UNIVERSITY OF GHANA | COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES

7TH INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE OF THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

THEME: BRIDGING INEQUALITIES IN A CHANGING WORLD: ADVANCING INCLUSIVE GROWTH, RESILIENCE, AND SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

PROGRAMME AND BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

DATE: 13 - 15 August, 2025

VENUE: Cedi Conference Centre, Department of **Economics**, University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana

OXFAM

Department of Economics

BANGA-Africa

UG|SCHOOL OF LAW

Regional Institute of Population Studies (RIPS)

ISSER

INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN STUDIES

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CONFERENCE ORGANISING
PARTNERS:

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ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE OF OXFAM

OXFAM is an international confederation of 22 organisations, working with its partners and allies in more than 90 countries, reaching out to millions of people around the world. Together, we tackle inequalities to end poverty and injustice, now and in the long term – for an equal future.

Who we are
Oxfam is a global movement of people who are fighting inequality to end poverty and injustice. We are working across regions in about 70 countries, with thousands of partners, and allies, supporting communities to build better lives for themselves, grow resilience and protect lives and livelihoods also in times of crisis.

Because we want lasting solutions, we fight the inequalities that keep people locked in poverty and injustice, we tackle not the symptoms but the systems, and we campaign for genuine, durable change.

What we stand for
We are committed to working with others as part of a global movement for social justice. We understand that inequality is multi-dimensional and mobilise to transform unjust systems.

We advocate for just and fairer economies. We strive for gender justice and for the rights of women and girls in all their diversity. We fight for climate justice and create safe spaces that allow people to hold the powerful into account. Rooted in communities, we tackle the causes and consequences of disaster and conflict.

To create change that lasts, we build on our experience as a diverse and inter-dependent global network of organizations.

Please write to any of the agencies for further information or visit www.oxfam.org.

An informal settlement next to the rich suburb of Parklands, Nairobi, Kenya.
Photo: Johnnie Miller/unequalscenes.com

WELCOME
STATEMENT

PROF. JOSEPH AWETORI YARO
PROVOST, COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the College of Humanities, to welcome you to the 7th International Research Conference of the College of Humanities, University of Ghana. This year's conference is being held under the theme: "Bridging Inequalities in a Changing World: Advancing Inclusive Growth, Resilience, and Sustainable Natural Resource Management."

As the largest of the University's four Colleges, the College of Humanities bears a considerable responsibility in advancing the university's core mandate of teaching, learning, research, and community engagement. With its diversity of disciplines in the arts, social sciences, business, law, and languages, the College remains committed to providing critical thought leadership on issues of continental and global significance.

This conference builds on important conversations initiated in previous years, particularly the sixth conference in 2024, which culminated in the Accra Consensus on Inequality. With continued support from our longstanding partners at Oxfam International, this year's event deepens those reflections, providing a platform to interrogate emerging and persistent forms of inequality in an increasingly complex world.

As a college, we believe that sustainable development cannot be achieved without tackling inequalities in all their various forms, be it economic, social, cultural, gendered, technological, or environmental. Through this forum, we aim to foster interdisciplinary collaboration, promote policy-relevant dialogue, and contribute research-based insights that advance inclusive development.

We are honoured to welcome participants from over 15 countries. Your presence greatly enriches the quality and diversity of discussions. This year's programme includes a pre-conference workshop for graduate students and early career researchers (which took place yesterday), a tour for our international participants, and, for the first time, a joint closing session with the College of Humanities Awards Ceremony to recognise excellence in teaching, research, service, and innovation.

I wish to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to our partners and sponsors. We are deeply grateful to Oxfam International, our primary sponsor, for its steadfast support of this conference over the past three (3) years, since 2022. We also extend our gratitude to the BANGA-Africa Project, the University of Ghana School of Law, the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS), and the Institute of African Studies (IAS). I further acknowledge Imperial Assurance Company Ltd. for joining us this year as a major sponsor of the College Awards, as well as our regular sponsors, who will be duly recognised during the College Awards Ceremony on Day Two of the conference. Your contributions have been instrumental in making our events a success.

I must also acknowledge the Conference Planning Committee for their exceptional dedication and professionalism. Organising an international hybrid conference of this scale is no small feat, and their efforts deserve high commendation.

To our keynote speaker, Dr Anthony Yaw Baah, and to all presenters, panelists, moderators, and chairs, we thank you for your commitment to knowledge sharing towards bridging inequalities in our changing world.

Finally, to all participants, whether you are presenting or attending sessions, I invite you to engage fully and meaningfully in the coming days. Let us use this opportunity to reflect, to challenge, and to collaborate across borders and disciplines.

Once again, I warmly welcome you all to the 7th International Research Conference of the College of Humanities. I wish you a rewarding and thought-provoking experience.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON'S PROFILE

PROF. NANA ABA APPIAH AMFO
VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

Nana Aba Appiah Amfo is the first female Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana. She is a Professor of Linguistics and an experienced administrator, with over two decades experience working in the higher education sector. As Vice-Chancellor, she is leading the University to adopt technology in all its operations, while keeping the University's people as the focus. She has received numerous awards for her work in education, women's empowerment and leadership. She is a member of many prestigious societies and organizations. Among others, she is a fellow of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences, the German Academic Exchange Services (DAAD), Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Commonwealth Professionals Fellowship and the International Women's Fellowship Leadership Foundation. She is the President of the African Humanities Association and the International Federation of Modern Languages and Literature (FILLM). She is Vice-Chair of the African Research Universities Alliance, and the Worldwide Universities Network, and an Administrative Board member of the International Association of Universities. Prof Appiah Amfo has been recognised as the Association of African Universities' ambassador for Gender Equity and Social Inclusion for her contributions to promoting gender equity, inclusion and diversity in higher education in Africa.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER'S
PROFILE

DR. ANTHONY YAW BAAH
CHAIR, GHANA STATISTICAL SERVICE BOARD & FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL, GHANA TRADES UNION CONGRESS

Dr. Anthony Yaw Baah is currently the Executive Director of Kaizen Institute for Labour Economics in Tema, an Institute he founded in 2024.

He is a member of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva, Switzerland.

He was the Secretary General of the Trades Union Congress (Ghana) from August 2016 to August 2024. Prior to his election as Secretary General, he was the Director of Labour Research and Policy Institute of Trades Union Congress and Deputy Secretary General.

He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom, MSc in Financial Economics from the Norwegian School of Management and B.A (Honours) in Economics with French from the University of Ghana.

He has received other academic awards (certificates/diplomas) from the following reputable institutions:

- Harvard Business School Executive Education Programme in Boston, USA,
- International Institute for Labour and Cooperative Studies in Tel Aviv, Israel,
- ILO International Training Centre in Turin, Italy, and
- World Bank Institute in Washington D.C., USA.

He has previously served on the following Boards/Committees:

- Management Committee of the Institute for Statistical, Social, and Economic Research of the University of Ghana,
- Advisory Board of the International Centre for Development and Decent Work (ICDD) of the University of Kassel, Germany,
- National Pensions Regulatory Authority (NPRA) of Ghana,
- Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), and
- Eminent Advisory Committee of the Electoral Commission of Ghana.

CONFERENCE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Prof. William Baah-Boateng (Chair)	Department of Economics
Prof. Isaac Osei-Akoto (Co-Chair)	Inst. of Stat., Social & Economic Research
Prof. Abdallah Ali-Nakyea (Co-Chair)	UG School of Law
Prof. Acheampong Owusu	UG Business School
Dr. Nancy Myles Baffour Gyamfi	School of Arts
Dr. Sarah Marjie	School of Languages
Dr Margaret Amankwah-Poku	School of Social Sciences
Dr. Wassiuw Abdul Rahaman	School of Social Sciences
Dr. Iris Mensimah Fynn	School of Social Sciences
Dr. Joyce Osei-Owusu	School of Performing Arts
Dr. Eric Tamatey Lawer	Institute of African Studies
Dr. D. Yaw Atiglo	Regional Institute for Population Studies
Dr. Afua Boatemaa Yakohene	Legon Center for Int. Affairs & Diplomacy
Mr. Elisha Kyirem (Secretary)	College of Humanities Secretariat
CO-OPTED MEMBERS	
Mr. Pious Kofi Bentum	College of Humanities Secretariat
Mr. Landry Kanga Ebi	College of Humanities Secretariat
Mr. Gabriel Joel Quainoo	UG Business School

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PROGRAMME
DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2025
OPENING CEREMONY

8:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Arrival & Registration
9:00 - 9:05 a.m.	Introductory Remarks - Professor William Baah-Boateng, Chair, Conference Planning Committee & Vice-Chancellor, Methodist University Ghana
9:05 - 9:15 a.m.	Welcome Statement - Professor Joseph A. Yaro, Provost, College of Humanities
9:15 - 9:20 a.m.	Introduction of Chairperson - Mr. Benedict Fosu Adjei, College Registrar, College of Humanities
9:20 - 9:30 a.m.	Chairperson's Remarks - Professor Nana Aba Appiah Amfo, Vice-Chancellor, University of Ghana
9:30 - 9:40 a.m.	Cultural Performance - Ghana Dance Ensemble, Institute of African Studies
9:40 - 9:50 a.m.	Statement from Conference Title Sponsor - Mohammed-Anwar Sadat Adam, Country Director, Oxfam International Ghana
9:50 - 9:55 a.m.	Introduction of Keynote Speaker - Professor Abdallah Ali-Nakyea, Co-Chair, Conference Planning Committee
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Keynote Address - Dr. Anthony Yaw Baah, Chair, Ghana Statistical Service Board & Former Secretary General, Trades Union Congress (Ghana)
10:30 - 10:40 a.m.	Cultural Performance - Ghana Dance Ensemble, Institute of African Studies
10:40 - 11:00 a.m.	Panel Discussion - Topic: "Africa's Inequality Crisis: The Rise of the Super-Rich and the Cost to the Many - Oxfam-COH Inequality Research Team
11:00 - 11:05 a.m.	Closing Remarks by Chairperson, Professor Nana Aba Appiah Amfo, Vice-Chancellor, University of Ghana
11:05 - 11:10 a.m.	Vote of Thanks - Dr. Margaret Amankwah-Poku, Department of Psychology, UG & Member, Conference Planning Committee
11:10 - 11:20 a.m.	Group Photograph & Media Interactions
11:20 - 11:40 a.m.	Snack Break

MC – **Dr. Sheena Lovia Boateng,** Department of Marketing and Entrepreneurship

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2025
PARALLEL SESSIONS

11:40 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Parallel Session I
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Lunch
2:30 - 4:45 p.m.	Parallel Session II

DAY 2: THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2025
PARALLEL SESSIONS

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:00 – 9:20 a.m.	Panel Discussion on Reversing the Tide: Tax Justice, Redistribution, and Bold Policy for an Equal Africa - Oxfam-COH Inequality Research Team
9:20 – 11:10 a.m.	Parallel Session III
11:10 – 11:30 a.m.	Snack Break
11:30 a.m. – 1:20 p.m.	Parallel Session IV
1:20 – 2:20 p.m.	Lunch Break

MC – **Dr. Sheena Lovia Boateng,** Chair, College Awards

CONFERENCE CLOSING SESSION & 4TH COLLEGE AWARDS CEREMONY

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

1. Arrival and Introduction of Dignitaries
2. Welcome Statement by Mr. Benedict Fosu Adjei (College Registrar)
3. Purpose of Gathering and Introduction of Chairperson by Professor Joseph A. Yaro (Provost, College of Humanities)
4. Opening Remarks by Professor Gordon A. Awandare (Pro Vice-Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs [ASA])
5. Joint Accra Inequality Declaration
6. Cultural Performance by Ghana Dance Ensemble (Institute of African Studies)
7. Brief Statement from Mr. Harry E.B. Ofori-Attah (Managing Director, Imperial General Assurance)
8. Presentation of 7th College of Humanities International Research Conference Awards
9. Presentation of Provost's Publication Awards
10. Cultural Performance by Ghana Dance Ensemble (Institute of African Studies)
11. Presentation of College of Humanities Awards
12. Group Photograph (All Dignitaries and Awardees) on stage
13. Closing Remarks by Professor Gordon A. Awandare (Pro Vice-Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs [ASA])
14. Vote of Thanks by Ms. Diana Abena Addo-Mensah
15. UG Anthem
16. Closing and Photographs

MC - **Dr. Sheena Lovia Boateng,** Chair, Planning and Organising Committee, 4th College of Humanities Awards

PARALLEL SESSIONS - DAY 1
11:40 A.M. – 1:30 P.M. PARALLEL SESSION I

Parallel Session I: Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Philosophy, Religion, and Inclusive Policy I

Auditorium
Chair: Prof. Ben-Willie Golo

Delali Freedman Woledzi
"We no longer experience 'Siamlɔm'": Using the indigenous Ewe language to explain climate change, agriculture, and food security among smallholder farmers in Ghana.

Kenneth Francis
Indigenous Knowledge and Environmental Governance: Building Peace and Resilience through Sustainable Natural Resource Management in West Africa

Eric Kunkuri
Indigenous Peoples' Land Making

Amenaghawon Idawu
Decoloniality and the Politics of Knowledge in African Studies: Towards Inclusive Policy through Epistemic Pluralism

Parallel Session I: Economic Growth, Sustainable Development, and Inequalities I

Room 1
Chair: Prof. Simon Bawakyillenuo

Alexander Darku, Forster Junior Shitsi
Globalization and income inequality among countries: An assessment of the dynamics and lessons for developing countries.

Rosina Foli
Social Policy and Social Equity: Comparing Universal and Selective Social Policies and Programs in Ghana

Emmanuel Aklinu
Investment in Human Capital and Economic Growth in Ghana

Samuel Odame Lartey, Eric Afful-Dadzie
The Role of Digital Agricultural Technology in Enabling Value Transfer to Smallholder Farmers

Parallel Session I: Gender, Intersectionality, and Social Justice I

Room 2
Chair: Prof. Deborah Atobrah

Catherine Ikokoh
The Role of Female Librarians in Eradicating Gender-Based Violence in the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria

Jessica Amarteifio
Implementing educational bricolage in sub-Saharan Africa to improve learning outcomes and match global standards

Asana Amadu, Naail Mohammed Kami
The Moderating Role of "Al-BIRR" in the Relationship Between Protean Career Attitude and Organisational Commitment

Luther P. Whian
Gender-Based Violence and Economic Marginalization: Intersections of Inequality in Liberia

Ojore Godday Aghedo, Victoria Olabisi, Victoria Olabisi, Chris Olusegun
Bridging Mental Health Inequities Among People Living with HIV in Nigeria: Behavioural Interventions for Wellbeing and Resilience

Parallel Session I: Media, Communications, and the Politics of Inequality I

Room 3
Chair: Prof. Abena Animwaa Yeboah-Banin

Akpeko Agbevade
The Media and Electoral Integrity in Ghana's Electoral Politics: The 2024 Elections in Focus

Nancy Owusuaa
Adinkra in the Digital Age: Exploring Tradition and Modernity Through Symbolic Expression

Peter N. Amponsah
Media, Inequality, and the Rise of Disinformation: A Systematic Review of Fake News, Public Trust, and Marginalized Voices in Africa

Oluwatoyin Salami, Kola Adesina
Environmental Advocacy on Social Media: Examining the Role of Eco-Influencers in Promoting Sustainable Lifestyles among Nigerian Youths

Parallel Session I: Gender, Intersectionality, and Social Justice II

Room 4
Chair: Dr. Afua Boatemaa Yakohene

Godfred Bonnah Nkansah, Stefan Danquah
Oppressive Chores or Valued Cultural Knowledge? Gen-Z's Interpretation of Traditionally Feminine Domestic Skills in Ghana

Yaa Adobea Owusu, Anita Bans-Akutey, Eric Y. Tenkorang
"I go hungry but I don't have money to buy food so it is affecting my health": Exploring Intimate Partner Violence and Food Insecurity Among Women Living with HIV in the Eastern Region of Ghana

Anita Bans-Akutey, Yaa Adobea Owusu, Eric Y. Tenkorang
Clinic to Kitchen: Bearing of Intimate Partner Violence on Treatment Adherence and Food Insecurity Among HIV-Positive Women in Southern Ghana

Treda Mukuhlani, Everjoy Magwegwe
"They are good stewards too": Women's contribution in the management of communal boreholes in Mbare Suburb, Harare, Zimbabwe

Parallel Session I: Mental Health, Behaviour Change and Wellbeing I

Room 5
Chair: Dr Lily Kpobi

Emmanuel Omari Boakye, Joana Salifu Yendork, Johnny Andoh-Arthur, Francis Annor
Shaped by Change, Guided by Culture: Ghanaian Adolescents' Experiences of Puberty and Identity Formation

Nana Kwame Agyapon-Ntra, Kofi E. Boakye, Margaret Amankwah-Poku
Use of Illicit Drugs and Desistance: A Qualitative Study of Undergraduate Students' Experiences

Lillian Phillips-Kumaga, Annabella Osei-Tutu, C.B. Wiafe Akenten
Following Fame, Finding Self: Exploring Well-being through Celebrity Fan Communities.

Lilian Ama Afun, Majoreen Osafroadu Amankwah
Cries, Careers, and Care: Exploring Employment and Postpartum Depression Among Working Mothers in the Global South

Parallel Session I: Gender, Intersectionality, and Social Justice III

Room 6
Chair: Dr Charlotte Ofori

Nyameyie Essuman-Mensah
The Grandmotherhood Penalty: Lifelong Caregiving Burden on African Women

Charity Elikem Dzradosi
Intersecting Vulnerabilities: Exploring the Menstrual Hygiene Management Experiences of Adolescent Head Porters in Accra Markets, Ghana

Kingsley Brempong Ohene Adu, Peter Mensah
Intersecting Identities and Feminist Solidarity: A Critical Analysis of Gender, Class, and Race in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Dream Count

Richmond Debrah
Traditional Land Ownership in Ghana and Gender: The Case of Land Ownership in Koforidua-Nkurakan

Parallel Session I: Mental Health, Behaviour Change and Wellbeing II

Room 7
Chair: Dr. Charles Wiafe-Akenteng

Caryn Tamo Tatietse, Tata Osafo, Beatrice Dwumfour Williams
Understanding Suicide Literacy in the Global South: A study among medical students in Ghana.

Aaron Kweku Amanor, Charity S. Akotia, Adote Anum, Enoch Teye-Kwadjo,
A qualitative study of help-seeking for psychological distress among Krobo men

Chukwuma Chinaza Adaobi
Nursing Responses to Mental Health Disparities in Low-Income Communities: A Systematic Review of Community-Based and Clinical Interventions

Tata Osafo, Beatrice Dwumfour Williams
Suicide Literacy Among Community Pharmacists in Ghana

2:30 - 4:45 P.M.
PARALLEL SESSION II

Parallel Session II: Technological Innovations, Data Governance and Security I

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Chair: Prof. Acheampong Owusu

Derrick Mensah-Ankrah, Acheampong Owusu, Richard Boateng
Determinants of Sport Analytics Apps Adoption by Professional Football Coaches in a Developing Economy: Evidence from Ghana

Adwoa Asantewaa Bamfo-Asante
Ethical Challenges in the Deployment of Artificial Intelligence in African Governance and Security Sectors

Freda Osei Sefa, Martin Wiredu Agyekum, Innocent Agbelie, Innocent Agbelie, Audrey Djarbeng, John Baptise Akanwake, Justina Addai
Enhancing Teaching and Learning with Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technologies: Exploring the Attitude and Perspectives of Basic School Teachers in Ghana

Worlali Kwabla Ameevor
Miniaturization and Mobility: Redefining Technology and Human Experience

Emmanuel Akhigbe
Belling the Cat: Securing and Managing Data Under Nigerian Law

Parallel Session II: Economic Growth, Sustainable Development, and Inequalities II

Room 1

Chair: Dr Ebenezer Amankwaa

Samuel Yeboah, Majoreen Osafroadu Amankwah
Inequality in the Blue and Green Economy: A Meta-Analysis of Access, Justice, and Sustainability Outcomes.

Jewel Sowah
Exploring Drivers, Barriers, and Benefits of Urban Reforestation: A Case Study of Adentan Municipality, Accra

Deborah Mawusi Ameh
Drought in Little London: Climate Change and Water Insecurity in Ghana's Coldest Region

Maame Adwoa Nyame Sam, Ama de-Graft Aikins, Vida Asah-Ayeh, Samuel Kotei Amon, Kingsley Apusiga, Thandi Kapwata
Extreme heat impact on health and adaptation strategies in Ga Mashie, Accra: A qualitative exploratory study

Siera Vercillo, Jasper Ayelazuno
Decolonizing African food – Learning from food sovereignty praxis in Ghana

Parallel Session II: Economic Growth, Sustainable Development, and Inequalities III

Room 2

Chair: Prof. Isaac Osei Akoto

Boureima Ouedraogo, Noël Thiombiano, Windkouni Haoua Eugenie Maiga, Safiétou Sanfo, Lars Esbjerg
Gender Inequality, Gender-Based Poverty and Non-Timber Value Chains in Burkina Faso

Fatima Iddrisu Abu
Empowering Kayayei: A Critical Examination of Skills Training Interventions in Ghana's Informal Economy

Charles Morrison, John Gartchie Gatsi, Mac Junior Abeka
Natural Disasters and Inclusive Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Role of the Stage of Development

Winnifred Akeso, Resty Naiga, Bernard Odur
A seat at the table: A reflection on youth representation, land rights and large-scale land acquisition in rural Uganda

Emmanuel B. Mensah, Johannes Van Biesebroeck
Efficiency of firms and markets in Ghana: The role of spatial factors

Emmanuel Mensah, Calumn Hamilton
Disparate data, disparate results: Has the Sub-Saharan Africa region deindustrialized?

Parallel Session II: Natural Resources, Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability II

Room 3
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Monica Mensah Danquah, Alfred Ato Yankson, Priscilla Quansah
Climate Change and Carbon Neutrality in Africa: A Pathway to Sustainable Development in Ghana and Burkina Faso

Bernard Asiedu Botchway
Small-Scale Mining in a Changing World: Policy Implementation, Resilience, and Sustainable Development

Emmanuel Bosomtwe, Kusi Aye Baah
Monetary Policy, Institutional Quality, and Ecological Footprint: Evidence from Francophone Countries in West Africa

Mohammed Kabeer Garba
The Political Economy of Green Transitions: Financing Climate Action in the Global South

Daniel Abiodun Akintunde-Alo, Simon Adeleke
Groundwater Potentiality Mapping for Sustainable Water Management in Oke-Ogun Region of Oyo State, Nigeria Using Geo-Spatial Techniques

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Abena A. Yalley
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Abigail Quaye, Victor E Ekpo, Fatima Issaka, Evangeline Dorleagbenu, Nana Akosua O. Adomako
Breast Cancer Awareness and Education for Teens: Empowering the Next Generation to Take Charge of Their Health

Rockson Osei-Mensah
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Ibn Abass Abdul Fatawu
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Room 5
Chair: Dr. Afua Boatemaa Yakohene

Aaron Sandow
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Yaa Adobea Owusu, Anita Bans-Akutey, Eric Y. Tenkorang
Rethinking Intimate Partner Violence in Matrilineal Societies through a Feminist Legal Lens

Anita Bans-Akutey, Yaa Adobea Owusu, Eric Y. Tenkorang
"Bride Price Payment Allows the Man to Own Me": Role of Lineage in Perpetrating Intimate Partner Violence

Mercy Sledge Ofosu
Writing Women into History: Makola Market Women, and the Decolonization of the Gold Coast

Vida Saa
Gendered Legal Agency and the Social Dynamics of Justice: A Sociological Study of Court-Connected ADR in Ghana.

Parallel Session II: Mental Health, Behaviour Change and Wellbeing III

Room 6
Chair: Prof. Annabella Osei-Tutu

Diane Korkor Arhin, Emmanuel Nii-Boye Quarshie, Margaret Amankwah-Poku
Mental Health Literacy, Help-Seeking Attitudes and Help-Giving Intentions of Adolescents in Ghana: A Cross-Sectional Study

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Future career anxiety mediates the association between intolerance of uncertainty and depression among university students in Ghana

Ada Allotey, Asher Amanor, Sylvester Kyei-Gyamfi, Benjamin Kobina Kwansa
Navigating Fear During the PhD Journey: A Self-Report Assessment of Doctoral Students' Emotional Challenges and Coping Strategies

Margaret Amankwah-Poku, Michellene Panni, Philip Soyiri, Angela, Anarfi Gyasi-Gyamera
"How can I get diabetes! I want to get healed": Experiences of Adolescents with Type 1 Diabetes in Ghana.

Parallel Session II: Governance, Development, and Security in the Context of Inequality

Room 7
Chair: Dr Ernest Darkwah

Shadrach Baa-Naa Kundi, Philip Attuquayefio
The Implications of the Competitive Geopolitical Space of External Actors on Africa's Peace, Security and Development

Isaac Owusu-Mensah
Analyzing the Effectiveness of Parliamentary Leadership in Ghana's Eighth Parliament

Jeffred Aryeetey
"Influencer-prenuership" - A double-edged sword to disinformation.

King Carl Tornam Duho, Godfred A. Bokpin, Kwesi Obeng
IMF-Supported Programs, Structural Reforms, Labour Market Outcomes and Inequality in Africa

Sebastian A. Paalo
Two sides of the same coin? Much ado about the Alliance of the Sahelian States (AES)

PARALLEL SESSIONS - DAY 2
9:20 – 11:10 A.M. PARALLEL SESSION III

Parallel Session III: Media, Communications, and the Politics of Inequality II

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Chair: Dr Samuel Benagr

Yao Ladzekpo, Lawrence Agbetsise
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Adesina Kola, Kunle Somorin, Kehinde Ademuyiwa
(New) Media, (New) Inequalities: The Human Cost of Media Representation

Joanita Naa Shika Okuley, Albert Agbesi Wornyo, Abena Abokoma Asemenyi
A Critical Discourse Analysis of Selected Animated Cartoons of African Origin

Chisom Ogamba, Idowu Olubunmi
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Parallel Session III: Urban Transformations, Social Inequalities, and Human Development

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Chair: Dr Clement Kwang

Pearl Kyei
Valuing Education: Trends and Determinants of School Non-Attendance in Ghana

Benolia Adjei-Cudjoe
Slum Agency and Spatial Politics in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area

Abel Fumey, Mary Magdalene Eliason
Household consumption expenditure and dietary diversity in Urban Ghana

Adjei Sopore, Esther Yeboah Danso-Wiredu
'Enclosed Religious Neighborhood' as a Socially Gated Community: Chapess in Ghana as Example

Parallel Session III: Political Economy, Resource Governance, and Institutional Reforms I

Room 2
Chair: Dr. Wassiuw Rahman

Mohammed Kabeer Garba, Jibrin Hussaini Abubakar
Comparative Analysis of the Foreign Policy Strategies of Emerging Powers: A Case Study of India, South Africa and Brazil

Akpeko Agbevade
Public Procurement and Public Financial Management nexus in Ghana's public sector management

Francis Kwesi Kyirewiah
Harnessing local knowledge and participation for Equitable and Sustainable Resource Governance

Abigail A. Tetteh-Yankey
Corruption Under Ghana's Fourth Republic: Unpacking Causes and Remedies through Stakeholders' Perspectives and its Implications on the ASGM Sector

OXFAM

Parallel Session III: Technological Innovations, Data Governance and Security II

Room 3

Chair: Prof. Eric Afful-Dadzie

Elijah Ikpanor
Periodic Markets, Digital Technology and the expansion of trade in the rural areas of Tivland, Benue State - Nigeria

Wonder Anane
Bridging the Digital Divide: The Role of Cybersecurity in Promoting Inclusive Digital Access in Ghana.

