





Jessica Ojiugo Nwafor (Née Chinonye)

Qualitative Data Analyst, Literature Reviewer,
Communications Specialist, Disaster and Space
Anthropologist in Training

+1 626 234 9299 
Jonw222@uky.edu, Jessicasplendid472@gmail.com 
Lexington, Kentucky 
Eastern Standard Time (EST) 

KEY QUALIFICATIONS

- **Countries of Work experience:** *Ghana, Uganda, United States, Nigeria*
- **Area of Expertise:** *Qualitative Data Collection & Analysis, Literature Review (secondary qualitative and quantitative analysis), Knowledge Management, Program Management, Data Visualization, Creative, Technical, and Professional Writing, Editing, and Public Relations, Disaster Prevention and Response*
- **Specialization:** *Gender-Based Violence-Climate Change Nexus, Disaster Anthropology, Migration, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender Transformative Approaches, Environmental Health, Space Anthropology*
- **Languages:** *English, Igbo*

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Anthropology August 2023 – May 2028
(Specialization: Disaster and Space Anthropology)
University of Kentucky, Lexington, USA

Master's in Development Practice August 2021 – May 2023
University of Arizona, Tucson, USA

Bachelor of Arts (English Language) November 2014 – April 2019
University of Abuja, Abuja, Nigeria

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- Graduate Student Instructor for Anthropology of Sports Course (Department of Anthropology, University of Kentucky, USA) July 2025 – August 2025
- Graduate Teaching Assistant for Anthropology of Sports Course (Department of Anthropology, University of Kentucky, USA) January 2025 – May 2025
- Graduate Teaching Assistant for What Makes Us Human: Introduction to Anthropology Course (Department of Anthropology, University of Kentucky, USA) July 2024 – December 2024
- Humanity in Deep Space, Lexington, Kentucky, USA June 2024 – August 2024
- Graduate Research Assistant (Department of Anthropology, University of Kentucky, USA) May 2024 – July 2024
- Graduate Teaching Assistant for Culture, Environment & Global Issues Course (Department of Anthropology, University of Kentucky, USA) January 2024 – May 2024

- Graduate Teaching Assistant for Global Cultural Diversity Course (Department of Anthropology, University of Kentucky, USA) August 2023 – December 2023
- World Institute for Africa Culture and Tradition (WIACT) Sawla, Ghana February 2023 (4 weeks)
- Graduate Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Sustainable Development Course (School of Geography, Development, and Environment, University of Arizona, USA) January 2023 – May 2023
- Graduate Teaching Assistant for Our Diverse Biosphere Course (School of Geography, Development, and Environment, University of Arizona, USA) August 2022 – December 2022
- TANGO International, Arizona, USA May 2022 – August 2023
- Center for Domestic Violence Prevention, Kampala, Uganda May 2022 – August 2022
- Humanitarian Assistance Technical Support (HATS) project funded by USAID, through the University of Arizona, USA February 2022 – August 2022
- Graduate Teaching Assistant for Wildlife, Conversation, and Culture Course (School of Natural Resources, University of Arizona, USA) April 2022 – May 2022
- eHealth Africa, Abuja, Nigeria January 2021 – April 2021
- Center for Family Health Initiative, Abuja, Nigeria October 2019 – December 2020

FUNCTIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Instructor for Anthropology of Sports Course (6 weeks)

Department of Anthropology, University of Kentucky, USA

- Independently taught and managed the six-week online undergraduate course
- Facilitated and evaluated all course activities, assignments, and discussions
- Handled all student communication and grading
- Ensured full functionality and accessibility of the course through the University's Teaching Platform – Canvas LMS
- Collaborated with departmental leadership and advisor for supervisory support.

Graduate Teaching Assistant for Anthropology of Sports Course (4 months)

Department of Anthropology, University of Kentucky, USA

- Lead student discussion sessions, including teaching and creatively facilitating group discussions
- Grading student's assignments and exams
- Responding to students' questions
- Tracking and informing the primary instructor of concerns about students' performance
- Embracing opportunities to design class activities for students' discussion sessions

Graduate Teaching Assistant for What Makes Us Human? Introduction to Anthropology Course (4 months)

Department of Anthropology, University of Kentucky, USA

- Lead student discussion sessions, including teaching and creatively facilitating group discussions
- Grading student's assignments and exams

- Responding to students' questions
- Tracking and informing the primary instructor of concerns about students' performance
- Embracing opportunities to design class activities for students' discussion sessions

