



UNIVERSITY OF GHANA SPECIAL REPORTER

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

NO. 875

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2017

VOL. 54

NO. 22

INTER-COLLEGE LECTURE SERIES
(2016/2017 Academic Year-Second Semester)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Background	1
Dr. Caesar Atuire	2
Prof. Robert Kingsford Adaboh	4
Dr. Richmond Aryeetey	6
Dr. Evelyn Markwei	8
Prof. Gordon Awandare	10
Dr. Kwadwo Appiagyei-Atua	12
Dr. Abena Animwaa Yeboah-Banin	14
Dr. Samuel Amponsah	16

INTER-COLLEGE LECTURE SERIES

Background:

With the establishment of the four Colleges, the Inter-College Lecture Series (ICLS) has come to replace Inter-Faculty Lectures held as part of the scholarly lectures during the academic year.

The Academic Board approved the institution of the Inter-College Lecture series as follows:

Rationale:

To create a platform for faculty members to discuss their research findings with members of the University community and the general public.

Justification:

This would give faculty a public forum to share their ideas, unlike inaugural lectures which are only meant for full professors.

The ICLS would create a forum for the discussions of presentations on findings of ongoing research. The discussion would allow the audience to ask questions and make contributions that will improve the project design.

Presenters:

All faculty members in the colleges are expected to present lectures.

Planning Systems:

Inter-college lectures would rotate between the colleges.

While Public Affairs coordinates and receives inputs from the respective Colleges to come up with a schedule, the lecture series is administered and hosted by the respective Colleges.

This document, essentially a book of abstracts, provides a record of the lectures presented in the second semester of the 2016/17 academic year.



Dr. Caesar Atuire

Department of Philosophy and Classics
School of Arts
College of Humanities

**Topic: Multi-Partyism, Social
Fragmentation and Nation Building**

Delivered on February 23, 2017

PROFILE

Dr. Caesar Atuire joined the University of Ghana in January 2014 as Lecturer. He began his university education in Civil Engineering at the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine (London). He branched off to Philosophy where he obtained a BA (*Summa cum laude*). In 1994, he earned a *Licentia Philosophiae* from the Gregorian University (Rome). He obtained a PhD in Philosophy with an *Enquiry into Suicide* at the Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum (Rome) in 2005. Dr Atuire also holds a Master's degree in Theology and Diplomas in Bioethics and Pedagogical Sciences.

Prior to joining the University of Ghana, Dr Atuire lectured in Italy, Spain, Colombia, Mexico and Tanzania. His most recent works include:

1. Atuire, C.A., *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Still Universal?* Paper presented at Conference on 'Normative Disorientation and Institutional Instability', organized by the LeverHulme Trust Research Network, University of Ghana, 24-25 March 2015.
2. Atuire, C.A., *Power and Responsibility in African Democracy: Guardianian Perspectives*, Paper presented at 'Inaugural Conference of the Research Group on Global Justice', McGill University, Canada, 8-9 September 2016. The Paper has been presented for publication in the peer reviewed journal 'Quién: revista de filosofía personalista', Spain.
3. Atuire, C.A., *Understanding the Christian faith*, IF Press, Essay Research Series, Rome, 2017, pp. 150.

ABSTRACT

Ghana, like many African nations, is a product of colonialization. Peoples from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds were lumped together into nation states by the colonial rulers. With independence, African leaders were faced with the challenge of forging national identity and unity as a fundamental part of nation building. Kwame Nkrumah had a vision that was outlined in *Conscientism* and other discourses. The task of nation building requires social, ethnic, religious, and cultural cohesion.

In recent times, since 1992, Ghana has embraced multi-partyism as a system of government. Ghana is admired and respected as one of the few African countries that successfully run free elections where peaceful transitions are made from one party to the other.

A critical look at the dynamics of partisan politics reveals that there is a risk of entrenching internal divisions along ethnic, social and religious lines. Ironically, the very multi-partisan democratic system that makes Ghana the emblem of peace in Africa, could also be mining the roots of cohesion that are essential towards nation building.

I would propose that a possible solution to this challenge lies not only in good governance and institutional efficiency, but also, and primordially, in educating citizens towards a better understanding of the nature and use of the power conferred on them by democracy.

