

Karen Amaka Okigbo

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EDUCATION

- Expected 2021** **GRADUATE CENTER, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK (CUNY)**
Ph.D. in Sociology
Master of Philosophy in Sociology
Certificate in Demography
- Dissertation:** *Not So Black and White: How Second-Generation Nigerian-Americans Decide Whom to Marry*
- Committee:** Nancy Foner (Chair)
Richard Alba, Phil Kasinitz, Robert Courtney Smith
- **Charles V. Willie Minority Graduate Student Award, Eastern Sociological Society** (“annual award given to a minority student who demonstrates exceptional scholarly promise”)
- 2012** **UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**
Master of Science in Social Policy
- 2011** **NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY**
Master of Science in Sociology
Thesis: *Ghostly Narratives: A Case Study on the Experiences and Role of Biafran Women during the Nigeria-Biafra War*
- 2009** **PRINCETON UNIVERSITY**
Bachelor of Arts in Politics
Certificates in African Studies & Near Eastern Studies
Thesis: *No Victor, No Vanquished: The Role of Ethnicity and Religion during the Nigeria-Biafra War*

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Race and ethnicity, immigration/migration, African diaspora, marriage, sociology of gender, sociological theory, ethnography, demography, research methods.

PROFESSIONAL & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

City University of New York (CUNY)

- 2017-Present Administrative Director, *Center for Latin American, Caribbean, & Latino Studies (CLACLS)*
- 2015-Present Research Fellow, *Office of Research, Evaluation, and Program Support (REPS)*

2014-2017 Senior Quantitative Research Associate, *CLACLS*

University of Pennsylvania

2012-2014 Research Coordinator, *School of Social Policy and Practice*

2011-2012 Graduate Research Associate to Prof. Stewart D. Friedman, *Wharton Business School*

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2020 Ju, Daeshin Hayden, **Karen Amaka Okigbo**, Sejung Sage Yim, and Jessica Halliday Hardie. 2020. "Ethnic and Generational Differences in Partnership Patterns among Asians in the United States." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. DOI: [10.1080/1369183X.2020.1770582](https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2020.1770582)
- Under Review Okigbo, Karen Amaka. "Bob Hearts Abishola: How Nigerian Immigrants are Complicating the U.S. Ethnoracial Hierarchy through Intermarriage." Under review at *Contexts*.
- In Preparation Okigbo, Karen Amaka. "As Long as They're Not White: Unpacking the Ethnoracial Marital Preferences of Second-Generation Nigerian-Americans." For submission to *American Behavioral Scientist*.
- In Preparation Okigbo, Karen Amaka. "Dating While Black: The Intersectionality of Race, Ethnicity, and Gender in the Millennial Marriage Market" For submission to *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*.

Refereed Book Chapters

- 2019 Okigbo, Karen Amaka. 2019. "More to Come: A Profile of Nigerian Immigrants in the United States between 1980 and 2010" in the book *Higher Education in Africa and the United States: The Black Experience*, eds. Ogechi E. Anyanwu, Timothy Forde, and Iddah Otieno pg. 29-52. Stillwater, OK: New Forums Press Inc.
- 2011 Okigbo, Karen Amaka. 2011. "Identity Formation, Ethnic Conflict, and the Nigeria-Biafra War" in the book *Against All Odds: The Igbo Experience in Post-Colonial Nigeria*, ed. Apollos O. Nwauwa and Chima J. Korieh, pg. 111-126. Glassboro, NJ: Goldline & Jacobs Publishers.

Book Reviews

- 2018 Okigbo, Karen Amaka. 2018. "Review of The Cosby Cohort: Blessings and Burdens of Growing Up Black Middle Class by Cherise A. Harris." *Teaching Sociology* 47(1):73-74.
- 2017 Okigbo, Karen Amaka. 2017. "Americanah and Ghana Must Go: Two Tales of the Assimilation Experiences of African Immigrants." *Sociological Forum* 32(2):444-448.

