

Economic Development Advisory Committee

Applicant Package - City of Gainesville Representative

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Term 27 Sep 2024 - 30 Sep 2027

Positions Available 1

Number of applicants in this package 1

- Odera, Levy

Name: Odera, Levy

Address: 4500 NW 31ST Avenue, Gainesville, Florida, 32606

Email: oderalevy@gmail.com

Board Name: Economic Development Advisory Committee

Primary Phone:

3526424319

Please list any civic and professional accomplishments/honors, training or experience related to this appointment::

I hold a PhD in Political Science, which focuses on political economic development. I also hold a Bachelor's degree in Business Economics Degree and a Master of Public Administration degree, which focused on local economic issues in the U.S. I did an internship in the Atlanta City Council (President's Office). Currently volunteering in The LAND Mentoring program in East Gainesville, which focuses on improving food security in East Gainesville; I am working with The LAND Mentoring team on designing a food security project for East Gainesville; served as mentor in the MOTIV8U program that mentors middle school boys to improve school performance; I currently run an organization that equips youth with systems thinking skills for community development work, which includes guiding them to do community development work; this organization is currently partnering with The Land Mentoring program.

Please list any current/previous Advisory Board appointments:

None

What Contributions do you feel you could make if you were selected to this board?:

1) I specialize in engaging youth in community development work, including equipping them with systems thinking skills for doing so. Hence, I will be able to contribute in work that seeks to engage youth. 2) I am currently teaching a course on how to design policies for sustainable development, and will bring insights that I have acquired from teaching the course; 3) I specialize on guiding individuals and organizations on how to use systems thinking to tackle complex social problems, and will bring insights that I have learned for almost 8 years to the economic development work; 4) I have taught and facilitate economic development work in Kenya and will bring insights that I have learned on how to achieve economic development policy goals.

Please Agree with the following statements:

I understand this application is the property of Alachua County and subject to public records laws. I hereby certify that the statements made on this application are true and correct. I understand that Appointees to advisory board/committees are required to attend scheduled meetings as specified in the "Guidelines for Citizen Advisory Boards and Committees". I understand that some boards and committees require Financial Disclosure (Chapter 112, Florida Statutes) and I am willing to file if required. I affirm that my personal and business (if applicable) affairs within Alachua County are in substantial compliance with all county regulatory and taxing authorities rules and regulations?:

Yes

Note: This question is for the Gainesville-Alachua County Airport Authority Board

Do you currently hold any publicly elected office in the State of Florida?:

No

Note: This question is for the Gainesville-Alachua County Airport Authority Board

Have you, as yourself or as an employee, agent or consultant for another person or legal entity, transacted business with the authority within the last 3 years?:

No

Are you currently serving, or have you ever served, on an Alachua County advisory board? :

No

Time of Submission: 11/15/24 3:29:18 PM

Attachments

- L. Odera CV_2024-November.pdf

C.V.
Levy Charles Odera, Ph.D.

Education

Ph.D., Political Science, University of Florida, 2013
Major Field: Comparative Politics
Minor Field: Research Methodology

M.A., Political Science, University of Florida, 2010

M.P.A., Valdosta State University, 2006

B.B.A (Economics), Valdosta State University, 2006

B.A., Political Science, Valdosta State University, 2005

Teaching Experience

Instructor, Villars Institute, Villars-sun-Ollon, Switzerland, January 2024-February 2024.

- Facilitated a course on *Collaborating for Change*

Instructor, Villars Institute, Villars-sun-Ollon, Switzerland, September 2023-October 2023.

- Facilitated a course on *Applying Systems Thinking*

Associate Professor, College of Social Sciences, Minerva University, San Francisco, CA, June 2023-Present.

- Policy Pathways to Sustainable Development Goals Track Lead, Minerva University Japan Sustainability Lab, August 2024 - Present.
- Curriculum and Pedagogy Lead, College of Social Sciences, August 2022-present.
- Faculty DEI Committee Chairperson, August 2022 - Present.
- Co-Chair, Minerva University DEI Committee, May 2023 - Present.

Adjunct Lecturer, Masters in Sustainable Development Practice, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, August 2022 - December 2022.

Assistant Professor, College of Social Sciences, Minerva University, San Francisco, CA, August 2016-June 2023.

- Curriculum and Pedagogy Lead, College of Social Sciences, August 2022-present.
- Faculty DEI Committee Chairperson, August 2022 - Present.
- Track Lead, College of Social Sciences, May 2018-May 2022.

