

# Adaugo Pamela Nwakanma

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## CONTACT

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## APPOINTMENTS

**Assistant Professor**, Department of Political Science, University of California, Irvine, 2024-

**Academy Postdoctoral Fellow**, SNF Agora Institute, Johns Hopkins University, 2023-2024

**Leading Edge Fellow**, American Council of Learned Societies, 2022- 2023

## EDUCATION

**Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA  
Ph.D., Department of Government, 2022  
Secondary Field, Department of African and African American Studies  
M.A. in Political Science, 2021  
*Departmental Prize for Best Dissertation on Gender and Politics*

**University of California, San Diego**, La Jolla, CA  
B.A. International Studies/Economics and Linguistics, 2014  
*Cum laude, Honors, and High Distinction*

**Université Stendhal**, Grenoble, France  
American Institute of Foreign Studies Program, 2012

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political Economy; Development; Africana Studies; Comparative Politics; Identity; Gender; Entrepreneurship; Political Behavior

## PUBLICATIONS Academic

“From Black Lives Matter to EndSARS: Women’s Socio-political Power and the Transnational Movement for Black Lives” (2022) *Perspectives on Politics*  
– Winner of the 2022 Society for the Study of Social Problems Global Division Paper Award  
– Shortlisted for the 2023 International Sociological Association RC05 Prize for Best Postgraduate Paper

“Theorizing Justice from the Margins: Black Feminist Insights on Political (Protest) Behavior” (2022) *Politics, Groups, and Identities*

“On Scholarship and the Hyphenated African Identity.” (2021) in *African Scholars and Intellectuals in the North American Academy: Reflections of Exile and Migration.*, ed. Sabella Abidde. London: Routledge

“Women, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Development in Africa.” (2020) In *The Palgrave Handbook of African Women’s Studies*, eds. Olajumoke Yacob-Haliso and Toyin Falola. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan

– Winner of the 2019 American Political Science Association Best Graduate Student Paper on Inclusion and Entrepreneurship, Class and Inequality Section, Kauffman Foundation

## **Literary/Public Media**

“Pursuing a Professional Path in Academia” (2021) *Break the Boxes* Podcast Interview.

“African Knowledge Production and History in the Making” (2020), *Collateral Benefits: Voices of African Women Perspective Paper II*

“Whose Lives Really Matter?” (2020) with Azmera Hammouri-Davis, *Voyages Africana*

“Breaking Barriers and Igniting Imagination: Lessons from Women Technology Empowerment Center’s ‘She Creates’ Summer Camp” (2019) *WTEC* Blog Report

“Nke Ano” (Fall 2018) and “The Fleeting Identity” (Spring 2018) *Voices, Kuumba*

“Thunanya” and “Ephemeral Moments; Lasting Impressions: A Tribute to Dr. S. Allen Counter” (Fall 2017), *Voices, Kuumba Literary Publication*

## **UNDER REVIEW**

“Africana Infrapolitics: Reflections from Nigeria and Colombia” in *Black Feminisms Beyond Borders: Cultivating Knowledge, Solidarity and Liberation*, eds. Kia Lilly Caldwell, Tracy Fisher, and K. Melchor Quick Hall

“Cultivating Joy in Academia” in *Disrupting Political Science: Black Women Transforming the Discipline* ed. Angela K. Lewis-Maddox.

“Situating Nigerian Women in Global Black Politics Discourse” *Black Perspectives, African American Intellectual History Society Blog*

”Made from Honey” *Anthology on Travel, Migration, and Blackness* ed. Joy Notoma and Sheena Daree Romero

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

“The Gendered Economics of Political Power: Lessons from Africa’s Largest Economy”  
-Winner of the 2022 African Studies Association Graduate Student Paper Prize  
-Winner of the 2022 American Political Science Association Best Graduate Paper on Entrepreneurship & Inclusion

“Women, Power, and Networks: The Gendered Politics of Economic Empowerment” (Book Project)  
-Winner of the 2023 Lagos Studies Association Best Doctoral Thesis Award  
-Winner of the Harvard Government Department Best Dissertation on a Topic of Gender & Politics

