

Olawunmi Mutiu Fakorede

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics | University of Utah

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Research Interests

Development Economics | Labor Economics | Health Economics | Welfare Economics | Public Economics | Law & Political Economy | Economic History

Education

University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT — *Ph.D. in Economics*. Fields: Development, Labor, Health, Finance, Law & Economics, Economic History.

Dissertation Committee: Fernando Wilson (Chair), Norm Waitzman, Sarah Small, Megan Reynolds, and Francisco Perez.

University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA — *M.Sc. in International & Development Economics (2022)*. GPA: 3.96/4.00; Valedictorian; Jesuit Foundation Research Grant Recipient. Thesis: *How Worthy is Thy Skin Tone? A Socioeconomic Analysis in Nigeria*.

University of Agriculture Abeokuta, Nigeria — *B.Sc. in Agricultural Economics (First Class Honors, 2016)*.

Job Market Papers

Caregiver Vulnerability and the Welfare Cost of Informal Caregiving in the United States. Using nationally representative BRFSS caregiver data, this paper develops a multidimensional **Caregiver Vulnerability Index (CVI)** and introduces a welfare-based **Marginal Compensation Rate (MCR)** framework to quantify the income-equivalent burden of informal caregiving. Results show that caregiver vulnerability significantly worsens health, labor-market, social, and healthcare-access outcomes, with the largest welfare losses emerging through mental health deterioration, social isolation, and reduced access to preventive and primary care. By translating multidimensional vulnerability into monetary values, the paper moves beyond traditional time-cost approaches and demonstrates that the economic burden of caregiving operates primarily through resource depletion and welfare loss rather than caregiving intensity alone.

The Economics of Mental Illness in Nigeria: Economic Shocks, Mental Health Utilization, and System Response. Using nationally representative economic indicators, psychiatric hospital utilization records, and time-series methods including ARDL, VAR, and Granger-causality frameworks, this paper examines how major economic shocks shape mental health outcomes and demand for psychiatric services in Nigeria. Results reveal significant medium- and long-run effects of unemployment and macroeconomic instability on mental health institutionalization, with evidence of delayed transmission mechanisms through substance abuse, social dislocation, and resource deprivation. The findings challenge conventional views that mental health crises are driven solely by clinical factors by demonstrating that labor market disruptions and economic insecurity are fundamental determinants of mental health demand and system strain in low- and middle-income countries.

Working Papers & Research in Progress

How Worthy is Thy Skin tone? A Socioeconomic Analysis in Nigeria — under journal submission.

Unfit or Unfair? A Legislative Review of Illinois Mental Health Statutes and the Best Interest of the Child Standard in Custody Determinations — working paper.

Therapeutic Justice or Procedural Ambiguity? Mental Health Courts in Illinois — ongoing project. *Economic Risk Protection and Mental Health: Evidence from U.S. Labor Market Institutions*

Labor Market Institution Generosity and Birth Outcomes in the U.S. — with Megan Reynolds.

Fueling Inflation: PMS Pump Price Pass-through to Staple Food Prices in Nigeria — draft in progress.

Conference Presentations

Conference on Caregiving Research, 2026 – *The Gendered Effects of Paid Family Leave on Adult Caregivers*

Work and Family Researchers Network Conference (WFRN), 2026 – *State-Based Examination of Caregiver Health and Finances*

Western States Graduate Workshop in Economics, 2023 & 2024 — *Skin Tone & Socioeconomic Inequality | Health Access & Utilization*

Pacific Conference for Development Economics (PACDEV), 2022 — *Skin Tone and Socioeconomic Inequality*.

University of Utah Graduate Seminar Series, 2023–2026.

Teaching Experience

University of Utah — Instructor, *Intermediate Macroeconomics* (Summer 2026)

University of Utah — Teaching Assistant, *Principles of Microeconomics* (Spring 2022, Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024).

University of Utah — Instructor, *Introduction to Health Economics* (Fall 2025).

University of San Francisco — TA/Grader, *Development Microeconomics* (Spring 2022)

University of San Francisco — TA/Grader, *Math for Economics* (Fall 2021).

Research Experience (Selected)

Research Assistant, University of Utah (2023–present). With Prof. Fernando Wilson: health administrative data, BRFSS datasets, and policy evaluation. With Prof. Megan Reynolds: labor market institutions and demographic analysis. With Prof. Sarah Small: gendered and racial caregiving analysis.

Research Assistant, University of San Francisco (2021–2022). National Longitudinal Survey (NLSY79) data analysis and development projects with faculty including Alessandra Cassar and Bruce Wydick.

Principal Investigator, Jesuit Foundation Grant (2020–2022). Fieldwork in Nigeria on colorism and discrimination.

Professional Experience (Selected)

Risk & Compliance Consultant, African Export-Import Bank (2020–2026).

Analyst, Office of the Provost, University of San Francisco (2022–2023).

Strategy Consultant, Wood Mackenzie / PCG Consulting (2018–2020).

Policy & Program Consultant, The UN World Food Programme (2016–2018).

Managing Partner, Bridges & Barriers Advisory Service LLC, Nigeria (2018–2025).

Risk Management Manager, KPMG (2008–2014).

Awards & Fellowships

NEXUS Scholars Fund, funded by NSF S-STEM – 2026-2027

Rasmussen Endowment Fund Scholarship, University of Utah (2024).

Graduate Valedictorian & Commencement Speaker, USF (2022).

Jacques Arthur Best Graduate Economics Student Award, USF (2022).

NABE Diversity Scholar, National Association for Business Economics (2021).

Jesuit Foundation Research Grant, University of San Francisco (2021).

UNAAB Scholar Award (2006).

Technical Skills

Econometrics & Statistics: Stata (Advanced), R (Intermediate), MATLAB (Intermediate), GIS, Dedoose.

Methods: Causal Inference, Regression Discontinuity, Difference-in-Differences, Survey Design, Text-as-Data, Mixed Methods.

Languages: English (Fluent), Yoruba (Fluent), Arabic (Conversational).

Professional Affiliations

American Economic Association (AEA) · African Finance & Economics Association · National Association for Business Economics (NABE) · Pacific Development Economics Conference (PACDEV)