Adjunct Lecturer, *Poverty and Development in Africa*, University of Florida, Center for African Studies, Fall 2013.

Adjunct Lecturer, *African Experience*, University of Florida, Center for African Studies, Summer 2013.

Instructor, *Poverty and Development in Africa*, University of Florida, Center for African Studies, Spring 2012.

Instructor, *African Experience*, University of Florida, Center for African Studies, Summer 2012.

Teaching Assistant for Dr. Renata Serra, *African Experience*, University of Florida, Center for African Studies, Fall, 2011

Teaching Assistant for Dr. Patricia Woods, *Comparative Politics*, University of Florida, Department of Political Science, Spring, 2010.

Teaching Assistant for Professor Bryon Moraski, *Comparative Politics*, University of Florida, Department of Political Science, Fall, 2009.

Professional Experience

Founder and President, Systems Acumen for Youth-Led Development Solutions (SAYDS), June 2018 - Present

Program Ambassador, MOTIV8U of North Central Florida, January 2024 - August 2024

- Program Design and Implementation

Academic Program Manager, Minerva Project, July 2021 - July 2022

- Global Citizen Year
 - Course Management
- Miami University
 - Co-coordinated Program Design
- University of South California
 - Course Management
 - Instructor for Masters Course
- Libertad University
 - Program Design

Research Assistant, Center for African Studies, Sub-Saharan Africa Business Environment Report Project University of Florida, January 2015 – August 2015

Post-Doctoral Associate, Center for Public Issues Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Florida, January 2014 – July 2014

Research Assistant, Center for Public Issues Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Florida, April 2013 – January 2014

Research Assistant, Center for African Studies, Sub-Saharan Africa Business Environment Report Project University of Florida, August 2012 – May 2013

Consultant, Duke University – Department of Political Science, Research project on “Democratic Accountability and Citizen-Politician Linkage” in Kenya: A study conducted by Prof. Herbert Kitschelt, March 2008 – September 2008

Consultant, Boys and Girls Club of Valdosta, Georgia, March 2006

Research Assistant, Strategic Research and Analysis Department -Valdosta State University, August 2006 – December 2006

Research Assistant, Political Science Department-Valdosta State University, August 2005–December 2006.

Presentations & Workshops

“Active Learning Strategies Targeting Student Impact for Liberal Arts Faculty”, workshop conducted at Northwest Florida State College, Niceville Florida, September 27, 2019.

“Minerva Schools At KGI: Faculty Development For Fully Active Teaching Aid Learning” (with Joshua Fost, James Genone, and Trisha Stan), presented at the Academic Resource Conference, Burlingame, CA, April 25-27, 2018.

“Microenterprise Adaptation to Devolution in Kenya: Examining Three Years of Change” (with Erica Odera and Michael Shiroya), presented at the African Studies Association 60th Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, November 16-18, 2017.

“Improving the Poors’ Small Business Outcomes through Strengthening the Microfinance ‘Group Loan Approach’” (with Heejin Ahn), presented at the 2015 International Conference on Sustainable Development, Columbia University, New York, September 23-24, 2015.

“Devolution of Power and New Institutional Structures in Kenya: An Assessment of the Experiences of Small Entrepreneurs” (with Michael Shiroya), presented at the 57th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Indianapolis, November 20-23, 2014.

“Comparing the Effect of Microfinance Institutions’ Rules and Informal Sector Borrowers’ Rules on Late Payments and Default Rates in Kenya”, presented at the 55th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Philadelphia, November 29 – December 2, 2012.

“Comparing the Effect of Microfinance Institutions’ Rules on Late Payments and the Implications for State Development Policy in Kenya”, presented at the 36th Annual National Council for Black Studies, Atlanta, March 7 – 10, 2012.

“Urban Development’s Moderating Effect on Clientelism: A Comparative Analysis of Clientelism in Kenya’s Three Cities”, presented at the 54th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Washington D.C., November 17 – 19, 2011.

“Citizen-Politician Linkages in the Informal Sector in Kenya: When are Politicians Most Likely to be Responsive to Citizens”, presented at APSA Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, September, 1 – 4, 2011.

“The Political Impact of Business Organizations in Kenya’s Informal Sector: The Influence of Social Network Structure on Citizen-Politician Linkages” (with Dominic Lisanti), presented at the 68th Annual Midwest Political Science Association National Conference in Chicago, IL, April 22 - 25, 2010.

“Politics of the Informal Sector in Kenya”, presented at University of Florida Center for African Studies, SASA Lunch, March 25, 2009.

