

Tochukwu Ejiofor Nweze, PhD

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Utah

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EDUCATION

PhD Psychology/Cognitive Neuroscience	University of Cambridge	2022
MSc Neuroimaging (Neuroscience)	King's College London	2017
BSc Psychology	Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka	2014

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2024 –	Assistant Professor , Department of Psychology, University of Utah <i>Roles: Research, Teaching, supervision</i>
2018 – 2024	Lecturer , Department of Psychology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka <i>Roles: Research, Teaching, research/project supervision, student mentoring</i>

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

1. Nweze, T., & Hanson, J. L. 2025. Developmental trajectories of externalizing and internalizing linked to harsh parenting: the role of ethnicity and socioeconomic status. *Development and Psychopathology*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0954579425000306>
2. 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.
3. Nweze, T., Banaschewski, T., Ajaelu, C., Okoye, C., Ezenwa, M., Whelan, R., ... & IMAGEN Consortium. (2023). Trajectories of cortical structures associated with stress across adolescence: a bivariate latent change score approach. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 64(8), 1159-1175.
4. 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>
5. 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>
6. Nweze, T., Nwoke, M. B., Nwufor, 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>
7. 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>
8. 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>
9. 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>
10. 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

11. **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>
12. 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>

Manuscripts Under Review or In-Revision

13. **Nweze, T.**, & Hanson, J. L. Associations of harsh parenting with externalizing and internalizing symptoms vary across subpopulations (Under review at *International Journal of Psychology*)
14. Hanson, J., **Nweze, T.**, Adkins, D., Banaschewski, T. Early Life Adversity, Neuroticism, And Stress Generation: A Registered Replication in A Large European Longitudinal Sample. (Under review at *Clinical Psychological Science*).
15. **Nweze, T.**, Davidson. M., Olowokudejo, A., & Clarke, B. Household socioeconomic status mediates the association between childhood adversity and reward processing. (Under review at *Journal of Family Psychology*).

HIGH SCHOOL RESEARCH MENTEES' PUBLICATIONS

1. Thivya Jeyapalan & Tochukwu Nweze (2024). The impact of culturally informed music therapy on visually impaired youth: A Jaffna, Sri Lanka study. *Journal of Emerging Investigators*, 7 (1), <https://doi.org/10.59720/23-293>
2. Olivia Sia (2024). Childhood Trauma and Adversity and its Effects on Academic Achievement. *Whitman Journal of Psychology*. <https://www.wwjop.org/post/childhood-trauma-and-adversity-and-its-effects-on-academic-achievement>
3. Lu Yongling (In-press). The Influence of Mandala Drawing on Stress Reduction of Chinese Individuals and the Duration of its Effect. *Whitman Journal of Psychology*.
4. Anwita Ganesh (In-press). The Effects of Childhood Adversity on the Mental Health of Indian Adolescents. *National High School Journal of Science*.
5. Amay Munjal (In-press). Body mass index mediates the association between physical activities and mental health. *The Curieux Academic Journal*.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

1. 2019 **Cambridge Trust PhD Studentship**. Awarded by the University of Cambridge for a doctoral program in MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences, Unit (£150,000)
2. 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)
3. 2016 **Commonwealth Shared Scholarship at Kings College London (MSC Studentship)**. £45,000.
4. 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)
5. 2020 **Cambridge Trust conference/travel grant**. Grant to travel to Chicago, United States for APS conference (£1200)
6. 2020 **St. Edmund College (Cambridge) bursary/conference grant**. To support conference travel to Chicago, United States (£250).
7. 2014 **Vice Chancellor's award for the best graduated student in the Department of Psychology**, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka.

SUBMITTED GRANTS (IN REVIEW OR REJECTED)

1. Ellis, B.J & **Nweze, T** (Co-PI) (Submitted July 2024). Reducing inequality through leveraging stress-adapted skills. Russel Sage Foundation (\$200,000). *Declined*.
2. Hanson, J.L & **Nweze, T** (Co-PI) (Initial proposal, October 2024, Extended proposal December 2024, Last Stage Interview, January 2025). Beyond Borders, Beyond Bias: A Cross-Cultural Look at Executive Function. Learning Variability Exchange Network (LEVANTE) (\$450,000). *Declined*.
3. **Nweze, T** (PI) (Submitted January 2025). Cross-cultural comparisons of executive functioning across American and Nigerian college students. Small Grants Program For Early Career Scholars: Society for Research in Child Development (\$7,500). *Declined*.
4. **Nweze, T** (PI) (Submitted, January 2025) Does adversity foster adaptive gains in cognitive abilities among Nigerian middle school children? Jacob Foundation Fellowship Program (\$160,000). *Declined*.
5. **Nweze, T** (PI), Adeola Olowokudejo & Marin Davidson (Submitted, April 2025). Stress-adapted cognitive skills: A pathway to educational and occupational achievements. Brady Education Foundation (\$203,000). *Declined*.
6. **Nweze, T** (PI), Hanson, J.L, Olowokudejo, A. & Davidson, M (May, 2025). Leveraging cognitive adaptation under adversity to maximize educational and occupational success. William. T Foundation Grant (\$300,000). *Declined*.
7. Nweze, T (PI), Hanson, J.L., Ellis, B.J., Eack, S. (Submitted July, 2025). Leveraging longitudinal data to understand the heterogeneity and mechanistic intervention linking early-life adversity to executive functioning and psychopathology. Wellcome Trust (\$2.4m)

