

KINGSFORD ONYINA

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EDUCATION

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte	Charlotte, NC
PhD Public Policy Analysis	Expected 2027
Graduate Certificate Quantitative Analyses	
Eastern Illinois University	Charleston, IL
MA Economics	2023
University of Education, Winneba	Winneba, Ghana
BA Economics & Political Science (Minor)	2020

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social Policy, Impact Evaluation, Applied Microeconomics

JOB MARKET PAPER

Welfare Reform and the Noncognitive Skill Formation of the Next Generation

Noncognitive skills (NCS) are consequential dimensions of human capital and are shaped by early-life environments. While early-childhood interventions can have lasting effects on these skills, little is known about the long-run effects of social safety-net reforms on NCS. I examine the long-run effects of early-life exposure to the 1990s U.S. welfare reforms. Linking the Panel Study of Income Dynamics core survey to the Child Development Supplement and Transition into Adulthood Supplement, I exploit variation in reform exposure across states, birth cohorts, and mothers' likelihood of being affected in a triple-difference design. NCS are measured in young adulthood, when personality traits are more stable and developmentally consolidated. I find that early-life exposure reduced young-adult NCS by 0.23 standard deviations among individuals born to likely affected mothers. The decline is concentrated in agreeableness and openness and is largest among children exposed earliest in life. Effects are most detectable among girls and White children, although subgroup differences are imprecisely estimated. Suggestive mechanism evidence points less to household income or maternal employment and more to changes in early caregiving conditions. The findings show that safety-net reforms can leave lasting developmental imprints on the next generation. [\[Latest version\]](#)

PUBLICATIONS

- Onyina, K.** (2026). Universal Access, Divided Opinions: A Latent Class Analysis of Public Perceptions of Ghana's Free Senior High School Policy. *Social Policy and Society*, 1-17.
- Oboro-Offerie, R. A., & **Onyina, K.** (2026). Quantifying the Effect of Partisanship on Citizens Collective Action Against Corruption in African Democracies: A Quasi-Experimental Approach. *International Criminology*, 6(1), 69-88.
- Onyina, K.**, Oboro-Offerie, R. A., & Akoto, O. D. A. (2025). Unpacking the multidimensional impact of international remittances on women's empowerment in Africa: a quasi-experimental study. *SN Social Sciences*, 5(10), 163.
- Aremu, T., Baye, R. S., **Onyina, K.**, & Abijah, P. (2025). Agricultural extension services and household welfare: evidence from Ghana socioeconomic panel survey. *Agricultural and Food Economics*, 13(1), 58.
- Oboro-Offerie, R. A., Allor, P. W., Toklo, S., & **Onyina, K.** (2025). To report or not to report corruption? An empirical investigation of the determinants of corruption reporting in Africa. *Crime, Law and Social Change*, 83(1), 1-29.
- Onyina, K.**, & Baye, R. S. (2024). Impact of social protection policies on inclusive growth in Sub-Saharan Africa: evidence from bias-corrected dynamic panel. *Cogent Economics & Finance*, 12(1), 2409421.

ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW

Burden or Necessity? Experimental Evidence on Public Perceptions of SNAP's Work Requirement for College Students. *Administration & Society*.

When You Don't Know Your Voting Rights: How Knowledge of Voting Requirements Shapes Voter Confidence. *Electoral Studies* with Martha Kropf & Thessalia Merivaki.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Welfare Reform and the Noncognitive Skill Formation of the Next Generation (*Job Market Paper*)

From Cradle to Courtroom? Early-Life Exposure to Welfare Reform and Long-Run Criminal Justice Contact.

Cash Transfer and the Labor Supply of Vulnerable Households and Individuals: Does Household Indebtedness Matter? with Danny Turkson.

Work Without Wealth? The Long-Run Effects of Welfare Reform on Family Wealth.

The Sibling Dividend: Free Senior High School and Intrahousehold Human Capital Spillovers in Ghana with Vanessa Owusu-Ansah & Danny Turkson.

