Ola Mutiu FAKOREDE

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EDUCATION

- **PhD in Economics, University of Utah** — Aug 2023 – Present
- Research focus: Health economics, caregiving, aging & mental health; labor & development; policy evaluation in LMICs
- **M.S. in International & Development Economics, University of San Francisco** — 2020–2022; GPA: 3.96/4.0
- **B.S. in Agricultural Economics, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (UNAAB), Nigeria** — 2001–2006; First Class Honors; GPA: 4.74/5.0

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Economics of aging and health; mental health and substance use; labor market shocks; health services utilization; economic development and policy in LMICs (with a focus on Nigeria).

DISSERTATION & WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Socioeconomic Shocks, Service Use, and Mental Health in Nigeria: A Mixed-Methods Study (dissertation essay)
- Caregiving in Utah: Policy Brief for the Legislature
- Legal Mapping and Evaluation of Mental Health and Substance Use Statutes in Illinois
- Labor Market Institution Generosity and Birth Outcomes in the US
- From Colonialism to Comprador Capitalism: Nigeria's Unfinished Liberation
- Trade Structure and Flows: Is Africa Up for Grabs Again?
- Colonial Legacy and the Crisis of Educational Systems in Nigeria: A World-Systems Approach
- A^3QU of Healthcare in Malawi: Availability, Accessibility, Acceptability, Quality & Utilization

RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (Selected)

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Utah, Department of Economics — Aug 2023 – Present

- **Research** on mental health service utilization, socioeconomic shocks, and gender disparities in Nigeria
- **Quantitative** methods: time series and panel econometrics (e.g., ARDL, VAR, Granger causality); mixed-methods design

Analyst, Office of the Provost, University of San Francisco — Aug 2022 – Jul 2023

- Managed faculty/staff operating budgets; automated tenure & contract workflows

Data Compliance & Quality Assurance, Triumph Care LLC — Jun 2022 – Present

- **Developed** compliance rulebook and monitoring framework; data quality reviews aligned with health regulations

Research Assistant, USF Economics Department — Dec 2021 – Jun 2022

- **Supported** NLSY79 project: literature reviews, data extraction and cleaning

HONORS & AWARDS (Selected)

- The 'U' Jewell J. & Larue J. Rasmussen Endowment Fund Scholarship (Summer 2024)
- USF College of Arts & Sciences Graduate Speaker / Valedictorian (Spring 2022)
- Jacques Arthur Best Graduate Economics Student Award (Spring 2022)
- USF Jesuits Foundation Research Grant – Nigerian Colorism (2021)
- NABE Diversity Scholar (2021)
- UNAAB First Class Honors Award (2006)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Pan African Scientific Research Council (PASRC)
- Nigerian Institute of Management (NIM)
- Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN)
- Global Association of Risk Professionals (GARP)
- The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA)
- Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE)
- Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)

COMPLETED PhD COURSEWORK (University of Utah)

- ECON 7003 Political Economy & Critique I
- ECON 7004 Political Economy & Critique II
- ECON 7005 Microeconomic Theory I
- ECON 7006 Microeconomic Theory II
- ECON 7007 Macroeconomics I
- ECON 7008 Macroeconomics II
- ECON 7150 Labor/Gender I
- ECON 7180 Labor/Gender II
- ECON 7400 Economic History I
- ECON 7560 Economic Development I
- ECON 7590 Econometrics
- ECON 7800 Econometrics I
- ECON 7801 Econometrics II
- ECON 7950 Independent Study (PhD)
- ECON 7970 Research
- ECON 7020 International Economics I

In Progress, Spring 2026:

- *ECON 7350 Advanced Health Economics.*
- *ECON 7251 Advanced Environmental Economics*

PRIMARY DISSERTATION SUPERVISOR

Fernando A. Wilson, PhD
Director and Endowed Chair of the Matheson Center for Health Care Studies
Director of the Clinical & Translational Science Institute Health Economics Core
Vice-Chair of Economics for Strategic Initiatives
Professor of Economics and Population Health Sciences
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Statement of Research Interests and Motivation

I am a third-year PhD student in Economics at the University of Utah whose work sits at the intersection of health, labor, aging, and development economics. My dissertation examines how major economic shocks, such as the Global Financial Crisis, COVID-19, and the Ebola outbreak, shape mental health service utilization and outcomes in Nigeria, with attention to gender disparities, unemployment dynamics, and substance use. Using mixed methods and time-series/panel econometrics (ARDL/VAR/Granger causality) on administrative and population data, I study the multi-year pathways through which job loss and social stressors translate into mental health needs, institutionalization, and downstream health and labor outcomes.

Substantively, I aim to quantify: (1) the lag structure linking unemployment to mental health outcomes (1–5 years), (2) gendered differences in exposure and help-seeking, and (3) how institutional capacity and clinician participation shape access to care. Methodologically, I am working to strengthen identification, leveraging policy timing, quasi-experimental variation, and robustness checks that address measurement error and data interpolations. I am also building a harmonized dataset that combines facility statistics with demographic, labor market, and policy indicators to study dynamic treatment effects. I am extending the study to examine, at a micro-level, the effects of socioeconomic factors on admission probability, length of stay, treatment modality and post-discharge visitations for different subgrouping including the aged. I also developed a novel vulnerability index.

This agenda aligns with the NBER community on aging and health economics, where core themes include the determinants of health and health disparities, the productivity of health care, and interactions between health and financial well-being. My current focus, mental health and service utilization in a low- and middle-income country (LMIC) context, speaks to these themes and to the broader policy-relevant questions around how economic shocks affect health trajectories over the life cycle and the caregiving burden within households. In ongoing work, I also explore caregiving policy in Utah, time use and caregiver dynamics, and legal mapping of mental health and substance-use statutes in the U.S., which together help me bridge comparative insights between LMIC and U.S. settings.

Motivation for attending the mentoring workshop: I seek targeted, practice-oriented mentorship on: (a) sharpening identification strategies for mental health and aging outcomes (e.g., difference-in-differences and event studies that accommodate staggered timing and heterogeneous effects); (b) constructing credible counterfactuals especially in LMIC administrative data; (c) best practices for integrating qualitative evidence to interpret dynamic effects; and (d) positioning papers for health and applied micro audiences. Guidance on building collaborations and accessing data commonly used by the NBER aging and health community (e.g., Medicare/claims-linked resources for U.S. comparative work, or harmonized LMIC microdata) would be especially valuable.

Kinds of support that would help me most: First, structured feedback on the design and writing of my first dissertation paper, including an annotated reading list to tighten the contribution relative to work on economic shocks, mental health, and aging. Second, a brief one-on-one consultation on a replication and transparency plan (pre-analysis plans, code organization, and robustness catalog). Third, career mentoring: best practices for building a research agenda that connects mental health to the aging and health literature, presenting at NBER venues, and planning the transition from field papers to the job market paper.

Working with Prof. Fernando A. Wilson as my primary supervisor, I am eager to engage with mentors whose expertise spans health services, mental health, aging, caregiving, and applied econometrics. The mentoring workshop would accelerate my progress by providing concrete feedback, expanding my network, and helping me align my projects with priorities in aging and health economics.