

**Faculty Resume**  
**Elias Kifon Bongmba**  
**Department of Religion, Rice University**

**I. PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Name Elias Kifon Bongmba

Office Address Department of Religion -MS 15  
Rice University, P.O. Box  
1892 Houston TX, 77251-1892  
Tel. (713) 348-2759

**II. EDUCATION**

B.A. Sioux Falls College (cum laude) Sioux Falls, South  
Dakota, 1985-1987

M. Div. North American Baptist Seminary Sioux Falls, South  
Dakota, 1987-1989

M.A. University of Iowa  
Iowa City, Iowa, 1989-1991

Ph. D. University of Denver and The Iliff School of Theology  
Denver, Colorado 1991-1995

DTheo h.c. Lund University, 2018

**III. TEACHING, PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & ORGANIZATIONS**

2008- Harry and Hazel Chavanne chair in Christian Theology

2007- Professor of Religious Studies

2002-2007 Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Rice University

1995-2002 Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Rice University

1994-1995 Adjunct Faculty, University of Denver, CORE Curriculum

1995 Adjunct Faculty, Red Rocks Community College

1992-1994 Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Denver

1992 Graduate Teaching Assistant, The Iliff School of Theology

1989-1990 Pastor, Olds United Church of Christ, Olds Iowa

1990-1991 Pastor, Amish Circuit, Iowa Conference, UMC

1992-1995 Pastor, The Little Church in the Pines, Boulder, Colorado

1972-1984 Pastor, Cameroon Baptist Convention Churches from

1978-1980 Public School Teacher in Gongola State of Nigeria

#### **IV. PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

Member, Steering committee African Diaspora Religions (AAR) 2013-

Member, AAR International Dissertation Research Grant 2012-

African Studies Association (ASA)

African Association for the Study of Religion

President of the African Association for the Study of religion 2010-Present

International Bonheoffer Society 1996-2002

Caribbean Philosophical Association

Society for African Philosophers of North America 1995-2005

North American Association for Study of Religion

Bonheoffer Steering Committee of the AAR 1996-2002

Member of the Academic Committee International Association of the History of Religions, XVIII Quinquennial Congress, Academic Committee, Durban, South Africa, 1998- August 2000.

International Connections Committee of the American Academy of Religion 2003-2005

North American Association of Cameroon Scholars

African Religion/Ifa Cultural Center, Board of Directors, 1995-1997

*Sophia: International Journal for Philosophy of Religion, Metaphysical Theology, and Ethics*, International Editorial Advisory Board

Managing Editor, *Religious Studies Review* 2005-Present

Managing Editor, *Bulletin of the Counsel of the Society for the Study of Religion*. 2005-2009

#### **V. AREA OF TEACHING**

*Primary:* African and African Diaspora Religions; African Christianity/Theology; Global Christianity; Pentecostalism

Hermeneutics and Theology Contemporary Theology and Ethics

*Secondary:* 19th Century Theology and Philosophy of Religion, African Studies: Philosophy/Ethics

#### **VI. HONORS**

1985-1987 Dean's List, Sioux Falls College

1986 National Alpha Chi

1987 Purple Feather Award, Sioux Falls College

1988 Dorothy Powell Award for Excellence in Heritage and Thought, North American Baptist Seminary

1991-1992, Louis B. Iliff Fellowship, Iliff School of Theology 1998-1999  
1996-1997, Outstanding Faculty Associate Wiess College, Rice University  
2001 Mosle Research Award  
2006-2007 Outstanding Faculty Associate, Wiess College, Rice University  
2007 Frantz Fanon Prize for Outstanding Work in Caribbean Thought  
2008 Distinguished Faculty Associate, Wiess College  
2008-2009 Outstanding Faculty Associate, Wiess College  
2011, Distinguished Faculty Associate Wiess College  
2012, Distinguished Faculty Associate Wiess College  
2015 Distinguished Faculty Associate Wiess College  
2015, Contending Modernity Research Grant, University of Notre Dame, Indiana  
2016-2017 Outstanding Faculty Associate, Wiess College, Rice University

## VII. PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*African Witchcraft and Otherness: A Philosophical and Theological Critique of Intersubjective Relations* (SUNY Press, 2001).  
*The Dialectics of Transformation in Africa*, (Palgrave Macmillan, 2006) (Winner of the 2007 Frantz Fanon Prize in Caribbean Thought)  
*Facing a Pandemic: The African Church and the Crisis of HIV/AIDS* (Baylor University Press, 2007)  
*Witchcraft as Social Diagnosis: Traditional Ghanaian Beliefs and Global Health*, (With Roxane Richter and Thomas Flowers)

### Edited Books

*The Wiley Blackwell Companion to African Religions*  
*Living on the Edge: Essays in Honour of Steve de Gruchy Activist & Theologian*, eds. James R. Cochrane, Elias Bongmba, Isabel Phiri, Des van der Water. (Pietermaritzburg, South Africa: Cluster Publications, 2012).  
*The Routledge Companion to Christianity in Africa*, New York: Routledge, 2015

### Guest Editorials

Editor, 2012 Guest editors: Elias Bongmba and Jim Cochrane, Special Edition of *Religion and Theology, HIV/AIDS and Public Policy*, Vol. 14/1,2 (2007)  
Elias K. Bongmba "Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinarity in African Studies" *Religion and Theology*, 21 (2014): 218-250

### Work in Progress

Homosexuality and Christianity in Africa  
*African Religions: An Introduction* (Under contract with Wiley Blackwell)  
*Responsibility in global Health*

### Refereed Articles and Book Chapters:

1. "Preserving African Religious and Cultural Values in Art in Their Context: A Lesson from Heidegger," *Journal for the Society of African Philosophers of North America*, IX:1-2 (Spring 1996), 41-69.