Ibrahim Osman Adam, Ivy Hawah Taana, Mubarik Abdul Mumin
Software Acquisition and Project Success in Ghana's Health Sector: Examining the Role of Project Management Competency and Organizational Support

Miracle A. Atianashie, Mark K. Kuffour, Bernard Kyiewu
Artificial Intelligence, Data Ethics, and Governance: A Framework for Reducing Digital Inequalities in Resource-Constrained Societies

Parallel Session III: Natural Resources, Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability II

Room 4

Chair: Dr. Eric Tamatey Lawer

Peter Kodjo Luh, Zangina Isshaq
Green/Sustainable Procurement Governance, Institutional Quality and Environmental Sustainability Performance

Kelvin Fiati, Emilia Udofia, Adzanu Miriam
The First Step to a Giant Leap: A Pilot Experience of the Potential Industrial Symbiosis Network in Ghana.

Raymond Anyasu
Exploring SDG Integration in the Basic School Science CCP Curriculum

Omolara Oluwatoyin Idehenre, Lukman Adegoyega Abioye, Thomas-Kuye Olufunmilay Adedayo, Odenike Timothy Omolaso, Apanisile Modupe Mercy, Ayoola Morayo J
Integrating Indigenous Knowledge Systems into Climate Adaptation and Environmental Sustainability in Nigeria

Parallel Session III: Political Economy, Resource Governance, and Institutional Reforms II

Room 5

Chair: Prof. Stephen Afranie

Akpeko Agbevade, Bernard Adjei Poku, Georgina Baaba Anquandah, Charles Oppong Adabo, Cephas Amada
The Political Economy of Industrial Actions in Ghana

Emmanuel Tandoh
Political Economy, Resource Governance, and Institutional Reforms: Pathways to Equitable Development

Nana Kwame Nkrumah
Sino-Russian Relations and West African Economic Security: A New Domination or Mutual Cooperation? The case of Niger.

Gilbert A. Aidoo, Beatrice Benewaa, Clarke E. Yalley
Ghana: A Working Democracy or Voting Machine?

Parallel Session III: Poverty, Financial Inclusion, and Social Protection

Room 6

Chair: Dr. Richmond Atta Ankomah

Charles Yaw Okyere, Collins Asante-Addo, Richmond Atta-Ankomah, Christian Kwaku Osei
Do Social Interventions Improve Welfare? Evidence from Northern Ghana

Paul Herzuah
'I Need to Get My Grades but I Need Money Too': Breaking the Glass Ceiling to Survive as Female Student Entrepreneurs

Efua Esaaba Mantey Agyire-Tettey
Transitions of Persons with Disability from Tertiary Education to the Labour Market in Ghana

Joseph Ato Forson, Michael Awuku, Samuel Evergreen Adjavon, Hilda Gyamfi Ackomah, Sylvia Agyeman Addai
Financial Innovation and Food System Resilience in Ghana: Balancing Economic Growth and Environmental Sustainability

Parallel Session III: Mobility, Climate, and Environmental Inequalities in a Globalized World

Room 7

Chair: Prof. Leander Kandilige

Youssef Cherif
Southward Migration and Informal Integration: Tunisian Pathways into West Africa

Francis Adzraku, Mary Boatemaa Setrana, Mawuli K. Afenyo, Michael K. Dzordzormenyoh
Internal Forced Migration: A catalyst for Food insecurity in Ghana

Princess Marie-Lois Quame, Clement Adamba
Customary Law and Climate Justice: Investigating Local Litigation Mechanisms for Climate Change Disputes in Ghana

Isaac Luginaah
Participatory Agroecological Research for Transforming Knowledge and Equity in African Communities (PARTAKE Africa)

11:30 A.M. – 1:20 P.M.
PARALLEL SESSION IV

Parallel Session IV: Conflict, Peace, and Security in Unequal Societies II

Auditorium
Chair: Dr. Juliana Appiah

Mohammed Kabeer Garba, Jibrin Hussaini Abubakar
New Powers, Old Rules: Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Membership and Emerging Contestation over Nuclear Ownership in the 21st Century

Afua Boatemaa Yakohene, Melvis Ndiloseh
Justice as Security: Restorative Practices and Post-Conflict Reconciliation Across Africa

Suleiman Ahmadu Abubakar, Maikano Madaki
The Nigerian Experience in Combating Cattle Rustling Using Some Selected States in the North-Western Geo-Political Zone

Mohammed Kabeer Garba
Assessing the Foreseen and Unforeseen Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Electoral Performance of Incumbent Political Parties: A Case Study of Ghana (2020–2025)

Parallel Session IV: Culture, Literature and Linguistic Dimensions of Inequality

Room 1
Chair: Dr Fusheini Angulu Hudu

Seth Nretia Essien
Reviving Nzema Language through Computerized Linguistics

Divine Gborsi
Linguistic Inequality and Inclusive Development in Ghana: Rethinking Language Policy for Social Justice

Patience Calys-Tagoe, Angel Edward Kongo
Power Dynamics in Telic and Atelic Expressions in Patient Information Leaflets of Selected Antihypertensive Drugs

Taiwo Osanyemi
Bridging Inequalities in a Changing World: A Marxist Reading of Two Plays by Femi Osofisan

Parallel Session IV: Performing Arts, Theatre, Music, and Dance as Tools for Social Change

Room 2
Chair: Prof. Awo Mana Asiedu

Kingsley Acheampong, Joshua Amuah
Inclusive Growth in Ghanaian Art Music: Challenging Definitions and Bridging Cultural Inequalities

Joshua Gariba
Celebrating the Past in Peacetime: The Leelik War Dance of the Bulsa of Northern Ghana

Grace Takyi Donkor, Peter Twum-Barimah, Emmanuel Nii Sowah
Traditional Music in Contemporary Ghanaian Choral Music Performances.

Parallel Session IV: Inequality, Labour, and Cultural Economies in Transitional Societies

Room 3
Chair: Dr. Prince Adjei

Issoufou Ouédraogo
Determinants of profit in the baobab products value chain: evidence from Burkina Faso

Emmanuel Anokye Nkansah, Maxwell Asumeng, Inusah Abdul-Nasiru, Collins Badu Agyemang
Exploring Work-Related Experiences of Ride-Hailing Drivers in Ghana's Gig Economy: A

Qualitative Study

Benedicta Owusu Ataa, Levina Abunyah Nyameyah
Re-thinking the Teaching of French in Senior High Schools for Effective Inclusion in the Global Society.

Mohammed El-Nasir Al-Amin
Gendered Performance Aesthetics and Epistemic features in Ilorin Oral Arts: Advancing Inclusive Growth through Cultural Resilience

Parallel Session IV: Health and Educational Disparities in a Changing World II

Room 4
Chair: Prof. Joanna Salifu Yendork

Ransford Kwaku Afeadie
Bridging the Cultural Gap in Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare: Behaviour Change Insights for Strengthening Service Delivery in Multicultural Settings, Ghana

Michael Kofi Hanson
Access to health insurance and its role in enhancing healthcare utilization: a regression discontinuity approach to exploring supplier induced demand in Ghana

Betty Adzah
The Education-Depression Paradox: Exploring the Relationship between Educational Attainment and Mental Health in Women

Opeyemi Omowumi, Ashowo Gift Chinwendu
The Role of Open and Distance Learning Institutions in Fostering Inclusive Education for Students with Disabilities: A Narrative Inquiry

Parallel Session IV: Governance, Human Rights, and Legal Frameworks for Equity

Room 5
Chair: Prof. Kwadwo Appiagyei-Atua

Akpeko Agbevade
Excellence in the Throes of Political Turbulent Environment in Ghana: A Comparative Analysis of Autonomous Executive Agencies

Joseph Gerald Nyanyofio, Isaac Tettey, Joseph Kwadwo Tuffour, Akorfa Wuttor, Frederick Okpoti Pobee
Governance and Sustainability of Public-Private Partnership in Ghana's Urban Water Sector: The Case of Teshie-Nungua Sea Water Desalination Project

Peter Apuko Awuni, Peter Apuko Awuni
One Ship, Two Captains – A Recipe for Chaos?
An Examination of Legal Pluralism in Ghana's Formal and Traditional Governance Systems

Emmanuel Yaw Dzageli
Balancing Regulatory Compliance and Depositor Protection: A Study of Anti-Money Laundering Practices in Ghana's Banking Sector.

Parallel Session IV: Business, Entrepreneurship, and Market-Based Approaches to Addressing Inequality

Room 6
Chair: Prof. Acheampong Owusu

Akpeko Agbevade
Public Policy and Entrepreneurship in Ghana's Fourth Republic

Godfred Bonnah Nkansah, Stefan Danquah
"We recruit for passion and train for skill": Soft Skills, Technical Skills and Employability in the Agricultural Sector in Ghana

Joseph Mensah, Ebenezer Aninkorah
Analysing the impact of online shopping on traditional mortar and bricks shops. An explorative analysis of the impact of Post COVID 19 on the traditional shopping experience

Shodiya Olayinka Abideen, RAJI Olajide Alade, Jolaosho Surajudeen, Ayodeji Olamide Ayoola
Sustainable Business Practices and Sustainability Performance Among SMEs in Abeokuta Metropolis, Ogun State, Nigeria

Parallel Session IV: Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Philosophy, Religion, and Inclusive Policy II

Room 7
Chair: Prof. Hasskei Mohammed Majeed

Kingsley Acheampong
Bridging Epistemic Inequalities in Music Education: Comparing Indigenous African and Western Theories to Inspire Inclusive Composition Practices

Kingsley J.E.K Acheampong, Leticia Naabano Takpo
Voice for the Voiceless: Anlee and Kɔɔre Music as Indigenous Tools for Gender Inclusion and Cultural Resilience in Northern Ghana

Catherine Asamoah, Patrick Ngulube
Integration and utilization of indigenous knowledge systems in Academic institutions in Ghana.

Alexander Hackman-Aidoo, Leticia Naabano Takpo
How much is too much? Defining limits to religious freedom under Ghana's fourth Republican Constitution

ABSTRACTS FOR PARALLEL SESSIONS

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' LAND MAKING

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Abstract

In our current ecological crisis, where environmental destruction has reached an all-time high, the relationship between Anthropos and nature remains a pressing concern. A crisis deeply embedded in the historical tensions between two seemingly irreconcilable worldings: settler colonialism and indigenous ecological ethos. Sylvia Wynter, centering the slavery plantation in "Novel and History, Plot and Plantation," offers two different ecological ethos: plot and plantation. The plantation dominated by external forces (the planters) reduces everything to its economic value, while the plot represented by chattel slaves cultivates for subsistence. While I align indigenous and settler colonial ecological ethos to Wynters' notions of plot and plantation, I offer the terms land making and place making in place of plot and plantation. Indigenous peoples' connection to other-than-human entities transcends place making — a static, distant relationality. Instead, it embraces land making, a dynamic, intimate relation with other-than-human entities. Undertaking an ecocritical reading of Frank Waters' The Man Who Killed the Deer, this study examines how the 'Indian' peoples' ecological ethos represents land making processes that challenge settler environmental paradigms, enabling the imagination of new, alternative ecological relationalities, including embracing a hetero-familial relationship with the other-than-human; imbibing animistic trajectories; practicing hunting as survival and sustenance; maintaining a close, constant communion with land; and conceiving land as sacred, a source of life and historical continuity. Engaging with Waters' novel, this work reimagines literature's role in resisting extractive settler paradigms by advancing alternative ecological futures, fostering more equitable socio-ecological relationships.

Keywords: ecocriticism, indigenous studies, settler colonialism, ecological relation

"WE NO LONGER EXPERIENCE 'SIAMLƆM'": USING THE INDIGENOUS EWE LANGUAGE TO EXPLAIN CLIMATE CHANGE, AGRICULTURE, AND FOOD SECURITY AMONG SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN GHANA

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Abstract

Prior to the global climate change debates, most local languages in Ghana named the months of the year according to the climate, vegetation, agriculture, and food security. Despite this foundational knowledge, nothing is known about climate change research conceptualization using the Ewe months of the year in data collection in Ghana. This research explored the following questions: Do you know the names of the months in your local language? If yes, can you explain the meaning of the months? Has the climatic situation (rainfall, heat, or high temperature) and food production changed according to your understanding of the months in your local language? The intensive data was collected among seven purposefully selected participants using photovoice and observation, archival and oral history, while the extensive data was collected using a closed-ended questionnaire among 154 smallholder farmers. NVivo 14 and PSS version 21 were used for the intensive and extensive data analysis respectively. The result shows that those who know the names of the months in their local language slightly were the highest at 33%, followed by those who do not know at all at 24%. Among those who could explain the meaning of the months in Ewe, slightly had the highest percentage at 37%. Finally, about 61% strongly agree that the meaning of the months in Ewe shows that the climatic situation (rainfall and high temperature) and food production have changed over the years. The study recommends further studies using other local languages.

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE: BUILDING PEACE AND RESILIENCE THROUGH SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN WEST AFRICA

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Abstract

In many parts of West Africa, environmental degradation and competition over scarce natural resources particularly land and water have continued to intensify social tensions and contributed to localized conflicts in the region. While formal governance responses often emphasize regulatory and technical solutions to these challenges; they frequently neglect the indigenous knowledge systems that have historically governed natural resource management and conflict resolution among the people. This paper therefore explores how indigenous environmental governance practices can be integrated into contemporary policy frameworks to foster peace and resilience in ecologically fragile and conflict-prone regions of the west Africa; focusing on the savanna belt of Northern Nigeria and Northern Ghana. These regions are characterized by their seasonal migrations, land pressure, and climate-induced resource scarcity; offering a context for understanding how traditional institutions such as chiefs, emirs, and councils of elders mediate access to natural resources and resolve disputes. The study adopts a qualitative research design involving semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions, and document analysis. Findings indicate that hybrid governance models, which combine statutory and customary systems, enhance local legitimacy, improve natural resource management, and reduce the risk of conflict. The research highlights the value of indigenous practices such as rotational farming systems, sacred groves, customary land tenure arrangements, and community-based dispute resolution in promoting environmental sustainability and social cohesion. The paper concludes by proposing a framework for integrating indigenous knowledge into national and regional environmental policies, with specific recommendations for policymakers, traditional authorities, and civil society actors.

DECOLONIALITY AND THE POLITICS OF KNOWLEDGE IN AFRICAN STUDIES: TOWARDS INCLUSIVE POLICY THROUGH EPISTEMIC PLURALISM

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Abstract

The prevalent influence of Western theories and Western theorizing in African studies project a marginalization of African epistemologies and perpetuation of misrepresentations and complexities of African experiences. Such complexities necessitate nuanced theoretical perspectives to deepen understanding of socio-cultural/ socio-political phenomena. This paper interrogates the hegemony of Western epistemologies in African Studies, demystifies the institutionalized contradictions that obscure African knowledge production, and juxtaposes Western theories with the indigenous, to highlight the importance of contextually grounded frameworks rooted in African experiences. By examining the intersection between African and Western models of knowledge production through critical analysis of case studies and African epistemological traditions, the paper aims to contribute to the development of decolonial epistemologies and promote a future for African Studies that is grounded in indigenous knowledges to redefine the contours of knowledge production and contribute to a more inclusive and equitable global knowledge landscape. Ultimately, it calls for a decolonial shift in African Studies beyond critiquing to constructing new frameworks for knowledge production.

Keywords: epistemic pluralism, indigenous knowledge, theory; theorizing, African studies

DETERMINANTS OF SPORT ANALYTICS APPS ADOPTION BY PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL COACHES IN A DEVELOPING ECONOMY: EVIDENCE FROM GHANA

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Abstract

This study investigates the factors influencing the adoption of Sports Analytics Applications (SAAs) by professional football coaches in Ghana, a developing economy. Guided by the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT), the research explores the roles of performance expectancy, effort expectancy, social influence, facilitating conditions, and behavioural intention. Utilising a qualitative methodology, data were collected through in-depth interviews with seven professional football coaches selected via purposive, convenience, snowball, and structural sampling techniques. Thematic analysis revealed that while the constructs of UTAUT—such as performance expectancy, effort expectancy, social influence, and facilitating conditions—did not significantly impact behavioural intention, there was a strong positive relationship between behavioural intention and actual usage of SAAs. Moreover, demographic variables like age, gender, and coaching experience were found to have no moderating effect. The findings suggest a need for increased awareness, training, and trial-based exposure to analytics apps. The study contributes to the limited literature on sports analytics in developing countries. It provides strategic recommendations for the Ghana Football Association and other stakeholders to enhance the adoption of technology in coaching. Future research could extend this inquiry to include fans or explore the use of cloud-based analytics tools.

Keywords: Sports Analytics Applications, Professional Football Coaches, UTAUT, Adoption, Ghana

ETHICAL CHALLENGES IN THE DEPLOYMENT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN AFRICAN GOVERNANCE AND SECURITY SECTORS

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Abstract

As artificial intelligence (AI) technologies become increasingly integrated into governance and security systems across Africa, pressing ethical concerns have emerged regarding their deployment, regulation, and societal impact. This study critically examines the ethical challenges associated with the use of AI in African governance and security sectors, focusing on issues of privacy, transparency, accountability, algorithmic bias, and digital sovereignty. Drawing on case studies from selected African countries, the research explores how governments and security agencies are employing AI for surveillance, predictive policing and public service delivery in Ghana and Nigeria. It investigates the implications of these applications for civil liberties, data protection, and democratic accountability, especially in contexts with weak regulatory frameworks and limited public oversight. The study also considers how the two countries are responding to the ethical challenges associated with the importation of AI systems from foreign companies. Using a qualitative methodology that includes policy document analysis, expert interviews, and a review of secondary literature, the research highlights the urgency of establishing ethical governance frameworks for AI. It argues that without clear standards for transparency, inclusivity, and human rights protections, AI deployment may exacerbate existing inequalities, undermine public trust, and entrench authoritarian practices. The study concludes by recommending the development of context-specific AI ethics guidelines, public awareness campaigns, and multistakeholder governance models that center African values and democratic accountability in the continent's AI future. keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Ethical Challenges, Governance, Security Sector, Africa.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Ethical Challenges, Governance, Security Sector, Africa.

ENHANCING TEACHING AND LEARNING WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) TECHNOLOGIES: EXPLORING THE ATTITUDE AND PERSPECTIVES OF BASIC SCHOOL TEACHERS IN GHANA

Freda Osei Sefa[1], Clement Adamba[2], Martin Wiredu Agyekum[3], Innocent Agbelie[4], Audrey Djarbeng[5], John Baptise Akanwake[6], Justina Addai[7]

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Abstract

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is permeating every facet of human life. In education, AI acts as an interactive agent with the potential to enhance teaching and learning experiences. There is, however, limited research on the integration of AI in Africa. Adopting AI in the classroom depends on the teachers and their geographical locations (urban, peri-urban and rural areas). This study aimed to explore geographical location variations in teachers' knowledge, attitudes towards AI, and their perceptions of integrating AI technologies into their work. The study utilised a quantitative research design to achieve its objectives. Quantitative data were collected using a cross-sectional survey of public school teachers across the country. A three-stage stratified sampling strategy was used to select 1250 participants. Though the study is ongoing, it is expected to reveal varying levels of teacher readiness for AI integration, shaped by differences in access, training, institutional support, and personal attitudes. Anticipated outcomes include variations in teachers' perception, attitude and usage of AI across the urban, peri-urban and rural areas in Ghana, offering insights to inform policy and professional development strategies. The findings are intended to contribute to the growing discourse on AI in education within African contexts, highlighting implications for teacher capacity building and technology policy.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Rural, Urban, Peri- urban

BELLING THE CAT: SECURING AND MANAGING DATA UNDER NIGERIAN LAW

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Abstract

With the growing state of technological innovations, the need for data governance and security has become imperative, therefore, this paper seeks to examine the entire gamut of protection and management of data under the Nigerian legal framework. To this end, several legislations have been enacted to govern data use in Nigeria. These legislations include but are not limited to the Nigerian Data Protection Act 2023, Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Act 2018, Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention etc) (Amendment) Act 2024 and the Freedom of Information Act 2011. This paper reveals that while Nigeria has made strides in enacting data protection laws, some challenges still militate against the effective enforcement of these laws. These challenges include inadequate penalties for data breaches, limited enforcement capabilities and a lack of trained personnel, which collectively undermine the effectiveness of these laws. There is also a complication of data protection and management as Nigeria struggles to align and comply with international best practices. The study recommends that there is a need for a robust framework that addresses both the protection and management of data in the Nigeria legal landscape, calling for reforms that can better protect citizens in an era of rapid digital evolution. Ultimately, this study advocates for stronger policies and enforcement mechanisms that can safeguard personal data, ensuring that Nigeria's cyber laws fulfil their mandate to uphold the fundamental right to privacy.

MINIATURIZATION AND MOBILITY: REDEFINING TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN EXPERIENCE

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Abstract

The ongoing trend of miniaturization and enhanced mobility in technology has significantly reshaped both the digital landscape and the fabric of human experience. From the evolution of room-sized computers to pocket-sized smartphones and wearable devices, technological

advancements have drastically reduced the size of hardware while increasing their capabilities. This paper explores how miniaturization and mobility influence not just the design and function of technology, but also social behavior, communication, healthcare, education, and daily human interactions. It highlights the transformative role of portable, compact devices in enabling ubiquitous computing, personalized experiences, and a redefinition of physical and digital boundaries. Ultimately, this study emphasizes how these innovations challenge traditional paradigms and open new possibilities for human-computer interaction and societal development.

FRAMING GENDERED VIOLENCE IN THE MARGINS: A SYSTEMATIC GAP ANALYSIS OF RELEVANT EXISTING LITERATURE ON MEDIA REPRESENTATION OF RAPE NARRATIVES (2000–2025)

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Abstract

In contexts of structural gender inequality, media narratives play a powerful role in shaping public perception and institutional responses to sexual violence. This study conducts a systematic gap analysis of scholarly literature on the framing of reported rape narratives in the media, with a particular focus on Nigeria. Using the PRISMA framework, a total of 166 articles were screened across global databases, with 74 meeting the inclusion criteria. These articles span diverse contexts including the United States, Sweden, Pakistan, Kenya, and the Philippines, offering a global perspective on how rape is framed in the media.

Despite the prevalence of sexual violence in Nigeria and the critical role of the media in shaping discourse, only 14 of the reviewed studies (18.9%) focus on Nigeria, and just 6 of these (8.1%) apply linguistic, critical discourse, or feminist frameworks. This underrepresentation of Nigerian scholarship not only reflects geographical and epistemological gaps but also reinforces epistemic inequality and limits the development of locally relevant interventions.

By identifying these gaps in geographical scope, methodological approach, and theoretical engagement, this paper advocates for increased investment in feminist and discourse-oriented research in African contexts. The study aligns with the conference theme by showing how inclusive knowledge production and critical engagement with media discourse can help bridge gendered inequalities and build social resilience. Ultimately, this work contributes to an understanding of how to disrupt harmful narratives and promote justice for survivors within sustainable and inclusive systems.

Keywords: rape narratives, media framing, gender inequality, discourse analysis, Nigeria, inclusion, resilience

SYNTHETIC WAVELENGTH: LEVERAGING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR THE AFRICAN CINEMA AESTHETICS

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Abstract

Cinema, the youngest of the arts, has continuously evolved through its interplay with culture and technology. As a postcolonial art form, African cinema has historically leveraged advances in camera and distribution technologies to gain visibility and compete on the global stage. However, while artificial intelligence (AI) has transformed multiple domains of creative production, its full potential for content creation within African cinema remains largely untapped. This study draws on the experimental short film 'Urgent Response Needed' (2025), a speculative documentary exploring themes of internet fraud and digital colonialism, to demonstrate how AI can be a powerful tool in reimagining storytelling. The film utilizes AI-generated voice cloning and sound design to replace traditionally resource-intensive processes. In particular, it employs AI to simulate the voices of a European character and a serpent, invoking biblical metaphorization of deception through a subtle use of 'found sound' to create a layered diegetic experience. Leveraging the concept of wavelength, the study analyzes both the creative process and the integration of synthetic audio media in 'Urgent Response Needed' (2025). It also considers the broader wavelength of inclusion (the spectrum of access and adoption) of synthetic 'AI-generated' media in African cinema through a practice-led study on how AI can contribute to a more accessible, inclusive, and innovative future for African cinema, not merely as a cost-saving mechanism but as a catalyst for new aesthetic forms.

Keywords: AI, synthetic wavelength, African cinema, experimental, aesthetic.

A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF SELECTED ANIMATED CARTOONS OF AFRICAN ORIGIN

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Abstract

Animated cartoons provide entertainment for children. In addition, they serve as agents of socialization. The content of animated cartoons is capable of changing, moulding and influencing the thoughts and actions of children. Using Thompson's Modes of Ideology, this study provides a critical discourse analysis of the ideologies projected in three selected animated cartoons of African origin and how the projected ideologies are portrayed. Data were gathered through document analysis and examined using textual and thematic analyses. It was discovered that animated cartoons are embedded with certain ideologies or worldviews capable of changing the mindsets of children. Ideologies such as patriarchy, hegemonic masculinity and sexualization of women were projected in the animated cartoons. It was also found that the selected animated cartoons project parent-child power imbalance and marriage and childbirth as the ultimate. In addition, the findings revealed the projection of certain ideologies through authorization, affiliation, alienation and entrenchment which are in line with Thompson's Modes: legitimization, unification, fragmentation and reification. This study concludes that animated cartoons contribute to the spreading of certain ideologies.

Keywords: animated cartoons; critical discourse analysis; ideology; children; African origin

(NEW) MEDIA, (NEW) INEQUALITIES: THE HUMAN COST OF MEDIA REPRESENTATION

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Abstract

This study critically examines the intricate relationship between media, communications, and the politics of inequality, highlighting the significant effects of these dynamics on human existence. This research analyzes contemporary cases, such as the emergence of far-right ideologies in Europe and the United States, revealing how media narratives

influence public opinion, shape political agendas, and sustain systemic injustices. We argue that media portrayal is significant as it deepens xenophobic attitudes and reinforces racial stereotypes while neglecting vulnerable populations. This research investigates the double-edged sword of the digital communication world, which can uplift subordinated voices, but often reinforces existing power dynamics. This study investigates the ethics of the media's empathy in regard to inclusivity, dominant narratives, and empathy through the inclusivity paradigm. The analysis further unveils the socio-economic disdain disguised as political hostility towards immigrants that shows how the media is often cloak scapegoating socio-economically marginalized groups. Social change is possible when there is an improvement in the inequitable communicative practices, empathy-less media, and the compassion-less storytelling paradigms. It is the aim of this research to contribute toward the development of humane, socially responsible, empathetic, and inclusively dignified to catalyze healing and understanding as well as deepen civil social relations.

Keywords: Media representation, inequality, politics, identity, immigration, digital communication, social justice, human rights.

