



**UNIVERSITY
OF GHANA**

CENTRE FOR ASIAN STUDIES
College of Humanities

CAS ANNUAL REPORT (2018-2019)



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Pursuing Global Visibility and Value

The Centre for Asian Studies (CAS) is now in its third year. From our humble beginnings we have been guided by our founding mandate and worked hard to bring them to fruition. That has been the story of the last two years and the third too.

CAS was formally set up in 2016. From the outset we have been guided by the University of Ghana's overall vision, drawing on its long tradition of excellence, to be a world class centre of learning, teaching and research. CAS seeks to contribute to this effort by positioning itself as the leading Asian studies hub on the continent of Africa. In pursuit of this, CAS in its first year was guided by two interlocking goals: building the institutional infrastructure (financial, administrative, logistical, publicity, academic and operational) as a means to make visible and cement the value of Asian studies to Ghana and Africa. In the second year we have continued on that path fine-tuning our methods, extending our networks and reach and drawing in critical financial resources. In the third year, without abandoning our focus in previous years, we have sought to be globally visible and valuable to our key stakeholders. This Report will attempt to detail this focus.

We extend our sincerest thanks to Prof. Samuel Agyei-Mensah, Provost of the College of Humanities for his keen interest and guidance. CAS's Working Group made up of Prof. Ama deGraft-Aikins, Prof. Boateng Onwona-Agyeman, and Dr. Alidu Seidu deserve special mention for their continued keen interest, support and advice. In the coming academic year (2019-2020) kindly join us on this journey of making CAS the go to place for Asian Studies in Africa. As always your interest and support matter deeply to us.



CAS, Director
July 2019





About Us

The Centre for Asian Studies was established following a decision by the Council of the University of Ghana in October, 2015 and begun formal operations on August 1, 2016. The centre is one of the nine research centres under the College of Humanities. We are Ghana's premier and pre-eminent centre exclusively dedicated to supporting research, training and exchange programmes and activities in Asian studies in close collaboration with Asian and other global partners.

Goals

CAS seeks to be a world class platform for innovative research, training and exchange programmes and activities in Asian studies relevant for mutually beneficial relations between Africa and Asia.

Objectives

CAS in close tandem with the University of Ghana's mission to be a world class research intensive institution will focus on the following:

- » build advanced multidisciplinary and comparative competencies and capacity for research and teaching in Asian studies for Ghana and Africa.
- » carry out high quality policy-sensitive and development focused research on Africa-Asia relations to promote the socio-cultural and politico-economic transformation of Ghana and Africa.
- » serve as the foremost hub in Ghana and Africa for academic and non-academic exchanges between cultural, social and policy organizations in Asia and other parts of the world.



Our Research Clusters (2016-2021)

a. Asian Cultures and Values

The links between culture and human progress has long been pondered. This cluster is interested in interrogating this nexus within the context of the contemporary experiences of these two regions. An increasing wealthy East Asia for example points to the guiding force of Confucian values like thrift, filial piety and moral rectitude in explaining that region's transformation. Examining such a claim, for example, set against Africa's search for cultural autonomy and validation in the process of development should offer valuable insights on the limits, possibilities and even necessity of culture as a vehicle for progress in a globalizing world. This sub-theme seeks to inspire cultural dialogue between the two continents.

b. Asian Development

This cluster is concerned about the ideational undertows of modern Asian development experiences after the eras of especially Western imperialism and colonialism. How for example did countries like Japan, Korea, China, Malaysia and Singapore engage ideationally with modern notions of socio-economic organization such as democracy, communism, capitalism, neo-liberalism etc? Was there resistance or accommodation? What was the nature of these? How does this compare with the African experience? In this sub-theme the focus is on the ideational sphere or symbolic realm of knowledge, values, meaning making, or discourses in framing and shaping the future in these two regions.

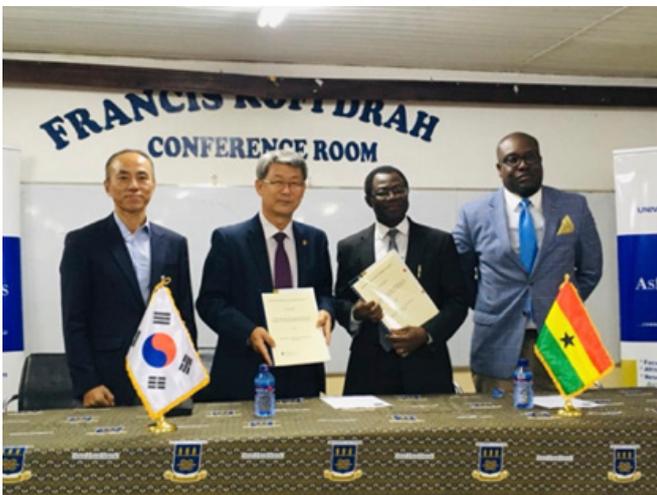
c. Asia Globalizing

Samsung billboards advertise the company's smartphones, tablets and washing machines across the world. Japanese cars are found on almost every street in the world. China is building railways across the world and her merchants hawk their wares in African cities. All these are visible signs of a globalizing Asia. The cluster will try to unpack the forces shaping this process as Africa and Asia interact from especially a micro-narrative perspective (without neglecting meso-narratives) focusing on the socio-institutional and historical underpinnings and dynamics. This sub-theme seeks to encourage as a consequence the excavation of vital elements such as agency, being, cognition, subjectivity and culture as explananda for particular instantiations of Asia globalizing and how this interfaces with Africa's peoples, institutions, values, hopes and fears. In this undertaking the explication of core concepts such as 'reciprocity', 'mutuality', 'learning', 'modernity', 'futuraity' and 'vulnerability' in the Asian and African settings will be vigorously explored.

