

Jumoke Verissimo was in Lagos, Nigeria. She is the author of the novel, *A Small Silence* (Cassava Republic Press 2019) and two poetry collections, *I am Memory* (Dada Books, 2008), and *The Birth of Illusion* (Fullpoint 2015), which was on the longlist of the NLNG Prize for Literature. Her latest book, a novel, *A Small Silence* was shortlisted for the 2020 Ondaatje Prize. Jumoke's works are widely anthologized, and some of her poems are in translation in in Norwegian, Italian, French, Macedonian, among others.

She has also collaborated with visual artists like Nkechi Edochie, Victor Ehikhamenor, Peju Layiwola, Jelili Atiku and several others. From 2005 – 2017 she worked as a freelance journalist, Editor, Copywriter, Public Relations analyst. As a freelance journalist for the Guardian Newspaper and the now defunct Next Newspaper Nigeria, she interviewed writers like Nnedi Okorafor, Chika Unigwe, Teju Cole, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Chris Abani, Helon Habila, Akin Adesokan, among several others. Jumoke was a Chinua Achebe Centre Fellow, Kwani, Kenya in partnership with Bard College, USA in 2012.

Jumoke has recently returned to academia for a PhD at the University of Alberta, where she is theorizing how literary depictions of the Nigeria-Biafra War (1967–1970) shapes social relations.