“Wealthy Men Make Presidents: The Gendered Costs of Political Power”

## **TEACHING**

### **University of California, Irvine**

Instructor, The Politics of Gender and Development (Fall 2024)

Instructor, Gender and International Development (Spring 2025)

Instructor, The Politics of Development in the Global South (Spring 2025)

### **Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences**

Teaching Fellow, GENE 1011: Contemporary Developing Countries: Entrepreneurial Solutions to Intractable Social and Economic Problems, Professors Tarun Khanna and Satchit Balsari (Fall 2018; Fall 2019)

Teaching Fellow, GOV 1313: Visions and Voices: Race, Film, and American Politics, Professor Gloria Ayee (Spring 2019)

**Harvard John F. Kennedy School of Government**

Course Assistant and Guest Lecturer, IGA 632: Africa in Global Politics, Professor Zoe Marks (Spring 2019)

Course Assistant, IGA 390: 21st Century Global Feminisms, Professor Zoe Marks (Spring 2020)

**Freedom Summer Collegiate, Meridian, Mississippi**

Teacher, Reifying Wakanda: African Women in Politics and Media (June 2019)

**FELLOWSHIPS  
& GRANTS****External**

Veritas Scholars Program; Race, Ethnicity and Politics Mentorship Cohort, 2024-2025

Latin American Studies Association Conference Travel Grant, 2024

International Public Policy Association Travel Grant, 2024

APSA Women, Gender and Politics Research Section Grant, 2023

APSA Class & Inequality Section Faculty Graduate Student Travel Award, 2022

APSA Lee Ann Fuji Travel Grant, 2022

APSA Advancing Research Grant for Early Career Scholars, 2022

Lee Student Conference Travel Grant, Society for the Study of Social Problems, 2022

International Development Research Center Scholarship for Women, African Studies

Association of Africa Conference Grant, 2022

Harvard Society of Fellows Finalist, 2021

National Science Foundation-American Political Science Association (APSA) Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, 2020-2021

APSA Class & Inequality Section Travel Grant, 2021

APSA Diversity Fellowship Travel, Research and Development Grant, 2021

APSA Conference Travel Grant, 2021, 2022

Carrie Chapman Catt Prize for Research on Women and Politics, 2020

Political Science Research Scholarship, ICPSR Program in Quantitative Methods, 2020

Women of Color in Political Science Travel Grant-APSA, 2019

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, 2017-2018

American Political Science Association (APSA) Diversity Fellowship, 2017

**Internal**

Johns Hopkins SNF Agora Conference Travel Grant, 2023-2024

Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Graduate Fellowship, 2021-2022

GSAS Professional Development Fund, 2020, 2022

Graduate Student Council Conference Grant, 2021, 2022

Weatherhead Small Emergency Dissertation Writing and Research Grant, 2021

GSAS Emergency Support Research Fund, 2021

Graduate Student Council Summer Research Grant, 2021

Government Department Women in Politics Dissertation Research Grant, 2021

Harvard Center for African Studies Graduate Semester Research Grant, 2020

Harvard Kennedy School Women and Public Policy Summer Grant, 2019

Weatherhead Center for International Affairs Graduate Student Associate, 2018-2020; 2021-2022

Weatherhead Center for International Affairs GSA Research Grant, 2018, 2019, 2021

Harvard Center for Middle Eastern Studies Tunisia Travel Grant, 2018

Harvard Weatherhead Center Initiative on Gender Inequality Research Grant, 2017

John C. and Katherine Vogelheim Research and Travel Grant, 2017

FXB Center for Health and Human Rights Travel Fellowship, 2016

**Undergraduate**

Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program, 2013

American Institute of Foreign Studies International Scholar, 2012  
UC San Diego Sixth College Study Abroad Scholar, 2012  
UC San Diego Black Alumni Scholar, 2010- 2012

