

## Rabiat Akande

### **CURRENT POSITION**

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**Osgoode Hall Law School, York University**  
*Assistant Professor*

### **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

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Legal History: African, International, and Islamic Legal History; Comparative Constitutional Law; International Law; Law and Religion

### **EDUCATION**

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**Harvard Law School**, Cambridge, MA

**SJD, May 2019**

Dissertation: Navigating Entanglements: Contestations Over Religion-State Relations in British Colonial Northern Nigeria, c. 1890-1977

Law and Society in the Muslim World Dissertation Prize

Clark Byse Fellow

Graduate Program Fellow

Cravath International Research Fellow (United Kingdom), 2016

Harvard International Law Journal

**Harvard Law School**, Cambridge, MA

**LL.M, May 2013 (Degree waived towards SJD)**

Thesis: “Transnational Security and State De-territorialization: The Case of the Lake Chad”  
(with honors)

**Nigerian Law School**, Lagos, Nigeria

**Qualifying Certificate, July 2011** (First Class Honors),

Justice Aloma Mukhtar Prize in Civil Litigation

Adegboyega Awomola Prize in Civil and Criminal Litigation

**University of Ibadan**, Nigeria

**Bachelor of Laws (LL.B)**, November 2009 (First Class Honors)

Faculty Prize for Best Graduating Student

Department of Public and International Law Prize

Department of Private and Business Law Prize

Justice Mohammed Bello Prize in Law

CS Ola Prize in Company Law and Taxation

Chiadi Ajayi-Obe Prize in Law

NUPEMCO Prize, Faculty of Law

A.L Ciroma Prize in Law

Frank James Prize in Law

## PUBLICATIONS

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### *Books*

Rabiat Akande, [Entangled Domains: Empire, Law, and Religion in Northern Nigeria](#), *Cambridge University Press: 2023*

Rabiat Akande and Idriss Fofana, Co-edited) International Legal Histories of Precolonial Africa (ongoing negotiations with *Oxford University Press*) (Contribution: 50%) [expected publication: 2025]

James Gathii, Obiora Okafor, and Rabiat Akande (co-edited), African International Law Reader (ongoing negotiations with *Oxford University Press*) (Contribution: 33.33%) [expected publication: 2026]

Rabiat Akande, Maurits Berger, and Vishal Vora (co-edited), Elgar Concise Encyclopedia of Law and Religion, under contract with *Edward Elgar Publishing* (Contribution: 33.33%) [expected publication: 2025]

### *Book Chapters*

Rabiat Akande, [Centring the Black Muslimah: An Agenda for Intersectionalizing the Study of Islamophobia](#), Anver Emon ed., Systemic Islamophobia Anthology, *University of Toronto Press: 2023*

Rabiat Akande and Haleemah Adeniran, [Islamic Law and Colonialism](#) in Sohaira Siddiqui and Mariam Sheibani (eds.), Cambridge Companion to Islamic Law, (*Cambridge University Press: under peer review*) (Contribution: 75%) [expected publication: 2024]

Rabiat Akande, [Constituting Minorities: Self-Determination and the Legal Politics of Religious Difference in Late Colonial Northern Nigeria](#), in Oludamini Ogunnaike (ed.), Religion, Race and Democracy in Africa, (To include French, Arabic and Portuguese Translations) (*University of Virginia Press: under peer review*) [expected publication: 2024]

### *Articles*

Rabiat Akande, [An Imperial History of Race-Religion in International Law](#) *American Journal of International Law*: Vol. 118: 1 January, 2024

Rabiat Akande, “[Debating Diya: Indirect Rule and The Transformation of Islamic Law in British Colonial Northern Nigeria](#),” *Die Welt des Islams: accepted manuscript* [forthcoming, 2024]

Rabiat Akande and Faisal Bhabha, [Insulating the Church: Ethiopian Tewaedo Church v. Aga](#)

[and the Suppression of Public Law in the Construction of Religious Communities](#), Vol. 108 *Supreme Court Law Review* (2023) (Contribution: 50%)

Rabiat Akande, “[Neutralizing Secularism: Religion Antiliberalism and the Twentieth-Century Global Ecumenical Project](#),” *Journal of Law and Religion*, Volume 37:2, May 2022

Rabiat Akande, “[Secularizing Islam: The Colonial Encounter and the Making of a British Colonial Islamic Criminal Law in Northern Nigeria, 1903-1960](#),” *Law and History Review*, Volume 38:2, May 2020

### ***Scholarly Blogs***

Rabiat Akande, “[Colonialism and Islamic Law](#),” *Islamic Law Blog, Harvard Law School* Program on Islamic Law, October 2023.

