

DORIS AJA-EKE

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EDUCATION

- 2021 **PhD International Relations (Global Human Development)**, University College Dublin, Ireland
- 2018 **MSc International Relations (Distinction)**, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, United Kingdom
- 2015 **BSc International Relations (First Class Honours)**, Godfrey Okoye University, Enugu, Nigeria
- 2026 **LLB Law**, University of Lancashire, Preston, United Kingdom (expected by September 2026)
- 2025 **Diploma in Law**, London Institute of Business and Technology (England Level 5; Ireland Level 7)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2025 – Present **Assistant Professor**
School of Politics & International Relations (SPIRe), University College Dublin, Ireland
- 2021 – 2025 **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)**
Department of History and International Studies, Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Nigeria
- 2015 – 2015 **Research Volunteer**
Center for Community Research, DePaul University, Chicago, USA

NON-ACADEMIC AND LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- 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

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>

Aja-Eke, Doris. 2025. *Foreign Aid and Socioeconomic Development: The Perceptions of Aid in Nigeria*. Journal of Asian and African Studies, 60(8), 4971-4983, <https://doi.org/10.1177/00219096241270702>

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. *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>

Maiga, Eugenie, Idrissa Ouedraogo, Robert Gillanders, & Doris Aja-Eke. *Health Sector Corruption and Access to Healthcare in Africa*. The European Journal of Health Economics [Forthcoming]. Preprint: <https://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4719753>

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](#)

Forattini, Fernando, Robert Gillanders, Regina Connolly, Doris Aja-Eke & Ednilse Leme. 2025. Fighting Sexual Corruption in Public Services: Lessons from Women's Experiences in Brazil, in R. Gillanders and G. Rodriguez-Garcia (Eds.) *Anti-Corruption Policy for Female Empowerment and Gender Equality*. Palgrave [Forthcoming] [current SSRN Preprint](#)

Revise and Resubmit

Ouedraogo, Idrissa, Eugenie Maiga, Robert Gillanders, & Doris Aja-Eke. *Corruption and Access to Education: Evidence from African Regions*. [Revise and Resubmit – International Journal of Educational Development. Current SSRN Preprint: <https://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4969217>

Under Review and Pre-Prints

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 Development Studies*]

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 – *Third World Quarterly*]

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*]

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*].

Borcan, Oana, Robert Gillanders, Doris Aja-Eke, & Windkouni Haoua Eugenie Maiga. *The Threat of Sexual Corruption to Female Entrepreneurs: Evidence from a Pilot Study in Burkina Faso*. [under review – *World Development Perspective*]

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*]

Gouvêa Maciel, Gustavo & Doris Aja-Eke. *An Integrative Review of Sexual Forms of Corruption*. [In preparation for submission to *Theoretical Criminology*].

Aja-Eke, Doris, Gillanders Robert, Gustavo Gouvêa Maciel, & Great Nnamani. *Corruption and the Disparities between Economic Development and Human Development: Evidence from Sub-National Data*. [in preparation for submission to *World Development*]

Blogs and Other Publications

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 Wang. *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 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].

GRANTS

2025 – Present	PI, Enterprise Ireland Horizon Europe ERC Coordinator Support Grant (EC-2025-2106)	€15,998
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+
2017	Chinese Government Scholarship for an MSc in International Relations (declined for Commonwealth Shared Scholarship)	¥36,000

AWARDS

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, Spring 2026
- 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

2025 – Present	Development Studies Association (DSA), Member
2024 – Present	Standing Group Member of (Anti-)Corruption and Integrity; International Relations; and Political Methodology – European Consortium of Political Research (ECPR)
2023 – Present	Development Studies Association of Ireland (DSAI), Member
2023 – Present	Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows Alumni Association, Nigeria (COSFAN)
2022 – 2025	Political Studies Association of Ireland (PSAI), Member
2023 – 2025	International Studies Association (ISA), Member
2024 – 2025	Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), Member
2023 – 2024	Political Studies Association (PSA), Member

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

2025 – Present	Academic Committee Member, Development Studies Association (DSA) Conference 2026
2026 – Present	ECPR Representative (UCD School of Politics and International Relations)
2025 – Present	Member, Research Ethics Committee (UCD School of Politics and International Relations)
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
Grant Reviewer	Czech Science Foundation

SELECTED NON-DEGREE TRAINING AND CERTIFICATES

2026	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