

OLUWABUKOLA O. MAKINDE Ph.D.

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I conduct interdisciplinary research on inclusive agricultural value chains, examining how local institutions facilitate technology adoption to enhance smallholder livelihoods. Grounding my work in capabilities, futures research and intersectionality theories, I co-design evidence-based policies and tools that promote technology uptake, strengthen cooperative value chain participation, and foster equitable rural development.

Education

2025 Ph.D. in Innovation in Global Development, Arizona State University
Dissertation: The Empowerment Conundrum: Assessing the Role of Farmer Cooperatives in Facilitating Inclusive Agricultural Development in sub-Saharan Africa. The Case of Coffee in Uganda

2019 Master of Public Service and Administration, Texas A&M University, The Bush School of Government and Public Service
Concentration: International Development and Public Policy

2015 Bachelor of Science in International Relations, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria

Academic Positions and Affiliations

Arizona State University

2024 Research Assistant, Dr. Nathan Johnson, ASU- Starbucks Center for the Future of People and Planet

- Developed a market-entry framework leveraging farmer cooperatives to strengthen supply chain efficiency to enhance the Ethiopian \$1.4B coffee value chain through RPP approaches.
- Led data analysis and authored a report and investment thesis assessing smallholder farming in Ethiopia's coffee value chain.
- Identified, mapped and coordinated key stakeholder engagements to drive targeted interventions, for value chain efficiency.

2023 Research Assistant, ASU - Starbucks Center for the Future of People and Planet

- Co-designed and co-led interdisciplinary workshops for Starbucks Research and Development, generating actionable insights on the future of food and beverage innovation through collaborative RPP model.
- Designed a structured qualitative codebook for data organization, generating visual insights to support ~\$0.2M project investment.
- Supervised and mentored undergraduate research assistants in data collection and analysis protocols

2023 Research Assistant, Dr. Christy Spackman, School for the Future of Innovation in Society

- Co-authored a peer-reviewed publication showcasing novel insights to advance industry and research knowledge through mixed methods approach
- Collaborated with faculty to provide support for grant proposals, contributing to over 450K in funding applications
- Conducted scenario-planning workshops and semi-structured interviews to determine the importance of water security in local communities, demonstrating community-centered research

Teaching

2023 Instructional Professor, ASU Global Launch

- Designed and implemented an experiential curriculum on sustainability-focused campaigns
- Supervised 38 students in developing actionable solutions to address systemic issues in food waste, and renewable energy, skills transferable to market-driven agricultural sustainability initiatives.
- Developed assessment protocols for evaluating student learning outcomes and program effectiveness

2022 Instructional Professor, ASU Global Launch

- Taught 34 undergraduate students on sustainability, integrating environmental, economic and social dimensions using interdisciplinary research approaches.
- Designed experiential learning activities to demonstrate real world impact sustainability practices in agriculture
- Mentored students in research design and implementation, building capacity for evidence-based decision making

2022 Teaching Assistant, Dr. Clark Miller, School for the Future of Innovation in Society

- Supported the design and execution of individual undergraduate student research proposal using mixed methods approach
- Taught research methods including survey design, interview protocols and data analysis techniques
- Supervised and evaluated student research proposals, providing mentorship in research methodology

2021 Teaching Assistant, Dr. Netra Chhetri, School for the Future of Innovation in Society

- Mentored 30 graduate students in designing individual research project focused on global development challenges
- Supervised research teams and provided guidance on methodology, data collection, and analysis
- Supported the design of policy-relevant solutions that strengthened applied research and academic writing skills through RPP principles

Texas A&M University

2018 Research Assistant, Office of the VP & Provost for Diversity

- Reviewed recruitment, retention and diversity climate for 16 colleges which contributed to bi-annual diversity climate publication for the university
- Conducted in-depth analysis of Qualtrics survey data on campus diversity, shaping a 5-year university database that informs university-wide diversity climate initiatives
- Delivered key data-driven insights on diversity trends at the annual national race/ethnicity conference

Non-Academic Positions

2022 Summer Research Fellow, Field of Hope International, Lira Uganda

- Facilitated a workshop for 80 smallholder farmers on cost-benefit analysis and value-adding agricultural projects using participatory research approaches
- Supported access to digital services such as phones for local entrepreneurship for women agricultural farmers
- Conducted quantitative analysis using R Studios on technology adoption among women farmers, providing data-driven insights to enhance organizational programs.

2021 Research and Program Intern, The Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture, Texas

- Developed an evidence-based work plan for a \$2M USDA-funded climate adaptation initiative in Kazakhstan, for

project management and stakeholder coordination.

- Facilitated a ~\$1M USDA Rwandan Food Safety and Nutrition program by reviewing cost proposals and documents for business development through RPP approach.
- Co-wrote a \$500K USDA proposal to address phytosanitary gaps in Uganda's livestock processing sector through institutional capacity-building and regulatory design.