Key Events

a. Korea Corner

On the 30th of May, 2019, a short ceremony was held at the Kofi Drah conference room, Department of Political Science, University of Ghana, to inaugurate the Korea corner. The event was well attended by the general public, students, officials of the Korean embassy in Ghana and senior members of the University of Ghana. The dignitaries at the event included Vice chancellor Prof. Ebenezer O. Owusu, the Pro-vice chancellor Prof. Samuel Kwame Offei, H.E Kim Sungsoo, Mr. Dongik Jeong among several others.



Signing and Sod-Cutting Ceremonies

The Corner is stocked with five hundred books, DVDs, television sets, DVD players, magazines, journals among others.



Korea Corner

b. Collaboration with Chinese Embassy

Chinese Ambassador H.E. Shi Ting Wang delivered a public lecture on Current International Relations and China's Foreign Policy on 23rd May, 2019 on Thursday at the Conference Hall of Confucius Institute of the University of Ghana. CAS collaborated with the Chinese Embassy in the organization of this event.

c. Courtesy Call on Chinese Ambassador

CAS's Dr. Lloyd G.Adu Amoah paid a courtesy call on China's ambassador to Ghana, H.E. Shi Ting Wang, in Accra, Monday, May 13, 2019. They reviewed current global events (including the escalating US-China trade war) and exchanged views on Ghana-China and Africa-China relations. Both stressed the need to deepen co-operation between the Centre and the Embassy to engender objective analysis of Ghana-China interactions in all spheres.

Dr. Amoah presented to H.E. Shi Ting Wang some of CAS's recent publications and his latest book #notesofapatriot.



Director Amoah(l) and H.E. Shi Ting(r)

d. Trilogues

CAS's Trilogues, has been set up to serve as a timely discussion platform on Africa-Asia-Global events and issues. Trilogues reflects the pursuit of CAS's mandate to be alive, sensitive and reflect deeply and constantly on the ever increasing, changing and even bewildering interactions between the world's most ancient civilizations of Africa and Asia. The name Trilogues was chosen deliberately. CAS wants to be one of the critical mediators of the interactions

between Africa and Asia this century and how that shapes and reconfigures our world. Through Trilogues we seek to bring to the University of Ghana some of the leading thinkers on Africa-Asia and Global Affairs.

◆ Trilogues III

Japan's Ambassador to Ghana, H.E. Tsutomu Himeno delivered (10.18.2018) Trilogues III. In his lecture he examined the interconnections and possibilities between the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) which is Japan's key forum (TICAD I was held in 1993, 7 years before FOCAC 1) for engaging African countries and the proclamation of the idea of Ghana Beyond Aid by Ghana's President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo. This lecture represented the first major public reflection on this visionary idea by a public officer of a leading industrial country and a major diplomatic, trade and economic partner of Ghana.



H.E. Himeno



Section of the audience

◆ Trilogues IV

The Centre for Asian Studies’s Trilogues IV was delivered by Professor Motohiro Kurokawa (Takasaki City University of Economics) on the 28th of February, 2019 at the Department of Economics Conference Hall, University of Ghana, Legon. The topic of the lecture was: “Customizing Asian Experience for Africa.”



Prof. Motohiro Kurokawa

◆ Trilogues V

Professor Jongsoo Park delivered the Centre for Asian Studies’ Trilogues V Lecture Series held at the Kofi Drah Conference Room on the 18th of April, 2019. His Lecture was titled “Why has South Korea Grown so much faster than most developing countries? Implications for other developing countries.” Prof. Park was the Second Visiting Professor at the Centre for Asian Studies. The event was chaired by Prof. Kwaku Ampiah, University of Leed, UK.



Section of the audience

Sharing our Expertise



Prof. Park

a. CAS Journal Publication through Andrew Mellon Grant Support

CAS published (March, 2019) 8 peer reviewed articles in the Journal of African and Asian Studies as a special edition of this highly esteemed journal (a publication of the over 300 year old Brill).

The articles were drawn from the very best of the papers presented at the CAS Conference (April 11-13-14, 2017) on Ghana-Korea Relations which was held at the University of Ghana, Legon. The special edition was proposed and edited by our director Dr. Lloyd G. Adu Amoah. This publication reflects output of ongoing research under 2 of CAS’s 3 Research Clusters (2016-2021) namely, Asian Development and Asia Globalizing as well the Re-Invigorating Humanities Research (REHURE) of the College of Humanities which is funded by the Andrew Mellon Foundation. CAS Research under the Mellon Grant provided it critical access to Korean archives and personnel which were utilized for the articles in the publication.

