

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

Consultant

Washington, DC

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**

Research Intern

Geneva, CH

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**Teaching**

Harvard University Teaching Fellowship: Public Economics - ECON 1410 - Fall 2024

**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*)
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**Selected
Awards**Harvard Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, GSA Grant (\$2905) November 2024
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
Best Overall Performance in the Applied Economics Master's Program May 2018**Professional
Service****The Research In Color Foundation**

May 2019 - Present

Founder and PresidentFounded and lead Research In Color 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, L^AT_EX, QGIS, SPSS, Tableau, Thomson Reuters Datastream, Thomson Reuters Eikon, Excel, PowerPoint, Word, Overleaf, GitHub, Qualtrics, JavaScript**Languages**

English (Native), French (Advanced), Igbo (Intermediate)