Senior Space Anthropology Intern (2 Months)

Humanity in Deep Space, Lexington, Kentucky, USA

- Research by searching, cataloging, and synthesizing a large repository of secondary data to:
 - Investigate the consequences of human space activities on celestial bodies, encompassing space contamination and ecological impacts
 - Analyze the transport of biological organisms and technological artifacts into space
 - Explore challenges and mitigation strategies for environmental impacts in Lower Earth Orbit (LEO) and deep space missions.
 - Examine trajectories and potential collisions of space debris
 - Investigate the ecological consequences of introducing foreign organisms to extraterrestrial environments
 - Explore long-term sustainability and ethical implications of human space exploration and celestial ecosystem manipulation

Graduate Research Assistant for Biological Anthropology Research (2 Months)

Department of Anthropology, University of Kentucky, USA

- Searching, cataloging, and synthesizing a large repository of secondary data on Human populations' genetic metabolism, adaptation, and resilience when exposed to heavy metals such as arsenic, lead, and mercury
- Writing some sections of a potential peer-reviewed academic article highlighting the findings of the research

Graduate Teaching Assistant for Culture, Environment & Global Issues Course (4 Months)

Department of Anthropology, University of Kentucky, USA

- Teaching some classes
- Grading students' work
- Responding to students' questions

Graduate Teaching Assistant for Global Cultural Diversity Course (4 Months)

Department of Anthropology, University of Kentucky, USA

- Led student discussion sessions, including teaching and creatively facilitating group discussions
- Graded assignments and exams
- Responded to students' questions
- Tracked and informed primary instructor of concerns about students' performance
- Embraced opportunities to design class activities for students' discussion sessions

Junior Research Consultant (3 Months)

TANGO International, Arizona, USA

USAID Project

- Reviewed and Analyzed data, the Nigeria research organization partner collects from four states in Northeast Nigeria – Adamawa, Borno, Yobe, and Gombe to evaluate the resilience capacities of IDPs and Host communities in the states who benefited from empowerment/livelihood projects through USAID's Feed the Future Project
- Compiled findings from the evaluation described above
- Identified main gaps in the data relative to the study research questions for the Nigerian empowerment/livelihood project described above
- Liaised with the Nigeria research organization partner (data collector) to improve data quality
- Supported with developing data reporting slides presented to USAID's Feed the Future Project Partners (USAID, Mercy Corps, BOL Nigeria) after each round of data collection and analysis for the project described above

Cultural Intern (4 Weeks)

World Institute of Africa Culture and Tradition (WIACT), Sawla, Ghana

- Taught the staff Geographic Information Systems' (GIS) uses for mapping the organizations Indigenous trees to identify locations where the trees in the nursery will be transported
- Supported with Nursing Indigenous trees

Graduate Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Sustainable Development Course (4 Months)

School of Geography, Development and Environment, University of Arizona, USA

- Graded students' assignments and discussion posts
- Provided feedback for graded work
- Responded to students' questions
- Tracked and informed primary instructor of concerns about students' performance

Graduate Teaching Assistant for Our Diverse Biosphere Course (4 Months)

School of Geography, Development and Environment, University of Arizona, USA

- Graded students' assignments and discussion posts
- Provided feedback for graded work
- Responded to students' questions

Research Assistant (12 Months)

TANGO International, Arizona, USA

USAID Project

- Reviewed and Analyzed data, the Nigeria research organization partner collects from four states in Northeast Nigeria – Adamawa, Borno, Yobe, and Gombe to evaluate the resilience capacities of IDPs and Host communities in the states who benefited from empowerment/livelihood projects through USAID's Feed the Future Project
- Compiled findings from the evaluation described above
- Reviewed and analyzed bibliographic software to compare based on set criteria (i.e., cost, access, licensing, collaborative work, online/offline use, functionality for gray literature/ number of fields, alignment with other platforms, namely MS Office 365/SharePoint) and present findings in a matrix format
- Identified main gaps in the data relative to the study research questions for the Nigerian empowerment/livelihood project described above
- Liaised with the Nigeria research organization partner (data collector) to improve data quality
- Supported with developing data reporting slides presented to USAID's Feed the Future Project Partners (USAID, Mercy Corps, BOL Nigeria) after each round of data collection and analysis for the project described above

Field Practicum (3 Months)

Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP), Kampala, Uganda

- Supported with the development of Gender-Based Sustainable Livelihood strategy in the West Nile and Northern Uganda's refugee-hosting communities (Adjumani, Lamwo, Obongi) experiencing natural disasters
- Assisted with ongoing planned documentation and archiving related to CEDOVIP's Violence Against Women prevention work and strategies employed, ensuring the archive is popularized and used for memory, celebration, learning, strategizing, and influencing
- Supported in the training of livelihood partners on how to absorb gender transformative approaches into their empowerment/livelihood activities for the host and refugee communities in Obongi district, Uganda, experiencing droughts and floods
- Wrote training reports
- Supported the local activism team to carry out activities in the communities such as:
 - Visiting Katwe and Kabowa districts in Kampala to evaluate the gender-based violence (GBV) prevention messages painted on walls and ensure that the sentences portray the right messages/take-home ideas
 - Training community activists during bi-monthly meetings on how to use the GBV prevention communication materials and engage their chosen audience
 - Listening to community activists during their community engagements on GBV prevention to ensure they are passing the right messages and targeting and engaging the right audience. Then, provided feedback to the activists on areas of improvement after the engagements
- Participated in monitoring and evaluation, and research activities under the local and national advocacy departments such as:

- Developing mixed-methods data collection tools for the Domestic Violence Act (DVA) Uganda Coalition stakeholders' survey
- Compiling and analyzing pre- and post-test data from their Survivor-Centered Reporting on Child Marriage for the Media Training to evaluate improvement in participants' knowledge on the subject matter
- Visualizing data collected and analyzed as part of the monitoring process (Community Assessment Surveys) for ongoing projects in Tororo, Kasese, and Amudati districts in Uganda
- Entering and tracking data online

Literature Reviewer (10 Months)

Humanitarian Assistance Technical Support (HATS) project funded by USAID through the University of Arizona, USA
Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction Research Team

- Conducted a systematic review of about 50 works of literature on equity and inclusion in accessing information, resources, social networks, power, and agency in pre, during, and post-disaster contexts among groups that are typically considered vulnerable or marginalized around the world (i.e., women, people with disabilities, and LGBTQIA+ communities)
- Participated in coding the data
- Wrote the introduction and background of the study described above for publication

Graduate Teaching Assistant for Wildlife, Conservation, and Culture Course (1 Month)

School of Natural Resources, University of Arizona, USA

- Graded students' assignments and discussion posts
- Provided feedback for graded work

Communications (Internship) (4 Months)

eHealth Africa (eHA), Abuja, Nigeria

- Attended to all the communication needs of ongoing and ending projects/programs such as:
 - Developed a Brochure template to be used for ending projects
 - Set up a Project Communication Toolkit to guide project and program managers to identify and implement the communication needs relevant to their projects
 - Edited all project narratives to be updated on Annual reports
 - Developed video documentary treatment for projects
 - Liaised with program/project managers to get project content to be used for social media
 - Designed infographics for project success stories posted on the website and social media handles
 - Wrote/ edited one-pagers for projects
 - Updated the annual impact report tracker to monitor communication content submissions of project/program managers
- Wrote media pitches and press releases to achieve goals on the results framework
- Wrote articles for publication
- Participated in various brainstorming sessions aimed at generating ideas to promote the eHA brand
- Assisted with producing social media content for eHA foundation and EHA Clinics
- Participated in digital advertising of eHA's products
- Wrote new senior management members biographical information for an update on eHA's website

Communications (14 months)

Centre for Family Health Initiative, Abuja, Nigeria under Several Public Health Projects

- Documented stories of vulnerable women and victims of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) for authorized article publications on the organization's social media handles and to start/further legal action
- Wrote articles weekly for Speak Wednesday (a weekly publication by the organization on GBV)
- Wrote articles and director's speeches for the organization's monthly newsletter
- Summarized project reports
- Edited articles, newsletters, brochures, and educational manuals
- Designed organization's event posters

- Documented activities of the organization to celebrate special days such as International Day of the Girl Child, Day of the African Child
- Managed the organization's social media handles
- Contributed creatively to provide content that increased followership and participation on the organization's social media handles
- Captured/videoed the organization's activities on and outside the field
- Interviewed beneficiaries of projects executed by the organization
- Organized webinars for the organization
- Prepared topic outlines for each monthly articles called 'Speak Wednesday' and 'Monday Health Burst'

