Dr. Justin M. Adekanbi-Coger

Public Allies Delaware/AmeriCorps and University of Delaware

Application for NBER Robert Summers Fellowship on Economic Measurement

2025 Conference on Research on Income and Wealth (CRIW)

jcoger@udel.edu

3/18/25

This fellowship opportunity to study with some of the most creative and collaborative researchers in the world would immeasurablely alter the trajectory of my career. I am a labor, public, and environmental economist with theoretical and applied research on intersectional wage dynamics among college graduates, the effects of social democratic policies on well-being outcomes for those with multiple disadvantageous social identities, measuring the reduction of economic and socioemotional deprivation caused by non-profit organizations work, environmental economics, and fragility of democratic governance in systemically uenequal economies. I earned my PhD from the University of Delawares Lerner School of Business and Economics and now work as an AmeriCorps member remotely at the Public Allies national office in Milwaukee on a large-scale research project quantifying the economic benefit of Public Allies. We are collecting and sharing stories of Public Allies alum experience at their placement organizations and the transformation to their human capital acquisition and sense of belonging from Public Allies apprenticeship.

My work at a non-profit organization as a domestic public servant applying my skillset to socially beneficial research would improve after interacting and collaborating with such hard working and talented social scientists. One of my intellectual influences is Phyllis Wallace, and I have long admired the work produced by the many of your working groups and Trevon Logans work across various subfields. Some of the research I iniated as at the START workshop run by the University of Delaware and CIDE in Mexico City evolved into my current interests in measures of multidimensional material deprivation. The research at my Public Allies placement utilizes these techniques to operationalize the impact on Public Allies service on improving the well-being of those within their communities. Specifically, I use the Alkire-Foster measures. This work led me to read work by Graciela Chichilnisky and influenced me to look outside of the United States for collaborations with researchers in Latin America, Africa, Europe, and Asia.

Outside of these interests, I think I will also benefit from the conference due to another strand of my work on maintaining democratic governance in systemically uenequal economies with Knightian uncertainty. I recently received promising feedback on my current research agenda from Bob Putnam which has encouraged me to fully develop this research and publish a book after submitting the papers from my thesis for publication. I am a 2024-2025 Economics PhD job market

candidate and recently presented my job market paper at the 2025 AEFP conference. I will also be attending the 2025 AERA and IAFFE conferences, as I am the recipient of the 2025 Rhonda Williams Prize awarded by IAFFE to an early career researcher whose work reflects the dedication to scholar-activism exemplified by Rhonda Williams. I've attached my CV and job market paper to my application, as well as the paper on cooperative public environmental economics which I hope to present. Thank you for taking time to consider my application and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best wishes,

Justin M. Adekanbi-Coger, PhD