**Joan C. Chimezie**

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Department of Geography, University of California Los Angeles

315 Portola Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90095

**Education**

**2023-Present University of California Los-Angeles**

Ph.D. Geography (Physical Geography)

**Advisor:** Dr. Glen MacDonald

**Research Interests**: Paleoclimate, paleoecology, wildfires, GIS, remote sensing, human impacts, policies.

**2021-2023 University of Wisconsin-Madison** MSc. Botany (Paleoecology and Palynology)

**Advisor:** Dr. Sara Hotchkiss; **Committee**: Dr. Jack Williams and Dr. Debra Willard.

**Master’s Thesis**

*Holocene peatland vegetation, climate, and fire reconstruction in the Appalachian Mountains of West Virginia*

**2014-2018 University of Lagos, Lagos Nigeria** B.Sc. Botany (Environmental Botany and Palynology),

**First class Hons.**

**Senior Thesis**

*Responses of Amaranthus hybridus to Simulated Acid rain.*

**Related Coursework:** Palynology, Paleoecology, Climate Science, Soil Science, Environmental Pollution Monitoring, Environmental Impact Assessment Studies, Plant Ecology, Paleobotany, Plant Physiology, Phycology, Forensic Botany, Coastal Ecology.

**Honors, Awards and Grants**

**2024** UCLA Center for Diverse Leadership in Science (CDLS) **Dual Fellowship; Early-Career Fellow and Climate Resilience Fellow**

**2024** AAG Paleoenvironmental Change Student Presentation award**.**

**2024** UC Riverside Science to Policy travel award; $500

**2024** National Science Policy Network travel award; $600

2023 UCLA Geography first-year fellowship

2023 Flora Aeterna summer fellowship, Botany UW Madison; **$5000**

2023 Raper travel award, Botany UW Madison; **$1000**.

2023 Tulipa et Paeonia Research grant; **$1000**

2023 Ecological Society of America (ESA) Paleoecology section travel grant; **$300**

2023 Ecological Society of America (ESA) conference registration grant; **$230**

2023 Conservation Paleobiology Network travel grant; **$1500**

2023 USNC/INQUA fellowship grant; **$1000**

2023 GSA Joint Southeastern and Northeastern section meeting travel award; **$150**

2022 Nominee; Campus-wide Early Excellency in Teaching Award- UW Madison

2022 Tulipa et Paeonia Research grant; **$5000**

2022 Croxdale research and travel award; Botany UW Madison **$1000**

2019 Best Graduating Student; Environmental Botany and Palynology Specialization- University of Lagos, Nigeria

2017-2018 University of Lagos first-class award

**Research and Work Experience**

August 2023-Present  **MacDonald Lab, University of California Los Angeles**

Reconstructing past climate, fires, and ecology of California, while using additional modern applications like GIS and remote sensing to predict future climate change impacts on the ecosystem.

June 2022 -August 2023 **United States Geological Survey, Florence Bascom Geoscience Center**

Quaternary Wetland Dynamics and climate change, 2022. Collaborators- Dr. Debra Willard and Dr. Miriam Jones (Research Geologists).

June 2019- August 2021 **HD AquaEarth Consulting Limited,**  *Environmental Consultant/Scientist*

Providing corporate advisory services to clients across industries supporting regulatory compliance in client organizations and implementing sustainability risk management programs. Planning and implementing environmental studies including ESIAs, ESDD, Technical Report Writing and Presentation, Clients, Regulators and Stakeholders Correspondence, carrying out field data gathering for Air quality, Biodiversity, and socioeconomics studies.

**Teaching Experience**

2021-2023 **Teaching Assistant**: Developed lab materials delivered in person to students for the course BOT 130 General Botany, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Botany.

2022 **Teaching Assistant**: Developed lab materials to be delivered in person to students for the course IBIO 152 Introductory Biology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Integrative Biology.

Independent Project mentor and reviewer for over 25 students.

**Paper Presentation**

**American Association of Geographers, 2024 Annual Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii**

*Holocene peatland fire reconstruction in the Appalachian Mountains of West Virginia, USA.*

**Poster Presentations**

**Ecological Society of America, 2023 Annual Conference, Portland, Oregon**

*Holocene peatland fire and vegetation reconstruction in the Appalachian Mountains of West Virginia, USA.*

**GSA Joint Southeastern and Northeastern section conference, 2022, Reston Virginia**

*Holocene peatland fire reconstruction in the Appalachian Mountains of West Virginia*, USA.

**Leadership Experience and Volunteer activities**

**Conference volunteer, AAG 2024**

Held various roles at the AAG annual conference in Honolulu, Hawaii

**Session Moderator, ESA 2023**

Moderated various presentation sessions at the Ecological Society of America conference.

**Ambassador, International Student Reach, UW Madison, 2022- 2023**

**Financial Secretary, Department of Botany, University of Lagos, 2017-2018**

*Key Responsibilities;*

Prepared budgets and financial statements for the department and raised and managed a large amount of money for the department.

**Peer Mentor**- **Team 110% Mentorship Program**

*Key Responsibilities;*

Conducted personal tutorials for second year students for two consecutive years.

**Red Cross Society**, Community Development Service

Created awareness in the society and assisted in enlightening secondary and primary school student on use of the first aid.

**Eco-Champions**

Participated in various Environmental clean-ups in different Environment to reduce Environmental pollution.˜

**Trainings and Certifications**

* **Cornell University**- Plastics: Impacts and Action
* Introduction to Climate Change by United nations Institute for Training and Research
* Cities and Climate Change by United nations Institute for Training and Research
* Children and Climate Change by United nations Institute for Training and Research
* Fundamentals on REDD+ by United nations Institute for Training and Research
* Advance Impact Assessment Process, AquaEarth Consulting

**Professional Affiliation**

**Fellow-** Center for Diverse Leadership in Science **(CDLS)**

Member- American Association of Geographers **(AAG)**

Member-Conservation Paleobiology Network **(CPN)**

Member-Geological Association of America **(GSA)**

Member**-**Association for Women Geoscientists **(AWG)** UW Madison Chapter

Member-The American Quaternary Association **(AMQUA)**

Member- American Geophysical Union **(AGU)**

Member- Ecological Society of America **(ESA)**

Member- National Science Policy Network **(NSPN)**

Member- Nigerian Conservation Foundation **(NCF)**