

DORIS AJA-EKE

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EDUCATION

2021 **PhD International Relations (Global Human Development)**, University College Dublin, Ireland, 2021 (Conferment: 2022)

2018 **MSc International Relations (Distinction)**, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, United Kingdom

2015 **BSc International Relations (First Class Honours)**, Godfrey Okoye University, Enugu, Nigeria

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2025 – Present **Assistant Professor**, School of Politics & International Relations (SPIRe), University College Dublin, Ireland

2021 – 2025 Dublin City University (DCU), Dublin, Ireland
Postdoctoral Researcher in Corruption Studies, Anti-Corruption Research Centre (2022 – 2025)
Teaching Assistant in Politics and International Relations, School of Law and Government (2021 – 2022)

2020 – 2021 **Lecturer**, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Godfrey Okoye University, Nigeria

2018 – 2021 **Doctoral Research Fellow**, School of Politics and International Relations, University College Dublin, Ireland

2017 – 2017 **Graduate Assistant**, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Godfrey Okoye University, Nigeria

2015 – 2016 **Graduate Assistant (NYSC)**, Dept of History & International Studies, Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Nigeria

2015 – 2015 **Research Volunteer**, Center for Community Research, DePaul University, Chicago, USA

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Aja-Eke, Doris, Robert Gillanders, Idrissa Ouedraogo, and Eugenie Maiga. 2025. *Sextortion and Corruption*. Applied Economics Letters, 32(6), 830-834 <https://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13504851.2023.2289894>

Gillanders, Robert, Idrissa Ouedraogo, Eugenie Maiga, and Doris Aja-Eke. 2024. *Police Corruption and Crime: Evidence from Africa*. Governance, 37(30), 1015-1034, <https://doi.org/10.1111/gove.12822>

Aja-Eke, Doris. 2024. *Foreign Aid and Socioeconomic Development: The Perceptions of Aid in Nigeria*. Journal of Asian and African Studies, 1-5, <https://doi.org/10.1177/00219096241270702>

Aja-Eke, Doris. 2023. *Bypassing government and state agencies in aid allocation: evidence from conflict-affected regions in Nigeria*. Development in Practice, 33(6), 713-720, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09614524.2023.2202838>

Book Chapter

Aja-Eke, Doris, Robert Gillanders, & Chandan Kumar Jha. 2025. Corruption and SDG 13: Climate Action, in R. Gillanders and C.K. Jha (Eds.) *Corruption and the Sustainable Development Goals*. Routledge [Forthcoming] [current SSRN Preprint](#)

Revise and Resubmit

Aja-Eke, Doris & Samuel Brazys. *Aiding or Abetting? A Micro-Evaluation of Foreign Aid and Local Conflict Relapse*. [Current preprint before revision](#) [Revise and Resubmit - *Journal of Peace Research*]

Maiga, Eugenie, Idrissa Ouedraogo, Robert Gillanders, & Doris Aja-Eke. *Health Sector Corruption and Access to Healthcare in Africa*. SSRN, 1-21, [Current preprint before revision](#) [Revise and Resubmit - *The European Journal of Health Economics*]

Under Review and Pre-Prints

Aja-Eke, Doris, Robert Gillanders, Roisin Lyons, Eugenie Maiga, & Idrissa Ouedraogo. *Sexual Corruption, Informal Networks, and Female Entrepreneurship: Evidence from Burkina Faso*. SSRN, <https://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.5124712> [under review – *Journal of Development Studies*]

Aja-Eke, Doris, Robert Gillanders, Roisin Lyons, Eugenie Maiga, & Idrissa Ouedraogo. *Sextortion and Female Entrepreneurship*. SSRN, 1-46, <https://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4702427> [under review – *International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behavior & Research*]

Ouedraogo, Idrissa, Eugenie Maiga, Robert Gillanders, & Doris Aja-Eke. *Corruption and Access to Education: Evidence from African Regions*. SSRN, 1-18, <https://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4969217> [under review – *Oxford Development Review*]

Zhytkova, Olesia, Robert Gillanders, Doris Aja-Eke & Eugenie Maiga. *Fighting for the Future: Women and the Fights for Ukrainian Independence in the 20th and 21st Centuries*. [under review – *Women's History Review*].

