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## HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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### **Office Contact Information**

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Cambridge, MA 02138

**Personal Information:** Female, Nigerian

### **Undergraduate and Masters Education:**

Bachelor of Arts, Economics, Dartmouth College, *summa cum laude*, 2006

MPA in International Development, Harvard Kennedy School, 2010

### **Doctoral Studies:**

Harvard University, 2010 to present  
Ph.D. Candidate in Public Policy  
Thesis Title: "Essays in Development Economics"  
Expected Completion Date: May 2016

### **References:**

Professor Alberto Alesina Harvard University, Economics Department 617-495-8388, aalesina@harvard.edu	Professor Asim Khwaja Harvard Kennedy School 617-384-7790, khwaja@hks.harvard.edu
Professor Nathan Nunn Harvard University, Economics Department 617-496-4958, nunn@fas.harvard.edu	Professor Dina Pomeranz Harvard Business School 617-495-1422, dpomeranz@hbs.edu

### **Fields:**

Development Economics, Political Economy, Public Economics

### **Teaching Experience:**

Summer, 2013 and 2014 *Instructor*, Principles of Economics, Harvard Kennedy School Mid-Career Masters in Public Administration  
Fall, 2012 *Teaching Fellow* for Professor Albert Nichols, Markets and Market Failures with Cases

### **Research Experience and Other Employment:**

2013- 2015 International Growth Center/ Liberia Revenue Authority, Researcher  
2013- 2015 World Bank Group, Research Consultant  
2009- 2014 Harvard University, Research Assistant to Professors Frankel, Kremer and Sheely and Pomeranz

2009 (summer) Government of Liberia Ministry of Finance, Revenue Department Focal Point  
2007- 2008 NOI Polls (Abuja, Nigeria), Research Analyst  
2006- 2007 LEAP Africa (Lagos, Nigeria), Research Associate

**Professional Activities**

International Growth Center, Growth Week 2014, *Presenter*  
National Tax Association Conference 2012, *Discussant*  
Review of Economics and Statistics, *Referee*  
World Bank ieGovern Impact Evaluation proposals, *External Reviewer*

**Fellowships and Research Grants:**

2015 Lab for Economic Applications and Policy (with Gabriel Tourek) for “Improving Tax Compliance in Rwanda”  
2013- 2015 International Growth Center, Principal Investigator for “State Capacity and Tax Compliance in Liberia”  
2013- 2015 Weiss Family Fund, Exploratory Grant and Full Grant for “Impact of Intergroup Migration on National Integration”  
2011- 2013 Mustard Seed Foundation, Harvey Fellowship  
2012 Harvard Committee on African Studies summer research grant

**Job Market Paper:**

**“Does Exposure to Other Ethnic Groups Promote National Integration? Evidence from Nigeria”**

This paper examines the impact of interethnic exposure on national integration in a multiethnic state. It uses variation arising from a mandatory program in Nigeria that randomly posted university graduates to different states of the country for a year of national service. I administer a survey to a cohort of university alumni seven years after their participation and compare participants who served in a state where they are the ethnic majority to those exposed to a state where they are not the majority. The results indicate two concurrent effects. First, interethnic exposure creates a stronger connection to the country: exposed participants have greater national pride, are more knowledgeable about other ethnic regions and are more willing to move to other ethnic regions. In line with this, I observe that they are four times as likely to be living outside their ethnic region. Second, consistent with social identity theory, immersion in a different culture highlights distinctions between groups and reinforces participants' connection to their ethnic group: they have greater ethnic pride and are more likely to have all their closest friends from their ethnic group. In addition, I find no evidence of increased closeness or trust towards other ethnic groups.

**Work in Progress**

**“State Capacity and Tax Compliance in Liberia”**

This project asks the question: In a context with low legal enforcement, what factors can promote entry into the tax base? While the Allingham-Sandmo model and the growing literature on third party reporting emphasize the importance of detection capacity, less attention has been paid to the ability of the state to enforce the tax laws and collect payment after detection. Using a randomized field experiment, I examine how property owners respond to information that highlights state capacity for detecting evasion, and separately, how they respond to information that highlights state capacity for enforcing payment. A second arm of the project examines how individuals respond to information about public goods that are funded by tax revenue, compared to information on private benefits that are

reserved for taxpayers, such as stronger property rights and the ability to use the property as collateral for loans.

**“Technology and Corruption: Evidence from a Tax Administration Field Experiment in Tajikistan”** (with Victor Pouliquen)

We study the impact of technological innovations on corruption by examining the adoption and subsequent impact of electronic tax filing in Tajikistan. Electronic filing allows taxpayers to submit their tax declarations online thereby avoiding interactions with tax officials during monthly tax submissions. We examine whether firms’ risk of tax evasion predicts their likelihood of adopting e-filing, since higher risk firms may differentially benefit from frequent contact with inspectors and manual records. Next, we study the impact of e-filing adoption on firms’ perceptions of corruption in tax administration as well as their economic and tax behavior.

**“Public Shaming and Tax Compliance in Rwanda”** (with Gabriel Tourek)

This project examines the impact of public shaming – publishing names of tax debtors in the newspaper – in Rwanda as a strategy for enforcing arrears payments by delinquent taxpayers. We examine the impact of warnings of public exposure, as well as actual exposure, of non-payment on firms’ choices, including their future tax declaration, tax payment, and business activities.

**Policy Articles**

“Optimizing Real Estate Tax in Liberia: Implications for Revenue Performance and Growth.” International Growth Center (IGC) Rapid Response Note Prepared for the Ministry of Finance in Liberia. September 2013.

“New Hampshire’s Quest for a Constitutionally Adequate Education.” Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. New England Public Policy Centre, Discussion Paper 06-2. October 2006.