**Prof. Robert Kingsford-Adaboh**

Department of Chemistry
School of Physical & Mathematical Sciences
College of Basic and Applied Sciences

Topic: From Folkloric Anecdotes to
Pharmacological agents. The Role of
X-ray Crystallography

Delivered on March 2, 2017

PROFILE

Prof. Robert Kingsford-Adaboh graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Chemistry major at UCC in 1987. Worked as an Assistant Collector with Customs, Excise and Preventive service for a year. In 1990, won the Japanese MONBUSHO scholarship to read Physical Chemistry with specialization in Chemistry/Chemical Crystallography in Okayama University, graduated in MSc and PhD in Chemistry in 1996.

He joined the University of Ghana in the same year as a Lecturer in Chemistry on his return to Ghana. In 1999, he won the prestigious Alexander von Humboldt (AvH) Scholarship in the George Foster division to pursue a 2 year postdoctoral research in Frèi Universitaet of Berlin. The Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) granted him another one year post doctoral position in his mother faculty in Japan. He was the Head (HoD) of the Department of Chemistry prior to his current position. He is an Associate Professor in Chemistry, and the current Acting Dean of the School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

His areas of research are X-ray diffraction studies of bioactive molecules, molecular modeling and computation, Charge density studies, drug screening and organic photo voltaic cells (OPV, OSCs). He has published extensively in these areas and made presentations locally and internationally on selected themes in these areas.

ABSTRACT

This review discusses the potential applications and results from studies of isoflavonoids and coumarines from *Millettia thonningii* done by our research group and developing new pharmaceutical agents based on folkloric anecdotes. The role of X-ray crystallographic method as a scientific tool in our studies and selected examples some few well known discoveries known to have benefited this structural tool will cited. *Millettia thonningii* is a deciduous plant indigenous to tropical West Africa, other species have been used in folk medicine for the treatment of inflammatory diseases, chronic diseases and several pathogenic diseases. For instance, some isoflavones isolated from this plant have been reported to demonstrate lethal toxicity to brine shrimp as well as to inhibit activation of hypoxia-inducible factor-1 (HIF-1) in human breast tumour T47D cells. In our recent studies, Robustic acid and Alpinumisoflavone were found to showed activity against some of the strains of bacterial and fungi used such as *Salmonella typhi* and *Staphylococcus aureus*. Robustic acid and Thonningine-C were found to be cidal to *Candida albicans*. *C. Albicans*.is one of the most common causative fungi infection despite major efforts to control it.

Scientific research has implicated several prenylated isoflavonoids as being useful antioxidants and used in the management of radical mediated diseases such as cancer, diabetes, ischemic heart diseases, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases etc. Information obtained from crystal structural studies of these alpinumisoflavonoids coupled with their molecular and electronic distribution properties can further our understanding of their therapeutic potential and their observed bioactivities. Utilization of the crystal structure information to model various receptor binding and docking experiments would further bring to light the therapeutic potentials of the constituents of these plants. Utilization of the crystal structure information to model various receptor binding and docking experiments would further bring to light the therapeutic potentials of the constituents of these plants.



Dr. Richmond Aryeetey

School of Public Health
College of Health Sciences

Topic: Nutrition and health claims linked to food: the case for national Food-based dietary guidelines

Delivered on March 9, 2017

PROFILE

Dr. Richmond Aryeetey is a public Health nutrition scientist with interest in infant and young child feeding as well as food systems and how they interact with other environmental and policy determinants of dietary intake and NCDs in urban populations. Other relevant areas of his research include physical activity environments and the factors that motivates people to engage in physical activity. Richmond's previous research activities include mapping of various food and physical activity environments including school food environments, as well as food available in health care facility settings. Richmond has worked with the University of Ghana since 2007 when he joined the School of Public Health. He is currently leading a multi-site project with Yale University that is mapping determinants of scaling up national breastfeeding program implementation. He is also a co-chair of the Evidence-Informed Decision-making in Nutrition and Health Network championing the use of evidence for Decision making in Nutrition program Scale up.