Working Papers

Aja-Eke, Doris, Robert Gillanders, Eugenie Maiga, Zalissa Wagna & Idrissa Ouedraogo. *Gender Stereotypes and Women's Political Aspirations: The Dual Role of Marriage*. [in preparation for submission at *American Political Science Review*]

Blogs and Other Publication

Zhytkova, Olesia, Doris Aja-Eke, Robert Gillanders, & Eugenie Maiga. 2024. *Gender, Activism and Corruption in Ukraine*. SSRN, 1-21, <https://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4974872>

Gillanders, Robert, Idrissa Ouedraogo, Eugenie Maiga, & Doris Aja-Eke. 2022. [Corruption is bad for your health](#). Transparency International, Ireland. July 05, 2022.

Aja, Doris. 2022. [The Interplay between Foreign Aid, Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Stability](#). [Doctoral Thesis, School of Politics and International Relations, University College Dublin]. Available at UCD Research Repository: <http://hdl.handle.net/10197/13296>

Policy Briefs and Policy Documents

Ouedraogo, Idrissa, Eugenie Maiga, Robert Gillanders, and Doris Aja-Eke. 2024. [Corruption and Access to Education: Evidence from African Regions](#). Corruption, Gender, and Sustainable Development (COGS) Policy Brief No. 5.

Ouedraogo, Idrissa, Eugenie Maiga, Robert Gillanders, and Doris Aja-Eke. 2023. [Health Sector Corruption and Access to Healthcare in Africa](#). Corruption, Gender, and Sustainable Development (COGS) Policy Brief No. 4.

Zhytkova, Olesia, Robert Gillanders, Doris Aja-Eke, and Eugenie Maiga. 2023. [Fighting for the Future: Women and the Fights for Ukrainian Independence in the 20th and 21st Centuries](#). Corruption, Gender, and Sustainable Development (COGS) Policy Brief No. 3.

Gillanders, Robert, Idrissa Ouedraogo, Eugenie Maiga, and Doris Aja-Eke. 2023. [Police Corruption and Crime](#). Corruption, Gender, and Sustainable Development (COGS) Policy Brief No. 2.

Aja-Eke, Doris, Robert Gillanders, Idrissa Ouedraogo, and Eugenie Maiga. 2023. [Sextortion and Corruption](#). Corruption, Gender, and Sustainable Development (COGS) Policy Brief No. 1.

Conferences and Workshop Papers

Aja-Eke, Doris, Robert Gillanders, Roisin Lyons, Eugenie Maiga, & Zalissa Wagna. *Sextortion and Female Entrepreneurship: Trapped in the Web of Corrupt Informal Networks*. Political Studies Association of Ireland (PSAI) Annual Conference 2024. Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin, Ireland. October 18-20, 2024.

Aja-Eke, Doris, Robert Gillanders, Roisin Lyons, Eugenie Maiga, & Idrissa Ouedraogo. *Sextortion, Corruption, and Female Entrepreneurship: Trapped in the Web of Corrupt Informal Networks*. Panel: New Insights into Connection of Gender and Corruption; Section: Unlocking Prosperity: Battling Corruption for Citizens Better Lives. European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) General Conference 2024. University College Dublin, Ireland. August 12-15, 2024.

Aja-Eke, Doris, Robert Gillanders, Roisin Lyons, Eugenie Maiga, & Idrissa Ouedraogo. *Sextortion and Female Entrepreneurship*. Anti-Corruption and Transparency Session. Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) 2024 Annual Conference. Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, Illinois, USA. April 04-07, 2024.

Aja-Eke, Doris, Robert Gillanders, Roisin Lyons, Eugenie Maiga, & Idrissa Ouedraogo. *Sextortion and Entrepreneurship*. Eyes Wide Shut: Sex and Sexuality in Espionage Session. International Studies Association (ISA) 2024 Convention. Hilton, San Francisco, California, USA. April 03-06, 2024.

