

Chibundo Egwuatu

Washington, D.C. | ChibundoEgwuatu@gmail.com | (813) 404-0236

Community Organizer | Anthropologist | Political Strategist

Anthropologist and organizer with over eight years of experience leading resource development, coalition building, and policy strategy for campaigns advancing identity-related, economic, and technological justice. Raised over \$280,000 in public and private funding to support sex worker and drug user advocacy, survivor-led initiatives, and harm reduction programs. Skilled in grant writing, funder relations, program design, and collaborative storytelling. Deeply committed to power-building in marginalized communities and advancing tech justice rooted in community liberation.

EDUCATION

In Progress PhD in Sociocultural Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

MA in Sociocultural Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

BA in Sociocultural Anthropology, University of Central Florida

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Neumann Nexus | Chief Humanitarian Officer | *Washington, D.C.* | **2025 – Present**

- Leads the development and integration of ethical frameworks, social impact initiatives, and purpose-driven science and policy strategies for community-centered AI.
- Bridges research, advocacy, and interdisciplinary approaches to center equity, justice, and human well-being in all community tech projects.
- Collaborates with executive leadership to align organizational mission with transformative, community-centered outcomes.

Sex Worker Advocates Coalition (SWAC) | Organizer | *Washington, D.C.* | **2025**

- Lead strategic planning and development of the coalition's evolving advocacy goals.
- Wrote foundation grants and unrestricted donor funds for staffing, public events, and lived-experience gatherings.
- Coordinated Steering Committee composed of directly impacted experts.
- Represented SWAC in outreach and coalitional advocacy.
- Supported operational infrastructure, internal systems, and external outreach.

DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence | Policy and Systems Change Coordinator | *Washington, D.C.* | **2023 – 2024**

- Led educational and training work integrating harm reduction with domestic violence prevention.
- Produced testimony and rapid-response materials for budget and legislative sessions.
- Supported 18 member organizations through technical assistance and policy education.
- Facilitated a survivor-led advisory board, ensuring trauma-informed engagement.

HIPS | Advocacy Department & SWAC Coordinator | *Washington, D.C.* | **2021 – 2024**

- Directed harm reduction advocacy for sex workers and drug users.
- Fundraised over \$280,000 in general operating and project-specific funds.
- Trained community members, public health staff, and policymakers on nonjudgmental, rights-based harm reduction.
- Coordinated the SWAC coalition, led campaign strategy, and created multilingual public education materials.
- Supervised legal and public health interns and managed relationships with local officials.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign | Graduate Researcher & Teaching Assistant | **2016 – 2021**

- Conducted participatory action research with sex worker organizers and drug user networks.
- Received FLAS, Tinker, and Bailey Fellowships for community-engaged, international harm reduction work.
- Supported courses in anthropology, gender and sexuality studies, and STEM equity.

University of Central Florida – MIT2 Laboratory | Research Associate | **2014 – 2016**

- Participated in human-robot interaction research, data collection, and experiment design.

- Published research on sex work, disability, and technology.
- Contributed to interdisciplinary studies on cognition, affect, and user experience.