Rabiat Akande, “[Siyasa Authority in the Colonial State](#),” *Islamic Law Blog, Harvard Law School* Program on Islamic Law, October 2023.

Rabiat Akande, “[Diya and the Legacy of Empire](#),” *Islamic Law Blog, Harvard Law School* Program on Islamic Law, October 2023.

Rabiat Akande, “[Constructing Minorities](#),” *AfricasaCountry*, December, 2022

Rabiat Akande, “[The Making of a Colonial Islamic Law in Northern Nigeria](#),” *Islamic Law Blog, Harvard Law School* Program on Islamic Law, December 2019

### ***Research Podcasts***

Rabiat Akande, *Entangled Domains: Empire, Law and Religion in Northern Nigeria* (Cambridge University Press, 2023) (in conversation with Sara Katz), New Books Network Podcast April, 2024

Rabiat Akande, [The Making of the Islamic World: Islam at a Crossroads in West Africa](#), Ottoman History Podcast (together with Ann McDougall, University of Alberta and Wendell Marsh, Rutgers University) January 2021

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## **ACADEMIC CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND PRESENTATIONS**

Entangled Domains: Empire, Law and Religion in Northern Nigeria. Harvard University: Faculty of Arts and Sciences; Divinity School; and Center for African Studies, 2024: Invited Speaker

Entangled Domains: Empire, Law and Religion in Northern Nigeria. Northwestern University: Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa, (May 2024: forthcoming): Invited Speaker

Beyond Intersectionality: Toward a “Race-Religion” Construction of Gendered Islamophobia. University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, 2024: Invited Speaker

Precolonial African International Legal Histories. The African Institute of International Law: Virtual Workshop, 2024: Chair

Entangled Domains: Empire, Law and Religion in Northern Nigeria. University of Toronto Faculty of Law: Faculty Colloquium/ Critical Approaches to Law Workshop, 2023. Invited Speaker.

Legitimizing ‘Modern’ Islamic Law: Decolonization and the Making of Northern Nigeria, American Society for Legal History Annual Conference, 2023. Panelist.

Debating Diya: Indirect Rule and the Transformation of Islamic Law in British Colonial Northern Nigeria, Harvard Law School Comparative Law Workshop, 2023. Invited Speaker.

The Past and Futures of African Legal History, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, 2023. Panelist.

Constitutionalism: The Future of Law in Africa, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, 2023. Chair.

Systemic Islamophobia, University of Toronto Massey College, 2023. Invited Speaker

The Politics of Hope: “Shari’ā Inshallah: Finding God in Somali Legal Politics, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, 2022. Invited Speaker.

The Future of Law in Africa, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, 2022. Co-convenor.

The Legal Politics of Religious Difference in Late Colonial Northern Nigeria: Northwestern University Global Religion: Invention, Translation and Critique Workshop, 2022. Invited Presenter.

Constituting Minorities: Self-Determination and the Legal Politics of Religious Difference in Late Colonial Northern Nigeria: University of Virginia Religion and Democracy in Africa Conference, 2022. Invited Panelist.

Decolonization, Secularization and the Making of the 1958 Penal Code in Late Colonial Nigeria, Osgoode Legal History Workshop, 2022. Presenter.

Insulating the Church: Ethiopian Tewaedo Church v. Aga and the Private Law Construction of Religious Communities, Osgoode Constitutional Cases Conferences, 2022. Panelist.

Neutralizing Secularism: Religious Liberty and the Making of the Universal Declaration, Osgoode Religion and Social Thought Colloquium, 2022. Invited Presenter.

On Quebec's Bill 21, 2022. Invited Panelist.

Comparative Constitutional Law, Colonialism and Empire, International Society of Public Law (ICON-S) 2021. Invited Panelist.

