

ANSELM ADODO

OSB

Benedictine Monk and Catholic Priest · Transdisciplinary Scholar · Spiritual Leader, Religious Advisor, and Peace Advocate

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PROFILE

Fr. Anselm Adodo, OSB, is a Benedictine monk, Catholic priest, and internationally recognized transdisciplinary scholar with more than three decades of leadership at the intersection of medical sociology, integrative medicine, spiritual ecology, and cross-cultural dialogue. His work advances new ways of understanding human flourishing by integrating scientific inquiry, spiritual wisdom, and community-based knowledge systems.

As an innovator and founder in African phytomedicine, he established one of West Africa's leading herbal research institutions and holds two patents for groundbreaking phytotherapeutic formulations. His contributions have helped shape contemporary conversations on indigenous knowledge, evidence-based herbal medicine, and the future of integrative health in Africa and beyond.

His scholarship spans multiple fields (medical sociology, spirituality, ecology, and cultural studies), reflecting a commitment to intellectual breadth and methodological creativity. He is known for convening diverse thinkers across continents, facilitating dialogue among religious leaders, scientists, artists, and community practitioners. His work consistently creates environments where people can think deeply, collaborate meaningfully, and generate new insight.

As a spiritual guide and teacher, he draws from Benedictine contemplative practice to help individuals and communities cultivate clarity, resilience, and purpose. His writing, teaching, and public speaking explore the relationship between inner transformation, communal wellbeing, and ecological consciousness.

In addition to his independent scholarship and innovation, he offers organizational leadership consulting to institutions seeking renewal, clarity of mission, and deeper alignment with their core values. Since 2026, he has served as Senior Research Fellow and Special Advisor to the Executive Director of the Collegeville Institute, an example of how organizations engage his expertise in institutional culture, staff formation, and strategic development.

Across all his work (as author, inventor, scholar, spiritual guide, and organizational advisor), he brings a distinctive voice shaped by contemplative depth, scientific curiosity, and a lifelong commitment to human and ecological flourishing.

CORE COMPETENCIES

▪ Spiritual direction and contemplative facilitation	▪ Peace advocacy and conflict transformation
▪ Ecumenical and interfaith dialogue	▪ Management of people, technology, and systems
▪ Facilitation of interdisciplinary research communities	▪ Transdisciplinary and integral research methodology
▪ Program design, coordination, and stewardship	▪ Community building and communal discernment
▪ Pastoral care and spiritual accompaniment	▪ Organizational renewal and strategic advising

ACADEMIC FORMATION

PhD, Medical Sociology and Anthropology	University of Benin, Nigeria
PhD, Management of Innovation and Technology	Da Vinci Institute, South Africa
MA, Systematic Theology	Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
MSc, Medical Sociology and Anthropology	University of Benin, Nigeria
BA, Religious Studies	University of Nigeria, Nsukka
Higher Diploma, Scholastic Philosophy	St. Benedict Studium of Philosophy, Nigeria

MINISTRY AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research, Saint John's Abbey 2026 – Present
Senior Research Fellow and Special Advisor to the Executive Director

- Serves as senior advisor in the Executive Director's office during a foundational season of organizational renewal, shaping frameworks and recommendations for how the Institute works.
- Conducts structured listening with staff and partners, recommends clearer roles and simpler workflows, and designs shared tools including a program operations manual, a template library, and evaluation tools.
- Leads staff formation grounded in Benedictine and global monastic practice, covering adaptive leadership, contemplative listening, and intercultural collaboration.
- Serves with the Executive Director as intellectual and formational lead for the Resident Scholars Program pilot year, recruiting, guiding, and evaluating scholars, and widening access for scholars of color, LGBTQIA+ scholars, and global voices.

Re-Gene Afrika: Centre for Integral Development and Societal Re-generation 2023 – 2025
Co-Founder and Director of Global Partnerships

- Led global partnerships across five continents, convening scholars, spiritual leaders, and development practitioners.

Africa Centre for Integral Research and Development 2015 – 2023
Director

- Convened international conferences and multi-day retreats for scholars, monks, activists, and community leaders.

African Action Research Community (AARC) 2018 – 2022
Founder and Coordinator

- Founded a voluntary scholarly community spanning the Americas, Europe, Africa, and Asia, facilitating dialogue between indigenous wisdom traditions and global knowledge systems.

Trans4m Communiversity Associates, United Kingdom 2019 – 2024
Co-Founder

- Co-created an international research academy practicing transdisciplinary knowledge generation across disciplines and traditions.