THE NIGERIAN EXPERIENCE IN COMBATING CATTLE RUSTLING USING SOME SELECTED STATES IN THE NORTH-WESTERN GEO-POLITICAL ZONE

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Abstract

The North-Western Geo-Political Zone of Nigeria, like every other part of the country is bedeviled with the activities of cattle rustling. The phenomenon of cattle rustling has become a serious issue of tension and insecurity, not only to the zone, but to the entire zones comprising the Northern region. This paper examined the strategies put in place by the governments (states and federal) and non-state actors in response to the problem of cattle rustling, in Kaduna, Kano, Katsina and Zamfara States in the North-Western Geo-political Zone. The paper also examined whether these strategies adopted by both governments has helped in tackling the issue of cattle rustling in the zone. The reviewed showed that, deployment of security personnel, engagement of vigilant groups, various military operations, restriction of Lorries and Trailers convening cattle, arresting of cattle rustlers were used to deter rustling. Ill-equipment of the law enforcement agencies, unfulfilled promised made by the government during peace meetings with the rustlers, political influences, lack of knowledge of the terrain by law enforcement agencies, lack of infrastructure in rural communities and

injustice, were found to be impediment to the strategies adopted by the governments in the fight against the problem of cattle rustling in North-Western Geo-political in the country. The paper concluded that the coercive strategies employed in Kaduna, Kano, Katsina and Zamfara States in the North-Western Geo-political Zone were not very effective and did not adequately address conditions that encourage cattle rustling. The paper recommended that the government should continue with the amnesty programs and dialogue with the cattle rustlers, because it is the only way that would guarantees the security of lives and property in the affected communities in the zone

Keywords: Nigerian government, Non- state actors, Cattle rustling, Strategies

ASSESSING THE FORESEEN AND UNFORESEEN IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE ELECTORAL PERFORMANCE OF INCUMBENT POLITICAL PARTIES: A CASE STUDY OF GHANA (2020–2025)

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Abstract

This study investigates the foreseen and unforeseen impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the electoral performance of incumbent political parties, focusing on Ghana as a case study from 2020 to 2025. The analysis explores how the pandemic influenced voter behavior, public trust in government, and political party strategies within the context of a global health crisis. The study identifies how the pandemic disrupted traditional electoral processes, including campaign activities and voter mobilization efforts, as digital platforms became central to political communication. Drawing on accountability theory, the research argues that this shift toward digital engagement inadvertently excluded significant portions of the population lacking access to technology, thereby reshaping electoral demographics. Additionally, the pandemic amplified socio-economic inequalities, further polarizing voter behavior along class and regional lines. The study's findings provide critical insights into the interplay between governance during crises and electoral outcomes. For Ghana, the pandemic underscored the importance of crisis resilience and adaptive political strategies in sustaining electoral fortunes. The research also highlights the potential long-term implications, including shifts in voter expectations, trust in political institutions, and the role of technology in electoral processes. This research contributes to the broader literature on crisis politics and electoral studies by offering a nuanced understanding of how unforeseen global events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, intersect with localized political and electoral dynamics. It concludes with recommendations for policymakers and political actors to strengthen crisis preparedness and enhance inclusive electoral practices in future emergencies.

NEW POWERS, OLD RULES: NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT) MEMBERSHIP AND EMERGING CONTESTATION OVER NUCLEAR OWNERSHIP IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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Abstract

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), long regarded as the cornerstone of global nuclear order, faces unprecedented challenges to its legitimacy and effectiveness in the 21st century. This paper examines the growing contestation surrounding the treaty, focusing on three interrelated crises: compliance (the failure of nuclear-armed states to fulfill disarmament obligations), equity (the rigid hierarchy between nuclear "haves" and "have-nots"), and relevance (the treaty's inability to address emerging technologies and multipolar competition). Through analysis of historical developments and contemporary case studies including India's nuclear exceptionalism, North Korea's withdrawal, and the rise of the Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons (TPNW), we demonstrate how structural flaws in the NPT's design and shifting geopolitical realities have eroded confidence in the regime. The paper evaluates three potential futures for nuclear governance: incremental reform within the existing framework, fragmentation into competing regimes, or transformational change through new institutional arrangements. While each pathway presents distinct risks and opportunities, we argue that without meaningful progress on disarmament and greater inclusivity toward emerging nuclear powers, the NPT risks further decline. The study concludes by emphasizing the urgency of addressing these challenges through inclusive dialogue, renewed commitment to disarmament, and innovative governance solutions. As technological advancements and geopolitical rivalries reshape global security dynamics, the international community must confront whether the NPT can adapt or will be supplanted by alternative frameworks.

Keywords: Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Nuclear Governance, Disarmament, Nonproliferation, Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), Emerging Nuclear Powers

JUSTICE AS SECURITY: RESTORATIVE PRACTICES AND POST-CONFLICT RECONCILIATION ACROSS AFRICA

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Abstract

Post-conflict reconciliation processes across Africa often reflect deep-rooted traditions of restorative justice, offering insights into alternative conceptions of security beyond liberal peacebuilding paradigms. From local truth-telling ceremonies in Southern Africa to cleansing rituals in West, East and Central Africa, communities have long engaged in practices that seek to restore social harmony, rebuild trust, and reweave the fabric of collective life after violence. This paper explores how such justice practices—rooted in oral traditions, spiritual belief systems, and communal norms—serve as modes of security in themselves. By comparing cases across multiple regions, it argues for a broader epistemological shift in security studies that takes seriously African frameworks of justice as integral to the creation of sustainable peace. The paper challenges the dominance of retributive justice models and foregrounds reconciliation as both a political and ontological act of protection.

Keywords: Post-conflict reconciliation, retributive justice

IMPLEMENTING EDUCATIONAL BRICOLAGE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA TO IMPROVE LEARNING OUTCOMES AND MATCH GLOBAL STANDARDS

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Abstract

Several educational systems in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) continue to face major challenges due to limited resources, fragile infrastructure and a lack of consistent investment. These factors contribute to poor performance on international learning assessments such as the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). This systematic review explores how educational bricolage, understood as the creative use of available resources in teaching and learning, has been applied in different parts of SSA region to improve educational outcomes. Thirteen peer-reviewed studies were carefully selected using the PRISMA framework. A thematic analysis using Braun and Clarke's approach revealed three key themes. These include teacher-led innovation in classroom practice, community involvement in supporting

schools, and the use of simple technologies to sustain learning in difficult environments. A meta-analysis using VOS viewer was also conducted to map the relationships between the selected studies and to identify emerging areas of focus. The review finds that educational bricolage helps teachers and communities to work with what they have in ways that are both practical and effective. It also shows that such approaches can increase access to education and improve learner engagement in disadvantaged settings. The study offers more insights for education planners, researchers and development partners who seek to build inclusive, resilient and high-quality education systems in Africa. The findings finally conceptualize the potential of local knowledge and grassroots creativity in shaping more effective learning environments.

Keywords: Educational Bricolage, Resource-Constrained Settings, Education Resilience, PISA, sub-Saharan Africa.

THE ROLE OF FEMALE LIBRARIANS IN ERADICATING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF NIGERIA

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Abstract

Gender based violence (GBV) is still a major social issue in Nigeria, particularly in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) where culture and societal norms frequently impede its eradication. Female librarians, as custodians of knowledge and community leaders, have a unique opportunity to drive advocacy, education, and empowerment efforts. The present study examines the contributions made by female librarians to the fight against gender-based violence (GBV) in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) of Nigeria. A total of 130 questionnaires were valid questionnaires, using a mixed approach combining the employment of Google Forms to give structured questionnaires with some physical distribution to some nearby libraries. The study shows that female librarians have an immense role to play in preventing gender-based violence (GBV) through the creation of awareness, accessibility to information, carrying out sensitization campaigns, and provision of key information services and referrals to victims. However, they encounter a number of obstacles, such as a lack of institutional backing, restricted training opportunities, and cultural problems. To support their role in preventing GBV in the FCT maximally, the study proposes enhanced professional development, joint advocacy, and sound policy frameworks. Moreover, the study argues that female librarians hold a central role allowing them to become catalysts for social change.

Keywords: Female librarians, Gender Based Violence, Nigeria, Federal Capital Territory, Advocacy, Information Access, Library services.

THE MODERATING ROLE OF "AL-BIRR" IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROTEAN CAREER ATTITUDE AND ORGANISATIONAL COMMITMENT

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Abstract

The present study aims to contribute new knowledge to the existing literature on Islamic Management, specifically examining the unique significance of the "Al-birr" concept as outlined in the Qur'an and its mediating effect on the relationship between Protean Career Attitudes and Organisational Commitment among employees of SMEs in Ghana. A protean career attitude has been defined as the degree to which an individual is self-directed and value-driven in managing their career, rather than it being managed by an organisation. Organisational commitment is the psychological connection between an employee and the employing organisation. Recent literature reveals mixed outcomes, both positive and negative, in the relationship between these key variables. The research introduces al-birr, a unique cultural and ethical variable, as a mediator in the relationship above. "Al-birr" emphasises ethical behaviour, fairness, and value alignment, which can further reinforce organisational commitment by fostering trust, loyalty, and shared values, promoting personal responsibility, value-driven behaviour, adaptability, and integrity. The findings from this study may be used by corporate managers, business leaders, and CEOs, as well as government officials, to justify their performance improvement interventions, so that the concept of "Al-birr," as espoused in the Qur'an and Sunnah, can be practically materialised and further enhanced among contemporary employees.

Keywords: Protean Career Attitudes, Organisational Commitment, Al-birr, Islamic Values, Islamic Management.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND ECONOMIC MARGINALIZATION: INTERSECTIONS OF INEQUALITY IN LIBERIA

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Abstract

Gender-based violence (GBV) continues to shape the everyday realities of many women and girls in Liberia, leaving deep scars not just on their bodies and minds but also on their economic futures. This study takes a closer look at how violence and poverty often go hand in hand, trapping survivors in cycles of dependency, exclusion, and inequality. Using insights from national surveys, legal documents, and reports by local and international organizations, the research explores how GBV limits women's access to education, employment, land, and financial independence. It also examines Liberia's legal response including the Rape Law and Domestic Violence Act and asks why, despite these protections, justice often remains out of reach for many survivors. Through an intersectional lens, the study shows how factors like poverty, geographic location, and cultural expectations make some women even more vulnerable than others. Ultimately, this work calls for more than legal reform; it urges a holistic response that empowers women economically, strengthens community support systems, and ensures justice is accessible to all. By addressing GBV not just as a social issue but as a major barrier to inclusive development, the study highlights why ending violence against women must be central to Liberia's progress toward equality and sustainable growth.

Keywords: Gender, Inequality, Survivors, Domestic Violence, Employment, Education.

INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN GHANAIAN ART MUSIC: CHALLENGING DEFINITIONS AND BRIDGING CULTURAL INEQUALITIES

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Abstract

Art music in Ghana has historically been framed as a formal, Western-oriented genre, composed and performed by academically trained musicians within elite institutions. However, contemporary practice reveals a more complex and inclusive landscape shaped by composers, performers, and conductors with varied training backgrounds. This paper critically

re-examines the definitions of art music and African art music in Ghana through a qualitative lens that includes interviews, score analyses, and participant observation. Drawing on the theory of change and continuity, the study identifies the limitations of traditional definitions and proposes new frameworks that reflect current realities. It explores how informal music training, community-based ensembles, and intercultural creative strategies have expanded the field beyond institutional boundaries. The discussion introduces the concept of neo-Ghanaian art music to describe emerging practices that challenge elitist paradigms and integrate evolving performance contexts. The paper argues that acknowledging the contributions of informally trained musicians and hybrid performance models is essential not only for scholarly accuracy but also for advancing cultural inclusion and resilience. In doing so, it positions Ghanaian art music as a dynamic cultural practice capable of bridging inequalities in access, recognition, and participation within the arts.

Keywords: Ghanaian Art Music, Neo-Ghanaian Art Music, Informal Music Training, Cultural Inclusion, Hybrid Performance Practices

CELEBRATING THE PAST IN PEACETIME: THE LEELIK WAR DANCE OF THE BULSA OF NORTHERN GHANA

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Abstract

This paper is a historical narrative analysing the annual Leelik, war dance of the Bulsa in the northern part of Ghana in the context of the Feok festival. Leelik, expresses the warfare narratives of the Bulsa people in cultural music and dance performances of their victory over Babatu, a Slave Raider and his warriors. Through the analysis of ethnographic data and archival material, the paper argues that the Bulsa war dance performed in peacetime in present day Bulsaland is a significant historical phenomenon utilized for purposes of entertainment, cultural identity, strengthening of bonds of unity among the people and community development. The study makes a significant contribution to our understanding of war dances within the framework of festivals and how they could be employed as means of denouncing war and conflict, promote peace, socialisation and societal development. The paper concludes that Leelik remains a way of life celebrating the past and reinforcing the spirit of unity, and a belonging among the Bulsa. However, its continuing existence depends on the relentless effort of chiefs, elders and family heads to socialise the youth and resocialise the older folks about the significance of celebrating Leelik annually.

Keywords: Bulsa, War dance, Feok Festival, Peacetime, Development, Northern Ghana

TRADITIONAL MUSIC IN CONTEMPORARY GHANAIAN CHORAL MUSIC PERFORMANCES

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Abstract

The Ghanaian sonic landscape is characterized by the dynamic interplay between diverse musical genres, traditions, and the continuous negotiation between traditional and popular music. In pursuit of revitalizing and sustaining indigenous musical practices, the Department of Music at the University of Ghana has actively engaged in recontextualizing traditional forms within contemporary frameworks. One such initiative is the incorporation of Adenkum; a decades-old women's musical tradition performed within communal and voluntary associations, into choral music. This paper examines the appropriation of Adenkum songs and instruments into contemporary Ghanaian choral performances, exploring its implications for musical terminology, pedagogy, and creative innovation. By introducing younger generations to older musical forms, the study highlights how such cross-genre engagements foster creativity in composition and performance while ensuring the sustainability of endangered traditions. Drawing on performance archives from the Department of Music, interviews, and secondary sources, the paper argues that these hybridized practices revitalize Adenkum within a modern musical space, where traditional music often remains marginalized in favor of popular genres. Ultimately, this study contributes to broader discussions on cultural preservation, musical evolution, and the role of academic institutions in safeguarding intangible heritage.

GLOBALIZATION AND INCOME INEQUALITY AMONG COUNTRIES: AN ASSESSMENT OF THE DYNAMICS AND LESSONS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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Abstract

This paper examines the effect of globalization on income inequality while paying particular attention to periods of globalization for various regions of the world. We applied the SYS-GMM estimator to a standard dynamic model which relates income inequality to measures

of globalization and other important control variables. A few key findings emerged from this study. First, we found that improvement in education attainment, increase in government ability to position the counties well in the international marketplace, and technological improvements have contributed significantly to the reduction in inter country income inequality. Second, trade globalization and financial globalization have directly led to the reduction in intercountry income inequality, and these results were the same irrespective of the timing of globalization. Third, further investigations revealed that for the late globalizers, trade globalization has not enabled them to adopt new production technologies at a faster rate to enable them to grow faster than their developed counterparts. The results of this study highlight some policy implications. Late globalizers must identify and implement policies that are complementary to trade liberalization in promoting economic growth. This will help them build critical human capital which in the long run enhances the ability of the labour force to adopt and implement advanced technological know-how and best international practices that come along with trading with more advanced economies.

SOCIAL POLICY AND SOCIAL EQUITY: COMPARING UNIVERSAL AND SELECTIVE SOCIAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IN GHANA

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Abstract

Inequality in Ghana is a growing issue spanning various spheres in society including income, spatial, and gender among others. While the country records appreciable levels of economic growth the distribution of this growth is not inclusive, with many segments of the population left behind, in most cases (Cooke, Hague, & McKay, 2016; Ghana Statistical Service, 2023). To eradicate extreme poverty, and promote inclusiveness across society, social policies have become handy. Yet, the question of whether to adopt a universal or a selective approach to social policies and programs has remained. Selective policies and programs that target specific segments are seen as cost effective, especially for poorer nations. But, selective programs could result in stigmatization and/or politicization where some can manipulate the targeting process to benefit specific individuals and or groups (Ampratwum, 2022; Sharma, 2025). Besides these challenges, the expensive nature of targeting in a society marked by the dearth of data and the potential for errors of exclusion results in the adoption of universal social policies. The question that remains, however, is whether this promotes social equity? In this study, we compare universal and targeted social policies using the lens of social equity. Data is drawn mainly from secondary sources including journal articles, policy documents and other published government reports. It is argued here that to promote social equity;

various aspects of universalism should be combined with aspects of targeting in what is referred to as selective universalism.

Keywords: social equity, poverty, targeting, universalism, selective universalism, inequality

INVESTMENT IN HUMAN CAPITAL AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN GHANA

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to investigate the effects of human capital investment on economic growth in Ghana. The annual time series used in the study ranged from 1980 to 2021. The endogenous growth theory guided the study. The study used the Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) model and the Non-Linear ARDL NARDL) model for estimation. The ARDL and NARDL bound test result revealed that there is a long run relationship between the study variables. The findings revealed that investments in human capital (education and health spending) have a positive effect on economic growth in both the short and long run. The study also discovered that the interaction between education and health spending has significant positive effects on growth both in the short and long run, implying that education and health spending are complementary and should be increased together to boost economic growth. The analysis also revealed that, in the short run, the magnitude of the impact of education spending on the economy is greater than that of health spending. In the long run, however, the magnitude of the impact of health spending on economic growth is greater than that of education spending. The study further revealed that there exist asymmetric effects of human capital investment on economic growth where economic growth is more responsive to positive shock in human capital investment compared to negative shocks. The study recommends that the Ghanaian government should increase public spending on education and health in order to improve the country's human resource capacity and foster economic growth. Also, Ghana government should adopt and implement policies that promote transparency, competitiveness, change, and innovation in order to ensure economic growth.

Keywords: Investment, Human Capital, Education, Health, Economic Growth, Ghana.

THE ROLE OF DIGITAL AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY IN ENABLING VALUE TRANSFER TO SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

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Abstract

Smallholder farmers have long been disadvantaged regarding the benefits obtained from the agricultural value chain. Most often, greater benefits are received at the downstream (transportation, storage, processing and value addition) of the value chain, with the midstream (where production takes place and smallholder farmers are present) often realizing the least benefits due to smallholder farmers' seeming lack of bargaining power. Digital agricultural technologies serve as a major bridge in improving the benefits accrued to smallholder farmers by bringing them closer to the market and enriching them with much-needed information for better practices that attract greater benefits. Despite some initial insights highlighting some of these benefits, there is a dearth in knowledge demonstrating the ways digital agricultural technologies transfer benefits (value) closer to the smallholder farmer and lead to an improved way of life. The study, therefore, interrogates the mechanisms through which digital agricultural technologies move value closer to smallholder farmers. Through desktop research, the study interrogates various document sources, including academic papers, books, government and industry reports, news articles, etc., focused on the context of sub-Saharan Africa. The findings demonstrate that digital agricultural technology helps to bring value closer to the smallholder farmer through multiple approaches, including shortening the route to market, creating shared communal interest and making funding accessible. The findings are relevant to help shape future initiatives that bring value closer to smallholder farmers.

Keywords: Digital Agriculture, Value Co-creation, Smallholder Farmers, Value Chain, Inequalities

EXPLORING DRIVERS, BARRIERS, AND BENEFITS OF URBAN REFORESTATION: A CASE STUDY OF ADENTAN MUNICIPALITY, ACCRA

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Abstract

This study investigates the state of reforestation in Adentan Municipality, Ghana, utilizing Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) data, while examining the drivers, barriers, and multidimensional benefits of reforestation. Over 13 years, NDVI analysis revealed a

decline in vegetation health and extent, largely attributed to rapid urbanization and land-use transformation. Maximum NDVI values dropped from 0.74 in 2010 to 0.5 in 2015 and 2020, with a marginal recovery to 0.67 in 2024, indicating persistent environmental stress. Despite regulatory frameworks promoting reforestation, compliance and enforcement remain inconsistent, contributing to insufficient restoration efforts. Community participation in reforestation is moderate, with environmental consciousness and social enablers serving as key motivators. However, significant barriers—including limited awareness, lack of resources, spatial constraints, and competing land demands—undermine broader engagement. The study further highlights the substantial benefits of reforestation: economically through eco-tourism and enhanced property values, socially via improved community well-being, and environmentally through air quality improvement, flood mitigation, and temperature regulation. Based on these findings, the study recommends integrated policy interventions that address both structural and personal barriers, enhance public awareness, and promote sustainable urban planning. Community engagement must be prioritized alongside regulatory enforcement to foster a collective commitment to green infrastructure. The research concludes that a holistic, multi-stakeholder approach is essential for advancing reforestation and climate resilience in Adentan and similarly urbanizing contexts. Further studies are encouraged to explore deeper socio-cultural dimensions influencing reforestation participation.

DROUGHT IN LITTLE LONDON: CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER INSECURITY IN GHANA'S COLDEST REGION

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Abstract

The discourse on climate change is rife with its impact on human security, especially on the African continent. Within Ghana, these impacts have been felt even at the highest of altitudes, significantly impacting the way of life of its people. For the inhabitants of Amedzofe, which happens to be the highest human settlement in Ghana, sitting at 2,400ft above sea level, concerns about the effects of climate change on water security has unfortunately, received little attention. Through the concept lens of vulnerability and resilience, this study employed a qualitative method in analysing the extent to which climate change has affected water security in the community. The author, through interviews, sought to understand the lived experiences of the locals in relation to climate change and water insecurity. The study also employed data sets from the Ghana Statistical Service and the Trans-African Hydro-Meteorological Observatory to understand weather patterns prevalent in the community

over the last five years. Through critical content analysis, the study revealed that the onslaught of climate change has worsened poverty levels by limiting access to quality water for both domestic and commercial purposes, crippling the school system, as well as reducing tourism to its lowest. The author concluded that if practical steps are not taken in mitigating and adapting to climate change, the consequences could be dire, and not only for those in Amedzofe. The study further recommends the use of climate technologies in water creation, like solar-powered atmospheric water generators, to ensure sustainability in quality water production.

EXTREME HEAT IMPACT ON HEALTH AND ADAPTATION STRATEGIES IN GA MASHIE, ACCRA: A QUALITATIVE EXPLORATORY STUDY

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Abstract

Extreme heat events are increasing in frequency, severity, and duration. Densely populated coastal communities are vulnerable to extreme heat exposure due to existing socially and environmentally mediated factors. Using explorative qualitative research design, six focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted in July 2024 at Ga Mashie, Accra to explore the knowledge of the causes of extreme heat and its impacts on health. 44 participants were purposively selected with the average age been 48 years. Data was analyzed using a conceptually guided thematic approach, focusing on the socioecological analytical framework. Four key findings emerged: Conceptualization of extreme heat as a prolonged period of intense warmth and sunshine affecting their health and productivity often forcing them to sleep outside. Lay causal attributes of extreme heat were linked to overpopulation, lack of trees and green spaces and heat generated from commercial cooking. Health Impact: At the individual level, there was increased occurrence of headaches, skin diseases, and exacerbation of chronic diseases.The psychological impact were psychosocial stress, excessive anger which strains interpersonal relations and social dynamics within households. Reproductive health impact had women experiencing hormonal imbalances, heavier bleeding and increased pain ; and increased hot flashes for women in their menopause. Adaptation strategies employed were frequent bathing, sleeping outdoors, and wearing lightweight clothing. A comprehensive approach is recommended with study participants recommending prioritizing tree planting within the community to provide shade and

improve ventilation. Enforcement of the urban planning laws on building permits in Ghana (i.e., the Land Use and Spatial Planning Act, 2016 (Act 925). Lastly, the use of alternative and environmentally friendly fuel for commercial cooking.

Keywords: Extreme heat, health, urban poor, Ghana

INEQUALITY IN THE BLUE AND GREEN ECONOMY: A META-ANALYSIS OF ACCESS, JUSTICE, AND SUSTAINABILITY OUTCOMES

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Abstract

The Blue and Green Economy (BGE) framework promises sustainable development by integrating marine (blue) and land-based (green) resources. However, inequalities persist in access to these resources, justice in their distribution, and sustainability in their management, particularly in coastal communities of the Global South. The research examines these disparities through the lens of political ecology and environmental justice, drawing on literature such as Sikor and Newell (2014) on resource access inequalities, Schlosberg (2013) on justice dimensions (distributional, procedural, recognition), and UNEP (2021) reports on BGE policies. The study used a systematic literature review, following the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses for Protocols (PRISMA-P) approach to ascertain works on this topic and identify gaps that need to be addressed to adequately inform policy and practice. Findings from most studies revealed that there are access barriers where marginalized groups, such as women, male-dominated fisher associations, coastal communities, and forest-dependent communities, face exclusion from decision-making and resource benefits. Further, for environmental justice, most studies found that weak legal frameworks fail to protect indigenous rights, such as the Akyem people, indigenous fishers in the Western region. Also concerning the Sustainability tradeoff, most studies revealed that short-term profit agendas undermine long-term resilience. The study proposes a community-led governance model, integrating traditional knowledge with policy reforms, to advance equitable BGE practices. By centering inclusivity, this research aligns with SDGs 10 (reduced inequalities), 14 (life below water), and 15 (life on land).

DECOLONIZING AFRICAN FOOD – LEARNING FROM FOOD SOVEREIGNTY PRAXIS IN GHANA

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Abstract

This edited book brings together a collection of chapters that showcase efforts towards food sovereignty in Ghana to theorize food for change. This book aims to contribute to global conversations around food politics, activism and culture by showing the ways that scholars and practitioners work across Ghana's food system from rural, farming landscapes to urban markets and kitchens to promote and preserve their local farming and food knowledge heritage. We explain why and how these efforts are in struggle and resistance to the global corporate industrial food complex. These efforts are theoretically enriching as they go beyond pointing to the problems of contemporary industrial agri-food system development models by demonstrating alternatives, post-development thinking and practice in Ghana. This book contributes to the critical agrarian, development, political ecology and economy literature on agri-food system development in Black Africa by focusing on the diverse struggles for food sovereignty in Ghana.

The main objectives of this book include,

1. To define, preserve and promote traditional or local culinary and farming knowledge and heritage from the African context of Ghana, especially those foods and ingredients considered 'underutilized' and 'disappearing' due to the wider politics of the African Green Revolution, food and the biophysical environment more broadly;

2. To feature food sovereignty efforts aimed at localizing food and politicizing food security and food heritage thinking from both rural and urban landscapes;

3. To demonstrate diverse ways of writing and studying local food efforts, including storytelling, creative writing and co-writing between scholars and practitioners.

SLUM AGENCY AND SPATIAL POLITICS IN THE GREATER ACCRA METROPOLITAN AREA

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Abstract

This study explores the spatial politics of slum formation and transformation in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area, focusing on informal urban practices, spatial inequality, and the legacies of colonial segregation. Using Archer's morphogenetic approach within a postcolonial context, the research examines how structural conditions shape slum development while highlighting the creative agency of slum dwellers. The first objective investigates how historical patterns of urban segregation influence contemporary housing investments, rental disparities, and the co-existence of elite enclaves and persistent or emerging slums. The second models the strategic interactions between slum residents, particularly those without land titles and urban authorities, through everyday negotiations, resistance, and adaptation. The third explores how improvisational homemaking and space appropriation in slums express cultural identity, modernity, and spatial claims amid structural constraints. The study adopts a mixed qualitative approach, including non-participant observation, in-depth interviews, surveys, spatial mapping, and archival research. These methods will help uncover both the material and symbolic dimensions of slum life, the shifting logics of land use, and the socio-spatial dynamics of urban exclusion and resistance. Expected outcomes include a deeper understanding of how slum dwellers navigate the city through everyday spatial strategies and resist exclusionary planning regimes. By recentering slum agency, this research contributes to debates on urban informality, spatial justice, and Southern urbanism, offering insights for more inclusive urban governance and planning.

Keywords: spatial politics; slum agency; power; Postcolonial morphogensis; Complexity.

