

**International conference
Interdisciplinary Fellow Group (IFG) 6
Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa**

**17 - 18 August 2022
Institute African Studies**

Theme: Land governance and conflicts in West Africa

The conference, hosted by the sixth cohort of the Interdisciplinary Fellow Group (IFG6) of the Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa engages with the discourse and implications of land governance in West Africa. Land governance is conceived of in this conference as the cumulation of dynamic social practices that result in tensions and conflicts but also cooperation. As a result, transformations, reconfigurations, and hybridizations of access to, use of, and security of land continue to constantly redefine land governance. Access and use of land is a multidimensional source of social, political, juridical and economic tensions as several actors are interested in and affected by it. Each actor or actor group has his/her perceptions of how to regulate the use of the stake. Drawing on empirical field research, the present research project aims at describing and analyzing how and to what extent different actors interact to shape land governance dynamics in rural and urban West Africa.

Some questions are pertinent. In view of the twining of social strategies over land, these questions include asking about who governs and who is governed; who mediates conflicts and who decides on which mediator; by whose regime should land governance be maintained, among others. The specific aim of this conference is to understand and forecast:

- how land governance in West Africa produce, minimizes, or transforms conflicts over land;
- how land litigations in Francophone and Anglophones countries can be minimized; and,
- how sustainable could land governance be in West Africa.

IFG6 of MIASA invites participants from a wide range of disciplines including but not limited to Geography, Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science, History, Natural Sciences etc. It invites participants working on land governance (rural, peri-urban and urban) from academia, business, traditional authority, government (local, national, and international). We particularly invite and encourage attendance from practitioners from Anglophone and Francophone countries. Ghanaian institutions of land affairs such as the Lands commission, and the Customary land secretariats, district assemblies, and Office of Administrator of Stool Lands. are most welcome.

DAY ONE
17 August 2022

08.00 - 08.55	Registration
09.00 – 09.05	Introduction of conference <u>Chair:</u> IFG6 Fellow
09.10 - 09.20	Welcome words and affirmation of conference schedule (IFG6 Fellow)
09.25 - 10.10	Welcome remarks (MIASA Directors; IAS Director; Provost, CoH)
10.15 - 10.45	Cocoa break
10.50 – 13.25	Presentations Theme: <i>Theorizing the past (emergence) and present (sustenance) of land commodification and inequalities</i> <u>Chair:</u> Dr. Susann Baller <u>Discussant:</u> Prof. Hubert Ouedraogo <u>Speakers</u> Surv. Timothy Anyidoho Esq. (Regional Lands Officer, Greater Accra Region) Dr. Austin Dziwornu Ablo Dr. Fatoumata Camara Dr. Medina Karambiri Dr. Tounkara Aly
13.30 - 14.30	Lunch
14.35 - 17:05	Roundtable <i>Theme: Adaptation experiences as new opportunities for land governance, harnessing potentials of ICT and AI</i> <u>Chair:</u> Prof. Joseph Yaro <u>Speakers</u> Rep., Gbawe Customary Land Secretariat Rep., La Traditional Council Surv. Yusif Abdulai Dr. Aidas Sanogo Dr. Isaac Wiafe
17.10 - 17.30	Closing remarks and summaries (IFG6 Fellow)

DAY TWO
18 August 2022

07.00. - 08.55	Registration
09 - 09.05	Conference information and recap of Day 1 (IFG6 Fellow)
09.10 - 10.10	Keynote: <i>Land Contestations and conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa – Role of the State in land conflicts in Sub-Saharan Africa</i> (Prof. Gaynor Paradza) <u>Chair:</u> Prof. Kojo Amanor
10.15 - 10.45	Cocoa break
10.50 - 12.20	Presentations <i>Theme: Land governance and extra-local frames: Global reproductions of the local</i> <u>Chair:</u> Prof. Gaynor Paradza <u>Discussant:</u> Prof. Fatou Diop Sall <u>Speakers</u> Dr. Peter Narh Dr. Sory Ibrahim Fofana Dr. Lamine Doumbia Mr. Mme Nana Toure
12.25 - 13.35	Lunch
13.40 - 14.00	On road to Regional Lands Commission, Accra
14.15 - 16.30	Afternoon with Lands Commission <i>Theme: Land planning and management in Ghana - trends, challenges, theories of change.</i> <u>Chair:</u> Dr. Osman Alhassan <u>Speaker</u> Rep of Lands Commission
16.35 – 16.50	Way forward (Follow up): Towards a new model of equitable and sustainable land governance - including the role of ICT and AI
16.35 - 17.00	Closing remarks

Convenors

Dr. Lamine Doumbia and Dr. Peter Narh
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