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## WELCOME MESSAGE

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*Prof. John Azumah*  
(Executive Director)

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**T**he events lined up for the inauguration of The Sanneh Institute are a tribute to one of Africa's most distinguished academic icons, Prof. Lamin Sanneh. Sanneh felt summoned from the small island of Janjangbureh, in the small country of The Gambia, "to pursue scholarship as a tribute to God with Muslims within hearing distance". Through his acclaimed scholarly works, Sanneh has inspired, informed and transformed minds and academic trajectories of countless men and women around the world. The founding of The Sanneh Institute is to memorialize but not fossilize an illustrious academic legacy. Sanneh adopted Ghana as his "spiritual home"

and Ghana is providing a home for his intellectual accomplishments, tradition and values to be passed on to successive generations. In his academic pursuits, Sanneh has been a refreshing voice calling from the wilderness, challenging without attacking received narratives, uplifting marginal perspectives and voices into mainstream ones. He truly embodied the quranic injunction of “competing one another in good deeds” (2:148), and preoccupied his restless mind with “whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy” (Phil. 4:8) in the Other.

The theme of the inaugural academic conference, “territoriality and hospitality”, is a call to reflect on the divine mandate to be custodians and stewards of space and spheres, and God's command to share these with others. Such reflections will require curiosity and intellectual interest in the Other, deeply rooted in the values of hospitality taught in our traditions, and exemplified in the works of Prof. Sanneh. The task ahead concerns how Muslims and Christians can unite to initiate a long-range trend in which they do not hinder or inhibit development and change but inspire and shape the forces of peace and progress by our willingness to learn with and from each other. According to an African proverb, when you have not reached your destination you never get tired.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to you for honoring our invitation and warmly welcome you to Ghana. And to thank my colleagues, Drs. Ida Glaser and Georgina Jardim of the Centre for Muslim Christian Studies in Oxford, UK, for their partnership in convening the conference. I also want to express my deepest appreciation to Muslim and Christian faculty colleagues at the Department for the Study of Religions of the University of Ghana for their immense support in hosting the inaugural lectures. And to acknowledge with gratitude the financial support from The Blankemeyer Foundation and the Center for Early African Christianity; the partnership of ScholarLeaders International in the feasibility study, the support and encouragement from Dr. Gregory Sterling, Dean of Yale Divinity School, and many friends and colleagues whose counsel and contribution in diverse ways has brought about The Sanneh Institute.

**THANK YOU, WELCOME AND AKWAABA!**



## VISION STATEMENT

Offering scholarship as a tribute to God, with the religious and non-religious Other within hearing distance, for the transformation of society.

## LOGO

**THE SANNEH INSTITUTE**  
**RESEARCH • RELIGION • SOCIETY**



Our logo is Siamese crocodiles joined at the stomach, a Ghanaian adinkra symbol known in the Twi language as *Funtunfunefu Denkyemfunefu*. The Siamese crocodiles share one stomach, yet they fight over food. The symbol represents the two dominant religious traditions in Africa; Islam and Christianity, the potential for conflict and the power of collaboration between the two faith communities for the common good of African society. These powerful reptiles also stand for the power and influence of religion in Africa, its potential for good, and for evil in the event of conflict. The main import of the logo is a call for constructive engagement and collaboration between different faith communities for the common good. This is crucial in Africa where many families, ethnic groups, regions and nations are interfaith in their make-up.



## PROFESSOR LAMIN SANNEH

**B**orn in The Gambia and descended from an ancient African royal family, Lamin Sanneh was a naturalized U.S. citizen who was educated on four continents.

He earned degrees in history and Islamic studies and taught in several Universities, including the University of Ghana, Legon, the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, and at Harvard, before serving at Yale from 1989-2019 as the D. Willis James Professor of Missions & World Christianity, Professor of History, Professor of International and Area Studies. He was a life member of Clare Hall, Cambridge University, and an Honorary Research Professor at the School of Oriental & African Studies in the University of London. Dr. Sanneh was the recipient of honorary doctorates from the University of Edinburgh and Liverpool Hope University.

