



Online Conference

Critical Perspectives on Energy Transitions in Africa

December 14-15, University of Ghana, Ghana

This conference is a showcase of research work conducted by an interdisciplinary fellow group (IFG) at Maria Sibylla Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA) at the University of Ghana which has focused on the broad theme of “The Governance of Energy Transitions in the Global South” from September to December 2020. The IFG’s work has been animated by the questions: What is meant by sustainable energy transitions in different Global South contexts? What are the multiple roles that different actors on the ground play to foster sustainable energy transitions? To what extent are local concerns about sustainable energy transitions reflected in international conceptualizations of sustainability and justice? The conference includes presentation by IFG research fellows, as well as keynote lectures and roundtable discussions being delivered by leading scholars and experts in the field of African energy transitions.

The conference is being hosted by **Dr Lucy Baker** (University of Sussex), **Dr Salimata Berté** (Centre Suisse de Recherche Scientifique en Côte d’Ivoire), **Dr Aba Crentsil** (University of Ghana), **Dr Norbert Edomah** (Pan-Atlantic University), **Dr Paul Munro** (University of New South Wales) **Dr Paul Osei-Tutu** (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology), **Dr Rasmus Pedersen** (Danish Institute for International Studies), **Dr Naaborle Sackeyfio** (Miami University of Ohio), **Dr Diran Soumonni** (University of the Witwatersrand).

Keynote Speakers



Dr Elsie Onsongo (Leiden-Delft-Erasmus Universities)

Dr Onsongo holds a PhD from Friedrich Schiller University, and has previously worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam. Previously, she was a visiting research fellow at the Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex. She has also worked at Strathmore University in Kenya in various teaching, research and administrative capacities. She is currently establishing the Centre for Frugal Innovation in Africa (CFIA) Kenya Hub in Nairobi, on several small-scale projects on bottom-up frugal innovation in Kenya in energy access, health care, agro-food and water. She is also engaged in a UKRI GCRF-funded research project exploring the sustainability, inclusivity and governance of mini-grids in Africa. She is also working as a consultant affiliated with the University of Sussex in the Modern Energy Cooking Services programme—a DFID-funded project aimed at inducing a transition from the reliance on biomass for cooking to clean modern energy in sub-Saharan Africa.



Dr Festus Boamah (University of Bayreuth)

Dr. Festus Boamah obtained his Master’s and PhD degrees in Development Geography at the University of Bergen (Norway) and Bachelor’s Degree in Geography & Resource Development at the University of Ghana, Legon. Dr. Boamah’s earlier research focused on Livelihood Impacts of Biofuel ‘Land Grabbing’ in Ghana. His current post-doctoral research (Habilitation) at the University of Bayreuth focuses on Self-organization of Solar PV Electrification, Socio-Technical Systems and Energy Justice in Ghana and Kenya. The output of his academic research has appeared in *Geoforum*, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *Development & Change*, *Review of African Political Economy*, *Energy Research & Social Science*, *Politics and Governance (PaG)*, and *Journal of International Development*. He has published book chapters in ZedBooks and Edward Elgar Publishing. He recently co-edited the PaG themed Issue *Politics and (Self-)Organisation of Electricity System Transitions in a Global North–South Perspective*.



Conference Agenda

Day 1, Monday, 14 December

Time (GMT)	Session
9:30 – 10	<p>Opening Plenary Welcome from MIASA directors Prof Abena Oduro (University of Ghana) and Prof Gordon Crawford (Coventry University)</p> <p>Introduction to conference Simon Bawakyillenuo (University of Ghana) and Philipp Späth (University of Freiburg)</p>
10 – 10:45	<p>Keynote Lecture: Dr Elsie Onsongo (Leiden-Delft-Erasmus Universities) “Transitioning from Biomass to Modern Energy Cooking Services: Reflections from East Africa.”</p> <p>Chair: Naaborle Sackeyfio (Miami University of Ohio)</p>
10:45 – 11	Break
11 – 11:30	<p>Presentation: Feminist Political Ecology and Energy Transitions in Africa Salimata Berté (Centre Suisse de Recherche Scientifique en Côte d'Ivoire), Aba Crentsil (University of Ghana), Paul Munro (University of New South Wales), Naaborle Sackeyfio (Miami University of Ohio)</p>
11:30- 11:45	Break
11:45- 12:30	<p>MIASA Fellow Presentations. Theme: Cooking Energy Transitions Salimata Berte (Centre Suisse de Recherche Scientifique en Côte d'Ivoire)</p> <p>Aba Crentsil (University of Ghana)</p> <p>Chair: Paul Munro (University of New South Wales)</p>
12:30- 13	Break
13- 13:45	<p>Roundtable Discussion: The Role of Finance in African Energy Transitions: the good, the bad, the ugly? Chantal Naidoo (University of Sussex)</p> <p>Enora Robin (University of Sheffield)</p> <p>Facilitator: Lucy Baker (University of Sussex)</p>
13:45 – 14	Break
14 – 14:45	<p>MIASA Fellow Presentations. Theme: Emerging Energy Geographies Lucy Baker (University of Sussex)</p> <p>Paul Munro (University of New South Wales)</p> <p>Chair: Aba Crentsil (University of Ghana)</p>



Day 2, Tuesday, 15 December

Time (GMT)	Session
10 – 10:45	Keynote Lecture: Festus Boamah (University of Bayreuth) “New Perspectives on Energy Justice Scholarship – Reflections from Africa” Chair: Naaborle Sackeyfio (Miami University of Ohio)
10:45 – 11	Break
11 – 11:30	Roundtable Discussion: Africa’s Renewable Energy Agenda. Joseph Essandoh-Yeddu (Energy Commission) Dorothy A.Y. Amo-Asante (USAID Ghana) Safianou Nassamou (Nyankonton Solar Energy Products Ltd) Facilitator: Simon Bawakyillenuo (University of Ghana)
11:30 – 11:45	Break
11:45 – 12:45	MIASA Fellow Presentations. Theme: Ghanaian Electricity Transitions Paul Osei-Tutu (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology) Rasmus Pedersen (Danish Institute for International Studies) Naaborle Sackeyfio (Miami University of Ohio) Chair: Diran (University of the Witwatersrand)
12:45 – 13	Break
13 – 13:45	MIASA Fellow Presentations. Theme: Conceptualising Energy Transitions Diran Soumonni (University of the Witwatersrand) Norbert Edomah (Pan-Atlantic University) Chair: Paul Osei-Tutu (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology)
13:45 – 14	Break
14 – 14:45	Final Reflections: Understanding the Energy Transition Discourse – from Global to Local. Willington Ortiz (Wuppertal Institute) Fumani Mthembi (Knowledge Pele)
14:45 – 15	Closing Remarks Simon Bawakyillenuo (University of Ghana) Michael Pregernig (University of Freiburg)