

## More than Lovers, Daughters, Patrons, Mothers: New Lights on the Women of Fuji

This is not a Nollywood script. One night in 1985, students of Ogun State Polytechnic (now Moshood Abiola Polytechnic) invited a Fujician to perform at a campus pool party. That night didn't fail predictable expectations. Drinking, dancing, flirting, smoking, socializing, complemented thunderous Fuji percussion from giant speakers. Calamity soon struck. A female student was drowning inside the pool. The Fujician noticed the frenzied atmosphere and immediately brought his band home—eyin onilu mi e wa'le pata pata—abruptly ending the jamboree. Thankfully, the lady was pulled out of the pool, safely. The scary moment was short-lived. Music returned, and continued till daybreak.

But the Fujician did something unusual for men of his status. Two days after the near disaster situation, he visited the campus queen who was still recuperating from the shock. What started as a pool accident and a pity visit became a love affair. The campus queen later obtained a Higher National Diploma (HND) in Business Administration from Yaba College of Technology, while married to the Fujician. Their marriage lasted until 2010 when the Fujician passed on. Memories of stardom and raising three highly educated children are among the numerous tangibles of life lived together.

The campus queen is Mrs Yetunde Balogun. The Fujician is Barrister. None of the existing theories and concepts on sexuality and gender relations can FULLY explain the experiences of women of Fuji. While some of their stories mirror familiar lives in shifting contexts, there are many remarkables that compel us to develop new paradigms to study them. I don't have to look far for how and where their stories manifest. They are in narratives of encounter, relationships, fandom, success and failure, love and heartbreak, motherhood, spirituality and ritual of everyday life, death and immortality, and everything in-between.

### Appreciation

After Day 2 of shooting my interview with him at the J.F.Ade Ajayi's library in Ibadan, I expressed my frustration in finding wives of Fuji with distinguished journalist and Barrister biographer Baaroyin [Tunde Busari](#). In his characteristically assuring tone, he said, "Professor, ma worry!" He spent two weeks persuading Mrs. Balogun to grant the interview. Dr. Felix Ajiola of Unilag dropped us at the train station, while Professor Yetunde Zaid and Dr. Olatunde Barber gave me access to the Unilag Museum of Natural History where the shooting with Mrs Balogun took place. This interview cost me \$28 or 15,600 naira (return train ticket from Ibadan to Lagos for Tolani, Busuyi, and myself) because neither Baaroyin [Tunde Busari](#) nor Mrs. Balogun took money from me in exchange for interview. I can't thank them enough.

By the way, I just coined "Fujician" for Fuji artist!

Yours Sincerely in Fuji:

Emperor Saedo Okola and His International Fuji Lions