

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910456380103321
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Titolo	Statism, youth and civic imagination [[electronic resource] ] : a critical study of the National Youth Service Corps Programme in Nigeria // Ebenezer Obadare
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Dakar, Senegal, : CODESRIA, c2010
ISBN	2-86978-333-7 1-282-71088-5 9786612710889 2-86978-420-1 2-86978-332-9 2-86978-325-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (86 p.)
Collana	Monograph series
Soggetti	National service - Nigeria Young volunteers in community development - Nigeria Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [67]-69).
Sommario/riassunto	This study explores the service-citizenship nexus in Nigeria, using the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) programme as an empirical backdrop. It attempts to understand the relationship between civic service and citizenship on the one hand, and it examines the question as to whether youth service promotes a sense of citizenship and patriotism on the other. In the relevant studies on service and sociology, the assumption that service is antecedent to, and impacts positively on citizenship, is taken for granted. However, conclusions from this study call for an urgent rethinking of this wisdom.