



# Public History and Memory-Making in Post-Conflict Nigeria: An African Perspective

Afolabi Adekanye<sup>1,2</sup>, Chinedu Nwakweongwu<sup>3,4</sup>, Sunday Ifolarin<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Advanced Studies, University of Port Harcourt

<sup>2</sup> Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka

<sup>3</sup> Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Ogbomoso

<sup>4</sup> University of Port Harcourt

<sup>5</sup> Department of Research, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Ogbomoso

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**Correspondence:** [aadekanye@outlook.com](mailto:aadekanye@outlook.com)

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## Author notes

*Afolabi Adekanye is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, University of Port Harcourt and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

*Chinedu Nwakweongwu is affiliated with Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Ogbomoso and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

*Sunday Ifolarin is affiliated with Department of Research, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Ogbomoso and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Public history and memory-making are crucial in post-conflict societies as they help communities heal and move towards reconciliation. Qualitative interviews were conducted with community leaders, poets, and performers across various regions in Nigeria to explore the role of oral traditions in shaping collective memories. Oral poetry plays a significant role in preserving historical narratives and cultural identities, particularly among younger generations who may not have direct access to written records. Oral poetry serves as an essential tool for maintaining community cohesion and fostering understanding between different groups impacted by the conflict. Integration of oral poetry education into formal curricula could enhance students' appreciation for their cultural heritage and promote intergenerational dialogue.

**Keywords:** *African Studies, Memory Theory, Oral History, Post-Conflict, Critical Interculturalism, Ethnography, Heritage Preservation*

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