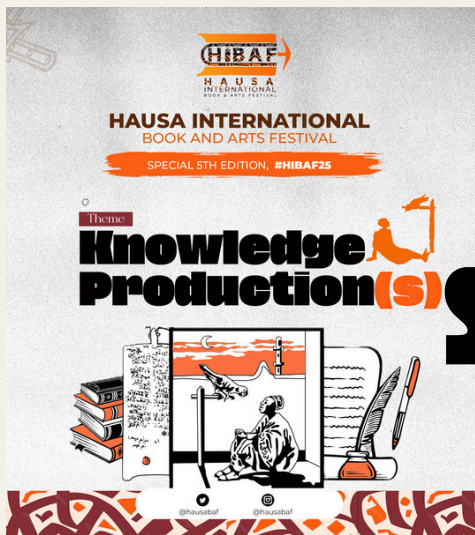




SPECIAL 5TH EDITION

FIFTH EDITION OF THE HAUSA INTERNATIONAL BOOK AND ARTS FESTIVAL SET FOR JUNE 27-28TH 2025

Open Arts the curators of the Hausa International Book and Arts Festival (HIBAF) have announced the fifth edition of the festival with the theme 'Knowledge Production(s)'

This will serve as a lens to examine the intricate and layered epistemologies of the Hausa people, exploring how indigenous knowledge systems have been shaped over centuries which has been deeply rooted in oral traditions, communal wisdom and spiritual practices. These indigenous frameworks will offer insights into the Hausa worldview, encompassing philosophy, governance, ethics, and the relationship between people and the environment.

The default model of knowledge production in current neo-liberal models is inherently extractive. Most people are not deemed worthy of the process of knowledge production. Current knowledge systems construct totalizing narratives that reinforce existing patterns of power and dominance. Knowledge is on one hand, the main resource of late capitalism, and the production of new knowledge on the other has always been a part of anti-capitalist movements. As such, knowledge production(s), becomes both against and a part of neo-liberal capitalism. How then can we resist powerful forces in current dimensions of knowledge production(s)?

The arrival of Islam introduced new dimensions to Hausa knowledge production(s), exemplified by the adoption of Ajami—the adaptation of Arabic script to write Hausa and other African languages. Ajami became a powerful medium for documenting religious scholarship, poetry, history, and trade, blending indigenous and Islamic epistemologies in ways that expanded intellectual and cultural horizons. Later, European colonization and the imposition of Western knowledge systems added another layer, often marginalizing traditional literacies while simultaneously creating opportunities for dialogue and hybridization.

As digitization transforms how knowledge is produced, preserved and shared; indigenous systems such as oral histories, Ajami manuscripts, and traditional practices stand at the forefront of efforts to reclaim and reimagine African literacies. Digitized archives, oral storytelling platforms, and creative reinterpretations of historical materials ensure that the voices and wisdom of the past continue to inspire new generations, fostering a deeper understanding of Hausa identity and knowledge.

In this edition of the festival, we will engage the intersections of indigenous, Islamic, and colonial epistemologies in shaping Hausa knowledge. How do we situate knowledge production(s) about African literacies in an era of digitization and archival materials? How do we support the “ordinary” creation and sharing of knowledge and ideas? Through conversations, performances, recitations, translations and art exhibitions, the 2025 edition of the Hausa International Book and Arts Festival will explore Knowledge Production(s) as a means of literary and artistic development.

#HIBAF25 invites participants to reflect on the vastness of African Knowledge Production(s) by bridging the past with the present and examine how indigenous knowledge remains a dynamic and essential resource for cultural expression, intellectual growth, and global dialogue.

The festival will be held as a hybrid of virtual and physical engagements from 26th - 28th June, 2025 in Kaduna, Nigeria

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