Below are some recent publications recent relevant to the Lecture:

1. Aryeetey RN, Tay M. Compliance Audit of Processed Complementary Foods in Urban Ghana. *Front Public Health*. 2015 Oct 27;3:243.
2. Aryeetey R, Oltmans S, F Owusu. Food retail assessment and family food purchase behavior in ashongman estates, Ghana. *African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development*. 2016. 16 (4): 11386-11403.
3. Aryeetey RN, Boateng L, Sackey D. State of dietetics practice in Ghana. *Ghana Med J*. 2014 Dec;48(4):219-24.

ABSTRACT

Foods, diets, and nutritional status are important determinants of non-communicable diseases. On the other hand, appropriate selection, combination, and consumption of food and nutrients can contribute to non-communicable disease risk reduction. This evidence is not lost on industry as it seeks to provide diet-related remedies for preventing and controlling Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). The challenge arises when nutrition and health claims linked with the marketing of foods and nutrient supplements is not consistent with existing scientific evidence at three levels: 1) Insufficient characterisation of the food or its ingredients 2) Poor definition of the claimed benefit, or 3) Conflicting/insufficient experimental evidence linking the food/nutrient and the claimed benefit.

In Ghana, the print and electronic media are saturated with incessant promotion of dietary/food products making a wide variety of nutrition and claims. Such claims are known to influence purchase behaviour, and ultimately, consumption patterns. According to CODEX Alimentarius Commission, producers have a responsibility to ensure that food product nutrition and health claims are consistent with national health/nutrition policy, truthful, and supported by robust and are presented in ways that do not mislead consumers. On the other hand, national governments have a responsibility to empower consumers to make an informed choice regarding food purchase and consumption.

Food-based dietary guidelines serve as a behaviour change communication tool educating the lay public on responsible choice in food selection. The lack of national food-based dietary guidelines in Ghana creates opportunity for proliferation of misperceptions about food and misleading nutrition and health claims in the marketing of food products. Evidence-based research is needed to inform the process for developing a context-appropriate food-based guidelines for people living in Ghana.



Dr. Evelyn Markwei

Department of Information Studies
School of Information & Communication Studies
College of Education

Topic: Use of Course Websites to Enhance Face-To-Face Instruction: A Study of Students' Perceptions

Delivered on March 16, 2017

PROFILE

Dr. Evelyn Markwei was appointed lecturer in the Department of Information Studies in October 2002, after completing her MPhil Programme. She obtained a PhD from the University of British Columbia, Canada, in 2013. She won several awards in the course of her studies, including an International Development Research Center Doctoral Research Award, Faculty of Arts Graduate Award and the Anne and George Piternick PhD Student Research Award. She received the Best Lecturer award in the Department of Information Studies for the 2015/2016 academic year, with a citation from the Information Studies Students Association.

She has attended a number of international conferences, workshops and seminars and published papers in reputable, peer reviewed journals. She currently teaches Information Storage and Retrieval at both the undergraduate and Master's levels and is responsible for organising seminars at the Department.

She is a passionate instructor and likes to challenge students to acquire both knowledge and the skills which will make them competitive and valued contributors in their future careers.

ABSTRACT

One of the benefits of the Internet is the development of course websites to enhance traditional face-to-face-instruction. Although course websites are prevalent in many disciplines, only few studies have investigated students' perceptions of these websites. This study investigated the perception of students of an interactive website designed on the PBWORKS platform for an Information Storage and Retrieval course at the School of Information and Communication Studies, University of Ghana.

The main objectives of the study were to examine students' use of the website, their computer literacy skills, mode of accessing the website, problems encountered in using the website and their instructional preferences.

The survey methodology was used for the study and 37 students participated in the study. The findings showed that students had intermediate computer literacy skills, used the websites frequently, were generally satisfied with the contents which included course outline, lesson notes, assignments, class project instructions, announcements, links to relevant websites, course readings etc, and liked the fact that they could post messages on the website. They accessed the website mostly from home using their laptops and mobile phones. The problems they encountered in using the website include unstable internet access, power outages, and the initial registration with PBWORKS.

The study has implications for application of technology in tertiary education that is, use of free wikis to enhance face-to-face instruction.



