

## **Temitope Tunbi Onifade**

Lecturer- Assistant Professor, University of Bristol Law School

[t.onifade@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:t.onifade@bristol.ac.uk)

### **Biography**

I am an expert on critical sociolegal approaches to environmental law and sustainability, especially the western and indigenous conceptions of the regulation, governance and justice implications of the interactions of government, business and community actors.

My lived and professional experiences initially shaped my broad interest in environmental law and sustainability issues. I am from Ọyó, the historical political capital of the Yorùbá tribe, who are Indigenous to West Africa, and grew up closely interacting with elements of nature in Ìbàdàn. Working at a law firm in Benin city within the Niger Delta area from 2010 to 2011 ignited my interest in learning more about environmental problems arising from natural resource extraction and the marginalization of Indigenous Peoples. At another law firm from 2011 to 2014, my partners and I struggled to get government incentives for some clients, including farmers planting biofuel feedstock such as jatropha and cassava and a small company dealing in biodigesters, under Nigeria's participation in the Kyoto Protocol. My experience in the Niger Delta and South-West Nigeria made me start thinking about how laws and policies could help and hinder marginalized communities and businesses.

Building on my legal practice experience and subsequent postgraduate training in environmental and energy law and policy, my current research focuses more on sustainable development, climate action and low-carbon transition. I have worked as a researcher for Canada Climate Law Initiative, UBC, and Commonwealth Climate and Law Initiative, University of Oxford. Previously, I was a research associate for a law firm specializing in Corporate Social Responsibility in Canada where I prepared corporate governance documents for clients such as the United States Chamber of Commerce-Haiti, and as a corporate research fellow at the University of Calgary, working on energy governance projects.

As a scholar-practitioner, I have served several academic, policy and industry communities. I have served as an official observer within the United Nations climate change process, sat on government, university and NGO boards and committees, and led policy and academic projects as a founding co-Chair and coordinator of the Liu Institute Network for Africa at UBC.