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Digitizing and Mapping Northern Nigerian Hausa Poetry: Memory and Resistance to

Colonialism is a project based at Kaduna State University, Kaduna, Department of History and Strategic Studies, and funded by the African Poetry Digital Humanities Grant through the Brown University, Street Providence United States is hiring three temporary research assistants (RAs) for defined roles in literary analysis, historical analysis and archival research, and cartography and graphic design.

Application Requirements

- Applications must include a CV and cover letter. Those invited to interview will be asked to submit previous work.
- RAs must be Nigeria-based and available to work from October 2026 to August 2027.
- RAs will be paid \$14.52 per hour for 125-150 hours.
- RAs will work a maximum of 10 hours per week.

Timeline

Applications are due up to 30 October 2026.

Correspondence

All correspondence shall be sent to bashir.maiwada@kasu.edu.ng.

The positions include:

Literary Analysis Research Assistant
Historical Analysis and Archival Research Assistant
Cartography and Graphics Research Assistant

Abstract

The two most defining events that have marked the relationship between Africa and Europe are the trans-Atlantic slave trade and colonialism. In the course of both events, some significant issues that have followed these events are human trading, forced labour, colonial domination, and cultural displacement. However, these periods also witnessed ordinary acts of resistance by people who were victims of these systems. Notable among such acts of resistance is the poetry that was written and performed as everyday acts of resistance to foreign oppression. This poetry provides a counter-archive to official accounts of African contact with Europe. Through digitizing this poetry and geographical mapping, the project aims to explore Northern Nigeria's Hausa poetic tradition as a powerful archive of collective memory and colonial resistance. Drawing from pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial Hausa poetry in oral form and written in English, Arabic, and Hausa Ajami scripts, the project investigates selected works on how poets have articulated critiques of colonialism (colonial domination, cultural resistance, Islamic and traditional values, colonial education, political change, social transformation, colonial taxation, forced migration, sacrifices, indigenous memory and heritage), and socio-political changes, while preserving the indigenous knowledge, histories, and socio-cultural/religion ethics. With this, three fundamental questions were raised in connection to the study: 1) how do the poets frame their poems as acts of resistance to colonialism? 2) how do the poets' biographies and surrounding historical context support or oppose the themes in their poems? , and 3) how relevant are these poems to contemporary times?

To address these questions, this research examines how digitizing, geographic mapping, and close reading reveal how the northern Nigerian Hausa poetics tradition relates to colonial resistance in their poetry. The research methodologies include the collection and digitization of poetry, close reading of the selected poems, historical analysis, and geographic mapping of lives and works of selected Hausa poets whose poetry reflects memory and resistance to colonialism. This project will digitize the poetry, develop an interactive map, and visualize these colonial encounters as informed by the poetic works, as well as utilize geospatial data visualization techniques to map the locations of the poetry. The project will provide an immersive experience for users and improve comprehension and experience of poems.