

# CHINEMELU U.S. OKAFOR

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Princeton University Politics Department  
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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; historical micro-applied economics

**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

	<b>The United Nations Joint Inspections Unit</b> Research Intern <b>Advisors:</b> Jose Andres Herrera, Herve Baudat, and Maria Gomez <b>Areas of focus:</b> System-wide monitoring and evaluation <b>Selected Projects:</b> Management Letters for United Nations Member States and participating organizations	Geneva, CH August 2015 - January 2016
	<b>The Royal African Society</b> Research Intern <b>Advisor:</b> Dele Meiji Fatunla <b>Areas of focus:</b> African Affairs; African literature, writing, and thought <b>Selected Projects:</b> 50 Books by African Women That Everyone should Read: Part 2, <i>Bookshy</i> 2014 50 Books by African Women That Everyone should Read, <i>The Royal African Society</i> 2014	London, UK May 2014 - July 2014
<b>Work in Progress</b>	“Who Matters More? Investigating the effect of Regional Favoritism on Petty Corruption amongst Bureaucrats in Mali and Senegal” “Assessing the Causal Relationship between Corruption and Inequality: A Time Series Analysis”	
<b>Selected and Invited Talks</b>	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) <b>Okafor, Chinemelu.</b> “ <i>Demography and the Marginal Propensity to Unionize.</i> ” George Washington University Research Days (2018)	
<b>Professional Distinctions</b>	World Economic Forum Global Shaper Emerging Scholars in Political Science Program, Princeton University J-PAL Executive Education: Evaluating Social Programs, MIT World Federation of United Nations Associations, Jaipur, India Barger Leadership Fellows Program, University of Michigan	August 2020 August 2019 June 2018 April 2015 September 2014
<b>Selected Awards</b>	Princeton SIFP STEM Study Fellowship Best Overall Performance in the Applied Economics Master’s Program Second Prize for Graduate Presenters in the Area of Economics, Politics, and Society GW Merit Scholarship LSA Global Experience Scholarship	April 2019 May 2018 April 2018 August 2016 April 2014
<b>Professional Service</b>	<b>The Research In Color Foundation</b> <u>Founder and President</u> Founded <u>Research In Color</u> 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 <u>Princeton University</u> and <u>J-PAL</u> , and donations.	May 2019 - Present
<b>Technical Skills</b>	RStudio, R Shiny, STATA, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X, SPSS, Tableau, Thomson Reuters Datastream, Thomson Reuters Eikon, Excel, PowerPoint, Word, Overleaf, GitHub	
<b>Languages</b>	English (Native), Igbo (Intermediate Proficiency), French (Basic Proficiency)	
<b>Citizenship</b>	American, Nigerian	