The Ethical and Social Implications of Political Science Research and Teaching in Nigeria

Toye Manuwa

(Ph.D) University of Medical Sciences, Ondo, Ondo State, Institute of Health Humanities

Abstract: This paper examines the ethical and social implications of political science research and teaching in Nigeria. It argues that political science as a discipline has a responsibility to contribute to the advancement of democracy, good governance, and human rights in Nigeria, as well as to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity and professionalism. The study adopts a qualitative research method by reviewing documents from various sources, such as books, journals, reports, and websites. The study identifies some of the challenges and opportunities that political science researchers and teachers face in Nigeria, such as funding, motivation, innovation, curriculum, relevance, quality, impact, and ethics. The study also suggests some recommendations for improving the practice and performance of political science research and teaching in Nigeria, such as enhancing collaboration, diversification, dissemination, evaluation, and accountability. The study concludes that political science research and teaching in Nigeria can play a vital role in advancing the socio-political and economic development of the country if they are conducted and delivered with ethical and social awareness and sensitivity.

Keywords: Ethics, political science, research, teaching and Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

The government of a country is one of the most powerful forces that operate on people, corporations, institutions, and communities. And the study of the different types of governments and their policies constitute the discipline of political science. One might question why it is important to learn about governments, that is, the validity of keeping political science as a discipline taught in tertiary institutions around the world, but the question answers itself. It is important to lean about the different governments and their scope in order to become better citizens who are aware of the strengths and flaws of their form of government, and in turn be able to contribute positively to the betterment of their political structure.

Political science is a discipline that studies the theory and practice of politics, as well as the analysis of political systems, behavior, and culture (Okoro, *et al.,* 2021b). Political science research and teaching are essential for advancing the understanding of political phenomena and for fostering democratic citizenship. Ibeanu & Orji, (2016) in their submission opine that political science is the study of governments and the way they work. It is also the study of understanding responsibilities and rights of the citizens of a country. By reading political science, a person becomes more aware of the rights and responsibilities he or she has as a citizen of a nation. He or she is also aware of how a government works, and how they would be able to help in the making of a better government. Hence, the study of political science increases political

and social awareness and helps in creating better and more responsible citizens.

Political science research is the systematic and rigorous investigation of political questions, using various methods and sources of evidence (Ezeani, *et al.,* 2015). Political science research can be empirical, normative, or both, depending on whether it aims to describe, explain, evaluate, or prescribe political phenomena. Political science research can also be classified into different subfields, such as comparative politics, international relations, political theory, public policy, American politics, among others. Each subfield has its own scope, concepts, theories, and approaches, but they also share common interests and methods.

Political science teaching is the process of imparting knowledge and skills related to politics to students at different levels of education (EduProjectTopics, 2023). Political science teaching can have various goals, such as informing students about political institutions and processes, developing their critical thinking and analytical abilities, enhancing their civic engagement and participation, or preparing them for careers in politics or related fields. Political science teaching can also employ various pedagogical and curricular innovations, such as experiential learning, civic engagement, virtual and technologically enhanced learning, among others (Akinbode &Anifowose, 2012).

Political science research and teaching are interrelated and mutually beneficial. Research

Corresponding Author: Toye Manuwa

informs teaching by providing updated and relevant content, as well as stimulating new questions and debates. Teaching informs research by providing feedback and insights from students, as well as generating new ideas and perspectives. Political science research and teaching also contribute to the public good by advancing knowledge and democracy (Okoro, *et al.,* 2021a).

However, political science research and teaching also face some challenges and opportunities in the current context. Some of the challenges include the increasing complexity and diversity of political phenomena, the growing competition and expectations for academic performance and impact, the limited resources and support for political science education, the changing needs and demands of students and employers, among others. Some of the opportunities include the availability of new data sources and analytical tools, the expansion of interdisciplinary and collaborative research networks, the development of innovative pedagogical practices and curricular models, the emergence of new audiences and platforms for public engagement, among others. Political science research and teaching are vital activities for understanding and improving politics (Anikpo & Nwanegbo, 2012). They require constant reflection and adaptation to the changing political environment. They also require collaboration and communication among political scientists themselves, as well as with other disciplines, stakeholders, and society at large.