Select Demography and Evaluation Reports

- 2019 Okigbo, Karen. 2019. "Spring 2019 Medium Outcomes: The Evaluation of the Central Park Conservancy Urban Park Leadership Program." *CUNY Office of Research Evaluation & Program Support*.
- 2018 Campbell, Vandeen, **Karen Okigbo**, and Ariel Jankelowitz. 2018. "Evaluating the Impact of CAT-ELP on Student Reading." *CUNY Office of Research Evaluation & Program Support*.
- 2017 Campbell, Vandeen and **Karen Okigbo**. 2017. "Creative Arts Team-Early Learning Program 2016-2017 Academic Year." *CUNY Office of Research Evaluation & Program Support*.
- 2016 Okigbo, Karen. 2016. "A Profile of Latino Citizenship in the United States: Demographic, Educational and Economic Trends between 1990 and 2013." J. Calcagno (Ed.). New York, NY: Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center. [CUNY Academic Works](#).
- 2016 Okigbo, Karen. 2016. "A Profile of the Linguistic Status among Latinos in the United States between 1980 and 2014." J. Calcagno (Ed.). New York, NY: Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center. [CUNY Academic Works](#).
- 2015 **Okigbo, Karen**, Kelly Binder, and Janelle Clay. 2015. "Industry Engagement across Continuing Education and Workforce Programs at CUNY: Barriers, Challenges, and Promising Practices." *CUNY Office of Research Evaluation & Program Support*.
- 2015 Okigbo, Karen. 2015. "Childhood Poverty Rates in New York City between 1990 and 2010." J. Calcagno (Ed.). New York, NY: Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center. [CUNY Academic Works](#).

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

External Grants and Fellowships

- 2020-2022 African/Black Diaspora Academic and Public Discourse, *Andrew W. Mellon Foundation project held at the University of Maryland*
- 2019 Fellowship in Effective Teaching Practices, *Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) (declined)*
- 2018, 2017 Student Forum Advisory Board Award, *American Sociological Association (ASA)*
- 2017-2019 Graduate Teaching Fellowship, *Andrew W. Mellon Foundation*

2016 Student Scholarship, *Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS)*

University Grants and Fellowships

2020 Writing Across Curriculum Fellowship, *CUNY Graduate Center*

2020 PublicsLab CARA Grant, *CUNY Graduate Center*

2019 Teaching and Learning Center Disciplinary Handbook Project, *CUNY Graduate Center*

2019 Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean (IRADAC) Dissertation Fellowship, *CUNY Graduate Center*

2019 Doctoral Student Research Grant, *CUNY Graduate Center*

2017 Advanced Research Collaborative Fellowship, *CUNY Graduate Center*

2016 CLACLS Summer Travel Research Fellowship, *CUNY Graduate Center*

2014 Provost Doctoral Fellowship, *CUNY Graduate Center*

Awards and Honors

2021 Charles V. Willie Minority Graduate Student Award, *Eastern Sociological Society*

2020 Dean K Harrison Award, *CUNY Graduate Center*

2011 Phi Kappa Phi Honors, *North Dakota State University (NDSU)*

2010 Laurie Loveland Award, *NDSU Department of Women and Gender Studies*

2009 Center for Study of Religion Undergraduate Research Award, *Princeton University*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Pennsylvania

MSSP 629 Research Evaluation & Design (Graduate-level course; TA for Dr. Alisha Martinez)
(Fall 2020)

CUNY Graduate Center

HIST 723 Quantitative Methods and Statistics (Graduate-level course; TA for Distinguished Prof. Laird Bergad) (*Fall 2020*)

City College of New York

SOC 232 Methods and Techniques of Sociological Research, Hybrid course (*Spring 2020*)

SOC 237 Foundations of Sociological Theory (*Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2015*)

SOC 252 Social Change (*Spring 2016*)

SOC 311 Immigration and the Second Generation (*Spring 2018, Spring 2017*)

SOC 319 Feminist Thought (*Spring 2019*)

SOC 382 Sociology of Gender (*Fall 2017, Fall 2016*)

North Dakota State University

COMM 110 Fundamentals of Public Speaking (*Spring 2011, Fall 2010*)

WORKSHOPS DELIVERED

The Writing Center, CUNY Graduate Center

2020 Returning to Academic Writing (*September*)

2020 Reverse Outlining (*November*)

New York City Civil Service Pathways Program

2020, 2019 Program Evaluation (*May, December*)

2020, 2019 Survey Design and Techniques (*May, December*)

PRESENTATIONS

Select Conference Presentations

2020 Eastern Sociological Society (ESS), *Philadelphia, PA*
‘*Not So Black and White: How Second-Generation Nigerian-Americans Decide Whom to Marry*’