2. "The Priority of the Other: Ethics in Africa - Perspectives from Bonhoeffer and Levinas," ed. John W de Gruchy, *Bonhoeffer for a New Day* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1997), 190-208.
3. "Two Steps Forward, One Step Backward: Schleiermacher On Religion," *Journal of Theology for Southern Africa* (1997), 190-208.
4. "Toward a Hermeneutic of Wimbun *Tfu*," *African Studies Review*, 41:3 (December 1998), 165-191.
5. "Beyond the Rationality Debate to Contextual Ethics," *African Philosophy*, 12:2 (1999), 125-148.
6. "Eros as Theological Response to *Tfu* (Witchcraft)," *Journal of Theology for Southern Africa*, 106 (April 2000), 17-33.
7. "Spiritual Development, Its Thought, Public Praxis," *African Studies Review*, 43:2 (September 2000), 117-125.
8. "Spiritual Development, Its Thought, Public Praxis and the Crises of Intersubjectivity: Refocusing Religious and Theological Thought in Africa," *Religion and Theology*, 8:1 (2001), 139-164.
9. "Fabian and Levinas on Time and the Other: Ethical Implications," *Philosophia Africana*, 4:1 (March 2001), 7-26.
10. "African Witchcraft: From Ethnography to Critique," eds. Diane Ciekawy and George Bond, In *Witchcraft Dialogues: Anthropological and Philosophical Exchanges*, pp. 39-79. Athens, Ohio: University Press, 2001.
11. "On Love: Literary Images of a Phenomenology of Love in Ngugi Wa Thiongo's *The River Between*," in *Literature and Theology*, Vol 15 No. 4 (December 2001) 373-395.
12. "Targeted for Change: Cameroonian Women and Missionary Designs in Some Fiction by Mongo Beti, in *Deep hiStories: Gender and Colonialism in Southern Africa*, Edited by Wendy Woodward, Patricia Hayes, and Gary Minkley, Amsterdam/New York: Rodopi, 2002).
13. "Intertextuality in Cheikh Hamidou Kane's *The Ambiguous Adventure*: Multiple Readings of the Death Motif," eds. Sue Kossew and Dianne Schwerdt, in *Re-imagining Africa: New Perspectives on African Literature*, (New York: Nova Science Press, 2002).
14. "Eschatology: Levinasian Hints in a Preface," *SEMEIA* 43, (Society for Biblical Literature Publication) 2003 75-90.
15. "Alterity, Transcendence, and Representation in Levinas: Cross Cultural Implications for African Witchcraft Discourse," eds. Massimo Lollini and Steven Shankman, in *Who, Exactly, is the Other?* University of Oregon Press, 2002, 35-40.
16. "Reflections on Thabo Mbeki's African Renaissance," in *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 30, 2 (June 2004): 289-314
17. "Rethinking Power in Africa: Theological Perspectives." In *Religion and Theology*, 11/2 (2004): 103-138.

18. Review Essay: "Whither African Philosophy" Review Essay on Paulin Hountondji's *The Struggle for Meaning: Reflections on Philosophy, Culture, and Democracy in Africa*. *African Studies Review*, Vol. 47, No. 2, September 2004. 119-124.
19. "Evans-Pritchard and the Theoretical Demise of Magic in Africa" in *The Power of the Occult in Modern Africa, Continuity and Innovation in the Renewal of African Cosmologies* edited by James Kiernan, 19-44, Berlin, Lit Verlag, 2006.
20. "African Theology and the Question of Rationality," in *Inculturation and Postcolonial Discourse in African Theology*, edited by Edward Antonio, New York: Peter Lang, 2006.
21. "The Study of African Religions: A Sketch of the Past and Prospects for the Future," in *The Study of Africa, The Study of Africa*. Volume 1: *Disciplinary and Interdisciplinary Encounters* Edited by Paul Tiyambe Zeleza, Dakar, Senegal: CODESRIA, 2006.
22. "Witchcraft and The Christian Church: Ethical Implications" in *Imaging Evil: Witchcraft Beliefs and Accusations in Contemporary Africa*, 113-143, edited by Gerrie Ter Haar, Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2006.
23. "Portable Faith: The Global Dimensions of African Initiated Churches (AIC)" in *African Immigrant Religions in America*, 102-129. Edited by Jacob Olupona and Regina Gemignani, NYU Press, 2007.
24. "Restoring Justice as a Public Virtue in the context of HIV/AIDS" in *Religion and Theology*, Vol. 14, 1/2 (2007): 28-46.
25. "Ancestor Veneration in Central Africa" in *Eternal Ancestors: The Art of the Central African Reliquary*, 79-86. Edited by Alisa LaGamma. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Yale University Press, 2007.
26. "Ethical Challenges of Patenting "Nature": Legal and Economic Accounts of Altered Nature as Property." In *Altering Nature: Volume I: Concepts of 'Nature' and 'The Natural' in Biotechnology Debates*. Edited by B. Andrew Lustig, Baruch A. Brody, and Gerald P. McKenny. (Springer, 2008)199-274.
27. "Beyond Reason to Interdisciplinary Dialogue on Morality and Politics in Africa: Comments on E.C. Eze's "Between History and the Gods: Reason, Morality, and Politics in Today's Africa." *African Today*, volume 55, number 2 (spring 2009): 98-104
28. "Aesthetics in African Art: Implications for African Theology." In *Black Religion and Black Aesthetics: Religious Thought and Life in Africa and the African Diaspora*. Edited by Anthony B. Pinn, Palgrave MacMillan, 2009.
29. "Phenomenological Humanism: Lewis Gordon on Reclaiming the Human in an Antihuman World" in *CRL James Journal*, vol. 14 number 1, 245-268
30. "Visions and Dreams in an African Initiated Church," in Akintunde E. Akinade , ed. *A New Day: Essays on World Christianity in Honor of Lamin Sanneh*,