He served several times as chair of Yale's Council on African Studies. He was an editor-at-large of the ecumenical weekly *The Christian Century* and a contributing editor of the *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, and he served on the editorial boards of several academic journals and encyclopedias. He served as consultant to the Pew Charitable Trusts; was an official consultant at the 1998 Lambeth Conference in London; and was

founding member of the Council of 100 Leaders of the World Economic Forum. In 2004-05 he was the recipient of the John W. Kluge Chair in the Countries and Cultures of the South at the Library of Congress. For his academic work, Prof. Sanneh was made Commandeur de l'Ordre National du Lion, Senegal's highest national honor.

He was a fellow of Trumbull College at Yale and was appointed by John Paul II to serve on the Pontifical Commission of the Historical Sciences at the Vatican and by Pope Benedict XVI to the Pontifical Commission on Religious Relations with Muslims. Sanneh was the author of over two hundred articles in scholarly journals and of more than a dozen books on Islam and Christianity. He was editor of the multi-volume Oxford Studies in World Christianity series. In 2011 he received the Marianist Award for his teaching and scholarship from the University of Dayton.

Publications include:

- *The Crown and the Turban: Muslims and West African Pluralism*, Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1997. Published in Spanish as *La Corona y el Turbante*, Barcelona: Bellaterra, 2001.
- *Whose Religion is Christianity? The Gospel Beyond the West*, Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2003.
- *Disciples of All Nations: Pillars of World Christianity*, New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.

- *Translating the Message: The Missionary Impact on Culture*, Revised Expanded 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2009.
- *Summoned from the Margin: Homecoming of an African*, a memoir, Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishers, 2012.
- *The African Christian and Islam*, co-edited with John Azumah, Carlisle, UK: Langham Monographs, 2013;
- *Beyond Jihad: The Pacifist Tradition & West African Islam*, Oxford University Press, 2016.

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It behoves us on each  
side to spare no effort in  
love and trust to believe  
the best in the Other.

- Prof. Lamin Sanneh -



### **Academic Conference – February 26-28, 2020**

The **academic conference** commences on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and scholars from around the world will present papers on the conference theme. These papers will contribute to a published festschrift for the late Prof. Sanneh.

### **Inaugural Dinner: February 28, 2020 (Invitation only)**

The **inaugural dinner** is scheduled for the evening of 28th February 2020. Yale University is hosting this dinner for the family, friends, and associates of Prof. Sanneh, Yale alumni in Ghana, and other special guests.

### **Inaugural Lectures: February 29, 2020 (Open to the public)**

The **inaugural lectures** are **open to the public** and will take place on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020, at the Cedi Conference Centre, Economics Department, University of Ghana, Legon, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Dr. Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, and Prof. Farid Esack, a leading South African Muslim scholar and anti-apartheid campaigner, are the inaugural lecturers.

## SCHEDULE

	<b>DAY 1</b> <b>26/02/2020</b>	<b>DAY 2</b> <b>27/02/2020</b>
<b>0730-0830</b>	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST
<b>0845-900</b>	Welcome/Intro	
<b>0900-1030</b>	Plenary Session	Plenary Session
<b>1030-1100</b>	BREAK	BREAK
<b>1100-1230</b>	Group Session	Group Session
<b>1230-1400</b>	LUNCH	LUNCH
<b>1400-1530</b>	Plenary Session	Plenary Session
<b>1530-1600</b>	BREAK	BREAK
<b>1600-1730</b>	Group Session	Group Session
<b>1730-1900</b>	BREAK	BREAK
<b>1900-2030</b>	Panel Discussion	FREE

### Notes:

- 1.Plenary: Two papers (30mins presentation and 15mins Q&A)
- 2.Groups: Two Groups of Three papers (20mins presentation and 10mins Q&A)
- 3.Panel: (10-15mins introduction of topic for each panelist)