Prof. Gordon Awandare

Department of Biochemistry, Cell & Molecular Biology
School of Biological Sciences
College of Basic and Applied Sciences

Topic: Assessing the impact of decreasing malaria transmission on parasite biology, disease pathogenesis and vaccine discovery

Delivered on March 23, 2017

PROFILE

Prof. Gordon Awandare is an Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology. He is also the Director of the West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP). He obtained his BSc Biochemistry degree in 1998 and MPhil Biochemistry in 2002, both from the University of Ghana. He subsequently undertook his doctoral studies at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he graduated with a PhD degree in Infectious Diseases and Microbiology in 2007, together with the Most Outstanding Student's award. Prof Awandare did his postdoctoral fellowship at the Malaria Vaccine Division of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Silver Spring, Maryland from 2007-2010.

Prof. Awandare joined the Department of Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology as a Lecturer in 2003, after working as a Principal Research Assistant at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research from 2001-2003. He was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2011, became Head of Department in 2013 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2015. In 2014, he led the establishment of WACCBIP, after winning one of the World Bank's African Centres of Excellence grants.

Prof Awandare's research focuses on the biology and pathogenesis of *Plasmodium falciparum* in children, including providing a better understanding of host immune responses and exploitation of parasite invasion mechanisms for vaccine development. He has 36 research publications in some of the leading international Infectious Diseases and Immunology journals, including 20 as first author or last/corresponding author.

ABSTRACT

The World Health Organization estimates that malaria still causes approximately 198 million cases annually worldwide, with 483,000 deaths, mainly in children below the age of 5 years and pregnant women. The most severe forms of the disease are caused by *Plasmodium falciparum*, which accounts for more than 90% of malaria cases globally. An effective malaria vaccine remains the optimal strategy for eliminating malaria. However, the use of vector control strategies such as long-lasting insecticide treated nets and indoor residual spraying, combined with the use of the efficacious artemisinin combination therapy, have significantly decreased malaria transmission. Therefore, a comprehensive analysis of the impact of decreasing malaria transmission on parasite biology and disease pathogenesis is necessary to inform appropriate management of the disease, especially in children. Taking advantage of the significant differences in malaria transmission across ecological zones in Ghana as a model, we have been investigating the impact of decreasing transmission on *P. falciparum* biology, host immune responses, and clinical manifestations of malaria in children. The results of these investigations demonstrate that while parasite genomes are mostly similar, parasite invasion pathways vary significantly across transmission areas. In addition, patterns of clinical manifestations, immune responses and parasite tolerance change significantly with decreasing transmission intensity. Data from these investigations will be discussed, as well as research strategies for discovery of novel targets for vaccine development. In addition, progress made by the West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP) and its partners in training and building capacity for high quality, competitive biomedical research in Africa will be presented.



Dr. Kwadwo Appiagyei-Atua

University of Ghana School of Law
College of Humanities

Topic: A Critical Review of 'Third Termism' in African Politics from an International Law Perspective

Delivered on March 29, 2017

PROFILE

Dr. Kwadwo Appiagyei-Atua is a member of the Ghana Bar and Senior Lecturer at the School of Law, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra where he teaches Public International Law and International Human Rights Law. He is also the representative Lecturer from University of Ghana in the LL.M Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation course, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, South Africa. Kwadwo obtained his LL.B (Hons) from the University of Ghana, Legon; LLM from Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, Canada and his Doctor of Civil Law from McGill University. He then proceeded to do his post-doctoral fellowship at the Irish Centre for Human Rights, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland on a Bank of Ireland fellowship. Kwadwo just completed his Marie Curie International Incoming Fellowship at Centre for Educational Research and Development, Lincoln University, UK where he conducted a research on "Building Academic Freedom and Democracy in Africa." He is a Global Ethics Fellow of the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, New York, USA and a member of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Thematic Group 3 on "The Challenges of Social Inclusion: Gender, Inequalities and Human Rights."

ABSTRACT

The return to democracy in Africa, following the fall of the Berlin Wall, saw most African countries drafting and adopting new constitutions which seek to entrench respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law in the governance ethos of their countries. In most of these constitutions, a two-term limit was specified for a regime to remain in power. Yet, for the past few years, African citizenry are witnessing a trend where their political leaders have had their constitutions doctored to allow for third or indefinite terms, popularly referred to broadly as 'third termism.'

