

Ivoline Budji Kefen

Tel. (765) 658 4699 | kefenbudji@depauw.edu kefenivy@yahoo.com
Asbury Hall (Office 219) 100 E. Seminary St. Greencastle IN 46135 USA

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Peace and conflict
Migration, displacement, and transnationalism
Language, communication, and media
Race/ethnicity, identity construction, and intercultural interaction
Education, literacy, and writing
Gender and Community engagement

EDUCATION

2024 Ph.D. – Anthropology (minor Peace Studies), University of Notre Dame, Indiana, USA (ND)
2021 M.A. – Anthropology (minor Peace Studies), ND
2018 M.A. – Cross-Cultural Communication and Media, Newcastle University, UK (NU)
2015 M.Sc. – Anthropology, Catholic University of Cameroon, Bamenda (CATUC)
2009 H.N. D – Journalism and Media, National Polytechnic Bambui, Cameroon
2005 B.A. – English and Literature, University of Yaoundé I, Cameroon
2005 Secondary School Teacher’s Diploma – University of Yaoundé I, Cameroon

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2025-2026 **Assistant Professor**, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, DePauw University USA
Fall 2025:
-ANTH151C Human Cultures
-ANTH151D Human Cultures
Spring 2026:
-ANTH151C Human Cultures
-ANTH290B Language, Culture, and Society
-ANTH390A Public Engagement and Applied Work in Anthropology
2024-2025 **Teaching Scholar**, Department of Anthropology, ND
-Fall 2024 – ANTH20204 Fundamentals of Linguistic Anthropology
-Spring 2025 – ANTH20203 Global Cultural Worlds (Fundamentals of Cultural Anthropology)
2020-2021 **Graduate Research/ Teaching Assistant**, Department of Anthropology, ND
Fall 2020 with Prof. S. Blum:
-ANTH20204 Fundamentals in Linguistic Anthropology
Spring 2021 with Prof. C. Bolten:
ANTH 40084/60084 Structural Violence: The Underbelly of Conflict
2019-2022 **Research Assistant Professor and Instructor**, KPAAM-CAM project in partnership with University of Yaoundé I Cameroon, and University at Buffalo, USA
-Taught ethnographic research methods to graduate and undergraduate students and was the anthropologist in a multidisciplinary team that trained

them to ethnographically document indigenous multilingual practices in the western region of Cameroon (March-May 2019)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2022-2023 **Doctoral researcher**, dissertation fieldwork (USA, online, Cameroon): Utilized ethnography (traditional/ digital), multimodal social semiotics, social network analysis, and statistics to research Cameroonian Women's engagements in conflict, migration, and communication.
- 2021 **Student researcher**: Employed ethnography for pilot research regarding Anglophone (English-speaking) Cameroonians in Virginia and Maryland, USA.
- 2020 **Student researcher**: Used online interviews to research COVID-19 within the reality of armed conflict in Bamenda, North West Region (NWR), Cameroon.
- 2018 Student researcher: Used interviews for my M.A. dissertation at NU on race/ethnicity and gender as illustrated within the movie Black Panther.
- 2012-2013 **Student researcher**: Was part of a multidisciplinary team from CATUC in collaboration with Jeff Good/ Pierpaolo di Carlo (sponsored by the NSF and University of Buffalo, USA) ethnographically researching and documenting (textually and audio-visually) endangered languages in the NWR, Cameroon.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Journal Article (A), Book (B), Book Chapter (BC), Creative Work (CW)

- In Press **(BC)**
i.) "Memory, Media, and the Making of Time: Women's Groups and Social Movements in Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis," in *Temporality and Peacebuilding: Histories, Futures, and the Urgency of Now*. PISA Publications.
ii.) Challenging War and Crafting Peace through Sound: Lessons from Women's Voices in Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis," In *De Gruyter Handbook of Cosmopolitan Conflict Resolution and Planetary Peace*, edited by Fry, Douglas P. and Geneviève Souillac.
- 2025 **(CW)**
i.) "Through Her Eyes: Cameroonian Women Navigating Life in the USA." (An ethnographic film about the lived experiences of migrant women).
ii.) *Boundless* (10th edition, first published 2015) (A novel) Denver-Colorado: Spears Books
- 2023 **(CW)** "The Path". (A poem) In the *Indigenizing What It Means to Be Human* collection, SAPIENS Anthropology Magazine.
- 2022 **(A)** "Crossing Over: An International Student's Experiences and Musings in Recent Times." *Anthropology and Humanism* 47 (1): 183–91.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/anhu.12370>
- 2021 **(B)** co-written with Nkwi, Paul Nchoji: *From Handmaiden of Colonialism to Esteemed Discipline: Professor Paul Nchoji Nkwi on the Reinvention of Anthropology in Africa*. Bamenda: Langaa RPCIG.

