

Biographical Note

Nduka Otiono is an Associate Professor and Graduate Program Supervisor at the Institute of African Studies, Carleton University, in Ottawa, Canada. He is the author and co-editor of several books of creative writing and academic research. Formerly a journalist and General Secretary of the Association of Nigerian Authors, his first book, *The Night Hides with a Knife* (short stories), jointly won, with Adebayo Williams' *The Remains of the Last Emperor*, the ANA/Spectrum Prize for fiction. His second book, *Voices in the Rainbow* (poems), received Honourable Mention for the ANA/Cadbury Poetry Prize, while his third creative work, *Love in a Time of Nightmares* (poems), was awarded the James Patrick Folinsbee Memorial Scholarship in Creative Writing. He has co-edited *Oral Literary Performance in Africa: Beyond Text* (Routledge 2021), *Wreaths for a Wayfarer: An Anthology of Poems in Honor of Pius Adesanmi* (Daraja Press & Narrative Landscape Press 2020); *Polyvocal Bob Dylan: Music, Performance, Literature* (Palgrave 2019); *Camouflage: Best of Contemporary Writing from Nigeria* (Treasure Books 2006); and *We-Men: An Anthology of Men Writing on Women* (New Horn Press & Critical Forum 1998).

Otiono was born in Kano City in northern Nigeria, but because of the Nigeria-Biafra War his family returned to their hometown of Ogwashi-Uku in mid-western Nigeria when he was still young. The war, and the enduring schisms and tensions it has left in the country and its people as Nigeria lurched from military dictatorship to corrupt democratic governance, has etched its marks on Otiono's poetry as much as the migrations he has undertaken. After completing his Bachelor's and Master's degrees at the University of Ibadan, Otiono worked as a journalist in Lagos for fifteen years before enrolling at the University of Alberta to study for his PhD in English and Film Studies. His PhD was followed by a Postdoctoral Fellowship and a stint as Senior Research Assistant

to the acclaimed novelist, Chinua Achebe, at Brown University in the United States. After completing that fellowship, he returned to Canada to take up a Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship at Carleton University before he assumed an appointment at Carleton's Institute of African Studies. Otiono's professional honours include: Capital Educator's Award for Excellence in Teaching; Carleton University Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Early Career Award for Research Excellence; Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship; William Joiner Centre for War and Social Consequences Fellowship, University of Massachusetts, Boston; and Black History Ottawa Community Builder Award.