## **AWARDS & HONORS**

### **Graduate**

Lagos Studies Association Best Doctoral Thesis Award, 2023  
Ngwa National Association USA Education and Outreach Foundation Nwa Me're K  
Oma Award (A Child Who Has Done Well Award), 2022  
Best Graduate Paper on Entrepreneurship & Inclusion, American Political Science As-  
sociation Class & Inequality Section, 2022  
Graduate Student Paper Prize, African Studies Association, 2022  
Prize for the Best Dissertation on a Topic of Gender and Politics, Harvard Department  
of Government, 2022  
Global Division Student Paper Award, Society for the Study of Social Problems, 2022  
Early Career Scholar Travel Award, International Society of Political Psychology, 2022  
Best Poster on Politics & the Intersection of Economic & Racial/Ethnic Inequality,  
American Political Science Association CI/REP Poster Session, 2021  
Harvard Distinction in Teaching Award, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning,  
2018, 2019  
Kauffman Foundation Award for Best Graduate Student Paper on Inclusion and En-  
trepreneurship, American Political Science Association (APSA), 2019  
MyThesis180 African Union Competition Prize Winner, 2019  
Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship Honorable Mention, 2017

### **Undergraduate**

UCSD International Studies Program High Distinction on Honors Thesis, 2014  
Ngwa National Association USA Academic Achievement Award, 2014  
UC San Diego Alumni Leadership Scholar Award, 2012-2014  
African Goodwill Scholar Award, African Focus Group, 2012  
Women in International Trade- Gladys A. Moreau Award, 2012  
UC San Diego Ujima Academic Achievement Award, 2012  
UC San Diego Provost and University Honors, 2010-2014

## **ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Research Coordinator**, People Powered, Global Hub for Participatory Democracy,  
2022-2023

Led research on building inclusive democracy with a focus on youth, women, and dis-  
placed people through a survey and a series of workshops with practitioners.  
Built a bridge between academia and practice by facilitating a series of research to  
practice webinars with global leaders in legislative institutions, participatory budget-  
ing, public deliberation, and citizen assemblies.  
Directed a research grants program for researchers and practitioners working on par-  
ticipatory and deliberative democracy projects.

**Project Manager**, Harvard Center for African Studies Research Initiative, Cam-  
bridge, MA 2020-2021

Assisted with data collection for an innovative project on women's entrepreneurship in  
Nigeria, Kenya, and Ethiopia that builds on expertise gathered at the 2020 conference  
"Women and The Changing Face of Entrepreneurship in Africa".

Served as the research coordinator of the Women in Economic Leadership in Africa  
project in collaboration with HKS Belfer Center for Science & International Affairs,  
the Africa Policy Journal, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

**First Year Proctor**, Harvard College Dean of Students Office, Cambridge, MA 2016-

2020; 2021-2022

Served as an academic advisor, mentor and residential resource for first-year students. Led a team of Peer Advising Fellows to promote community building through study breaks, entryway events and campus-wide programs.

**Women and Public Policy Summer Intern**, African Women Power Network, Lagos, Nigeria, July-August, 2019

Conducted needs assessment for Lagos tech startups in order to design leadership and training program curriculum for university students entering the tech industry. Researched the intersection of women's economic and socio-political empowerment amongst various demographics via participant observation, semi structured interviews, and data analysis.

**Workshop Co-facilitator**, Encuentro Afrodiaspórico: Transitando y Sanando Nuestros Cuerpos; Cali, La Toma, Yolombó, and Guachené, Colombia; Winter 2019

Helped organize workshops on Black women's wellness and resistance against systems of oppression in Latin America and globally through community building, natural hair education, yoga, and healing practices with natural oils and butters.

**Field Education Intern**, FXB Rwanda, Kigali, Rwanda, Summers of 2016 and 2017  
Researched empowerment and the politics of development through a partnership with FXB International.

Facilitated income generating activities (IGA) workshops with small savings cooperatives by educating FXB Rwanda beneficiaries on the importance of market competition, minimizing expenditures, product diversification and utilizing community resources.

