



## CURRICULUM VITAE

**NAME** OLLY OWEN

**NATIONALITY** British

### EXPERTISE

Anthropologist, governance professional, former risk analyst working on political economy issues, specialising in state institutions and everyday state-society relations with a regional focus on West Africa. With practical development experience in state-level institutional reform processes, as well as with private sector, civil society organisations, Nigerian state and federal government bodies, ECOWAS and international donors.

### EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- 2013 DPhil in Social Anthropology, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Oxford University: Fieldwork-based doctoral research entitled An Institutional Ethnography of the Nigerian Police supported by four-year grant from the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).
- 2008 MSc in Social Anthropology Research Methods, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Oxford University.
- 2002 MSc African Politics, School Of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Dissertation on communal conflict in the Nigerian Middle-Belt
- 2000 Cambridge University, Selwyn College, 1997-2000: BA Hons (First Class) Archaeology & Anthropology (Social Anthropology).

### POLICY PRACTICE PORTFOLIO

2023 – ongoing **Propcom +, Nigeria** - Working as a subcontractor to The Palladium Group on this seven year FCDO funded project, which aims to promote market systems development for climate-smart agriculture in Nigeria. The Policy Practice will be providing expertise on building a political economy and conflict sensitivity approach into the markets systems development initiatives to be supported by Propcom+ in diverse sectors including climate smart crop varieties, poultry vaccination, e-extension, sustainable forestry and carbon capture.

Feb -Dec 22 **Demography Political Economy Analysis, Nigeria** - completed a political economy analysis on the demographic transition in Nigeria. Based on detailed fieldwork in 11 locations, the study addresses the question of what are the political, economic and socio-cultural factors influencing population policy and outcomes. It identified six potential pathways of change towards a more rapid demographic transition and makes recommendations on how development partners can support these pathways.

Other assignments included participation in and led PEA-based analyses on civil society and governance support programmes, and technical assistance pool programmes in Nigeria, African Union taxation strategies, Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Environment implementation capacity, and demographic trends and policies.

## **OTHER EMPLOYMENT, RESEARCH AND COLLABORATIONS**

- 2020-ongoing Technical Advisor on Forest Governance and Climate Change, Ekiti State Government, Nigeria. Developing programming, building institutional capacity in forest management and agroforestry.
- 2018-2019 - Lecturer in African Anthropology, Oxford University African Studies Centre/Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology. Teaching and research for MSc students in African Studies and Anthropology, MPhil and Doctoral supervision.
- 2017-ongoing Research Director, Nigeria Tax Research Network, a collaborative network of more than 400 institutional and individual members in Nigeria and abroad, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and administered by the International Centre for Tax and Development, IDS Sussex.
- 2017-ongoing Participant researcher in Oxford Martin School 'Governing the African Transition' research programme, covering the political economy and social imagination of rail infrastructural development.
- 2014 - 2017 Economic and Social Research Council Future Research Leader fellowship for three-year research project 'Social contracts in transformation: Tax reform in Nigeria' focusing on political economy of revenue reforms in five selected Nigerian states.
- 2013 - 2014 (concurrent): Project design and lead governance consultant on EU-FLEGT-supported, UNFAO-administered project to review and restructure forestry governance for Ekiti State Ministry of Environment, Nigeria.
- 2012 – 2018 Junior Research Fellow, Department of International Development, Oxford University. Undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, administration, research and publication on state-level taxation in Nigeria, knowledge exchange project with UK Justice for All programme and Nigeria Police Force.
- 2006 – 2007 Risk Analyst, Economic Associates, Lagos. Developed first ever state-by-state risk and forecasting model of Nigeria with in-house team.
- 2003 – 2006 Research Analyst, Global Insight, London: West Africa analyst at investment risk and economic forecasting agency with global private and public sector clients.
- 2002 – 2003 Project Officer, Centre for Democracy and Development, London: Prepared and anchored evaluative observation team for Nigeria 2003 elections.

## **OTHER CONSULTANCY AND PRO BONO ADVISORY**

Clients and pro bono partners in governance and institutional reform, security sector reform, and development evaluation have included: The EU, the UK DfID and FCO, The Nigerian Federal Inland Revenue Service, the UK Parliament's All-Party Group on Freedom of Religion, the Crown Prosecution Service, International Crisis Group, Transparency International, DfID/British Council Justice for All, the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture, ITAD Ltd/MacArthur Foundation, the Nigeria Railway Corporation, the EU-FLEGT/UNFAO and Ekiti State Ministry of Environment, and the heritage NGO Legacy1995.

