

Gift Adetutu Iyioku

Department of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages
Stanford University
485 Lasuen Mall
Stanford, CA 94305

iyioku@stanford.edu

Stanford, CA 94305

CAREER SUMMARY

Education policy and international development researcher with nine years of experience in the education sector, including five years focused on policy reform. Combines grassroots leadership, government collaboration, and rigorous academic research to design and advance inclusive, data-driven policy solutions.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. German Studies, Stanford University, California, expected 2026
Dissertation: Autobiographical Narratives of African Arrival in Germany
Committee: Russell Berman (German); Adrian Daub (German); Amir Eshel(CompLit)

Political Science: International Relations and Political Theory (**Ph.D. Minor**)

M.A Modern Languages and Literature, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, 2022
Honors: Delta Phi Alpha
CGPA: 4.0

B.A European Studies, The University of Ibadan, Nigeria, 2019
Honors: Best Graduating Student in the German Studies Cohort
CGPA: 6.4/7.0 (First class Honors)

Additional Study

2025 Stanford Ignite Executive Business Program, Stanford Graduate School of Business

2022 Universität Münster, Sprachkurse von WiPDaF, Intensive summer language school

2017 Technische Universität, Hamburg-Harburg, Summer language school program

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2024-Present **Student Fellow, The Hoover Institution**

- Conduct online research on Africa-focused youth development policies, synthesize data for policy analysis, track and report on U.S. foreign policy trends related to Africa and the African diaspora, and publish an annual policy brief on youth human capital development.
- Most recently published a Hoover History Lab policy brief analyzing why decades of Education reform in Nigeria have failed, and examining why over 20 million Nigerian children remain out of school, while also proposing policies to achieve transformative outcomes.

- Currently authoring a policy brief on U.S.-China competition and the imperative for renewed U.S. strategic engagement in Africa.
- 2024 – Present** **Academic Mentor, EDGE Fellowship**
Support mentees in navigating academic and career challenges, offer guidance in goal-setting and decision-making, and facilitate access to professional networks and opportunities through tailored mentorship and strategic recommendations.
- 2023 – Present** **Research and Teaching Assistant, Stanford University**
Lead course discussions, manage grading and feedback, provide office hour support, maintain communication with 50+ students and staff, and contribute to the curriculum design and teaching innovation through departmental development workshops.
- 2016 – 2022** **Co-Founder, The KG Language School**
Led the development of an innovative language and integration curriculum for 200+ youth and professionals, managed school operations, and oversaw teacher training to improve foundational learning outcomes and support migrant education in Nigeria.
- 2020**
- **Research Associate, Africa Progress Group (APG)**
Contributed data analysis and background research for the APG 2020 Report, *Making Africa’s Population an Asset*, which developed a demographic strategy for Africa’s projected population of 1.7 billion by 2030.
 - Supported senior advisors by producing targeted research on policy areas, including human capital development, education, and social protection across African countries.
- 2019 – 2020** **Assistant Programs Officer, UNESCO Institute of African Culture and International Understanding (UNESCO-IACIU)**
- Drafted policy papers and proposals, and coordinated a high-level roundtable on Pan-Africanism and global democracy attended by over 500 participants, including former African presidents and prime ministers.
 - Provided editorial support for official documents and facilitated core program operations and event logistics to ensure seamless execution.

PUBLICATION

- 2025** Gift Iyioku, “*Twenty Million Left Behind: How Nigeria’s Broken Education Policies Threaten a Nation, a Continent, and the World*,” Hoover Institution, Hoover History Lab, July 2025. <https://www.hoover.org/research/twenty-million-left-behind-how-broken-education-policies-threaten-nation-continent-and>
- 2025** Gift Iyioku. Book Review: “Teaching Justice: Why *Mitigating Bias in Machine Learning* Is an Essential Textbook for the Future of AI.” *GRACE: Global Review of AI Community Ethics* 1, no. 2 (2024). Stanford University. <https://ojs.stanford.edu/ojs/index.php/grace/article/view/3848/1816>.
- 2024** Gift Iyioku, “*Enhancing U.S.-Africa Partnerships to Build Africa's Human Capital*”, April 4, 2024, SSRN, <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.5009921>.
- 2022** Iyioku, Gift, *Strengthening Education in Africa: Policy Lessons from Nigeria's Past and*