- 2019 Population Association of America (PAA), *Austin, TX*
"Something Old, Something New: A Portrait of Partnership Patterns among Six Asian Groups in the United States" with Hayden Daeshin Ju, Sejung Sage Yim, and Jessica Halliday Hardie
- 2019 Eastern Sociological Society (ESS), *Boston, MA*
"We Found Love: A Profile of Intermarriage among Nigerian Immigrants in the United States"
- 2018 American Sociological Association (ASA), *Philadelphia, PA*
"More to Come: A Profile of Nigerian Immigrants in the United States between 1980 and 2010"
- 2016 Add Health Users Conference, *NIH Campus, Bethesda, MD*
"The Thing About Schools: A Multilevel Analysis of the Educational Attainment of Mexican Americans" with Mara Getz Sheftel
- 2016 Sociologists for Women in Society Conference, *Memphis, TN*
"Americanah: A Case Study on the Assimilation Experience of Four Nigerian Women"
- 2015 SOAS University of London International Igbo Conference, *London, UK*
"Ghostly Narratives: A Case Study on the Experiences of Women during the Nigeria-Biafra War"
- 2013 The After-School Institute Conference, *Baltimore, MD*
"Survey 101: Evaluating Out-of-School Time Professional Development"
- 2011 Midwest Sociological Society Conference, *St. Louis, MO*
"No Victor, No Vanquished: Contextualizing the Nigerian Civil War"

Select Invited Talks

- 2020 The Avenue, *New York*
Panel: Women, Trustees of Humanity
- 2020 Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), *San Francisco, CA (Cancelled due to COVID-19)*
Panel: #NextGenBlackSoc: Exploring the Research of Emerging Black Sociologists
- 2020 African Christian Fellowship, *New York Chapter, Bronx, NY*
Panel: What Does it Mean to Love?

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Ongoing Manuscript and Book Reviews
Blind Reviewer for the Social Problems Journal, New Genetics and Society, Scientific Data, and NYU Press
- 2020 Schmidt Futures
Reviewer for the Reimagine Challenge
- 2020 Princeton Internships in Civic Service (PICS)
Alumni Partner and Mentor to Princeton interns in New York City

2018-2019	Professional Development Pipeline (funded by Andrew W. Mellon Foundation) <i>Mentor to the Undergraduate Student Advisory Board at City College of New York</i>
2017- Present	Immigration Working Group, CUNY Graduate Center <i>Webmaster</i>
2016-2018	American Sociological Association (ASA) <i>Session Organizer, Panel: "Publishing Your Work 101" (2018)</i> <i>Session Organizer, Panel: "A Ph.D. Timeline That Works for You" (2017)</i>
2015-2016	Student Sociological Association (SSA), CUNY Graduate Center <i>Student Representative for Department Proposal Defense</i>
2012-2014	National Institute on Out-of-School Time (NIOST) <i>Blind Reviewer for the Afterschool Matters Journal</i>
2012-2014	National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) <i>Grant Reviewer for the NY Life Excellence in Summer Learning Award</i>
2011- Present	Princeton University Admissions <i>Alumni Schools Committee (ASC) Undergraduate Interviewer</i>
2008-2009	Voices of Africa, Princeton University <i>Founding Member and Editor of Politics Section</i>

BOARD & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

2019-2020, 2015-2016	Student Sociological Association (SSA), CUNY Graduate Center <i>Dissertation Support Committee; Faculty Membership Committee</i>
2016-2018	American Sociological Association (ASA) <i>Chair Elect for the Student Forum Advisory Board</i>
2010-2014	North Dakota Human Rights Coalition (NDHRC) <i>Board of Directors</i>
2007-2009	Princeton African Student Association (Akwaaba), Princeton University <i>Communications Chair and Public Relations Chair</i>
2006-2009	Leadership and Mentor Program (LAMP), Princeton University <i>Undergraduate Mentor</i>

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

American Sociological Association (ASA)

Association of Black Sociologists (ABS)

Eastern Sociological Society (ESS)

Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS)

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Computer Skills

Quantitative *Qualtrics, SPSS, Stata*

Qualitative *Atlas.Ti, NVivo*

Spatial *ArcGIS*

Digital *Canva (Graphic Design), Contribute (Web Design), WordPress*

Personal Interests

2017-Present Triple-O-Designs (Interior decorating, event planning, and hand lettering firm)
Principal Co-Founder, CUNY Startup Accelerator Fall 2017 Cohort

2005-2009 Track & Field
Division I Varsity Athlete, Sprinter

REFERENCES

Richard Alba
Distinguished Professor of Sociology
CUNY Graduate Center
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Philip Kasinitz
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Distinguished Professor of History
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College School of Public Affairs
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