VALUING EDUCATION: TRENDS AND DETERMINANTS OF SCHOOL NON-ATTENDANCE IN GHANA

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Abstract

Millions of children in sub-Saharan Africa do not attend school, despite substantial investments in the implementation of free education policies. This study examines trends in the reasons for never attending school in Ghana from 2012 to 2022, focusing on changing attitudes towards education. Nationally representative survey data from the Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS) 7 and the 2022 Annual Household Income and Expenditure Survey (AHIES) were analysed to assess trends in the likelihood of non-attendance due to various factors. A regression analysis of school-aged children in 2022 was then conducted to predict the determinants of never attending school due to negative attitudes towards education. Family refusal remains the leading reason for never attending school; however, its prevalence has declined over time. Conversely, the likelihood of never attending school due to education not being considered valuable or lack of interest has increased. Children with female household heads, household heads with formal education, household heads not in paid employment, and in rural areas have lower odds of non-attendance due to negative attitudes towards education. However, children of educated but unemployed household heads are more likely to not attend school due to negative attitudes towards education. The findings highlight the importance of addressing non-financial barriers to school enrolment, particularly negative attitudes, alongside economic constraints. Policymakers should consider interventions that improve perceptions of education's benefits while continuing to reduce financial barriers.

Keywords: attitudes towards education; perceived value of education; barriers to education; enrolment, school attendance.

HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE AND DIETARY DIVERSITY IN URBAN GHANA

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Abstract

In sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), rapid urbanization has led to significant shifts in lifestyle, consumption patterns, and dietary choices. However, research on their dynamics has attracted little attention, particularly in Ghana. Household consumption expenditure plays a significant role in achieving dietary diversity and the way households allocate their financial resources has huge health implications for their overall well-being. This study investigates how household consumption expenditure affects dietary diversity in Ghana's urban households. The second and third waves of the Ghana Socioeconomic Panel Survey dataset is used to estimate the panel fixed effect model of household food and non-food expenditure on dietary diversity. The t-test statistic was employed to investigate the allocation of household food and non-food expenditure patterns across different income groups in Ghana. The study finds that food expenditure has a positive and significant effect on dietary diversity scores while the share of expenditure on non-food items significantly influenced dietary diversity by decreasing dietary diversity scores by 0.701 units. Age, household size, distance to farm plot, number of main crops grown, number of intercrops, time spent on listening to radio were significantly associated with dietary diversity. Nutrition education programs are therefore encouraged for households to allocate a higher proportion of their food budget to nutrient-rich foods such as fruits, vegetables, and dairy products.

'ENCLOSED RELIGIOUS NEIGHBORHOOD' AS A SOCIALLY GATED COMMUNITY: CHAPESS IN GHANA AS EXAMPLE

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Abstract

The study looked at the concept of social exclusion, focusing on Osa-Madith as a religious group that is concentrated in a geographical area with an identified boundary and therefore excludes them from the rest of the community members outside their jurisdiction. The study sought to look at the relationship between members of this socially gated community and

the people outside the community. Specifically, the research examined the factors that lead people to become members of the community; it also analyzed the implications of being a member of the community and also explored the relationship between the people in the community and those outside the community, using a qualitative research approach and a case study research design. The study revealed that factors that lead people to become members of a religious community include personal conviction, children born to parents who are members of the church, marriage and those who believe had their breakthroughs from the church leaders. The study suggests that the government should step in and educate members about specific church practices that may violate their rights; leaders should also plan outreach programmes like health seminars and sporting activities.

Keywords: Enclosed, Religious Neighborhood, Socially Gated and Gated Community

REVIVING NZEMA LANGUAGE THROUGH COMPUTERIZED LINGUISTICS

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Abstract

This research proposal outlines a project aimed at revitalizing the endangered Nzema language in Ghana through the application of computerized linguistics. The project seeks to investigate the current state of the Nzema language, design and develop computational models and tools to support its use, and evaluate the effectiveness of these tools in promoting language revitalization. By leveraging computerized linguistics, this project aims to contribute to the preservation of linguistic diversity and cultural heritage in Ghana, and provide a model for language revitalization efforts globally.

Keywords: Revitalization, Nzema, Computerized Linguistics, Diversity, Cultural Heritage

LINGUISTIC INEQUALITY AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN GHANA: RETHINKING LANGUAGE POLICY FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

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Abstract

In Ghana's multilingual landscape, language functions as both a cultural asset and a mechanism of exclusion. This paper examines how current language policies especially the dominance of English in education, governance, and the formal economy contribute to persistent social and economic inequalities. By sidelining indigenous Ghanaian languages in public life, the system structurally disadvantages communities whose mother tongues lack institutional support, limiting their access to quality education, civic participation, and upward mobility. Drawing on sociolinguistic research and policy analysis, the paper critiques the monolingual bias of national development strategies and reveals how linguistic marginalization deepens existing class, regional, and rural-urban divides. While the focus remains on the linguistic dimension, the paper also acknowledges the cultural depth of this issue, drawing from local proverbs and speech norms that reflect ideologies about language prestige and identity. It argues that inclusive growth and resilience in Ghana require a fundamental shift in how language is treated in national discourse and not merely as a neutral medium, but as a determinant of access, equity, and empowerment. The paper concludes by proposing a multilingual policy framework that embraces mother-tongue-based education, decentralized language planning, and the increased digital representation of Ghanaian languages. In doing so, it positions linguistic inclusion as a cornerstone of sustainable development and a necessary step in bridging systemic inequalities in a changing world.

Keywords: Linguistic marginalization, Multilingual policy, Social inequality, Mother-tongue education, Language and development

BRIDGING INEQUALITIES IN A CHANGING WORLD: A MARXIST READING OF TWO PLAYS BY FEMI OSOFISAN

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Abstract

The high level of socio-political and economic inequalities and their attendant social, economic and political stasis and ineptitude in contemporary African society have been portrayed in Femi Osofisan's A Restless Run of Locusts and No More the Wasted Breed. Existing literary and scholarly engagements on socio-political and economic inequalities in Africa are ubiquitous and they have focused on the havoc they unleashed on African society. Nonetheless, it appears that studies on how to bridge the inequalities have been given little or no consideration. This is the main thrust of this paper. This paper, therefore, investigates socio-political inequalities and their consequences in African society in order to bridge the vacuum created, and advance leaders and policies that will alleviate the menace of inequalities in Africa.Two plays by Femi Osofisan are purposively selected: A Restless Run of Locusts and No More the Wasted Breed. They are the primary texts and the data. They will be subjected to critical textual analysis in both content and form. Inspirations are drawn from literary Marxist Theory as the theoretical framework. The essence of the theory is to allow for the agitation for socio-political equality and equal right in order to seek for ways of ameliorating the dangers of inequalities; it will also undergird the analysis of our findings. The study identifies significantly greed and corruption as the precursors of socio-political and economic inequalities. It concludes that in bridging these inequalities, some priceless socio-political virtues and values must be explicitly injected into the fabrics of African society.

POWER DYNAMICS IN TELIC AND ATELIC EXPRESSIONS IN PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLETS OF SELECTED ANTIHYPERTENSIVE DRUGS

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Abstract

Hypertension remains a major public health concern in Ghana, necessitating effective communication tools to support medication adherence. Patient Information Leaflets (PILs) are central to this effort, yet the language they employ, particularly the use of telic (goal oriented)

and atelic (non-goal oriented) expressions, can significantly influence power relations and patient agency. This study analyzes the linguistic structure of PILs for three antihypertensive drugs: Zestoretic, Methyldopa, and Telmisartan, using van Dijk's socio cognitive model of Critical Discourse Analysis. The findings indicate a predominant use of atelic expressions (Zestoretic: 36.9%, Methyldopa: 34.6%, Telmisartan: 37.5%), while telic expressions appear less frequently, ranging from 20.5% to 25.9%. Atelic forms often appear vague, passive, or conditional, reinforcing institutional authority and casting patients in dependent roles. In contrast, telic expressions convey clear directives and promote active patient participation. The study concludes that the overreliance on atelic forms undermines patient empowerment by obscuring agency and action. It recommends that pharmaceutical companies and health regulators adopt more telic, patient centered language in PILs to enhance clarity, engagement, and autonomy. Furthermore, it calls for national policy guidelines mandating more directive and inclusive language in medical texts. Such reforms would improve health literacy, strengthen the patient's role in treatment, and support adherence in the long-term management of hypertension.

Keywords: Power Dynamics, Telic and Atelic Expressions, Patient Information Leaflets (PILs), Antihypertensive Drugs, Critical Discourse Analysis, Health Policy, Patient Agency

GENDER INEQUALITY, GENDER-BASED POVERTY AND NON-TIMBER VALUE CHAINS IN BURKINA FASO

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Abstract

Gender inequality and gender-based poverty are among the major issues in developing countries that can hinder both the country economic growth and the households' welfare. This research analysed the gender inequality and gender-based poverty, while examining the role of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) value chain in reducing both phenomena in Burkina Faso. To this end, the Palma index (PI) and the Foster-Greer and Thorbecke index (FGTI) have been used and performed on primary data collected from 607 households. Subsequently, the relationship between income inequality and poverty has been investigated using the Pearson correlation coefficient. The results showed a high level of income inequality and women-headed households were found to be more vulnerable, either in terms of

income inequality or poverty. In addition, income inequality and poverty have found high in the sub group of non-participants in NTFPs value chains, relative to their participating counterparts. Regarding the link between income inequality and poverty, we find a strong positive correlation between both phenomena. Our findings call for public policies that pay a particular regard to women, relative to men. Also, poverty mitigation policies should target reducing gender inequality. In words, eradicating gender inequality and gender-based poverty goal could be achieved by policies incorporating the promotion of NTFPs including developing their value chains and more specifically the processing link. Furthermore, NTFPs speces should be domesticated with a view to sustainably exploit them.

Keywords: Gender inequality, Gender poverty; NTFPs; Palma index; FGT index

EMPOWERING KAYAYEI: A CRITICAL EXAMINATION OF SKILLS TRAINING INTERVENTIONS IN GHANA'S INFORMAL ECONOMY

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Abstract

This study critically examines the effectiveness of skills training interventions for kayayei (female head porters) within Ghana's informal economy. Despite numerous initiatives aimed at transitioning kayayei out of precarious work, many return to head porterage post-training. Employing qualitative methods, including interviews and focus group discussions, this research delves into the perspectives of both kayayei and trainers to uncover the reasons behind the frequent failure of such interventions. The study is premised on the Livelihood framework, which adopts a holistic approach to understanding how individuals and households secure their means of living, particularly in the context of development and poverty reduction. The findings highlight several barriers to successful transitions, including inadequate training duration, insufficient materials, lack of start-up capital, and misaligned programme designs. The study advocates for a more participatory approach in the design and implementation of interventions and suggests the potential for standardising and improving the kayayo trade as an alternative to complete occupational change. This research contributes to the broader discourse on informal labour, livelihood interventions, and sustainable development in Ghana and similar contexts, emphasising the importance of including kayayei's voices in crafting solutions to their challenges.

Keywords: Kayayei, Skills training, Informal economy, Ghana, Livelihood interventions, Participatory approach, Labour migration, Sustainable development

NATURAL DISASTERS AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: THE ROLE OF THE STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

Achieving shared prosperity, hence inclusive growth, remains a vital development goal for Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). Nonetheless, the rise in frequency and severity of natural hazards, including, floods, droughts, and storms, significantly threatens SSA's long-term development and socioeconomic resilience. This study investigates the effects of natural disasters on inclusive growth in SSA, emphasizing the moderating role of countries' stage of development. Employing a panel dataset of 35 SSA countries from 1990 to 2019 and the Generalized Method of Moments (GMM) estimation method, this study investigates the direct and conditional effects of natural disasters on inclusive growth in SSA. The study finds that all forms of natural disasters constitute a significant threat to inclusive growth. Furthermore, the stage of development moderates significantly, with low-income countries being disproportionately affected, revealing limited adaptive capacity and structural vulnerabilities. These findings underscore the relevance of context-specific and targeted policy responses. Furthermore, to effectively stimulate inclusive growth in SSA, it is imperative to integrate natural disaster risk reduction into all country-level developmental frameworks. Ignoring such, could reverse the developmental progress so far achieved and thus exacerbate existing inequalities. Emphasizing the interaction between natural disasters and the stage of development, this study contributes to the global discourse on resilience, inequality, and sustainable development, aligning with the theme of this conference, which focuses on bridging inequality in a changing world.

Keywords: Natural disasters, Inclusive Growth, Sub-Saharan Africa, Stage of Development, Vulnerability

A SEAT AT THE TABLE: A REFLECTION ON YOUTH REPRESENTATION, LAND RIGHTS AND LARGE-SCALE LAND ACQUISITION IN RURAL UGANDA

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Abstract

Despite the progressive national laws and frameworks on land in Uganda, the country still suffers legal pluralism with customary laws that exclude differently located people from ownership of land. While youth can have access to use land, they often have less power to make decisions over it. Youth voices are muted in land rights discourses, and they are often waiting for an inheritance, which constrains the timing of receipt as well as the location, size, and quality of the land awarded to them. This paper draws from a larger study on Land acquisitions and rising inequalities in rural East Africa where a transdisciplinary mixed methods approach is being used in Uganda to generate evidence on the effects of Large-scale land acquisitions in Kalangala and Nwoya districts. This paper argues that given the broad-based structure of Uganda's population, with more than half the entire population young, the youth are implicated in conversations relating to sustainable development through agriculture in Uganda and should be represented in land matters. Preliminary findings, following a scoping study, reveal that against the backdrop of intersecting challenges relating to large-scale land acquisitions, social and gender norms, and age; complexities exist in the potential of land investments to (dis)empower youth as critical actors on Land access, use and control. As a productive age in the country, youth inclusion in Land acquisitions for agricultural investment is a pathway to sustainable, peaceful and more adaptable responses to development challenges.

Keywords: Youth, Land Rights, Large-scale land acquisition, Inclusion, Land Inequalities.

EFFICIENCY OF FIRMS AND MARKETS IN GHANA: THE ROLE OF SPATIAL FACTORS

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Abstract

Any firm-level dataset contains many observations whose input choices do not accord with first-order conditions derived under perfect or monopolistic competition. One strand of the literature interprets this as frictions that impede profit maximization, one form of firm inefficiency (Hsieh and Klenow, 2009). Another strand of the literature interprets these same deviations as the exercise of market power due to a lack of competition, a form of market inefficiency. Using the 2014 firm census of Ghana, we document the prevalence of these deviations and their aggregate importance. According to the first interpretation, eliminating all frictions would raise aggregate productivity and output in Ghana by 125%, similar to the effect estimated for India, but 1.5 times higher than for China. In line with the second interpretation, we document a positive relationship across districts between average markups and average firm size or employment concentration. This pattern is particularly strong in service sectors where competition is most likely to be local. Finally, we evaluate which of the two interpretations is most relevant for firms in Ghana. We appropriately aggregate both types of deviations to the district level and investigate the correlation with spatial factors that could impede efficient market clearing in factor markets or limit competition in product markets. Districts with low entry barriers and a large number of active firms tend to have larger frictions, consistent with the firm inefficiency interpretation. At the same time, districts with a well-connected and efficiently laid out road network tend to have lower markups in service sectors, consistent with the market inefficiency interpretation.

DISPARATE DATA, DISPARATE RESULTS: HAS THE SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REGION DEINDUSTRIALIZED?

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Abstract

This paper demonstrates empirically that sustained and widespread manufacturing decline has not occurred in Sub-Saharan Africa, neither in the case of employment nor real value added. A review of key papers on African industrialization shows that past findings of deindustrialization are a product of small, non-representative country samples, and are relevant only for a small number of relatively rich African economies. This paper re-examines the debate using the most recent and largest available African sectoral data sources. As the size of country samples increase and recent revisions are incorporated, evidence of deindustrialization disappears. This finding survives various alternative weightings. In a broad sample of 18 African countries, the average manufacturing share of employment did not decline significantly in any decade since the 1960s. The average manufacturing share of real value added did not decline both in the 18 country sample and in a near-comprehensive sample of 45 African countries.

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT NEXUS IN GHANA'S PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT

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Abstract

How has public procurement contributed to achieving public financial management system objectives? What dynamics propelled and repelled the attainment of these objectives? Deploying the new public management ideals of value for money, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency anchored on mixed research methods the paper found that public procurement in Ghana attained the objectives of public financial management through strategies like competitive bidding, information disclosure, procurement thresholds, e-governance, multiple actors and layers etc. However, political interference, limited decentralization, and unethical conduct were the setbacks. The paper recommends effective procurement

decentralization, professionalism, ethics and consciousness of procurement practitioners and minimal political interference.

HARNESSING LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND PARTICIPATION FOR EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE GOVERNANCE

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Abstract

In response to increasing environmental degradation and governance failures, integrating local knowledge and community participation into resource governance frameworks has become essential for promoting equity and sustainability. This study examines how local knowledge systems and participatory governance mechanisms can support more inclusive and sustainable management of natural resources. A significant research gap remains in understanding how local knowledge systems are systematically incorporated into formal governance structures, especially within decentralized policy frameworks in West Africa. Additionally, empirical studies assessing how effective this integration is at fostering equity and sustainability are limited. This study aims to fill this gap by exploring the mechanisms through which local knowledge and participatory practices influence resource governance outcomes. Rooted in Political Ecology and Participatory Development Theory, the study critically analyzes the power relations, institutional dynamics, and socio-cultural factors that influence community involvement in resource governance. Using a qualitative case study approach, the study focuses on four resource-dependent communities in Tarkwa, Asankragua, Obuasi, and Akwetia. Data collected through semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions, participatory mapping, and document analysis. Findings indicate that when communities have genuine decision-making authority and their knowledge is valued, governance outcomes tend to better align with principles of equity, ecological sustainability, and local ownership. However, ongoing issues such as elite capture, token participation, and policy disconnect hinder these efforts. The paper concludes with suggestions for designing context-specific, participatory governance frameworks that recognize and institutionalize local knowledge systems while fostering transparency, accountability, and environmental justice.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE FOREIGN POLICY STRATEGIES OF EMERGING POWERS: A CASE STUDY OF INDIA, SOUTH AFRICA AND BRAZIL

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Abstract

As the global power structure undergoes significant shifts, emerging powers such as Brazil, China, India, and South Africa have increasingly asserted their influence in international affairs and Brazil stands out due to its unique approach to foreign policy, which balances regional leadership, multilateral diplomacy, and strategic economic engagement. This study conducts a comparative analysis of foreign policy strategies of emerging powers, with Brazil as the primary case study. By situating Brazil's foreign policy within the broader framework of global governance, South-South cooperation, and multipolarity, this research examines how Brazil's diplomatic strategy compares with other emerging powers, particularly in Latin America, Africa, and multilateral organizations such as the United Nations (UN), BRICS, and Mercosur. This study employs a multi-theoretical approach, integrating Neoclassical Realism, Liberal Institutionalism, and Soft Power Theory. Brazil has relied on soft power diplomacy, leveraging its cultural influence, peacekeeping contributions, and leadership in climate change negotiations. A key focus of this research is Brazil's engagement with regional and global institutions, particularly its role in BRICS, Mercosur, and the G20 and its regional leadership status in Latin America. The findings suggest that while Brazil's foreign policy approach has enhanced its international influence, it must address structural economic weaknesses, political instability, and strategic inconsistencies to fully realize its global ambitions. The study concludes with policy recommendations on how Brazil can strengthen its diplomatic strategies, deepen economic partnerships, and enhance its role in global governance to secure a more prominent and sustainable international position.

Keywords: Diplomacy Multipolarity Peacekeeping Non-Interventionism Global Governance

CORRUPTION UNDER GHANA'S FOURTH REPUBLIC: UNPACKING CAUSES AND REMEDIES THROUGH STAKEHOLDERS' PERSPECTIVES AND ITS IMPLICATIONS ON THE ASGM SECTOR

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Abstract

Despite Ghana's democratic gains under the Fourth Republic, persistent governance stagnation continues to undermine its anti-corruption efforts, particularly within the natural resource sector. Existing scholarship on corruption in Ghana predominantly draws on secondary data, with limited empirical studies that capture the nuanced perspectives of key anti-corruption stakeholders. This study filled this lacuna through a qualitative analysis based on in-depth interviews with key actors across Ghana's anti-corruption landscape. The findings reveal diverse and multifaceted perspectives on the underlying causes of corruption. While various anti-corruption measures have been implemented including the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP), their impact remains constrained by weak political will, inadequate bureaucratic commitment, and limited public accountability, affecting horizontal, vertical, and diagonal mechanisms of accountability. These governance deficits have negative correlation with effective natural resource governance, especially within the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector. The paper concludes by offering policy and practical recommendations to enhance natural resource governance and strengthen anti-corruption strategies in Ghana.

Keywords: Corruption, Ghana's Fourth Republic, Stakeholders Perspective, Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining

THE MEDIA AND ELECTORAL INTEGRITY IN GHANA'S ELECTORAL POLITICS: THE 2024 ELECTIONS IN FOCUS

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Abstract

How did the media ensure equitable access to political parties and candidates, what roles did the media perform in ensuring electoral integrity of Ghana's 2024 elections; how did the challenges faced by the media undermined the credibility of the elections and did the

election passed the integrity tests? Deploying the mixed research methods backed by data triangulation, the paper sought to answer these questions. The paper argued among others that the provision of equal media access to political parties was driven by media ownership, ability to fund airtime/space and the political affiliation of media houses. The media performed educative, accountability, participatory roles in ensuring electoral integrity, however, these were hampered by the posture and modus operandi of the electoral commission, fake news, political affiliation and the political tagging of journalists and media outlets. Notwithstanding these, Ghana's 2024 elections passed the integrity test as the presidential election result was accepted by all despite some parliamentary results under litigation at the courts.

Keywords: Media; electoral integrity; Electoral Commission; Ghana; electoral politics

ADINKRA IN THE DIGITAL AGE: EXPLORING TRADITION AND MODERNITY THROUGH SYMBOLIC EXPRESSION

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Abstract

Adinkra symbols, central to Akan visual culture, have historically served as a medium for expressing proverbs, ethical values, and philosophical ideas embedded in Ghanaian and African worldviews. Traditionally featured in textiles, rituals, and architecture, these symbols are now increasingly present in digital environments, where they are being reimagined and recontextualised. This study explores the transformation of Adinkra symbols from their historical origins to their contemporary uses on digital platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, and X (formerly Twitter), as well as in multimedia storytelling and branding. This study employed a digital netnographic methodology, combining non-participant observation of online platforms with the collection of data from Adinkra-branded posts. Additionally, semi-structured interviews with traditional custodians, cultural scholars, and digital creatives were conducted to further inform the analysis of how Adinkra symbols are adapted, modified, and circulated in digital spaces. The findings reveal that while core symbolic meanings, especially those of widely recognised symbols such as Gye Nyame and Sankofa, remain influential, digital reinterpretations often introduce new layers of meaning shaped by aesthetic trends and commercial interests. This shift raises important concerns around cultural appropriation, misrepresentation, and the commodification of indigenous knowledge. The study argues that the digital presence of Adinkra symbols reflects a dynamic tension between tradition and modernity. As cultural artefacts, they continue to assert Ghanaian identity and philosophical depth, even as they are reshaped by the logic of digital media. The research underscores the need for critical engagement with the use of

indigenous symbols in digital contexts and calls for deliberate strategies to preserve their cultural integrity while embracing their evolving communicative roles.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY ON SOCIAL MEDIA: EXAMINING THE ROLE OF ECO-INFLUENCERS IN PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES AMONG NIGERIAN YOUTHS

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Abstract

The increasing menace of environmental challenges such as climate change, deforestation, and air pollution has continued to receive the attention of various stakeholders in the environmental sector and beyond. This has led to increasing global call for sustainable living. In Nigeria, social media has emerged as a potential tool for environmental advocacy, especially among youth who dominate the digital world. The orientation of this set of population is crucial if the menace of environmental challenge is to be tackled. Thus, this paper examines the role of eco-influencers (individuals, organizations or bodies who actively promote environmental consciousness on social media platforms) in promoting sustainable lifestyles among Nigerian youths. Anchored on the Uses and Gratifications theory and supported by the Diffusion of Innovations theory, the study sets out to investigate how Nigerian youths engage with environmental content online, the extent to which they are influenced by eco-influencers, and how this influence their environmental attitudes and behaviors. The study adopted a mixed-method approach. Data were collected through online surveys administered to 400 purposively selected Nigerian youth aged 18-35, drawn from the North and South geographical zones of Nigeria. Specifically, social media users in Lagos and Kaduna were sampled. Findings indicate a strong relationship between engagement with eco-influencers' contents and increased environmental awareness, with a notable shift in personal consumption habits, recycling, and participation in green initiatives. The study recommends strategic collaborations between policy-makers, educational institutions, and digital environmental advocates to promote sustainable behavior among Nigerian youth populations.

Keywords: Eco-Influencers, Environmental awareness, Sustainable lifestyles, Social media, Nigerian youth

MEDIA, INEQUALITY, AND THE RISE OF DISINFORMATION: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF FAKE NEWS, PUBLIC TRUST, AND MARGINALIZED VOICES IN AFRICA

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Abstract

The rise of fake news and disinformation poses a significant threat to democratic participation, public health, and social cohesion, especially in societies already grappling with systemic inequality. In the African context, where media infrastructures are uneven and digital literacy remains low in many regions, the spread of disinformation further marginalizes vulnerable populations and distorts access to truth. This study employs a systematic review to investigate the intersection between media inequality and the spread of fake news in Africa. Following PRISMA guidelines, 69 peer-reviewed articles, policy briefs, and empirical studies published between 2016 and 2024 were selected from databases including Scopus, JSTOR, and Africa Journals Online. The findings reveal that disinformation campaigns often exploit existing social fractures ethnicity, political polarization, gender inequality, and economic disparity, to manipulate public opinion. Marginalized groups, including rural residents, youth, and those with limited digital access, are both disproportionately targeted and excluded from the production of credible counter-narratives. The review also shows that low media literacy and declining trust in traditional news outlets exacerbate the vulnerability to false information. While digital platforms offer new spaces for citizen expression, their unregulated nature often amplifies misinformation. The paper argues for an inclusive approach to media governance that combines digital literacy education, fact-checking infrastructure, community journalism, and participatory policy-making. A multi-level framework is proposed to strengthen information ecosystems, empower marginalized voices, and foster media resilience in the face of digital inequality. These efforts are essential for advancing inclusive growth and democratic accountability in a rapidly changing world.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARBON NEUTRALITY IN AFRICA: A PATHWAY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN GHANA AND BURKINA FASO

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Abstract

The accelerating threat of climate change poses significant challenges to global sustainability, with Africa, particularly West African nations like Ghana and Burkina Faso, facing the brunt despite contributing minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions. This study critically examines the energy transition strategies of these two countries, assessing their policy frameworks, political will, and key barriers to achieving carbon neutrality. Inspired by the Paris Agreement and SDGs, the study references Kenya's geothermal and Morocco's solar energy successes in Africa. Drawing on a comparative analysis, the findings highlight ambitious national climate policies, political commitments, and notable renewable energy projects, such as Ghana's National Energy Transition Framework and Burkina Faso's Zagtouli solar plant. However, both countries continue to grapple with financial constraints, limited technical capacity, and implementation challenges that hinder the realization of these climate goals. To address these challenges the study proposes several recommendations. Strengthening policy implementation through robust accountability measures, expanding access to climate finance via green bonds and public-private partnerships, and investing in capacity-building programs are essential. The paper also emphasizes the importance of community engagement, regional collaboration, and leveraging international partnerships for technical and financial support. Additionally, promoting renewable energy investments and integrating climate adaptation into development planning can foster resilience and inclusivity. Ultimately, the study concludes that carbon neutrality is both feasible and essential for long-term sustainable development in Ghana and Burkina Faso. The insights and pathways outlined offer a valuable framework for other developing nations navigating the complex terrain of climate mitigation, adaptation, and energy transformation.

Keywords: Climate change, Carbon neutrality, Energy transition, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Sustainable development.