The presentation will seek to explain this phenomenon relying on traditional African political system of life-long monarchical rules on which the one-party state was modeled and implemented in most African states between the time of independence and until coups d'état became a means of regime change on the continent. Another model which will be used to analyse this emerging trend is the agenda of exporting 'instant democracy and instant capitalism' by the US under the Clinton and Bush administrations.

The presentation will situate the discussion in the context of international law and examine how the principles of unconstitutional change in government developed by the Organisation of African Unity/African Union (OAU/AU) together with the application of the concept of collective recognition of governments could be applied to deal with the 'third termism' phenomenon.

**Dr. Abena Animwaa Yeboah-Banin**

Department of Communication Studies
School of Information & Communication Studies
College of Education

Topic: Consumer participation in brand selfie activations on social media: Evidence from an emerging African Economy

Delivered on April 13, 2017

PROFILE

Dr. Yeboah-Banin is a lecturer at the Department of Communication Studies. She holds a PhD in Marketing from the University of Leeds and an MPhil in Communication Studies from the University of Ghana. Her research interests lie in advertising, marketing communications, (marketing) communication research methodology, audience behaviours and the social media-marketing interface. She has published in several international journals including the *Industrial Marketing Management*, the *Journal of Business Research*, and the *African Media Review*. She has also presented her work at international conferences including the European Marketing Association Conference (EMAC), the American Marketing Association (AMA) and the International Association of Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) conferences.

ABSTRACT

As social media takes audiences away from main media and dilutes the opportunities for brands to communicate, marketing communicators must explore innovative means for engagement with brand targets. Brand selfies, the use of selfie photographs showing everyday consumption experiences with a brand, are gaining momentum as one such option. Having been used by several brand giants (e.g. Apple, Adidas, Unilever AXE etc.) to create viral campaigns that ask consumers to show off their brand use and association, it is clear that brand selfies offer immense opportunities for reach and engagement. However, in developing countries, brand selfie activations may face challenges given low internet penetration and high associated costs. This means that to replicate the brand selfie activation success story in developing countries, several nuanced questions must be addressed including “who should be targeted?”, “what factors determine who would participate?” and “what happens beyond participation?”. These questions motivate the present study. Using a consumer survey (set in the recent “#KalyppoChallenge” brand selfie activation in Ghana), the study unpacks some of the factors that may drive developing country audiences to participate in brand selfie activations.

**Dr. Samuel Amponsah**

Department of Adult Education and Human
Resource Studies
School of Continuing and Distance Education
College of Education

Topic: Understanding the Academic
Experiences of Graduate Adult
Learners in Ghana

Delivered on April 20, 2017

PROFILE

Dr. Samuel Amponsah is a lecturer at the Department of Adult Education and Human Resource Studies, School of Continuing and Distance Education, College of Education, University of Ghana. He holds a Diploma in Labour Studies and a Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) degree in Basic Education both from the University of Cape Coast. He also holds a Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) degree in Adult Education from the University of Ghana and a Doctor of Education (D.Ed.) degree in Curriculum Studies from the University of South Africa.

Until 2010, he worked as a teacher with the Ghana Education Service and also served as a Graduate Assistant at the Institute of Adult and Continuing Education, University of Ghana. Prior to his appointment at the University of Ghana, Dr. Amponsah lectured at Esayidi Technical Vocational Education and Training College (Umzimkhulu Campus) in South Africa, where he taught at all levels and also headed the Farming Management Department.

Dr. Amponsah's research interests are Distance Learning, Adult Learning, Cooperative Learning, and Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research Approaches.

ABSTRACT

In an effort to gain more knowledge, and sharpen their skills and abilities to fit into the 21st Century job market and society, many adults have returned to school as part of their lifelong learning experiences. This study examined the academic experiences and challenges of adult learners who fall in the domain of lifelong learners attending higher education in Ghana, West Africa. Seven adult learners in a graduate adult education program participated in the study. Results indicated that the participants identified themselves as adult learners mainly by virtue of the formal training they were receiving. The participants also identified challenges in their studies but they were both intrinsically and extrinsically motivated to carry on due to their own desires to study and what they stood to gain at the end of their studies.