Additional Participation and Invitation

- Participant, Invited for the “Pay it Forward: Women Helping Women” Pre-Conference Workshop, April 02, 2024
- Discussant, Aid, Development, and Democracy: Unraveling Intersections and Implications Panel Session

Aja-Eke, Doris, Robert Gillanders, Roisin Lyons, Eugenie Maiga, & Idrissa Ouedraogo. *Sextortion and Female Entrepreneurship: Trapped in the Web of Corrupted Informal Networks*. DCU Anti-Corruption Corruption Research Centre (ARC) Winter Research Workshop 2023. DCU Business School. December 06, 2023.

Aja-Eke, Doris, Robert Gillanders, Roisin Lyons, Eugenie Maiga, & Idrissa Ouedraogo. *Corruption, Gender, and Sustainable Development (COGS)*. DCU Anti-Corruption Corruption Research Centre (ARC) Research Workshop 2023. November 27, 2023.

Aja-Eke, Doris, Robert Gillanders, Roisin Lyons, Eugenie Maiga, & Idrissa Ouedraogo. *Sextortion and Entrepreneurship*. Political Studies Association of Ireland (PSAI) Annual Conference 2023. Assembly Building and Europa Hotel Belfast, UK. October 20-22, 2023.

Additional Participation and Nomination

- Chair, Feminist Approaches to Peace and Conflict Studies Panel Session, Political Studies Association of Ireland (PSAI) 2023 Annual Conference, Belfast
- Nominated for the Elizabeth Meehan Prize for the best paper presented at the Political Studies Association of Ireland’s 2023 Annual Conference (currently awaiting final selection)

Aja-Eke, Doris, Robert Gillanders, Eugenie Maiga, & Idrissa Ouedraogo. *Sextortion, Women’s Educational Attainment, and Corruption*. Sanitation and Water Integrity Research Lab (SWIRL) Online Exchange. Researching Sextortion. December 14, 2022.

Aja-Eke, Doris, Robert Gillanders, Eugenie Maiga, & Idrissa Ouedraogo. *Sextortion, Corruption, and Female Empowerment*. Political Studies Association of Ireland (PSAI) Annual Conference 2022. College Street Campus Waterford, South East Technological University, Waterford, Ireland. October 14-16, 2022.

Aja-Eke, Doris, Robert Gillanders, Eugenie Maiga, & Idrissa Ouedraogo. *Drivers of Sextortion and Corruption*. DCU Anti-Corruption Research Centre: Spring Research Workshop. February 28, 2022.

Aja, D. & Brazys, S. (2021, January 22) *Aiding or Abetting? Local Foreign Aid and the Relapse of Major, Minor and Non-Fatal Conflict*. [Paper presentation]. The political economy of the security-development nexus, Glasgow [online].

NON-ACADEMIC EXPEREIENCE

2022 – 2025 Freedom Law Clinic, London, United Kingdom (Pro Bono)
Casework Coordinator (2024 – 2025)

Caseworker, (2022 – 2025)

2020 – 2021 **Internship Officer (Coordinator)**, The Green Party, Dublin, Ireland

2020 – 2020 **Political Affairs Intern**, United Nations, New York, United States

2014 – 2014 **Volunteer**, World Health Organization, Enugu, Nigeria

GRANTS

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| 2024 – Present | Co-PI, Sextortion and Entrepreneurship: A Pilot Study of Interventions to Prevent Sexual Exploitation of Female Entrepreneurs, J-Pal (MIT) Humanitarian Protection Initiative (HPI-24-02572) | \$72,626 |
| 2024 | International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention Travel Grant | \$550 |
| 2024 | International Studies Association (ISA) Pay it Forward (PiF) Pre-Conference Stipend | \$100 |
| 2018 – 2021 | Irish Research Council (IRC) Doctoral Research Scholarship, University College Dublin (UCD) | €81,000+ |
| 2018 | Dublin City University PhD Scholarship, School of Law and Government (declined for IRC at UCD) | €76,000 |
| 2017 – 2018 | Commonwealth Shared Scholarship, Commonwealth Scholarship Commission and University of Strathclyde | £30,000+ |