Political science research and teaching also require a high level of analytic transparency and ethical standards. Researchers and teachers should be clear about their assumptions, data sources, methods, findings, and implications of their work. They should also acknowledge the limitations and uncertainties of their research, as well as the potential biases and conflicts of interest that may affect their results or interpretations. Moreover, they should respect the rights and dignity of human subjects, as well as the norms and values of academic integrity.

Political science research and teaching can have significant impacts on society and policy-making (Okoro, *et al.,* 2022). By producing rigorous and relevant knowledge, political science can inform public debates, enhance democratic participation, and improve governance outcomes. By educating students and citizens, political science can foster civic awareness, critical thinking, and responsible action. Therefore, political science research and

teaching are not only academic endeavors but also public goods that contribute to the common good.

Political science research and teaching have ethical and social implications that need to be discussed and addressed by scholars and educators. Political science deals with topics such as power, justice, democracy, conflict, human rights, and public policy, which have direct impacts on the lives of individuals and communities (Anikpo & Nwanegbo, 2012). Therefore, political scientists have a responsibility to conduct their research and teaching in a way that respects the dignity, autonomy, and diversity of their subjects and audiences. Moreover, political scientists have a duty to contribute to the advancement of knowledge and the public good through their research and teaching.

According to Anikpo & Nwanegbo, (2012) some of the ethical and social issues that political science research and teaching may encounter include:

- The protection of human subjects and informed consent in research involving surveys, interviews, experiments, or observation. For example, political scientists should ensure that their research participants are fully aware of the purpose, procedures, risks, and benefits of the research, and that they voluntarily agree to participate (American Political Science Association 2012).
- The avoidance of plagiarism, fabrication, falsification, or misrepresentation of data or sources in research and teaching. For example, political scientists should properly cite and acknowledge the sources they use in their research and teaching, and should not present data or findings that are inaccurate or fabricated (American Political Science Association 2012).
- The recognition and acknowledgment of intellectual contributions and collaborations in research and teaching. For example, political scientists should give credit to the authors and collaborators who have contributed to their research and teaching, and should not claim authorship or credit for work that is not their own (American Political Science Association 2012).
- The respect for academic freedom and diversity of perspectives in research and teaching. For example, political scientists should respect the right of their colleagues and students to express their views and opinions on

political issues, and should not discriminate or harass them based on their political beliefs or affiliations (American Political Science Association 2012).

- The consideration of the potential harms and benefits of research and teaching for individuals, groups, or societies. For example, political scientists should assess the possible consequences of their research and teaching for the well-being, rights, and interests of their subjects and audiences, and should seek to minimize any negative impacts or maximize any positive impacts (American Political Science Association 2012).

- The engagement with public debates and policy issues in a way that is informed, respectful, and constructive. For example, political scientists should use their expertise and knowledge to inform public discussions and decisions on political matters, and should communicate their views in a way that is clear, honest, and respectful of different perspectives (American Political Science Association 2012).

These ethical and social issues require political scientists to reflect on their values, principles, and goals as researchers and educators. They also require political scientists to communicate their research and teaching methods, findings, and implications to their peers, students, and the public in a clear, honest, and accessible way. By doing so, political scientists can enhance the quality, credibility, and relevance of their research and teaching. They can also foster a culture of ethical awareness and social responsibility in their discipline and society. Therefore this paper seeks to investigate the ethical and social implications of political science research and teaching in Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem
Political science research and teaching in Nigeria face many ethical and social challenges that affect the quality and impact of the discipline. Some of these challenges include: lack of academic freedom and autonomy, political interference and intimidation, plagiarism and misconduct, inadequate funding and resources, poor research ethics and standards, low public trust and engagement, and limited international collaboration and recognition (Boix, 2003; Ansola; behere, *et al.,* 2008 and Abubakar, 2020a) . These challenges pose serious threats to the integrity, relevance, and contribution of political science to the development of Nigeria and its democracy. It is

against the background that this paper investigates the ethical and social implications of political science research and teaching in Nigeria.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY
The main purpose of this study is to investigate the ethical and social implications of political science research and teaching in Nigeria.