(New York: Peter Lang, 2010)

31. "Saintly Lives in a World of Violence: Reflections on the Philosophy of Edith Wyschogrod  
In *Philosophy today*, winter 2011
32. "Alasdair MacIntyre on After Virtue" in *Beyond the Pale: Reading Ethics from the Margins*  
169-180, edited by Stacey M. Floyed-Thomas and Miguel A. De La Torre,  
Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, Press, 2011.
33. "A comment on Friedman and Rossi's dialectical Theory and the Study of HIV/AIDS: A  
Broad Marxist Critique," *Dialectical Anthropology* (2011): 35:443-447
34. "The African Renaissance and Religion," in *Religion, Conflict, and Democracy in  
Modern Africa*, 51-77, ed. Samuel K. Elolia, (Eugene, Oregon: Pickwick  
Publications) 2012
35. "Introduction" in *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to African Religions*, 1-21, edited by  
Elias Kifon Bongmba, (Malden, MA.: Wiley Blackwell, 2012)
36. "African Theology" in *The Wiley-Blackwell companion to African Religions*, 241-254 , edited by  
Elias Kifon Bongmba, Malden, MA.: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012).
37. "Reflections on Love" *The Progress of Love*, Kristina Van Dyke and Bisi Silva, eds. (New Haven,  
Conn.: Yale University Press, 2012).
38. "Reflections on Justice in the Context of HIV/AIDS" in *Religions: A Scholarly Journal, Doha  
International Center for Interfaith Dialogue*, No. 3, (2012 :31-44.  
<http://www.dicid.org/english/journals.php>
39. "Rethinking Old Alliance: Religion and Public Health in Africa." In *Living on the Edge: Essays  
in Honour of Steve de Gruchy Activist & Theologian*, eds. James R. Cochrane, Elias Bongmba,  
Isabel Phiri, Des van der Water. (Pietermaritzburg, South Africa: Cluster Publications,  
2012).
40. "Introduction" James R Cochrane, Elias Bongmba, Isabel Phiri, Des van der Water,  
"Introduction" in *Living on the Edge: Essays in Honour of Steve de Gruchy Activist &  
Theologian*, eds. James R. Cochrane, Elias Bongmba, Isabel Phiri, Des van der Water.  
(Pietermaritzburg, South Africa: Cluster Publications, 2012).
41. Elias K. Bongmba, "Spirituality: An Intersubjective Practice," in Njoki Nathani Wane,  
Francis Akena Adyanga, and Ahmed Ali Ilmi, *Spiritual Discourse in the Academy:  
A Globalized Indigenous Perspective*, New York: Peter Lang, 2014
42. Elias K. Bongmba "Lament and Narrative: A Review of Emmanuel Katongole's  
*The Sacrifice of Africa* (Book Symposium) *Modern Theology* 30:2  
April 2014
43. Elias K. Bongmba "Introduction" Guest Editorial in Special Edition  
of *Religion and Theology*, Volume 21 (2014): 211-217
44. Elias K. Bongmba "Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary in African Studies"  
*Religion and Theology*, 21 (2014): 218-250
45. Elias Kifon Bongmba "Introduction," in *The Routledge Companion to Christianity in  
Africa*, 1-21, New York: Routledge, 2015.
46. Elias Kifon Bongmba Christianity in North Africa, in *The Routledge Companion to  
Christianity in Africa*, 25-44, New York: Routledge, 2015

47. Elias Kifon Bongmba, "From Medical Missions to Church Health Services" in *The Routledge Companion to Christianity in Africa*, 502-523, New York: Routledge, 2015
48. Elias Kifon Bongmba, "Studying African Christianity: Future Trajectories" in *The Routledge Companion to Christianity in Africa*, 555-563, New York: Routledge, 2015
49. Elias K. Bongmba "Hermeneutics and the Debate on Homosexuality in Africa" in *Religion and Theology*, Volume 22, Issue 1-2 (2016):69-99
50. Elias K. Bongmba and Akintunde Akinade, "Dislodgings and Reformation: Expanding Christianity in Africa and in the Diaspora Peter Phan and Elaine Padilla, eds. *Christianities in Migration: The Global Perspective* (New York: Palgrave/Macmillan Press, 2015), pp. 55-70.
51. Elias Kifon Bongmba, "Global Religions" in *Religion: Sources, Perspectives, and Methodologies*, 1st Edition, edited by Jeffrey K. Kripal, 289-304, Farmington Hills, MacMillan Reference USA, 289-304, 2016.
52. Elias Kifon Bongmba, "Homosexuality, Ubuntu, and Otherness in the African Church" *Journal of Religion and Violence* 4:1 (2016):15-37.
53. Elias K. Bongmba "HIV and AIDS and Stigma" in *HIV and AIDS in Africa: Christian Reflection, Public Health, Social Transformation*, edited by Jacquineau Azetsop, S.J. 264-276 (Maryknoll, NY.: Orbis Books, 2016).
54. Elias Kifon Bongmba, "Witchcraft, Ritual, and Gender" in *Social Religion*, Edited by William B. Parsons (Farmington Hills, Mich.: Macmillan Reference, 2016)
55. Elias Kifon Bongmba, "Writing African Christianity: Perspectives from the History of the Historiography of African Christianity" in *Religion and Theology*, Volume 23 Issue 3-4 (2016:275-312
56. Elias K. Bongmba, "Augustine and the Donatist Movement" in *A New History of African Christian Thought*, David Tonghou Ngong, ed. 78-94 (New York: Routledge Press, 2017)
57. Elias Kifon Bongmba, "Homosexuality and the Law in Africa: South African Case Law as a paradigmatic Example" in M. Christian Green, Rosalind I. J. Hackett, Len Hansen, François Venter, eds. 291-314 (Stellenbosch, SA: ACLARS SunMeDIA, 2017)
58. Elias Kifon Bongmba "Central African Republic, Togo, Cote d'Ivoire, Benin and Cameroon, in *Christianity in Sub-Saharan African Africa*, edited by Kenneth R. Ross, J. Kwabena Asamoah-Gyadu and Todd M. Johnson, eds., 176-188, (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2017.
59. Elias K. Bongmba, "Women and *tfu* in Wimbun Community, Cameroon," in

*Gendering Knowledge in Africa and the African Diaspora*, eds. Toyin Falola and Olajumoke Jacob-Haliso, 164-187, New York: Routledge, 2017.

