CHINEMELU OKAFOR

Harvard University Government Department

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Research Interests	Comparative politics; political economy; public economics; economic development; economic history; Narrative economics; MSME develoment in emerging markets; international economics and trade

Education

Harvard University — Cambridge, MA
Ph.D. Government — 2028 (*expected*)
Committee: Melani Cammett (chair), Nathan Nunn, Mashail Malik, Pia Raffler, Awa Ambra Seck

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 (*took leave from PhD*) — Washington, DC
Staff Economist — August 2023 - August 2024
Advisors: Dr. Sandile Hlatshwayo
Areas of focus: International Economics and Trade; Section 201 & 301 Tariffs
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 and conflict 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

Works in Progress	Protest Matters: The Effects of Protests on Economic Redistribution, *with Belinda Archibong,* *Evans Osabuohien and Tom Moerenhout (Revise & Resubmit at the Review of Economics and Statistics)*
Teaching Fellow	Harvard: Spring '25 - Evaluating the Impact of Public Policies (GOV 1737), for Prof. Michael Hiscox Harvard: Spring '25 - Business & Entrepreneurship in Africa (HBSMBA 1555), for Hakeem Belo-Osagie Harvard: Fall '24 '25 - Public Economics (ECON 1410), for Stan Veuger

Academic Affiliations	Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Graduate Student Associate, *renewed*	August 2025
	Harvard Center for International Development, PhD Affiliate	January 2025
	London Business School's Wheeler Institute – African Research Councillors Programme	May 2022
	Collaborator w/ Prof. Nathan Nunn, Prof. Elias Papaioannou, and Prof. Stelios Michalopoulos	

Selected and Invited Talks	Harvard Center for African Studies Contested Realities Workshop *(2025)* African History Through the Lens of Economics, Wheeler Institute - London Business School *(2022)* J-PAL Research Staff Training, Massachusetts Institute of Technology *(2020, 2022)*

Professional Distinctions	Association for Comparative Economic Studies (ACES) Summer School	July 2025
	American Political Science Association Member Spotlight	July 2025
	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 ($2500)	December 2020

Selected Awards	Harvard Center for African Studies, Travel Grant ($1500)	May 2025
	Harvard Government Department, Women and Politics Research Grant ($2000)	April 2025
	Harvard Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Pre-dissertation Grant ($4000)	April 2025
	Harvard Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, GSA Grant ($2905)	November 2024
	Harvard Jens Aubrey Westengard Scholarship ($1250)	May 2024
	Forbes 30 Under 30: Education - Founder, the Research in Color Foundation	November 2022
	Harvard Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Pre-dissertation Grant ($3500)	April 2022
	Harvard Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Summer Language Grant ($6000)	April 2022
	Best Overall Performance in the Applied Economics Master's Program, *Dean's Award*	May 2018

Professional Service	Reviewer for *The Annual Review of Economics*	
	Economics & Government Concentration Advisor and Non-Resident Tutor	August 2024 - Present
	Harvard Resident Tutor	August 2021 - August 2023
	Specialities: French Language, Public Service, and First-gen Low-income Tutor	
	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 historically excluded scholars in economics and economics-adjacent disciplines.	

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 proficiency), French (Upper-intermediate proficiency), Igbo (Passive proficiency)
Citizenship	United States; Nigeria