## SCHEDULE

	<b>DAY 3</b> <b>28/02/2020</b>	<b>DAY 4</b> <b>29/02/2020</b>
<b>0730-0830</b> <b>0845-900</b>	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST (0730-0800)
<b>0900-1030</b>	Plenary Session	<b>INAUGURAL LECTURES</b> (University of Ghana)
<b>1030-1100</b>	BREAK	<b>INAUGURAL LECTURES</b>
<b>1100-1230</b>	Summative Plenary	<b>INAUGURAL LECTURES</b>
<b>1230-1400</b>	LUNCH	END
<b>1400-1530</b>	Listeners Feedback	<b>DEPARTURE*</b>
<b>1530-1600</b>	Closing Remarks etc.	
<b>1600-1730</b>	<b>INAUGURAL DINNER</b> (Downtown)	<b>DEPARTURE*</b>
<b>1730-1900</b>	<b>INAUGURAL DINNER</b>	<b>DEPARTURE*</b>
<b>1900-2030</b>	<b>INAUGURAL DINNER</b>	<b>DEPARTURE*</b>

### Notes:

- 1.Plenary: Two papers (30mins presentation and 15mins Q&A)
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- 3.Panel: (10-15mins introduction of topic for each panelist)

## Academic Conference on Territoriality and Hospitality

**T**he theme of the conference is **Territoriality and Hospitality: Christians and Muslims sharing common space**. Conference papers will focus on the theme of territoriality and hospitality from Christian, Islamic and traditional African perspectives. The Sanneh Institute is working collaboratively with the Centre for Muslim-Christian Studies in Oxford (CMCS) to convene the conference and invite a group of international participants who are committed to the advanced study of Christianity and Islam in their regions.

The theme of the conference is intended to foster reflection on the life and work of Prof. Lamin Sanneh (d. 2019) for whom the Institute is named, and who embodied and articulated the intersections between the two religious traditions. The panels, presentations and roundtables of the conference will serve as nodes of interaction among historians, theologians, translators, educators, inter faith specialists, textual scholars and others whose research and academic interests focus on the intersections of Christianity and Islam. Papers presented at the conference will be selectively considered for publication in an edited volume as a festschrift for the late Prof. Lamin Sanneh.

## Territoriality, Hospitality and the West African context

**T**he theme of 'TERRITORIALITY' reflects the view that tensions between Christians and Muslims – and, indeed, between other societies – have mainly to do with the question of who is in control in a particular place.

This conference will seek to explore the theme of territoriality and hospitality from the Islamic, Christian and Traditional African perspectives with the view of setting the tone for conversations around key topics and issues identified for research in the coming years by The Sanneh Institute.

**The theme of 'HOSPITALITY'** reflects the contention that inter-religious tensions tend to be considerably less where there is active practice of hospitality across religious lines. In particular, the African continent has often demonstrated that the harmonious co-existence of Christians and Muslims even within families is related to African traditions of hospitality. Such themes of tolerance and accommodation have been explored by Lamin Sanneh; not least the idea that indigenous religions played host to the incoming religions of Christianity and Islam in Africa. But, with Christians and Muslims vying for territory

and limited resources with each other, and with traditional African communities, accommodation is trumped by claims as to who is an indigene or citizen and who is a settler or foreigner.

Tensions between herders and farmers in West Africa is a case in point. How far, we might ask, could the concept and practice of hospitality in the various traditions address issues of settlement, migration and border crossings in other parts of the world?

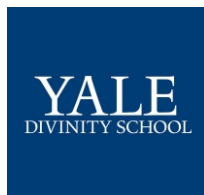
The life and work of Prof. Lamin Sanneh points out that on the African continent, in contrast to much of the West, religion is seen as integral to humanity, so that Christianity and Islam are expressions of an essential aspect of humanity.



