



**CONFERENCE: INCREASING WOMEN'S POLITICAL PRESENCE IN WEST AFRICA
FINAL CONFERENCE OF MIASA INTERDISCIPLINARY FELLOW GROUP 8**

16-17 MAY 2023

**at the Auditorium of the Centre for Biodiversity Conservation Research,
University of Ghana**

Time is scheduled in UTC (Time in Accra/Ghana)

FOR BOTH ON-SITE AND VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION PLEASE REGISTER [HERE](#)

Tuesday, 16 May 2023

8:00–9:00	Registration Venue: Centre for Biodiversity Conservation Research, University of Ghana
9:00-10:30	Opening Ceremony Welcome remarks by MIASA Directors Susann Baller and Grace Diabah Welcome address by Provost of the College of Humanities, Prof. Daniel Ofori, University of Ghana (UG) Keynote Address <i>Women's Political Power in West Africa and the Global Context of Democracy and its Discontents: The Nigeria Case</i> Speaker: Ayisha Osori (Open Society Foundation London)
10:30-11:00	Cocoa Break
11:00-12:30	Presentations Panel I Theme: West African Women in Formal Political Office Chair: Prof. Gretchen Bauer (University of Delaware & MIASA fellow) Dr. Robtel Neajai Pailey (London School of Economics and Political Science) <i>Women's Political Rights and Representation as Proxies for Citizenship Equality: Lessons from West Africa</i>

	<p>Dr. Sharon Omotoso (University of Ibadan, Nigeria) <i>Feminized Corruption and Women's Political Communication in Nigeria</i></p> <p>Dr. Aisha Fofana Ibrahim (University of Sierra Leone) <i>Women's Decreased Political Representation in Postwar Sierra Leone: A Backlash or Lethargy?</i></p>
12:30–14:00	<p>Lunch Break Centre for Biodiversity Conservation Research, University of Ghana</p>
14:00–16:00	<p>Panel II Theme: The Politics of Women's Work in West Africa Chair: Prof. Erdmute Alber (University of Bayreuth, Germany & MIASA Fellow)</p> <p>Gertrude Dzifa Torvikey (University of Ghana), Faustina Obeng Adomaa (Wageningen University), Dr. Adwoa Yeboah Gyapong (University of Ghana) <i>Ada Songor Salt Women Association: An Account of Feminist Mobilisation in Ada Songor Salt Frontier</i></p> <p>Dr. Aleida Cristina Borges (Kings College London) <i>Political Presence in Cabo Verde: The Gender Gap in the Leadership of Community Associations</i></p> <p>Prof. Akua Opokua Britwum (University of Cape Coast) <i>Women Maneuvering the Politics of Union Governance in Ghana</i></p> <p>Prof. Akosua K. Darkwah (University of Ghana & MIASA Fellow) <i>'Tradition' Meets Contemporary Governance Structures: An Analysis of the Changing Leadership Models in Markets in Ghana</i></p>
16:00-17:30	<p>Visit at the Center for Gender Studies and Advocacy (CEGENSA)</p>
18:30	<p>Conference Dinner (By invitation only)</p>

Wednesday, 17th May 2023

8:30-9:00	<p>Arrival and Registration Venue: Centre for Biodiversity Conservation Research, University of Ghana</p>
9:00-10:30	<p>Panel III Theme: New Historical Perspectives on West African Female Leaders Chair: Prof. Jacqueline-Bethel Tchouta Mougoué (University of Wisconsin & MIASA Fellow)</p>

	<p>Dr. Jessica Reuther (Ball State University) <i>Agbessipé & the Politics of House Breaking in the Kingdom of Dahomey: Female Householder, Successful Entrepreneur and Political Threat in 19th Century Ouidah</i></p> <p>Dr. Ebony Coletu (Pensylvania State University & MIASA Fellow) <i>Laura Adorkor Koffey: Mother of Black Liberation Theology</i></p> <p>Dr. Marius Kothor (Yale University) <i>Togo's First Woman Mayor, the Nana Benz, and the Rise of Military Rule in Togo</i></p>
10:30-11:00	Cocoa Break
11:00-13:00	<p>PANEL IV West African Women's Life Narratives Chair: Dr. Rosina Foli (University of Ghana)</p> <p>Prof. Erdmute Alber (University of Bayreuth, Germany & MIASA Fellow) <i>"Today, it is easier for a woman to become a member of parliament than to become the mayor of a small village!" Self-descriptions and ascriptions of women engaged in politics in the Republic of Benin</i></p> <p>Prof. Olajumoke Yacob-Haliso (Babcock University) <i>The Personal as the Political in Women's Memoirs of Political Involvement in post conflict West Africa</i></p> <p>Prof. Gretchen Bauer (University of Delaware & MIASA Fellow) <i>'We See What Men Don't See': Reflections of Women Cabinet Ministers in West Africa</i></p> <p>Dr. Abena Kyere (University of Ghana) <i>Getting Power, Keeping Power. Some Perspectives on Clergy Wives and Power</i></p>
13:00-14:00	<p>Lunch Break Venue: Centre for Biodiversity Conservation Research, University of Ghana</p>
14:30-15:30	<p>PANEL V Mobility and Politics in West Africa Chair: Dr. Ebony Coletu (Pensylvania State University & MIASA Fellow)</p> <p>Prof. Jacqueline-Bethel Tchouta Mougoué (University of Wisconsin-Madison & MIASA Fellow) <i>Esther Dreams: African Women's Lives Across West-Central African Borders</i></p>

	<p>Prof. Cati Coe (Carleton University, Canada) <i>Return Migrants, Social Remittances, and the Contradictions of Neoliberalism: The Case of the Care Market in Accra</i></p> <p>Prof. Simon Kevin Baskouda Shelley (University of Maroua) <i>"I'm Angry Because I Don't have a Husband": Political Songs by Women in Northern Cameroon</i></p>
15:30-16:00	Cocoa Break
16:00-17:30	Final Discussion and Future Perspectives

Zoom link:

<https://uni-freiburg.zoom.us/j/64948869091?pwd=VW9uVzkxcDhvTVFoRTRpRDhjUmFUUT09>

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