria. Traditional Healing and the Media in Lagos, Nigeria

Fortner, Robert S., Media Research Institute, USA. The Impacts of Technological Adoption and Religious Radio Programming on Information Flow and Communication Patterns in Eastern Africa

Haron, Muhammed, University of Botswana. Cape Town’s The Voice of the Cape: Profiling a ‘Proudly South African Product’

Savadogo, Mathias, Université de Cocody, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire. Radio Espoir, Al-Bayane, Fréquence Vie: trois radios confessionnelles à l’assaut des croyants d’Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire)

PANEL 7: ETHNOGRAPHIES AND HISTORIES OF NIGERIAN NEW RELIGIOUS MEDIA I

Chair: Asma’u Joda, Centre for Women and Adolescent Empowerment, Yola, Nigeria


Danfulani, Chikas, University of Jos, Nigeria. Women’s Voices and Public Participation through the Media: a Case Study of the Total Woman Foundation of Jos

Julius-Adeoye, ‘Rantimi Jays, Redeemer’s University, Ogun State, Nigeria. Nigerian Television Content, Intrusion, Incursion and the Question of Religious Sensitization
PANEL 8: ETHNOGRAPHIES AND HISTORIES OF NIGERIAN NEW RELIGIOUS MEDIA II

Chair: Dr. Sabo Bako, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria

Danfulani, Umar, University of Jos, Nigeria. Sheikh Isma’il Idris, the Yan Izala and their Appropriation of the Media.

Owoeye, S. A., Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. Deeper Life Bible Church and Evangelism through Satellite and Internet

Adeniyi, M.O., Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. Muslim Preachers in Nigerian Electronic Media: Osun State Broadcasting Corporation as a Case Study

17:00 – 17:30 Tea Break
17:30 – 20:00 Parallel Panels

PANEL 9: PROSELYTIZING DYNAMICS OF NEW MEDIA

Chair: Prof. Muhammad Sani Umar, Northwestern University, USA

Oladimeji, Lateef, Al Hikmah University, Ilorin, Nigeria. An Appraisal of Da’wah through Electronic Media among Muslims in Nigeria

Yahya, Muslih Tayo, University of Jos, Nigeria. ICT and Islamic/Christian Proselytization: An Examination of Objectives and Approaches.

Adetona, Lateef Mobolaji, Lagos State University, Nigeria. Islamic and Christian Proselytization through Television Stations in Contemporary Lagos

Howard, Steve, Ohio University, USA, Media for Spiritual Transformation: the Campaigns of Sudan’s Republican Brotherhood

Fogue Kuate, Francis Arsène, University of Ngaoundéré, Cameroon. Evangelization through Media in Muslim communities: A Case Study of Sawtu Linjiila in Northern Cameroon from 1960 to 2003


PANEL 10. SOCIAL IMPACT OF NEW MEDIA

Chair: Dr. Walter Ihejirika, Centre for the Study of African Culture and Communication, Catholic Institute of West Africa/Federal University of Port-Harcourt, Nigeria

Yunusa, Mohammed-Bello, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria. Media Images of Islamic Pupils in Nigeria

Casey, Conerly, American University of Kuwait. Mediated Emotion: Media, Emotion and Religious Identification in Kano, Nigeria
Lateju, Fola T. Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. The Religio-Cultural Impact of Some Selected Islamic Drama and Music Videos on Yoruba Muslims

Kinanee, Joseph B, R/S College of Education, Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Attitudes of Youths towards Religious Media as Tool for Conflict Resolution in Niger Delta, Nigeria

Inko-Tariah, Doris C., Impact of New Media on Membership of Pentecostal Churches in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria

Adeyi, Ezekiel Major, University of Jos, Nigeria. The Mass Media and Religious Practice in Plateau State, Nigeria

Saturday, 12 July

Venue: Sheraton Hotel, Ballroom

8:00 – 9:00 Plenary Session

Chair: Prof. Robert White, SJ, St. Augustine, University, Nwanza, Tanzania

Theme: Reflections on the Study of Media and Religion

Keynote speakers: Prof. Matthews Ojo, Dept. of Religious Studies, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

