



ISA Annual International Conference and Business Meeting

June 17-19, 2021

ISA 2021 Goes 100% Virtual

January 22, 2021

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear ISA Members:

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope this memorandum finds you still safe, strong, and in good condition of health where you reside. On behalf of the Executive Management Team, I write to provide you updates on the measures we are putting in place for the 2021 Annual Conference and Business Meeting scheduled for June 17-19, 2021 (**Attachment a**). We continue to move as the masquerade moves, in order the better to watch it and enjoy its dancing.

At its meeting of 01/16/2022, the ISA Executive Management Team mapped a Calendar for 2021-2022. Among other issues, the Executive decided to go 100 per cent virtual for the 2021 Annual Conference and Business Meeting. This is as a result of the upsurge of the global pandemic, with the added danger of more virulent and faster transmissible strains noted, the current insufficiency of vaccines for everyone, and political instability at home and abroad.

In undertaking to go virtual, rather than have members meet physically at Enugu, the Team wishes to ensure that ISA remains relevant and able to fulfil its mission and goals of providing members, affiliates and friends with the platform that they have come to expect for their academic and professional work.

Abstracts received in 2020 (**Attachment b**) have been sorted into sessions and panels for presentation in 2021(**Attachment c**). Please do not change topic or abstract submitted, given that a lot of editing work has already been done on them. The index of participants has also been established (**Attachment d**). If you choose to opt out of the conference, however, you may still do so, by contacting the Program Chairperson. Nonetheless, **new abstract submissions are solicited only from those who did not submit last year and wish to participate.**

Yet to be determined is the choice between Zoom technology and WhatsApp platform for the said conference. The Program Director will provide these technical details and other salient pieces of information as we go along, in due course.

ISA Conference goes VIRTUAL, June 17-19, 2021.

- **Principal Conference Theme:** remains “Uwa Ndi Igbo” (Igbo World, Igbo Condition).
- **Keynote Speaker:** (will speak via video presentation).
- **Venue:** Zoom or WhatsApp (to be determined).
- **Abstracts:** 2020 abstracts (now 2021) are eligible for presentation, unless the author opts out.
- **New Abstracts:** New submissions by new authors are encouraged.
- **Full Papers:** Submissions by the April 30, 2021 deadline shall be considered either for *Igbo Studies Review (ISR)*, Number 9, 2021, or the next volume(s) of ISA Selected Papers.
- ***Igbo Studies Review (ISR)*** Number 9, 2021 will publish.
- **Membership Dues:** No new dues: 2020 paid dues transfer to 2021.
- **Conference Registration:** No new registration: 2020 paid fees transfer to 2021.
- **Election of Executive Officers Online:** Postponed until further notice.
- **Deadline to be included in the Conference Program:** April 30, 2021.

Please consult your email and the ISA website frequently for updates from the Program Director / Conference Chairperson, who can also be reached on any issues or matters arising at:

chidi-igwe@gmail.com

Thank you very much for your steadfastness, investment in, and commitment to our beloved Association.

We look forward to your cooperation as we grapple first time with the challenges of a totally virtual Annual Conference and Business Meeting.

Finally, please remain vigilant, as far as the pandemic is concerned. Do not let your guards down nor rest on your oars. Our elders say: “Onye ndi ilo gbalu gbulugbulu na-eche ndu ya nche mgbe nine!”

Ya gazie nu o!

Dr. Mrs. Azodo, Ada U

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President, Igbo Studies Association (USA)