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# 26th Biennial Conference Keynote Speaker: Prof. Nwando Achebe

Nwando Achebe is an award-winning author, professor of history, and Faculty Excellence Advocate of the College of Social Science at Michigan State University. She is the founding editor-in-chief of the *Journal of West African History*, published by Michigan State University Press; member of the African Studies Association's (ASA) Board of Directors, and past co-convenor of ASA's Women's Caucus. Dr. Achebe received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2000. In 1996 and 1998, she served as a Ford Foundation and Fulbright-Hays Scholar-in-Residence at The Institute of African Studies and History Department of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. She was also a 2000 Woodrow Wilson Women's Studies Fellow. Her research interests involve the use of oral history in the study of women, gender, and sexuality in Nigeria.

Her first book, *Farmers, Traders, Warriors, and Kings: Female Power and Authority in Northern Igboland, 1900-1960* was published by Heinemann. Achebe's second book, *The Female King of Colonial Nigeria: Ahebi Ugbabe* (Indiana University Press), winner of three book awards—The Aidoo-Snyder Book Award, The Barbara "Penny" Kanner Book Award, and The Gita Chaudhuri Book Award—is a full length critical biography on the only *female* warrant chief and king in all of colonial Nigeria, and arguably British Africa.

Dr. Achebe has received a number of other prestigious grants including awards from the Wenner-Gren Foundation Rockefeller Foundation, Woodrow Wilson, Fulbright-Hays, Ford Foundation, the WHO, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. She served as expert consultant for The History Channel/A&E Network Corporation's "Roots," the miniseries remake; and has been interviewed and featured in documentaries and news programing on three different continents. She was featured in The History Channel documentaries, "Roots: A History Revealed," and "Roots: A New Vision;" South Africa Broadcasting Corporation's news program, "MorningLive," Nigerian Television Authority's "Weekend Deal 15 Minutes Studio," and British Broadcasting Corporation's "Professor Chinua Achebe: A Hero Returns 2,"Witness: Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* and The History Hour. You can also listen to her speak to New Books Network and Africa Past and Present podcast about her critical biography, *The Female King*.