60. Elias Kifon Bongmba, "The Unfinished Business of Postcolonialism: Theological Perspectives" in ed. Martin S. Shanguhiyia and Toyin Falola, eds. *The Palgrave Handbook of African Colonial and Postcolonial History*, Volume 2, 979-1006, (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018).
61. Elias Kifon Bongmba, Review Essay: The Oxford Handbook on Global Religions, *Religious Studies Review*, March, 2018.
62. Elias Kifon Bongmba Review Essay: Religious and Theological Perspectives on Disability in Africa, *Religious Studies Review* Volume 43, Issue 4
63. Elias Kifon Bongmba and Tanto Richard Talla, "Religion and Law: The Promise and Perils of the Cameroon Land Law" in Green MC, TJ, & Hill, M. eds. *Religion, Law and Security in Africa* (Stellenbosch: Conf-RAP), 2018: 233-248

### Encyclopedia and Dictionary Entries

1. "African Religions" Entry in *Encyclopedia of African History* eds. Paul T. Zeleza and Dickson Eyoh, Routledge 2002.
2. "Christian Reform Movements in Africa" Entry in *Encyclopedia of African History*, Eds. Paul T. Zeleza and Dickson Eyoh, Routledge 2002.
3. "Religion: Africa" in the *New Dictionary of History of Ideas*. Ed. Maryanne Horowitz. Vol. 5 Detroit: Charles Scr. Sons, 2005; 2051-2055.
4. "Communitarianism in African Thought" in the *New Dictionary of History of Ideas*. Ed. Maryanne Horowitz. Vol. 1 Detroit: Charles Scribner & Sons, Vol. 2, 2005; 424-427.
5. "Abiodun Akinsowon, Christiana," in *Holy People of the World: A Cross-Cultural Encyclopedia*, p. 4, edited by Phyllis G. Justice, (Santa Barbara: ABC CLIO), 2004.
6. Blyden, Edward Wilmot" in *Holy People of the World: A Cross-Cultural Encyclopedia*, p. 129-130, edited by Phyllis G. Justice, (Santa Barbara: ABC CLIO), 2004.
7. "African Theology" in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of African Thought* Edited by F Abiola Irele and Biodun Jeyifo, 2010
8. "Origen" in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of African Thought*. Edited by . F. Abiola Irele and Biodun Jeyifo, 2010
9. "Traditional Authority in Africa" *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern World*, ed. Peter N. Stearns, 312-313, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008)
10. "Traditional Religion, African," *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern World*, ed. Peter N. Stearns 316-319 (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008)
11. "Emmanuel Eze" *Encyclopedia of Postcolonial Studies*, 2016.

### Book Reviews Published:

- "Remembering the Present: Painting and Popular History in Zaire," by Johannes Fabian, *African Arts*, XXXI:2 (Spring 1998), 13-16.
- "Seeds of Transformation: Discerning the Ethics of a New Generation," by Jack Johnson-Hill, *Religious Studies Review*, 25:3 (July 1999), 274.
- "The Anthropology of the Self: Person and Myth in Africa," by Raphael Kigunga, *African Philosophy*, 13:1 (March 2000), 53-57.
- Violence in Nigeria: The Crises of Religious Politics and Secular Ideologies," in *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, 34:1 (2002).



- "African Earthkeepers" *International Journal of African Historical Studies*
- A Short Introduction to African Philosophy* by Barry Hallen,  
*International Journal of African Historical Studies*, Vol. 36, November 6, 2003, 243-245
- The Politics of AIDS in Africa* by Amy Patterson.  
*Africa Today*, Vol. 55, number 2, spring 2009 116-119.
- Orobator, Agbonkhiameghe E., *Theology Brewed in an African Pot*  
352-354. *Journal of Religion in Africa* 2010
- Disciples of all Nations: Pillar of World Christianity by Lamin Sanneh, Reviewed in *Religious Studies Review*, Volume 34, Ossie 4.
- Albert Schweitzer's Ethical Vision: A Source Book, edited by Predrag Cicovacki, Reviewed in *Religious Studies Review* Volume 35, Issue 4.
- "Funerals in Africa: Explorations of a Social Phenomenon, edited by Michael Jindra and Joël Noret, (New York: Berghahn Books, 2011, pp. 232, Reviewed in *Religious Studies Review* Vol 23, Issue 3.
- African Philosophy: An Overview and Critique of the Philosophical Significance of African Oral Literature*, by Victor Ahamefule Anoka, Peter Lang: Frankfurt am Main, 2012, pp. 220;  
Reviewed in *Religious Studies Review*, Volume 40, Issue 1.
- The African Christian Diaspora: New Currents and Emerging Trends in World Christianity*, by Afe Adogame. New: Bloomsbury, 2013, pp. 272. Reviewed in *Religious Studies Review*, Volume 40, Issue 1
- Religion and Aids Treatment in Africa: Saving Soul, Prolonging Lives*. Edited by Rijk Van Dijk, Hansjörg Dilger, Marian Burchardt, and Thera Rasing. Farnham, UK: Ashgate, 2014. Pp. 303. \$124.95. *Religious Studies Review* Volume 41, 4 p. 207
- Christianity, Islam, and Liberal Democracy: Lessons from Sub-Saharan Africa*. By Robert A. Dowd. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015. Hardcover, \$74.00., *Religious Studies Review* 41, 4, p. 206.
- The Slain God: Anthropology and the Christian Faith*. By Timothy Larson. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014. Pp. 272. \$45.00. *Religious Studies Review*, 41, 4 p. 207

