

CHINEMELU U.S. OKAFOR

Princeton University Politics Department
B14 Fisher Hall
Princeton, New Jersey 08544

Email: cokafor@princeton.edu
LinkedIn: Chinemelu Okafor

Research Interests Comparative politics of Africa; historical roots of comparative development; behavioral economics; corruption; government accountability; African literature; culture, ethnicity, and inclusion

Education **Princeton University** Princeton, NJ
Emerging Scholars in Political Science Program Expected: 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
European Union Study Abroad, Leuven Belgium May 2014

Research Experience **Emerging Scholars in Political Science Program** Princeton, NJ
Predoctoral Research Specialist August 2019 - Present

Advisor: Prof. LaFleur Stephens-Dougan

Areas of focus: Public opinion and racial attitudes

Selected Projects: Race to the Bottom: How Racial Appeals work in American Politics, *University of Chicago Press* 2020

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

Selected Projects: "Firm Heterogeneity in Natural Resource Extraction" Tarek Ghani, Anouk Rigterink, and Jacob Shapiro

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

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 George Washington University Washington, DC
Independent Study September 2017 - May 2018

Advisor: Prof. Ronald Bird

Areas of focus: Demography; Labor economics

Selected Projects: "Demography and the Marginal Propensity to Unionize," Chinemelu Okafor

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

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:** Management Letters for United Nations Member States and participating organizations**The Royal African Society**

London, UK

Research Intern

May 2014 - July 2014

Advisor: Dele Meiji Fatunla**Areas of focus:** African Affairs; African literature, writing, and thought**Selected Projects:** 50 Books by African Women That Everyone should Read: Part 2, *Bookshy* 201450 Books by African Women That Everyone should Read, *The Royal African Society* 2014**Work in Progress**

“The Effect of Regional Favoritism on Petty Corruption: Evidence from Mali and Senegal”

“Assessing the Causal Relationship between Corruption and Inequality: A Time Series Analysis”

Selected and Invited Talks

J-PAL Research Staff Training, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2020)

Launching Your Career as an Applied Economist, George Washington University (2020)

Promoting Inclusion in Economic Research at Williams College (2020)

Okafor, Chinemelu. “*Demography and the Marginal Propensity to Unionize.*”

George Washington University Research Days (2018)

Professional Distinctions

Princeton LISD Global Diplomatic and Security Challenges Fellowship

September 2020

Emerging Scholars in Political Science Program, Princeton University

August 2019

J-PAL Executive Education: Evaluating Social Programs, MIT

June 2018

World Federation of United Nations Associations, Jaipur, India

April 2015

Barger Leadership Fellows Program, University of Michigan

September 2014

Selected Awards

Princeton SIFP STEM Study Fellowship

April 2019

Best Overall Performance in the Applied Economics Master’s Program

May 2018

Second Prize for Graduate Presenters in the Area of Economics, Politics, and Society

April 2018

GW Merit Scholarship

August 2016

LSA Global Experience Scholarship

April 2014

Professional Service**The Research In Color Foundation**

May 2019 - Present

Founder and President

Founded Research In Color an incorporated nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing the number of Ph.D. students of color in economics and economics-adjacent disciplines, and amplifying meaningful economic and policy research on communities of color; established an annual mentorship program that matches 15 minority students with 15 seasoned economists who, together, complete a 6-month long independent research project, of the mentee’s choosing; raised 20,000 dollars for the inaugural Research in Color Conference at Princeton University through sponsorships with Princeton University and J-PAL, and donations.

Technical SkillsRStudio, R Shiny, STATA, L^AT_EX, SPSS, Tableau, Thomson Reuters Datastream,

Thomson Reuters Eikon, Excel, PowerPoint, Word, Overleaf, GitHub

Languages

English (Native), Igbo (Intermediate Proficiency), French (Basic Proficiency)

Citizenship

American, Nigerian