

OGBAZULUOBODO

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About the Journal

Perhaps the most popular depiction of the Ogbazuluobodo in Igbo culture is Chinua Achebe's, in his second novel *Arrow of God*. This journal retains two important senses deducible from the Ogbazuluobodo phenomenon in Igbo Culture. The first of course is its intensely multidisciplinary vision, covering different areas of human knowledge and intellection. The second would be its inclination towards researches that show deep responsibility in addressing the problems that confront contemporary human society. Published online and also in print, *Ogbazuluobodo* is a biannual journal that provides a thinking space for multidisciplinary reflections on contemporary issues.

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Introduction: Research, the Twenty-First Century and the *Ogbazuluobodo* Phenomenon

In July 2019, scholars, opinion leaders and technocrats gathered in the serene city of Nsukka for a conference on criminality and violence as significant features of the Twenty-First Century. Although we anticipated a well attended conference considering the topicality of the conference theme, the eventual attendance even surpassed our modest expectations. The overwhelming attendance, amongst other things, bespeaks the fact that the twin evils of violence and criminality are a common pain in our communal shoes.

Many of the papers published here and in the second number were presented at that conference. From the address of the former honourable minister of education, Dr Ibrahim Shekarau, the well-articulated exploration of the possibility of alternative dispute resolution in Nigerian judicial system by Justice C.A. Ogbuabor, Professor Aloysius-Michaels Okolie's thought-provoking analysis of the relationship between the state of the Nigerian state and the proselytising of its citizens, Bishop E. O. Chukwuma's exploration of the religious angle to curbing criminality and violence, and down to the very last paper in this volume, they are all attempts to enlighten, to not only historicize problems but also think up solutions.

Therefore, every paper in this volume shows communal or national responsibility. In fact, this journal and the conference that birthed it were inspired by our firm belief in the requirement of responsibility in research, in the social 'committedness' of human knowledge and intellection. This thinking took us back to a phenomenon in ancient Igbo society, the *ogbazuluobodo*. The *ogbazuluobodo* typifies communal responsibility, communal enlightenment, and it is this archetypal essence that informs the philosophy of this journal.

The twenty-first century is fraught with a lot of challenges, some of which are the results of globalization and the shrinking of the world through the social media. There are new problems and the evolution of old ones. All these call for constant and rigorous meditations. Thus, multidisciplinary in approach, *Ogbazuluobodo journal* provides a thinking arena for meditating on contemporary issues of the twenty-first century.

Have a pleasant reading experience.

Florence Onyebuchi Orabueze

Editor