

## Contributors

**Akosua Adomako Ampofo** is Professor Emerita of African and Gender Studies at the Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy, University of Ghana, where she served as the founding Director from 2005 to 2010. From 2010 to 2015, she was the Director of the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana. She is the founding vice-president and immediate past president of the African Studies Association of Africa and a Fellow of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences. Her work examines the politics of knowledge (production), gender relations and masculinities. Ampofo integrates critical theory and artistic expression to advocate for marginalised voices. In 2022, she co-produced, with Kate Skinner, the award-winning documentary *When Women Speak*, directed by Aseye Tamakloe. In 2024, she established *715House Productions* with her daughter, Akosua-Asamoabea Ampofo, to contribute to reshaping narratives about Africa. A lifelong learner, she is pursuing a course in the Business of Entertainment at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

**Ayodeji Felix Soyemi** is a master's student in the Department of Philosophy at the Central European University, Vienna, Austria. His research focuses on the intersection of ethics and technology, specifically, the ethics of artificial intelligence, AI policy and data governance. He is also deeply interested in discussions surrounding human rights, gender and sexuality studies. Beyond his research interests, Soyemi serves as a member of the editorial board of *Ìjíròrò*, an African students' journal of philosophy. Additionally, he is a founding member of the *Ìjíròrò* Network of Young African Scholars.

**Bolaji Olaronke Akanni** holds bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees in Philosophy from Olabisi Onabanjo University and the University of Ibadan in Nigeria, respectively. Akanni is passionate about academic research, mentorship, collaboration and networking. She was a beneficiary of the ARUA Scape Project: Small Grant Fellowship for Early Career Researchers (2022–

2024) with Travel Grants to Makerere University in Uganda and Moi University in Kenya. Akanni has attended and presented papers at both local and international conferences. She is a member of African Feminist Initiatives, the League of African Women Philosophers, the Development Studies Association and the Philosophy Association of Nigeria. Akanni has made significant contributions to the field through publications and co-authored papers. She is fellow at the Centre for Advanced Studies and Social Sciences, Philosophising in a Globalised World, University of Hildesheim, Germany. Her research areas include African Philosophy, Ethics, Cultural and Gender Studies.

**Fulera Issaka-Toure** holds a PhD in Islamic Studies from the University of Bayreuth in Germany with a focus on Islam in Africa. She has carried out field research in Ghana and Germany and published in the areas of law, gender, Muslim women's citizen rights and gender-based violence. She is working on a book manuscript tentatively titled: *Islam, Law and Gender: The Contemporary State of Sharia Muslim Family Law in Postcolonial Ghana*. She is also a Senior Lecturer in the Department for the Study of Religions, at the University of Ghana.

**Helen Títlólá Olojede** is a lecturer and the Acting Head of the Department of Philosophy at the National Open University of Nigeria. Olojede works at the intersection of ethics, gender and African philosophy. She is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Global Value Inquiry in Germany, where her research focuses on recovering African women's contributions to philosophy. She has served on various committees both nationally and internationally and is the recipient of several research and travel grants, as well as awards for excellence.

**Janet Husunukpe** is a critical feminist urban scholar, architect and PhD candidate in Regional Planning at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where she holds a master's in Urban Planning and a graduate minor in Gender Relations in International Development. She also holds master's and bachelor's degrees in Architecture from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana. Her research focuses on urban

and spatial inequity, feminist political economy and community-based development. She examines how marginalised women navigate and contest exclusion and sustain households and urban economies. Her work argues for reimagining African urban futures grounded in care and reciprocity.

**Marie-Rose Tshite** is a peacebuilding advocate and PhD student in Political Science with a concentration in Feminist Comparative and International Politics at the University of Cincinnati. She has more than ten years of experience working on women's issues, youth civic-political participation and democracy. She is a Fulbright Scholar, a Young African Leaders Initiatives alumnus and the co-founder of the Congolese Youth Peace and Security (YPS) Coalition, for which she currently serves in the National Coordination of the DRC YPS Secretariat agenda in the DRC. She holds a bachelor's degree in International Relations and Diplomacy, an honours degree in African Politics and a master's degree in Women and Gender Studies.

