

DR. SHERI ADEKOLA

# Media Kit

Socio-Cultural Researcher · Policy Scholar · SSHRC-Funded Researcher

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## SHORT BIO — 60 WORDS

For panel listings, bylines, and award nominations

Dr. Sheri Adekola is a socio-cultural researcher, policy scholar, and educator specializing in migration, labour market integration, and institutional access. She is Founding Research Director of the Centre for Black Life Course Policy & Data, Founder and Executive Director of the Ontario Learning Development Foundation, and recipient of the King Charles III Coronation Medal. She teaches across seven Canadian postsecondary institutions.

## MEDIUM BIO — 120 WORDS

For media releases, conference programs, and website bios

Dr. Sheri Adekola is a socio-cultural researcher and policy scholar whose work examines how migration systems, credential recognition frameworks, and institutional structures shape access to professions and long-term economic mobility for internationally educated professionals. Her SSHRC-funded research sits at the intersection of migration, labour markets, health systems, and institutional equity.

She is Founding Research Director of the Centre for Black Life Course Policy & Data and Founder and Executive Director of the Ontario Learning Development Foundation (OLDF), through which she has trained over 1,300 youth and led federally funded research on gender-based violence and community access. Dr. Adekola has taught across seven Canadian postsecondary institutions and is a recipient of the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

## SPEAKER INTRODUCTION — 200 WORDS

For event hosts to read aloud before a keynote or panel

Our speaker today brings together scholarship, policy, and community practice in a way that is rare and genuinely valuable.

Dr. Sheri Adekola is a socio-cultural researcher, policy scholar, and educator whose work asks a deceptively simple question: why do so many internationally educated professionals — people who arrive in Canada with credentials, training, and ambition — find the doors to their professions closed?

Her research examines how migration systems, credential recognition frameworks, and institutional structures shape professional access, labour market entry, and long-term mobility. It is work with direct implications for Canadian immigration policy, health workforce planning, and equity in higher education.

Dr. Adekola is Founding Research Director of the Centre for Black Life Course Policy & Data, and Founder and Executive Director of the Ontario Learning Development Foundation, where she has led federally funded research and community programs serving youth, newcomers, and families since 2006. She has taught at

seven Canadian postsecondary institutions, holds a PhD in Human Geography from Wilfrid Laurier University, and is a recipient of the King Charles III Coronation Medal for contributions to community development and public service.

*Please welcome Dr. Sheri Adekola.*

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## KEY FACTS

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|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Research focus</b> | Migration, labour market integration, credential recognition, institutional equity   |
| <b>Current role</b>   | Founding Research Director, Centre for Black Life Course Policy & Data               |
| <b>Community role</b> | Founder & Executive Director, Ontario Learning Development Foundation (2006–present) |
| <b>Teaching</b>       | 7+ Canadian postsecondary institutions, 20+ years experience                         |
| <b>Funding</b>        | SSHRC-funded doctoral research; \$124,000+ in external research grants               |
| <b>Recognition</b>    | King Charles III Coronation Medal; featured in Emery Village Voice                   |
| <b>Education</b>      | PhD, Human Geography, Wilfrid Laurier University (SSHRC-funded)                      |
| <b>Available for</b>  | Media interviews, keynote speaking, panel presentations, policy consultation         |

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## AVAILABLE FOR COMMENTARY ON

- Immigration policy and labour market integration in Canada
- Credential recognition and professional access for newcomers
- Internationally educated health professionals and workforce planning
- Institutional barriers facing Black Canadians
- Gender-based violence and community access
- Higher education, research methods, and evidence-informed policy
- Community leadership and public service in the Greater Toronto Area

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## SPEAKING HISTORY

### KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>2026</b> <i>Together We Thrive</i> | Correctional Services Employee Black History Month Event, Lindsay, ON |
| <b>2024</b> <i>Together We Thrive</i> | Correctional Services Employee Black History Month Event, Toronto     |
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## INVITED TALKS

|             |   |  |
|-------------|---|--|
| <b>2025</b> | <i>Thriving, Not Just Surviving: Empowering Newcomers for a Brighter Future</i>                         | Immigrant Empowerment Conference, Afri-cana Initiative Foundation, Niagara Falls |
| <b>2025</b> | <i>From Hustle to Help: Building Ourselves and Our Community</i>  | Yoruba Community Association of Toronto  |
| <b>2025</b> | <i>Thriving Beyond the Clock: Balancing Career, Business, and Family</i>                                | International Women's Day Event, Ekiti Diaspora Relations                        |
| <b>2022</b> | <i>Resettlement Experiences of African Single Parent Immigrant Mothers and their Children in Canada</i> | Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Guelph                        |

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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|-------------|--|--|
| <b>2019</b> | <i>Skilled Nigerian Migrants in Toronto and the Structure and Value of Social Networks</i>           | Pathways to Prosperity National Conference, Toronto        |
| <b>2018</b> | <i>Social (Im)Mobility: Nigerian-Trained Health Professionals in Canada</i>                          | Canadian Association of Geographers, University of Toronto |
| <b>2017</b> | <i>Social (Im)Mobility: Nigerian-Trained Health Professionals in Canada</i>                          | Canadian Association of Geographers, York University       |
| <b>2017</b> | <i>Social (Im)Mobility: Nigerian-Trained Health Professionals in Canada</i>                          | Balsillie School of International Affairs Workshop         |
| <b>2016</b> | <i>Discourses of Skills Circulation: Nigerian IEN Perceptions of International Skilled Migration</i> | National Metropolis Conference                             |

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## CONTACT

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| <b>Google Scholar</b> | Sheri Adekola   |
| <b>ORCID</b>          | 0000-0002-2305-391X   |
| <b>ResearchGate</b>   | Dr. Sheri Adekola   |
| <b>LinkedIn</b>       | <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/sheriadekola">linkedin.com/in/sheriadekola</a> |