CERTIFICATES

- CONVERGE Natural Hazards Engineering Research Infrastructure (NHERI) Certificates
 - Cultural Competence in Hazards and Disaster Research June 2025
 - Broader Ethical Considerations for Hazards and Disaster Researchers June 2025
- IS-66: Preparing the Nation for Space Weather Events Certificate June 2025
US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Disaster & Emergency Management University
- Graduate Certificate in Risk Sciences January 2025 – Ongoing
(College of Communication and Information, University of Kentucky)
- Graduate Certificate in Digital Mapping August 2024 – Ongoing
(College of Arts and Sciences, University of Kentucky)
- Graduate Certificate in Gender-Based Violence December 2021– May 2023
(College of Social & Behavioral Sciences, University of Arizona)
- Certification on Nature-Based Solutions for Disaster and Climate Change March 2022
(UN Environment Programme (UNEP), Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR), and the SDG Academy)
- Certificate of Internship Completion in Digital Communications April 2021
(eHealth Africa, Nigeria)
- Certificate of Graduate Fellowship in Development Research September 2020
(Dataville Research LLC, Abuja)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- The Sky's No Limit, But Earth Keeps the Score – **Poster Presentation** April 2025
the 2025 University of Kentucky (UK) UNITE Research Showcase, Lexington, Kentucky, USA
- The Reproductive Currency: Sperm Trafficking and Rituals in Ghana March 2025
Paper in the Stigma, Health, and Gendered Bodies: Anthropological Perspectives on Health Inequities and Socio-Cultural Practices (HRSJ) Session (also **session chair**) at the Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) Conference, Portland, Oregon, USA
- **Invited Discussant** for the Dynamics of Gender Panel at the University February 2025
of Kentucky's Blue Grass Annual Discussions on Anthropology and Social Sciences (BADASS) Conference, Lexington, Kentucky, USA
- The Reproductive Currency: Sperm Trafficking and Rituals in Ghana Paper November 2024
at the Kentucky Academy of Science Annual Meeting, Frankfurt, Kentucky, USA
- The Harvester's Garden: Females as Body Parts in Nigeria August 2024

University of Kentucky Gender and Women's Studies Graduate
Conference, Lexington, Kentucky, USA

- Gender Adaptation to Flooding in the Haors of Bangladesh
University of Kentucky's Blue Grass Annual Discussions on
Anthropology and Social Sciences (BADASS) Conference,
Lexington, Kentucky, USA October 2023
- Gender Adaptation to Flooding in the Haors of Bangladesh
Equity Issues in Disaster Risk Reduction Panel
Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA March 2023

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Lambda Alpha National Anthropology Honor Society
- Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) <https://www.appliedanthro.org/>
- Anthropology Graduate Student Association (AGSA), University of Kentucky, USA
- Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, University of Kentucky, USA
- Graduate Student Associate, African American and Africana Studies and the Commonwealth Institute for Black Studies (CIBS), University of Kentucky, USA

GRANTS/AWARDS/FELLOWSHIPS

- Graduate Fellowship in Development Studies Research
Dataville Research LLC, Abuja, Nigeria June 2020 – September 2020
- American Association of University Women (AAUW)
International Fellowship Grant (\$18,000)
https://www.aauw.org/fellowships_directory/#rid6537 June 2021 – June 2022
- University of Arizona's Graduate Tuition Scholarship Non-service
Award (\$20,000) August 2021 – May 2022
- University of Arizona's Graduate and Professional Student
Council Travel Award (\$2,000) May 2022
- [Resilience Internships and Student Experiences \(RISE\) Program](#)
of the [Arizona Institute for Resilience](#) Grant (\$3,500) February 2023
- University of Kentucky (UK) Research Excellence Summer
(UKARE) Award (\$2,500) February 2023
- University of Arizona's Humanitarian Assistance Technical Support
(HATS) Program Conference Travel Award (\$1,427) March 2023
- University of Arizona's School of Geography, Development, & Environment
(SGDE), Department of Development Practice Graduate Grant Award (\$168) Spring 2023
- University of Kentucky 2024 Summer Doctoral Dissertation Research
Award (\$1,500) March 2024
- University of Kentucky's UNITE Predoctoral Enhancement Program
Award (\$20,000) plus (\$2,000) to support research-related
expenses May 2024 – May 2026
- William Averette Anderson Fund (Bill Anderson Fund) Fellowship
September 2024 – May 2028
- University of Kentucky (UK) Association of Emeriti Faculty
Fellowship Award (\$2,500) December 2024
- University of Kentucky (UK) Anthropology Department
Conference Travel Award (\$975) February 2025
- University of Kentucky (UK) Graduate Student Council (GSC)
Conference Award (\$400) February 2025
- University of Kentucky 2025 Summer Doctoral
Dissertation Research Award (\$1,000) March 2025