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS ([†] POSTER PRESENTATION; [§] SCHEDULED)

2027 Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA)/ American Economic Association 2027 Annual Meeting, Washington, DC^{†§}

2026 48th Annual Conference of the Association for Public Policy & Management, Boston, MA[§]
96th Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association, Houston, TX[§]
Panel Study of Income Dynamics Annual User Conference 2026[§]
Talking Policy in the Queen City, Charlotte, NC[†]

2025 47th Annual Meeting of the Association for Public Policy & Management, Seattle, WA
Graduate Research Symposium, UNC Charlotte, Charlotte, NC
33rd Annual Conference of the Global Awareness Society International, Hot Springs, AR

2024 88th Midwest Economics Annual Conference, Chicago, IL
Talking Policy in the Queen City, Charlotte, NC[†]

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte	Charlotte, NC
Research Assistant, Department of Economics	2024
Supervisors: Dr. Kelly Vosters & Dr. Lisa Schulkind	

Eastern Illinois University	Charleston, IL
Research Assistant, Faculty of Development and Innovation Center	2022 – 2023
Research Project: "Meaningful Data Sets for EIU Students."	
Principal Investigators: Dr. Alejandra Alvarado and Dr. Andrew Mertz.	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte	Charlotte, NC
<i>Instructor of Record</i>	
ECON 3112 – Econometrics	Fall 2026
SOCY 4156 – Quantitative Analysis	Summer 2026
SOCY 4156L – Quantitative Analysis Lab	Summer 2026

Teaching Assistant

ECON 3141: Health Economics	Spring 2025, Fall 2025, Spring 2026
PPOL 8641: Economic Analysis of Public Policy II	Spring 2025 & 2026
DSBA/ECON 6112: Graduate Econometrics	Spring 2024 & 2025
ECN 3112: Econometrics	Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Fall 2025

Eastern Illinois University

Charleston, IL

Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics

ECN 2801G: Principles of Macroeconomics	Fall 2021 – Spring 2023
ECN 2802G: Principles of Microeconomics	Fall 2021 – Spring 2023

University of Education, Winneba

Winneba, Ghana

Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics Education

Fall 2020 – Summer 2021

ECNS 231: Elements of Microeconomics
ECNS 242: Economy of Ghana
ECNS 354: Labor Economics

COMPUTING SKILLS & DATASETS

Software: Stata, RStudio, $\text{\LaTeX}$.

Datasets: PSID, Add Health, CPS, SIPP, Afrobarometer, WDI, WGI.

HONORS, AWARDS, GRANTS

2025	Graduate Life Fellow (UNC Charlotte, Graduate School) National Association for Welfare Research and Statistics (Conference grant) Graduate Research Symposium (2nd Place Position for Oral Presentation) Global Awareness Society Conference Travel Scholarship
2024	Graduate School Conference Travel Award Conference Travel Grant, Graduate & Professional Student Government
2023	Distinguished Economics Graduate Student, Eastern Illinois University Distinguished International Graduate Student Award, Eastern Illinois University Donna and Kabbarsion Scholarship, Eastern Illinois University Graduate Student Advisory Council Scholarship, Eastern Illinois University
2020	Vice Chancellor Scholarship Fund by merit (x2), University of Education, Winneba

UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

President, Graduate Public Policy Association (GPPA), UNC Charlotte	2025
Graduate School Admissions Ambassador, UNC Charlotte (x2)	2024/2026
UNC Charlotte Undergraduate Research Conference Poster Judge	2024
APPAM Fall Research Conference Poster Judge	2024
Public Relations Officer, Association of Economics Students, University of Education, Winneba	2018

OUTREACH AND MENTORING

Founder, [QuantBridge](#) 2026 – Present

- Organizes a methods series for early-career researchers using quasi-experimental research designs.
- Hosts graduate-school brown bag sessions on research, applications, and professional development.

Educational Content Creator, [YouTube](#) 2021 – Present

- Creates videos on graduate school applications, academic preparation, and higher education access.
- Reaches students from low-resource backgrounds across 30+ countries.
- Subscribers: 66K+; Views: 2M+ as of July 2026.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) Data User Workshop (2026)
- Social Protection, Non-Credit Virtual Training, Bureau for Research & Economic Analysis of Development (2025)
- Impact Evaluation Methods with Applications in Low and Middle-Income Countries, World Bank Group (2024)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Association for Public Policy and Management; Southern Economic Association; American Economic Association; Midwest Economics Association.
- Graduate Public Policy Association, UNC Charlotte; Graduate & Professional Student Government, UNC Charlotte.

SERVICE TO THE FIELD / REVIEW

Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, Discover Global Society, Discover Public Health, Journal of International Migration and Integration, Discover Education.

REFERENCES

Kelly N. Vosters, PhD (Dissertation Chair)

Associate Professor
Department of Economics
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
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Seojung Oh, PhD

Assistant Professor
Department of Economics
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Beth Whitaker

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Lisa Schulkind, PhD

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