

## GBENGA IDOWU ELUFISAN

Ph.D. Candidate

Department of Sociology

Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS, 39762

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### EDUCATION

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2026 Ph.D. Sociology, Mississippi State University, U.S.A

2023 M.S. Sociology, Mississippi State University, U.S.A

2020 B.Sc. Sociology and Anthropology, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria.

### AREAS OF RESEARCH INTEREST

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Rural sociology, agricultural systems, farming challenges, technology adoption, technology governance, community development, and inequality.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

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#### **Research Experience**

10/2023 - Present

*Graduate Research Assistant*

Mississippi State University Starkville, MS, U.S.A.

Title: Social & Economic Impacts of Agricultural Autonomy (A2) on Small Farms: Status & Recommendations (USDA funded project)

Lead P. I: Dr. Li, Xiaofei, Department of Agricultural Economics, Mississippi State University

Co-P. Is: Dr. Thompson, Diego (Department of Sociology), Dr. Alex Thomason (Autonomous Agricultural Autonomy Institute), Dr. Cindy Bethel, (Department of Computer Science) Mississippi State University.

- Engage in cutting-edge collaborative research with a multidisciplinary research team on a USDA-NIFA sponsored research project on Agricultural Autonomy (A<sup>2</sup>).
- Participate in the planning of the project road map and research design with the team.
- Conduct cutting edge systematic review literature for projects
- Actively represent the research team at farmers conferences, field days, and events
- Recruit study participants for both qualitative and quantitative data for the project
- Effectively leading the 50-participant data collection using qualitative methods
- Successfully completed the first manuscript for the project.

07/2023 - 08/2023

*Research Assistant*

2023 Arkansas Civic Health Index Project (Published)

University of Arkansas, AR, U.S.A

P.I: Dr. Robert C. Richards, Jr., University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service

- Worked with multidisciplinary researchers to facilitate the publication of a project.
- Conducted eight virtual in-depth interviews to generate quality insight into Arkansas civic engagement.
- Helped recruit research participants.
- Earned publication authorship as a contributor.

08/2021 – present

*Student Researcher*

**Ph.D. Dissertation in Progress:** *Exploring Perception of Modern Agricultural Technology: Autonomous Agriculture (A2) Among Small Mississippi Farmers*

- Conducting interviews with small scale farmers across the state of Mississippi to access their perception of adoption of AI and autonomous agriculture on their farms
- Using data from focus groups to understand how different categories of farmers make sense of AI and autonomous agriculture across Mississippi
- Engaging observation of farms, farmers' field days, and other observable events and appearances to compare farmers narratives with real-time experiences of farming in Mississippi

**Master's Thesis:** *Race, Gender and Inheritance: The Experience of Black Farmers in Mississippi*

- Successfully conducted a case study of 20 Black farmers to understand the experience of Black farmers in Mississippi.
- Completed the Institutional Review Board Application
- Conducted 20 in-depth interviews and 20 hours of participant observation.
- Planned research budget.
- Presented research findings to thesis committee and at notable academic conferences.

06/2022

*Summer Research Assistant*

Mississippi State University Starkville, MS, U.S.A

P. I.: Dr. Gabe H. Miller, Mississippi State University, U.S.A. (now with University of Alabama Birmingham)

- Conducted cutting-edge literature review and provided insightful discussion of findings of a manuscript for publication.
- Completed the overall edit of two manuscripts to meet the publication's 'review and resubmit' standard and deadline (article published).

01/2020 - 07/2021

*Research Intern*

Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife, Nigeria

- Participated in qualitative and quantitative data collection for different research projects.
- Transcribed and cleaned qualitative data to make it ready for analysis.

06/2019 - 02/2020

*Student Researcher (Undergraduate Project)*

Research Topic: Attitude of Pregnant Women and Nursing Mothers Towards National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) in Osun State, Nigeria

Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife, Nigeria

- Moderated a focus group discussion, and seven in-depth interviews.
- Analyzed qualitative data with ATLAS.ti

**Other Field Research Experiences**

2020 *Field Worker*; "Community-Based Intervention Program Targeting Single Register for the Poor and Vulnerable Households" - A project of the Osun Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO) & JOSELI Foundation Survey Firm

P.I.: Dr. Joshua Aransiola Professor; Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria.