**Mercy Amba Ewudziwa (Yamoah) Oduyoye** is a retired professor and feminist theologian who focuses on African women's theologies and theological anthropology. Her work addresses the role of religion in contributing to patriarchy and sexism and advocates for the embrace of African Indigenous cultures in theological work. She was the first African woman to earn a degree in Christian Theology (from the University of Ghana) in 1963. She has taught at Princeton Theological Seminary, Harvard University, the Union Theological Seminary, the University of Ibadan and the Trinity Theological Seminary, where, in 1999, she established the Institute of Women in Religion and Culture and became its first Director. From 1987 to 1994, she served as Deputy General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, the first African to hold this position. A pan-Africanist and ecumenist, in 1987 she led the formation of what became the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians, which promotes the visibility and publication of African women theologians.

**Ria Boss** is a Ghanaian-Burkinabé musician, songwriter and multidisciplinary creative whose work bridges neo-soul, jazz and R&B with themes of emotional

truth, womanhood and self-liberation. Emerging from Ghana's alternative music scene with her debut EP *Find Your Free* (2017), she has built a reputation for deeply personal storytelling, exemplified in her critically acclaimed live album *REMEMBER* (2022), which explores grief, loss and healing. Beyond music, she works across visual art and immersive performance and is an active community builder through initiatives supporting women creatives and independent music spaces. Her practice centres collaboration, vulnerability and creative freedom.

**Rukayat Atinuke Usman** is a doctoral candidate in Research and Public Policy in the Department of Sociology at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria and a doctoral fellow at the African Diaspora Research and Documentation Centre. She is also a Harry Frank Guggenheim fellow and was recently a visiting fellow at Sciences Po, Paris. Her thesis interrogates the migratory trajectories of internally displaced persons and people with ambivalent belongings. For about two years now, she has been an active member of the PhD Academy in the International Migration Research Network. She holds a master's degree in the Diaspora and Transnational Studies programme from the Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Her research interests broadly cover migration and health, border studies, digital humanities and identity politics. She has published works on these topics and participated in securing and executing grants sponsoring research on these themes.

**Sharon Adetutu Omotoso** is a feminist philosopher and gender and communication expert. She is a Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and an Associate Professor at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, where she heads the Women's Research and Documentation Centre. Omotoso is also a Research Associate with the Institute for the Future of Knowledge, University of Johannesburg, South Africa. Her works integrate the transdisciplinary fields of Gender Studies into African Politics, Political Communication and Higher Education Leadership. In these fields, she serves on editorial boards of scholarly journals and consults for international agencies, winning grants and developing new innovative concepts that contribute to debates for scholarship, activism and policy engagement.

**Titilope F. Ajayi** is a pracademic and current Senior Researcher at the Central Africa Observatory on Transnational Organised Crime, Institute for Security Studies-Africa. With a focus on Africa, her research and policy interests and expertise include gender/women and feminism; conflict, peace and security; civil society and social movements; and higher education. Her recent work includes scholarly and policy projects on civil society and security sector governance; women and violent extremism; humanitarianism; African social movements; women's and feminist approaches to norm change around gender violence; and transnational activism. With over 20 years of experience in international development, Ajayi has led and managed research and programmes in regional and international NGOs and consulted for international NGOs and other international organisations. She holds a PhD in International Affairs and is founder-convener of Doing a PhD in Africa, a community of scholars.

**Victoria Openif'Oluwa Akoleowo** is an African feminist philosopher at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, whose work addresses critical gaps in African and feminist thought. Her teaching and research interests span the fields of African philosophy, feminist philosophy and ethics. Her research is driven by a dual commitment: combating epistemic injustice against indigenous African knowledge and confronting the marginalisation of gender within those efforts. Through a trans-disciplinary approach, she explores the intersections of epistemic justice, identity, care ecologies and the transformative potential of African philosophies. She was a 2020 Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute of African Studies, University of Legon, Ghana on the Andrew Mellon's supranational "Decolonization, the Disciplines and the University" Project. She is currently a Research Fellow of the Institute of Global Value Inquiry's African Gender Equality Research Group where her research engages in an interrogation of African orature, the values it promotes and the power relations it reflects.