

Ayodele James Akinola, Ph.D.

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PROFILE

Communication scholar and educator with two doctorates and more than eight years of undergraduate teaching experience in digital communication, media studies, public speaking, technical and professional communication, and digital humanities. Instructor of record for face-to-face, online, and hybrid courses at American and Nigerian universities, with extensive experience using learning management systems and multimedia instructional tools. Research examines digital media discourse, social media interaction, online reviews and platform cultures, misinformation, and cultural representation in digital environments. Prepared to teach undergraduate courses in digital communication, information, and media beginning Fall 2026.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Digital Communication and Media | Communication Studies | Digital Humanities | Social Media and Online Discourse
| Media Ethics | Discourse Analysis and Pragmatics

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Rhetoric, Theory and Culture, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI, 2025

Dissertation: Digital Media and Cultural Representation of Tourist Imaginaries in Las Vegas Hotel and Casino Reviews

Ph.D., English (Discourse Analysis and Medical Pragmatics), University of Ibadan, Nigeria, 2017

M.A., English, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, 2013

B.Ed., Education and English, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, 2009

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Associate Faculty, Department of Communication, University of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN — *Fall 2025 – Present*

- Courses taught: Public Speaking (COMM 100); Mass Media Ethics (COMM 325); Strategic Communication and Communication Theory (COMM 535).
- Design syllabi, lectures, and assessments that connect communication theory to contemporary digital and social media practice.
- Guide students in analyzing media ethics cases involving digital platforms, misinformation, and emerging technologies.

Instructor of Record, Department of Humanities, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI — *Fall 2021 – Summer 2025*

- Courses taught: Technical and Professional Communication (HU3120); Online Public Speaking and Multimedia (HU2830); Rhetoric and Composition (UN1015), delivered on campus and fully online across fall, spring, and summer terms.
- Taught multimedia presentation, digital writing, and professional communication skills to undergraduates across STEM and humanities majors.
- Developed course materials, lesson plans, and syllabi in collaboration with course coordinators; managed grading, feedback, office hours, and course communication through the learning management system.
- Administered exams, maintained academic records, and participated in regular instructional meetings on grading standards and pedagogy.

Assistant Lecturer (Tenure Track), Department of English, Chrisland University, Abeokuta, Nigeria — *Sept 2018 – July 2021*

- Taught undergraduate courses in communication, digital humanities, and English studies, including Introduction to Digital Humanities, Digital Humanities Tools, Communication in English, Sociolinguistics, Research Methods, Pragmatics, Discourse Analysis, and Radio, Television, and Film Utilization for Effective Communication.
- Supervised undergraduate research projects and theses; coordinated departmental academic affairs and represented the department at university senate meetings.

COURSES PREPARED TO TEACH

Technical & Professional Writing, Rhetoric & Composition, Introduction to Digital Communication and Media; Social Media and Society; Media Ethics and Information Integrity; Digital Media Literacy; Communication Theories; Communication & Culture, Tourism Studies, Public Speaking and Multimedia Presentation; Digital Research Methods; Writing for Digital Media; Information, Technology, and Culture. Digital Humanities, Discourse Studies, Usability Studies