2020 *Field Research Assistant*; "National Corruption Index Survey" Nigeria

P.I.; Dr. Adebuseyi Adeniran, Professor; Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria

2019 *Field Research Assistant*; "West Africa Electronic Library Project Survey"

A project of the Knowledge Exchange Research Group, USA and Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria.

Pilot Site: Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife, Nigeria; Tayo Owoeye, PhD

## Teaching Experience

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- February 26, 2025 Guest-Lectured “Crime and Social Justice America” class on Social Structure and Inequalities
- March 21, 2025 Guest-Lectured “Introduction to Race and Ethnicity” class on Racial Inequality in Agricultural Systems
- March 24, 2023 Guest Lectured “Introduction to Social Problems” on Black Farmers’ Challenges in Mississippi

08/2021- 12/2023

*Graduate Teaching Assistant*

Mississippi State University Starkville, MS, U.S.A.

- Assisted faculty with grading to aid teaching efficiency and timely grade turnaround.
- Guided students with knowledge-based discussions to aid their understanding of the course materials.
- Engaged in effective communication with students on class related issues.

03/2021 – 07/2021

*Subject/Class Teacher*

Marvelous Group of Schools, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

- Taught ‘Government’ and ‘Civic Education’ for the senior secondary (high school) classes.
- Co-managed a Junior Secondary class as a Class Teacher

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Emoruwa, O. T., Miller, G. H., **Elufisan, G. I.**, Marquez-Velarde, G., Ademule, D., Lindl, H. M., Omisakin, O. A., Ma, G., Hernandez, S. M., & Keith, V. M. (2024). Physical Health Among Black Immigrants by Region of Birth: A Test of the Racial Context Hypothesis. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40615-024-02167-x>
- Park, C. H., Ajayi, J. O., Richards, R. C., Abdul-Bey, K., Chue, B., Coates, J., Blossom, C., Leighninger, M., Fofana, A., **Elufisan, G.**, & Heredia, A. (2023). *2023 Arkansas Civic Health Index*. <https://ncoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Arkansas-CHI-FINAL-11.28.23.pdf>
- Gabe H. Miller, Guadalupe Marques-Velarde, Oluwaseun T. Emoruwa, Nicole E. Jones, Guizhen Ma, Verna M. Keith, **Gbenga I. Elufisan** & Stephanie M. Hernandez, (2022); “Racial Context and Health Behaviors Among Black Immigrants.” *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparity*

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

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### *Conference Presentations*

- 07/31/2025 *Author/Presenter: Farming While Retired: Black Farmers’ Effort to Keep Farming Culture Alive*  
*Rural Sociological Society*
- 04/10/2025 *Author/Presenter: Gender and Black Farmers in Mississippi: “Outside Work” and “Inside Work”*  
*Southern Sociological Society*
- 04/2/2025 *Co-Author/Presenter: A Review of Social Studies of Autonomous Agriculture (A<sup>2</sup>): Status and Recommendations*  
*AI in Agriculture and Natural Conservation Conference*  
**Gbenga Elufisan**, Dr. Diego Thompson, Dr. Xiaofei Li, and Dr. Cindy Bethel
- 07/25/2024 *Co-Author/Presenter: Social Studies of Agricultural Autonomy (A<sup>2</sup>) on Farms: Status and Recommendations*  
*Rural Sociological Society*  
**Gbenga Elufisan** and Dr. Diego Thompson
- 08/03/2023 *Author/Presenter: Farming Challenges in Mississippi: Cooperative, Black Farmers’ Haven*  
*Rural Sociological Society*

- 04/01/2023 *Author/Presenter*; Race, Gender, and Inheritance: The Experience of Black Farmers in Mississippi  
*Southern Sociological Society*
- 04/01/2023 *Co-Author*; Heart Health among Black Immigrants by Region of Birth: A Test of the Racial Context Hypothesis  
*Southern Sociological Society*  
Gabe H Miller; Guadalupe Marquez-Velarde; Oluwaseun Temitope Emoruwa; David Ademule; **Gbenga Idowu Elufisan**; Olusola Omisakin; Guizhen Ma; Stephanie M. Hernandez; Verna Keith

### ***Other Presentations***

- 2020-2021 Analysis of Youth Participation in Politics - Invited radio interview.  
Osun State Broadcasting Corporation, (89.5) F.M., Ile-Ife, Nigeria.
- 10/2020 Panel Discussion: ENDSARS Movement in Nigeria - Invited radio broadcast.  
Osun State Broadcasting Corporation (89.5) F.M., Ile-Ife, Nigeria
- 12/2019 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Sensitization - Invited radio broadcast.  
Osun State Broadcasting Corporation, (89.5 F.M), Ile-Ife, Nigeria