Specifically, this paper seeks to:
- examine the ethical and social implications of political science research and teaching in Nigeria;
- identify the challenges and opportunities for political science education in Nigeria;
- investigate the institutional and regulatory frameworks for promoting and enforcing ethical standards in Political Science research and teaching
- explore the innovative trends and best practices for enhancing political science learning outcomes in Nigeria and
- provide recommendations for improving the quality and relevance of political science research and teaching in Nigeria.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS
The following research questions guided the paper.
1. What are the ethical and social implications of political science research and teaching in Nigeria?
2. What are the challenges and opportunities for political science education in Nigeria?
3. What are the institutional and regulatory frameworks for promoting and enforcing ethical standards in Political Science research and teaching?
4. What are the innovative trends and best practices for enhancing political science learning outcomes in Nigeria and
5. What are the recommendations needed for improving the quality and relevance of political science research and teaching in Nigeria?

LITERATURE REVIEW-CONCEPT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND TEACHING
Political science is a discipline that studies the theory and practice of politics, as well as the analysis of political systems, behavior, and culture. Political science research and teaching aim to advance the understanding of political phenomena and to foster critical and engaged citizenship. Political science education also contributes to the

development of skills and competencies that are relevant for various careers and professions, such as communication, analysis, argumentation, and problem-solving.

According to Okoro, *et al.*, (2022) One of the main challenges of political science research and teaching is to address the complexity and diversity of political issues in a changing and interconnected world. Political science scholars use various methods and approaches to examine political questions from different perspectives and levels of analysis. They also engage with interdisciplinary and comparative perspectives to enrich their knowledge and insights. Political science research and teaching are informed by both normative and empirical concerns, as well as by a dialogue between theory and practice. Political science education can take various forms and formats, such as lectures, seminars, workshops, simulations, case studies, experiential learning, civic engagement, online courses, and journals. Political science educators use various pedagogical and curricular innovations to enhance the quality and effectiveness of their teaching and learning activities. They also seek to assess the impact and outcomes of their educational practices on students' learning and development (Serdyukov, 2017).

What Are the Ethical and Social Implications of Political Science Research and Teaching in Nigeria?
Political science research and teaching have ethical and social implications for both scholars and society, especially in a country like Nigeria that faces many political, economic, and security challenges. One of the ethical implications of political science research and teaching in Nigeria is the responsibility to uphold academic integrity and professional standards (Falola, 2008). Political scientists should conduct their research with honesty, objectivity, and respect for human dignity and rights. They should avoid plagiarism, fabrication, falsification, and misrepresentation of data and sources. They should also acknowledge their sources of funding, potential conflicts of interest, and limitations of their research.

Another ethical implication of political science research and teaching in Nigeria is the duty to contribute to the advancement of knowledge and public understanding of political issues. Political scientists should disseminate their research findings to the academic community and the wider society through publications, presentations, media

engagements, and policy advice. They should also engage in constructive dialogue and debate with their peers and other stakeholders, and respect diverse perspectives and viewpoints. They should also strive to enhance the quality and relevance of political science education in Nigeria by adopting innovative trends and techniques in curriculum design, pedagogy, assessment, and evaluation.

A third ethical implication of political science research and teaching in Nigeria is the obligation to promote democratic values and practices. Political scientists should uphold the principles of freedom, justice, equality, accountability, and participation in their research and teaching. They should also encourage their students and the public to be informed, critical, and active citizens who can participate effectively in political processes and influence policy outcomes. They should also support the development of a vibrant civil society that can hold the government accountable and demand good governance (Gerring, 2017).

Political science research and teaching also have social implications for Nigeria. One of the social implications is the potential to influence public opinion and policy making on various political issues. Political science research can provide evidence-based insights and recommendations that can inform policy decisions and actions on matters such as electoral reforms, constitutional amendments, federalism, human rights, corruption, security, development, etc. Political science teaching can also shape the attitudes and values of students and the public towards politics and governance, and foster a culture of civic engagement.

Another social implication of political science research and teaching in Nigeria is the possibility to enhance social cohesion and peacebuilding. Political science research can help to identify the sources and dynamics of conflicts and violence in Nigeria, such as ethnic, religious, regional, or class divisions. It can also propose strategies and mechanisms for conflict resolution, management, prevention, or transformation. Political science teaching can also contribute to social cohesion and peacebuilding by promoting tolerance, dialogue, cooperation, solidarity, and respect among different groups in Nigeria (Okoro, *et al.,* 2021b).