PUBLICATIONS

- Yvette Butler, **Chibundo Egwuatu**, Matthew Canham, Ben D. Sawyer (2024). Sex Worker Human Digital Twins and Intellectual Property: On Collaborative Futures for Sex Thinkers, Technologists, and Lawyers. *Porn Studies* (in review).
- **Chibundo Egwuatu**, Zahra Stardust, Mireille Miller-Young, Daisy Ducati, Sinnaon Love (2023). "Curating desire and manufacturing the white gaze: The white supremacist grammar of tagging on Pornhub". *Sexual Racism and Social Justice: Reckoning with White Supremacy and Desire* (edited volume). *Oxford University Press*.
- **Chibundo Egwuatu**, Ben D. Sawyer, Peter A. Hancock (2019). PERSPECTIVES: Digital Influences on Sexual Discourse in Disabled Populations. *Critical Disability Discourses/Discours critiques dans le champ du handicap*, 9.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2024 - 2025 Boreallis CTPF Grant
- 2023 - 2024 Red Umbrella Fund Grant
- 2023 Diverse City Fund Rapid Response Grant
- 2022 Diverse City Fund Fall 2022 Grant
- 2021 Diverse City Fund Fall 2021 Grant
- 2020 - 2021 Humanities Research Institute Reading Group, *Sex Work Activism Reading Group*
- 2020 Illinois Program For Research in the Humanities, Research Cluster Grant, *Collaborator in "Problems in Decolonizing Academia" Cluster*
- 2020 UIUC YMCA, Fred S. Bailey Fellowship for Community Leadership, Service, and Activism, *Graduate Fellow*
- 2020 UIUC Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies, Tinker Foundation Fellowship, *Summer Fellow*
- 2020 UIUC Center for Global Studies, Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, *Award Recipient*
- 2019 UIUC Department of Anthropology, Summer Research Assistance Award, *Award Recipient*
- 2019 UIUC LGBT Resource Center, Graduate Outstanding Innovation Award, *Award Recipient*
- 2016 - 2018 UIUC Graduate College Fellowship, *Graduate Fellow*
- 2016 UIUC Community of Scholars Spring Campus Visit Program, *Award Recipient*
- 2016 UIUC ASPIRE, Fall Early Application and Campus Visit Program, *Award Recipient*

PRESENTATIONS

- Family Values: Understanding the Intersections of Polyamory and the Law. The 2025 Lavender Law Conference. The National LGBTQ+ Bar Association (2025)
- Gender/Sexuality Policing. Collective Liberation Seminar. Indiana University Maurer School of Law (2025)
- [Intersections of Harm Reduction and Domestic Violence](#). NASTAD Webinar (2024)
- Centering the Margins: Expanding Rights for Criminalized LGBTQ+ Sex Workers. The 2024 Lavender Law Conference. The National LGBTQ+ Bar Association (2024)
- Sex Worker Health Session; Domestic Violence and Harm Reduction Session. Southern SSP Institute. (2024)
- Working with Child Welfare. DC Regional Academy on Family Violence. Children's National Hospital (2024)
- Beyond Oregon: The next era of all-drug decriminalization. International Drug Policy Reform Conference (2023)
- [Evil Digital Twins in Influence Operations](#) (Workshop). Misinformation Village. DEFCON (2023)
- Harm Reduction for HIV, Hepatitis, Overdose and Policy Overview. USCHA (US Conference on HIV/AIDS) (2023)
- Sex Workers are Anti-Trafficking Advocates. Freedom Network USA Conference (2023)
- [Radical Nonjudgement in Survivor Advocacy: Harm Reduction in Practice](#). National Survivors Network (2023)
- [Sex Work Decriminalization | Socialist Night School](#). Metro DC DSA (2023)
- [Confronting the Drug War Session 7 \(Drug Decriminalization Amidst Backlash\)](#). Substance Use x COVID-19 Data Collaborative. (2022)
- [On Value Production + Collaborative Futures](#). Decoding Stigma: Designing for Sex Worker Liberatory Futures. The Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society (2021)

- Anthropology AS WORK: Interacademic Labor Solidarities, Roundtable. AAA Raising Our Voices (2020)
- Vigil. Third Annual HGMS Graduate Student Symposium, UIUC (2020)
- Let's Talk About Sex (and Work). 2020 black & latina womxn's summit, UIUC (2020)
- Statecraft: An Assemblage of Love. Graduate Symposium, UIUC (2019)
- Disruptions in the Archive: Sex Work Activism and Digital Methodologies. AES 2019: Ethnographic Futures (2019)
- Proheauxism as Black Liberation Practice: sex work activism and racial justice. Womens Resources Center UIUC: Lunch on Us Dish it Up series (2019)
- Relinquishing Utopia. Wakanda U | The Laboratory of Speculative Ethnology (2018)
- Considerations in Ethics: Citational Justice in Sex Work Research. CSAS/MIDSEM (2018)
- [The Automation of Sex Aids for Disabled Populations](#). Human Factors & Applied Psychology Student Conference. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (2016)

RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2024, ANTH 103 - Anthropology in a Changing World, UIUC | *Teaching Assistant*
- 2021, Native American and Indian Languages Lab (NAIL), with Dr. Jenny Davis, UIUC | *Research Assistant*
- 2020, GWS 202 - Sexualities, UIUC | *Teaching Assistant*
- 2019, GWS 100 - Introduction to Gender and Womens Studies, UIUC | *Teaching Assistant*
- 2019, ANTH 103 - Anthropology in a Changing World, UIUC | *Teaching Assistant*
- 2019, ME 598 - Respectful STEM Outreach, UIUC | *Teaching Assistant*
- 2018, ANTH 246 - Forensic Anthropology, UIUC | *Teaching Assistant*
- 2017 - 2018, The Impacts on Police-Community Relations in a Mid-Sized City, UIUC | *Research Assistant*
- 2014 - 2016, MIT2 Laboratory, University of Central Florida | *Research Assistant*

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

● ***Opioid Settlement Funding & Health Justice*** | NACCHO & CEG, 2023

Trained in best practices for leveraging opioid settlement funds in partnership with local health departments to support evidence-based harm reduction strategies.

● ***Community Organizing & Popular Education Institute*** | Movement Matters, 2023

Completed an intensive program in relationship, constituency, and power building using popular education tools, somatics, and community-centered approaches.

● ***Creative Campaign Development*** | OSF & C4AA, 2023

Gained skills in artistic activism and creative strategy to design impactful campaigns and develop effective prototypes for social justice advocacy.

● ***Naloxone Administration Training*** | HIPS, 2021

Learned practical skills in overdose response, harm reduction, and the cultural dynamics of drug use in Washington, D.C.

● ***Diaspora and Political Research Training*** | Criola & UC Riverside, 2020

Participated in a hemispheric course on Black diaspora politics and developed a research project on harm reduction for Black sex workers across the Americas.

● ***Human-Centered Design for Marginalized Communities*** | Woodhull Freedom Foundation & Curb Cut Design Studio, 2020

Introduced to equity-based human-centered design tools tailored to addressing issues facing marginalized communities.

● ***Pretrial Justice Organizing Training*** | Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice, 2020

Trained in legislative advocacy and public engagement strategies for pretrial justice reform in Illinois.

● ***Harm Reduction & Outreach Training*** | HIPS DC, 2019

Completed 40+ hours of training in harm reduction services, micro-counseling, hotline work, and street outreach with drug users and sex workers.

● ***Black Sex Workers & HIV Advocacy Training*** | WAV, 2018

Developed harm reduction strategies and policy advocacy tools addressing HIV criminalization and public health for Black sex workers.

● ***Doula Training*** | DONA Curriculum (Community-Led), 2017

Trained in pregnancy, labor, and postpartum care, with practical application supporting birthing individuals through post-birth complications.

COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- [Grammy's Place](#), Board Member
- [Law and Society Association](#), Member
- [DC LGBTQ+ Budget Coalition](#), Member
- [Fair Budget Coalition DC](#), Former Community Safety Issue Group Co-Chair
- [DecrimPoverty DC](#), Former Member
- [Crisis Response DC Coalition](#), Former Member
- [Community Oversight of Surveillance - DC](#), Former Member
- [Decoding Stigma](#), Member
- [UIUC Graduate Employees Organization](#), Former Steward Committee Co-chair, Co-President, Officer-at-Large
- [Champaign County Bail Out Coalition](#), Former Member
- [Build Programs Not Jails](#), Former Coordinating Committee Member

REFERENCES: *Available upon request*