FUNDED RESEARCH AND DIGITAL MEDIA PROJECTS

- 2023** Co-Investigator, National Sensitization on Digital Humanities Scholarship Project, funded by the University of Lagos, University of Uyo, and Anchor University, Nigeria (ongoing).
- 2022** Collaborator, AI/Robot Composition Collaborative Teaching Project, sponsored by IDEAhub and the Tech Forward Education for the 21st Century Initiative, Michigan Technological University.
- 2021–22** Researcher and Contributor, “Bad Info” misinformation project, funded by a Michigan Humanities Grant.
- 2013–18** Communication and Outreach Coordinator, English Language Clinic Project, University of Ibadan, funded by the Postgraduate School.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Akinola, A. J. (2025). Book review of Mudavanhu, S. L., Mpofo, S., and Batisai, K. (Eds.), *Decolonising Media and Communication Studies Education in Sub-Saharan Africa* (Routledge, 2023). *African Studies Review*, 1–3. doi:10.1017/asr.2025.3
- Akinwotu, S. A., Akinola, A. J., and Adegbenro, S. A. (2025). Virtual vernaculars: Codemixing dynamics among Yoruba/English bilinguals on Facebook. *American Journal of Arts and Human Science*, 4(1), 50–68.
- Adegbenro, S. A., and Akinola, A. J. (2025). Public engagement and resistance in the Niger Delta through social media and rhetorical discourse. *American Journal of Interdisciplinary Research and Innovation*, 4(2), 53–61.
- Akinola, A. J. (2019). Pragmatics of musical rhetoric in the post-2015 elections in Nigeria. *Journal of Language and Education*, 5(3), 31–43.
- Akinola, A. J. (2018). Pragmatics of crisis-motivated humour in computer-mediated platforms in Nigeria. *Journal of Language and Education*, 4(3), 6–17.

Book Chapters

- Ope-Davies (Opeibi), T., Akinola, A. J., and Anowu, A. E. (2023). Initiating and sustaining a digital humanities laboratory in Nigeria. In U. Pawlicka-Deger and C. Thomson (Eds.), *Critical Infrastructure and Digital Humanities*. London: Routledge.
- Akinola, A. J. (2019). Pragmatic acting in doctor-aphasic interaction. In F. O. Egbokhare and A. B. Sunday (Eds.), *Contemporary Issues in Language Studies*. Ibadan: Scholarship Publishers.

Books

- Akinjobi, A., Akinola, A. J., Jega, T., and Neziyanya, C. (2023). *Extensive English for Primary Schools, Books 1–6*. Extension Publications Ltd.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Akinola, A. J., Adegbenro, S. A., and Oke, F. B. (2025). Promises, complaints, and cultural apologies in online travel reviews. *19th International Pragmatics Conference*, Brisbane, Australia, June 22–27.
- Akinola, A. J., Adegbenro, S. A., Onuh, F., and Ope-Davies, T. (2025). From colonial legacies to hyperreality: Cultural representation in global tourism through online reviews. *10th Global Digital Humanities Symposium*, Michigan State University, April 2–8.
- Akinola, A. J., Onuh, F., Adegbenro, S. A., Ogungbemi, O., and Ope-Davies, T. (2024). Rhetoric of empire: Semantic networks and colonial legacy in user reviews of themed hotels in Las Vegas. *Global Digital Humanities Symposium*, Michigan State University, March 22–23.
- Akinola, A. J., and Adegbenro, S. A. (2023). “So rude and ghetto to everyone”: Intersectionality and power asymmetries in online complaints. *Digital Humanities Association of Southern Africa Conference*, Nov 27 – Dec 1.

- Yotsukura, L. A., Akinola, A. J., St Onge, J., Thompson, W., and Dedeo, S. (2023). “Her behaviour was disgusting”: Emotion and morality in online complaint discourse. *18th International Pragmatics Conference*, Brussels, Belgium, July 9–14.
- Akinola, A. J. (2023). Digital justice: Vernacular of complaints on police and criminal allegations in the United States. *Central States Communication Association Conference*, Missouri, March 29 – April 1.
- Akinola, A. J. (2022). Debugging misinformation on climate change: A study of UNESCO hashtags. *Global Digital Humanities Symposium*, Michigan State University, March 23–25.
- Akinola, A. J. (2021). Contagion and mediated complaints: Emotional expression in digital cultures. *1st International Conference of the Digital Humanities Association of Nigeria*, May 13–14.
- Akinola, A. J. (2020). Digital humanities and the discursive complexities of colonial “letterature.” *Global Digital Humanities Symposium*, Michigan State University, March 26–27.
- Akinola, A. J., Agunbiade, M. R., and Kandeh, D. (2019). The role of digital media in socio-political engagements in Africa. *Digital Humanities Conference (ADHO)*, Utrecht, The Netherlands, July 9–12.
- Akinola, A. J. (2019). Complexities of fabricated contents on digital media: A perspective from Nigeria. *Digital Humanities – the Perspective of Africa Workshop*, Lorentz Center, Leiden, The Netherlands, July 1–5.
- Akinola, A. J. (2017). Pragmatics of crisis-mediated humour among social media users in Nigeria. *15th International Pragmatics Conference*, Belfast, Northern Ireland, July 16–21.

