

CURRICULUM VITAE

OF

ALBERT KAFUI WUAKU

(Associate Professor of Ethnography and African / African Diaspora Religions)

Contact Information:

Office: RM 309A, Department of Religious Studies in the School of International and Public Affairs
Florida International University, Miami, Florida 33199, 11200 SW 8th Street, University Park Campus

Tel. 305 348 0112 (Office)

Email: wuakua@fiu.edu

EDUCATION

PhD	University of Toronto	Rel. Studs & Anthropology	2004
MA	McMaster University	Religious Studies	1995
BA Honors	University of Ghana	Religious Studies	1989
Certificate	University of Oslo (Norway)	Peace and Conflict Studies	1993

FULL-TIME ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Fla. Int. Univ.	Associate Professor	Rel. Studies	Sept 2013-Present
Fla. Int. Univ.	Assistant Professor	Rel. Studies	August 2006-Sept 2013
Austin-Peay State University	Visiting Asst. Professor	African/African-American Studies Sociology/Anthropology (joint)	Jan 2004-May 2006

Teaching Interests: World Religions, Religion: Analysis and Interpretation, Religion in Africa, African Diaspora Religions, Ethnography, Sociological and Anthropological Approaches to Religion, Religious Globalization, Religion and Health in Africa and the African Diaspora, Religion in African Migrants' Lives., Religion and Politics in Africa and its Diaspora

Research Interests: Religion and Migration involving African and African Diasporic Populations, Religion and Health in Rural Ghana, African Agency in the Global Spread of Religion, Ghanaian worshippers of Asian Religions.

PUBLICATIONS IN DISCIPLINE

Book

Wuaku, Albert K. *Hindu Gods in West Africa: Ghanaian Devotees of Shiva and Krishna*. E.J. Brill (July 2013)

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Wuaku, Albert K. "Hinduizing from Above, Indigenizing from Below: Localizing Krishna Rituals in Ghana." *Journal of Religion in Africa* 39 (2009): 1-26.

Wuaku, Albert K. "Selling Krishna in Ghana's Religious Market: proselytizing Strategies of the Sri Radha Govinda Temple Community of Ghana". *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, Vol 30, Issue.2 (2012): 335-357.

Wuaku, Albert K. "Using Mata Durga in Ghana." *Nova Religio, The Journal of New Religious Movements*. (in press—to be divided and published in two separate issues.)

Wuaku, Albert K. "Witches and Juju Men in Toronto: Translocating West African Witchcraft Modernities and Occult Economies into Canada. *Numen: International Review for the History of Religions*. (in press)

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

Wuaku, Albert K. "Who Cares About Haiti Anyway?" (case and commentary) in *Christian Ethics: A Case Method Approach*, Laura Stivers, Christine Gudorf and James Martin Schram, Eds. Orbis Books, 2012. Pp. 109-115.

Wuaku, Albert K. "Folk Beliefs about Spiritual Power and Hinduism in Ghana," in *African Traditions in the Study of Religion in Africa: Emerging Trends, Indigenous spirituality, and the Interface with Other World Religions*. (Essays in Honor of Jacob Olupona). Afe Adogame, Bayete and Ezra Chitando, Eds. Ashgate, 2012. Pp. 239-258.

Wuaku, Albert K. "From South to South: An Analysis of the Origins of Ghana's Hinduism." *New Dynamics of Religious Globalization*. Afe Adogame and Shanker, Eds. E. J. Brill. 2013

PRESENTED PAPERS AND LECTURES

"Teaching African Diaspora Religions on American University Campuses" (Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion National Meeting, Baltimore, November 2013).

"The Tenure and Non Tenure Systems through a personal experience" (Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion National Meeting, Baltimore, November 2013).

"Halouba's Struggles: Haitian Migrants and Vodou Practice in Miami" (Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion National Meeting, Chicago November 2012)

"Sakawa: Using the Internet to Bewitch in Ghana" (Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion National Meeting, San Francisco, and November 2011).

“Reworking African Religious Discourse in the Caribbean Religious Field: God, Gods and Personhood in Haitian Voodoo.” Annual Symposium on the Caribbean World, Bloomsburg University (PA), May 2010.