Colonial Era Shari'a: "Judging Islamic Law: The 1938 Fatwa of Kano Law School Jurists and the late colonial project in Northern Nigeria," American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting, New Orleans, 2021, Invited Panelist.

New Directions in African Legal History Roundtable: "Debating Diya: Indirect Rule and The Transformation of Islamic Law in British Colonial Northern Nigeria," African Society Association Annual Meeting, 2021. Panelist.

Representing and Imagining African Muslims: Historical Perspectives, African Society Association Annual Meeting, 2021. Invited Chair.

The Future of Law in Africa, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting June, 2021. Convenor.

Political versus Idealized Sharia in Nigeria, Yale Law School Kamel Center for the Study of Islamic Law and Civilization, 2021. Invited Panelist.

British Colonial Legalities: Uncertain Legacies: Debating Constitutionalism and Confronting Imperial Legacies in the British World, 1800-Present: Marginalizing Secularism: Decolonizing the State: Missionary Advocacy for Religious Freedom in British Colonial Northern Nigeria, Law and Society Association Virtual Conference, 2020. Panelist.

Marginalizing Secularism, Decolonizing the State: Missionary Advocacy for Religious Freedom in British Colonial Northern Nigeria, 1945-60, Global Scholars Academy, the Graduate Institute for International and Area Studies-Institute for Global Law and Policy, Geneva, 2020. Workshop Participant.

Constitutionalism in States of Exception: Privacy and the Question of Rights in Emergencies, Emergency and National Planning Colloquium, Abuja, 2020. Invited Speaker.

Global History: Marginalizing Secularism, Decolonizing the State: Missionary Advocacy for Religious Freedom in British Colonial Northern Nigeria, 1945-60, American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting, Boston, 2019, Panelist.

Decolonization and African Laws and Legal Systems: Marginalizing Secularism, Decolonizing the State: Missionary Advocacy for Religious Freedom in British Colonial Northern Nigeria, 1945-60, African Legal History Symposium, Boston, 2019, Panelist.

Transnational and International Influence on African Rights: Marginalizing Secularism, Decolonizing the State: Missionary Advocacy for Religious Freedom in British Colonial

Northern Nigeria, 1945-60, African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Boston, 2019. Panelist.

Legal Histories of the British Empire: Secularizing Islamic Law: The Colonial Encounter and the Making of a British Colonial Islamic Criminal Law in Northern Nigeria, 1903-1960, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, 2018. Panelist.

Secularizing Islamic Law: The Colonial Encounter and the Making of a British Colonial Islamic Criminal Law in Northern Nigeria, 1903-1960, Religion and the Public Sphere in Africa and the Diaspora, Harvard University, Cambridge, 2018. Invited Panelist.

The Future of Africa, Harvard Black Law Students Association 50th Anniversary, 2018. Invited Panelist.

Religion, Culture and Law: Contestations over Secularism: The Nigerian Experience, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, 2016. Panelist.

Contestations over Secularism in Nigeria, Institute of Global Law and Policy, Cape Town, 2016. Workshop Participant.

African Languages and the Politics of Law and Identity, African Languages in the Disciplines Conference, Harvard University, Cambridge, 2014. Invited Panelist.

## **FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS**

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### **Fellowships**

Yale Law School Abdallah S Kamel Center for the Study of Islamic Law and Civilization, Fellowship, 2024 (could not accept)

African Institute of International Law, Fellow, 2023

Harvard University Academy for International and Area Studies, Academy Scholar and Postdoctoral Fellow, *life membership, in-residence*: 2019-21

Harriet Tubman Institute, York University, Faculty Member, 2021-  
Program in Islamic Law, Harvard Law School, Fellow, 2019-2021

Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, Dissertation Completion Fellow, 2018-19

Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, Graduate Student Associate, 2016-19

International Legal Studies, Harvard Law School, Cravath Fellow, 2016

### **Grants**

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council - **CAD\$ 105275**

Gerda Henkel Foundation Research Grant, 2023 - **€127,434**

U.S National Science Foundation-Law and Society Association, 2021-2023 - **US \$24,908**

