GODWIN AIPOH

Department of Economics
Andrew Young School of Policy Studies
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EDUCATION

Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA
Ph.D. in Economics, 2022–2027 (expected)
Dissertation Supervisor: Pierre Nguimkeu

Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA
M.A. in Economics (STEM), 2024

BT Research Institute, Lagos, Nigeria
Certificate Program in Mathematics, 2021

Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi, Nigeria
B.Sc. Equiv. in Statistics, Distinction, 2016

PHD COURSEWORK

Core Sequence: Mathematics for Economists (ECON 8030), Microeconomics I & II (ECON 9010, 9030), Macroeconomics I & II (ECON 9020, 9040)

Econometrics: Econometrics I, II, & Advanced Econometrics (ECON 9710, 9720, 9730)

Fields: Health Economics I & II (ECON 9610, 9620); Advanced Labor I & II (ECON 9220, 9230)

Others: Causal Inference (ECON 8890); Advanced Public Economics I (ECON 9450)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Health Economics, Development Economics, Education & Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics

WORKING PAPERS

1. **"Conflict-Imposed Shutdowns and Infant Mortality: Evidence from IPOB Sit-at-Home Mandates"**
2. **"Access Gained, Outcomes Unchanged: The Effects of ACA Medicaid Expansion on Self-Reported Mental Health"**
3. **Clearing the Air for All Children: How a Smoking Ban Reduced Child Mortality** -*Under Review*
4. **"The Long-term Impact of In-Utero Alcohol Taxes on Adult Prenatal Drinking"**
   with Raka Datta

5. **"Can Higher Education Stimulate Local Economic Development? The Labor Market Impacts of Federal University Expansion"**
   with Olanrewaju Yusuff *Revise & Resubmit, Journal of African Economies*

WORK IN PROGRESS

- "PFL Expansions and Elderly Health Outcomes: Evidence from the Health and Retirement Study"
- "Effect of Losing Public Health Insurance on Self-Reported Mental Health"
- "The Architects of Progress: Strong Institutions Over Strong Leaders"

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- **Graduate Research Assistant**, Department of Economics, GSU, 2022–present
- **Research Assistant**, World Bank Group, 2020–2023
  Supervisor: Dr. Komla Agudze
- **Research Assistant**, BT Economics Research Group, 2017–present
  Supervisor: Dr. Oyakhilome Ibhagui
- **Data Officer/Research Assistant**, Smiles Data Consult, 2014–2016
  Supervisor: Statistician Shaib Ismail Omade

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Primary Instructor

- ECON 4350: Economics of Poverty and Public Policy, Fall 2025

Teaching Assistant

- ECON 6030: Mathematical Economics, Prof. Augustine Denteh, Spring 2026
- ECON 9720: Econometrics II, Prof. Augustine Denteh, Spring 2025
- ECON 8740: Applied Statistics & Econometrics, Prof. Pierre Nguimkeu, Fall 2025
- Principal Instructor: Mathematics for Middle School Students, 2012–2014
- Principal Instructor: Maths & Quantitative for Elementary School, 2008–2010

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2023–2024: E.D. (Jack) Dunn Fellowship and Research
- 2024: International Education Fund (IEF) Study Abroad Scholarship
- 2021: Baum-Tenpers Merit-Based Graduate School App Support
- 2012: Best Graduating National Diploma Student Award
- 2006: Most Active SS2 Student – One Year Scholarship

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND TRAINING

- Graduate Conference, GSU (Presenter)–2026
- CSAE Oxford, United Kingdom (Presenter)–2026
- APPAM Fall Research (Discussant)–2025

- Federal Research Bank (Participant)–2025
- Realist Research, Evaluation & Synthesis (Guest)–2025
- GSU Graduate Research Conference (Participant)–2025
- APPAM Fall Research (Participant)–2023
- Federal Research Bank, 12th Annual Employment (Participant)–2022

- American Institute for Research (AIR)
- Translating Good Research into Good Policy
- PhD Seminar Presentation on Economics Research Topics
- GSU Economics Department Seminar Series

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editorial Service

- Editorial Board Member: *International Journal of Health Policy Planning*
- Editorial Board Member: *International Journal of Women's Health Care*

Reviewer

- Referee: *International Journal of Health Economics and Policy*
- Referee: *Etinosa Oghogho Foundation*

University & Professional Service

- **PhD Student Representative**, Student Technology Voting Committee (FY2027), AYSPS
- **Unibuddy Ambassador**, AYSPS (Ask-a-Student Ambassador)
- **Judge**, Undergraduate Research Conference, GSU, 2025, 2026
- **Judge**, GSMST Research Symposium, 2025
- **Abstract Reviewer**, ASHEcon Annual Conference, 2025

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Economic Association (AEA)
- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)
- American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon)
- Southern Economic Association (SEA)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Econometric Methods: Difference-in-Differences, Event Study, Synthetic Control, Synthetic Difference-in-Differences, Instrumental Variables
Programming: Stata, R, LaTeX, Markdown

REFERENCES

Pierre Nguimkeu (Dissertation Chair)
Professor
Department of Economics
Georgia State University
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Lauren Hoehn-Velasco
Assistant Professor
Department of Economics
Georgia State University
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Alberto Chong Lam
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Glenwood Ross (Teaching Ref)
Clinical Associate Professor
Department of Economics
Georgia State University
gross@gsu.edu

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Research Interests, Motivation, and Mentorship Needs

Godwin Aipoh | PhD Candidate, Economics | Georgia State University

There is a question I keep returning to: when policy changes what families can do for each other, what happens to the people who depend on them? That question pulled me into health economics, and it is what my work keeps circling back to — whether in how a smoking ban in Turkey quietly reduced child mortality through household exposure pathways, or how Medicaid expansion gave people coverage without meaningfully improving their mental health. The policy changes. The family adjusts. The health outcome is what we actually care about, and it is almost always the hardest to trace.

That question has been pulling me steadily toward aging. The project I most want to develop uses the Health and Retirement Study to examine whether Paid Family Leave improves health outcomes for elderly parents whose adult children gain access to it. The design exploits the staggered state-by-state rollout of PFL laws using a Callaway-Sant'Anna difference-in-differences estimator. The outcomes are concrete: hospitalization, ADL limitations, depression on the CES-D scale, cognitive function, and mortality. The mechanism is caregiving: PFL may free adult children to provide more hands-on support, with real downstream consequences for elderly parents. To my knowledge, no study has traced this channel with individual-level panel data and a credible causal design. I think that gap is worth closing, and this project is how I intend to close it.

The main bottlenecks are restricted data and a lack of proper guidance. The right guidance on navigating the application process, mentorship, and institutional pathways efficiently. That is a solvable problem with the right mentorship, and I understand it is precisely the kind of bottleneck this program is designed to help students break through.

But the deeper reason is this: I am a health economist stepping deliberately into aging research, and I want to do it properly. My training at Georgia State has made me a careful empiricist, but my institution does not have a community of scholars working at the frontier of aging and health, the data ecosystems, the open questions, the conversations that shape the field. Professor Jetson Leder-Luis works on healthcare fraud and Medicare; Professor Sebastian Tello-Trillo works on Medicaid and the labor-health intersection, both of which sit directly at the center of the questions I care about. I want to learn from scholars who think about these problems every day, not occasionally. The October workshop and the long-term care and caregiving meeting on October 2 are the kind of intellectual environment I cannot manufacture at my institution but genuinely need right now.

I am not searching for a research direction. I have found one. What this program gives me is the scaffolding, the community, and the senior guidance to build it the right way. That is not a small thing — it is the difference between a good idea that stalls and a research agenda that actually goes somewhere.