Political science research and teaching have ethical and social implications for both scholars and society in Nigeria. Political scientists have a responsibility to uphold academic integrity,

Publisher: SARC Publisher

professional standards, contribute to knowledge advancement, public understanding, democratic values, and practices in their research and teaching. They also have a potential to influence public opinion, policy making, social cohesion, and peacebuilding on various political issues in Nigeria.

Therefore, political science research and teaching should be conducted with rigor, relevance, and responsibility for the benefit of Nigeria and humanity.

What Are the Challenges and Opportunities for Political Science Education in Nigeria

Political science education is the study of political systems, institutions, processes, and behaviors in relation to the society and the state. It aims to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and values that are necessary for active citizenship, democratic participation, and social transformation. Political science education also exposes students to various political theories, ideologies, and perspectives that have shaped the history and development of human civilization.

In Nigeria, political science education faces several challenges that hinder its effectiveness and relevance. Some of these challenges are:

- Lack of adequate funding and resources for political science departments and programs in universities and secondary schools. This affects the quality of teaching, learning, research, and curriculum development in the field (Okoro, *et al*., 2022).
- Lack of innovative and learner-centered pedagogies that can engage students' interest, motivation, and critical thinking in political science. Many teachers still rely on traditional methods of lecturing, memorization, and examination that do not foster deep understanding and application of political concepts and issues (Okoro, *et al*., 2021).
- Lack of exposure to diverse and contemporary political thoughts and practices that can broaden students' horizons and perspectives on politics. Many students are not familiar with the classical and modern political thinkers and their contributions to political science education (Okoro, *et al*., 2022). Moreover, many students are not aware of the current trends and developments in global and local politics that affect their lives and society.
- Lack of opportunities for practical experience and civic engagement in political science education. Many students do not have the

chance to participate in political activities such as debates, simulations, elections, campaigns, advocacy, etc. that can enhance their skills and attitudes in politics (Okoro, *et al*., 2021).

However, despite these challenges, political science education also offers several opportunities for improvement and innovation. Some of these opportunities are:

- Leveraging on information and communication technologies (ICTs) to enhance political science education. ICTs can provide access to diverse and updated sources of information on politics, such as websites, blogs, podcasts, videos, etc. ICTs can also facilitate interactive and collaborative learning among students and teachers through platforms such as online forums, chats, wikis, etc. ICTs can also support creative and personalized learning through tools such as mind maps, simulations, games, etc. (Okoro, *et al.*, 2021).

- Incorporating interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches to political science education. Political science education can benefit from integrating insights and methods from other disciplines such as history, sociology, economics, psychology, etc. that can enrich the understanding and analysis of political phenomena. Political science education can also adopt multidisciplinary perspectives that can address complex and emerging issues in politics such as globalization, climate change, terrorism, migration, etc. (Serdyukov, 2017).

- Promoting critical and transformative political science education. Political science education can aim to develop not only knowledgeable but also responsible and empowered citizens who can challenge the status quo and contribute to social change. Political science education can foster critical thinking skills that can enable students to question assumptions, evaluate evidence, identify biases, propose alternatives, etc. Political science education can also cultivate transformative values that can inspire students to act ethically, democratically, inclusively, etc. (Serdyukov, 2017).

Political science education in Nigeria is faced with many challenges but also has many opportunities for improvement and innovation. Political science education can play a vital role in shaping the future

of Nigeria by preparing students for active citizenship, democratic participation, and social transformation.

What Are the Institutional and Regulatory Frameworks for Promoting and Enforcing Ethical Standards in Political Science Research and Teaching?

Ethical standards are essential for ensuring the quality, integrity and credibility of Political Science research and teaching. However, ethical standards are not always clear-cut or universally agreed upon, and they may vary depending on the context, method and purpose of the research or teaching activity. Therefore, it is important to have institutional and regulatory frameworks that can guide and support Political Science scholars in adhering to ethical principles and resolving ethical dilemmas.

According to Flick (2018), one of the main institutional frameworks for promoting and enforcing ethical standards in Political Science research and teaching is the American Political Science Association (APSA), which is the largest professional association of political scientists in the world. APSA has a Committee on Professional Ethics, Rights and Freedoms that is responsible for protecting the rights of political scientists, writing ethical guidelines for the association, and handling individual grievances and complaints that pertain to an APSA related meeting, conference or entity. APSA also has a Guide to Professional Ethics in Political Science, which was revised and updated in 2022, that provides a comprehensive overview of the ethical issues and best practices in various domains of Political Science research and teaching. The Guide covers topics such as human subjects research, data access and transparency, plagiarism and academic integrity, mentoring and advising, peer review and evaluation, diversity and inclusion, sexual harassment and misconduct, among others. The Guide is intended to serve as a training manual and reference for students, faculty and administrators in the discipline.