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| 2017 | Chinese Government Scholarship for an MSc in International Relations (declined for Commonwealth Shared Scholarship) | ¥36,000 |
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AWARDS

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| 2023 | Nominated for the Elizabeth Meehan Prize for the best paper presented at the Political Studies Association of Ireland's 2023 Annual Conference |
| 2022 | Inducted into the Hall of Fame of Godfrey Okoye University |
| 2018 | Best MSc Dissertation in International Relations, University of Strathclyde |
| 2015 | GO University Icon: Female - Godfrey Okoye University |

TEACHING

- POL36240 Diplomacy & International Organisation, University College Dublin, Spring 2025
- COGS101 Understanding Corruption, Dublin City University (Co-Convenor), 2023-2024
- LG141 Introducing Politics, Dublin City University (Tutor), Autumn 2021
- LG117 Introduction to International Relations and Security, Dublin City University (Tutor), Autumn 2021
- LG361 The Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa, Dublin City University (Tutor), Autumn 2021
- LG365 The Politics of South Asia, Dublin City University (Tutor), Autumn 2021
- IRE377 Theories of International Relations, Godfrey Okoye University, First semester 2020-2021
- IRE437 International Law, Godfrey Okoye University, First Semester 2020-2021
- HIS101 Introduction to History and International Studies, Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, 2015-2016
- HIS207 Foreign Policy of Russia and the Soviet Union, Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, 2015-2016
- HIS413 Diplomatic and Consular Law, Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, 2015-2016
- Theories of International Relations, Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, 2015-2016

RESEARCH SOFTWARE AND LANGUAGES

Research Software: Stata, R, SPSS, NVivo; working knowledge of QGIS and ArcGIS

Languages: English and Igbo

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

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| 2024 – Present | Standing Group Member of (Anti-)Corruption and Integrity; International Relations; and Political Methodology – European Consortium of Political Research (ECPR) |
| 2024 – Present | Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), Member |
| 2023 – Present | International Studies Association (ISA), Member |
| 2023 – Present | Development Studies Association of Ireland (DSA), Member |
| 2023 – Present | Political Studies Association (PSA), Member |
| 2022 – Present | Political Studies Association of Ireland (PSAI), Member |
| 2023 – Present | Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows Alumni Association, Nigeria (COSFAN) |

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

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| Sep 2025 – | ECPR Representative (UCD School of Politics and International Relations) |
| Sep 2025 – | Member, Research Ethics Committee (UCD School of Politics and International Relations) |
| 2025 – 2026 | Academic Committee Member, Development Studies Association (DSA) Conference 2026 |
| 2022 – 2024 | Postdoctoral Representative, National Research Integrity Forum (NRIF) Community of Practice, Ireland |
| 2017 – 2018 | Student Ambassador, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, United Kingdom |
| 2014 – 2015 | Vice President, Godfrey Okoye University Peace Club, Enugu, Nigeria |
| 2013 – 2015 | Course Representative, International Relations Programme, Godfrey Okoye University, Enugu, Nigeria |
| Peer Reviewer | Applied Economics Letters, International Studies Quarterly (2), Irish Journal of International Affairs, Journal of International Development (3), Small Business Economics, Social Science & Humanities Open |

SELECTED NON-DEGREE TRAINING AND CERTIFICATES

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| 2025 | NVivo Focused Learning – Queries, NVivo Academy (Ongoing) |
| 2024 | NVivo Focused Learning – Coding (Description: Qualitative Research Coding with Autocoding AI), NVivo Academy |
| 2024 | NVivo Core Skills, NVivo Academy |
| 2023 | University Teaching, University of Hong Kong (Coursera) |
| 2022 | Professional Skills for Research Leaders (PSRL) Programme |
| 2022 | 13 th Qualitative Research Summer School, School of Nursing, Dublin City University, June 7-10, 2022 Courses: Qualitative Interviewing; Engaged Research; and Mixed Methods |
| 2019 | Data Science: R Basics, Harvard University (edX/HarvardX) |
| 2019 | Research Integrity – Social and Behavioural Science, Oxford University Press (Epigeum), UCD |