

TALK

THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND FOLK NARRATIVES IN HUMAN/WILDLIFE CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

Okechukwu Iroegbu

University of California, Berkeley, USA

okeiroegbu@berkeley.edu

ABSTRACT

Folkloric elements in Igboland play a significant role in shaping social history and informing the negotiation of environmental, local, and national values. The interplay between expressive and non-expressive aspects of the culture(s) makes possible connections between individuals, individuals and groups, and between groups. In this investigation, I explore whether the presence or absence of folklore forms such as proverbs and moonlight folktales help younger generations develop a sense of value, belonging, identity, and concern for the environment. Does this apply to the Igbo youth of today? In short, how does folklore contribute to enculturation on different scales, from the local to the national, and for other generations, and how does that inform environmentalism at various levels?