## VIII. WORKS IN PROGRESS

African Religions

New Religious Movements: Houston's African Religious Communities

## IX. ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

### INVITED LECTURES AND KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

1. "Levinas, Otherness and Witchcraft," Colloquium, Department of Anthropology, Rice University, Houston, Fall 1995.
2. "Teaching Religion on the Eve of the 21st Century," University of Houston, Houston, Texas, February 1996.
3. "The Spirituality of African Religions," The Gordon Frazee Lecture Series, Linfield College, Oregon, April 1996.
4. "Life on the Boundaries: Religion, Science and Magic in Africa," Invited Scientia Lecture, Rice University, Houston, Texas, October 13, 1998
5. "Alterity, Transcendence and Representation in Levinas," Keynote Address, Oregon Humanities Center, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, May 4, 2000.
6. "African Witchcraft and Theology: The impact of Emmanuel Levinas," School of

Theology, University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, August 14, 2000

7. "Thinking About Death with and Beyond Heidegger" African Studies Seminar, University of Michigan, February 15, 2006
8. "The African Renaissance and Political Reform in Africa," Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University, May 3, 2006.
9. "John and Dominique de Menil's Cosmopolitan Vision for Freedom and Justice," Rothko Chapel, Houston, June 8, 2006.
10. "HIV/AIDS in Africa," Palmer Memorial Church, Houston TX, March 18, 2007.
11. "Genocide in Darfur" Jewish Center, West Houston
12. "Gender an Unnecessary Divide" Saint Luke Episcopal Church, Houston, May 6, 2007
13. "Health and Medicine Africa and HIV/AIDS: Perspectives on Colonial, Missionary, and contemporary Health care in Africa." 4 week Lectures at the Special Topics Class, First Presbyterian Sunday school October-November 2007.
14. "HIV/AIDS in Africa: What Can I do?" Presentation at Spring Meeting of Junior State of America, Texas Branch, Dallas February 10, 2008.
15. "Retrieving Texts, Recasting Traditions: A Symposium on Scriptures, Christian Origins and World Christianities. Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, Rochester, NY, March 4, 2008.
16. "The Apostle Paul on the Other" South Main Baptist Church, August 30, 2009
17. "Emerging Pentecostal theology," Invited Lecture University of Western Cape, April, 2010
18. "Renaissance and Responsibility," Position Paper presented at the Launching of the Thabo Mbeki Foundation and the Institute for Leadership October 11 2010.
19. "Restoring Human Dignity: Responsibility in Healthcare," Baylor University Institute for Faith and Culture, October 28, 2010
20. "Religious Communities and Healthcare in Africa," Invited Lecture presented at the Second HIV and AIDS and the Churches Conference organized by the Center for Public Theology of the Huron University College London, Ontario Canada
21. Christianity and Crisis in Africa, Invited Lecture, Eckerd College, Saint Petersburg, Florida, March 11, 2011
22. Rice University Faculty Matriculation Address, Rice University, Fall 2011
23. Pentecostalism in Africa Today, Houston Ministerial Association, September 9, 2011
24. "Intersubjectivity and Spirituality," Invited Lecture, Faculty of Theology at University of Eastern Finland Juensa, December 15, 2011
25. "Religion and Public Health in Africa, Dartmouth College, January, 2012.
26. Love in Africa, The Menil Collection, Houston, February 13, 2012.
27. "Facing Challenges: The Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network" Invited Lecture at Eckerd College, October 11, 2012.
28. Hermeneutics and Homosexuality: Reading Rudolf Bultmann, Invited Paper delivered at the University of South Africa, New Testament Colloquium, September, 4, 2012.
29. "The New Short Termers: Reflections on the Dynamic Changes in Mission Practice" Eckerd College, October 11, 2012
30. "Phenomenology of the Face: African Perspectives" Invited Lecture delivered at the Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center 32nd Annual Symposium, Duquesne University February 14, 2014
31. Elias K. Bongmba. African Christianity in the Diaspora, Texas A&M University, March 17, 2014.