SMALL-SCALE MINING IN A CHANGING WORLD: POLICY IMPLEMENTATION, RESILIENCE, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

The allure of quick riches and the desperation for livelihoods have boosted the expansion of small-scale mining (SSM) across the globe, yet this sector is increasingly caught in the crosshairs of a rapidly changing world. This paper confronts the urgent need to re-envision policy implementation for SSM, not just as a regulatory exercise, but as an essential pathway to foster resilience, achieve sustainable development, and bridge deep-seated inequalities. This study delves into the high-stakes balancing act between economic imperatives and ecological integrity, examining the complexities of SSM policy within Ghana's dynamic mining landscape, where it serves as both a lifeline and a source of socio-environmental challenges. Using a qualitative case study approach, the research draws on data from semi-structured interviews with 30 participants, including small-scale miners from four key mining towns Obuasi, Dunkwa, Tarkwa, and Prestea-Huni Valley, academics, policy analysts, and bureaucrats. The analysis of interview data was supplemented by secondary data to provide a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities for policy redesign. Ultimately, this paper aims to contribute to the discourse on transforming SSM from a contributor to inequality and environmental degradation into a catalyst for inclusive growth and sustainable natural resource management by examining innovative strategies that combine technological solutions, financial inclusion, governance reforms, indigenous knowledge systems, and cultural transformations in a changing era.

Keywords: Policy Implementation; Small-scale Mining; Resilience; Sustainable development; Governance; Inequalities.

MONETARY POLICY, INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY, AND ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT: EVIDENCE FROM FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES IN WEST AFRICA

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Abstract

Purpose: Addressing biodiversity loss is crucial for ensuring a green economy. However, various economic blocs continue to struggle with significant ecological loss, particularly the Francophone subregion of West Africa, which experiences considerable vegetation loss annually despite manifold initiatives aimed at addressing this issue. This study examined the relationship between monetary policy and Ecological Footprint (EFP) and investigated the moderating role of institutional quality in monetary policy and EFP nexus. Methodology: Through the census sampling technique, all ten countries in the Francophone bloc in West Africa were selected, and 19 years of panel data were analyzed through the System GMM. Results: The inquiry revealed that money supply and policy rate exert statistically significant positive effects on ecological footprint. Also, the study found a negative moderating role of regulatory quality but a positive moderating role of the rule of law in the monetary policy-ecological footprint relationship. Conclusion: The paper concludes that raising monetary policy has a dire consequence on the ecological footprint in the Francophone bloc. It is also concluded that a governance framework such as the rule of law worsens the adverse impact of monetary policy however regulatory quality mitigates the adverse impact of monetary policy on environmental sustainability. The investigation has enriched the ongoing discourse on the green economy by contributing fresh insight from an ecological footprint perspective.

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF GREEN TRANSITIONS: FINANCING CLIMATE ACTION IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

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Abstract

This study examines the political economy of financing green transitions in the Global South, analyzing structural barriers, geopolitical constraints, and market-driven limitations that hinder equitable climate finance flows. The main research objectives focus on assessing how political and economic structures shape green financing accessibility, and identifying policy solutions to enhance climate investment effectiveness. Adopting a mixed-methods approach, the study combines dependency theory, world-systems theory, and green political economy frameworks with comparative case studies from Brazil, Kenya, India, and Indonesia. Data was gathered through policy analysis, expert interviews, and financial flow assessments. Key findings reveal persistent North-South disparities, with only 14% of multilateral climate funds reaching Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Market mechanisms prioritize profitable mitigation projects over adaptation, while debt-climate traps force vulnerable nations to divert resources from resilience-building. Case studies highlight contradictions, such as Kenya's pioneering green bonds failing to address rural energy poverty, and India's clean energy fund coexisting with coal expansion. The research contributes to climate justice debates by exposing how existing finance architectures reproduce inequality. It proposes six evidence-based recommendations, including democratizing climate governance and mandating 30% private finance allocation to adaptation. The study concludes that systemic reforms not incremental changes are needed to align financial flows with just transition principles.

Keywords: Climate Finance, Global South, Political Economy, Just Transition, Debt-Climate Nexus, Green Bonds

GROUNDWATER POTENTIALITY MAPPING FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT IN OKE-OGUN REGION OF OYO STATE, NIGERIA USING GEO-SPATIAL TECHNIQUES

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Abstract

Surface water resources are increasingly under pressure globally due to urbanization, population growth, and industrial activities, leading to contamination and reduced usability. In Oke-Ogun, Oyo State, Nigeria, these challenges are evident, and conventional groundwater exploration methods have proven inadequate in meeting the region's growing demand for sustainable water sources. Therefore, this study aims to assess the groundwater potential of Oke Ogun for sustainable agricultural productivity and forestry practices in the region. Eight groundwater influencing factors: Rainfall, Slope, Elevation, Geology, Soil texture, Landcover, Drainage density and Lineament density were ranked and reclassed based on their percentage contribution using (Analytical Hierarchy Process) AHP and (Multi-Influence Factor) MIF techniques to produce groundwater potential zonation. The multicriteria analysis using AHP was classified into five major distinct classes: Very Low, Low, Moderate, High, and Very High. The results revealed that very low and low zones constitute about 30.91% (4,653.02 km2) of the study area and moderate to very high zones cover 69.09% (10404.57 km2) for MIF while for AHP, 22.75% covering 3,425.61 km2 belongs to the regions of very low and low potential zones and 77.24% spanning across 11631.98 km2 belongs to the regions between moderate to very high GW potential zones. The results have proven Oke-Ogun to be a GW sufficient region, which will therefore help facilitate irrigation agriculture, improving productivity and combating malnutrition resulting from hunger. Additionally, this will enhance forestry practices, such as nursery establishment for forest regeneration purposes.

PERIODIC MARKETS, DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AND THE EXPANSION OF TRADE IN THE RURAL AREAS OF TIVLAND, BENUE STATE - NIGERIA

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Abstract

The Tiv people are in central Nigeria, covering predominantly the three states of Benue, Nasarawa and Taraba. They have a long history of long and short distance trade with their neighbours. Periodic markets that are basically rural trade centres have served the economic interest of the Tiv people right from the colonial period. These markets are held on intervals of five and seven days in different parts of Tivland. They attract the attendance of traders who engage in buying and selling of raw products and foreign goods. Thus, over the years, the markets have grown from small centres to big commercial areas, influencing rural development especially in the provision of other social amenities to serve the human population that have settled there. With the advent of information and communication technology, traders have leverage on them to expand their economic activities. This paper examines the growing influence of digital technologies on trading activities in periodic markets in Tivland, North Central Nigeria. Drawing on field observations, interviews with traders, and secondary literature, the study investigates how mobile phones, social media, and mobile money services are transforming traditional market practices. The paper argues that while digital tools have enhanced communication and broadened market access, they also pose challenges related to digital literacy, infrastructural deficits, and cultural continuity. The findings contribute to an understanding of the interface between tradition and technology in rural African economies.

Keywords: Periodic Markets, Tivland, Digital Technology, Trade, Rural Economy, Mobile Money

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE: THE ROLE OF CYBERSECURITY IN PROMOTING INCLUSIVE DIGITAL ACCESS IN GHANA

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Abstract

Ghana is rapidly advancing in digitalization; as of the first quarter of 2025, 68.6% of its population use the internet and 69.8% own a mobile phone, according to the 2024 ICT Development Index of the International Telecommunications Union. Despite this progress, digital inclusion remains uneven among marginalized groups. While national priorities emphasize connectivity and digital literacy, this paper highlights a crucial but often overlooked factor, cybersecurity. Drawing on Ghana's National Cybersecurity Policy and Strategy (2024–2029), which emphasizes legal frameworks, capacity building, and cross-sector collaboration, this research explores how cybersecurity awareness, digital safety practices and policy interventions can promote equitable digital access. Using qualitative research methods, the study will survey and interview community members, digital literacy trainers and ICT coordinators in rural, peri-urban, and urban areas. The study aims to analyse how incidents of fraud, data breaches, and online harassment may disproportionately affect first-time and low-literacy internet users, potentially continuing existing digital inequalities. Through this exploration, the study seeks to identify key areas where targeted interventions by experts could help bridge the digital divide. This research reframes cybersecurity as a foundational component, rather than a technical afterthought of inclusive digital development. It offers practical insights for policymakers, educators and technology stakeholders working to close the digital divide in Ghana and similar contexts.

Keywords: Cybersecurity, Digital inclusion, Digital literacy, Policy intervention and Digital divide

SOFTWARE ACQUISITION AND PROJECT SUCCESS IN GHANA'S HEALTH SECTOR: EXAMINING THE ROLE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT COMPETENCY AND ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT

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Abstract

A well-executed software acquisition procedure is a critical factor of project success, influencing cost, schedule, and quality. The successful implementation of software acquisition in Ghana's health sector remains a critical challenge, with many initiatives failing to meet their intended objectives. While there are about 22 eHealth project at various stages of implementation in Ghana, most of these projects are long overdue or uncompleted. In light of this, there is a limited understanding on whether or not software acquisition influences project success. Drawing on the Resource-Based View (RBV) and building on the assumptions that strategic resources are heterogeneously distributed across firms and that these differences are stable over time, this study examines how software acquisition (as a strategic resource) contributes to project success, amidst project management competency (an organizational capability) and organizational support (a facilitating condition). The Resource-Based View (RBV) posits that firms achieve competitive advantage by leveraging valuable, rare, inimitable, and non-substitutable (VRIN) resources. The study employs a quantitative research design, collecting survey data from health sector professionals involved in software acquisition projects across Ghanaian hospitals and health institutions. Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) is used for data analysis due to its ability to handle complex mediation and moderation models with smaller sample sizes. This research contributes to understanding the relationship between software acquisition and project success in developing countries' health sectors, particularly addressing gaps identified in the implementation in low and middle-income countries (LMIC).

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, DATA ETHICS, AND GOVERNANCE: A FRAMEWORK FOR REDUCING DIGITAL INEQUALITIES IN RESOURCE-CONSTRAINED SOCIETIES

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Abstract

As artificial intelligence (AI) becomes increasingly embedded in social, economic, and political infrastructures, the absence of inclusive data ethics and robust governance mechanisms poses significant risks of exacerbating digital inequalities particularly in resource-constrained societies. This systematic review synthesizes current literature on AI deployment in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), with a specific emphasis on the role of data ethics and governance in mitigating exclusion and advancing equity. Guided by the PRISMA framework, the review draws on peer-reviewed journal articles, institutional reports, and policy documents published between 2017 and 2024, sourced from databases such as Scopus, Web of Science, and IEEE Xplore. From an initial pool of 4,232 records, 61 studies met the inclusion criteria based on methodological rigor, relevance, and contextual applicability. The findings indicate that, although AI offers transformative opportunities across sectors such as education, healthcare, agriculture, and financial services, its implementation frequently perpetuates structural disparities. These challenges stem from algorithmic bias, opacity in decision-making, and the absence of participatory governance. A recurring theme in literature is the urgent need for localized ethical standards, community-driven data stewardship models, and inclusive regulatory mechanisms that prioritize data sovereignty, informed consent, and social accountability. Case studies from Kenya, India, and Ghana highlight the effectiveness of grassroots AI governance and ethical auditing practices in fostering trust, transparency, and equitable outcomes. Based on these insights, the review proposes a multi-layered framework that integrates technical, legal, and socio-cultural dimensions of data governance to support just and inclusive AI ecosystems. This study contributes to the global discourse on technological justice and offers actionable strategies for leveraging AI to reduce, rather than reinforce, digital inequities in resource-constrained settings.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Data Ethics, Governance Frameworks, Digital Inequality, Resource-Constrained Societies

DETERMINANTS OF PROFIT IN THE BAOBAB PRODUCTS VALUE CHAIN: EVIDENCE FROM BURKINA FASO

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Abstract

Agriculture is the main livelihood activity in rural Burkina Faso, as it is in many sub-Saharan African countries. Recognizing its importance, the government has made agriculture a central pillar in the fight against rural poverty, prioritizing it in various development plans and strategies. However, a combination of climatic, cultural, economic, and demographic factors has reduced the ability of farming households to meet their food and income needs. In response, most rural households have diversified their income sources, primarily through the exploitation of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) from local woody species. Based on 2023 data collected from 694 actors, including 129 harvesters, 318 processors, and 247 traders in the Centre-Ouest region of Burkina Faso, this study investigates the determinants of profit along the baobab products value chain through both qualitative and econometric analyses. It focuses on three products derived from baobab fruits (pulp, pulp juice and pulp biscuits) and three key actor groups (harvesters, processors, and traders). The value chain is predominantly composed of poorly educated women operating in the informal sector, who nevertheless report positive profit margins despite marked disparities in annual earnings. Estimation results from a seemingly unrelated regressions (SUR) model highlight the importance of cooperative membership, access to training, credit, export opportunities, baobab resource scarcity and costs related to transportation and raw material procurement as key profit determinants. The findings underscore the need to strengthen entrepreneurial capacities, support cooperative organization, promote baobab domestication, and enhance product quality standards to improve access to export markets. keywords: Value chain, baobab products, profit, seemingly unrelated regression model, Burkina Faso.

Keywords: Value chain, baobab products, profit, seemingly unrelated regression model, Burkina Faso.

EXPLORING WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCES OF RIDE-HAILING DRIVERS IN GHANA'S GIG ECONOMY: A QUALITATIVE STUDY

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Abstract

The gig economy, led by digital platforms, is transforming the global labour market by increasing productivity and creating jobs. The aim of the study was to understand the work-related experiences of ride-hailing drivers in Ghana. This study employed the phenomenological approach where interviews were conducted among 16 participants at Accra and Kumasi which are two cities in Ghana. A semi-structured interview guide was used to explore the experiences of participants associated with their work as ride-hailing drivers, focusing on participants' perceptions about the working conditions, outcomes and coping strategies employed. The interviews were transcribed and analysed thematically. Three main themes emerged regarding ride-hailing drivers experiences. First, the paradox of flexibility encapsulated the complexities of their working conditions. Second, work-life satisfaction reflected the drivers overall assessment of their work outcomes. Finally, character strengths represented the coping strategies they employed to mitigate the challenges of ride-hailing work. Results highlight the need for targeted interventions to improve gig workers conditions and outcomes in Ghana.

Keywords: Gig economy; Work conditions; Ride-hailing drivers' well-being; Character strengths

GENDERED PERFORMANCE AESTHETICS AND EPISTEMIC FEATURES IN ILORIN ORAL ARTS: ADVANCING INCLUSIVE GROWTH THROUGH CULTURAL RESILIENCE

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Abstract

This paper investigates how Ilorin women's oral performances, particularly Waka and Kengbe serve as cultural tools for challenging gender inequality and negotiating inclusive social transformation in Northern Nigeria. While dominant narratives often marginalize indigenous female voices, this study, rooted in Womanist theory and interpretive ethnography, foregrounds the epistemic agency of women performers as they negotiate identity, community, and resilience. Drawing on three documented song-texts and live performances, the research reveals how women artists creatively subvert traditional power structures by incorporating everyday objects like kitchen utensils into their art, transforming domestic symbolism into instruments of public resistance. These performances not only critique patriarchal norms but also cultivate collective consciousness and reimagine a more equitable society. By embedding strategies of resistance within culturally resonant practices, Ilorin women exemplify how oral traditions can advance inclusive growth and local resilience. The study contributes to broader debates on gender equity, cultural sustainability, and the power of grassroots expressions in bridging socio-political inequalities.

Keywords: Gender equity, performance aesthetics, resilience, oral traditions, Womanism, cultural sustainability.

RE-THINKING THE TEACHING OF FRENCH IN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS FOR EFFECTIVE INCLUSION IN THE GLOBAL SOCIETY

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Abstract

The French language has a significant impact on global society. Being bilingual create a complex network of cross-continental cultural and economic interactions. It provides employability across a variety of industries, expands one's networking opportunities, and gives access to more resources. The research explored the acquisition of indirect object pronominalization among second language (L2) French students in Ghana. Specifically, it examined errors and difficulties Labone high school students face when using indirect object pronouns. A simple random sampling technique was used to select Forty-five (45) participants. Data was sourced via achievement test and interviews. The data sourced from the achievement test, and interviews were subjected to statistical analysis. The pre-intervention findings revealed that, the errors students make while using indirect object pronominalization include pronoun placement, using leur instead of lui for a singular indirect object, using 'lui' for a plural indirect object and using a direct object pronoun in place of the indirect object pronoun. The post-intervention results demonstrated a substantial improvement in appropriate usage of French pronouns by the French Students after an intervention that followed the ADDIE's model. The study concludes that students who gained proficiency in the pronominalization have their French grammar enhanced and can participate fully in the global economy.

Keywords: L2 French Students, Teaching, Inclusion, Global, Society

OPPRESSIVE CHORES OR VALUED CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE? GEN-Z'S INTERPRETATION OF TRADITIONALLY FEMININE DOMESTIC SKILLS IN GHANA

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Abstract

This paper investigates how Ghanaian Gen-Z youth navigate the dual perceptions of traditionally feminine domestic skills: on one hand, as oppressive "women's work," and on the other, as invaluable cultural capital. Grounded in a qualitative study involving six focus group discussions and twelve in-depth interviews, the research integrates Western/Marxist feminist critiques of exploitative housework with Afro-feminist theories that emphasize cultural specificity, decolonial histories, and negotiated agency. Findings reveal that while domestic chores such as cooking and cleaning are often seen as gendered burdens that undermine girls' educational and economic prospects, many participants also acknowledge the practical benefits and symbolic significance of these tasks, viewing them as sites for cultural preservation and entrepreneurial opportunities. Male participants express a growing awareness of inequality, yet remain hampered by ingrained norms that exempt them from domestic duties. The paper proposes "neo-domestic negotiation," a potential conceptual framework for analyzing the interplay of structural exploitation, cultural valorization, and incremental, everyday acts of gender redefinition. This new lens illuminates how Gen-Z youth navigate seemingly competing feminist paradigms to forge evolving household arrangements that balance tradition with demands for equity.

Keywords: Gen-Z, gender roles, domestic skills, African feminism, intersectionality, negotiated domesticity.

"THEY ARE GOOD STEWARDS TOO": WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNAL BOREHOLES IN MBARE SUBURB, HARARE, ZIMBABWE

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Abstract

Gender inequalities in water management are quite pronounced due to systemic biases and disparities that affect women's access to and control over water resources. Although women are the drawers of water and deal with water on domestic and daily basis, management of water resources at national and local level has been male dominated. Taking into cognisance the centrality of women in water management, some NGOs advocated for the active participation of women at community-based management of water. With the upsurge in use of communal boreholes in urban area most women have been roped to be the stewards of these boreholes. Boreholes have become popular in urban areas as a stop gap measure to address the growing water challenges, avert potential water crises and the consequent outbreak of epidemics, particularly cholera. For high density suburbs such as Mbare it is not feasible to drill boreholes per homestead. As a result, NGOs, city councils, and individuals, intervened and donated communal boreholes and water point systems to service the poor and marginalised communities of Mbare. Therefore, this paper assessed the role played by women in this decentralised system of water governance. Through household surveys this study explored duties being carried out by women in these water point committees, the contribution of women water users, the effectiveness of this governance system, challenges being encountered, and the way forward. Findings were triangulated with data obtained through FGDs with water point committees and water users, and key informant interviews with government, City Council and NGOs officials.

"I GO HUNGRY BUT I DON'T HAVE MONEY TO BUY FOOD SO IT IS AFFECTING MY HEALTH": EXPLORING INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND FOOD INSECURITY AMONG WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV IN THE EASTERN REGION OF GHANA

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Abstract

This study explores the intricate, reciprocal relationship between intimate partner violence (IPV) and food insecurity among women living with HIV (WLHIV), focusing on how these intersecting vulnerabilities reinforce each other in a self-perpetuating loop. While existing scholarship has examined the individual impact of IPV and food insecurity on HIV outcomes, fewer studies have investigated the bidirectional dynamics that trap WLHIV in sustained patterns of violence and deprivation. This research employs a qualitative methodology, utilizing in-depth semi-structured interviews with WLHIV who have experienced IPV in peri-urban contexts in the Eastern Region of Ghana. Participants were purposively sampled to ensure a diversity of experiences with violence, economic hardship and HIV-related stigma. The study is grounded in feminist political economy and intersectionality frameworks, which allow for an analysis that focuses on women's lived experiences while accounting for structural inequalities related to gender, poverty and health. Data were thematically analyzed with a focus on the identification of patterns of how IPV restricts women's autonomy, economic participation and access to food. Conversely, the data highlight how chronic food insecurity impedes WLHIV's capacity to exit abusive relationships due to fears of hunger, children's wellbeing, and social isolation. The findings underscore a reinforcing feedback loop shaped by compounded vulnerabilities. This study calls for integrated policy interventions that simultaneously address economic empowerment, food insecurity, legal recourse and HIV-related health services. This study contributes to a more holistic understanding of gender inequality and survival among WLHIV essential to improving health and social outcomes and advancing gender equality.

Keywords: intimate partner violence, food insecurity, HIV, women living with HIV, economic dependency, feminist political economy, intersectionality, Ghana

CLINIC TO KITCHEN: BEARING OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE ON TREATMENT ADHERENCE AND FOOD INSECURITY AMONG HIV-POSITIVE WOMEN IN SOUTHERN GHANA

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Abstract

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) remains a pervasive and under-addressed barrier to effective HIV care among women, particularly in resource-limited settings. This study explores the intersection between IPV, antiretroviral therapy (ART) adherence and food insecurity among women living with HIV. Drawing on qualitative data from in-depth interviews with twenty HIV-positive, ever-married women aged 18 years and older, this study investigates how experiences of intimate partner violence (IPV) disrupt women's ability to maintain treatment adherence and access adequate nutrition. Participants were receiving ART at a major public health facility in southern Ghana, situated in a peri-urban district known for both high HIV prevalence and widespread food insecurity. A purposive sampling strategy was employed to recruit participants with diverse lived experiences of IPV, food insecurity and HIV-related stigma, ensuring variation in age, socio-economic background, and length of HIV diagnosis. The data were analyzed thematically, with findings revealing three interconnected themes: the psychosocial impact of IPV on ART adherence; the role of partner's economic control and deprivation in perpetuating food insecurity; and the structural barriers that limit women's access to integrated support systems. Women described the fear, stigma and trauma induced by violent relationships as key factors undermining their health-seeking behaviors and ART adherence. Economic abuse and social isolation further contributed to chronic food insecurity, which in turn complicated adherence due to the side effects of taking medication on an empty stomach. These findings underscore the urgent need to embed IPV screening, nutritional support and psychosocial services within ART programs.

Keywords: Intimate partner violence, HIV/AIDS, antiretroviral therapy adherence, food insecurity, health, qualitative study, intersectional analysis, Ghana

A CLINICO-HISTOPATHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF UTERINE FIBROID CASES AT THE GHANA STANDARDS AUTHORITY (2013-2021)

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Abstract

Uterine fibroids (UFs) are benign tumours that significantly impact women's health and contribute to hospitalisations globally. The Global Burden of Disease (GBD) 2019 indicates their high incidence and prevalence. Understanding UF trends and associated gynecological disorders is essential to address health disparities in Ghana. This study examined the clinico-histopathological assessment of UF cases analysed at the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) from 2013 to 2021. A repeated cross-sectional study was employed to study UF cases, clinical presentations, and co-existing gynecological lesions for selected years. Data analysis, including negative binomial regression and binary logistic regression, assessed annual UF trends and relationships between reproductive tract lesions and age groups respectively. Findings revealed 6,753 UF cases over six years, with 1,816 co-existing gynecological lesions. Patients' ages ranged from 18 to 88 years, with a mean ± standard deviation of 41±8.23 years. Pelvic mass was the commonest symptom. Adenomyosis was the most frequent co-existing lesion, followed by ovarian and cervical pathologies. The study identified a 22.2% annual increase in UF cases from 2013 to 2021. The study highlights the growing burden of UFs and their association with other reproductive tract disorders among Ghanaian women. From these findings, screening services for women over 30 years are essential to ensure early diagnosis and equitable reproductive healthcare access

Keywords: Uterine Fibroids, Female Reproductive Tract Pathologies, Clinico-Histopathological Assessment

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS AND EDUCATION FOR TEENS: EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION TO TAKE CHARGE OF THEIR HEALTH

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Abstract

This preliminary study evaluates the effectiveness of breast cancer awareness programs for teenagers in Tema, Ghana. In Ghana, breast cancer poses a significant public health challenge. Therefore, the goal of this study is to empower the youth with early knowledge of breast cancer awareness. The program involved Junior High School students aged 9 -19 years from selected schools in Tema, Ghana, organized with the Pink Africa Foundation as part of the 2024 Pink October events. Activities included a presentation on breast cancer, an exercise demonstration, a soccer game, and a video on self-breast examination. Pre- and post- assessments measured the impact on awareness and education. A total of 138 students participated, including 50 males. Initially, 65% cited television as their main source of information, and only 14% were aware of breast cancer signs and symptoms. Post-program, 63% felt informed about these signs, and 99% recognized the importance of breast health education. Furthermore, 95% became comfortable discussing breast health with trusted adults. The study demonstrated the need for early cancer education for teens in low-awareness areas. The program significantly improved knowledge and awareness about breast cancer, suggesting that such initiatives can effectively engage and inform youths in Ghana. Further research could assess the long-term benefits of such programs on early detection and prevention strategies in Ghana.

Keywords: Breast cancer Awareness, Early detection, Adolescent Breast Health Education

THE PUBLIC HEALTH CRISES OF DRUG ABUSE: ASSESSING ITS IMPACT ON MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDAL IDEATION AMONG GHANAIAN YOUNG ADULTS

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Abstract

Substance abuse and poor mental health are emerging public health crises among Ghanaian youth, often linked to rising suicidal ideation. This study examined how drug abuse and psychological distress interact to influence suicidal thoughts among young adults in Accra. A cross-sectional survey of 200 participants aged 18–35 was conducted using validated instruments: DAST-A, DASS-21, and the Suicidal Ideation Scale (SIS). Tramadol was the most abused (22.5%), followed by cannabis (12.0%) and alcohol (11.5%). Pearson correlations revealed strong associations between mental health problems and suicidal ideation ($r = .849$, $p < .001$), and negative correlations between drug abuse and both mental health ($r = -.702$, $p < .001$) and suicidal ideation ($r = -.632$, $p < .001$). Multiple regression analysis showed that mental health significantly predicted suicidal ideation ($\beta = .799$, $p < .001$), while drug abuse did not ($\beta = -.072$, $p = .175$). Mediation analysis (PROCESS Model 4) confirmed that mental health fully mediates the relationship between drug abuse and suicidal ideation. Moderation analysis (PROCESS Model 1) further indicated that the effect of drug abuse on suicidal ideation was significant only at high levels of mental health distress ($B = -0.185$, $p = .032$). These findings suggest that drug use may function as a short-term coping mechanism, but its long-term psychological effects intensify suicidal thoughts when mental health deteriorates. This study highlights the need for integrated interventions addressing both substance abuse and mental wellbeing, particularly for vulnerable youth populations.

Keywords: Substance Abuse, Mental Health,, Suicidal Ideation, Public Health.

THE IMPACT OF NEGATIVE HEALTH OUTCOMES ON LABOR SUPPLY IN GHANA: EVIDENCE FROM ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SURVEY

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Abstract

A robust labour supply is essential for fostering economic growth and enhancing productivity, particularly in developing economies such as Ghana, where human capital is the cornerstone of economic activity. Poor health outcomes constraint labor force participation, reduce productive work hours, and diminish overall economic output. This study investigates the relationship between negative health outcomes and labour market outcomes in Ghana, focusing on the heterogeneous impact of ill health on economic and demographic groups. Using data from the 2022 Ghana Annual Household Income and Expenditure Survey, the analysis employs a linear regression model and the Lewbel instrumental variable estimation technique to address the concerns of endogeneity and reverse causality between the health variable (number of sick days) and labour supply (hours of work). The findings reveal that more days of ill health are associated with fewer hours of work in general. Further evidence suggests that the magnitude of impact varies across subpopulations: urban dwellers and formal sector workers experienced more pronounced reductions in labor supply (about 2 times more) due to poor health compared to their counterparts. The findings highlight the importance of preventive health services that can improve healthy days and enhance labor force participation. Targeted interventions for rural health infrastructure development will enhance effective health service utilization among rural dwellers and informal workers.

