FLORENT NKOUAGA

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Education

The University of New Mexico	**Albuquerque, NM, U.S.A.**
Ph.D. in Political Science; M.A. in Political Science	*Jan. 2018 – Dec. 2022*

- Ph.D. Concentration: Public Policy Analysis & American Politics
- M.A. Concentration: Quantitative Research Methods in Public Policy
- Key Courses: Mixed-Method Research, Survey design & analysis, Policy Formulation & Evaluation, Health Policy, Human security, Race & Ethnic politics, Comparative politics

School of Citizenship & Politics of Yaounde	**Yaounde, Center-region, Cameroon**
Graduate Certificate in Democracy, Human Rights, and Regional Studies	*Mar. 2015 – Aug. 2015*

The University of Jean Moulin Lyon III	**Lyon, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, France**
M.A. in International Affairs	*Sep. 2012 – Dec. 2014*

- Concentration: Globalization & National Security Studies
- Key Courses: International Finance, International Trades, Diplomacy, Sustainable Development, Population politics

The University of Yaounde II	**Yaounde, Center-region, Cameroon**
M.Sc. in Applied Economics; B.S. in Economics & Management	*Sep. 2007 – Aug. 2012*

- M.Sc. Concentration: Mathematics & Financial Economics
- B.S. Concentration: Economics Engineering
- Key Courses: Financial Economics, Econometrics, Time series forecasting, Corporate Finance, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics

Soa High School	**Yaounde, Center-region, Cameroon**
High School Diploma in Biology and Natural Science	*Sep. 2000 – Jun. 2007*

Experience

National Association of Insurance Commissioner (NAIC)	**Kansas City, MO, U.S.A.**
Postdoctoral Researcher – Behavioral Science	*Oct. 2023 – Present*

- Develop and maintain comprehensive documentation of all research activities, ensuring adherence to both internal and external data management and research protocols, facilitating accurate and reliable data collection and analysis.
- Lead a study on Long-term Care Insurance Reduced Benefit Options (R.B.O.), acting as the Principal Investigator. This involved coordinating with national representatives, designing the research framework, and analyzing data to inform policy decisions on care insurance models.
- Apply advanced econometric and quasi-experimental methods to estimate the causal effects of behavioral interventions on insurance choices, enhancing the scientific understanding of consumer behavior in insurance markets.
- Conduct a nationwide analysis of race-related barriers to health insurance, utilizing nationally representative datasets to identify disparities and develop strategies for improving access to insurance.
- Lead a financial inclusion survey focusing on racial barriers to life and health insurance, identifying key factors contributing to inequity and proposing actionable solutions.
- Analyze high-frequency datasets to model structural causal relationships, providing insights into the dynamics of health insurance markets and informing the development of more effective insurance products and policies.
- Performed qualitative analysis of health-related complaints using the grounded theory method, identifying patterns and trends to improve insurance services for underserved communities.
- Promoted research on network adequacy, insurance coverage, and the impact of environmental policies on insurance protection, contributing to policy discussions and regulatory changes.

New Mexico Superintendent of Insurance	**Albuquerque, NM, U.S.A.**
Senior Healthcare Actuarial Analyst	*Jan. 2023 – Oct. 2023*

- Review and determine rate filings from insurance carriers, ensuring compliance with state regulations and fairness in rate-setting practices. This involved detailed analysis of proposed rates, direct communication with carriers, and final approval or disapproval decisions.
- Prepare and review actuarial reserves and assumptions as part of audit support activities, providing expert analysis of health care and group insurance liabilities across different accounting bases to ensure financial stability and compliance.
- Modeled and evaluated the return on investment for various medical management initiatives, leveraging statistical analysis to inform strategic decision-making and optimize health plan performance.

- Analyzed managed healthcare compliance issues, including surprise billing and mental health parity, offering insights and recommendations to improve industry practices and enhance consumer protection.

