Chimaobi Okite

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RESEARCH THEME

I am mostly interested in AI alignment: per-user alignment (personalization), alignment to user groups (e.g., cultures), and general alignment to the 3Hs (helpfulness, harmlessness, and honesty). I study robust, life-long personalization of AI agents—seeking ways to better adapt LLMs to user features (implicit, explicit, and latent) in a dynamic fashion without compromising safety or factuality.

EDUCATION

University of Michigan   **Ann Arbor**
Ph. D, Computer Science and Engineering   *May,* 2029 (Expected)

Federal University of Technology   **Owerri, Nigeria**
Bachelor of Technology in Electrical and Electronic Engineering   *2017 - 2023*
- CGPA: 4.80/5.0 (First Class Honours)
- Class Rank: 1/90+ (Best Graduating Student Electronic and Computer Engineering)

CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

[P1]	Benchmarking and Improving LLM Robustness for Personalized Generation Chimaobi Okite, Naihao Deng, Kiran Bodipati, Huaidian Hou, Joyce Chai, Rada Mihalcea.	EMNLP Findings 2025
[P2]	Life-long Personalization: Grounding to Latent User Contexts.	(work in progress)
[P3]	Agents In Wild: Evaluating Safety and Capability of Multi-User Agents.	(work in progress)

RESEARCH/PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Situated Language and Embodied Dialogue Lab (SLED)   **University of Michigan**
Language and Information Technologies Lab (LIT)
Graduate Research Assistant   Aug. 2024-present
Advised by Professors Joyce Chai and Rada Mihalcea
- Led research on benchmarking and improving LLM robustness in personalization, demonstrating that existing one-dimensional evaluation schemes are insufficient; defined a new robustness framework, showed that current models are not robust under personalization, and introduced an approach that significantly improves robustness; this work resulted in a peer-reviewed EMNLP 2025 publication.
- Investigating multi-agent LLM behavior "in the wild," focusing on safety, misalignment, and capability failures that emerge during dynamic, real-world multi-user interactions.
- Developing lifelong personalization techniques that ground LLMs in latent user context, revealing failure modes in existing personalization pipelines and building new mechanisms for robust, context-aware adaptation across long-term user interactions.

University of Michigan (CSE Division)   **Ann Arbor**
Graduate Student Instructor (CSE 595: Natural Language Processing)   Aug. 2025-Dec. 2025
- Led weekly office hours to guide students through key NLP concepts and project workflows, improving their understanding of course material and debugging strategies.
- Co-designed and developed course assignments that reinforced core NLP methods, ensuring alignment with learning objectives and giving students hands-on experience with modern LLM techniques.
- Evaluated student work and provided detailed feedback to support skill development, maintain grading consistency, and highlight areas for conceptual improvement.

African AI Foundation   **Lagos, Nigeria**
AI/Backend Engineer   Oct. 2023 - July 2024

- Developed production-grade AI agents and backend microservices for EagleEye, an AI-powered workflow automation platform, enabling seamless task processing and decision support for enterprise users.
- Deployed the system to production environments used by **13+ firms** across Nigeria, including major banks and manufacturing companies, resulting in increased adoption and measurable improvements in workflow management.

Wragby Business Solutions   **Lagos, Nigeria**
Machine Learning Engineer Intern   Dec. 2021 - May 2022
- Developed machine learning models for fraud detection, improving the previous system's recall by 9%, which enabled earlier identification of suspicious activities and strengthened client risk-mitigation efforts.
- Built customer retention prediction models for a client company, helping identify at-risk customers and contributing to a 30%+ increase in retention rates.
- Conducted exploratory research and created a baseline recommendation system for Dancom, a telecom client, providing foundational insights that informed the development of a full-scale recommendation engine.

HONORS, AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS

- Bernard A Galler Fellowship (University of Michigan), 2024
- Best Graduating Student in Electronics and Computer Engineering, Electrical Electronics Engineering Department, FUTO, 2023
- Resourceful Student Award, Electrical Electronics Engineering Department, FUTO, 2023.
- Petroleum Trust Development Fund (PTDF) Undergraduate Scholarship Recipient, 2018
- The Petroleum Industry Christian Fellowship International (PICFI) Undergraduate Scholarship, 2018.
- Third Runner-Up, Mathematics Association of Nigeria Maths Competition, State Level, 2016.

TECHNICAL STRENGTHS

Programming Languages:	Python, Java, C++
Tools and Technologies:	Git, SQLAlchemy, Streamlit, Gradio, Alembic, HuggingFace, Docker, Weights & Biases, MLFlow, Azure
Frameworks:	PyTorch, TensorFlow, Fastai, FastAPI, Django

SERVICE & VOLUNTEERING

Reviewer, COLM PragLM Workshop 2025
Open-Source Contributor, Networkx. Duration: Jun 2022 - Nov 2022 (6 months)
Microsoft Learn Student Ambassador. 2022 - 2024
Chairman, Independent Student Electoral Commission (ISEC), Society of Electrical Electronics Engineering Students, FUTO. 2022/2023

SELECTED SIDE PROJECTS

Election_API - FastAPI, Alembic, PostgreSQL, SQLAlchemy, Heroku https://github.com/chimaobiokite/election_api
Backend API used for the 2021/2022 Federal University of Technology, Owerri (FUTO) Society of Electrical and Electronic Engineering Students (SEEES) elections.

FUTO_Academia - FastAPI, Alembic, PostgreSQL, SQLAlchemy, HuggingFace, Sentence Transformers
https://github.com/chimaobi-okite/smart_school https://futo-academia.vercel.app/
This was my final year project. It is a school management system with functionalities to give/take assessments and automatically grade these assessments. Uses an NLP model to grade short answer questions