

# Olamilekan (Lekan) Aleshe-Shittu

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## Education

- Oberlin College**, BA in Africana Studies, Minors in Politics and Religion Aug 2023 - May 2027
- GPA: 3.96/4.0
  - Awards: Yakubu Saaka Memorial Scholar, Bonner Scholar and Pioneer Scholar
  - Study Abroad: The American University in Cairo (Sep 2025 - Dec 2025)
- African Leadership Academy**, Pre-University Diploma Aug 2021 - June 2023
- Coursework: African Studies, Writing & Rhetoric and Entrepreneurial Leadership

## Experience

- Researcher**, Oberlin College – Oberlin, OH June 2022 –Present
- Served as research assistant to *Associate Professor of Africana Studies at Oberlin College*, Darko Opoku. Gathered research for forthcoming book project regarding democracy's role in Ghanaian politics. Read, analysed and condensed numerous texts presenting findings to Professor.
  - Served as research assistant to *Professor of Sociology at Oberlin College*, JeffriAnne Wilder. Gathered research for forthcoming textbook project revolving around race in popular culture by applying socio-historical lens to examine the history of racial stereotypes.
  - Authored 20-page research paper titled "The Art of Decolonisation; Exploring the Role of Fela Kuti in Movements of Decolonisation Across the African Diaspora" under mentorship of *Chair of Africana Studies at Oberlin College*, Professor Charles Peterson. Paper nominated for publication and awarded honor of top 10% in a pool of 2,000+ research papers during rigorous research program.
- Intern**, Ministry of Youth & Social Development – Lagos State, Nigeria June 2024 – July 2024
- Gained insights into political processes in civil service. Shadowed all twelve units under Ministry's umbrella along with its crucial youth development and rehabilitation centers
- Intern**, Women Political Leaders (WPL) – Reykjavík, Iceland June 2022 – August 2022
- Youngest individual to work with former VP of the EU Parliament and her organization *Women Political Leaders*, exploring manners of gender-inclusive governance in Africa.
  - Attended meetings dissecting issues in running non-profits, revised potentially harmful ad-campaigns targeting African audiences to ensure positive reception and inclusivity, and contributed to bi-weekly forums revolving around the planning of milestone WPL convention in Kigali, Rwanda.

## Extracurricular Activities

- Lecturer / Instructor**, Oberlin College – Oberlin, OH February 2025 – Present
- Designed, curated and currently teach for-credit seminar revolving around African literature, politics and identity at Oberlin College through its student-led Experimental College program.
- Radio Show Host**, Oberlin College – Oberlin, OH February 2025 – Present
- Co-host weekly radio show focused on the intersection between African music, art, and contemporary politics. Conduct and synthesise politically relevant research into accessible, conversational and engaging points for a broad audience.
- Facilitator**, Writers in Residence – Lorain, OH Sep 2023 – May 2024
- Facilitated weekly creative writing workshops for incarcerated youth at the Lorain County Juvenile Detention Center with Writers in Residence – an organization seeking to use creative writing to "transform lives," increase literacy, and aid incarcerated youth with their "re-entry into society."

## **Projects: Independent Research**

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- Authored 27-page research paper titled “The Woman King: Exploring the Role of Gender and Gender Identity in the Political Systems of The Pre-Colonial Yoruba” under mentorship of researcher and scholar at Stanford, Takondwa Semphere. Presented research at annual research symposium.
- Currently conducting research on the creation of community amongst displaced Sudanese people in Cairo, Egypt. Displaying findings on a digital humanities exhibit.

## **Skills, Leadership, Service and Publications**

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**Languages:** English (Native), Yoruba (Native), Arabic (Beginner).

**Leadership:** Co-President, African Students Association at Oberlin College.

**Service:** Tutor @ Ninde Scholars Program, Volunteer @ Oberlin Community Services.

**Publications:** Transition Magazine, Flash Fiction Magazine, The Kalahari Review.

**Other:** Writing, Editing & Proofreading, Qualitative Research, Public Speaking, Community Organizing.