Ebuka Johnbosco Okpala

okpalaje@gmail.com | https://ejokpala.com

Education

Clemson University, Clemson, SC

Ph.D. in Computer Science   August 2020 – August 2024
- Adviser: Dr. Long Cheng
- Thesis: Offensive Content Detection in Online Social Platforms
- Research: Natural Language Processing. Focus on detecting and analyzing online abuse and understanding and mitigating bias in online abuse detection models

M.S. in Computer Science (GPA 3.75)   August 2018 – May 2020

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana

B.Sc. Computer Engineering (Second class, upper division)   August 2011 – June 2015

Publications

- **Analyzing Offensive Content and Emotional Dynamics in Black Lives Matter Discourse on Twitter.** Ebuka Okpala, Long Cheng, Kehinde Elelu.International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM), 2025
- **Analysis of Covid-19 Offensive Tweets and Their Targets.** Song Liao, Ebuka Okpala, Long Cheng, Nishant Vishwamitra, Mingqi Li, Hongxin Hu, Feng Luo, Matthew Costello. ACM SIGKDD Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDD), 2023
- **AAEBERT: Debiasing BERT-based Hate Speech Detection Models via Adversarial Learning.** Ebuka Okpala, Long Cheng, Nicodemus Mbwambo, Feng Luo. International Conference on Machine Learning and Applications (ICLMA), 2022
- **COVID-HateBERT: a Pre-trained Language Model for COVID-19 related Hate Speech Detection**. Mingqi Li, Song Liao, Ebuka Okpala, Tong M, Matthew Costello, Long Cheng, Hongxin Hu, Feng Luo. International Conference on Machine Learning and Applications (ICMLA), 2021
- **COVID-19: A Pandemic of Anti-Asian Cyberhate**. Matthew Costello, Long Cheng, Feng Luo, Hongxin Hu, Song Liao, Nishant Vishwamitra, Mingqi Li, Ebuka Okpala. Journal of Hate Studies (JHS), 2021

Under Review

- **Large Language Model Annotation Bias in Hate Speech Detection.** Ebuka Okpala, Long Cheng. International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM), 2025

Preprints

- **AI-Cybersecurity Education Through Designing AI-based Cyberharassment Detection Lab.** Ebuka Okpala, Nishant Vishwamitra, Keyan Guo, Song Liao, Long Cheng, Hongxin Hu, Yongkai Wu, Xiaohong Yuan, Jeannette Wade, Sajad Khorsandroo. arXiv preprint arxiv: 2405.08125, 2024

Posters

- **AAEBERT: Debiasing BERT-based Hate Speech Detection Models via Adversarial Learning.** Ebuka Okpala, Long Cheng. IEEE Secure Development Conference (SecDev), 2022.
- **BranchCorr: Detecting Incompatible Branch Behavior by Enforcing Branch Correlation Integrity**. Long Cheng, Ebuka Okpala, Song Liao, Danfeng(Daphne) Yao. IEEE Secure Development Conference (SecDev), 2019

Service

Reviewer for Conference
- International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM), 2025
- ACM Cyber-Physical System Security (CPSS), 2024
- International Conference on Distributed Computing Systems (ICDCS), 2023
- International Conference on Computer Communications and Networks (ICCCN), 2023
- Annual Computer Security Applications Conference (ACSAC), 2022
- Information and Cyber Security (ICS), 2022
- IEEE International Performance Computing and Communication Conference (IPCCC), 2021

Technical Skills
Programming Languages: Python, C/C++, Java, Swift, SQL
Machine Learning Libraries: PyTorch, TensorFlow, Keras, Trax, Scikit-learn, Numpy, and Pandas
Web Development: JavaScript, PHP, jQuery, Node.js, MySQL, HTML5, CSS
Big data: Tableau, Splunk, Apache Superset
Tools: Git, Linux, VIM, LateX

Work Experience

Apple Inc   Seattle, WA
Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning (AIML)   September 2024 – Present
- The Siri AIML focuses on introducing and leveraging machine learning across Apple products

Clemson Online - Clemson University   Clemson, SC
Digital Tech Coordinator   August 2019 – May 2024
- Responsible for designing, developing, and testing data solutions to meet Clemson Online and Clemson University's needs
- Led projects independently and conducted advanced analytical tasks such as data conversion, ETL, filtering, and reporting
- Performed detailed data analysis and mining using SQL, Splunk, and its search processing language to provide insights to the University leadership to make strategic decisions on the maintenance, acquisition, and transition of learning technology systems and tools
- Worked across teams to develop and maintain the Clemson Online website

Apple Inc   Seattle, WA
Ph.D. AI/ML Software Engineering Intern   May 2023 – August 2023
- Developed a new end-to-end Siri in the home feature that enables users to change the state of the devices in their home within a specified duration with the ability to revert to its initial state

Apple Inc   Seattle, WA
Ph.D. AI/ML Software Engineering Intern   May 2022 – August 2022
- Built the integration, tooling, and analytics to drive quality in performance ahead of seeding and production

Apple Inc   Seattle, WA
Ph.D. AI/ML Software Engineering Intern   May 2021 – August 2021
- Developed a new end-to-end Siri in the home feature that enable users discover the automations in their home

Eresea Foods Inc   Abuja, Nigeria
Web Software Developer   January 2017 – June 2018
- Led the design, development, and maintenance of Eresea's web application

Andela   Abuja, Nigeria
Web Application Developer Trainee   October 2017 – May 2018
- Received training on web application development and developed progressive MEAN stack applications and RESTFUL APIs

Mentorship
- Mentored Ethan Anderson, Preethika Yetukuri, and Taran Kavuru (Clemson, undergraduates) in offensive content review and annotation

Projects

Learning Platform and Education Curriculum for AI-Driven Socially Relevant Cybersecurity   June 2022 – May 2024
- Designed and implemented the hyperparameter tuning, adversarial attacks, and debiasing word embeddings labs and instructional materials in the EAGER SaTC (https://cuadvancelab.github.io/) lab project. The hands-on labs engage students in AI-driven, socially relevant cybersecurity