Performing Power in Nigeria

For decades, Pentecostalism has been one of the most powerful socio-cultural and socio-political movements in Africa. The Pentecostal modes of constructing the world by using their performative agencies to embed their rites in social processes have imbued them with immense cultural power to contour the character of their societies. *Performing Power in Nigeria* explores how Nigerian Pentecostals mark their self-distinction as a people of power within a social milieu that affirmed and contested their desires for being. Their faith, and the various performances that inform it, imbue the social matrix with saliences that also facilitate their identity of power. Using extensive archival material, interviews, and fieldwork, Abimbola A. Adelakun questions the histories, desires, knowledge, tools, and innate divergences of this form of identity, and its interactions with the other ideological elements that make up the society. Analysing the important developments in contemporary Nigerian Pentecostalism, she demonstrates how the social environment is being transformed by the Pentecostal performance of their identity as the people of power. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

ABIMBOLA A. ADELAKUN is Assistant Professor in the Department of African and African Diaspora Studies at the University of Texas at Austin where her research focuses on the politics and performances of Pentecostalism. She is the author of articles in journals including the *Journal of Women and Religion, Jenda: Journal of Culture and African Women Studies*, and co-editor of *Art, Creativity, and Politics in Africa and the Diaspora* (2018).

Published online by Cambridge University Press

African Identities: Past and Present

General Editors
Toyin Falola, *University of Texas at Austin*
Carina Ray, *Brandeis University*

African Identities: Past and Present offers scholars a unique publishing platform for exploring the multivalent processes through which collective identities have come into being. Books in this series probe the work that African identities have been made to do, the varied investments that historical and contemporary actors have made in them, and the epistemological dilemmas and intellectually fraught politics of writing about such contingent categories of being. The focus on African identities makes clear the series' commitment to publishing histories of the complex and ongoing processes of identity formation through which Africans have taken on shared senses of being. This series calls upon its authors to unpack the flexible, fluid, contingent, and interactive nature of collective African identities, while also exploring how historical actors have alternatively sought to delimit, expand, or otherwise challenge the boundaries of such identities.

Published online by Cambridge University Press

Performing Power in Nigeria

Identity, Politics, and Pentecostalism

ABIMBOLA A. ADELAKUN
University of Texas at Austin



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Published online by Cambridge University Press

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of
education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009281744
DOI: 10.1017/9781009281751

© Abimbola A. Adelakun 2023

This work is in copyright. It is subject to statutory exceptions and to the provisions
of relevant licensing agreements; with the exception of the Creative Commons version
the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part of this work may
take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

An online version of this work is published at doi.org/10.1017/9781009281751
under a Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 which permits
re-use, distribution and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes
providing appropriate credit to the original work is given. You may not
distribute derivative works without permission. To view a copy of this license, visit
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0

All versions of this work may contain content reproduced under license from third
parties. Permission to reproduce this third-party content must be obtained from these
third-parties directly.

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009281751

First published 2023
Reissued as Open Access, 2023

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Names: Adelakun, Abimbola Adunni, author.
Title: Performing power in Nigeria : identity, politics, and Pentecostalism / Abimbola Adelakun, University of Texas, Austin.
Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2021. | Series: African identities: past and present | Includes bibliographical references and index.
Identifiers: LCCN 2021023784 | ISBN 9781108831079 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108923194 (ebook other)
Subjects: LCSH: Pentecostal churches – Nigeria. | Pentecostalism – Nigeria. | Identification (Religion) | Identity (Philosophical concept) – Social aspects. | Performance – Religious aspects – Christianity. | BISAC: POLITICAL SCIENCE / American Government / General
Classification: LCC BX8762.N6 A34 2021 | DDC 289.9/409669–dc23
LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2021023784

ISBN 978-1-108-83107-9 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-009-28174-4 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will
remain, accurate or appropriate..

Published online by Cambridge University Press