

# TOCHUKWU EJIOFOR NWEZE, PHD

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Utah

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## EDUCATION

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Degree	Institution	Year
PhD Psychology/Cognitive Neuroscience	University of Cambridge	2019-2022
MSc Neuroimaging (Neuroscience)	King's College London	2016-2017
BSc Psychology	Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka	2010-2014

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- 2024 - Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Utah.  
*Roles: Research; Teaching; supervision*
- 2018 - 2024 Lecturer, Department of Psychology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.  
*Roles: Research; Teaching; research/project supervision; student mentoring.*

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

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### Major Grants

- 2019 **Cambridge Trust PhD Studentship**. Awarded by the University of Cambridge for a doctoral program in MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences, Unit (£150,000)
- 2018 **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) research grant**. (EU in partnership with United Nations. *Tracking opiate routes in Nigeria: Identifying trafficking routes via dealers and users of Tramadol and Codeine*. (\$43,000)
- 2016 **Commonwealth Shared Scholarship at Kings College London (MSC Studentship)**. £45,000.

### Other awards and bursaries

- 2020 **Association for Psychological Science (APS) RISE (Researching Injustice Social and Social Equality) award**. Recognizes outstanding research contribution from under-represented groups in psychological science (\$250)
- 2020 **Cambridge Trust conference/travel grant**. Grant to travel to Chicago, United States for APS conference (£1200)
- 2020 **St. Edmund College (Cambridge) bursary/conference grant**. To support conference travel to Chicago, United States (£250).
- 2014 **Vice Chancellor's award for the best graduated student in the Department of Psychology, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka**.

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

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1. Weng, Y., Kruschwitz, J., Rueda-Delgado, L.M., Ruddy, K., Boyle, R., Franzen, L., Serin, E., Nweze, T., Hanson, J., Smyth, A. and Farnan, T., 2024. A robust brain network for sustained attention from adolescence to adulthood that predicts later substance use. *eLife*, 13.
2. Nweze, T., Banaschewski, T., Whelan, R., Ajaelu, C., Okoye, C., Ezenwa, M., Orfanos, D.P., Bokde, A.L.W., Quinlan, E.B., Desrivieres, S., Flor, H., Grigis, A., Garavan, H., Gowland, P., Heinz, A., Brühl, R., Martinot, J., Martinot, M.P., Artiges, E., Nees, F., Lemaitre, H., Paus, T., Poustka, L.,

- Hohmann, S., Millenet, S., Fröhner, J.H., Smolka, M.N., Walter, H., Schumann, G., Jamie L. Hanson, J.L., IMAGEN Consortium. Trajectories of cortical structures associated with chronic stress across adolescence: A bivariate latent change score approach (2022). *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpp.13793>
3. Nweze, T., Ezenwa, M., Ajaelu, C., Hanson, J. L., & Okoye, C. (2023). Cognitive variations following exposure to childhood adversity: Evidence from a pre-registered, longitudinal study. *Eclinicalmedicine*, 56, 101784, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eclinm.2022.101784>
  4. Nweze, T., Ezenwa, M., Ajaelu, C., & Okoye, C. (2023). Childhood mental health difficulties mediate the long-term association between early-life adversity at age 3 and poorer cognitive functioning at ages 11 and 14. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpp.13757>
  5. Nweze, T., Nwoke, M. B., Nwifo, J. I., Aniekwu, R. I., & Lange, F. (2020). Working for the future: parentally deprived Nigerian Children have enhanced working memory ability. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpp.13241>
  6. Zeigler-Hill, V., Martinez, J. L., Vrabel, J. K., Ezenwa, M. O., Oraetue, H., Nweze, T., ... & Kenny, B. (2020). The darker angels of our nature: Do social worldviews mediate the associations that dark personality features have with ideological attitudes? *Personality and Individual Differences*, 160, 109920, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2020.109920>
  7. Nweze, T., Agu, E., & Lange, F. (2020). Risky decision making and cognitive flexibility among online sports bettors in Nigeria. *International Journal of Psychology*, <https://doi.org/10.1002/ijop.12663>
  8. Nweze, T., Eze, C. C., & Lange, F. (2020). Perseverative responding in Nigerian chronic alcohol and marijuana users. *Substance Use & Misuse*, 55(7), 1199-1202. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10826084.2020.1725055>
  9. Ezenwa, M., Orjiakor, T., Ukwuma, M., Oraetue, H., Ude, E., & Nweze, T. (2020). Tracking opiate routes in Nigeria: Identifying trafficking routes via dealers and users of Tramadol and Codeine. *Bulletin on Narcotics*, [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/bulletin/2019/19-11671\\_ebook.pdf#page=39](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/bulletin/2019/19-11671_ebook.pdf#page=39)
  10. Nweze, T & Wisdom Nwani (2020) Contributions of Working Memory and Inhibition to Cognitive Flexibility in Nigerian Adolescents, *Developmental Neuropsychology*, 45:3, 118-128, <https://doi.org/10.1080/87565641.2020.1765169>
  11. Nwifo, J. I., Nweze, T., Ugwoke, E., Odo, V. O., & Chukwuorji, J. C. (2021). Substance abuse and media violence exposure as factors in acceptance of dating violence among in-school adolescents. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10911359.2020.1838384>

## INVITED TALKS; MEDIA AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & CONFERENCES

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**Invited speaker:** Seminar presentation at MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, University of Cambridge (2021)

**Conference:** Virtual poster presentation, Association for Psychological Science (APS) conference (2021)

**Podcast:** Interviewed by Jo Carlowe, a journalist for the Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (ACAMH) on working memory and resilience in parentally deprived Nigerian children (2020)

**Public Engagement:** Gave a video abstract for the Association of Child and Adolescent Mental Health on “Enhanced working memory ability of parentally deprived Nigerian children (2020)

**Invited speaker:** Attention Group (MRC CBU), “Working for the future: Parentally deprived Nigerian children have enhanced working memory ability” (2020)

**Conference:** Virtual poster presentation, Association for Psychological Science (APS) conference (2020)

**Conference:** Abstract paper, annual scientific workshop of Department of Psychology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka (2019)

**Conference:** Abstract paper, annual general congress, Nigerian Psychological Association

**Conference:** Abstract paper, annual scientific workshop of Department of Psychology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka (2018)

**Invited speaker:** Annual general congress of Nigerian Psychological Association (2017)

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS, REVIEWING, AND SUPERVISION

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**Supervision:** BSc research project supervision. Total Students: 4

**Ad-hoc Reviewer (Journals):** *Child Development, Substance Abuse Treatment and Policy, Adaptive Human Behaviour, and Physiology, Journal of Gambling Studies, Journal of Gambling Issues*

**Society Memberships:** *Association for Psychological Science.*

## VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITIES

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**Lumiere Education Cambridge, Massachusetts:** Provided free research mentoring to ambitious high school students across the globe.

**Ad-hoc Reviewer (Journals):** Reviewed academic and research manuscripts for the following journals: *Child Development, Substance Abuse Treatment and Policy, Adaptive Human Behaviour, and Physiology, Journal of Gambling Studies, Journal of Gambling Issues*

**African Society of Cambridge University (ASCU) mentorship program:** Aimed at supporting and mentoring prospective postgraduate applicants of African heritage in their application to the University of Cambridge.

**Next Gen Psyche Scholars Mentorship Program:** Volunteered to mentor undergraduate students from underrepresented groups toward achieving successful postgraduate applications.

**Kumon Study Centre, Kennington London:** Unpaid tutorials and lesson classes in English and maths to students in various classes.