CHINEMELU OKAFOR

Harvard University Government Department
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Email: cokafor@g.harvard.edu
Website: www.chinemeluokafor.com

Research Interests	Comparative politics; economic development; cultural economics; political economy; economic history; macroeconomic development

Education

Harvard University — Cambridge, MA
Ph.D. Government — September 2021 - Present

Princeton University — Princeton, NJ
Emerging Scholars in Political Science Program — August 2021

The George Washington University — Washington, DC
M.A. Applied Economics — May 2018

The University of Michigan — Ann Arbor, MI
B.A. Economics, B.A. International Studies — May 2015

Research Experience

White House Council of Economic Advisers — Washington, DC
Staff Economist — August 2023 - August 2024
Advisors: Dr. Sandile Hlatshwayo
Areas of focus: International Economics and International Trade
Selected Projects: Economic Report of the President, *Council of Economic Advisers* 2024

Emerging Scholars in Political Science Program — Princeton, NJ
Predoctoral Research Specialist — August 2019 - August 2021
Advisors: Prof. Leonard Wantchekon
Area of focus: Historical applied microeconomics;
    Digitized historical maps of Nigeria in QGIS to support ongoing research on the long-run effects of
    colonial missionary education on present-day living standards, occupation, and political participation

Empirical Studies of Conflict Project — Princeton, NJ
Research Specialist II — September 2018 - August 2019
Advisors: Prof. Tarek Ghani and Prof. Jake Shapiro
Areas of focus: Natural resource extraction in Sub-Saharan Africa;
    Preprocessed spatial data and created interactive map of Africa by merging firm-level
    ownership identifiers of extractive sites in oil, gas, and mining, to instances of violent conflict
Selected Projects: "Firm Heterogeneity in Natural Resource Extraction" Tarek Ghani et al.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) — Washington, DC
Research Assistant — February - October 2018
Advisors: Dr. Tristan Reed and Dr. Alexandros Ragoussis
Areas of focus: Private sector firm development in Sub-Saharan Africa;
    Created indicators of infrastructure access and ran synthetic panel fixed effects regressions
    to measure inclusiveness and equality of markets to electric power and water for households
Selected Projects: Making It Big : Why Developing Countries Need More Large Firms, *IFC* 2020;
Creating Impact: The Promise of Impact Investing, *IFC* 2019;
Beyond Capital: Monitoring Development Outcomes of Multinational Enterprises, *World Bank* 2018

	The World Bank	Washington, DC
	Consultant	June - August 2017

Advisors: Kinley Salmon and Nabila Assaf
Areas of focus: Major challenges to firm operations in post-conflict settings;
  Conducted statistical hypothesis testing to investigate challenges to Syrian firms including
  access to economic infrastructure, supply disruptions, and loss of skilled workers
Selected Projects: Surviving Firms of the Syrian Arab Republic, *World Bank* 2018

The United Nations Joint Inspections Unit	Geneva, CH
Research Intern	August 2015 - January 2016

Advisors: Jose Andres Herrera, Herve Baudat, and Maria Gomez
Areas of focus: System-wide monitoring and evaluation
Selected Projects: Wrote Management Letters to evaluate programming of UN participating agencies

Academic Affiliations	London Business School's Wheeler Institute – African Research Councillors Programme, Collaborator w/ Prof. Nathan Nunn, Prof. Elias Papaioannou, and Prof. Stelios Michalopoulos *(2022-present)*
Selected and Invited Talks	African History Through the Lens of Economics, Wheeler Institute - London Business School *(2022)* Diversity in Economics Research, World Bank Group and Research in Color Foundation *(2022)* Promoting Inclusion in Economic Research Conference at Williams College *(2021)* J-PAL Research Staff Training, Massachusetts Institute of Technology *(2020, 2022)* Launching Your Career as an Applied Economist, George Washington University *(2020)*

Professional Distinctions	Harvard Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Graduate Student Associate	August 2024
	Harvard Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Graduate Student Affiliate	October 2022
	Harvard Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Graduate Student Affiliate	August 2022
	Harvard Department of Government Karl Deutsch Fellowship	August 2021
	Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Graduate Prize Fellowship	August 2021
	American Political Science Association Diversity Fellowship (Fall)	December 2020
	J-PAL Executive Education: Evaluating Social Programs, MIT	June 2018
Selected Awards	Harvard Jens Aubrey Westengard Scholarship ($1250)	May 2024
	Harvard Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Pre-dissertation Grant ($3500)	April 2023
	Forbes 30 Under 30: Education - Founder, the Research in Color Foundation	November 2022
	Harvard Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Summer Language Grant ($6000)	April 2022
	American Political Science Association Diversity Fellowship ($2500)	December 2020
	Princeton SIFP STEM Study Fellowship (Tuition Grant)	April 2019
	Best Overall Performance in the Applied Economics Master's Program	May 2018

Professional Service	**The Research In Color Foundation**	May 2019 - Present

<u>Founder and President</u>
Founded and lead <u>Research In Color</u> a 501c(3) non-profit which seeks to increase the number and improve retention of scholars of color in economics and economics-adjacent disciplines.

Harvard Concentration Advisor	August 2024 - Present

Specialty: Government

Harvard Resident Tutor	August 2021 - May 2023

Specialities: French Language Tutor, Race Relations Tutor, Public Service Tutor, and First-gen Low-income Tutor; Economics and Government Sophomore Advisor

Technical Skills	RStudio, R Shiny, STATA, LaTeX, QGIS, SPSS, Tableau, Thomson Reuters Datastream, Thomson Reuters Eikon, Excel, PowerPoint, Word, Overleaf, GitHub, Qualtrics, JavaScript
Languages	English (Native), French (Advanced), Igbo (Intermediate)