African Union, 2022 - **US \$1646**

Harvard Law School, 2023-2028 - **US \$50,000**

Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies - **US \$3646**  
Nathanson Center, Osgoode, Hall Law School, 2022 - **CAD \$13,000**  
Academy for International and Area Studies, Harvard University, 2019-2021 - **US \$149,600**  
Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, 2016-19 - **US \$37,615**  
Islamic Legal Studies: Law and Social Change, Harvard Law School, 2017 - **US \$2,000**  
International Legal Studies, Harvard Law School, 2016 - **US \$2,000**  
Office of Academic Affairs, Harvard Law School: 2015; 2017; 2018; 2019 - **US \$5,600**

## **OSGOODE HALL LAW SCHOOL TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Assistant Professor**, Osgoode Hall Law School

- Comparative Constitutional Law, Winter 2023, Winter 2024
- Law and Religion, Winter 2023
- Legal Ethics: Ethical Lawyering in a Global Community, Fall, 2021, Winter, 2022, Fall 2022; Winter, 2023; Fall, 2023

### **Clark Byse Fellow**, Harvard Law School

- Legal Debates over Secularism in Comparative Contexts, Spring, 2019

### **Lecturer**, Northeastern University School of Law, Boston, MA

- International Law, Fall, 2017
- International Law, Summer 2016

### **Teaching Assistant**, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA

- Diversity and Dispute Resolution, Winter 2017; 2018
- Mediation, Spring 2016
- LL.M Thesis Writing Workshop, 2016
- Legal Profession: Collaborative Law, Fall 2015

### **Course Advisor**, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA

Master of Laws Course Advisor, 2013-2016

## **RESEARCH LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE**

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Harvard University Institute of Global Law and Policy, Global Scholars Academy, Stellenbosch University South Africa, Faculty, 2024 (June 2024, forthcoming)

International Journal of Law in Context: Cambridge University Press, Editorial Board Member 2023 -2026

American Society of International Law Africa Interest Group, Co-Chair, 2023 till date

African Institute of International Law International Legal History Project, Inaugural Project Chair, 2023 till date

African Studies Association Islam in Africa Study Group, Chair, 2023 till date

American Society for Legal History, Annual Meeting Program Committee Member, 2023

Harvard University Institute of Global Law and Policy, Global Scholars Academy, Stellenbosch University South Africa, Faculty, 2023

University of Ghana, Legon, Tenure and Promotions Reviewer, 2023

National Killam Program, National Research Council Canada, Reviewer, 2022

Osgoode Hall Law School: Jack and Mae Nathanson Centre for Transnational Human Rights, Crime, and Security, Executive Committee Member, 2023-

Osgoode Hall Law School: Academic Policy Planning Committee Sub-Committee on Curriculum Changes, Board Member, 2022-23

Osgoode Hall Law School: Standing Committee on Teaching and Learning, Member, 2022-23

Osgoode Hall Law School: Institute of Feminist legal Studies, Board Member, 2022-23

Osgoode Hall Law School: Graduate Studies Committee: Research Stream, Member, 2021-22, 2022-23

Osgoode Hall Law School: Ethical Lawyering in a Global Community, First-Year Course Director, 2022-23

Osgoode Hall Law School: Academic Standing Committee, Member, 2021-22

Osgoode Hall Law School: Admissions Committee, Member, 2021-22

Law and Society Association International Research Collaborative: The Future of Law in Africa, Co-convenor, 2020-2023

Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, Undergraduate Thesis Mentor, 2017-20

Harvard Law School SJD Association Workshop, Co-organizer, 2015

Africa Forum, Harvard Law School, Convener, 2015

Harvard Africa Development Conference, Panel organizer, 2014

Harvard Africa Law Association, Board Member, 2014

## **OTHER LEGAL AND POLICY EXPERIENCE**

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Harvard University Institute of Global Law and Policy, Global Scholars Academy, Stellenbosch University South Africa, Faculty Mentor, 2023

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: United Nations Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Invited Expert, 2022

Harvard Mediation Program, Member, 2013-2019

Human Development Initiatives, Research Fellow, 2014

Harvard International Law Journal, Submissions Editor, Vols. 54 & 55, 2012-13

G. Elias Solicitors and Advocates, Associate, 2011-12

## **BAR ADMISSION & MEMBERSHIP**

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New York, 2014

Nigeria, 2011

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

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American Society for Legal History

American Society of International Law

African Studies Association

Law and Society Association

Osgoode Society for Legal History