“The Concept of the Person in Yoruba Religion: An analysis of the Epistemological Foundation of the Medical Practices of Afro-Cuban Santeria,” African Indigenous Knowledge Initiative Lecture Series, Africana Studies Department, University of Miami, November 2008.

“Going Home: Doing Field research as Insider/Outsider in Ghana’s Religious Field.” Annual Qualitative Research Conference, Nova South Eastern University, FT Lauderdale, Florida, January 2011).

“The Secret Mirror in ‘India-Africa’: Witchcraft Beliefs and Juju Men in Toronto.” American Academy of Religion National Meeting, Montreal, November 2009.

“Revamping Indigenous Religious Beliefs and Practices within Hindu Sacred Spaces in Ghana.” American Academy of Religion Meeting, Chicago, November, 2008.

“Drawing on Maa Durga for the Strength to Go On: Global Inflows and Local Appropriations in Ghana.” American Academy of Religion Southeastern Regional Meeting, Atlanta, March 2008).

“On Shiva Worship, Sexual Morality, and the HIV/AIDS Crisis in Ghana.” Conference on African Cultures and Development, Florida International University, Biscayne Bay Campus, September 2007.

“I Conjure You up by the Powers of India, Appear Before my Eyes: Constructing Images of India and Producing Hindu Spiritual Power in Popular Ghanaian Religious Discourse.” American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature National Meeting, Washington D.C. ,November 2006.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Book

Mambos, Houngans and Community Health in the Diaspora: Voodoo’s Role in Community Re-grouping and Dispensation of Health among Haitian Immigrants in Miami. (Research completed, write up is ongoing) .

Articles

“On Shiva Worship, Discourse on Sexual Morality, and the HIV/Aids Crisis in Ghana.”

“Hinduism is Ghanaian. We get to the roots of our own religions through Hindu practices: Rediscovering Self Through the Practice of Otherness.”

“Performing Identity and Producing Health in the Context of Voodoo: The Halouba Hounfo of Little Haiti.”

“Witches and Juju Men in Toronto: Translocating West African Witchcraft Modernities and Occult Economies into Canada.

FUNDED RESEARCH

Albert K. Wuaku. "Mambos, Houngans and Community Health in the Diaspora: Voudou's Role in Community Re-grouping and Dispensation of Health among Haitian Immigrants in Miami." 2011-2012. The American Academy of Religion Independent Research Award, \$3000 (2012)
The Broad Research Fellowship, SIPA, FIU , \$1000 (Summer 2011)

Albert K. Wuaku, Joyce Avotri Wuaku, and Eileen Smith, Co-PIs. " Religion, Medicine, and Healing in the Volta Region of Ghana." 2010-2011. Chancellor's Faculty Research and Development Grant, Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL \$10,000. \$3,333 each P.I. , Summer 2011.

Albert K. Wuaku., "Religious Discourse, Attitudes Towards Sex and the HIV/AIDS Crisis in Ghana." FIU Faculty Research Award, \$5000, Summer 2008.

PROFESSIONAL HONORS, PRIZES, FELLOWSHIPS

Plenary Speaker at the November 2012 annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Chicago (no application process—based on reputation). Title of paper "Halouba's Struggles: Haitian Migrants and Vodou Practice in Miami"

Recipient of The American Academy of Religion Independent Research Award, \$3000 (2012)
. Title of Project- "Mambos, Houngans and Community Health in the Diaspora: Voudou's Role in Community Re-grouping and Dispensation of Health among Haitian Immigrants in Miami."

OFFICES HELD IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Steering Committee, African Religions Group of the American Academy of Religion (2010 to present).

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Created a program under which the most accomplished BA graduates of the University of Ghana in Religious Studies are selected by faculty there and referred to the FIU Department of Religious Studies for the M.A. These graduate students have been among the best in the department over the last 6 years. They are all currently enrolled in PhD programs in reputable universities in Germany (Bayreuth University), Scotland (University of Edinburg), New Zealand (Victoria University of Wellington)

Member, African Studies Association -2006 to present

Member, American Anthropological Association- 2006 to present

Member, Council on International Educational Exchange - 2010 to present

Participant in the International Faculty Development Seminar, organized by the Council on International Educational Exchange (South Africa and Botswana, from May 3- June 16 2010).