

CONFERENCE

CALL FOR PAPERS



VISUAL CULTURE AND
HERITAGE RESEARCH GROUP
University of Nigeria, Nsukka
www.vch-researchgroup.org

Politics, Religion & Personality Cult in Postcolonial Africa

Personality Cult refers to a situation in which a public figure (such as a political or charismatic leader) is deliberately seen as an idealized, heroic icon worthy of unquestioning praise, admiration and veneration. Also commonly known as **cult of personality**, it arises when a country's government or people in any sort of power or authority employ the mass media, propaganda, spectacle, the arts, patriotism, and government-organized demonstrations and rallies to create an idealized, heroic, and worshipful image of a leader, often through totalising flattery and praise. In Africa, as in most other parts of the world, the personality cult syndrome has also found fecundity in the realm of religion, as religion become more politicised and commercialised. With the enthronement of religion and politics as fundamental means to heroic materialism and crude power in contemporary Africa, there is not only a scramble by people to become pastors and politicians, but to amass wealth and wield enormous power thereof and to use these as instruments of control on the people. Against this background, we would like to invite papers for the conference "**Politics, Religion and Personality Cult in Postcolonial Africa**", with a view to tracing the history and social dynamics and dimensions of personality cult as it manifests and operates within the realms of religion and politics in postcolonial Africa, using the following subthemes and other related issues as possible spin-offs:

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| a. The Concept of Personality Cult. | h. Extrimism, Apocalypse and the Personality Cult Syndrome in some Religion/Denomination. |
| b. History of Personality Cult in Africa. | i. Personality Cult and Violence in Democracy in Postcolonial Africa. |
| c. Politics, Religion, Personality Cult and the Media in Africa. | j. Personality Cult as a Cultural Residuum in Africa. |
| d. Interface of Politics and Religion and the Power Struggle in Neo-Colonial Africa. | k. Personality Cult and Social Conflicts |
| e. Religions and Personality Cult in Africa. | l. Visual Communication as a Tool for Personality Cult in Africa. |
| f. Personality Cult and Socio-economic (Under) Development/Survival in Africa | m. Personality Cult as Resource in Arts and Literature in Africa. |
| g. Personality Cult, Ethnicity, Religion and Politics. | |

NOTE:

The Conference will be held at Continuing Education Centre (CEC), University of Nigeria, Nsukka on October 16-19, 2019. Prospective participants are to send abstracts of not more than 250 words to the editors via the email addresses: nche.george@unn.edu.ng, and michael.ugwueze@unn.edu.ng, for consideration before July 30, 2019. Abstracts should be submitted with the following information in this order: (a) title of paper, (b) author(s), (c) affiliation, (d) email address, (e) phone number(s), and (f) 5 keywords of your proposed paper. Outcome of the conference will be published in 2020 in an edited anthology. Conference fee is N20,000 or \$100. However, early bird consideration (N15,000 or \$75) will be given to payments made before September 1, 2019. For payment, request account details from Dr George Nche (see contact below) or visit the website www.vch-researchgroup.org. In conjunction with the conference, an exhibition of works on the same theme by selected artists will be organised by the Art Republic at the CEC, University of Nigeria, Nsukka and later at Sankofa Centre for Art and Heritage, Enugu. Exhibition fee is N15,000. For more information on the exhibition, contact Mr. Dunu on 08037293980 or visit the website: www.vch-researchgroup.org.