32. Thabo Mbeki and Africa in the Pre-Presidential and Presidential Years: Conceptualizing and Grounding the African Renaissance as intellectual and Political Process, Invited Lecture Presented at the Thabo Mbeki Presidential Library Colloquium, University of South Africa, September 17, 2014.
33. Elias Kifon Bongmba, "Church and State in Cameroon: The Political Theology of Christian Cardinal Tumi" Invited Lecture, Columbia University, April 10, 2015.
34. Elias Kifon Bongmba "Land and Authority in Postcolonial Africa" Presented at the Contending Modernities Plenary Conference, Notre Dame Global Gateway, Rome, June 5, 2015
35. Elias Kifon Bongmba "Water For Life" Keynote Address Presented at The Wimbum Cultural and Development Association Annual Meeting in Houston, July 4, 2015.
36. Elias Kifon Bongmba "Maximizing Partnerships in Cameroon: Security, Markets and Ethics" 2015, Cameroon Professional Society Congress, Rice University, August 2, 2015.
37. Elias Kifon Bongmba "Teaching African Christianity" Presented at Rice University Christian Graduate Student Association, October 8, 2015 Miner Lounge, Rice University.
38. Elias Kifon Bongmba, "Faith Based Organizations in Africa" Presented at the Religion and Global Poverty forum organized by the Religion and Public Life Program, Rice University, October 29, 2015.
39. Elias Kifon Bongmba, "The Ebola Virus" American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, 2015
40. Elias Kifon Bongmba, "What has Kinshasa to do with Athens? Towards a new vision of African Political Theology: The Imperative of Dialogue between theology and Social Science" Keynote address presented at the African Lived Christianity-Faith, Ritual and Power Lund University 16-18 March 2016.
41. Elias Kifon Bongmba, Diakonia Today: Advocating for New Technologies to Feed the Hungry. Keynote Lecture at the University of Zambia and Justo Mwale University, April 7, 2016.
42. Elias Kifon Bongmba, "Writing African Christianity: Perspectives from a non-Historian" Seminar conducted at the University of South Africa (UNISA) July 7, 2016.
42. Elias Kifon Bongmba, Church and Culture in Africa: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on New Challenges Keynote address presented at the New Testament Society of South Africa Joint Society Conference July 2016, University of Pretoria.
43. Elias Kifon Bongmba, "Christianity and Culture, Presented at the Cameroon Professional Society 2016 Congress, Rice University, August 13, 2016.
44. Elias Kifon Bongmba, "Land and Authority in Postcolonial Cameroon" inaugural lecture at Africa at the Crossroads Trans-Institutional Program, Vanderbilt University, September 28, 2016.
45. Elias Kifon Bongmba, "Homosexuality and Law in Africa" Graduate Student Symposium, Rice University, 2017.
46. Elias Kifon Bongmba, "From Comity to Competition in Cameroon and Uganda"
46. "From Comity to Competition" Presented at the Gathered in My Name: Ecumenism and the World Church, DePaul University, Chicago, April 29, 2017.
47. Elias Kifon Bongmba, "Church, Disability, and Development: The Case of the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Board" Keynote Address at the Association of Theological Schools of Central and Southern Africa, (ATISCA) University of Zimbabwe, Harare, July 19, 2017.
48. Elias Kifon Bongmba, "Gender in the Homosexuality Debate in Africa," The Pennsylvania State University, October 11, 2017

49. Elias Kifon Bongmba, "Alternatives to Violence and Exile: Women and Witchcraft in Africa" University of Utrecht, January 15, 2018
50. Elias Kifon Bongmba, "Women and Gender in the Homosexuality Debate in Africa" The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, April 9, 2018
51. Elias Kifon Bongmba, "Eschatology in Africa: Between the Dialectics of Theological Prediction and Social Practice" Inaugural Doctor of Theology honoris causa, Faculty of Humanities and Theology, Lund University, Sweden, May 24, 2018

#### CONFERENCE AND ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- "Beyond the Rationality Debate to Contextual Ethics," African Studies Association, Orlando, Florida, November 1995.
- "Preserving African Religious Values in Art in their Context," American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 1995.
- "The Priority of the Other in African Ethics," International Bonhoeffer Congress, Cape Town, South Africa, January 1996.
- "Levinas on the Phenomenology of Eros," Colloquium, Department of Religious Studies, Rice University, Houston, Texas, spring 1996.
- "Time and the Other: A Reading of Fabian and Levinas," African Studies Association, San Francisco, California, November 1996.
- "Targeted for Change: Mongo Beti on the Catholic Church and Women in Cameroon," Gender and Colonialism Conference, University of Western Cape, South Africa, January 13-15, 1997.
- "Towards a Phenomenology of Eros in Africa: A Preliminary Investigation," Women in African and African Diaspora, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis, Indiana, October 24, 1998.
- "African Witchcraft: From Ethnography to Critique," African Studies Association, Chicago, Illinois, October 31, 1998.
- "On Love: Images of a Phenomenology of Love in Ngugi wa Thiongo," American Academy of Religion, Orlando, Florida, November 21, 1998.
- "Shattering the Silence on Widowhood Practices in Africa: Multi-Disciplinary Perspectives," Inaugural J. Marie McCleary Literary Symposium, Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas, December 1, 1998.
- "Perspectives on Problematic Gifts," Gift Conference, Rice University, Houston, Texas, March 27, 1999.
- "Vigilance for a New Generation of Leaders," Enhancing Black Leadership: Strategies for Building Economic and Intellectual Wealth, The Jesse Jones Graduate School of Business, Rice University, Houston, Texas, May 21, 1999.
- "Meditation on Death in Cheikh Hamidou Kane's *The Ambiguous Adventure*," 22nd African Studies Association of Australia and the Pacific, University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia, November 26-28, 1999.
- "Religious Freedom in Africa," Parliament of World Religions, Cape Town, South Africa, December 5, 1999.
- "Evans-Pritchard and the Theoretical Demise of the Concept of Magic in Africa," 18th Quinquennial Congress of the International Association of the History of Religions (IAHR), Durban, South Africa, August 7, 2000.
- "Olumba's Message to the World: Spiritual Identity and Survival in Houston's Nigerian Community," African Studies Association, Nashville, Tennessee, November 18, 2000.
- "Teaching Across Borders, Perspectives on Interdisciplinary Teaching," Southern

