

About the Author:

Prof. Sam O. Smah is a distinguished Nigerian scholar, researcher, and policy analyst with over three decades of experience in sociology, criminology, criminal justice, security studies, governance, and public policy. He is a Professor of Sociology and Criminology whose academic and professional work has significantly contributed to advancing knowledge on policing, human security, development, victimology, urbanisation, maritime security, forensic studies, and community safety across Nigeria and Africa.

Prof. Smah holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Jos and has taught, supervised, and mentored undergraduate and postgraduate students in several higher education institutions. His research spans interdisciplinary fields including restorative justice, community policing, development planning, migration, youth crime, cybercrime, environmental security, maritime governance, and the sociology of urban transformation. His scholarship is distinguished by its emphasis on linking rigorous academic inquiry with practical policy solutions for governments, security institutions, development agencies, and civil society organisations.

Beyond academia, Prof. Smah is an accomplished consultant, trainer, keynote speaker, and author. He has designed and facilitated numerous executive training programmes for law enforcement agencies, public institutions, universities, and private organisations on leadership, ethics, security governance, conflict management, community engagement, research methods, and institutional development. He is also actively involved in policy research aimed at strengthening safety, security, and sustainable development in Nigeria and the wider African region.

Prof. Smah is the Founder and Chief Executive of Lighthouse Study Helps Concepts, a research, and capacity-building organisation based in Abuja. He has authored and edited numerous scholarly publications and is currently leading major research and book projects on development theory, human security, policing, restorative justice, maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, and urban governance. Through his scholarship, professional engagements, and public service, he continues to influence policy debates and contribute to evidence-based solutions that promote peace, justice, effective governance, and inclusive development in Africa.

CURRICULUM VITAE PROFILE

Professor Sam O. Smah, PhD is a Professor of Sociology and Criminology with over thirty years of distinguished experience in higher education, interdisciplinary research, public policy, institutional leadership, and international development consultancy. He currently serves as a Visiting Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at Baze University, Abuja, and is Professor of Criminology and Security Studies at the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), where he has also held senior academic and administrative responsibilities, including Director of SIWES and Industrial Liaison Officer for ACETEL. He previously served in leadership roles including Dean and Head of Department, contributing significantly to academic governance, curriculum development, postgraduate supervision, and institutional capacity building.

Prof. Smah holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Jos and possesses extensive expertise in sociology, criminology, criminal justice, security studies, development policy, governance, anthropology, and social research. His work integrates academic scholarship with practical policy solutions in areas such as human security, policing, community safety, restorative justice, victimology, migration, urban governance, conflict management, maritime security, forensic studies, climate resilience, and sustainable development.

As a respected consultant, researcher, and capacity-development specialist, Prof. Smah has provided technical advisory services, research, training, monitoring and evaluation, and policy analysis for government institutions, universities, development agencies, and international organisations, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), and the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA). He has successfully led multidisciplinary research projects, institutional assessments, curriculum reviews, policy formulation exercises, strategic planning initiatives, and executive leadership training programmes across Nigeria and West Africa.

His methodological expertise encompasses qualitative and quantitative research, mixed-methods designs, programme evaluation, impact assessment, stakeholder engagement, conflict-sensitive research, participatory rural appraisal, policy analysis, institutional diagnostics, and evidence-based decision-making. He is proficient in proposal development, logical framework design, theory of change, results-based management, monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL), strategic planning, and research dissemination.

Prof. Smah has authored numerous scholarly publications, technical reports, policy papers, and books addressing contemporary issues in governance, development, security, and social transformation. He is the Founder and Chief Executive of Lighthouse Study Helps Concepts, a research, consulting, and capacity-development organisation based in Abuja. His current research focuses on restorative justice, development theory, human security, policing reforms, urban resilience, maritime governance, and community-centred approaches to peacebuilding and sustainable development.

Recognised for analytical rigour, strategic thinking, and collaborative leadership, Prof. Smah continues to support governments, development partners, academic institutions, civil society organisations, and the private sector in designing innovative, evidence-based solutions that strengthen governance, improve security, enhance institutional performance, and promote inclusive and sustainable development across Africa.