Kindly find below the link to the work: <https://brill.com/.../journals/aas/18/1-2/aas.18.issue-1-2.xml>

b. Baker Mckenzie Forum

Our Director, Dr. Lloyd Amoah, represented CAS as a panelist at an International Commercial and Trade Roadshow put together by Baker Mckenzie (one of the leading global law firms) in partnership with Kimathi & Partners in April, 2019.

Dr. Amoah provided his insights on Africa-China relations within the context of China's Belt and Road Initiative and the new African Continental Free Trade Agreement. The well attended event was graced by representatives of some of the leading law firms in Africa, Europe and North America.



CAS Team at Confab



Director Amoah delivering talk

c. Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lecture

Dr. Lloyd Adu Amoah, CAS's Director, gave a lecture at the Monthly Lecture series organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration on the 27th of February, 2019. The event was held at the Ministry's Dr. Obed Asamoah Conference Room. The title of his Lecture was: *The China-US trade war and the fate of Ghana and Africa.*



Foreign Affairs lecture

Conferences

The Centre for Asian Studies (CAS) actively participated in the 2nd International Conference on Africa –Asia Relations (20-22 September, 2018) which was hosted ably by the University of Dar es Salaam. The theme for the confab was “A New Axis of Knowledge 2.”

The CAS team presented papers, hosted two roundtables and took part in various meetings and panel sessions. CAS’s key roundtable was on its research[supported by a generous grant from

the Mellon Foundation through the University of Ghana’s Reinvigorating Humanities Research(REHURE) Project]on Koreans in Ghana(1957-2017)] which seeks to contribute to a deeper, nuanced and variegated understanding of Africa-Asia ties via a peculiar and rare examination of Ghana-Korea relations within the framework of Africa-Asia relations, migration, settlement and cultural hybridization.

Research and Publications

a. The Centre is continuing its research titled (Un) Settled Strangers? The Koreans in Ghana since Independence (1957-2017).The research is supported by a Mellon Grant of close to \$45,000.00 and is in second year. The Research Team is be led by CAS’s Dr. Lloyd G. Adu Amoah who is the Principal Investigator.

b. CAS has through its outreach efforts and programmes sparked interest in research on Africa-Asia relations among students of the University of Ghana. Two former interns of CAS conducted their research in this area as M.Phil students. Nancy Kye who has completed her studies wrote a thesis titled , *Tackling Health Security within the Context of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development(TICAD) Process*. Nelson Quame is completing his thesis titled, *The Politics of a New World Order : An Assessment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank*.

c. Effective February 1, 2019, celebrated Ghanaian scholar Prof. Ato Quayson(he is currently on the Faculty of New York University) joined the Editorial Board of the Centre for Asian Studies’s two flagship publications, the CAS Working Paper

Series and Policy Brief Series. Noted Africa civil society activist and scholar Dr. Kojo Pumpuni Asante also joined the Editorial Board of these two publications on the same date.

CAS Adjunct Researchers

Our work is supported by a team of adjunct researchers who share their expertise with us on our projects. Below is the updated list of our adjunct researchers.

- » Dr. Seidu Alidu, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana
- » Dr. Kwesi D.L.S. Prah, East China Normal University, Shanghai, China
- » Dr. Nene-Lomotey Kuditchar, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana
- » Mr. Jay Jangho Park, Consultant, Crimson Park Partners, Seoul, Korea
- » Dr. Seyram Avle, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA.
- » Dr. Kojo Odoom, University of Alberta, Alberta, Canada
- » Dr. Jemima Yakaah Amoah, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana
- » Ms. Zahra Baitie, formerly Yale University and Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

CAS Key Milestones

Formal Opening- August 1, 2016

First Researcher Visit- Prof. Wakabayashi Chihiro(Saitama Prefectural University, School of Health and Social Sciences) was at CAS on September, 13, 2016.

Inaugural Public Event-October, 19, 2016(College of Humanities-CAS Dialogue Series 2)

First Ambassadorial Visit- October 27, 2016 H.E. Woon Ki-Lyeo paid a working visit to CAS.

First Trilogues-April 6, 2017 featured Dr. Annette Hansen (Aarhus University, Denmark) who led a discussion on Global, social, and cultural implications of Japanese foreign aid: The case of an alumni network.

First Conference - April 11-13, 2017 (40Years of Ghana-Korea Relations-Retrospectives and Prospects).

First Research Grant- Andrew M. Mellon Foundation Grant for Research on Ghana-Korea Relations.

First Collection of Books-100 books from NIPPON Foundation’s Read Japan “100 books for Understanding Contemporary Japan” project. November 17, 2017.

First Roundtable- CAS-FOCAC Roundtable. April 26, 2018.

First CAS Publications- CAS Working Paper and CAS Policy Brief, August, 2018



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