

Victoria Ogoegbunam Okoye

Department of Urban Studies & Planning, University of Sheffield, Western Bank S10 2TN Sheffield, UK

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EDUCATION

- 2017- Ph.D. Urban Studies & Planning, University of Sheffield (*expected: 2021*)
Dissertation: “Co-Producing Embodied Narratives of Black Youth Space-Making in Accra, Ghana”
Advisors: Dr. Paula Meth and Dr. Michele Lancione (Urban Studies & Planning)
- 2010 M.Sc. Urban Planning and Master of International Affairs, Columbia University
Thesis: “Bringing the Community In: Expanding the Space for Community Planning for Water Provision in Lagos, Nigeria”
Advisor: Dr. Elliott Sclar (Urban Planning)
- 2006 B.A. International Studies and B.J. Journalism (magna cum laude), University of Missouri
Ronald E. McNair Scholar, 2005-2006
Thesis: “Women’s Participation in Decision-Making in Nigeria, South Africa, and Tunisia”
Advisor: Dr. Tola Olu Pierce (Sociology and Women’s and Gender Studies)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Academic Writing

- (2020) (*Accepted, under revision*) Okoye, Victoria. “Coloniality and the fabrication of urban modernity in Kumasi, Ghana.” *Journal of African Cultural Studies*.
- (2020) (*Accepted, under revision*) Okoye, Victoria. “Building Black Outer Spaces of Relation and Care.” *Transactions of the Institute British Geographers, Special Intervention*.

Book Chapters

- (2021) Okoye, Victoria. “Everyday spatial practices and production of urban commons in Accra, Ghana.” *DIY in African Cities*. London: Zed Books.

Other Publications

- (2021) (*In press*) Okoye, Victoria and Yussif Larry Aminu. “Planning, Community Spaces, and Youth Urban Futures, from Accra.” *Thinking Global Urbanism: Essays on the City and its Future* (eds.) Michele Lancione and Colin McFarlane. London: Routledge.
- 2020 Okoye, Victoria. *Street Vendor Exclusion in ‘Modern’ Market Planning: A Case Study from Kumasi, Ghana*. WIEGO Working Paper. Manchester: WIEGO (Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing).
- 2019 Okoye, Victoria and Spread-Out Initiative NGO. *Nima Space Artists: A Collection of Stories and Poems Written and Performed by Spread-Out Initiative NGO Students Who Imagined Improvements for Nima’s Public Spaces*. Accra, Ghana: Trinity Printing.

Guest Editor

- (2022) *Field: Journal*, “Embodying an Anti-Racist Architecture.” (Issue 8, Guest Editor with Catalina Mejia Moreno and Carolyn Butterworth, Sheffield School of Architecture)

HONORS, GRANTS & AWARDS

- 2020 International Journal for Urban and Regional Research (IJURR) Foundation Studentship
- 2019 University of Sheffield, Postgraduate Research Experience Programme Fieldwork Grant
- 2019 American Planning Association International Division, Student Research Grant

- 2019 Postcolonial Studies Association, Student Research Grant
- 2018 Royal Geographical Society, Participatory Geographies Travel Grant
- 2017 University of Sheffield Faculty of Social Sciences Doctoral Scholarship
- 2010 Columbia University, GSAPP Masters Scholarship
- 2009 Columbia University, SIPA Departmental Research Masters Scholarship

PRESENTATIONS, TALKS & PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Workshop & Session Organizing

- 2021 Sheffield Consultative Forum on Black Urbanism (University of Sheffield)
- 2021 “Global Black Geographies: Racialized Spaces, Black Space-Making & Theorizing in Africa and African Diaspora Contexts” paper session *American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting*
- 2018 Sheffield School of Architecture *Manifesto/s PhD Conference & Workshop* (University of Sheffield)

Paper Presentations

- 2019 “Theorizing from Black Global Souths: Young People’s Space-making Practices in Accra, Ghana.” *Frontiers of the Urban: Thinking Concepts and Practices Globally* (University College London)
- 2019 “Young People’s Embodied Experiences of Public Space: Learning from Everyday Life in Nima.” *Ghana Studies Association Triennial Conference* (University of Ghana)
- 2018 Roundtable: “Margins.” *Speculative Infrastructures and Cities-in-the-Making Workshop* (University of Sheffield)
- 2018 “Building a Decolonial Feminist Research Framework.” *Sheffield School of Architecture Manifesto/s PhD Conference* (University of Sheffield)
- 2018 “Making Way for ‘Modern’ Markets: Street Vendor Exclusion in Local Planning in Kumasi, Ghana.” *African Centre for Cities International Urban Conference* (University of Cape Town)
- 2017 “Appropriation as Spatial Practice: Learnings from Everyday Life.” *The Politics and Practices of DIY Urbanism in African Cities Workshop* (Nordic Africa Institute)
- 2017 Roundtable: “Open City: Conversation on Inclusion and Exclusion in African Cities” *European Conference on African Studies* (University of Basel)
- 2016 Plenary: “Financing Informal Settlement/Slum Upgrading for Sustainable Livelihoods and Inclusive Economic Growth” *Habitat III Meeting on Informal Settlements* (Pretoria, South Africa)
- 2014 “Making Social Spaces: Exploring Everyday Life in Accra, Ghana.” *A Roadmap Towards Sustainable Cities in the MENA Region* (American University of Beirut)