Keywords: Health Outcomes, Labour Market Participation, Urban-Rural Disparities, Endogeneity and Ghana

BODY POLITICS: GENDER, HEALTHCARE AND OBSTETRIC VIOLENCE IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Violence and abuse during childbirth is a pressing public health and human rights issue with devastating consequences. In particular, it reduces women's trust and use of health facilities for childbirth, thereby increasing the risks of maternal and neonatal mortality. In Nigeria, obstetric violence is pervasive and normalised; yet, little is known about the gendered dynamics of this phenomenon. In this presentation, I explore the gendered dynamics of obstetric violence in Nigeria. I argue that obstetric violence is deeply entrenched in structural inequality and that it is a by-product of gender inequalities and a form of patriarchal violence within society and health systems. A qualitative study was conducted in eight public health facilities in Nigeria. Specifically, semi-structured interviews were conducted with 40 healthcare professionals and 35 women. The study revealed that there are huge structural inequalities that keep women at the lower cadres of the health system. Five major themes depicting how gender inequalities contribute to women's experiences of obstetric violence emerged: gender inequality in the medical profession, unequally and heavily tasked, feminisation of midwifery, patriarchal pressures and ideologies, and gender insensitivity in resource provision. These inequalities impact the kind of care midwives provide, which is often characterised by mistreatment and abuse of women during childbirth. Also, patriarchal ideologies about women and their bodies lead to power and control, and violence has become a major instrument of domination and control. The hierarchical structure of the healthcare profession puts the midwifery profession in a vulnerable position, with negative consequences for maternity care.

Keywords: Gender, maternal health, childbirth, patriarchy, abuse, inequality, health systems.

GREEN/SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT GOVERNANCE, INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE

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Abstract

Public procurement accounts for 15%–20% of GDP and up to 50% of government spending, amounting to approximately $9.5 trillion globally, according to the World Bank. In response to the growing global emphasis on sustainability, procurement laws are increasingly incorporating green provisions to promote environmental and societal well-being. Bidders are now often required to adhere to sustainable criteria, reinforcing the idea that procurement can contribute to long-term environmental sustainability. Nonetheless, the effectiveness of these green procurement initiatives has not been tested empirically. The study aims to examine the impact of sustainable procurement governance on environmental sustainability performance and whether institutional quality influences this relationship. Using data from the World Bank's World Development Indicators and Global Public Procurement Database (GPPD), an index was developed to measure green procurement governance. Environmental performance is measured using indicators such as CO_2 emissions, renewable energy usage, and forest depletion. Preliminary results suggest that sustainable procurement governance positively impacts environmental outcomes. The study underscores the importance of robust enforcement of procurement laws by state agencies to foster environmental sustainability.

Keywords: Green/sustainable procurement governance; Environmental sustainability; Public Procurement.

THE FIRST STEP TO A GIANT LEAP: A PILOT EXPERIENCE OF THE POTENTIAL INDUSTRIAL SYMBIOSIS NETWORK IN GHANA

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Abstract

The transition to a circular economy requires innovative frameworks that can identify, optimize, and visualize resource exchanges among industries. Industrial Symbiosis (IS), a key enabler of this transition, remains largely underdeveloped in Ghana due to inadequate digital match making platforms, low awareness, and data scarcity. This study presents a pioneering effort to simulate a theoretical comprehensive industrial symbiosis network (TCISN) using real-world data from 120 small and medium-scale enterprises across key industrial sectors in Ghana. A combination of geospatial analytics, network theory, and optimization algorithms was used to model and visualize waste-to-resource exchanges through a digital, GIS-enabled interface. The TCISN reveals scale-free topologies with key hub industries such as cement, agro-processing, and recycling sectors driving material recovery through highly connected exchanges. Palm kernel shells, slag, and food waste emerged as the most frequently exchanged by-products, suggesting strong potential for energy recovery and material reuse. Spatial clustering, centrality analysis, and community detection further identified high-synergy zones and underutilized resource flows. The findings offer a replicable model for circular industrial development in emerging economies and underscore the viability of a data-driven IS platform tailored to the Ghanaian context and demonstrate the potential of digital matchmaking systems to enhance circularity, inform policy, and guide sustainable industrial planning. This pilot model offers a foundational blueprint for developing an operational IS tool in Ghana and may catalyze broader systemic shifts toward resource-efficient industrial ecosystems.

Keywords: Open data, Industrial Waste Database, Circular Economy, Industrial Symbiosis, Digital Matchmaking, Waste Management, Resource Recovery

INTEGRATING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS INTO CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Climate change poses significant threats to environmental sustainability, particularly in developing countries like Nigeria where livelihoods are closely tied to natural resources. In response, there is growing recognition of the importance of integrating Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) into climate adaptation strategies. This study explores the role of indigenous knowledge in promoting environmental sustainability and enhancing resilience to climate change in Nigeria using the Ecological Knowledge Systems theory. The population of this study are local farmers at Abeokuta South Local Government, Ogun State, Nigeria. The study made used of a survey research design in which 120 respondents were selected for the study. The sample size was determined using Slovin's formular. The questionnaire was adopted as research instrument and data was analyzed using SPSS version 25.0. The findings reveal that indigenous knowledge offers practical, culturally relevant, and cost-effective solutions that complement scientific approaches to climate adaptation. However, challenges such as marginalization of indigenous communities, lack of documentation, and weak policy frameworks hinder the effective integration of IKS into national climate strategies. The study recommends a multi-stakeholder approach involving government, academic institutions, and local communities to mainstream indigenous knowledge into environmental governance and climate policy.

Keywords: Climate Change, Environmental sustainability, Indigenous Knowledge, Knowledge system, and Rural knowledge

EXPLORING SDG INTEGRATION IN THE BASIC SCHOOL SCIENCE CCP CURRICULUM

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Abstract

In the context of global efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), education plays a pivotal role in fostering inclusive growth, resilience, and sustainability. The Aichi-Nagoya Declaration (2014) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) suggests all levels of education review and define their purpose and vision goals to coincide with those the SDGs intend to achieve. This study explores the extent to which the SDGs are integrated into the Ghanaian Science Common Core Programme (CCP) curriculum and the perspectives of science teachers. Given that science education is crucial for equipping learners with the knowledge and skills necessary for sustainable development, understanding teachers' experiences and perceptions is essential for effective curriculum implementation. Positioned in the interpretivist paradigm and drawing qualitative data from the science CCP curriculum, and teachers in the Bosome-Freho district using semi-structured interviews, the findings reveal an implicit integration of SDGs in the curriculum and a lack of general awareness of the SDGs among educators. The findings further highlighted significant challenges including limited training, inadequate resources, and lack of comprehension of the tenets of the curriculum that hinder effective integration. Teachers demonstrated a strong willingness to incorporate SDG-related themes into their lessons but emphasized the need for systemic support and targeted professional development. This study underscores the importance of aligning educational reforms with global sustainability agendas to bridge learning inequalities and promote transformative change. It calls for policy interventions that strengthen teacher capacity and curriculum responsiveness to harness the full potential of science education as a driver of sustainable development.

Keywords: SDGs, science education, curriculum, CCP, perspectives

BRIDGING THE CULTURAL GAP IN ADOLESCENT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE: BEHAVIOUR CHANGE INSIGHTS FOR STRENGTHENING SERVICE DELIVERY IN MULTICULTURAL SETTINGS, GHANA

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Abstract

Although growing evidence supports the integration of behaviour change approaches into culturally competent healthcare to promote health equity especially amid rising migration and increasing patient diversity there remains limited research on this approach in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), including Ghana, leading to notable gaps in healthcare delivery. Objectives: Using a behaviour change approach, the paper explores the perspective of healthcare providers involved in delivering cultural competent adolescent sexual and reproductive health services in multicultural setting. The study employed qualitative exploratory design, drawing on phenomenology research strategy to understand the problematic behaviours of the health care professionals (HCPs). Guided by the COM-B model and Campinha Bacote's cultural competence theory, the study engaged healthcare professionals (HCPs) delivering ASRHs to migrant adolescents in selected health facilities in the Greater Accra Region from 2022 to 2024. A criterion purposive sampling technique was first employed to select the healthcare facilities (HCF). Subsequently, convenience sampling was used to select a sample size of (10) health care professionals after saturation was reached following a stopping criteria to participate in (4) in-depth interviews (IDI), (4) key informant interviews (KII), and (2) focus group discussions (FGD). The results reveal that healthcare providers have insufficient cultural competence knowledge, which negatively impacts their confidence in providing ASRH services to migrant adolescents. This emphasises the significance of psychological capability, as indicated in the COM-B model, in influencing their behaviour. This finding also contrasts with the Campinha-Bacote model of cultural competence in healthcare delivery. The study highlights a lack of cultural competency knowledge among healthcare professionals, leading to a significant care gap. It is recommended that policies be designed to include culturally competent behaviour change interventions to effectively address care gap.

Keywords: Health Equity, Health Care Professionals, Culture Competence, Behaviour Change, Migrant Adolescent, Sexual and Reproductive Health

ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE AND ITS ROLE IN ENHANCING HEALTHCARE UTILIZATION: A REGRESSION DISCONTINUITY APPROACH TO EXPLORING SUPPLIER INDUCED DEMAND IN GHANA

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Abstract

As Ghana's health insurance scheme (NHIS) expands to enhance to basic healthcare across persons, sickness and diseases, there remains questions not only about its capacity to improve access but also intended bottlenecks in provider behaviour. This study therefore explores the role of NHIS in improving healthcare utilization while potentially fostering supplier-induced demand (SID). The study relied on the Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS7) and employing a Regression Discontinuity Design (RDD) around NHIS eligibility thresholds (under 18 and over 70 years of age) to estimate the causal impact of health insurance access on the probability of visiting a healthcare facility and healthcare expenditure. It also adopts the logistic regression, disaggregating results by affiliation with healthcare professionals to explore variations in provider-patient information. The results confirm that there is higher probability to utilize healthcare facility and increase outpatient expenditure with NHIS coverage. It is concerning however that non-affiliated individuals—those without family or household ties to health professionals—incur significantly higher outpatient and inpatient costs, suggesting that limited medical knowledge may make them more vulnerable to overtreatment. On the other hand, affiliated individuals demonstrate muted expenditure responses, consistent with greater healthcare literacy and bargaining power. The study adds to evidence-based debate on SID in Ghana, emphasizing the unintended consequences of expanding health insurance without associated restructuration. It provides critical insights to balance universal health coverage goals with system efficiency and argues among other things payment reforms, patient empowerment reforms and stronger monitoring mechanisms for sustainability and equity of Ghana's health system.

THE ROLE OF OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING INSTITUTIONS IN FOSTERING INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: A NARRATIVE INQUIRY

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Abstract

In Nigeria, persons with disability make up about 6% of the population; going by the available statistics, they also make up a high percentage of the illiterates in the nation. Open and Distance Learning (ODL) education offers a unique opportunity to bridge the literacy gap and reduce the barriers that individuals, especially young adults with disabilities, face in accessing education. This study examines the lived experiences of students with disabilities with Open and Distance education, with a view to exploring how ODL institutions foster or hinder inclusive education for students with disabilities in Nigeria. This study is a narrative inquiry, a contextualized and qualitative approach, to explore the perceptions and experiences of students with disabilities in ODL institutions across Nigeria. Interviews were conducted through telephone interviews and online questionnaires. Participants' responses were transcribed and coded for analysis. Data were analyzed using thematic analysis. Emerging themes reveal that respondents affirm the unique role that ODL institutions play in their education. ODL institutions are deemed "desirable", "accessible", and "flexible", but largely "unaffordable". The lack of assistive technologies, inclusive learning materials, supportive infrastructure, and restrictive teaching styles and learning environment present significant barriers to students maximizing ODL education. Open and Distance Learning institutions hold great promise in fostering inclusive university education for students with disabilities in Nigeria by incorporating disability-inclusive pedagogy, establishing disability support centres, offering subsidized fees or scholarships for students with disabilities, and providing inclusive infrastructure and trained staff.

Keywords: Students with disabilities, Open and Distance Learning, inclusive education

THE EDUCATION-DEPRESSION PARADOX: EXPLORING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND MENTAL HEALTH IN WOMEN

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Abstract

The research paper aims to understand the relationship between education and depression among women and whether employment moderates this relationship. This study adopts a quantitative research design, drawing on three waves of data from the Ghana Socioeconomic Panel Survey (GSEPS) to explore the relationship between educational attainment, employment, and mental health in women. Employing a Fixed-Effects Poisson Regression, including an interaction term between Education and "Employment" as the key moderator, and estimating separately for female and male respondents, the study finds that employment significantly reduces mental stress for both the male and female samples. Interestingly, education had no impact on the male sample, even when the interaction term was introduced. However, the results highlight gendered patterns in the Education-Depression Paradox. While higher education generally improves women's mental health, its benefits are not uniform when intersected with employment demands.

SHAPED BY CHANGE, GUIDED BY CULTURE: GHANAIAN ADOLESCENTS' EXPERIENCES OF PUBERTY AND IDENTITY FORMATION

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Abstract

In a rapidly changing global context marked by increasingly fluid and diverse identities, Ghanaian adolescents face unique challenges as traditional cultural norms intersect with new influences. While previous research in Ghana has focused on reproductive and mental health issues, little attention has been given to adolescents' experiences of puberty and its impact on identity development. This study addresses this gap by exploring how

puberty shapes identity formation among Ghanaian adolescents. Using an exploratory qualitative design, data were collected from adolescents in Accra and Kumasi to examine their experiences during puberty and the factors influencing these experiences. Findings reveal that adolescents view puberty as a significant transitional phase characterized by physical and emotional changes. The level of preparedness for puberty plays a crucial role: those unprepared often experience inferiority, shyness, and feeling overwhelmed, whereas those prepared report greater maturity, confidence, and happiness. Key socialization agents, including family, religious institutions, schools, peers, and media, exert considerable influence through guidance, expectations, and social norms. The interplay of these experiences and influences shapes the nature of adolescent identity development. The study underscores the need to strengthen systems that provide accurate puberty-related information and regulate media channels to support healthy identity development. These measures are essential for fostering positive identity outcomes among Ghanaian adolescents amid evolving societal dynamics. This research highlights the critical role of social context and preparedness in adolescent development and calls for targeted interventions to address the unique challenges faced by Ghanaian adolescents during puberty.

USE OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND DESISTANCE: A QUALITATIVE STUDY OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS' EXPERIENCES

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Abstract

This study aimed to explore the factors that facilitate illicit drug use and desistance among undergraduate students in Ghana. Using a qualitative research design with a phenomenological approach, 10 students aged 21 to 28 years, comprising nine males and one female, with a mean age of 23.30 years (SD = 2.21), were interviewed with a semi-structured interview guide. Data was analysed using thematic analysis. Results indicated that undergraduate students were motivated to use illicit drugs for socialisation reasons and because of the perceived rewarding effects they obtained. All illicit drug use motivations (socialisation, self-reward, enhanced productivity, weight management, etc.) were satisfied, except when the drugs were used to cope with symptoms of anxiety and depression. Students were motivated to desist from illicit drug use through diverse wake-up moments, the threat of sanctions, and the desire to prove a point. While desisting, students struggled with peer influences, barriers related to dependence, and relapse. Students were ultimately able to achieve successful desistance by utilising support systems, spirituality and religious engagements, goal setting and environmental control. Findings are expected to guide the development of effective interventions to motivate students who use illicit drugs to desist and to help them desist successfully.

FOLLOWING FAME, FINDING SELF: EXPLORING WELL-BEING THROUGH CELEBRITY FAN COMMUNITIES.

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Abstract

Humans have long been fascinated with heroes and famous people — from historical icons to contemporary Hollywood stars. With the rise of mass media, new digital technologies, reality television and social media, the image of the hero has evolved into that of the celebrity, giving rise to a pervasive celebrity culture and strong fan attachments. Existing literature conceptualises this attachment as celebrity worship, often emphasising its potentially dangerous consequences. This paper, however, explores a broader concept of celebrity followership. We interviewed 33 fan group members and executives associated with five Ghanaian celebrity musicians. We analysed the data thematically and developed two main themes: (1) Empowering encounters and (2) Invisible struggles. Although the dominant literature emphasises the negative aspects of celebrity attachment, our findings indicated that Ghanaian celebrity fan group members often reported many meaningful and positive experiences. The study highlights the social and communal aspects of celebrity followership, emphasising the benefits of social capital, social and personal identity and overall well-being. We argue that active participation in fan communities can foster personal empowerment and social connections. Our study has implications for celebrities and their fan managers as well as celebrity followers.

Keywords: Fandom, celebrity followership, celebrity worship, social capital, well-being.

CRIES, CAREERS, AND CARE: EXPLORING EMPLOYMENT AND POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION AMONG WORKING MOTHERS IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

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Abstract

This study examines how employment status and help-seeking behaviours influence the psychological well-being of mothers after delivery. Using a quantitative approach, data were collected from 100 mothers receiving care at three psychiatric institutions in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. Descriptive and inferential statistical analyses were employed to analyse the data. The findings showed that postpartum depression accounted for a significant variance in psychological well-being. However, the hierarchical regression analysis showed that help-seeking behaviour did not significantly influence psychological well-being, suggesting that cultural or structural barriers may hinder access to mental health support. Employment status did not have a direct effect on overall psychological well-being. However, a significant difference emerged between unemployed mothers and mothers who worked in the informal sector, but not between formal and informal mothers. Education level did not directly impact overall psychological well-being, including autonomy, environmental mastery, self-acceptance, personal life, and personal relations, but it played a crucial role in personal growth. These findings have practical implications for clinical practice, and human resource policies. Workplace policies can promote maternal well-being through extended maternity leave, flexible work arrangements, and mental health support. Union leaders can also advocate for maternity protection policies, and child-friendly workspaces to support self-employed mothers in the informal sector. This study highlights the importance of help-seeking behaviour and employment to improve the psychological well-being of mothers postpartum.

GENDER, CONFLICT, AND DEVELOPMENT: LESSONS FROM THE RUSSO-UKRAINE WAR FOR BUILDING RESILIENT AND EQUITABLE SOCIETIES IN AFRICA

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Abstract

This research investigates the gendered development effects of the Russo-Ukrainian war, contending that conflict, regardless of geography, has worldwide developmental repercussions that aggravate existing inequality. Applying a feminist political economy perspective, it investigates how the conflict has disproportionately affected women and men through more relocation, unpaid care responsibilities, forced conscription, reduced access to health and education, and more exposure to gender-based violence. These effects are not accidental but systemic ones generated and maintained by policy negligence and conflict economies. Emphasizing the indirect but critical developmental dangers caused by faraway wars, from commodity price instability to redirected assistance and military state spending, the paper offers comparative lessons for Ghana and other African settings. It challenges the inadequacy of traditional security and development models in properly including gendered vulnerabilities. It suggests a reframing: conflict analysis has to become a tool for inclusive and anticipatory development. Extending the 2030 Agenda's demand for fairness and resilience, this study argues for inclusive governance in peacebuilding, gender-sensitive early warning systems, and social infrastructure investment to address the long-term effects of conflict on women's lives. It also looks at how Indigenous knowledge systems and digital technologies could help women's autonomy and resilience in settings free from catastrophe. This study emphasizes that gender is not a subsidiary issue but rather crucial to understanding and reducing conflict-driven development hazards and that realizing sustainable development calls for urgent, creative, multidisciplinary knowledge facing these gendered dynamics.

Keywords: Feminist Political Economy, Gendered Development, Conflict and Inequality, Peacebuilding and Resilience, Global South Comparative Lessons

RETHINKING INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN MATRILINEAL SOCIETIES THROUGH A FEMINIST LEGAL LENS

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Abstract

This study investigates the influence of matrilineal kinship structures on IPV; women's coping and help-seeking behaviours; and their access to justice in the contexts of legal pluralism and social transition. The sample comprised eighteen women conveniently selected from a pool of initial 1,624 ever-married Ghanaian respondents aged 18 years and older, representatively selected from three major ecological zones with normative and socio-ecological differences, and interviewed quantitatively in 2022. Respondents were from matrilineal communities from the middle belt of Ghana, and responded to qualitative in-depth interviews. The study reveals that while women enjoy certain benefits including land rights and maternal kin support, these do not necessarily translate into decreased vulnerability to IPV. Extended kinship networks, particularly maternal uncles, play roles which mostly prioritise family harmony over justice. Additionally, the coexistence of customary and statutory legal systems creates conflicting expectations and barriers for women seeking redress. Framed within Feminist Legal Theory, the findings challenge the assumption that matrilineality inherently promotes gender equality and instead reveal how entrenched patriarchal norms persist in shaping women's lived experiences of violence. Our finding is counter-intuitive to some of the well-known and established evidence in Ghana and beyond, on gender inequality

and patrilineality. Consequently, we contrast our findings in this paper to the experiences of women in patrilineal societies we studied in the larger data, and beyond, to contextualise and better inform our conclusions. While our study is not representative, it calls for further research into the evolving dynamics of matrilineal systems amid urbanization and legal reform.

Keywords: matrilineal lineage, patriarchal norms, IPV, kinship networks, feminist legal theory, legal pluralism, Ghana

"BRIDE PRICE PAYMENT ALLOWS THE MAN TO OWN ME": ROLE OF LINEAGE IN PERPETRATING INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

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Abstract

In the Upper East Region in the northern Savannah belt of Ghana, where extended family and lineage groups exert considerable influence over marital affairs, perpetration and normalization of intimate partner violence (IPV) cannot be fully understood without interrogating the role of these socio-cultural institutions. Informed by a phenomenological research design, our qualitative data used 20 purposively selected ever and currently married women. Data analysis used NVivo 14 software, a thematic approach, and applied Patriarchy Theory to explore how patrilineal norms, dispute resolution practices, and collective family interests sustain patterns of abuse. Findings demonstrate that patrilineal lineage structures are not passive cultural backdrops but active agents in sustaining IPV. They do so by establishing gender hierarchies, controlling the terms of conflict mediation and embedding violence within shared principles of honor, resilience, and submission. These findings highlight the intersection of lineage and gendered power relations and stress the need for culturally sensitive interventions that challenge harmful traditions while fostering gender equality. Our findings reaffirm that addressing IPV requires more than strengthening legal responses or providing shelters. It demands a fundamental rethinking of how kinship institutions function to protect male privilege and silence women's voices. We suggest that interventions address the cultural narratives that frame violence as discipline, marriage as lineage control and endurance of IPV as virtue. This study has shown that it is within the intimate spaces of family and tradition that IPV is most insidiously sustained. It is also there that the seeds of resistance and transformation must be sown.

WRITING WOMEN INTO HISTORY: MAKOLA MARKET WOMEN, AND THE DECOLONIZATION OF THE GOLD COAST

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Abstract

Historians of the Gold Coast (modern Ghana) have paid little attention to the inclusion of market women in its political history. It is fair to say that elite women have gained attention, though as minor footnotes in the history of decolonization of the Gold Coast. Thus, this work fills a gap by addressing the roles played by the Makola Market Women in the decolonization of the Gold Coast under the auspices of Kwame Nkrumah. I operationalize and categorize the Makola Market Women, though not homogenizing them, as mostly non-elites, using formal education broadly conceived, as a variable of refinement. Absolutely, I am by no means saying that Kwame Nkrumah was the sole architect of decolonization of the Gold Coast. It simply means that my focal point in this work is Kwame Nkrumah's role in the decolonization of the Gold Coast, and the ways that the Makola Market Women served as an inalienable composite agency and conduit of success. The work is based on primary and secondary sources that illuminate essential historical processes and trends. Aggregating these sources, I argue that Makola Market Women were visible and active in the socio-political landscape of the Gold Coast during the era of decolonization. This was exemplified by their active anti-colonial stance and protest politics to support Kwame Nkrumah to attain independence for the Gold Coast.

GENDERED LEGAL AGENCY AND THE SOCIAL DYNAMICS OF JUSTICE: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF COURT-CONNECTED ADR IN GHANA

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Abstract

This paper interrogates the intersection of gender, legal consciousness, and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms in Ghana. It sociologically examines Ghana's court-connected ADR (CCADR) in the resolution of intimate partner conflicts. Based on a qualitative study of 14 intimate partner cases involving 28 disputants, and ethnographic observation of their mediation sessions at the National Alternative Dispute Resolution Secretariat, the paper explores how gender and economic inequalities shape access to justice and mediate the dynamics of CCADR processes. Framed by the theory of legal consciousness, the study investigates how disputants make sense of, engage with, and resist the institutional logic of both formal and informal adjudicative spaces. It foregrounds the resilience and strategic agency of women who utilize ADR not simply as a means of conflict resolution, but as a terrain for reclaiming voice, asserting rights, and negotiating power within patriarchal and legal hierarchies. Significantly, this study marks the first empirical exploration of family conflict within Ghana's institutionalized court-connected ADR framework since its formal establishment over a decade ago. By situating these findings within broader discourses on intersectionality and social justice, the paper argues for a reconceptualization of ADR frameworks that prioritize gender equity, procedural justice, and contextually grounded remedies.

Keywords: Gendered Legal Agency, Court-connected ADR (CCADR), Legal Consciousness, Intimate Partner Conflict

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF INDUSTRIAL ACTIONS IN GHANA

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Abstract

Ghana returned to multiparty democracy in January 1993 with a vibrant industrial relations system. Deploying the twin theories of political economy and systems theory of industrial relations and the qualitative research method, this paper examines the nuances of strike actions, and its cost, using comprehensive data on strikes that occurred in 2024, compensation data, and interviews with stakeholders. The findings revealed that power dynamics among the actors resulted in failure to arrive at a win-win situation, delays in negotiations, implementation of collective bargaining agreements and arbitration awards, national issues such as illegal mining (galamsey) and union solidarity were some reasons for the strike actions. Most of the strike actions were called off following satisfactory resolution of labour grievances, however, some concerns were unmet, yet labour called off the strike due to assurance from government, intervention by eminent Ghanaian citizens, strike fatigue, suspension to return to the negotiation table, court injunctions and infiltration of labour unions' membership. A total of 256 working days were lost to the strike actions, an amount of GH₵1.294 billion was paid as salaries to the striking workers, etc. The findings reinforce the political economy theory of power dynamics between the actors in industrial relations and resource utilization. The paper recommends that both labour, the employer(s) and other social partners act in good faith and prioritize the national interest in the industrial relations process for industrial harmony. Also, Ghana may have to explore options for strike fund from which employees on strike would be paid to cut down strike cost to the State.

POLITICAL ECONOMY, RESOURCE GOVERNANCE, AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS: PATHWAYS TO EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

Despite abundant natural and public resources, many developing countries remain trapped in cycles of poverty and inequality. This paradox is not merely a result of economic mismanagement, but a deeper reflection of the political economy—where power dynamics, elite interests, and institutional weaknesses shape who gets what, when, and how. This presentation critically explores how vested interests, patronage systems, and governance deficits distort resource allocation and undermine inclusive development. Focusing on the political and institutional dimensions of resource governance, the paper highlights how systemic inefficiencies, corruption, and lack of transparency perpetuate marginalization and deepen socioeconomic divides. It draws on real-world examples to illustrate how state institutions often lack the autonomy and capacity to regulate resource flows equitably, leading to skewed development outcomes. To reverse this trend, the paper proposes a reform agenda centered on institutional strengthening, participatory governance, and policy accountability. It advocates for decentralization, civic engagement, and legal reforms that promote equitable access to resources and dismantle entrenched power asymmetries. Emphasis is also placed on the role of civil society, media, and international actors in catalyzing institutional change and fostering a culture of transparency. By weaving together political economy insights and practical governance strategies, the presentation offers a transformative vision for achieving resource justice and sustainable, inclusive development.