New Mexico Department of Health   Albuquerque, NM, U.S.A.
Public Health Data Scientist   *May 2021 – Dec 2022*
- Conduct a cross-functional team to enhance COVID-19 variant data collection methods, significantly improving the state's response to pandemic threats through advanced data analytics techniques.
- Direct the comprehensive collection, compilation, and analysis of diverse health datasets, employing statistical methods and relational databases to provide actionable insights for public health strategies.
- Implement rigorous data quality management and assurance practices, ensuring the accuracy and reliability of public health data used in critical decision-making processes.
- Developed and deployed sophisticated statistical models to streamline data linkage and automate collection processes, boosting efficiency and reducing manual data entry errors.
- Conduct in-depth analysis of notifiable diseases, identifying trends and patterns that inform the development of targeted public health interventions.
- Play a pivotal role in scaling and modifying existing datasets to meet evolving research needs, enabling more comprehensive public health studies.
- Co-author the Variant of Concern report, influencing state policy decisions and public health guidelines to address COVID-19 variant spread effectively.
- Analyze socioeconomic factors associated with breakthrough COVID-19 cases, providing critical insights that shaped equitable public health responses.
- Pioneer the use of data linkage, matching, merging, and spatial analysis techniques to enhance public health surveillance systems and outbreak response strategies.
- Execute detailed data analysis for facility reports on matched and sequenced COVID-19 cases, contributing to the state's understanding and management of the pandemic.

I.E.P. of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP)   New York City, NY, U.S.A.
Research Evaluator   *Jul. 2021 – Nov. 2021*
- Lead the preparation and extraction of coded data using Nvivo, enhancing the analysis of UNDP evaluation reports for projects in the Sahel region.
- Conducted detailed coding of UNDP evaluations, uncovering critical insights into the effectiveness of ongoing development projects and suggesting areas for improvement.
- Identify and analyze redundant patterns in assessing Sahel countries, leading to optimized development aid and intervention strategies.
- Formulate and enforce rigorous quality assurance procedures, elevating the standard of research project reviews and ensuring consistency across evaluations.
- Utilize Nvivo for the advanced analysis of extracted coded data, enabling deeper understanding and strategic planning for UNDP initiatives.
- Employ qualitative evaluation techniques, including the grounded theory method, to dissect complex datasets, revealing underlying patterns and informing program adjustments.
- Implement the theory of change approach in the evaluation process, providing a robust framework for assessing project impacts and outcomes.
- Compile and report evaluation findings in both French and English, broadening the reach of insights and facilitating informed decision-making within the UNDP.

University of New Mexico (U.N.M.)   Oct. 2017 – Dec. 2022
Research & Professional Roles   *Albuquerque, NM, U.S.A.*
- Engage in a wide array of research, evaluation, and economic analysis across diverse departments, including the Center for Participatory Research, Department of Political Science, Evaluation Lab/All Faiths Children's Advocacy Center, and the Advance Project.
- Lead and contribute to evaluation and strategic planning initiatives targeting budgetary improvements, policy development, and grant management to align with organizational goals and meet compliance standards.
- Design and develop advanced research methodologies and data collection tools, enabling collaborative evaluations in indigenous communities and academic environments.
- Play a crucial role in data analysis projects, such as the U.S. presidential pre-election survey and studies on New Mexico's electoral and environmental issues, employing sophisticated statistical software like Nvivo and R.
- Develop and deliver training programs on research methods and evaluation practices to enhance the skills of team members and improve project results.
- Implement the Community-Based Participatory Research approach in several projects, fostering stakeholder engagement and promoting collaborative research methodologies.

- Contribute to the academic community as a teaching assistant across various political science courses, underscoring a dedication to educational excellence and mentorship.
- Communicate intricate research findings to a broad audience via conference presentations, scientific publications, and detailed project reports, propelling the advancement of the field and facilitating informed decision-making.

State Department of Arts and Culture of Cameroon   Aug. 2015 – Dec. 2015
Economist   *Yaounde, Center-region, Cameroon*
- Analyze collected data using R and Stata for mathematical modeling, driving policy decisions and strategic planning in the cultural sector.
- Continuously assess the status of cultural cooperation between Cameroon and other countries, fostering international partnerships and cultural exchange.
- Project government revenues for the Bureau of Cultural Affairs, supporting program funding and activity planning with accurate financial forecasts.
- Recommend strategic improvements in the cooperation sector, enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of cultural initiatives.
- Evaluate the costs of arts and cultural services for the population, leveraging both internal and external data sources to inform budget allocations and service delivery.
- Provide ongoing independent analysis to align with policy objectives, offering insights into financing, programming options, and their financial implications.
- Develop and deliver presentations to professional organizations, government entities, and the public, advocating for the importance of arts and culture in societal development.

