



QUALIFICATIONS SUMMARY

Kyela Gadi is a policy researcher and certified Project Management Professional (PMP) with expertise in workforce development policy and program evaluation. She has led and contributed to rigorous impact and implementation studies of public programs, including mapping workforce systems and analyzing labor market outcomes. Her experience spans designing experimental and quasi-experimental studies, conducting policy analysis, and synthesizing findings into actionable insights for stakeholders. Kyela is proficient in data analytics and visualization using R, and NVivo, and brings strong client and team management skills to complex, multi-site projects.

EDUCATION	RELEVANT SKILLS/EXPERTISE
PhD, Public Policy; Georgia State University	• Implementation evaluation of workforce development • Quantitative analysis in R
MSc, Environment and Sustainable Development; University College London	• Qualitative analysis in NVivo • Impact evaluation of higher education finance • Policy analysis
BSc, Biology; Ahmadu Bello University	• Project management • Research outputs – reports, presentations • Hausa language

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate. Abt Global (2024–Present). Atlanta, GA. (Remote)

Associate, RESEA Multi-State Impact Study, DOL (2024–Present). Serve as State Data Liaison involved in designing a multi-state Randomized Controlled Trial to examine the impact of the state reemployment (RESEA) programs on employment, earnings, and UI benefit duration. Contribute to developing procedures for obtaining data from states' unemployment insurance, and workforce systems, and designing random assignment procedures for the study.

Associate, Massachusetts RESEA (2024–Present). Used R packages (such as sf, tidygeocoder, ggplot2, tidyverse) to create a map showing UI claimants' access to reemployment services across workforce development areas in MA. Created maps in R to show UI claimants' access to reemployment services by education level and workforce development area. Participate in building a profiling score model to help MA identify and select individuals who will most benefit from its RESEA program. Train and test models using machine learning algorithms.

Associate, Pathways to Work Clearinghouse, OPRE (2024–Present). Participate in screening and reviewing evidence on interventions targeted at improving employment outcomes for individuals with low incomes for Pathways to Work Clearinghouse.

Associate, SSEEP, USDOL (2024–2025). Collaborate with subject-matter experts to develop evaluation approaches and tools to build evidence on sectoral strategies for engaging employers, diversifying the workforce, and promoting good jobs principles. Lead in the design of technical working groups for SSEEP.

Associate, AAI-TAACCT, USDOL (2024–Present). Contribute to updating plans for the long-term outcome study of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCT) grant program and the American Apprenticeship Initiative (AAI) grant program. Participate in organizing Technical Working Groups for the study.



Associate, CLEAR ARISE, (2024–Present). Participate in ongoing efforts to grow evidence on labor and employment in U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)’s Clearinghouse for Labor Evaluation and Research (CLEAR) through study evidence reviews.

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT WORK HISTORY

Graduate Research Assistant. Georgia Policy Labs. (2021–2024). Atlanta, GA.

- Conducted implementation evaluation of the U.S. Department of Labor’s Strengthening Community Colleges Grant awarded to Savannah Technical College and a consortium of technical colleges in Georgia to implement micro-credential programs in healthcare, manufacturing, and information technology. Use R packages to create a map showing GA counties served by technical college grantees. Interviewed college administrators and staff. Prepared interim evaluation report for USDOL. Mentored undergraduate scholars.

PhD Student Researcher. Georgia State University – Department of Public Management and Policy. (2019–2024). Atlanta, GA.

- Conducted impact evaluation of higher education finance policies using quasi-experimental methods, including difference-in-differences, and event study analysis of free tuition scholarships, performance-based funding, and tuition freezes. Created a map in R to show the implementation of performance-based funding policies in higher education across U.S. states. Taught Applied Policy Analysis to undergraduate students.

Program Manager. Center for Policy Research and Development Solutions. (2013–2019). Abuja, Nigeria.

- Managed multiple international donor-funded grants and contracts for strengthening the effectiveness of public and non-profit organizations in education, healthcare, and financial services for the poor, including funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation.

Research Assistant. Earth Institute at Columbia University. (2013–2013). Abuja, Nigeria.

- Coordinated local planning activities for the Conditional Grants Scheme to Local Governments for the Nigeria Scale-Up project involving local and state governments in Nigeria and the technical team in New York.

Research Associate. Millennium Development Goals Office (The Presidency). (2010–2011). Abuja, Nigeria.

- Coordinated a nationwide survey of over 6,000 Nigerian civil servants on public sector management and service delivery in the social sector areas of health, education, agriculture, and water and sanitation in local, state, and federal government institutions.

RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

- Gadi, K. & Ribar, D. (2023, May). Savannah Technical College: Strengthening Community Colleges through Micro-credentialing. Georgia Policy Labs’ Interim Evaluation Report to U.S. Department of Labor.

RELEVANT PRESENTATIONS

- Gadi, K. (2024). Free to Attend Plus Extra Revenue to Earn? College Enrollment at the Nexus of Multiple Incentives in Tennessee’s Community Colleges. Paper presentation at the



Association of Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) annual conference. Baltimore, Maryland.

- Gadi, K. (2024). Money Matters! Effects of Performance-Based Funding on Institutional Expenditures in Public Four-Year Institutions. Paper presentation at the Public Management Research Conference (PMRC) annual conference. Seattle, Washington.
- Gadi, K. (2023). Performance-Based Funding: Does Funding Level Impact Outcomes of 2-Year Colleges? Paper presentation at the Association of Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) annual conference. Denver, Colorado.
- Capers, K. J. & Gadi, K. (2023). Institutional Determinants of Labor Market Outcomes of Black College Graduates. Paper presentation at the American Society for Public Administrators (ASPA) annual conference. Online/Virtual.
- Gadi, K. (2023). Nigeria Student Loans Act 2023: The Paradox of Policy Innovations. Policy dialogue on global issues at the 2023 International Education Week. Georgia State University. Atlanta, Georgia
- Gadi, K. (2023). Performance-Based Funding: Does Funding Level Impact Outcomes of 2-Year Colleges? Poster presentation at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) annual conference. Atlanta, Georgia.
- Capers, K. J. & Gadi, K. (2022). Where Do Black Students Thrive? Institutional Determinants of PostBA Labor Market Outcomes. Paper presentation at the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) annual conference. Chicago, Illinois/Online.
- Gadi, K. (2020). Beyond Learning Outcomes to Life Outcomes: Implications of Postsecondary Education on Market and Non-Market-Related Outcomes of Individuals in Nigeria. Paper presentation at the National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS) annual conference. Atlanta, Georgia.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Dan E. Sweat Dissertation Fellowship, 2023 – 2024
- AYSPS Dissertation Fellowship, 2024
- William M. Suttles Fellowship, 2022
- Academy of Management – Conference Registration for Doctoral Consortium (Public and Nonprofit Division), 2022
- Carolyn Young Fellowship, 2019 – 2021
- Alumni Innovation Engagement Fund – US State Department, 2017
- Fellow, American University Summer Diversity Academy, 2024
- Fellow, Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders – US State Department, 2016
- PTDF Overseas Scholarship, Government of Nigeria, 2011 – 2012

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Association for Education and Finance Policy



- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
- American Society for Public Administrators (ASPA)
- Public Management Research Conference
- Midwest Political Science Association

CERTIFICATIONS

- Project Management Professional (PMP)
- CITI Program Certification in Social & Behavioral Research