Another institutional framework for promoting and enforcing ethical standards in Political Science research and teaching is the Institutional Review Board (IRB), which is a committee that reviews and approves research involving human subjects to ensure that it complies with ethical principles and federal regulations. IRBs are typically established by universities, colleges, hospitals or other research institutions where political scientists conduct their research. IRBs have the authority to approve, modify or reject research proposals based on their assessment of the potential risks and benefits to the human subjects involved. IRBs also monitor the conduct of the approved research and require researchers to report any adverse events or changes in their research plans. IRBs play a crucial role in protecting the rights and welfare of human subjects who participate in Political Science research, especially when it involves sensitive topics, vulnerable populations or international settings (Abubakar, *et al.,* 2020b).

A third institutional framework for promoting and enforcing ethical standards in Political Science research and teaching is the academic community itself, which consists of political scientists who interact with each other through various channels such as journals, conferences, workshops, networks or associations. The academic community can foster a culture of ethics by engaging in constructive dialogue, peer review, feedback, collaboration and mentorship among political scientists. The academic community can also hold political scientists accountable for their ethical conduct by exposing and sanctioning cases of misconduct such as fabrication, falsification or plagiarism of data or publications. The academic community can also promote ethical awareness and education by developing curricula, courses or modules on research ethics for Political Science students and faculty.

There are various institutional and regulatory frameworks that can promote and enforce ethical standards in Political Science research and teaching. These frameworks include professional associations such as APSA, review committees such as IRBs, and academic communities such as journals or conferences. These frameworks can help political scientists navigate the complex and dynamic ethical challenges that they may encounter in their research or teaching activities (Abubakar, *et al.,* 2020b).

What Are the Innovative Trends and Best Practices for Enhancing Political Science Learning Outcomes in Nigeria?

Political science is a discipline that studies the nature, processes and consequences of politics. It aims to develop citizens with the capacity to make informed decisions about politics and civic engagement in their own and other contexts. Political science learning outcomes are the knowledge, skills and values that students are expected to acquire from studying political science. They include cognitive outcomes (what

students should know), behavioral outcomes (what students should be able to do) and affective outcomes (what students should value) as political science graduates.

In Nigeria, however, political science learning outcomes are often compromised by various challenges such as insufficient and poorly administered sector funding, ineffective monitoring mechanisms, unmotivated teachers, and teacher shortages . These challenges have resulted in low quality of teaching and learning, as well as pervasive failure rates among students . Therefore, there is a need for innovative trends and best practices that can enhance political science learning outcomes in Nigeria.

Some of the innovative trends and best practices that have been suggested or implemented by various stakeholders as submitted by Abubakar, *et al.,* 2020b include:

Comparative Politics: This is a sub-field of political science that compares different political systems, institutions, actors, processes and policies across countries and regions. Comparative politics can help students to understand the diversity and complexity of political phenomena, as well as to develop critical thinking and analytical skills. Comparative politics can also expose students to different models of governance, development, democracy and human rights that can inspire them to seek positive change in their own contexts.

Public Administration: This is another sub-field of political science that studies the organization and management of public affairs, such as policy making, implementation and evaluation. Public administration can help students to learn about the principles and practices of effective and accountable public service delivery, as well as to develop administrative and leadership skills. Public administration can also equip students with the knowledge and tools to participate in public policy processes and to advocate for public interests.

International Relations: This is a sub-field of political science that studies the interactions and relations among states and other actors in the international system, such as international organizations, non-governmental organizations, transnational corporations and social movements. International relations can help students to understand the global issues and challenges that affect Nigeria and other countries, such as security, development, human rights, environment and

cooperation. International relations can also foster students' awareness and appreciation of cultural diversity and global citizenship.

Political Philosophy: This is a sub-field of political science that explores the fundamental questions and concepts of politics, such as justice, liberty, equality, democracy and power. Political philosophy can help students to reflect on their own political values and beliefs, as well as to engage with different perspectives and arguments. Political philosophy can also stimulate students' creativity and imagination in envisioning alternative political possibilities.