Dr. Muhammed Haron, Dept. of Religious Studies, University of Botswana

9:00-10:30 Plenary Panel

PANEL 11: POLITICS AND POLICIES OF NIGERIA’S NEW RELIGIOUS MEDIA

Chair: Dr. Oguntola Danoye Laguda, Lagos State University, Nigeria

Alhassan, Abubakar, Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria/University of Florida, USA. Not Lost in Translation and No Subtitle: Global Pan-Islamism, Al-Jazeera Satellite Broadcast, and Nigeria’s Non-Arabic Speaking Audience

Ukah, Asonzeh, Bayreuth University, Germany. Banishing Miracles: Politics and Policies of Religious Broadcasting in Nigeria

Bako, Sabo, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria. Broadcasting and Divinity: How Radio Nigeria Kaduna emerged to be the most religiously influential media in Nigeria and West Africa
10:30  Closing of Academic Conference

Chair:  Mrs. Eugenia Abu, Manager, News, Nigeria Television Authority (NTA)
        Headquarters Abuja

Rapporteurs:  Prof. Mirjam de Bruijn, African Studies Centre, Leiden, the Netherlands
              Dr. Jibrin Ibrahim, Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), Abuja

11:00 – 11:30  Coffee/tea break

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PUBLIC FORUM

11:30 – 13:30  Opening Ceremony

Welcome:  Prof. Ibrahim A. Mukoshy, Executive Secretary, National Mosque, Abuja

Guests of honour:  Director-General, National Broadcasting Commission, Abuja

Roundtable 1:  Representing Religion in a Mass-mediated Age: New Voices, New Debates

Chair:  Prof. Umar Danfulani, University of Jos

Participants:  Rev. Dr. Olufemi O. Oluniyi, Editorial Board Chairman,
               National Mirror Newspapers, Lagos

                        Is’haq Modibbo Kawu, Editor, Africa Editor/Columnist, Media Trust, Abuja
                        Bilkisu Yusuf, Citizen Communications, Kaduna, Nigeria
                        Bilqees Oladimeji, Federal Information Centre, Kwara State/FOMWAN
                        Dr. Lateef Oladimeji, Muslim Media Watch Group/Al-Hikmah University,
                        Ilorin
                        Pastor Dr. James Wuye, Co-Executive, Interfaith Mediation Centre, Kaduna
                        Imam Dr. Muhammad Nurayn Ashafa, Co-Executive, Interfaith Mediation
                        Centre, Kaduna
                        Dr. Olawale Ismail, Conflict, Security and Development Group, King’s College, London, UK
13:30 – 14:30 Lunch Sheraton Ballroom

14:30 – 16:00 Roundtable 2: Balancing Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Religion: Policy Issues for Changing Media Landscapes

Chair: Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, Secretary-General, Nigerian Inter-Religious Council/Vice-Chancellor, University of Ilorin

Participants: Dr. Samuel Amadi, Centre for Public Policy and Research, Abuja

Sir Ben Assorow, Pan-African Episcopal Committee for Social Communications, SECAM, Accra, Ghana

Dr. Patrick Alumuku, Social Communications, Catholic Archdiocese of Abuja

Dr. Nokuzola Mndende, University of South Africa/Icamagu Institute

Dr. Asonzeh Ukah, University of Bayreuth, Germany

Prof. Monroe Price, Center for Global Communication Studies, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, USA

16:00 – 16:30 Tea Break

16:30 – 17:00 Closing Ceremony

Chair: Dr. Tom Adaba, former Director-General of National Broadcasting Commission (NBC)/Executive Chairman, TRIMM Communications LTD

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CONFERENCE STAFF
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9. Asma’u Joda
10. Titi Ogiri
11. Charles Anyanwu
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13. Solomon Omai
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15. Francis Agbo
16. Scholastica Igboachu
17. Ehi Ehimhem
18. Dr. Lateef Oladimeji

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- Holy Rosary Parish, Abuja
- Broadcasting Organizations of Nigeria
- Federal Capital Territory, Pilgrims Board
- Prof. David Westerlund, Söderton University, Sweden
- Department for the Study of Religion, Bayreuth University, Germany