SINO-RUSSIAN RELATIONS AND WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC SECURITY: A NEW DOMINATION OR MUTUAL COOPERATION? THE CASE OF NIGER

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Abstract

Recent developments have drawn significant attention to the deepening engagement of China and Russia in Africa. Russia's deployment of Wagner forces across various African states and the mounting debt many African nations owe to China have raised questions about the nature and goals of this involvement. Both countries have markedly expanded their economic and military influence on the continent. In countries where Russian military presence has grown, Chinese economic investments have also increased, prompting speculation about possible coordination between the two powers to undermine Western interests and assert dominance in Africa. This study investigates the potential collaboration between China and Russia in their African engagements, focusing on Niger as a case study. Applying the International Relations theory of social constructivism, the research explores how both countries frame themselves as victims of Western domination to appeal to African states. The study analyzes key developments in Niger, including the termination of its military pact with the U.S., the establishment of new security arrangements with Russia's Wagner Group and Turkey's Sadat forces, and Chinese investments in Niger's oil sector. Through qualitative purposive interviews and secondary data analysis, the study compares these trends with historical patterns of Western involvement in Africa. The findings suggest that African states are primarily driven by the need for economic development and security. The study ultimately explores whether China and Russia offer genuine partnerships or represent a new form of subtle domination, using Niger as a representative case.

GHANA: A WORKING DEMOCRACY OR VOTING MACHINE?

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Abstract

Ghana is often hailed as a democratic success story in sub-Saharan Africa, frequently cited for its regular electoral transitions and relative political stability. However, Ghana's democracy suffers some casualties, including weak institutions, widespread acts of political vigilantism and electoral violence, chronic corruption, nepotism and exclusionary politics. Against this backdrop, the current paper interrogates the extent to which Ghana's democracy extends beyond electoral rituals, asking whether the nation functions as a working democracy or merely a voting machine. Drawing on a multidisciplinary framework that combines democratic theory with African political analysis, the study surveyed the opinion of 400 Ghanaian voters on the depth of democratic consolidation in Ghana. The findings reveal a significant gap between procedural democracy and substantive democratic practice. While electoral mechanisms are well established, critical democratic pillars such as judicial independence, media freedom, civic participation, and institutional accountability remain weak or inconsistently applied. The study argues that Ghana's democracy is at risk of being reduced to electoral formalism, with limited impact on governance quality and citizen empowerment. It concludes by calling for comprehensive democratic reforms, stronger civic education, and enhanced institutional checks and balances to transition Ghana from an electoral democracy to a more inclusive, participatory, and accountable political system.

Keywords: Ghana, democracy, electoral politics, democratic consolidation, civic participation,

EXCELLENCE IN THE THROES OF POLITICAL TURBULENT ENVIRONMENT IN GHANA: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF AUTONOMOUS EXECUTIVE AGENCIES

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Abstract

The search for a result-oriented state institutions have been on the ascendancy in academic and development discourse. Methodology wise, the study employed the exploratory research approach, qualitative method and multiple case studies in a comparative study. In terms of theoretical framework, the New Public Management theory and Roll (2014) criteria of pockets of effectiveness were deployed to comparatively examine five autonomous executive agencies in Ghana namely; the National Petroleum Authority, Food and Drugs Authority, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority, Securities and Exchange Commission and Ghana Revenue Authority. The paper found that all the agencies deployed NPM ideals such as decentralization, e-governance, institutional collaboration, public private partnership, performance contracts and stakeholder involvement, these ideals significantly shaped their performance in achieving their mandates of providing public goods and services to the citizenry. The success of these agencies hinged a lot on visionary leadership with passion for political rapport; political navigation and commitment to implementing the NPM ideals. However, the communal nature of Ghanaian society resulting in informality, excessive political partisanship, political interference, low level of ICT which undermined e-governance etc were the Achilles Heel of these autonomous executive agencies in achieving their mandates. The paper argues that state institutions can perform well with the appropriate mix of NPM, institutional autonomy blend with responsiveness to political pressures.

Keywords: Pocket of effectiveness; New Public Management; effectiveness, efficiency, service delivery.

GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN GHANA'S URBAN WATER SECTOR: THE CASE OF TESHIE-NUNGUA SEA WATER DESALINATION PROJECT

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Abstract

The paper explores the governance architecture of the Teshie-Nungua Sea Water Desalination Project (T-NSDP) and its implications for sustainability outcomes and Ghana's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda. Using a qualitative research design that employed purposive sampling and snowball sampling techniques, qualitative data were collected from a sample of 14 individual participants and two focus group discussions. Thematic analysis was used to analyse primary data. The results revealed that the project operates under a Build-Own-Operate and Transfer Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, which requires the private partners to invest, procure, process and distribute potable water to Teshie-Nungua and surrounding communities. The results indicate that implementation was threatened by a lack of due diligence, weak oversight and accountability, and poor financial arrangements, as well as a deficit in technical expertise on the part of the contracting authority, resulting in the project stalling and a loss of value. The study recommends that the Government of Ghana enhance its policy coherence and monitoring function, develop technical capacity, and foster active ownership and commitment from key state institutions to improve sustainability outcomes and meet both intended and unintended project outcomes.

Keywords: Water governance, Private-Public Partnership, sustainability, SDGs, T-NSDP. Ghana.

ONE SHIP, TWO CAPTAINS – A RECIPE FOR CHAOS? AN EXAMINATION OF LEGAL PLURALISM IN GHANA'S FORMAL AND TRADITIONAL GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS

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Abstract

Ghana, like many African countries, practices legal pluralism, where indigenous customary law practice is led by traditional rulers, such as Chiefs, Tindaama, Wulomei, etc., as custodians. Colonialism introduced the "western legal system," establishing a parallel governance structure for the State and the indigenous traditional institution, on the other hand, creating conflict of laws and external struggles for supremacy, beyond the black-lettered law. The paper contends that the enforcement of certain customary law practices and sanctions encounters legal backlash, such as banishing subjects and citizens, capital punishment, and banning public activities, among others. Despite the Supreme Court's declaration of some customary law practices as repugnant and unconstitutional, some persist and are not criminalised. Can this be the case of ignorance of the fact, law, or the operation of parallel legal systems? This impacts negatively on Ghana's legal system as a nation practicing constitutional supremacy. The paper proposes a transformative approach to addressing this legal disorder through a national dialogue and consultative process between stakeholders towards legal and policy reforms that promote respect for constitutional supremacy, the rule of law, human rights, peaceful coexistence, and socio-economic development. These interventions are crucial since the traditional institution is indispensable in Ghana's democratic governance inroads; hence, the need for an enhanced reformation and contextualised legal system that is unified.

BALANCING REGULATORY COMPLIANCE AND DEPOSITOR PROTECTION: A STUDY OF ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING PRACTICES IN GHANA'S BANKING SECTOR

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Abstract

This study critically examines the tension between regulatory compliance and depositor protection within the context of anti-money laundering (AML) practices in Ghana's banking sector. As global financial systems increasingly demand adherence to robust AML standards, particularly those established by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Ghana has responded with a comprehensive legal framework aimed at preventing financial crimes. However, the implementation of these regulations presents considerable challenges for banks, including high compliance costs, increased administrative burdens, and complex reporting obligations. These challenges often translate into unintended consequences for depositors, such as limited access to financial services, intrusive documentation requirements, and the exclusion of vulnerable populations from the formal banking system. The paper explores the extent to which Ghanaian banks are able to balance strict regulatory expectations with the need to protect depositors' rights and promote financial inclusion. It draws on statutory analysis, regulatory reports, and selected case studies from the banking sector to assess both the effectiveness of AML measures and their practical implications. The study argues that while AML compliance is essential for maintaining financial integrity and attracting international investment, an unbalanced approach can undermine public trust, reduce financial access, and potentially contravene principles of fairness and customer protection. The paper concludes with policy recommendations aimed at fostering a more proportionate, risk-based approach to AML enforcement, one that upholds international standards without compromising the fundamental rights of depositors or weakening the inclusiveness of Ghana's financial system.

Keywords: Anti-Money Laundering, Regulatory Compliance, Depositor Protection, Financial Inclusion, Banking Sector (Ghana).

THE GRANDMOTHERHOOD PENALTY: LIFELONG CAREGIVING BURDEN ON AFRICAN WOMEN

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Abstract

Across many African societies, the image of the grandmother is revered as an emblem of wisdom, love, and unwavering care. Yet beneath this cultural reverence lies a sobering reality: aging women are expected to continue fulfilling caregiving roles well into later life, often without a choice, compensation or support. This article introduces the concept of the grandmotherhood penalty to describe the persistent, yet largely unacknowledged caregiving burden shouldered by aging women in African societies. While the motherhood penalty has gained scholarly attention for its impact on women's career and income trajectories, the grandmotherhood penalty refers to the continuation or even an intensification of care work into old age. This article argues that caregiving by grandmothers is not merely a cultural tradition, but a structural condition reinforced by entrenched gender norms, weak or non-existent social protection, or the absence of policy. In the context of rising childcare cost, increased workforce participation among parents, and aging population perceived as "available", the reliance on grandmothers as default caregivers demand critical scrutiny. The article calls for a reconfiguration of how we understand care labour, aging, and gender justice across the African continent and urges further research into this novel concept: the grandmotherhood penalty, as well as identifies workable policies for the liberation and support of aging woman.

INTERSECTING VULNERABILITIES: EXPLORING THE MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCES OF ADOLESCENT HEAD PORTERS IN ACCRA MARKETS, GHANA

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Abstract

Menstruation is a critical event in the life of Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) marking their transition into puberty and the start of reproductive life. It is accompanied by physical changes and the complications and challenges of menstrual health and management. Despite increasing global attention to integrated Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM), many gaps persist, including attention to challenges that are intensified for marginalised AGYW. This paper seeks to explore how young female migrants engaged in head-porterage activities in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana experience and navigate menstrual hygiene management. The qualitative research, involved focus group discussions and one-on-one semi-structured interviews, conducted among adolescent female head porters in the markets of Mallam Atta, Madina and Tema Station. This also included key informant interviews with policy makers and sexual and reproductive health practitioners. Using the social-ecological model as an analytical lens the findings reveal that for these young women, MHM outcomes have individual, social and environmental influences that affect their menstrual experiences, highlighting the intersecting challenges for inclusive services and barriers to managing their menstrual health with dignity and comfort. These findings have implications for inclusive reproductive health interventions, policy and future research targeting young people.

Keywords: Reproductive health, menstrual hygiene, adolescent females, head porters, Accra, Ghana

INTERSECTING IDENTITIES AND FEMINIST SOLIDARITY: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF GENDER, CLASS, AND RACE IN CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE'S DREAM COUNT

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Abstract

Although the intersections of gender, class, and race are widely recognized as shaping women's lived experiences, there is a critical need to examine how these intersections are uniquely represented in African postcolonial and diasporic literature. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's fiction has been extensively studied for its feminist themes, yet her short story Dream Count remains underexplored in this regard. This study investigates how Dream Count engages with intersecting identities of gender, class, and race to illuminate the multifaceted experiences of African women in both local and Western settings. It explores how these intersecting axes of identity complicate representations of womanhood within postcolonial and diasporic contexts. Using intersectional and Black feminist theoretical frameworks, the paper employs close reading techniques through thematic analysis to offer a nuanced interpretation of the text. This methodological approach facilitates a deeper understanding of how Adichie critiques societal structures and articulates feminist politics. The analysis reveals that Dream Count challenges both universalist feminist narratives and localized gendered oppressions. Adichie portrays feminist solidarity not as a fixed construct but as a fluid process shaped by empathy, difference, and shared struggle. The story foregrounds the psychological and material consequences of silence, displacement, and complicity, while also celebrating resistance, voice, and communal healing. By situating Dream Count within Adichie's wider body of work, this study contributes to feminist literary discourse and underscores the role of literature in advocating for justice across intersecting cultural and geopolitical realities.

Keywords: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Dream Count, intersectionality, African feminism, diaspora, Black feminist theory, postcolonial literature.

TRADITIONAL LAND OWNERSHIP IN GHANA AND GENDER: THE CASE OF LAND OWNERSHIP IN KOFORIDUA-NKURAKAN

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Abstract

This research examines the gendered stereotypes rooted in institutionalized frameworks that regulate land ownership, and more particularly, in the Koforidua-Nkurakan community. The general research concern is how ineffective policy application and patriarchal traditional law restrict women's access to land and consequently their economic and social mobility. Through a feminist political ecology perspective, this research examines in detail the intersection among legal principles and social customs perpetuating inequality. Through the qualitative case study approach, the study interviewed 15 respondents, who included relatives of dead family members, women farmers, elderly persons, and local banking officials, in depth to capture data on their institutional perspectives and lived experiences. The data were analyzed based on themes to uncover patterns concerning exclusion and resistance forms. Key findings are that women who lose land after the death of their relatives are barred from increasing farm enterprises, and are still under exploitative conditions in the event of short-term access only. Deep-seated patriarchy and a lack of law enforcement by traditional leaders allow these imbalances to occur. The research finally presents the finding that such discriminatory trends exist due to entrenched patriarchy and a lack of legal protection. Recommendations also involve legal reforms to consolidate women's rights to land, community sensitization campaigns, and gender-sensitive policy implementation. The results call on policymakers to align Ghana's land management in accordance with constitutional gender equality principles.

Keywords: Land ownership, gender discrimination, customary law, Ghana, feminist political ecology.

MENTAL HEALTH LITERACY, HELP-SEEKING ATTITUDES AND HELP-GIVING INTENTIONS OF ADOLESCENTS IN GHANA: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY

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Abstract

Over the years, mental health literacy has been identified as an essential element in the mental health care of individuals. Such significance of mental health literacy is more profound for adolescents who are at a crucial developmental stage where most mental health problems emerge. Yet, little is known about the level of mental health literacy among adolescents in Ghana. Therefore, the aim of the current study was to examine the level of mental health literacy among school-going adolescents in Ghana and its association with their help-seeking attitudes and help-giving intentions. In a cross-sectional survey, a sample of 798 adolescents completed a self-report questionnaire which included the Mental Health Literacy Questionnaire, Inventory of Attitudes toward Seeking Mental Health Services and Mental Health First Aid Vignette. Data was analysed using descriptive analyses, Pearson's correlation and standard multiple regression. Results showed a moderate level of mental health literacy among the participants. Mental health literacy was also found to have a positive relationship with both help-seeking attitudes and help-giving intentions. Further analyses revealed that mental health literacy and help-seeking attitudes were significant predictors of help- giving intentions. Findings of this study highlight the essence of implementing interventions and policies that would build the knowledge base and self- efficacy of adolescents in Ghana concerning mental health issues.

FEAR, SELF-EFFICACY AND SOCIAL SUPPORT: PSYCHOSOCIAL FACTORS INFLUENCING HYDROCELECTOMY UPTAKE IN NORTHERN GHANA

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Abstract

Hydrocelectomy is a vital intervention for men suffering from hydrocele, yet its uptake is shaped by complex psychosocial factors. This study conducted semi-structured interviews through standard barrier analysis among 90 men in the Upper East and Upper West regions (45 hydrocelectomy "doers" and 45 "non-doers") to determine barriers and motivators to uptake of hydrocelectomy. The study examined perceived self-efficacy, benefits, risks, severity, susceptibility, and cues to action.

Findings reveal substantial readiness even among men who had not undergone surgery: nearly half of participants felt confident they could get the procedure (48.9% expressing self-efficacy). Furthermore, an overwhelming majority (97.8%) believed that avoiding hydrocele surgery would lead to worsened severity and pain, indicating high perceived risk. Fear of surgery – especially fear of death or complications, family influence and financial/ logistical constraints were among the most cited obstacles. Conversely, key facilitators included social approval and encouragement: many "doers" attributed their decision to support from health workers and family, as well as relief from pain and poor health. Mental and emotional wellbeing played a role. Living with hydrocele was associated with distress and stigma, while successful surgery brought relief and restored confidence, enabling social reintegration. Over 90% of participants felt that God or ancestral powers approved of the procedure. In conclusion, although men recognize the benefits of hydrocelectomy and feel at risk without it, fear and resource barriers delay action. Addressing these challenges through education, counseling, financial/logistical support, and leveraging family, health worker, and faith-based encouragement can improve uptake and enhance men's overall wellbeing.

Keywords: Hydrocele, Psychosocial factors, Self-efficacy, Perceived risk, Stigma, Severity, Financial barriers, Social approval, Barrier analysis.

FUTURE CAREER ANXIETY MEDIATES THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN INTOLERANCE OF UNCERTAINTY AND DEPRESSION AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN GHANA

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Abstract

The prevalence of depression among university students worldwide, including Ghana, has been largely documented in the literature. Nevertheless, to the best of our knowledge, so far, the associations among intolerance of uncertainty, future career anxiety, and depression have not been examined. We sought to investigate the mediating role of future career anxiety in the association between intolerance of uncertainty and depression among university students in Ghana. Using a cross-sectional survey, 460 undergraduate students from a public and a private university in Ghana were sampled for the study (mean age = 20.7 [SD=3.19]). We observed a significant total effect of intolerance of uncertainty on future career anxiety (β=.37, t=6.79, p<.001). Future career anxiety was found to have a significant effect on depression (β=.08, t=2.55, p=.011). With the inclusion of future career anxiety, the impact of intolerance of uncertainty on depression was significant (β=.21, t=6.46, p<.001). The indirect effect of intolerance of uncertainty on depression through future career anxiety was significant (β=.03, p<.05 [.003 - .057]). Thus, the relationship between intolerance of uncertainty and depression is partially mediated by future career anxiety. The results suggest the need for more education on varied career opportunities for undergraduate students and how they can leverage such opportunities.

BRIDGING MENTAL HEALTH INEQUITIES AMONG PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV IN NIGERIA: BEHAVIOURAL INTERVENTIONS FOR WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE

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Abstract

Background: Mental health is an important part of HIV care in Nigeria and many other resource-limited settings but often overlooked. People living with HIV (PLHIV) have a lot of mental health problems due to stigma, economic problems, and lack of access to mental health services. Objectives: Investigating the prevalence and drivers of mental health challenges among PLHIV in Nigeria is the objective of this study. It also evaluated the impact of a behavioural intervention on improving wellbeing and resilience. Methods: A cross-sectional mixed-methods study was conducted among 384 HIV-positive patients receiving HIV care services in Lagos. Quantitative data on depression, anxiety, and quality of life were collected using validated tools. Qualitative data were grouped into stigma, coping strategies, and perceptions of mental health. A subset of 120 participants got access to facility-based behavioural interventions through consultations with either a mental health consultant or clinical psychologist and psychoeducation by facility staff (clinicians). Results: Moderate to severe depressive symptoms were reported by 58% of study participants. The key predictors were economic insecurity and social stigma. Significant improvements in emotional wellbeing, medication adherence, and self-efficacy were recorded by participants in the intervention arm ($p < 0.05$). Qualitative data showed improved resilience through psychosocial support from mental health professionals. Conclusion: It is necessary to integrate mental health services into HIV care to ensure inclusive health outcomes in Nigeria. Facility-initiated behavioural interventions can reduce stigma, promote wellbeing, and foster resilience. Policies should prioritize mental health within HIV programming to bridge health inequities.

Keywords: HIV/AIDS, Mental Health, Behaviour Change, Wellbeing, Stigma Reduction, Facility-Based Intervention.

NAVIGATING FEAR DURING THE PHD JOURNEY: A SELF-REPORT ASSESSMENT OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS' EMOTIONAL CHALLENGES AND COPING STRATEGIES

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Abstract

Pursuing a PhD is a challenging intellectual and emotional journey that is often accompanied by unspoken fears and intense psychological pressures. This study explores the types of fears that doctoral candidates encounter, their underlying causes, and the coping mechanisms they employ to navigate these challenges. Drawing on data collected through a qualitative research design, the study captures the demographic and psychosocial characteristics of PhD holders and candidates affiliated with selected universities in Ghana. Preliminary findings suggest that fear is a prevalent and multifaceted aspect of the doctoral experience, influenced by both personal and institutional factors. The participants' fears include managing the academic workload, financial uncertainty, supervisory relationships, mental health stressors and imposter syndrome. They sought emotional support, professional counselling, consultation with mentors and employed time management. The study has broad implications for graduate education, supervisor training, mental health programming, and institutional policies. This research contributes to ongoing conversations about well-being, resilience, and equity in higher education by shedding light on the hidden emotional terrain of doctoral studies in Ghana. Additionally, to foster peer-informed support and insight, current PhD candidates are encouraged to guide current and aspiring doctoral candidates.

"HOW CAN I GET DIABETES! I WANT TO GET HEALED": EXPERIENCES OF ADOLESCENTS WITH TYPE 1 DIABETES IN GHANA.

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Abstract

Living with type 1 diabetes mellitus can be overwhelming, especially for adolescentsThis study explored the lived experiences of adolescents living with type 1 diabetes and the challenges of self-care management. A qualitative design was adopted and a semi-structured interview with probes was used to explore the experiences of ten (10) adolescents with type 1 diabetes. Data was analyzed using the interpretative phenomenological analysis. Three superordinate themes emerged from the analysis; 1) Searching for answers, 2) Adjusting to diabetes diagnosis and 3) Coping with diabetes. Adolescents described experiencing 'abnormal' symptoms which led them to seek medical attention. Their reactions after the diagnosis were denial and sadness, and they believed that their illness was determined by God and genetic factors. The adolescents saw their diabetes treatment process as exhaustive and recounted their challenges with self-care management, such as how demanding it was, the pain experienced from injections, craving a 'normal' diet, influences of peers resulting in nonadherence, and the disruptions from school activities. Their ways of coping included receiving social support from family and friends, and support groups, having faith in God, offering prayers to God in hope, and education from medical experts. Findings from this study was evidence of an incomplete care system for these adolescents since their main model of care was biomedical care. There is therefore the need for a comprehensive care and management system which will include psychological and social interventions to constitute a holistic care system for improved wellbeing after diagnosis.

DO SOCIAL INTERVENTIONS IMPROVE WELFARE? EVIDENCE FROM NORTHERN GHANA

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Abstract

Poverty, food insecurity, economic deprivation, and inequality remain alarmingly high in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). One of the policy solutions gaining prominence in the last three decades is implementation of social protection programs (SPP) including agricultural input subsidies (AIS). This paper examines the effect of broad-based social protection and agriculture-specific input subsidy programs on comprehensive indicators of welfare. This paper analyses a multipurpose survey data collected from 472 farm households in Northern Ghana using doubly robust treatment effect estimators (specifically, inverse probability weighted regression adjustment (IPWRA) and treatment-effects estimation using lasso (TELASSO)). The results show that these interventions increase food and non-food consumption expenditure, reduce the likelihood of poverty, enhance happiness, improve resilience capacity and its pillars, and increase household dietary diversity. However, the results also show considerable heterogeneity in the magnitude of the effects between the broad-based social protection and agriculture-specific input subsidy programs. We conclude that both SPP and AIS programs act as important welfare improvement strategies among farm households in Northern Ghana. The study recommends that the government and development partners should intensify the implementation of social interventions to achieve the development outcomes enshrined in the United Nations (UN)'s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and African Union (AU)'s Agenda 2063.

Keywords: Agricultural Input Subsidy; Social Interventions; Social Protection; Food Security; Poverty; Resilience; Happiness; Food Consumption; Ghana.

'I NEED TO GET MY GRADES BUT I NEED MONEY TOO': BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING TO SURVIVE AS FEMALE STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS

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Abstract

This study examines the lived experiences of female student entrepreneurs in a Ghanaian University, focusing on their efforts to balance academic responsibilities with entrepreneurial pursuits. Using qualitative case study methods, the research draws on interviews and focus group discussions with sixteen student entrepreneurs to explore motivations, challenges, innovation strategies, and empowerment needs. Findings reveal that financial independence, job security, and family obligations motivate students to engage in business. However, they face major challenges such as time constraints, financial limitations, sexual harassment, and competition from established brands. Despite these obstacles, many adopt innovative practices such as personalized branding, social media marketing, and customized services. The chapter applies entrepreneurial alertness, risk-bearing, and intersectionality theories to frame how these women navigate systemic and situational constraints. Recommendations include targeted financial support, gender-sensitive mentorship, entrepreneurial education, and data subsidies. The study contributes to inclusive entrepreneurship literature by spotlighting the underexplored segment of female student entrepreneurs in Africa.

Keywords: female student entrepreneurs, motivation, challenges, innovation, risk-bearing, intersectionality

TRANSITIONS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY FROM TERTIARY EDUCATION TO THE LABOUR MARKET IN GHANA

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Abstract

The transition of persons with disabilities (PWDs) from tertiary education into the labour market remains a critical concern in Ghana, often characterized by persistent systemic barriers and preconceived societal attitudes. This study explored the experiences of alumni with disabilities as they navigated educational environments and sought employment opportunities. A qualitative approach was employed, using in-depth narrative interviews guided by a semi-structured interview guide. The study involved 10 alumni with disabilities from four public universities in Ghana and thematic analysis was used to identify major themes related to the phenomenon studied. The findings reveal that strong self-advocacy skills, supportive peer networks, and institutional support significantly facilitate the life course transition for PWDs from the university to the world of work. Even though, they encountered discrimination, limited accommodation, and financial constraints. However, challenges such as stigma, inaccessible infrastructure, and inadequate policy implementation continue to hinder full inclusion. The study clearly concludes that the neglect of employing persons with disability after higher education leads to challenges that need to be addressed through self-advocacy, strengthening social support systems, and enforcing inclusive policies essential for enabling persons with disabilities to access opportunities to enhance their wellbeing.

Keywords: Disability Employment, Transition, Education, Barrier

FINANCIAL INNOVATION AND FOOD SYSTEM RESILIENCE IN GHANA: BALANCING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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Abstract

This paper explores the structure and sustainability of Ghana's food systems, focusing on the role of financial innovation. It addresses the dual pressures of climate change, examined through mechanisms such as crop insurance and climate risk financing, and environmental threats from natural resource exploitation, especially illegal mining. Drawing on quantitative data from sources such as the World Bank, IMF/ALFRED, and the Global Footprint Network, the analysis employs indicators including the food production index, agriculture's share of GDP, food trade balances, and a composite index generated via Principal Component Analysis. Financial innovation is assessed using measures such as mobile money penetration, broad money supply, domestic credit to the private sector, and the integration of insurance and financial services within agricultural exports. The results demonstrate that financial inclusion enhances the resilience and sustainability of food systems by promoting economic growth and environmental stewardship. Nevertheless, gains are undermined by the negative impacts of natural resource rents, which substantially threaten long-term sustainability and food security. The paper concludes that Ghana must strategically balance financial innovation, urbanisation, and environmental protection to build a sustainable food system aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

PUBLIC POLICY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN GHANA'S FOURTH REPUBLIC

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Abstract

Entrepreneurship has been identified as one of the approaches to addressing the unemployment problem in Ghana as entrepreneurship produces job creators and not job seekers. Since the return to democratic rule in January 1993, entrepreneurship policies like National Youth Employment Policy, Ghana Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Development Programme and the National Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme have been implemented to deal with the unemployment menace. Deploying qualitative methods, this study does not only discuss the various entrepreneurship policies implemented under the Fourth Republic but also examines the achievements and challenges and offers recommendations for enduring entrepreneurship policies for lasting employment opportunities in Ghana. The findings revealed that under the Fourth Republic Ghana experienced entrepreneurial policy continuity despite changes in interventions/strategies, employment opportunities were created through starter packs, sector specific and financial interventions were implemented for entrepreneurial take-off despite the inadequacy of funding. Amid these gains, the paper highlights alterations in policy interventions by successive governments, excessive politicization, clientelism and patronage, corruption, inadequate funding as some challenges that undermined the sustainability of the policy gains. The paper recommends the passage of the National Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme Act to give legal backing to the programme, consistent budgetary allocation, entrepreneurial investment in high employment generating sectors, demand driven skill development etc.