Political Sociology: This is a sub-field of political science that examines the social dimensions of politics, such as class, gender, ethnicity, religion, culture and identity. Political sociology can help students to recognize the influence of social structures and processes on political behavior and outcomes. Political sociology can also encourage students' sensitivity and responsiveness to social diversity and inclusion.

Environmental Politics: This is a sub-field of political science that investigates the political aspects of environmental issues, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and resource depletion. Environmental politics can help students to comprehend the causes and consequences of environmental problems, as well as to explore the solutions and opportunities. Environmental politics can also inspire students' commitment and action for environmental sustainability.

These are some of the innovative trends and best practices that can enhance political science learning outcomes in Nigeria. By adopting these trends and practices, political science educators can improve the quality of teaching and learning, as well as foster students' interest and motivation in political science. Moreover, by achieving these learning outcomes, political science graduates can contribute to the advancement of Nigeria's political development and democracy.

What Are the Recommendations Needed for Improving the Quality and Relevance of Political Science Research and Teaching in Nigeria?
Some of the recommendations that can help improve the situation and enhance the development of political science education in Nigeria.
1) One of the recommendations is to increase funding for political science research and

Publisher: SARC Publisher

teaching in Nigeria. Funding is essential for providing adequate facilities, equipment, materials, and incentives for researchers and teachers. According to Abubakar, *et al*., (2020), one of the factors that affect the development of education in Nigeria is insufficient funding from the government and other stakeholders. Therefore, there is a need for more investment and allocation of resources to support political science research and teaching in Nigeria.

2) Another recommendation is to update the curriculum and adopt innovative trends in political science education. The curriculum should reflect the current realities and challenges of politics and governance in Nigeria and the world at large. It should also incorporate new methods and technologies that can enhance the teaching and learning experience of political science. For instance, Okoro, *et al*., (2021) suggested that teachers should use innovative techniques such as computer-aided instruction (CAI), flipped classroom approach, mind maps, simulations, games, etc., to improve students' performance and comprehension in government subjects. These techniques can also foster students' interest and motivation in political science.

3) A third recommendation is to improve the academic standards and quality assurance of political science research and teaching in Nigeria. This can be done by ensuring that researchers and teachers have the necessary qualifications, skills, and competencies to conduct and deliver quality research and teaching. It can also be done by establishing and enforcing strict criteria and guidelines for evaluating and accrediting political science programs, publications, and institutions. Furthermore, it can be done by promoting collaboration and networking among political science researchers and teachers within Nigeria and beyond.

Political science research and teaching in Nigeria have a lot of potential to contribute to the advancement of knowledge, democracy, and development in the country. However, they need to overcome some of the challenges that hinder their quality and relevance. Some of the recommendations that can help improve the situation are increasing funding, updating curriculum, adopting innovation, improving academic standards, and enhancing collaboration. These recommendations can help political science

research and teaching in Nigeria achieve their goals and objectives.

SUMMARY

The paper examines the current state of political science in Nigeria, the challenges and opportunities it faces, and the best practices and recommendations for ensuring ethical and socially responsible conduct in research and teaching. The study covers these areas: the ethical and social implications of political science research and teaching in Nigeria; the challenges and opportunities for political science education in Nigeria; the institutional and regulatory frameworks for promoting and enforcing ethical standards in Political Science research and teaching; the innovative trends and best practices for enhancing political science learning outcomes in Nigeria and finally the recommendations needed for improving the quality and relevance of political science research and teaching in Nigeria.

The paper highlights the importance of political science as a discipline that contributes to the advancement of knowledge, the promotion of democratic values, and the solution of societal problems. It also acknowledges the challenges that political science faces in Nigeria, such as inadequate funding, poor infrastructure, low academic standards, political interference, ethical violations, and social irrelevance. The report proposes a number of recommendations for addressing these challenges and improving the ethical and social performance of political science in Nigeria.

