

Alternative Perspectives and Global Concernes (ap-gc.net)

By Dr. Mahmoud Masaeli

The 7th International Seminar

Africa's Spiritual Response to Human Suffering: Nigeria and COVID-19

COVID-19 pandemic has paused the routine life, while generated deep concerns about the future of the communities especially the living condition in the developing countries. Apart from these unusual consequences of the pandemic, and more importantly the pandemic stimulates positive thought on the potentials for the Post COVID-19 era. Impertive in the positive and informative state of thought on the crisis, is the role that spirituality can play in the COVID-19 situation and the world after the pandemic. Spirituality, being understood simply as a sense of connected wiyth a higher order, and with a transcendental realm, changes the ways through which people explore meaning for their life. Although vary contextually and culturally, spiritual perspectives share a commong characteristic: The meaning of life is so much deeper than the common sense understanding of the ordinary life. Hence, spiritual percpectives trun the life of people into a deeply engaged social practice and involvement in addressing of the needs especially in the pandemic situation that has shocked our commong humanity.

This seminar tends to discuss and explore perspectives from Nigeria embracing spiritual life and its tie to social responsibility in curing the process of human suffering especially in the COVID-19 condition. Nigeria, which is one the largetst, populated, and richest African countries, and is among the emerging economies, is also suffering from a deep inequality and corruption it its system as well. However, the country enjoys deep culturally spiritual perspectives of Igbo, Yoruba, Fula, Husa, and other ethnically and culturally people.

- How to define a common ground for the response of spiritual perspectives in addressing the urgency of the COVI-19 condition?
- Would spiritual life of Africa's people, and in this case, affect human life in the time of hardship and crisis such as the COVID-19 Pandemic?
- What would the plan of life for the Post COVID -19 be in from a spiritual perspective?
- Could tikkun olam contribute in the relief of the stress as well as the financial needs of the vulnerable people.
- In what way could tikkun olam become a source of inspiration in fostering capacity-building, empower marginalized individuals, and restoring their dignity?
- Given the experience learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, what advices could tikkun olam provide for social protection policies?
- Given the ethics appeal of African spirituality, and specifically Igbo and Yoruba's perception of life, could their spiritual tradition transform the meaning of life in the process of modernization of the country?
- How can the ethics spiritual views comply with the imperatives of modern transformation in general?

- What specific messages the ethic spirituality could share with the world?

This topic and exemplary questions raised will be discussed by our participants who are experts in Ethics, spirituality, politics, social activism, and politics. This seminar format webinar will be held via a zoom teleconference and will be broadcasted live on our social media channels. It will also be recorded for offline media.

Date: Friday, July 17th, 2020

Time: 13h00 East Canada and the US, 20h20 Central Europ, and 17h00 in Nigeria

Registration and Participation: Free of charge

We appreciate your donation: <https://ap-gc.net> (PayPal)

The panelistes

Dr. Aderemi Oladele specialises in international development policy, governance, public sector management, Africa's geopolitics and multilateral diplomacy. He is a Senior Research Officer at the Permanent Delegation of Nigeria to UNESCO in Paris. His research interests are in sustainable development; Africa's geopolitics and political economy; results culture in international development management; and the linkages between internationally development policy and regional and national development. Aderemi is the Founder and Lead Analyst at 3psmars International, a non-profit think tank focused on capacity building and knowledge management for development effectiveness, with special focus on Africa. He served as a Visiting Associate Professor of International Studies in the Faculty of Social Sciences, National Open University of Nigeria from 2014 to 2016.



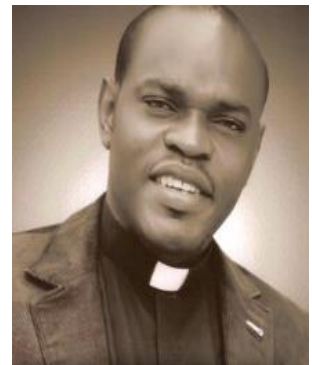
Dr. Stanley Uche Anozie teaches Philosophy/Ethics at Indiana University Kokomo, Indiana. In 2007, he was awarded a Master's Scholarship from Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and a Doctoral Fellowship from Ontario Graduate Scholarship (Canada) for 2011-2012. Anozie is Vice-President Alternative Perspectives and Global Concerns (ap-gc.net). He has published extensively, among them is the 2020 *Hans-Georg Gadamer and African Hermeneutic Philosophy*.

Anozie's areas of research include Western Philosophy, African Philosophy and Religions, Africana Studies, Global and Applied Ethics, Hermeneutics, Continental Philosophy, Ethics of Patriotism, Hermeneutic of Political Belongingness, Social and Political Philosophy.



Dr. Mahmoud Masaeli is a Canadian Iranian political philosopher, ethicist, spiritualist, poet, and an active civil society leader in a global context. He has initiated and is the main force behind this series of seminars on the Post COVID-19 era. His area of research, teaching and publication include Global Ethics, Human Rights, Global Justice, Hermeneutics of Selfhood, and Human Development. He also holds a special interest in universal spirituality. Mahmoud is the Founder and Executive Director of Alternative Perspectives and Global Concerns (ap-gc.net). He serves as the Ambassador of the Parliament of the World's religions. Mahmoud has published extensively in global ethics, global development, spirituality and ethics of globality. He also a visiting professor at Ottawa University. Mahmoud chairs and speaks in this seminar.

Dr. Ikechukwu Anthony Kanu, OSA is a friar of the Order of Saint Augustine of the Province of Nigeria. He has a Bachelor's Degree from the Urbaniana University, Rome, Italy in Philosophy (2004). He has a second Bachelor's Degree from the University of Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria in Religious Studies (2009). He has a Master's Degree in Religion and Human Relations, with a specialization in African Traditional Religion from Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria (2012). In 2015, he bagged a Doctorate Degree from the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, with a specialization in African Traditional Religion. He has attended Conferences at the national and International levels and published in several national and international journals. He is also a member of several relevant learned societies.



Zoom information

Topic: Africa's Spiritual response to Human Suffering

Time: Jul 17, 2020 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87018593442?pwd=N3pJSkdKTDVtSkE5bnE5U3o3QTk0UT09>

Meeting ID: 870 1859 3442

Password: 240776