



# Independent Scholarly Podcasting & its Impact on Africanist Research, Teaching, & Career Development

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Dr. Peter Alegi  
Michigan State University  
PACT ASA Workshop  
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# TIMELINE

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**2008:** Birth of Afripod

**2009:** Profiled in *AHA Perspectives*; listed as “Africa e-resource” in online library catalogs (e.g. MSU, Columbia, Stanford, Cambridge); Ep. 7 transcript published in *Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Studies*

**2012:** First recording studio; Alegi’s “Podcasting the Past” in *South African Historical Journal*

**2016:** ASA podcast partnership. 1 million hits recorded on *afripod.aodl.org*; listeners in 100+ nations

**2017:** Co-host Peter Limb retired

**2018-19:** New studio in Matrix Digital Lab; Afripod featured in Getz, *A Primer for Teaching African History* (Duke UP); Ep. 116 transcript published in *Australasian Review of African Studies*

**2020-23:** COVID-related restrictions/burnout (2-year pause); website rebuilt (from WordPress to KORA)

**2024:** Partnership with MSU African Studies Center



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and Present

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# Africa Past and Present

The podcast about African History, Culture, and Politics

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## Latest Episode



Episode 137

### On Being and Becoming Muslim in Nigeria and Africa

Afis Ayinde Oladosu (Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies, University of Ibadan) on being and becoming Muslim in Nigeria and Africa. Dr. Oladosu reflects on his journey to academia, positionality at Ibadan, and experiences as a Gates Fellow in the U.S. He then...

November 25, 2024 00:37:08

[VIEW EPISODE](#)

[Islam](#) [Yoruba](#) [Arabic](#)





Dr. Oladosu in the Afripod studio

November 25, 2024  
00:37:07

Guests: Oladosu, Afis Ayinde

Host: Alegi, Peter

Islam Yoruba

Arabic



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Episode 137

## On Being and Becoming Muslim in Nigeria and Africa

Afis Ayinde Oladosu (Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies, University of Ibadan) on being and becoming Muslim in Nigeria and Africa. Dr. Oladosu reflects on his journey to academia, positionality at Ibadan, and experiences as a Gates Fellow in the U.S. He then discusses his MSU African Studies Center seminar presentation and comments on the role of religion in Nigerian politics. The interview concludes with a look at Dr. Oladosu's current research projects.

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00:00:00 - 00:01:54	Introduction
00:01:55 - 00:04:55	Becoming a scholar
00:04:56 - 00:13:05	His positionality at Ibadan and experience as a Gates Fellow at UMass
00:13:06 - 00:21:36	MSU African Studies Center talk: "Islam in Nigeria Qua Africa: On Being and Becoming Muslim"
00:21:37 - 00:25:10	Boko Haram's manipulation of Islam
00:25:11 - 00:30:33	Religion and politics in Nigeria today
00:30:34 - 00:35:55	New research projects
00:35:56 - 00:37:07	Wrap up and Outro

# EFFECTS ON RESEARCH

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- Keep up with scholarly literature, read beyond field of expertise (“upskilling”)
- Helped my writing (less didactic, flow closer to spoken form)
- Sparked new interests and projects (forthcoming book!)
- Less solitude, more collaboration (co-authorship; formal partnerships [MSU, ASA])
- Archived snapshots of African studies “state of the field”

# EFFECTS ON TEACHING

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- Free online resource for Africa-related instruction
- More effective conversationalist (“edutainer”)
- Deepening student engagement via personally meaningful learning:
  - Podcasts as multimedia course content
  - Podcasts as student projects



When I use *Africa Past and Present* or other podcasts in the classroom, I frequently ask students to respond to a set of questions that I have drawn up beforehand. Some of these questions relate to the topic of the interview, but several also ask them to critically assess the interview format and to consider why Limb and Alegi ask certain questions, or how the interviewee chose to respond to these questions. I try to get students to understand the interview (and the production of history more broadly) as a conversation between scholars, critics, and the public. The episode with Nwando Achebe, for example, allows me to ask about why Achebe felt driven to write about a female warrant chiefly officeholder, which aspects of colonialism she and the hosts chose to emphasize, and the assertions made about the use of oral history as a source. Because these issues are entangled with a really good story, students generally respond to them successfully, and I can then draw them into the wider course material I present on these topics.

A PRIMER FOR TEACHING  
AFRICAN HISTORY

— Ten Design Principles —

*Trevor R. Getz*

DUKE UNIVERSITY PRESS

*Durham and London*

2018



**PODCASTING  
WORKSHOP #1**

*PRE-PRODUCTION*





# EFFECTS ON CAREER DEVELOPMENT

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- Enhanced visibility; wider, more diverse audience
- Time-consuming enterprise, must be weighed against other research/teaching/admin/service duties
- More versatile, creative teacher (three teaching awards)
- Digital scholarship enriches merit/promotion/tenure portfolio
- Ethical commitment to disseminate Africanist colleagues' work, ideas, voices in academia | media | policymaking | general public
- Capacity builder for new Africa podcasts



# The Hip Hop African Podcast



“ The longest running podcast on African Hip Hop culture ”

PODCAST EPISODE

## Worteh Sampson - Boys Director of Coaching at Plymouth Reign Soccer Club



Telling Our Football Stories 🌍🌍.

Oct 27 · 43 mins left





*“There is an art to podcasting. Fundamentally, the artist as the storyteller, as a podcaster. It’s knowing your voice and owning that voice. I mean, literally your voice. But I also mean your “voice” like your perspective. The view that you’re putting out into the world, that you have and want to express. Owning that takes time and it’s an art. There’s an art to relationship building because podcasting is also fundamentally built by relationships. So your audience feels like they have this unique relationship with you. So how you transmit that energy that you want to put out there and receive so that there’s a give-and-take.”*

**Melissa Mbugua**

Founder of Africa Podfest; Director of Spotify New African Podcast Fund



Melissa Mbugua (left) and Josephine Karianjahi (right) , Co-Founders of Africa Podfest.

Thanks for listening!

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