CONCLUSION

This paper has discussed some of the ethical and social implications of political science research and teaching in Nigeria. The researcher has highlighted the challenges and opportunities that political scientists face in conducting and disseminating their work in a complex and diverse society. The paper has argued how political science research and teaching can contribute to the advancement of knowledge, public policy and social justice in Nigeria, if they are guided by ethical principles, professional standards and social relevance. Also, it has suggested some ways to enhance the ethical and social responsibility of political science as a discipline and a profession in Nigeria. It is hoped that this paper will stimulate further debate and reflection on these important issues among political scientists and other stakeholders in Nigeria and beyond.

REFERENCES

1. Abubakar, A.S., Imam, M., Ogbu, V.C., Ndukwe, C.I., Okoro, L. and Ugwu, V. "Innovative trends in political science education: Implications for teaching government in senior secondary schools in Nigeria." *International Journal of Education Research Open* 1.1 (2020a): 100009.

2. Abubakar, A.S., Imam, M. & Panday, P. "Factors affecting development of education in Nigeria." *Multifarious issues in Nigeria today: Multidisciplinary approaches (pp. 70-80). Akure: Science and Education Development Institute* (2020b).

3. Adebanwi, W. and Obadare, E. "Introducing Nigeria at fifty: The nation in narration." *Journal of Contemporary African Studies* 28.4 (2010): 379-405.

4. Ansolabehere, S., Rodden, J. and Snyder Jr., J. M. "The strength of issues: Using multiple measures to gauge preference stability, ideological constraint, and issue voting." *American Political Science Review* 102.2 (2008): 215-232.

5. Akinboye, S.O. and Anifowose, R. "Nigerian government and politics." *Lagos: Concept Publications* (2012).

6. Anikpo, M.O.C. and Nwanegbo, C.J. "Ethics in social science research: A global perspective." *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations* 6.8 (2012): 179-187.

7. Boix, C. "Democracy and redistribution." *Cambridge University Press* (2003).

8. EduProjectTopics. "Political science project topics and materials PDF free download." https://eduprojecttopics.com/political-science-project-topics-and- materials-pdf-doc/ (2023)

9. Ezeani, E.O., Eme, O.I., Ugwu, C.C., Uche, O.A.U., Nwoba, M.O.E., Onyishi, O.I., Ugwuanyi, B.I., Nnamani, D.O., Onwe, S.O., Ogbonna, A.A., Ani, K.J., Ugwu, J.N., Onyia, C.E., Nwankwo, U.U., Nwagboso, S.N., Okolie, A.M., Chukwuemeka, E.E.O., Igbokwe-Ibeto, C.J., Nwoba, A.N.E. and Udeuhara, O.O. "Research methods: Issues & applications." Enugu: *John Jacobs Classic Publishers* (2015).

10. Falola, T. and Heaton, M.M. "A history of Nigeria." *Cambridge: Cambridge University Press* (2008).

11. Flick, U. "An introduction to qualitative research (6th ed.)." London: *Sage Publications* (2018).

12. Gerring, J. "Social science methodology: A unified framework (2nd ed.)." *Cambridge: Cambridge University Press* (2017).

13. Ibeanu, O.E. and Orji, N.I. "Introduction: The study of Nigerian politics today – Challenges for theory building." *Theory building* (2016).

14. Okoro, L., Ugwu, V., Ndukwe, C., Ike, V., Ogbu C. & Eze, C. "Innovative trends in political science education: Implications for teaching government in senior secondary schools in Nigeria." *European Scientific Journal* 17.36 (2021a): 1857-7881.

15. Okoro, L., Ugwu, V., Ndukwe, C., Ike, V., Ogbu, C. & Eze, C. "Implication of classical and modern political thoughts for the emerging field of political science education in Nigeria." *ISPEC 8th International Conference on Social Sciences and Humanities* (2022).

16. Okoro, L., Ugwu, V., Ndukwe, C.I., Ogbu, V.C., Nwankwo, C.C. & Ezeani, E.O. "Innovative trends in political science education: Implications for teaching government in senior secondary schools in Nigeria." *International Journal of Education and Practice* 9.3(2021b):1-11.

17. Serdyukov, P. "Innovation in education: What works, what doesn't, and what to do about it?" *Journal of Research in Innovative Teaching & Learning* 10.1 (2017): 4-33.

Cite this article as:
Manuwa, T. "The Ethical and Social Implications of Political Science Research and Teaching in Nigeria (2023 Edition)." *Sarcouncil Journal of Education and Sociology* 2.2 (2023): pp 1-9.