Future Directions (October 03, 2022). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=5008243>

- 2020** “Making Africa’s Population an Asset: Population as Asset Responsiveness Index” in APG: Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library. [APG 2020 Report](#)

COMPETITIVE GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

- 2024** Fellowship, The Hoover Institution
The Hoover Institution, Stanford University
- 2022** Fellow, Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education (EDGE)
Vice Provost of Graduate Education, Stanford University (VPGE)
- 2022** Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD), Münster, Germany
Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (German Academic Exchange Service)
- 2022** Melanie Sontheimer German Study Abroad Scholarship
Department of Modern Language and Culture, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa
- 2021** Barbara Fischer Scholarship Award
Department of Modern Language and Culture, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa
- 2017** Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD), Hamburg Germany
Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (German Academic Exchange Service)
- 2016** Gamaliel Onosode Scholarship Award
Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Ibadan, Nigeria
- 2016** Gamaliel Onosode Scholarship Scheme for Excellence and Leadership Award
Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Papers Presented

- 2025** Conference Presentation on *Living Above the Veil: Intergenerational (Im)Mobility and Grievance in Sharon Dodua Otoo’s Liebe*, German Studies Association Conference, Arlington, Virginia, September 2025.
- 2025** “Illusion and Disillusionment in the Migrant Experience from Chima Oji’s *Unter die Deutschen Gefallen. Erfahrungen eines Afrikaners.*” in “Displacement, Identity, and Colonial Legacies: Literary works and Global Refugee Crises.” *American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) Annual Meeting*, May 29–Jun 1
- 2024** Post-Liminality and Failed Integration in Karosh Taha's Beschreibung einer Krabbenwanderung, *The University of New Mexico CL/CS Conference*. The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico. March 29-30, 2024.

- 2024** Description and Reflection in Two Somali Autobiographies: Beliefs and Belief Change in Immigration Narratives, Southeast German Conference, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, February 20, 2024.
- 2024** Post-Liminality and Failed Integration in Karosh Taha's Beschreibung einer Krabbenwanderung, *Immigration Policy Lab*. Stanford University, California. February 19, 2024.
- 2024** Post-Liminality and Failed Integration in Karosh Taha's Beschreibung einer Krabbenwanderung, The University of Alabama Tuscaloosa Languages Conference, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, February 9-11, 2024.
- 2024** Description and Reflection in Two Somali Autobiographies: Beliefs and Belief Change in Immigration Narratives, Stanford DLCL Graduate Students Colloquium, Stanford University, California, January 10, 2024.

Panels and Roundtables Organized

- 2020** Roundtable: “The Place of Pan-Africanism in an Emerging World of Besieged Liberal Democracy”, Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library, Abeokuta, Nigeria, March 3-5, 2020

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

- Winter 2025** Teaching Assistant, ARTHIST 238: Art and the Market (Taught by Prof. Andrei Pesic)
- Fall 2024** Teaching Assistant, DLCL 100: CAPITALS (Taught by Prof. Andrei Pesic and Prof. Adrian Daub)

(As primary instructor)

- Spring 2024** Gerlang 3-02: Third Year German
- Winter 2024** Gerlang 2-02: Second Year German
- Fall 2023** Gerlang 1-02: First-Year German
- Spring 2023** Yorulang 3-01: Third Year Yoruba

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

(As primary instructor)

- Spring 2022** Elementary German 1, University of Alabama

LANGUAGES

Mother Tongue: Yoruba; **Official Language:** English; **Highly Proficient:** German; **Intermediate Level:** Spanish

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

The Hoover Institution
German Studies Association
Modern Language Association (MLA)
Immigration Policy Lab (IPL)
American Association of Teachers of German (AATG)
Delta Phi Alpha German Honor Society
American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

2024-Present Advisor, BuildCodeTogether Technologies