**Development Team Intern**, Semillas Women's Fund, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Mexico City, Mexico, Winter 2016

Updated information on harassment, abortion rights, femicide and the politics of gender rights in various Mexican states and Latin America more generally as part of a United Nations Proposal.

Researched fundraising strategies, programs and online platform ideas and assisted with digitizing messages from foundation donors.

**Urban Education Fellow**, Great Oaks Charter School, Manhattan, NYC 2014-2015

Served as the Great Oaks Community Service Coordinator by organizing fundraisers and community outreach projects for students.

Co-taught a French language course and tutored middle school students in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science.

**Freelance Translator**, Vice-HBO, Brooklyn, NYC 2014-2015

Assisted with developing documentary film projects that research political issues by translating and transcribing footage in French and English collected in Niger, Sierra Leone and the United States of America using Annotation Edit software.

**FURTHER  
GRADUATE &  
POST-  
GRADUATE  
TRAINING**

Ife Institute of Advanced Studies Summer Institute on Building Communities of Practice: Interdisciplinary Collaboration & Academic Leadership in Africa, Ile Ife 2024

International Society of Political Psychology Academy, Santiago de Chile 2024

Consortium on the American Political Economy Summer Academy, Berkeley 2024

International Summer School on Public Policy -Yaoundé, 2024

Central European University Summer Program on Reimagining Global Justice within and through the University, Budapest 2023

Bridging the Gap International Policy Summer Institute, Washington DC 2023

Harvard GSAS Business Club Mini-MBA Summer Program (virtual), 2020

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research, University of Michigan (virtual), 2020  
Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Summer Training, Syracuse University, 2017  
Harvard Geographic Information System (GIS) Winter Institute, 2017  
Harvard African Language Program, 2016-2018 (Ikinyarwanda & Igbo), 2020-2021 (Hausa)

**INVITED  
TALKS**

2024: Reframing Research Roundtable Discussion- UCI Consortium for Power and Identity

2023: University of California, Irvine Political Science Department; University of Canberra Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance; Brandeis University African Women and Gender Studies course; Case Western Reserve University Political Science Department course on the Comparative Politics of Women's Movements

2022: University of Pittsburgh Political Science Department; University of Colorado Boulder Department of Political Science; Duke University Sanford School of Public Policy; Georgetown University Department of Government; University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice

2020: "Women, Entrepreneurship, and Africa's Political Economy", Harvard Kennedy School of Government Africa in Global Politics Lecture

2019: "Entrepreneurship and Economic Growth", Harvard Kennedy School, Africa in Global Politics Lecture

**SELECTED  
PRESENTA-  
TIONS**

2024: Political Studies Association Conference- Glasgow; Latin American Studies Association Conference- Bogotá; The Danish Gender Conference on Intersectionality- Copenhagen (scheduled); African Studies Association- Chicago (scheduled)

2023: People Powered's Mexico Convening Workshop on Building Inclusive Democracy; Notre Dame University Klau Institute for Civil and Human Rights Race and International Relations Virtual Workshop; International Political Science Association- Buenos Aires; Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics- Rio de Janeiro; Global Black Lives Matter Conference- Emory University Halle Institute for Global Research and the Department of Sociology (online); Constructing Transnational Feminist Resistances in Times of Crises Conference hosted by the International Feminist Journal of Politics and Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO-Ecuador)- Quito; Johns Hopkins Agora Academy Workshop on Craft & Practice: Bridging Organizational Work with Research; African Studies Association of Africa- Lubumbashi; "Young Africans on the Move: Exploring Intra- and Inter-Continental Migration Processes and Dynamics" Conference- Entebbe; International Studies Association Global South Caucus- Bangkok

2022: African Studies Association of Africa- Cape Town; International Society of Political Psychology-Athens; Society for the Study of Social Problems- Los Angeles; American Political Science Association- Montreal; African Studies Association-Philadelphia

2021: National Conference of Black Political Scientists (virtual); American Political Science Association-Seattle; Weatherhead Center for International Affairs; Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study; African Studies Association (virtual)

2020: Harvard Kennedy School of Government; Weatherhead Center for International

Affairs GSA Program; Harvard Government Department Poster Session

2019: National Women's Studies Association Conference-San Francisco; Yale University Empirical Study of Gender Network Workshop; University of Texas at Austin Africa Conference; Northwestern University African Conference; Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

2018: Black Doctoral Network Conference-Charlotte; APSA Diversity and Inclusion Hack-a-thon- Boston; Northwestern University Africanism(s) Graduate Conference.