“The Positive Effect of Judicial Independence on the Electoral Performance of Minority Parties in Africa”, presented at the 51st Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Chicago, IL, November 13-16, 2008.

“Democratizing Despite Deep Social Divisions: The Positive Impact of Caste System on India’s Democracy”, presented at the Valdosta State University 11th Annual Symposium on Undergraduate Research, Valdosta, GA, April 15, 2005.

“Democratization in Africa”, presented at the Valdosta State University 10th Annual Symposium on Undergraduate Research, Valdosta, GA, April 15, 2004.

Publications

Odera, L., Lamm, A.J., Odera, E., Duryea, M., and Davis, J. 2015. “Understanding How Research Experiences Foster Undergraduate Research Skill Development and Influences Stem Career Choice.” *NACTA Journal*, 59 (3): 180-188.

Odera, Levy. 2013. “The Role of Trust as an Informal Institution in the informal Sector in Africa.” *Africa Development*, 38 (3&4): 121-146.

Odera, L., Anita Spring, and Robert Rolfe. “The Sub-Saharan Africa Business Environment, 2012-2013: Development and Sustainability in Africa Business.” In PD Rwelamila and Anita Spring, eds. *Proceedings of the International Academy of African Business & Development*, 2014.

Odera, L., Anita Spring, and Robert Rolfe. *Sub-Saharan Business Environment Report 2012 - 2013*. Gainesville, FL CIBER: 2013.

Odera, Levy, J. Scott McDonald and Jerry Merwin. 2007. “Economic Development: Government’s Cutting Edge in IT”, in Mahesh S. Raisinghani (ed.). *Handbook of Research on Global Information Technology*, Hershey, PA: Idea Group Inc.

Service

Volunteer, The LAND Mentoring Program, Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church, Gainesville

- The LAND Mentoring Program provides mentoring, gardening education, nature-based survival skills, and entrepreneurship training to elementary through high school students.

Youth Soccer Coach, Gainesville Soccer Alliance, January 2023 - Present

DEI Committee Member, Minerva University, August 2020 - Present.

Founder/President, Systems Acumen for Youth-Led Development Solutions, March 2018 to Present

Trainer, UNESCO Youth As Researchers Program, November 2017

Member, College of Social Sciences Search Committee, Minerva Schools at KGI, Spring 2017

Board of Directors, Community Collaboration & Development Initiatives, 2015 - 2017

Chairperson, Board of Directors, Boulevard to Victory, Inc., 2015 - 2017

Judge, Challenge 2050 Certificate Program Student Innovation Presentations, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, December 3, 2014.

Discussant, panel entitled “Urban Neoliberalism in Africa and Impact on Contemporary Cities”, 54th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Washington D.C., November 17 – 19, 2011.

Reviewer, African Studies Quarterly Journal, 2009 – 2013.

Comparative Politics Student Field Chair – University of Florida, Department of Political Science, August 2009 – March 2010.

Discussant, Research Frontiers in African Politics, Workshop at University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, January 30 – 31, 2009.

Reviewer, Journal of Information Technology and Politics, 2008 – 2012.

Discussant, panel entitled "How IT Has Shaped Economic Development: A Story of the Tail Wagging the Dog", South East Conference on Public Administration, Nashville, TN, September 27, 2007.

Awards

2014 Distinguished Alumnus, Valdosta State University College of Arts and Sciences, Political Science Department.

Certificate of Outstanding Academic Achievement 2010, University of Florida, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

James Button Memorial Award 2010, awarded for outstanding poverty focused research, University of Florida.

Best Graduate Student Paper Award 2009, “The Positive Effect of Judicial Independence on the Electoral Performance of Minority Parties in Africa”, University of Florida, Department of Political Science.

Hugh C. Bailey Outstanding Graduate Student Award, 2006-2007, Valdosta State University (an award given for the most contribution to the MPA program, in and out of the classroom).

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award 2006, The Rotary Club of Valdosta, Georgia.

William Morrow Outstanding Student Award 2005, Valdosta State University, Department of Political Science.

Best Paper Award of 2004, “Democratization in Africa”, Valdosta State University, Department of Political Science.

Senior Student Leader Award of the year 2005, Valdosta State University.

Students In Free Enterprise Service Leadership Award 2005-06, Valdosta State University, Harley Langdale, Jr. College of Business.

Standard Bearer, Valdosta State University Graduate school (a recognition awarded by VSU to the graduate student with the highest GPA and outstanding performance).