



INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF
CULTURE & SOCIETY
 PRESENTS

Apollos Nwauwa

Monday, November 5, 2007
1:30 pm
 Mylander Room (207)
 Bowen-Thompson Student Union

The Mind Game: Nigerian Universities, Neo-colonialism, and the Cold War, 1960-1990

How did the cold war impact Nigeria's universities and nation building process?

In what ways were the universities that emerged in a neo-colonial and cold war context Nigerian?

What can Nigeria's non-alignment policy and practice tell us about foreign policy and elite attitudes?

Nigeria began its existence in 1960 as a sovereign country shrouded in vestiges of the colonial system and the politics of the cold war. Both this new global political context and Nigeria's colonial history profoundly affected elite attitudes and the structures of universities. Nigeria's first modern university, the University College of Ibadan (UCI) established in 1948, was steeped in British academic tradition; its curriculum, personnel, standards, and infrastructure were modelled after the University of London. On the eve of independence, the United States entered the scene by helping to establish the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, imbued with an American academic model. Although the USSR did not establish a university, it employed other means to influence the minds of Nigerian elites. In newly independent Nigeria, an old colonial power and two newer imperial powers fought to educate and therefore influence post-colonial African minds. Professor Nwauwa's talk investigates the challenges of these externally imposed academic models, and their impact on the Nigerian academy and elites in the post-independence period.

Apollos O. Nwauwa is Associate Professor of History and Africana Studies at BGSU. His teaching and research focus on modern Africa, especially colonial, post-colonial (neo-colonial), and intellectual aspects of African history. He is the author of *Imperialism, Academe, and Nationalism: Britain and University Education for Africans, 1860-1960* and has published essays in several international journals, including *History in Africa*, *Asian and African Studies*, and *Cahiers D'Études Africaines*. Currently a fellow at ICS, he is working on a number of projects, one of which explores the impact of the cold war on education and elite formation in Africa.

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