2019 Research and Development Assistant for Agricultural Extension Service, Africa Region, The Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture, Texas

- Developed a USDA research proposal that secured \$1.2M in funding for the International Agricultural Fellowship
- Led capture management for a \$1M USAID Crop Improvement Innovation Lab proposal, aligning project design with donor metrics and country-level development goals.
- Coordinated communications with potential sub-awardee partners and monitored USAID's new business forecast for partnership management

Contributions to Campus and Community

University Committees

- University Board Council, Family Resources Advisory Board, Arizona State University (elected)
- Search faculty Committee Member, School for the Future of Innovation in Society, Arizona State University
- Member SFIS Graduate Student Organization (appointed), Arizona State University
- Ambassador Council, Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University
- Co-Chair, High Impact International Experience, Texas A&M University

Community

- Speaker, Graft Africa Common Ground Series, A Series of Conversations Shaping Africa's Agrifood Systems, Economies and Futures, 8th November 2025 (Virtual)
- Moderator, Job Market Panel, Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development (AIARD), 16th June 2025, Washington D.C
- Judge, United Nations Women's Empowerment Program, 14th May 2021, Arizona State University

Fellowships, Awards and Honors

These fellowships supported work on inclusive agricultural development, women's empowerment and institutional frameworks:

2024 Earl A. and Lenore H. Tripke Travel Grant (\$2000)

2024 Dissertation College Fellowship | Arizona State University

2023 Graduate Research Support Grant | Arizona State University (\$2000)

2022 Field Research Fellowship Award | Field of Hope International Development (\$4500)

2022 SUN Award for Excellent Teaching | Arizona State University

2021 Honorary Research Award | Institute for Social Science Research, ASU (\$400)

2022 Interdisciplinary Enrichment Fellowship | Arizona State University

2018 James W. McGraw Capstone Research Award, American Society for Public Administration (\$250)

2017 Bush School of Government and Public Service Academic Fellowship

Invited Lectures

- 2023 Sustainability and Innovation: Positive Disruptions for Sustainable Development at the 2023 ASU CINTANA Group Lecture, June 28th, 2023
- 2023 Sustainability and Social Responsibility. American University of Rome, Italy, August 14th 2023
- 2021 21st Century Global Development Pioneers: Re-imagining Development with Indigenous Wisdom at the 2021 Development. Reimagined series, Arizona State University, November 21st, 2021
- 2021 Women in Agriculture: Creating Equal Opportunities at the Farm Agric Foundation for Agriculture International Women's Day Symposium, March 8th, 2024

Publications and Conference Presentations (selected publications and presentations by research area)

Inclusive Agricultural Development and Women's Empowerment

- Makinde, O. (2024). "The Empowerment Conundrum: Assessing the Role of Farmer Cooperatives in Facilitating Inclusive Agricultural Development in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Case of Coffee in Uganda." Arizona State University.
- Makinde, O. (2022). "Achieve Gender Equality for All." In *A Compendium of Bitesize Views from Global Advocates of the Sustainable Development Goals*, AlphaZulu Advocates.

Conferences:

- Makinde, O. (2021). "Feminization of Agriculture: Factors Contributing to the Low Adoption of Agricultural Technologies among Female Farmers in Uganda." Presented at the ISA 2022 63rd Annual Convention, Nashville Tennessee, April 2022
- Makinde, O. (2021) "UN SDG 5 – Achieve Gender Equality for All Women." Presented at the 2021 AlphaZULU Advocates virtual Monthly Nugget Hour
- Makinde, O. C Hafed, Y. (2020). "Technology as Education in Facilitating Peace Dialogues for Women and Youth in Post-Conflict Rwanda and Afghanistan: Comparative Analysis." Co-presented virtually at the annual IEEE ISTAS20 Symposium, October 2020

Affective Futuring

Understanding the role of emotions in shaping the way individuals or groups think about the future

- Makinde, O., Spackman, C., Rodriguez, A., Kuznetsov, S., C Wharton, C. (2025). Designing to Elicit Future Affective Potential: Café 2057. *Futures*. (in review)

Conferences:

- Makinde, O., C Spackman, C. (2022). "Flavor as a Tool for Sensory Justice?" Presented at the 4S 2022 Preliminary Conference annual meeting of the Society for Social Studies (4S), Cholula, Mexico, December 2022.

Skills & Analytical Experience

- Mixed-methods research design and implementation (qualitative and quantitative integration)
- Survey and interview design, policy diagnostics
- Document analysis and administrative data management
- Community-based participatory research

- Knowledge dissemination and stakeholder engagement
- Grant writing collaboration and proposal development

Oluwabukola Makinde