State Department of Youth and Civic Education of Cameroon   Yaounde, Cameroon
Economist   *Aug. 2014 – Dec. 2014*
- Design and administer surveys to assess factors influencing graduates' unemployment rates, guiding policy reforms and support programs.
- Analyze the job market in Central Africa, providing insights that shape youth employment policies and initiatives.
- Prepare quarterly budget projections for youth employment programs, advocating for resources to support employment assistance efforts.
- Forecasts market unemployment trends, aiding in developing targeted interventions to reduce graduate unemployment.

Mashiyat Volonte Development NGO   Yaounde, Cameroon
Program Manager   *Aug. 2007 – Dec. 2012*
- Oversee the planning and execution of local development programs in Soa, significantly improving community access to education and health services.
- Coordinate the formulation, organization, and monitoring of interconnected projects, elevating child and youth development outcomes in the rural area of Soa.
- Manage deadlines, budgets, and project activities, ensuring the successful delivery of community development initiatives within allocated resources.
- Evaluate program performance to maximize return on investment, leading to sustainable community development and enhanced youth engagement.
- Develop and implement training programs for new animators, expanding the reach and effectiveness of youth group programs and community outreach efforts.
- Administer a tutoring program for students from middle school to high school, contributing to improved educational outcomes in the community.

Volunteering

Bahai World Center NGO   Haifa, Israel
Logistics Officer   *June 2011 – Aug. 2011*
- Develop comprehensive logistics plans, including budget requirements and operation timelines, ensuring efficient deployment of new initiatives.
- Design and implement standard operating procedures for logistics management, enhancing operational efficiency and reducing lead times.
- Participate in technical survey missions, assessing and addressing the logistics needs for new assignments, optimizing resource allocation.
- Negotiate transportation costs, achieving cost-effective logistics solutions while maintaining quality and timeliness.

Bahai World Center NGO   Haifa, Israel
Logistics Assistant   *June 2008 – Aug. 2008*
- Enter and update data in the logistics database, maintaining accurate and current inventory records.
- Weigh and label items correctly, ensuring compliance with shipping regulations and standards.
- Calculate storage and clearance costs, contributing to budget management and cost control measures.
- Perform final checks on items for defects, maintaining quality control and ensuring the integrity of materials shipped.

Peer-reviewed Articles

Frontiers in Political Science | *Volume 6, Pages 1370243*   **2024**
- Nkouaga, Florent. (2024). Exploring the link between public health compliance and voting patterns in the 2020 U.S. presidential election. *Frontiers in Political Science*, 6. DOI: 10.3389/fpos.2024.1370243

International Journal of Business & Management Studies | *Volume 5, No. 4, Pages 68–85*   **2024**
- Nkouaga, Florent. (2024). Navigating Disability Insurance Uptake: The Complex Interplay of Consumer Confidence, Human Capital, and Financial Perceptions. *International Journal of Business & Management Studies*, 5(4), 68-85. DOI: 10.56734/ijbms.v5n4a6

Clinical Infectious Diseases   **2023**
- Co-authored: Ko, J. Y., Pham, H., Anglin, O., Chai, S. J., Alden, N. B., Meek, J., Anderson, E. J., et al. (2023). Vaccination status and trends in adult coronavirus disease 2019–associated hospitalizations by race and ethnicity: March 2020–August 2022. *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, 77(6), 827-838.

MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report   **2022**
- Co-authored: Marks, K. J. (2022). Hospitalizations of children and adolescents with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19—COVID-NET, 14 states, July 2021–January 2022. *MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 71.

MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report   **2022**
- Co-authored: Taylor, C. A. (2022). COVID-19–associated hospitalizations among adults during SARS-CoV-2 delta and omicron variant predominance, by race/ethnicity and vaccination status—COVID-NET, 14 states, July 2021–January 2022. *MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 71.

MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report   **2022**
- Co-authored: Marks, K. J. (2022). Hospitalization of infants and children aged 0–4 years with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19—COVID-NET, 14 states, March 2020–February 2022. *MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 71.

MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report   **2022**
- Co-authored: Singson, J. R. C. (2022). Factors associated with severe outcomes among immunocompromised adults hospitalized for COVID-19—COVID-NET, 10 states, March 2020–February 2022. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 71.

MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report   **2022**
- Co-authored: Hamid, S. (2022). COVID-19–Associated Hospitalizations Among US Infants Aged 6 Months—COVID-NET, 13 States, June 2021–August 2022. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 71.

MMWR: Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report   **2022**
- Co-authored: Roland, J., Austin, E., Kawasaki, B., Meek, J., Yousey-Hindes, K., Anderson, E., Openo, K., et al. (2022). Prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 and Influenza Coinfection and Clinical Characteristics Among Children and Adolescents Aged¡ 18 Years Who Were Hospitalized or Died with Influenza-United States, 2021-22 Influenza Season. *MMWR: Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report*, 71(50).

Analysis of the New Mexico Family Wellness Program   **2020**
- Co-authored: Fuentes, C. D., Nkouaga, F., & Linares Koloffon, C. (2020). ALL FAITHS CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER.

Manuscripts & Reports

Evaluator Specialist | *Quartz Valley Indian Reservation (QVIR) Youth and Family TREE, California, U.S.A.* **2021 – 2022**
- Prepared the final report on "Enhancement & Expansion of Treatment & Recovery Services for Adolescents, Transitional Aged Youth, & their Families Year 3 Report," providing insights into service improvements and recovery outcomes for youth.

Research Analyst | *Center For The Study of Voting, Elections, and Democracy, New Mexico, U.S.A.*   **2019 – 2020**
- Authored the "2018 Election Administration, Security, and Election Reform Selected Frequency Report," led by Lonna Rae Atkeson. This report provides a detailed analysis of voting patterns and security measures.

Dissertation & Thesis

Dissertation | *Department of Political Science* | *University of New Mexico – USA* **Fall 2022**
- **Title:** "Understanding the Interconnection between Public Health and Political Behaviors in a Politically Polarized Context: The Impact of Race, Political Attitudes, and Policy Factors on the US COVID-19 Pandemic Response."
- This study examines the complex interplay between public health issues and political behavior, highlighting how racial, attitudinal, and policy factors influence pandemic responses.

Thesis | *Department of Political Science* | *University of New Mexico – USA* **Fall 2020**
- **Title:** "Public Attitudes toward Economic Governance and Presidential Approval in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Case of Ghana."
- This thesis explores the relationship between economic governance practices and presidential approval, focusing on Ghana as a case study.

Thesis | *Department of International Affair* | *University of Lyon III – France* **Fall 2014**
- **Title:** "Perceptions and Representation of Francophone Soft Power as a Model for Conflict Prevention in Sub-Saharan Africa: From Formulation to Implementation."

Skills

- **Statistical & Data Analysis Software:** Proficient in S.A.S., Stata, R, Python, and SQL for complex data analysis and visualization.

- **Qualitative Research Tools:** Skilled in using Nvivo and Remark Office O.M.R. for qualitative data analysis and survey design.

- **Survey & Research Platforms:** Experienced in creating and managing surveys with Qualtrics, Redcap, and utilizing SERFF and NMEDSS for research and reporting.

- **Document Preparation Systems:** Competent in preparing scientific and academic documents with LaTeX.

- **Microsoft Office Suite:** Advanced proficiency in Excel, Word, PowerPoint, and Publisher for professional document preparation and presentation.

- **Languages:** Fluent in French and English with advanced communication skills in Bulu, enhancing cross-cultural communication and collaboration.

Honors & Awards

U.N.M. - Summer 2021: NSSP/CTSP/CSHS National Security Summer Research Analysis Paper Award for outstanding research paper on national security implications.

U.N.M. - Fall 2020: Evaluation Lab Scholarship awarded for excellence in program evaluation and management.

U.N.M. - Summer 2020: UNM-Advance Scholarship, recognizing contributions to advancing diversity and inclusion in academic research.

U.N.M. - Spring 2019: Center for Teaching and Learning Scholarship for innovative teaching methods and commitment to student success.

U.N.M. - Spring 2018: Amigo Scholarship Award for exceptional academic performance and leadership on campus.

UYII Republic of Cameroon - 2010/2011: Presidential Scholarship Award for research excellence and leadership in community projects.