## **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books:**

Co-editor (with Beek, Goepfert & Steinberg) *Rethinking Policing in Africa*, London, Hurst (2017).

### Book chapters:

Owen, O. 2018, 'Trust, taxation and representation' in LeVan (ed) *Oxford Handbook of Nigerian Politics*, Oxford University Press.

Owen, O. 2013: 'Positions of Security and the Security of Position: Bureaucratic Prebendalism Inside the State' in Adebanwi, W. and Obadare, E. (eds) *Democracy and Prebendalism in Nigeria: Critical Interpretations*. Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan.

### Articles in peer-reviewed journals:

Owen, O. & Goodfellow, T. 2019 Taxation and property rights in urban Lagos. *Economy and Society*.

Owen, O. 2019. Introduction: [Impôts et pratiques fiscales : interroger la signification et les usages de la formalité](#), (Tax and fiscal practice: Interrogating the meaning and use of formality), in self-edited special edition of *Politique Africaine on Gouverner par la Fiscalité* (no. 151)

Owen, O. 2019. « [Dans les règles » : fiscalité, confiance et considération dans les campagnes agricoles du Nigeria](#), ('Going legit': Taxation, trust and attention in agrarian rural Nigeria), in self-edited special edition of *Politique Africaine on Gouverner par la Fiscalité* (no. 151)

Owen, O., Gareth Williams, Alex Duncan, William Kingsmill & Anna

Paterson, 2019. 'DFID governance programming in Nigeria: What difference has thinking and working politically made in practice?' *Development Policy Review*, Vol. 37 (S1), pp 33-49.

Owen, O. & Cooper-Knock, S.J. 2018. Government paper: the negotiated production and life of state documents. *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, Vol. 52 (3), pp 269-287.

Owen, O. & Gatt, L. 2018. Direct Taxation and State-Society Relations in Lagos, Nigeria, *Development and Change*, Vol. 49 (5), pp 1195-1122.

Owen, O and Usman, Z. 2015. Briefing: Why Goodluck Jonathan lost the Nigerian presidential election of 2015. *African Affairs* 114 (456): pp 455-471.

Owen, O. and Cooper-Knock, S-J. Between vigilantism and bureaucracy: Improving our understanding of police work in Nigeria and South Africa. *Theoretical Criminology*. 2014

Owen, O. 2012: 'Maintenir l'ordre au Nigeria : vers une histoire de la souveraineté de l'Etat', *Politique Africaine* No. 128, special edition on *Corps habillés: Politique des métiers de l'ordre* (Bureaucrats in Uniform) edited by Debos, M. and Glasman, J.

Owen, O. 2009: Biafran Pound Notes; *Africa* Vol 79 (4).

### Selected Policy literature

*The Nigeria Police Force: Predicaments and possibilities*. Nigeria Research Network working paper No.15, July 2014.

*On the record: Police performance management in South Africa and Nigeria* (with Andrew Faull). South Africa Crime Quarterly (46), January 2014.

*Policing communal conflicts – between the state, parallel providers, and communities*. Policy Brief No 4, Nigeria Research Network, Oxford Department of International Development, 2013.

*Reinforcing the Foundations: Ongoing Democratic Transition in Mali*; Centre for Democracy and Development, London, 2002.

### ACADEMIC GRANTS

- ESRC Future Research Leaders 3-year fellowship: Tax & the social contract in Nigeria
- ESRC Impact Acceleration Account, 2014: Knowledge Exchange Fellowship
- Oxford University Fell Fund, 2013: To develop research on taxation in Nigeria.
- Oxford Development Studies Conference Support award, 2013: For workshop on new research in Nigeria.
- British Academy Partnership and Mobility Grant (with Dr J. Steinberg) 2012: To bring African scholars of policing to Oxford for research and conference.
- ESRC Overseas Institutional Visit Award, 2011: For Doctoral research at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.
- Oxford University's Lienhardt Fund Bursary, 2008: For doctoral fieldwork research.
- Economic & Social Research Council, 2007-2011: Full doctoral research grant.
- SOAS, 2001: Full bursary for fees and maintenance for MSc African Politics.