2017: "Ubushakashatsi: Gutera Imbere n'Ubushobozi" (Research on Development and Empowerment) - FXB Rwanda Internship Presentation; Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference- Chicago; Boston Working Group in African Political Economy (B-WGAPE) Hack-a-thon, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

2016: "L'intersection entre l'identité et les ideologies coloniales" (The Intersection of Identity and Colonial Ideologies) -Harvard University French and Francophone Studies Graduate Conference.

2013: "The Resource Curse Under British and French Colonial Rule"- McNair Scholars National Conference, University of California, Berkeley; UC San Diego Summer Research Conference.

**UNIVERSITY  
SERVICE &  
COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**

Opposition Politics Panel Chair, International Political Science Association Conference, Lisbon (scheduled 2024)

Mgbede Dance Performer, Umuokpu Ala Ngwa USA (UANU) Inc Dallas Convention on Community Empowerment Through Skill Acquisition, 2024

Academy Workshop Convener & Pre-doctoral Advisor, Johns Hopkins University SNF Agora Institute, 2023-2024

Student Volunteer/Singer, Harvard Kennedy School Black Policy Conference, 2022

Interim Thesis Advisor, Harvard Government Department, 2021-2022

Officiant & Mgbede Performer, Ngwa National Association USA (NNAUSA) Chicago Convention, 2021

Co-organizer, Harvard Black in Gov Virtual Writing Retreat, 2021

Panelist, McNair Graduate Student Panel for UCSD Undergrads, 2021

Graduate Editor, UC San Diego McNair Journal Board, 2020

Academic Adviser, Harvard Board of First-Year Advisers, 2016-2020

Storyteller, Harvard Kennedy School Black History Month Women in Power Panel, 2020

Panelist, Harvard Bhutan Trek Business Group Meeting, Thimphu TechPark, 2020

Choreographer & Performer, Beauty Without Borders Women's Empowerment Luncheon, 2019

Mentor, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, 2016-2018

Student Ambassador, Harvard Advanced Leadership Institute, 2018

Editorial Intern, Transition Magazine, Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, 2017

Panel Leader, "Understanding Laicité in France and American Secularism" Diversity and Inclusion: French and American Perspectives Symposium, Harvard Kennedy School, 2017

Student Volunteer, Africa Business Conference, Harvard Business School, 2017 and 2018

ESL Volunteer Tutor, Harvard Bridge Program, 2016

Co-choreographer, dancer, singer & reader, Kuumba Singers of Harvard College, 2015-2022

Residential Assistant, UCSD Academic Connections Pre-college Summer Program for High School Students, 2014

UCSD International House Student Volunteer, Esparanza International affordable housing project Tijuana- Mexico 2014.

Resident Advisor and Language & Culture Cafe Coordinator, UCSD International House, 2013-2014

American Corner Intern, Maison de L'international, Grenoble, France, 2012

Learning Community Mentor, UCSD Office of Academic Support and Instructional Services (OASIS), La Jolla, CA 2011-2012

**ADDITIONAL  
SKILLS**

*Languages:* English (native), Igbo/Ngwa (native), French (advanced), Spanish (proficient), Hausa (basic), Ikinyarwanda (basic)

*Software:* R, Stata, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Qualtrics, Annotation Edit

*Fieldwork (ethnography, interviews, focus groups, enumerator training, survey experiments, archival research):* Lagos, Abuja, Aba & Ibadan, Nigeria (2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024); Cali, Colombia (2019); Kigali, Rwanda (2017 & 2016); Mexico City, Mexico (2016)