Keywords: Public policy; entrepreneurial policies, skills development, employment; employment policies

"WE RECRUIT FOR PASSION AND TRAIN FOR SKILL": SOFT SKILLS, TECHNICAL SKILLS AND EMPLOYABILITY IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN GHANA

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Abstract

This study examines the interplay between soft skills, technical skills, and employability in Ghana's agricultural sector. Using a mixed-methods approach combining employer focus groups (n=14), youth surveys (n=174), and expert interviews (n=6), we investigate the priority skills for agricultural employment for the youth, revealing a significant disconnect between employer priorities and youth perceptions. While employers emphasized in, order of priority, "soft values" (passion, integrity, growth mindset), soft skills, and technical competencies, expressing willingness to "recruit for passion and train for skill," the youth disproportionately valued technical qualifications. Our findings suggest a three-tiered skill classification in agricultural employment: soft values as foundational, soft skills as enabling, and technical skills as functional. Additionally, post-production agricultural segments present growing employment potential, particularly for youth with technological aptitude. The paper provides targeted recommendations for educators, policymakers, and youth employment initiatives seeking to bridge Ghana's agricultural skills gap, while contributing to a more nuanced understanding of agricultural employability in developing economies.

Keywords: agricultural employment, employability, Ghana, soft skills, soft values, technical skills, youth unemployment, skills mismatch, agribusiness

ANALYSING THE IMPACT OF ONLINE SHOPPING ON TRADITIONAL MORTAR AND BRICKS SHOPS. AN EXPLORATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF POST COVID 19 ON THE TRADITIONAL SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

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Abstract

The desire for online shopping has been on ascendancy as customers desire to be varsital in their day to day shopping experience. Today, purchasing online is accepted by many, but across categories of purchase, there are some sectors where there is still reluctance to buy online, so online retailers still need to work on their tactics to encourage online conversion and multichannel tactics to encourage offline purchase in-store. This has been an issue for both offline purchase in-store shoppers and online shoppers. As this exist there is the need for researchers to identify the challenges and resolve the issues arising in both online and offline purchase. This research identify such issues and provide solutions. The research showed that there is the need for both online and offline pay attention to pricing, delivery, and reverse logistics to improve customers desires. The research uses qualitative method by employing exploratory method to unearth the the aftermath of Covid 19 in the Ghanaian retail industry. The research adopted desk search, thus focuses on secondary material: Case studies of various situation relevant to problem were analysed to provide answers to the research question. The research concluded that Covid 19 played significant increase in the use of internet, which invariable resulted in the partial switch from traditional mortal and bricks. The research recommend that the retail industry may survived if retailors adopted the omini-chanal approach of reaching potential customers.

SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES AND SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE AMONG SMES IN ABEOKUTA METROPOLIS, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

Sustainable business practices are essential for modern organizations to balance economic growth with environmental responsibility and social justice. This study aims to examine the effect of sustainable business practices on sustainability performance among Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Abeokuta Metropolis, Ogun State, Nigeria. Utilizing a survey research design, data was collected from 155 SMEs using a structured questionnaire. Data was analysed using Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM). Key findings indicate that stakeholder management, waste management, and social responsibility significantly and positively impact sustainability performance of SMEs. Specifically, effective stakeholder management practices contribute to better sustainability performance, highlighting the importance of engaging with stakeholders and integrating their feedback into decision-making processes. Similarly, waste management practices, such as well-defined waste reduction and recycling policies, are essential for minimizing environmental impact and enhancing sustainability. Furthermore, social responsibility initiatives, including community contributions and ethical practices, significantly improve sustainability performance. The main contribution of this study lies in providing empirical evidence on the relationship between sustainable business practices and sustainability performance in SMEs, particularly in a developing economy context. This research highlights the need for SMEs to adopt comprehensive sustainability strategies to achieve long-term viability and contribute positively to the environment and society.

Keywords: Sustainable Business Practices, Stakeholder Management, Waste Management, Social Responsibility, Sustainability Performance.

UNDERSTANDING SUICIDE LITERACY IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH: A STUDY AMONG MEDICAL STUDENTS IN GHANA.

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Abstract

The study aimed at assessing the suicide literacy among medical students in selected Ghanaian universities and identifying factors associated with knowledge variations. Suicide remains a pressing global health concern, with rates of suicide deaths and attempts escalating annually. It remains the 11th leading cause of death, with over 1.7 million recorded attempts annually. Medical students, occupy a pivotal position to develop the competencies necessary for suicide awareness, recognition and prevention. This study addresses the research gap that exists on suicide literacy among medical students in sub-Saharan Africa. A cross-sectional study of students from two tertiary institutions in Ghana was done via a questionnaire - The Literacy of Suicide Scale - to measure participants' understanding of suicide risk factors, warning signs, and preventive strategies. The mean score was 68.4% (SD = ±12.57); Fifth-year students across board achieved the highest average scores (72%). Age, study level, study Institution and personal history were significantly associated with higher scores. The overall literacy levels though relatively favourable, remain incongruent with the increasing rates of suicide attempts reported nationally. Medical students in Ghana possess moderate suicide literacy levels. Nonetheless, there persists a need for strengthened, collaborative efforts among stakeholders to destigmatise suicide, enhance education on suicide prevention, and ultimately contribute to reducing suicide incidence in Ghana and beyond.

Keywords: medical students, suicide literacy, LOSS, score, Ghana

A QUALITATIVE STUDY OF HELP-SEEKING FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS AMONG KROBO MEN

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Abstract

Research has demonstrated that public expressions of fear or sadness is construed as weakness among Ghanaian men. This injunctive norm is much stronger for Krobos. Scholars have called for more attention to men's help-seeking attitudes. The aim of the study was to examine why men who experience psychological distress fail to seek psychological help and how such men could be encouraged to seek psychological help. Using a qualitative approach, convenience sampling was used to select male participants aged between 18 and 60 years from six Krobo communities. A total sample size of 20 participants were recruited for in-depth interviews. Using thematic analysis, four themes emerged from the data that revealed the reasons why men were unwilling to seek help. These are: lack of resources, self-reliance, stigma, and perceived severity. However, it was observed that a few participants readily sought help, motivated by their commitment to maintaining both physical and mental well-being. Regarding how men could be encouraged to seek psychological help for their distress, the finding reveals that reducing the stigma associated with help-seeking and providing mental health education could be helpful. This understanding provides a greater leverage for counselors and psychologists to deliver quality service for men.

Keywords: Help-seeking, Psychological Distress, Masculinity, Men, Krobo, Ghana.

NURSING RESPONSES TO MENTAL HEALTH DISPARITIES IN LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF COMMUNITY-BASED AND CLINICAL INTERVENTIONS

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Abstract

Mental health disparities remain a critical challenge in low-resource communities, where poverty, stigma, and limited access to care hinder wellbeing and quality of life. Nurses, as frontline healthcare providers, are uniquely positioned to bridge these gaps through culturally

sensitive, community-engaged, and evidence-based interventions. This systematic review explores the scope, effectiveness, and contextual relevance of nursing-led mental health interventions targeting underserved populations in low-income settings, with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa. Following PRISMA guidelines, peer-reviewed articles published between 2017 and 2024 were retrieved from databases including PubMed, CINAHL, and Scopus. A total of 42 studies met the inclusion criteria, comprising randomized controlled trials, quasi-experimental designs, and qualitative evaluations. Findings reveal that nursing interventions significantly improve early identification of mental health conditions, treatment adherence, and psychosocial outcomes, especially when delivered through community-based platforms such as home visits, peer support groups, school outreach, and task-shifting approaches. Moreover, integrating mental health education with maternal-child health, HIV care, or chronic disease management emerged as a cost-effective strategy to address comorbid needs. However, gaps in training, institutional support, and policy frameworks often limit the scalability and sustainability of these efforts. The review concludes that strengthening the mental health competencies of nurses, expanding their community engagement roles, and embedding nursing interventions into broader health equity agendas are essential steps toward inclusive development. It offers critical insights for policymakers, educators, and practitioners working to reduce mental health inequities in Ghana and similar resource-constrained contexts.

SUICIDE LITERACY AMONG COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS IN GHANA

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Abstract

Background: Suicide is a complex issue of public health concern which has been found to negatively impact communities globally. Community pharmacists are in a position where they can play a vital role in identifying people with suicidal behaviour and putting preventive interventions in place. Such responsibilities call for a high level of suicide literacy, which is the focus of this study. Objectives: This study aims to describe the literacy of pharmacists in Ghana on suicide, and determine factors associated with high and low levels of suicide literacy. Methodology: A cross-sectional study design was employed in this study. A self-administered online questionnaire, which collected sociodemographic data and assessed suicide literacy using the Literacy of Suicide Scale (LOSS), was circulated among pharmacist social media platforms in Ghana. Descriptive statistics of frequency, correlations and associations were conducted on the collected data to ascertain the patterns and associations among the responses received. Results The mean LOSS score of the 182 respondents was 17.84 ±2.68,

and a total of 72.5% of the 182 community pharmacists who participated in the study had low or moderate suicide literacy. The domain of signs related to suicidal behaviour had the lowest literacy level while that of treatment and prevention of suicidal behaviours had the highest level of literacy. Conclusion There is a need to develop a framework that provides training and educational opportunities for pharmacists in the country to improve the quality of the care they provide to clients and contribute to preventing suicide in the community.

THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE COMPETITIVE GEOPOLITICAL SPACE OF EXTERNAL ACTORS ON AFRICA'S PEACE, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

The international system post-COVID-19 has seen growing changes in power dynamics with the increasing tension in the neoliberal political order. This has major consequences for African strategic partnerships with the major powers and the competing strategic interests at stake globally. Africa's preeminent external partners within the global space have shifted beyond Western partners (EU and US) as a result of the growing influence of global south countries, including the Gulf States, China, India, Russia and Turkey. The concerns have been the growing number of countries in Africa that have changed governments through military takeovers, particularly in Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Niger and Gabon between 2020 and 2023. This quizzes whether the neoliberal institutionalised legacy of democracy is threatened in Africa amidst the availability of diversified strategic partners. Using the middle power theory, this paper examines the cooperative power of African states in the midst of having several alternatives as major strategic external partners apart from the West and its implications for peace, security and development in Africa. The study finds a strong relationship between diversified alternative partners to Africa and a strengthened global agency for peace, security and development, yet a disruption to neoliberal norms and structures.

Keywords: neoliberal, African agency, geopolitics, peace, security, development, middle power

ANALYZING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PARLIAMENTARY LEADERSHIP IN GHANA'S EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

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Abstract

This paper rigorously investigates the nature, caliber, and ramifications of parliamentary leadership within Ghana's Eighth Parliament (2021–2025), a timeframe distinguished by a historically unprecedented near-equilibrium between the two predominant political entities—the New Patriotic Party (NPP) and the National Democratic Congress (NDC). This unique arrangement engendered a fragile equilibrium of authority and introduced novel dynamics into legislative governance and decision-making processes. The study analyzes the impact of leadership within the legislative assembly, with particular focus on the functions of the Speaker, Majority and Minority Leaders, and committee chairs, on legislative oversight, discourse, and accountability. Utilizing a national survey to assess public perception and perspectives on Eighth Parliament, parliamentary documentation, targeted interviews with key informants, and a content analysis of legislative discussions, the manuscript evaluates the capacity of leadership to navigate polarization, uphold institutional integrity, and foster democratic governance. The results indicate that although the Eighth Parliament afforded avenues for consensus-building and enhanced oversight, enduring partisan stalemate and tactical obstructionism significantly hindered legislative efficacy. The manuscript posits that transformative parliamentary leadership in Ghana necessitates not solely political impartiality and adept negotiation capabilities but also a reconfiguration of institutional conventions that encourage cross-party collaboration. This research enriches the academic discourse on legislative politics in Africa and offers pragmatic insights into the establishment of resilient parliamentary frameworks in emergent democracies.

"INFLUENCER-PRENUERSHIP" - A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD TO DISINFORMATION

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Abstract

The post Covid-19 era, fluxed by a rather complicated multiplicity of new media technologies – X (Formerly Twitter), Tik Tok, Snapchat, Facebook et al., has given rise to what is today known as "Social Media Influencers", who emerge by the intricacies of social media dynamics and activity, become generally accepted as reliable sources of entertainment, endorsement and information – howbeit often unchecked, the credibility of their expertise, knowledge or credentials. With these developments come the positive gains and much more, less often discussed, the threatening potential of disinformation, of all its forms. Influencers, as affectionately referred to, permeate every aspect of society, engaging large populations through the virtue of video, text, and image sharing to convey deliberately crafted and produced content, which is consumed by their respective audiences. The climax of the business of Influencer-ship is what culminates in the monetisation of their social media accounts, with most of these influencers "cashing out" on content, image, text, and video. The critical discussion left out in academic discourse to which this paper seeks to address is: To what extent do we account for the impact of Influencers in the continuing growth of disinformation through social media in Ghana? What role do influencers play in knowledge production that leads to disinformation? How does the monetisation of influencer content impact the growth of disinformation? These questions are particularly useful at all levels of academic, policy and practice to contribute meaningfully to addressing the growing threat of disinformation through social media in Ghana.

Keywords: Disinformation, Human Security, Securitization

IMF-SUPPORTED PROGRAMS, STRUCTURAL REFORMS, LABOUR MARKET OUTCOMES AND INEQUALITY IN AFRICA

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Abstract

This study examines the impact of IMF-supported programs on labour market outcomes and public perceptions of socio-economic inequality conditions in Africa. We found that the IMF's programs have a positive and significant effect on the Payroll to Population Index (P2P). This is driven by structural and long-term IMF programs and not short-term, emergency, and precautionary programs. We found weak results on the worsening (or stagnating) effect of IMF programs on the Unemployment Index (UEI), but a strong, significant negative effect of IMF programs on the Job Climate Index (JCI). Long-term and structural supports contribute significantly to the worsening of the job climate. We found that different cohorts of IMF programs tend to result in different outcomes, with some yielding positive results while others worsen the labour market outcomes. The results on P2P suggest that despite the common public labour freezes that accompany IMF programs, the private sector tends to be crowded in, leading to some formal job openings. However, the programs do not improve unemployment conditions or people's perception of the job climate, possibly due to reclassification, temporary programs, or forced formalization of those in the informal economy. In the second aspect of the analysis, we provide a spatial analysis and disaggregation of the effects of the programs by exploring the perceptions of people on socio-economic inequality metrics like living standards, creating jobs, the gap between rich and poor, as well as unemployment status at the local levels. We found disparities in how IMF programs perform in local communities among different demographic groupings in addressing inequality. The study highlights the uneven and often persistent labor market and socio-economic disruptions linked to IMF program conditionality, underscoring the need for tailored policy responses in program design. Based on institutional insights, we offer policy recommendations for mitigating the inequality effects of IMF programs and explore innovative alternatives like South–South cooperation as a complementary pathway for supporting Africa's economic development.

Keywords: IMF, extended credit facility, structural reform, labour market, inequality, poverty, Africa

JEL Codes – F33, I32, J21, J64, O19, O55

TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN? MUCH ADO ABOUT THE ALLIANCE OF THE SAHELIAN STATES (AES)

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Abstract

How are the core values of the Alliance of the Sahel States (AES), a breakaway union from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), reflected in the broader history of Africa's role in international affairs? How does Africa's history in geopolitics offer a more useful lens to understand and approach the AES for more pragmatic regional security and development? By addressing these important questions, this paper, through a decolonial lens, conducts a Comparative Historical Analysis (CHA) of relevant academic and policy debates about the relationship between the AES's proclaimed values and key continental blueprints and narratives on Africa's development and international engagement. It explores how the guiding principles of the AES, including Mutual Defense and Assistance, Economic and Political Emancipation, and Strengthening Regional Ties Amid International Pressures, reflect Africa's major regional principles of historical significance, mainly Pan-Africanism, Non-Alignment in international politics, and the African Union Agenda 2063. The analysis shows a strong alignment between the AES's stance and Africa's historically rooted position in geopolitics, positioning the AES as a potential driver of a continental revival toward a meaningful Africa-led governance and development model that has not been seen in decades. The paper further examines the security and development implications of the AES question, within Africa's broader geopolitical history. It is argued that the AES echoes Africa's long-standing continental position on context-sensitive, emancipatory, and mutually beneficial development and international politics, yet historical reasoning about Africa's role in shifting geopolitics suggests that the AES may repeat or exacerbate long-standing development complications with spillover effect. Nonetheless, the Sahel question mainly helps to build momentum to push regional and national policy and structural boundaries toward a more pragmatic political and development paradigm in Africa, one which is elicitive than imposed.

Keywords: Sustainable development, regional integration, African development paradigm, African governance, decolonial politics.

SOUTHWARD MIGRATION AND INFORMAL INTEGRATION: TUNISIAN PATHWAYS INTO WEST AFRICA

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Abstract

In recent years, a growing number of Tunisians have migrated toward West African countries, drawn by trade opportunities, professional networks, and relative stability. This trend challenges dominant narratives that depict North Africans as primarily oriented toward Europe or the Arab world. Based on ongoing fieldwork and interviews with Tunisian migrants and entrepreneurs, this paper explores the drivers, modalities, and implications of this understudied form of South–South mobility. It asks: What factors motivate Tunisians to seek opportunities in countries such as Côte d'Ivoire or Senegal? How do they navigate local economies and engage with pre-existing Arab diasporas, including Lebanese and Moroccan communities? To what extent does this migration contribute—formally or informally—to regional economic integration across North and West Africa? The analysis pays particular attention to how migrants respond to political and racial tensions at home (notably Tunisia's 2023 anti-Black campaign) and how host-country dynamics, including security concerns and informal market regulation, shape their prospects. It also examines the role of international actors such as GIZ, Expertise France, and emerging platforms like Qawafel in facilitating or formalizing mobility. This case sheds light on overlooked geographies of opportunity and resilience. It argues that informal migration and commercial circuits can serve as de facto tools of regional integration, challenging rigid notions of political borders and unequal partnerships. By foregrounding Tunisian southward migration, the paper contributes to rethinking African mobility, inequality, and resilience in a changing geopolitical landscape.

INTERNAL FORCED MIGRATION: A CATALYST FOR FOOD INSECURITY IN GHANA

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Abstract

Internal forced migration in Ghana presents a significant challenge to food security, driven by factors such as environmental changes, youth unemployment, and the socio-economic state of residents. This paper examines the intricate relationship between food security and the destinations of internal migrants within Ghana, analyzing the underlying drivers of displacement and the resultant food insecurity faced by affected populations. Additionally, it proposes strategies to enhance food security among these communities. Utilizing data extracted from the Mobility Temporality Project's surveys conducted in Accra, this study employs a mixed-methods approach, incorporating triangulation and binary logistic regression, to assess the current food situations of respondents and their future concerns regarding food security in the growth pockets of Accra. Despite the prevalence of food insecurity, internal migrants also express heightened anxiety about potential future food shortages, indicating a significant concern among them. The results of this study are significant for policy and decision-making on migration-related issues in Ghana. It is also a great input for food resilience planning. To enhance food resilience, the government must implement policies that ensure collaborative efforts among government agencies, non-profit organizations, and local communities.

Keywords: Accra, Migration, Displacement, Food insecurity

CUSTOMARY LAW AND CLIMATE JUSTICE: INVESTIGATING LOCAL LITIGATION MECHANISMS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE DISPUTES IN GHANA

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Abstract

The formulation of new climate change legislative policies has taken place globally, including Ghana. Recently, Climate Change Litigation (CCL) was adopted by the United Nations and its member states to address human-exacerbated climate change activities (UNEP,2023). In Ghana, the Environmental Protection Act, 2025 (Act 1124) which has a part dedicated to addressing climate change activities was released (Mawuse, 2025). However, Ghana's legal framework, which relies on the incorporation of international treaties, does not provide a locally enshrined mechanism for addressing climate change activities for domestic enforcement. This gap has hindered formal climate litigation, despite the increasing climate-related harms occurring locally. Recognising the pivotal role of traditional institutions in addressing environmental disputes, this research examines disputes involving Electrochem, a major industrial actor implicated in environmental degradation and climate impacts. It highlights how local customary institutions engage with corporate accountability and environmental stewardship. This qualitative study draws on insights from interviews conducted with traditional leaders, community members, and staff of Electrochem. The research setting focuses on Ada and Songhor, communities heavily impacted by salt mining. By investigating these local mechanisms, the study reveals the potential of customary law to complement formal legal processes in achieving climate justice, especially where statutory enforcement is weak. This approach aligns with Ghana's agenda of empowering communities to ensure environmental accountability (Joseph, 2024).

PARTICIPATORY AGROECOLOGICAL RESEARCH FOR TRANSFORMING KNOWLEDGE AND EQUITY IN AFRICAN COMMUNITIES (PARTAKE AFRICA)

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Abstract

PARTAKE Africa partnership responds to the worsening climate change crisis and associated food insecurity in Africa, by offering the first comprehensive project specifically focused on the transformation of smallholders through aligned and holistic research on the extent to which agroecological practices and participatory knowledge mobilization can enhance climate change adaptation, improve food security, reduce postharvest food loss, improve environmental sustainability and achieve gender intergenerational equities in Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zambia. PARTAKE builds on and extends our enduring partnership to deliver an innovative agroecological transition approach that minimizes external input, mimics natural systems and links formal sciences with local tacit farmer knowledge, practices, and social change initiatives. Its innovation lies in the integration of cutting-edge ecological science to increase soil and crop resilience against climate change, nutritional/food science to mitigate food loss, and social science informing gender transformative initiatives within an overall participatory agroecological approach. In this presentation, I will describe how we plan to use Agroecological GENder Transformative (AGENT), climate responsive and research-intensive living labs (in short, AGENT labs) with participatory, intersectional feminist and decolonial methodologies, leveraging indigenous and formal scientific knowledge in different disciplines and sectors across the Global South and North.

BRIDGING EPISTEMIC INEQUALITIES IN MUSIC EDUCATION: COMPARING INDIGENOUS AFRICAN AND WESTERN THEORIES TO INSPIRE INCLUSIVE COMPOSITION PRACTICES

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Abstract

This paper examines the theoretical principles underpinning Indigenous African music systems and Western classical music theory, with a view to addressing epistemic inequalities in music education and composition practice. Drawing on the frameworks of intercultural

musicology and epistemic justice, the study compares core musical elements – rhythm, melody, harmony, structure and form, and lyrics – across both traditions, with particular emphasis on Ghanaian examples. While African music systems are grounded in oral transmission, communal engagement, and performance-based learning, Western classical theory is centred on notation, harmonic logic, and codified structures. Rather than positioning one as superior, the paper highlights the internal coherence and cultural legitimacy of both systems, identifying points of divergence and synergy. Through this analysis, the study proposes pathways for inclusive composition practices that reflect the pluralism of global musical knowledge. By critically engaging with the historical marginalisation of non-Western music in formal education, the paper contributes to current efforts to decolonise music curricula and promote epistemic inclusion. It further argues that bridging these knowledge systems can inspire innovative approaches to composition and pedagogy that are responsive to both local identity and global musical discourse.

Keywords: Indigenous African Music Theory, Western Classical Music, Epistemic Justice, Intercultural Musicology, Decolonising Music Education

VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS: ANLEE AND KƆƆRE MUSIC AS INDIGENOUS TOOLS FOR GENDER INCLUSION AND CULTURAL RESILIENCE IN NORTHERN GHANA

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Abstract

In many African societies, indigenous music traditions serve not only as aesthetic expressions but as vital tools for social communication, identity negotiation, and resilience. This paper examines Anlee and Kɔɔre – an all-female musical tradition of the Dagaaba women of Sankana in Ghana's Upper West Region – as a powerful indigenous mechanism for promoting gender inclusion and cultural continuity in a patriarchal society. Drawing from extensive ethnographic fieldwork, including participant observation, oral interviews, and focus group discussions, the study reveals how these musical practices historically provided women with a voice to critique social injustices, regulate marital relationships, and foster communal solidarity. However, contemporary pressures such as modernity, rural-urban migration, inter-ethnic marriage, and religious shifts have significantly eroded the practice and value of Anlee and Kɔɔre music. Guided by the theoretical frameworks of structural functionalism and change-and-continuity, this paper explores the implications of this decline

for gendered cultural identity, and the urgent need to safeguard such intangible cultural heritage. The paper argues that revitalising Anlee and Kɔɔre music – through community-led performances, educational inclusion, and cultural policy support – offers not only a pathway to preserving local heritage but also a culturally grounded strategy for advancing gender equity and social inclusion. Ultimately, this study contributes to broader discussions on how indigenous knowledge systems can support inclusive growth and resilience in changing socio-cultural landscapes.

Keywords: Anlee and Kɔɔre Music, Gender Inclusion, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Cultural Continuity, Intangible Cultural Heritage

INTEGRATION AND UTILIZATION OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS IN ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS IN GHANA

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Abstract

Higher educational institutions are centers of excellence promoting diversity, enhancing research and learning experiences that support and elevate sustainable practices and outcomes. These diversities reflect in programs, students, research and library resources that are available and accessible. However, the focus of academic libraries collections is on western epistemologies to the marginalization of indigenous knowledge. These biases do not provide epistemic freedom and cognitive fairness and has created a wide gap in embracing diversity and inclusivity that supports a pluralistic knowledge system within the academy. Information professionals are mostly restricted by the scope of collection development policies, budgets, curriculum and the lack of desire to engage in initiatives outside their mandate. While these challenges persist, the information professional can be the gatekeeper in preserving indigenous knowledge resources for a sustainable outcome and integrating them into academic frameworks.

Keywords: Indigenous Knowledge Management Systems, Higher Educational Institutions, Information Professionals, Community Participation, Inclusivity, Diversity of Knowledge Systems, Ghana.

HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH? DEFINING LIMITS TO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM UNDER GHANA'S FOURTH REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION

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Abstract

Article 21(1) (c) of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana provides for freedom of religious association and practice. This constitutional provision is considered a fundamental human right available to every individual in Ghana. In the main, the said constitutional provision focuses on promoting and protecting what individuals perceive as satisfying their quest for meaning in life. Nonetheless, many believe that given its potentially far-reaching nature, it is imperative to define, through an amendment, limits within which religious belief may be exercised as absence of same may create "too much" religion. The result, according to these proponents, is the proliferation of religious groups most of which are of the Christian denomination. To them, religion has only become a tool for exploiting the vulnerable in society which begs the question, how much is too much religion? This research explores, if any, the constitutional limitations to religious freedom under Ghana's fourth republican constitution. Thus while acknowledging the contributions of earlier works, albeit limited in scope to matters such as the general guarantee of religious freedom and the state regulation of religious groups, this paper attempts a discussion of the perceived 'unlimited' religious freedom under the 1992 Constitution which remains missing from the literature. As in the case of many other expository researches, the paper relies on constitutional provisions, statutes, case law as well as scholarly writings and extrapolates, mainly through critical legal analysis, elements of what may be considered as limits to religious freedom under Ghana's Constitution.

Keywords: Religion, religious freedom, fundamental human rights and fourth (4th) republican constitution.