

Professor Toyin Falola
Jacob & Frances Sanger Mossiker Chair in the Humanities
University Distinguished Teaching Professor
History Department
University of Texas - Austin



1. Pencil drawing of Toyin Falola by Adeoye Hassan, from a reference photo by Michael Efonayi. Courtesy of Toyin Falola.

Toyin Falola is a scholar and public figure of global stature. Over the past four decades, he has redefined and expanded the approaches, scope, and effectiveness of African studies across multiple disciplines and throughout the world. Since 1991, he has taught in the Department of History at The University of Texas at Austin, where he holds the Jacob & Frances Sanger Mossiker Chair in the Humanities and the title of University Distinguished Teaching Professor.

Professor Falola's career has been extraordinary. His wide-ranging publications include more than 200 authored and edited books and countless articles and chapters. His two annual conferences, at UT Austin and in rotating African universities, have been essential sites for the advancement of knowledge and professional development. His editorship of several book series and journals, as well as the publication of textbooks and encyclopedias, have revolutionized the landscape of scholarly research and available resources related to Africa and the African Diaspora. Falola is the recipient of more than thirty lifetime achievement awards, including recognition as a *Member of the Order of the Niger* (MON), which was conferred by Nigerian President Muhammad Buhari on October 11, 2022. He has received nearly three dozen honorary doctorates, a Doctor of Letters (D.Litt) degree, and several chieftaincy titles. There have also been numerous books written about him, testifying to the magnitude of his achievements as well as to his mentorship and generosity towards students, colleagues, and institutions. Like Chinua Achebe and Wole Soyinka, Toyin Falola has become a household name in many African countries and, as strange as this may sound to many Americans, he is being used as a "prayer point" in some churches with parents saying, "May my child become like Toyin!" (paraphrased from Vic Bahl interview, June 1, 2023, see full article at [University of Texas - Austin](https://www.utexas.edu/newsroom/2023/06/01/toyin-falola/))

Professor Toyin Falola continues to stand head and shoulders above the rest as a leader in African scholarship. His deep commitment to Africa and the Diaspora is demonstrated through more than 40 years of research, writing, teaching and mentorship at home and around the world.