### **PEER REVIEW ROLES**

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- September 2025 – present Reviewer; *Endeavors*, Mississippi State University, U.S.A.
- May 2025 – present Reviewer; *Spectrum: Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Research*, University of Albater, Canada

### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

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- 2024 IPUMS Health Surveys Research Awards (Student Research)
- 2023 Outstanding Master's Student, Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University
- 2019 Outstanding Class Rep of the Year, Nigerian Sociology and Anthropology Students' Association, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria.

### **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

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- 2025 Marion Loftin Ph.D. dissertation data collection grant of \$1500
- 2025 Sociology of Agriculture and Food Research Group (SAFRIG) Travel Award of \$500, Rural Sociological Society
- 2025 Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Travel Award of \$300, Rural Sociological Society
- 2025 Travel Assistance Grant for Graduate Students (TAGGS) of \$700, Graduate School, Mississippi State University
- 2024 Marion Loftin Conference Travel Grant of \$1676.25, Marion Loftin Funds; Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University
- 2023 Graduate Student Travel Grant of \$250, Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University
- 2023 Research Grant of \$250, Race and Racism Working Group; Mississippi State University
- 2023 Marion Loftin Conference Travel Grant of \$700  
Marion Loftin Funds; Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University
- 2023 Graduate Student Travel Grant of \$400  
College of Arts & Sciences, Mississippi State University
- 2023 Graduate Student Travel Grant of \$250  
Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University
- 2022 Marion Loftin master's thesis data collection grant of \$1500  
Marion Loftin Funds; Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University
- 2018 Flickers of Hope Scholarship Award of ₦20,050  
Flickers of Hope Foundation, Nigeria

## **UNIVERSITY & COMMUNITY SERVICE**

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2025 – present	Mentor, <i>Graduate Student Peer Mentorship Program</i> , Mississippi State University
2024 – present	Mentor, <i>Graduate School Application and Career Development</i> , Edufurther
2024 - present	Graduate Student Representative, <i>Strategic Initiative Committee (SIC)</i> , College of Arts and Science, Mississippi State University.
2023 – present	Member, <i>Dean's Graduate Student Advisory Committee</i> , College of Arts and Science, Mississippi State University.
2023 – 2024	Member, <i>Standing Committee on Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion</i> , Rural Sociology Society, U.S.A.
2022 - 2023	Volunteer; <i>Maroon Volunteer Centre</i> ; Mississippi State University I volunteered for the MLK Day of Service at the Salvation Army;
2019	Volunteer, <i>United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Family Activation</i> in Ile-Ife, Nigeria, December 14-17.
2017 - 2019	Committee Member, <i>Annual Sociology and Anthropology Conference</i> , Nigerian Sociology and Anthropology Students' Association (NSASA), Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria.
2016 - 2020	Students Representative, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria.

## **PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING**

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January 2024	Certificate of Completion; Responsible Conduct of Research, CITI Program
June 2023	Certificate of Completion; Data Science, Arkansas Summer Research Institute
December 2022	Certificate of Completion; Accelerate to Industry, Mississippi State University
August 2021	Certificate of Completion; CITI Human Research
August 2021	Certificate of Completion; Graduate Teaching Assistant Workshop & Classroom Teaching Certificate, Mississippi State University
July 2020.	Certificate of Attendance; Introduction to Qualitative Research; ATLAS.ti.
June 2020.	Certificate of Attendance; The Book Publishing Process; Elsevier.
May–June 2020	Certificate of Achievement; Jobberman Soft-Skills Training; Jobberman.
May 2020.	Certificate of Attendance; Grounded Theory with ATLAS.ti; ATLAS.ti;
February–April 2019	Certificate of Completion, Research Writing in Social Sciences; INASP.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

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2022 – present	Member; American Sociological Association
2022 – present	Member; Rural Sociology Society
2022 – present	Member; Southern Sociology Society
2021 – present	Member; Race & Racism Working Group
2019 – present	Member; Rising Scholars (formerly AuthorAID) Journal Club for Social Sciences (Africa Hub)

## **LANGUAGES**

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English: Reading, Writing and Speaking; Fluent.  
Yoruba: Reading, Writing and Speaking; Native.

## **REFERENCES**

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Available on Request