



4154

Special Release

24 January, 2019

CYNTHIA OLUFADE WINS LEIDEN THESIS AWARD

Cynthia Aghunotse Olufade a student of Diaspora and Transnational Studies in the Institute of African Studies is the 2018 winner of the prestigious African Thesis Award of the African Studies Centre Leiden, the Netherlands with her M.A. project titled “Oath taking and the Transnationalism of Silence among Edo Female Sex Workers in Italy”.

The African Thesis Award aims to encourage student research and writing on Africa in order to promote innovative and critical study of African cultures and societies. It is presented annually to a student whose Master’s thesis has been completed on the basis of research conducted in Africa.

Olufade, a student in the programme in Diaspora and Transnational Studies, was the only Africa-based finalist in the 2018 competition.

Her thesis investigated the processes by means of which local practices are deployed to bestride translocal spaces, her particular focus being on how oath taking is reproduced and perpetuated to compel compliance on women taken from Nigeria to do sex work in Italy.

The award consists of a prize of £500 and publication of the winning thesis in the ASCL’s African Studies Collection.

She received the award on 13 December, 2018 at the African Studies Centre Leiden, the Netherlands.

Thank you.

Olubunmi O. Faluyi MCIPM, MAUA
Registrar