

Chimaobi Okite

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<https://chimaobi-okite.github.io/>

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

Ph. D, Computer Science and Engineering

Ann Arbor

May, 2029 (Expected)

Federal University of Technology

Bachelor of Technology in Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Owerri, Nigeria

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

Machine Learning Engineer Intern

Lagos, Nigeria

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