INVITED TALKS, MEDIA AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & CONFERENCES

1. **Invited Speaker:** Presentation to Salt Lake Oasis (non-profit secular community): Adverse effects of childhood adversity on children's outcomes (2025).
2. **Invited Speaker:** Seminar presentation to the Utah Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers titled "Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) for Criminal Defense Attorneys" (2024)
3. **Invited Speaker:** Presentation to the Interdisciplinary Science Club at the University of Utah titled "How to navigate graduate school application" (2024)
4. **Invited Speaker:** Seminar presentation at MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, University of Cambridge (2021)
5. **Conference:** Virtual poster presentation, Association for Psychological Science (APS) conference (2021)
6. **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)
7. **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)
8. **Invited speaker:** Attention Group (MRC CBU), "Working for the future: Parentally deprived Nigerian children have enhanced working memory ability" (2020)
9. **Conference:** Virtual poster presentation, Association for Psychological Science (APS) conference (2020)
10. **Conference:** Abstract paper, annual scientific workshop of Department of Psychology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka (2019)
11. **Conference:** Abstract paper, annual general congress, Nigerian Psychological Association

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

13. Invited speaker: Annual General Congress of Nigerian Psychological Association (2017)

SUPERVISION AND MENTORSHIP

1. **Supervision:** BSc research project supervision. 4 Students: Richard Aniekwe; Wisdom Nwani, Cyprian Eze; Eze IK (All at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka)
2. **Mentorship:** Undergraduate research mentorship: Marin Davidson – University of Utah; Ethelbert Agu (University of Nigeria, Nsukka)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

1. Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)
2. Association for Psychological Science (APS)
3. American Psychological Association (APA)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Courses:

1. Cultural Context of Development – University of Utah (Fall Semester, 2024).
2. Advanced Psychobiology – University of Nigeria, Nsukka. (First Semester, 2018/2019 and 2023/2024 academic sessions)
3. Physiological Psychology 1 – University of Nigeria, Nsukka (First Semester, 2018/2019 and 2023/2024 academic sessions)
4. Physiological Psychology 2 – University of Nigeria, Nsukka (Second Semester, 2018/2019 and 2023/2024 academic sessions).
5. Psychobiology – University of Nigeria, Nsukka (First Semester, 2018/2019 academic session)
6. Introduction to Psychology 2 – University of Nigeria (Second Semester, 2018/2019 and 2023/2024 academic sessions).
7. Cognitive Psychology – University of Nigeria, Nsukka (Second semester, 2023/2024 academic session).
8. Psychological Testing – University of Nigeria, Nsukka (Second Semester, 2023/2024 academic session)

Postgraduate Courses:

9. Behavior Modification – University of Nigeria, Nsukka (Second Semester, 2018/2019 academic session).
10. Cognitive Development across the lifespan & Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience – University of Utah (Spring Semester, 2025)

VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITIES

1. **Lumiere Education Cambridge, Massachusetts:** Provided free research mentoring to ambitious high school students across the globe.
2. **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.
3. **Next Gen Psyche Scholars Mentorship Program:** Volunteered to mentor undergraduate students from underrepresented groups toward achieving successful postgraduate applications.
4. **Kumon Study Centre, Kennington London:** Unpaid tutorials and lesson classes in English and maths to students in various classes.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

1. Member of undergraduate committee, University of Utah
2. **Ad-hoc Reviewer (Journals):** Reviewed academic and research manuscripts for the following journals: *Journal of Family Psychology*, *International Journal of Psychology*, *Child Development*, *Substance Abuse Treatment and Policy*, *Human Behaviour*, and *Physiology*, *Journal of Gambling Studies*, *Journal of Gambling Issues*, *Journal of Research on Adolescence*,