Public Talks & Exhibitions

- 2020 “Race and Modern Architecture.” Architecture Foundation Book Week. Online event
- 2019 Nima Space Artists Community Event (Site-Specific Street Exhibition, Storytelling, Play). Accra, Ghana
- 2018 “Other City Narratives.” The Sooner Now. Berlin, Germany
- 2018 “Talk About Change: Writing As Resistance” Festival of the Mind, Sheffield, UK
- 2017 “More Aphrike #6 Shifting Spaces: Accra, Ghana” Salon. M.Bassy. Hamburg, Germany
- 2017 [Akwaaba Photo: Youth Photography Exhibition](#). Jamestown Cafe, Accra, Ghana
- 2014 Children’s Pop-Up Play Space. Chale Wote Street Art Festival. Accra, Ghana

Public Scholarship

- 2020 [“Modernity Means Forgetting: The Mbari Igbo Tradition.”](#) Common Native
- 2019 [“Becoming Local: \(Hi\)Stories of Nigerians in Accra.”](#) The Urban History Association Blog
- 2016 [“How Can We Support Economic Empowerment for Women in Nigeria?”](#) The Guardian
- 2016 [“What the Rest of Accra Can Learn from Jamestown.”](#) Open City Lagos

- 2015 [“The Sounds of Street Hustle: Accra’s Kwame Nkrumah Avenue.”](#) MIT CoLab Radio
- 2012 [“Whose city is it, anyway?”](#) UrbanAfrica.net
- 2010 [AfricanUrbanism.net](#) (world-recognized blog on urbanism and West African cities)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Tutor

- 2021 Trajectories in Urban Design Practice (masters), School of Architecture, University of Sheffield
- 2020 Urban Design Thesis (masters), School of Architecture, University of Sheffield
- 2018, 19 Architecture Writing Workshop (undergraduate), Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana

Teaching Assistant

- 2020 Critical Spatial Theory (masters), School of Architecture, University of Sheffield
- 2017-19 Urban (Hi)Stories (undergraduate, masters), School of Architecture, University of Sheffield
- 2018 Urban Design Studio (masters), School of Architecture, University of Sheffield
- 2018 Principles of Research Design (masters), Methods Institute, University of Sheffield

Guest Lecturer

- 2020 “Sensory / Design Ethnography.” Design Research course (undergraduate), School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, Pennsylvania State University (USA)
- 2019 “Fieldwork: Architectural Methods in Accra, Ghana.” Architecture in the Global South course (undergraduate), School of Architecture, University of Limerick (Limerick, Ireland)
- 2018 “Modernity, Modernism, and Modern Accra.” Architecture and Urban Design as Global Practice course (undergraduate), School of Architecture, University of Manchester (UK)
- 2014 “Co-Creating Community Spaces: Learning from Citizen Place-Making: Real Estate Development course (undergraduate), Ashesi University (Berekuso, Ghana)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2020- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Committee, School of Architecture, University of Sheffield (UK)
- 2020 “Introducing Intersectionality & Design” Feminist School of Architecture Teach-Out (UK)
- 2019- Member, Spatial Humanities Research Group, University of Sheffield (UK)
- 2018- Co-Founder and Member, Feminisms Research Group, University of Sheffield (UK)
- 2018 Workshop Co-organizer, Decolonizing the Curriculum, University of Sheffield (UK)
- 2017-18 PhD Students Representative, Student-Staff Committee, University of Sheffield (Sheffield, UK)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2015-18 Urban Policies Specialist, WIEGO (Accra, Ghana)
- 2016 Organizer, “Gender-Aware Urbanism & Practice.” A Woman’s World Workshop (Lagos, Nigeria)
- 2011-14 Technical Advisor, USAID/Ghana Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Project (Accra, Ghana)
- 2011 Research Assistant, Accra Creative City Heritage Mapping Project (Accra, Ghana)
- 2009-10 Graduate Researcher, Columbia University Millennium Cities Initiative (Kaduna, Nigeria; Accra)
- 2009 Urban Planning Intern, Abuja Technology Village (Abuja, Nigeria)

ACADEMIC PEER REVIEWER

- 2020- *Journal for Planning Education, Journal of Architectural Education, Journal of African Cultural Studies*

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association of American Geographers, Lagos Studies Association, Ghana Studies Association