PEACE ADVOCACY AND ECUMENICAL DIALOGUE

- Practices and promotes Benedictine hospitality (Rule of St. Benedict, Ch. 53) as a model for ecumenical encounter and peacebuilding.

- Developed the Communitarism framework, an ethical approach to community life that prioritizes trust, mutual accountability, and collective flourishing over competitive individualism.
- Executive Consultant to the Global Ecovillage Network at the United Nations, Geneva, on spirituality, ecology, and sustainable co-existence.
- Facilitates inter-religious and intercultural dialogue workshops across continents, and hosts at least two national conferences annually for more than 800 participants.

GLOBAL SPIRITUALITY AND INTERDISCIPLINARY ENGAGEMENT

His scholarship and spiritual practice draw on the world's wisdom traditions: Christian (Catholic, Benedictine, and ecumenical), indigenous, and contemplative traditions of Africa, Asia, and the Americas. He approaches global spirituality not as comparative tourism but as a committed practitioner who believes the encounter between traditions produces something none can generate alone.

- Bridges theology, philosophy of religion, medical anthropology, environmental studies, feminist theory, and peace studies in research and facilitation.

FACILITATION, TEACHING, AND SCHOLAR SUPPORT

- Decades of experience facilitating seminars, retreats, and workshops for audiences from village communities to university faculties.
- Pioneered dialogical learning formats in higher education that foster scholarly exchange rather than passive reception.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Visiting Lecturer, Institute of African Studies

- Delivers interdisciplinary curricula spanning transformation studies, philosophy, and spirituality; delivered the 2018 Faculty Lecture.

University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Research Fellow and External Examiner

- External examiner and mentor to more than 120 graduate students, and collaborator with faculty in redesigning doctoral curricula.

Trans4m Centre for Integral Development, Geneva

Senior Research Fellow

INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE AND PHYTOMEDICINE RESEARCH

Pax Herbal Clinic and Research Laboratories (Paxherbal), Nigeria

1998 – 2025

Founder and Director

- Founded and led a leading herbal and integrative medicine institution, with a research clinic, laboratory, and production facility that brought indigenous healing knowledge into a rigorous scientific and clinical framework.

- Directed phytomedicine research and product development for more than two decades, managing 300 full-time staff and 2,000 part-time collaborators across cultivation, laboratory analysis, manufacturing, and clinical practice.
- Two-time patent holder in phytomedicine technology.
- Implemented a Total Quality Business Culture integrating spiritual values with institutional governance and scientific standards.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming

- Adodo, A. (forthcoming 2027). *The Herbs on Your Grave: A Monk, a Grave, and the Knowledge We Almost Lost*. New York: Orbis Books.
- Adodo, A., and Lessem, R. (forthcoming 2027). *Integral Intelligence: African Thought, Artificial Intelligence and the Integral Enterprise*. Berlin: Peter Lang.

Books

- Adodo, A., Lessem, R., and Schieffer, A. (2024). *Integral Research and Societal Regeneration in Africa: From University to Communiversity*. Berlin: Peter Lang.
- Adodo, A., and Lessem, R. (2021). *Afrikology: Deconstructing and Reconstructing Knowledge and Value in Africa*. Manchester: Beacon.
- Adodo, A., and Iwu, M. (2020). *The Healing Plants of Nigeria: Ethnomedicine and Therapeutic Applications*. New York: Taylor and Francis.
- Lessem, R., Adodo, A., and Bradley, T. (2019). *The Idea of the Communiversity*. Manchester: Beacon Academic.
- Adodo, A. (2017). *Integral Community Enterprise: Communitarism as an Alternative to Capitalism*. London: Routledge.

Selected Journal Articles

- Adodo, A., and Imoudu, M. (2023). "People's Perceptions of the Impact of Climate Change and Community Development in Nigeria." *International Journal of Social Quality*, 13(1), 1–24.
- Adodo, A. (2023). "Contributions of Traditional Knowledge to Community Development Theory and Practice." *Advances in Social Sciences Research Journal*, 10(10).

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Executive Consultant, Global Ecovillage Network, United Nations, Geneva
- Member, Research Committee on Social Transformations and Sociology of Development, International Sociological Association
- Fellow, Nigerian Society of Botanists
- Fellow, Nigerian College of Complementary and Alternative Medicine
- Consultant, University of Medical Sciences, Ondo, Curriculum Committee on Phytomedicine Research