- 2020 (A) "Utilizing Sounds of Mourning as Protest and Activism: The 2019 Northwestern Women's Lamentation March within the Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon." *Resonance: The Journal of Sound and Culture* 1(4): 443-461.
<https://doi.org/10.1525/res.2020.1.4.443>

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY/ PARTICIPATION

Paper (PP), Panel (PN)

- 2025 (PP) "'His Crime is that He didn't use a Visa': Discourses surrounding Illegality among Cameroonian Migrants in the USA". ASA annual meeting, Nov 19 – 22, Atlanta, USA.
- 2023 (PN) "Looking into the Future: Cameroon from a Regional and International Perspective." ASA annual meeting, Nov 30 – Dec 02, San Francisco, USA.
- 2023 (PP)
- i.) "Gendering the Mediatization of Armed Conflict: How Cameroonian Women utilize Online/Virtual Presences to intervene in the Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon". ASA annual meeting, Nov 30 – Dec 02, San Francisco, USA.
- ii.) "Faith, Community, and Transnationalism among Diasporan Anglophone Cameroonian Catholics in Virginia and Maryland, USA." Church Life Africa (CLA) Summer conference, July 27 – 29, Abuja, Nigeria.
- 2022 (PP) "A Tale of Two Crises: Social Media and Narratives of Covid-19 and Armed Conflict in Cameroon." American Anthropological Association (AAA) annual conference, Nov. 9 – 13, Seattle, USA.
- 2021 (PP) "The Semiotics of Material Objects within the Performativity of Political Discourse: The 'Coffin Revolution' of the Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon." AAA annual conference, Nov. 17 – 21, Baltimore, USA.
- 2019 (PP) with Di Carlo, Pierpaolo, Nelson Tschonghongi: "Language as a Mirror of Political Imagination: Hegemony, Conflict, and Deliberate Language Change in the Cameroonian Grassfields." European Conference on African Studies (ECAS), June 11 – 14, Edinburgh, UK.

ADDITIONAL WORK/SERVICE

- 2026 **Member**, Peace and Conflict Steering Committee, DePauw University
- 2022, 2025 **Reviewer**, peer-reviewed journals
- Anthropology and Humanism (2025)
 - African Conflict and Peacebuilding Review (2025)
 - Afrika und Übersee (2022)
- 2025 **International expert**, COREWO (Convergence Research Workshops) project (under KPAAM-Cam project mentioned above) – facilitated connections among scholars from multiple disciplines in Cameroonian universities, presented lecture(s), and participated in Q&A sessions with them focusing working with displaced peoples in Cameroon.

- 2020-2024 **Graduate writing tutor**, the University Writing Center, ND – held over 400 sessions, tutoring more than 230 postdoc, graduate and undergraduate writers/ students across a spectrum of programs.
- 2021-2023 **Graduate student mentor**, Department of Anthropology, ND – mentored 3 undergraduate students regarding career paths and interest in anthropology.
- 2020-2022 **Team member** of the School Stories project (with Prof. Susan Blum), ND, which collects/ disseminates experiences about school(ing) from around the world.
- 2016-2019 **-International judge**, Smiling Faces Intl’s Write Liberia competition, fiction category (Liberia).
-Co-host/ resource person for La Liberté Arts Group (Cameroon) which uses art to foster change.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2025 Conference Funding by DePauw University
- 2019-2024 Fellowship – the Kellogg Institute for International Studies Fellowship, ND
- 2023 Conference Travel Grant by the Kellogg Institute, ND
- 2022-2023 i.) Dissertation Fieldwork Grant by the Wenner-Gren Foundation, USA
 ii.) Graduate Student Research Grant by the Kellogg Institute, ND
- 2022 Conference Travel Grant by the West African Research Association (WARA), USA
- 2021 Conference Travel Grant by the Kellogg Institute, ND
- 2017 Fellowship – the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Rutgers, USA

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2022-2023 Graduate Student Research Award (GSRA) by the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts (ISLA), College of Arts and Letters, ND
- 2021 Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award by The Graduate School and ND Learning / Kaneb Center for Teaching Excellence, ND
- 2017 – 2018 Chevening Scholarship Award (the UK government Foreign and Commonwealth Office’s global scholarship program) at NU
- 2017 – 2018 Exceptional Student Award for best M.A. research (joint) by the Cross-Cultural Communication Discipline, NU
- Dec. 2015 Best Graduating Student, Best Student in the Department of Anthropology, and Best Graduate Student Awards, by CATUC

(PROFESSIONAL) MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

- 2025-present **Expert**, Coalition for Dialogue and Negotiations (CDN)
- 2024-present **Secretary**, North American Association of Scholars on Cameroon (NAASC)
- 2024-present **Vice chairperson**, Cameroon Catholic Community of Virginia, USA
- 2023-present **Member**, African Studies Association (ASA)
- 2021-present **Member**, American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- 2021-2024 **Affiliate**, Initiative on Race and Resilience, ND
- 2022-2023 **Member**, West African Research Association (WARA), USA

LANGUAGES

English – Speaking, Listening, Writing, Reading: *Advanced proficiency*

French – Speaking: *Beginner proficiency*; Listening, Writing, Reading: *Intermediate proficiency*
Noni – Speaking, Listening: *Advanced proficiency*; Writing, Reading: *Beginner proficiency*
Cameroonian Pidgin – Speaking, Listening, Writing, Reading: *Advanced proficiency*