- University of Kentucky's College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (\$500) April 2025
- P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Award (\$7,500) April 2025
- University of Kentucky Student Government Association (SGA) Professional Development Grant (\$155) April 2025
- Center for Disaster Resilient Communities' (University of Washington, Seattle) Investigations in Disasters and Emergencies: Advancing Applied Learning in Disaster Research Response (IDEAAL DR2) Fellowship (\$5000) May 2025 – April 2026
- IDEAAL DR2 Fellowship Travel Award (\$1200) May 2025

LEADERSHIP/SERVICE

- Graduate Professional & Student Council (GPSC) Grant Reviewer University of Arizona September 2021 – May 2023
- Student representative for the Southern Arizona Geographers' Association (SAGA) University of Arizona (UA) May 2022 – May 2023
- Distinguished Lecture Series (DLS) Chair for the University of Kentucky's Anthropology Graduate Student Association May 2024 – August 2024
- Treasurer Anthropology Graduate Student Association (AGSA) University of Kentucky (UK) September 2024 – Ongoing
- University of Kentucky's Blue Grass Annual Discussions on Anthropology and Social Sciences (BADASS) Conference Planning Chair October 2024 – May 2025
- Fundraising Committee Member William Averette Anderson Fund (Bill Anderson Fund) Fellowship October 2024 – Present

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Selected and approved by Ebonyi State Ministry of Education, Ebonyi State, Nigeria, my novel "A Piece of Hades" was among the state's compulsory literature curricula for all high school students (from September 2021 to July 2024).
- My short story "It's Our Halloween" was longlisted for the K and L Prize for African Literature in 2019.
- My article "Shoot that Shot...Today" was shortlisted for the Tush Magazine Bi-Monthly April 2019 competition.
- Student Highlight at the University of Arizona <https://www.instagram.com/p/CbYYqT-P80-/> (March 21, 2022)
- My creative non-fiction piece, "Somewhere in my Home Country," was selected as a finalist for the 2023 Tucson Festival of Books Literary Award- <https://humanrightspractice.arizona.edu/news/human-rights-practice-student-jessica-nwafor%C2%A0becomes-finalist-tucson-festival-books-literary>

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Chinonye, J. (2018). *A Piece of Hades*. Mekanand Publications. (Novel)

Short Stories:

- Chinonye, J. (2019). It's Our Halloween. In K and L, *Anthology: The Histories of Yesterday* (pp. 135-142). K and L (Book Chapter— Closed Access)
- Chinonye, J. (2023, May). Finding Me. *Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) Website*. <https://appliedanthro.org/news/short-stories/finding-me/>

Academic Articles:

Peer Reviewed

- Chinonye, Jessica Ojiugo. (2024). “The Harvester’s Garden: Females as Body Parts in Nigeria.” *International Journal of Humanities Social Sciences and Education (IJHSSE)*, Vol 11, no. 8, pp. 43-53.
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.20431/2349-0381.1108006>
- Chinonye, Jessica Ojiugo (2024). “Why Nigeria Needs a Femicide Law.” *Dignity: A Journal of Analysis of Exploitation and Violence*: Vol. 9: Issue 2, Article 3, pp. 1-7 <https://doi.org/10.23860/dignity.2024.09.02.03>
- Chinonye, Jessica Ojiugo (2025). “The Reproductive Currency: Sperm Trafficking and Rituals in Ghana” (In preparation)
- Chinonye, Jessica Ojiugo (2025). “The Sound of the Food Man for Disaster Risk Reduction” (In preparation)
- Ravenscroft, Julia & **Chinonye, Jessica Ojiugo**. (2025). “Human Biological Tolerance to Metal Rich Environments” (In preparation)

Magazine Article:

Chinonye, J. (2019, April 10). Shoot that Shot...Today! *Tush Magazine Nigeria*.

Blog:

Nwafor, J. (2023, March 19). The Membership of Togetherness in Ghana. *University of Arizona’s Human Rights Practice blog*. <https://humanrightsppractice.arizona.edu/news/blog-series-membership-togetherness-ghana>

Podcast:

Nwafor, J. (2023, July). Complicating the Gendered Research Narrative. *Humanitarian Assistance Technical Support (HATS) Podcast on Spotify*. <https://open.spotify.com/episode/6eExvcBbE1uRqlS1T5t2ch>