- Humanities Conference, San Antonio, Texas, February 9, 2001. "Teaching Humanities at Rice," Vision 2001, Rice University, Houston, Texas, February 23, 2001.
- "Reflections on Healing in the Northwest Province of Cameroon," Psyche Soma & Spirit Conference, Rice University, Houston, Texas, March 30, 2001.
- "Negative Theology: Reflections on Nawal El Saadawi's Innocence of the Devil," International Narrative Conference, Rice University, Houston, Texas, March 11, 2001.
- "HIV/AIDS and Human virtues: The Question of Justice and Prudence," Caribbean Philosophical Association, Montreal, Canada, August 3, 2006.
- "Justice as a Public Virtue and HIV/AIDS in Africa" American Academy of Religion, Washington DC, November 2006.
- "HIV/AIDS and the Christian Church in Africa" Special Topics Panel On Focus on Africa, American Academy of Religion, Washington DC, November 2006
- Genocide in Darfur" Respondent to a panel on Genocide, American Academy of Religion, Washington DC, November 2006.
- "Rethinking History of Christianity in Africa" Response to papers presented on global Christianity, American Academy of Religion, Washington DC, November 2006.
- "African American Missionaries in Africa" J. Marie McCleary Literary Symposium, Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas, April 2007
- Moderator of Session: Speaker: Professor Major Bradshaw, "African Medical Education in a Day of HIV/AIDS." Rothko Chapel, Houston, January 3, 2008
- "Dreams in African Initiated Churches" Presentation at the North American Association for the Study of Religion. Bates College, Maine, April 26, 2008.
- "In the Service of Ulu." 50th Anniversary of Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*, Organized by USAfrica, Houston Texas, August 8, 2008.
- "Interdisciplinarity in African Theology." American Academy of Religion, Chicago, November, 2, 2008.
- Moderator Speaker Paul Salopek 'Inside African: The Hidden Wars' Rothko Chapel, November 24, 2008.
- "The bible on Intersubjectivity." South Main Baptist Church, December, 29 2008.
- Moderator and Panelist "Do we worship the same God." Rothko Chapel, February 7, 2009.
- Rethinking Old Alliances: Religion and Public Health in Africa." University of Cape Town, South Africa, July 14, 2009
- "Rethinking Traditional Authority in Africa." American Academy of Religion Montreal, November 8, 2009
- "African Historical Anthropology: Reflections on the work of Professor Elisha S. Atieno Odhiambo, African Studies Association New Orleans, November 21, 2009,
- Commentator Panel on Political, Cultural, and Economic Development Rethinking the alliance between Religious Healthcare Providers and the State," Presented at Summer School organized at the Makerere University Medical School, July, 2010
- "Doing Business with a different partner: Religious Health Care Institutions and HIV in Africa", Texas business Summit, February 23, 2010.

- Gender in Colonial Studies of Religion in Africa," presented at the African Association for the Study of Religion panel at the American Academy of Religion October 2010
- "Saintly Lives: Reflections on the philosophy of Edith Wyschogrod" Rice University, April 16, 2011
- "Responsibility as Communal Freedom: Reflections of Individual and Collective Responsibility," Maseno University, Kenya July 16, 2011
- "Reading Lewis R. Gordon's Introduction to Africana Philosophy" Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Society, December 27, 2011
- Interdisciplinarity in Religion and Public Health, June 6, 2012. 50th Anniversary of the Center for African Studies at Edinburgh University
- Religion and Sports: the Role of the Occult and Para Church Groups Paper presented at the Conference of the African Association for the Study of Religion, Egerton University, Kenya, July 20, 2012
- Religion in the Public Square: Discussion of African Traditions in the Study of Religion: Social and Political Perspectives." American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago, November 16, 2012
- "Religion and HIV AIDS: Interpreting the Public Realm, Book Discussion, *Religion and HIV and AIDS*," Society for Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Chicago, November 19, 2012.
- Elias K. Bongmba, "Death in Aime Césaire" PADIK workshop, Jomo Kenyatta University of Technology, June 15, 2014
- Elias K. Bongmba "Where did the Forest Go?" Presented at the 6th Conference of the African Association for the Study of Religion, University of Cape Town, July 31, 2014.
- Elias K. Bongmba, "The Faith Community and Infectious Diseases," Presented at the American Association of Historical Studies, Texas State University, Huntsville, November 8, 2014.
- Elias K. Bongmba "Mandela's Spiritual Politics, Presented at the African Studies Association, Indianapolis, November 21, 2014
- Elias K. Bongmba, "The Church of the Future: Reflections on the Ecclesiology of Jesse N.K. Mugambi". Presented at the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, November 23, 2014.
- Elias Kifon Bongmba, "Ubuntu Ethics and the Homosexuality Debate in African Christianity" Religious Pluralism in Africa Symposium, Department of Religion, Rice University, March 18, 2015
- Elias Kifon Bongmba "Religious Images in *Voices of Muslim Women*, Film by Maha Marouan (Panel Discussion) XXI World Congress of the International Association for the Study of Religion Congress, Erfurt, Germany, August, 24, 2015
- Elias Kifon Bongmba "Charting Future Research" Response to Panel Discussion on "Religion, Social Space, and Development" at the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, November 22, 2015.
- Elias Kifon Bongmba "Responding to the Ebola Virus Disease" on *Ebola, Africa, and Beyond: An Epidemic in Religious and Public Health Perspectives*, American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, November 23, 2015
- Elias Kifon Bongmba, Homosexuality and the Law in Africa" Presented at the Religious Pluralism, Heritage, and Social Development in Africa Addis Ababa, Ethiopia May 22-24 Organized by the African Consortium of Law and Religion Studies (ACLARS)
- Elias Kifon Bongmba and Tanto Richard Talla, "Land and Authority in Cameroon" Presented at the 7th Biennial AASR Conference at the University of Ghana, Legon, Accra, July 27,

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- Elias Kifon Bongmba and Tanto Richard Talla "Land and Authority: Prospects for Reconciliation" Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Washington DC, December 3, 1016
- Elias Kifon Bongmba and Tanto Richard Talla, "The Cameroon Land Law: Promise and Problems," African Consortium on Law and Religion, (ALARS) International University of Rabat, Morocco, May 15, 2017.
- Elias Kifon Bongmba and Tanto Richard Talla, "Negotiating Land Boundaries: Reexamining the Aporias of the Land Law and Customary Laws in Cameroon, Presented at the Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, November 13-18, Chicago, 2017.
- Elias Kifon Bongmba and Tanto Richard Talla, "Family Ties: a Key to Reconciliation and Wellbeing in the Njirong Ntumbaw Land Dispute. Presented at the annual Conference of the African Consortium on Law and Religion, Abuja Nigeria, 2018