INVITED AND GUEST PRESENTATIONS

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| 2026 | Digital media and cultural representation of tourist imaginaries in online reviews. University of Lethbridge, Canada, March 18. |
| 2023 | Reimagination of antiquity in Babafemi Osofisan’s Greek adaptations: A study of power structures and social complaint. Memorial University, St. John’s, Newfoundland, Canada. |
| 2023 | Advanced application of digital tools and technologies in the humanities. Institute of Digital Humanities, Anchor University, Lagos, Nigeria. |
| 2023 | Application of digital tools and technologies in the humanities. Digital Humanities Unit, University of Uyo, Nigeria. |
| 2020 | Building new global DH communities: Africa and beyond. Africa Forum at DH2020, Network for Digital Humanities in Africa. |

PROFESSIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Executive Director, American Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ACIR) — *Dec 2025 – Present*

- Lead a nonprofit organization advancing interdisciplinary engagement and public dialogue through conferences, workshops, and community programs; oversee communications, partnerships, and web presence.

Senior Program Officer, Center for Digital Humanities, University of Lagos, Nigeria — *Mar 2019 – June 2021*

- Managed six digital humanities programs; provided data analysis and digital tools support to faculty and researchers; organized workshops and conferences; co-prepared grant proposals; and promoted the center through web, social media, and newsletter channels.

Communication and Outreach Coordinator, English Language Clinic Programs, University of Ibadan, Nigeria — *Mar 2013 – Feb 2018*

- Developed communication strategies reaching about 800 participants across the public, academia, and local communities; created content, organized events, and supported research, instruction, and grant writing.

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

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| 2025 | Finishing Fellowship Award, Michigan Technological University. |
| 2024 | Institute for Policy, Ethics, and Culture (IPEC) Graduate Student Research Grant, Michigan Tech (\$3,642). |
| 2024 | Travel Fellowship, Global Digital Humanities Symposium, Michigan State University. |
| 2023 | Conference and Travel Fellowship, 18th International Pragmatics Conference, Brussels, Belgium (\$4,500). |
| 2023 | Transformational Leadership Award, African Students Organization, Michigan Tech. |

- 2022** NEH Workshop Participation Scholarship, Foundations and Applications of Humanities Analytics Institute, Santa Fe Institute, New Mexico (\$3,000).
- 2020** Travel Fellowship, Global Digital Humanities Symposium, Michigan State University (\$1,300).
- 2019** Workshop Award, Digital Humanities – the Perspective of Africa, Lorentz Center, Leiden, The Netherlands (\$3,000).
- 2019** Conference and Travel Fellowship, Digital Humanities Conference (ADHO), Utrecht, The Netherlands (\$1,800).

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- 2022** Foundations and Applications of Humanities Analytics, Santa Fe Institute, New Mexico.
- 2022** Python for Humanists, Texas A&M University.
- 2022** Visualization for Python, Michigan Technological University.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2023–** Peer Reviewer, *International Journal of Hospitality Management*.
- 2022–25** Peer Reviewer, *Digital Studies/Le champ numérique; Visual Communication; la revue Afrique(s) en Mouvement*.
- 2021–25** Planning Committee Member and Reviewer, Global Digital Humanities Symposia, Michigan State University.
- 2021–25** Program Committee Member, International Conference of the Digital Humanities Association of Nigeria.
- 2020–22** Program Committee Member, LREC First Workshop on Resources for African Indigenous Languages (RAIL).
- 2018–25** Review Editor, *Research in Pragmatics*.
- 2019–** Public Relations Officer, Digital Humanities Association of Nigeria (DHAN).
- 2022–23** President, African Students Organization, Michigan Technological University.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

National Communication Association (NCA); Association for Computers and the Humanities (ACH); Central States Communication Association (CSCA); Modern Language Association (MLA); International Pragmatics Association (IPrA).