# INAUGURAL DINNER



Sponsored By



# INAUGURAL DINNER

Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Holiday Inn Hotel, Accra

## Program Outline

- Gathering/ Reception *5.30pm*
- Guest seated for dinner *6.30pm*
- Introduction/ Acknowledgment *7.15pm*
- Welcome remarks by Board Chair *7.30pm*
- The Sanneh Institute - Mission & Vision *7.45pm*
- Remarks by Dean of Yale Divinity School *8.00pm*
- Remarks by Sanneh Family *8.15pm*
- Closing *8.30pm*



# INAUGURAL LECTURES



- Program Outline
- Lecturers
- Chairman
- Guest of Honors



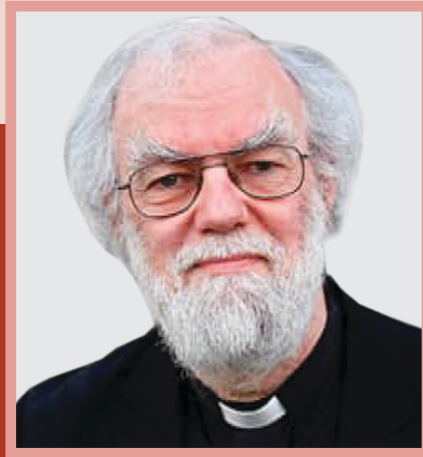
# INAUGURAL LECTURES

Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

University of Ghana, Legon - Accra

## Program Outline

- Traditional Drumming 8.30am
- Welcome & Introductions by Executive Director 8.45am
- Remarks by Chairman (Vice Chancellor of UG) 9.00am
- Remarks by His Excellency, the Emir of Kano 9.15am
- Lecture by Rowan Williams 9.30am
- Response by Rabiātu Armah 10.15am
- Break/Cultural Display 10.30am
- Spoken Word 10.40am
- Remarks by Gambian High Commissioner 10.45am
- Lecture II by Farid Esack 11.00am
- Response by Ernestina Afriyie 11.45am
- Remarks by Sanneh Family 12.00pm
- Closing by Chairman 12.30pm
- Refreshment



**DR. ROWAN WILLIAMS**

**D**r. Rowan Williams is a noted poet and translator of poetry, and, apart from Welsh, speaks or reads nine other languages. He studied for his Doctorate at Christ Church and Wadham College Oxford.

In 1984, he was elected a Fellow and Dean of Clare College. During his time at Clare, he was arrested and fined for singing psalms as part of the CND protest at Lakenheath air-base. Then, still only 36, it was back to Oxford as Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity for six years, before becoming Bishop of Monmouth, and, from 2000, Archbishop of Wales. In 2002, he was elected the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury.



## PROFESSOR FARID ESACK

**P**rofessor Farid Esack is a South African Muslim Theologian who cut his teeth in the South African struggle for liberation. Amongst other works, he is the author of *Qur'an, Liberation & Pluralism: An Islamic Perspective of Interreligious Solidarity Against Oppression* which is a seminal text on Islamic Liberation Theology.

Before moving to the University of Johannesburg where he is Professor in the Study of Islam, he served as Professor of Contemporary Islam at Harvard University. He is President Emeritus of the International Qur'anic Studies Association and has for the last nine years featured on the annual list of 500 most Influential Muslims in the World.

In 2018 he was awarded the Order of Luthuli (Sliver), South Africa's highest national award, for "his brilliant contribution to academic research and to the fight against race, gender, class and religious oppression".

## CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN



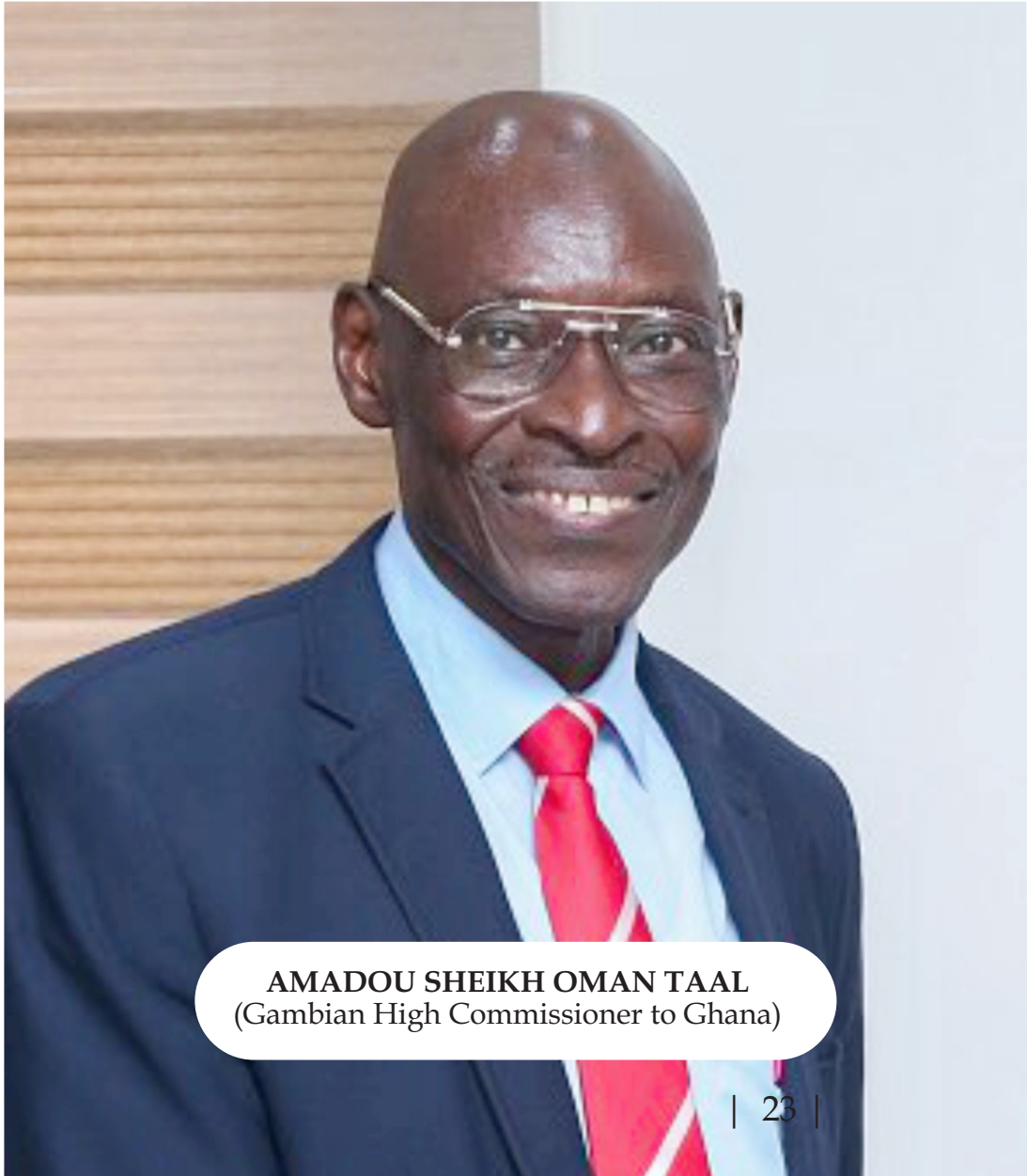
**PROF. EBENEZER ODURO OWUSU**  
(Vice Chancellor, University of Ghana)

## SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOR

A portrait of Muhammadu Sanusi II, the Emir of Kano. He is wearing a white turban with a small pink and white decorative element on top. He is also wearing a white robe with purple floral patterns. He is holding a long, thin, green and red object, possibly a staff or a sword, in his right hand. The background is dark.

**MUHAMMADU SANUSI II**  
(The Emir of Kano)

## SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOR



**AMADOU SHEIKH OMAN TAAL**  
(Gambian High Commissioner to Ghana)



## ACKNOWLEDGMENT



**Prof. Samuel Kwame Offei**  
(Board Chairman)



**Emmanuel Kwame Tettey**  
(Volunteer)



**Ruth Addo**  
(Communications and Operations Officer)