#### **X. UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES AND COMMITTEES**

- Divisional Academic Adviser (Humanities) Wiess College 1999-Present
- Undergraduate Adviser, Religious Studies Department 1996-2003
- President's Council on Minority Affairs, 1997-2006
- Affirmative Action Committee, 1997-1999
- Wiess College Faculty Associate, 1996-Present
- Religious Studies Department Hebrew Bible Search Committee, 1997
- Humanities Undergraduate Teaching Subcommittee, 2000-2001
- Wiess College John E. Parish Fellowship Committee, 1998- 2003
- Wiess College Humanities Divisional Adviser, 1999-Present
- Religious Studies Department Islamic Studies Search Committee, 2000-2001
- African Studies Association (Local Arrangements Committee), November 2001
- Rice-Natal Links Steering Committee, AY 2001-02
- Center for the Study of Cultures Advisory Board, AY 2001-2003
- Provost Fellowship Committee, AY 2001-Present
- Holocaust Museum Educational Committee, 2001-Present
- Biotechnology, Religion and Ethics, Coordinating Committee, AY 2001-Present
- Dean's Search Committee, 2002-2003
- Co-Organizer, International Conference on Orality, Literature, and Memory October, 2003.
- President's Lecture Series Committee, 2002-2005
- Board of Directors, South West Commission for the Study of Religion, 2002-2005
- Steering Committee for the Study of Women and Gender, 2003-2006
- Chair, Search Committee, Philosophy of Religion Religious Studies 2004.
- Member Search Committee for Director of Center for Study of Culture 2004-2005
- Search committee, post-doctoral fellow, Center for Study of Women and Gender, 2005-2006
- Undergraduate Review Committee, Religious Studies, 2006
- Steering committee Member, Poverty and Justice Center, 2007-

Undergraduate Adviser, Department of Religious Studies 2009-2011  
 Member Search committee for Philosophy of Religion, 2011  
 Member of Steering Committee on the Poverty, Justice and Human Capabilities  
 Undergraduate Adviser, Poverty, Justice, and Human Capabilities  
 Chair of Committee on Examination and Standing, 2014-  
 Advisory Committee, Program on Religion and Public Life, 2015-  
 Member of the Raboteau Book Prize, *Journal of Africana Religions*, 2015  
 Department of History Africa Search Committee, 2016-2017  
 Loewenstein Fellowship Committee, 2017

#### **XI Doctoral Students Directed**

Stephen Finley (with Dr. Anthony Pinn)  
 Enoch Gbadegesin (with Dr. Jim Faubion)  
 Terri Laws (with Dr. Anthony Pinn)  
 Biko Mandela Gray (with Dr. Niki Clements), 2017  
 Rachel Schneider (With Dr. Jim Faubion), 2018  
 Itohan Mercy Idumwonyi, 2018  
 Nathanael J. Homewood (With Jeffrey Kripal), 2018

#### **XII External Examiner**

National Research Foundation of South Africa  
 University of Eastern Finland,  
 University of Cape Town  
 University of KwaZulu Natal  
 University of Zimbabwe  
 University of Botswana  
 University of the Western Cape

#### **XIII Editorial Boards**

African Studies Review  
 Sophia  
 Western Journal of Black Studies  
 Religion and Theology  
 EJournal of Religious and Theological Studies  
 EJournal of African Association for the Study of Religion  
 Religion and Gender  
 Ilorin Journal of Religion  
 Magic, Ritual, and Witchcraft

#### **IX. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

"African Culture," interview, Channel 51, Houston International Festival, 1996



- "The Church in Africa: A Thematic Approach," Education Department,  
South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, September 1996
- "African Myth and Morality," Conference on Revitalizing African Religion,  
Orisha/Ifa Institute, Houston, Texas, October, 1996
- African Overseas Union, Houston, Texas, 1996
- African Religion and Ifa Cultural Center, Board member, 1995-97
- "The Christian Church and Otherness: Reflections on Ephesians 4," South  
Main Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, January 1997
- "Religious Pluralism in Sembene's *Gulwarr*," Catholic Cenacle Retreat  
Center, Houston, Texas, January 29, 1997
- "Contemporary Prophetic Theology: Rauschenbush, King, Gutierrez  
and Reuther,"  
South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, Fall 1997
- "Religion in Africa," St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Houston, Texas, Fall  
1997
- "Womanist Theology," Windsor Village United Methodist Church,  
Houston, Texas, winter 1998
- "The Spirituality of African Peoples," South Main Baptist Church,  
Houston, Texas, summer 1998
- Houston International Festival, Future World Music Presentations, Houston,  
Texas, 1997
- "The Church in Africa," Houston Lutheran Ministerial Association, 1996-1999
- "Houston International Festival, Festival on Southern Africa, Houston,  
Texas, 1998.
- "The Church in the Mind of God, The Church in the Eyes of the World," Windsor  
Village United Methodist Church, Houston, Texas, 1998
- "Ritual Killings in Nigeria, West Africa," Channel 13 interview, Houston, Texas,  
August 1998
- "African Religions," First Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas, October-  
November 1998
- "African Spirituality," four-part series, First Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas, May 2000
- New Religious Movements in Africa, First Presbyterian Church, Houston,  
Texas, fall of 2002.
- Secretary General of Wimbun Cultural Development Association 2003-2004
- The Church and HIV/AIDS, South Main Baptist Church, July 2004.
- "Is There a Balm in Gilead?" Sermon at celebration of Martin Luther  
King Jr. M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX, January 20, 2005.
- Interfaith Trip to Turkey, July, 2006.
- Member of the Program Committee of Rothko Chapel, 2006-
- "HIV/AIDS and the church in Africa" Palmer Episcopal Church Houston,

March 18, 2007

HIV/AIDS in Africa, First Presbyterian Church Sunday school, April, 2008

Founding President of Cameroon Community of Houston, 2010