

# CHINEMELU U.S. OKAFOR

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Harvard University Government Department  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

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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** **Harvard University** Cambridge, MA  
Ph.D. Government August 2021 - Present

**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

**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;

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

	<b>The World Bank</b> Consultant <b>Advisors:</b> Kinley Salmon and Nabila Assaf <b>Areas of focus:</b> 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 <b>Selected Projects:</b> Surviving Firms of the Syrian Arab Republic, <i>World Bank</i> 2018	Washington, DC June - August 2017
	<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> Wrote Management Letters for U.N. participating agencies	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 art <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>Selected and Invited Talks</b>	Promoting Inclusion in Economic Research at Williams College ( <i>2021</i> ) J-PAL Research Staff Training, Massachusetts Institute of Technology ( <i>2020</i> ) Launching Your Career as an Applied Economist, George Washington University ( <i>2020</i> ) George Washington University Research Days, Independent Research Presentation ( <i>2018</i> )	
<b>Professional Distinctions</b>	Harvard Department of Government Karl Deutsch Fellowship Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Graduate Prize Fellowship Insitut de Français French Immersion Course, Villefranche, France American Political Science Association Diversity Fellowship Princeton LISD Global Diplomatic and Security Challenges Fellowship J-PAL Executive Education: Evaluating Social Programs, MIT World Federation of United Nations Associations, Jaipur, India Barger Leadership Fellows Program, University of Michigan	August 2021 August 2021 May 2021 December 2020 September 2020 June 2018 April 2015 September 2014
<b>Selected Awards</b>	Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Foreign Language Study Grant 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	May 2021 April 2019 May 2018 April 2018 August 2016
<b>Professional Service</b>	<b>The Research In Color Foundation</b> Founder and President Founded <u>Research In Color</u> a nonprofit dedicated to increasing the number of Ph.D. students of color in economics and economics-adjful disciplines, and amplifying meaningful research on communities of color; annual mentorship program directly matches students with 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, Thomson Reuters Eikon, Excel, PowerPoint, Word, Overleaf, GitHub	
<b>Languages</b>	English (Native), Igbo (Intermediate Proficiency), French (Basic Proficiency)	