

# CHINEMELU U.S. OKAFOR

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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 August 2019

**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;

Ran ordered and multivariate logistic regressions to examine the use of racialized partisan stereotypes to appeal to racially moderate and conservative whites

**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;

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, Anouk Riggerink, 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;

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 George Washington University** Washington, DC  
Independent Study January - May 2018

**Advisor:** Prof. Ronald Bird

**Areas of focus:** Demography; Labor economics;

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

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|                                   | <b>The World Bank</b><br>Consultant<br><b>Advisors:</b> Kinley Salmon and Nabila Assaf<br><b>Areas of focus:</b> Major challenges to firm operations in post-conflict settings;<br>Conducted statistical hypothesis testing to investigate challenges to Syrian firms including access to economic infrastructure, supply disruptions, and loss of skilled workers<br><b>Selected Projects:</b> Surviving Firms of the Syrian Arab Republic, <i>World Bank</i> 2018  | Washington, DC<br>June - August 2017  |
|                                   | <b>The United Nations Joint Inspections Unit</b><br>Research Intern<br><b>Advisors:</b> Jose Andres Herrera, Herve Baudat, and Maria Gomez<br><b>Areas of focus:</b> System-wide monitoring and evaluation<br><b>Selected Projects:</b> Wrote Management Letters for U.N. participating agencies   | Geneva, CH<br>August 2015 - January 2016  |
|                                   | <b>The Royal African Society</b><br>Research Intern<br><b>Advisor:</b> Dele Meiji Fatunla<br><b>Areas of focus:</b> African Affairs; African literature, writing, and art<br><b>Selected Projects:</b> 50 Books by African Women That Everyone should Read: Part 2, <i>Bookshy</i> 2014<br>50 Books by African Women That Everyone should Read, <i>The Royal African Society</i> 2014  | London, UK<br>May 2014 - July 2014  |
| <b>Work in Progress</b>           | “The Effect of Regional Favoritism on Petty Corruption: Evidence from Mali and Senegal”<br>“Assessing the Causal Relationship between Corruption and Inequality: A Time Series Analysis”   |   |
| <b>Selected and Invited Talks</b> | Promoting Inclusion in Economic Research at Williams College ( <i>2021</i> )<br>J-PAL Research Staff Training, Massachusetts Institute of Technology ( <i>2020</i> )<br>Launching Your Career as an Applied Economist, George Washington University ( <i>2020</i> )<br>George Washington University Research Days, Independent Research Presentation ( <i>2018</i> )   |   |
| <b>Professional Distinctions</b>  | American Political Science Association Diversity Fellowship<br>Princeton LISD Global Diplomatic and Security Challenges Fellowship<br>Emerging Scholars in Political Science Program, Princeton University<br>J-PAL Executive Education: Evaluating Social Programs, MIT<br>World Federation of United Nations Associations, Jaipur, India<br>Barger Leadership Fellows Program, University of Michigan  | December 2020<br>September 2020<br>August 2019<br>June 2018<br>April 2015<br>September 2014 |
| <b>Selected Awards</b>            | Princeton SIFP STEM Study Fellowship<br>Best Overall Performance in the Applied Economics Master’s Program<br>Second Prize for Graduate Presenters in the Area of Economics, Politics, and Society<br>GW Merit Scholarship<br>LSA Global Experience Scholarship  | April 2019<br>May 2018<br>April 2018<br>August 2016<br>April 2014                           |
| <b>Professional Service</b>       | <b>The Research In Color Foundation</b><br><u>Founder and President</u><br>Founded <u>Research In Color</u> a nonprofit dedicated to increasing the number of Ph.D. students of color in economics and economics-adjacent disciplines, and amplifying meaningful research on communities of color; annual mentorship program matches 15 students with 15 economists who, together, complete a 6-8 month long research project, of the mentee’s choosing; raised 20,000 dollars for inaugural conference and scholarships through sponsorships with <u>Princeton University</u> and <u>J-PAL</u> , as well as personal 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,<br>Thomson Reuters Eikon, Excel, PowerPoint, Word, Overleaf, GitHub   |   |
| <b>Languages</b>                  | English (Native), Igbo (Intermediate Proficiency), French (Basic Proficiency)  |   |