

Karen Amaka Okigbo

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**2021-
present** **UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, HARRIS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY**
Postdoctoral Researcher of Ethnicity, Race, and Inequality

EDUCATION

**Ph.D.,
MPhil** **GRADUATE CENTER, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK (CUNY)**
Department of Sociology, 2021
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

- **2022 Audience Choice Award, CUNY Graduate Center Dissertation Showcase** (award ceremony where the top dissertations at the university are presented to the president, the board of trustees, and a panel of judges)
- **2021 Charles V. Willie Minority Graduate Student Award, Eastern Sociological Society** (“annual award given to a minority student who demonstrates exceptional scholarly promise”)

M.S. **UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**
Program in Social Policy, 2012

M.S. **NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY**
Department of Sociology, 2011

A.B. **PRINCETON UNIVERSITY**
Department of Politics, 2009
Certificates in African Studies & Near Eastern Studies

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

City University of New York (CUNY)

2017-2021 Administrative Director, *Center for Latin American, Caribbean, & Latino Studies (CLACLS)*

2015-2021 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 Journal 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)
- Forthcoming Okigbo, Karen Amaka. "How Intermarriage among Nigerian Immigrants Highlights Diversity within the Black Population" at *Contexts*.

In Submission

- Editorial Review "Unpacking the Ethnoracial Marital Preferences of Second-Generation Nigerian-Americans" at *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.
- Editorial Review "Dating While Black: The Intersections of Race, Ethnicity, and Gender among Nigerian-Americans in the Marriage Market" at *Gender and Society*.
- First Round Review "Can I Bring Them Home: The Role of Parental Pressure in Marital Decision Making" at *African Studies Review*.

In Preparation

- Proposal Accepted "Marital Selection as a Pathway for Social Mobility among Black Immigrant Households" Accepted paper for special issue at *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.

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. Apollon O. Nwauwa and Chima J. Korich, pg. 111-126. Glassboro, NJ: Goldline & Jacobs Publishers.

Book Reviews

- 2018 Review of Cherise A. Harris. *The Cosby Cohort: Blessings and Burdens of Growing Up Black Middle Class*. New York: Rowan & Littlefield Publishers. 2015. vii+270 pp. *Teaching Sociology*.
- 2017 Review of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *Americanah: A Novel*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 2013. 477 pp. Taiye Selasi, *Ghana Must Go*. New York: Penguin Books. 318 pp. *Sociological Forum*.

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 and University of Ghana*

- 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

- 2022 Audience Choice Award at Dissertation Showcase, *CUNY Graduate Center*
- 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 Chicago, *Sole Instructor*

PBPL 28770 Racialization Experiences of Immigrants and the Second Generation (*Spring 2022*)

PPHA 38760 Racialization Experiences of Immigrants and the Second Generation (Graduate-level course) (*Spring 2022*)

University of Pennsylvania, *Teaching Assistant*

MSSP 629 Research Evaluation & Design (Graduate-level course) (*Fall 2020*)

CUNY Graduate Center, *Teaching Assistant*

HIST 723 Quantitative Methods and Statistics (Graduate-level course) (*Fall 2020*)

City College of New York, *Sole Instructor*

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, *Sole Instructor*

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

WORKSHOPS DELIVERED

The Writing Center, CUNY Graduate Center

2021 Writing Methodology Sections in the Social Sciences (*April*)

2020 Returning to Academic Writing (*September*); Reverse Outlining (*November*)

New York City Civil Service Pathways Program

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

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

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Papers

- 2022 University of Ghana, *Accra*
"Marital Choice among Second-Generation Nigerian-Americans"
- 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 Inter-marriage 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

- 2022 University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy
Global Understanding of Race
- 2022 McMaster University, *Hamilton, Ontario*
Race, Ethnicity, and Dating
- 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: #NextGenBlack.Soc: Exploring the Research of Emerging Black Sociologist
- 2020 African Christian Fellowship, New York Chapter, *Bronx, NY*
Panel: What Does it Mean to Love?

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Peer Review

- 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
- 2012-2014 National Institute on Out-of-School Time (NIOST)
Blind Reviewer for the Afterschool Matters Journal
- 2012-2014 National Summer Learning Association (NSLA)
Grant Reviewer for the NY Life Excellence in Summer Learning Award

To Profession

- 2017-2021 Immigration Working Group, *CUNY Graduate Center*
Webmaster
- 2016-2018 American Sociological Association (ASA)
Session Organizer, Panel: "Publishing Your Work 101" (2018)
Session Organizer, Panel: "A Ph.D. Timeline That Works for You" (2017)
- 2015-2016 Student Sociological Association (SSA), *CUNY Graduate Center*
Student Representative for Department Proposal Defense

To Community

- 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)
Mentor to the Undergraduate Student Advisory Board at City College of New York
- 2011-Present Princeton University Admissions
Alumni Schools Committee (ASC) Undergraduate Interviewer

2008-2009 *Voices of Africa, Princeton University*
Founding Member and Editor of Politics Section

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2019-2020, *Student Sociological Association (SSA), CUNY Graduate Center*
2015-2016 *Dissertation Support Committee; Faculty Membership Committee*

2016-2018 *American Sociological Association (ASA)*
Chair Elect for the Student Forum Advisory Board

2010-2014 *North Dakota Human Rights Coalition (NDHRC)*
Board of Directors

2007-2009 *Princeton African Student Association (Akwaaba), Princeton University*
Communications Chair and Public Relations Chair

2006-2009 *Leadership and Mentor Program (LAMP), Princeton University*
Undergraduate Mentor

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*

REFERENCES

Richard Alba

Distinguished Professor of Sociology
CUNY Graduate Center
Suite 6112
New York, NY 10016
(212)817-8773
ralba@gc.cuny.edu

Laird Bergad

Distinguished Professor of History
CUNY Graduate Center
365 Fifth Avenue, Suite 5419
New York, NY 10016
(212)817-8438
lbergad@gc.cuny.edu

Steven Durlauf

Steans Professor in Educational Policy
University of Chicago
Harris School of Public Policy
1307 East 60th Street, Room 3035
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Nancy Foner (*Advisor*)

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CUNY Graduate Center & Hunter College
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Philip Kasinitz

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Robert Smith

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