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## **EDUCATION**

- PhD. Northwestern University, Sociology (2016)  
Dissertation: *'Purchased allies' or 'thorns in the side of the government'?: African Merchants and Colonial State Formation in the Nineteenth Century Gold Coast*  
Chair: Bruce Carruthers
- M.Sc. London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), Sociology (2009)  
Thesis: *'Alone in the Cold? Ghanaian and Nigerian Immigrant Entrepreneurship in North London.*
- BA University of Ghana, Legon, Sociology and Philosophy (minor), (2006)  
Thesis: *Understanding the Lives of Beggars on the Streets of Accra.*

## **EMPLOYMENT**

Research Fellow, (IAST), (Current, from 2016)

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Historical Sociology, Political Sociology, Economic Sociology, Migration

## **PUBLICATIONS**

2015. 'National Movements in Colonial Africa', chapter in Ewout Frankema and Ellen Hilbom (eds.), *The History of African Development*, African Economic History Network.
2013. 'Nets and Nettles: Two Conceptions of Community for Two Ghanaian Migrant Businesses', *Buffett Center Working Paper Series*, No. 13-002, accessible at <http://www.bcics.northwestern.edu/documents/workingpapers/Bufett-13-002-Asante.pdf>
2008. (with Nana A. Anyidoho) Truly National? Social Exclusion and the Ghana@50 Celebrations, *Ghana Studies*, 11: 139-173.

## **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

- 'Professional sentimentalists': Internecine Conflicts at the Inception of the Gold Coast Colonial State, *Africa Working Group*, Kellogg Institute of International Studies, University of Notre Dame, April 17, 2015.
- 'We want a good governor and plenty of good roads': Ghanaian Merchants and Colonial State Formation, *Department of History Seminar*, Wagenigen University, Wagenigen, Netherlands, May 6, 2014.

## **PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

Colonial State Formation: A Conceptual Note, *110<sup>th</sup> ASA Annual Meeting*, Hilton Chicago and Hilton Palmer House, Chicago, IL, August 22-25, 2015.

‘Professional sentimentalists’: Internecine Conflicts at the Inception of the Gold Coast Colonial State, *Revising Remaking Modernity: New Voices in Comparative-Historical Sociology*, Northwestern University, Evanston, 21 August, 2015.

Colonial State Formation: A Conceptual Note, *International Summer School for PhD Candidates*, German Historical Institute, Paris, September 1-10, 2014.

‘Collusion, Collaboration (Cooperation) and Conflict: How African Merchants Shaped the Formation of the Colonial State in the Gold Coast, 1850-1950,’ *3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Symposium of the Graduate Students in African Studies (GSAS)*, Indiana University, Bloomington, IL, March 23, 2013.

‘Foreignness, Inauthenticity and Immorality: Contestation Surrounding Popular Music in Ghana,’ *55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association*, Philadelphia, PA, November 29 to December 1 2012.

‘Strategic Co-ethnicity: Two Conceptions of Community and Entrepreneurship,’ *XVI<sup>th</sup> World Economic History Congress*, Stellenbosch, South Africa, July 2012

‘Nets and Nettles: Two Conceptions of Community for Two Ghanaian Migrant Businesses,’ *Chicago Ethnography Conference*, UIC, Chicago, IL, April 2012

## **RESEARCH/WORK EXPERIENCE**

December 2012 – present: Consultant (Country expert: Ghana)  
Varieties of Democracy Project, University of Gothenburg

February 2010 – August 2010: Researcher

‘Formalising the Informal and Informalising the Formal: Domestic and Bank Workers in Ghana,’ IDRC-sponsored project at the Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy, University of Ghana, Legon (Principal Investigators: Professor Akosua Adomako Ampofo, Professor Dzodzi Tsikata, Dr Akosua Darkwa, and Dr Nana Akua Anyidoho)

August 2006 – July 2007: Research Assistant

‘Pathways to Youth Economic Empowerment’, World Bank-sponsored project at the Institute of Statistical, Social, and Economic Research, University of Ghana, Legon (Principal Investigators: Professor John Anarfi, and Dr Nana Akua Anyidoho)

## **LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Initiator and Coordinator (Faculty mentor, Rachel Riedl, Political Science), SSD working group, PAS, Northwestern: 2012-13

Student Coordinator (Faculty coordinator, Prof Wendy Griswold, Sociology), African Seminar for Graduate Students (AfriSem), PAS, Northwestern: 2011-12, 2012-13

Chair of planning committee, ‘Stability amidst Chaos: Reflection Conference on Two Decades of Ghanaian Democracy,’ PAS, Northwestern: Oct 11-12 2012

Student Coordinator, African Seminar for Graduate Students (AfriSem), PAS, Northwestern:  
2011-12

## **AWARDS**

Kofi Annan Fellow, Northwestern University: 2010 to present.

Visiting scholar, Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po): April 2014 to May 2014

Sociology Research Fellowship, Department of Sociology, Northwestern University: 2014.

Equality Development and Globalization Studies (EDGS) Graduate Research Grant,  
Northwestern University: 2014.

Graduate Merit Award, LSE, 2008 to 2009