

FRANCIS Y. OWUSU

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Community & Regional Planning
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Capacity Building & Public sector reforms
- Globalization & development in Africa
- China & US policies in Africa
- Urban Livelihoods and Planning in Africa
- Urban Food Systems & sustainable development
- Socio-economic determinants of HIV/AIDS

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Geography, 2000; University of Minnesota, Minnesota
- M.A., Geography, 1992, Carleton University, Canada
- M.A., Population Studies, 1990; United Nations Regional Institute for Population Studies, University of Ghana, Ghana
- B.A. (Hons), Geography (major) and Archaeology (minor); 1987, University of Ghana, Ghana

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Academic Positions

- Interim Chair, Department of Community & Regional Planning, Iowa State University, 2013 to present
- Professor, Department of Community & Regional Planning, Iowa State University, 2012 to present
- Director of Graduate Education (DOGE), Department of Community & Regional Planning, Iowa State University, 2008 to present
- Associate Professor, Department of Community & Regional Planning, Iowa State University, 2007 to 2012
- Affiliated faculty, African and African American Studies program, Iowa State University, 2008-present
- Affiliated Faculty, Graduate Program in Sustainable Agriculture, Iowa State University, 2003-present
- Assistant Professor, Department of Community & Regional Planning, Iowa State University, 2001 to 2007
- Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science & Geography, Seattle Pacific University, WA, 2000 – 2001
- Research Analyst, Environmental Quality Board, Minnesota Planning, MN, 1998 – 2000
- Instructor, Department of Geography, University of Minnesota, MN, 1997 – 1999
- Adjunct faculty, Department of Geography, University of St. Thomas, MN, Fall, 1997
- Teaching Assistant, Department of Geography, University of Minnesota, MN, 1992 – 1997
- Teaching Assistant, Department of Geography, Carleton University, Canada, 1990 – 1992
- Research Assistant, Population Impact Project, Department of Geography, University of Ghana, Ghana, 1987 – 1989

Other Positions

- Editorial Assistant, *Environment and Planning A*, Department of Geography, University of Minnesota, MN, 1999
- International Student Advisor, International Student and Scholar Services, University of Minnesota, MN, 1994 – 1995
- Consultant, IFO-Institute for Economic Research, Department for Development Studies, University of Munich, Germany, 1987

HONORS AND AWARDS

Grants

- Co-PI, 2013 Council on International Programs (CIP) Grant “Design Education and Research in African Context: Exploring options for College of Design Study Abroad, Service Learning and Research in Ghana” (PI, Chris Martin) (\$5000)
- PI, “Capacity Building for Research Leadership: The need, support and strategies for growing African research leaders” Study commissioned by the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR), Nairobi, Kenya (Co-PIs – Dr. Ezekiel Kalipeni and Dr. Joy Mueni Maina Kiiru) (\$25,000)
- PI, RECRUIT Grant, Graduate College, ISU. Grant to support the recruitment of underrepresented graduate students into the MCRP program, 2011-12 (\$2000)
- Co-PI, Miller Faculty Fellowship, Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT), ISU Fellowship to support development of international service learning program including interdisciplinary course sequence proposed for academic year 2011-12 (\$5000)
- Co-PI, Iowa Housing Needs Assessment. Iowa Finance Authority. 2009-2011, \$155,424 (PI, Tim Borich; other CoPIs, Doug Johnston, Frank Owens, David Swenson, Carlton Basmajian)
- Global Development Network (GDN), New Delhi, India, Project: “Development on the Move: Measuring and Optimizing the Economic and Social Impacts of Migration in Ghana”. Collaboration with researchers in the U.S. and Ghana, 2008-2009 (\$110,000)
- Co-PI, Council on International Programs (CIP) Grant “Giving Global Public Health the Attention it deserves in the Classroom and in Service Learning at Iowa State” Iowa State University, 2008-2009 (\$5,000).
- Big XII Fellowship, Department of Economics, University of Kansas, July 2008-June (\$2,000)
- Community and Regional Planning Research Incentives Grant, ISU, 2008-2009 (\$9,000).
- Foreign Travel Grant, Iowa State University – to attend the “International Conference on Shared Growth in Africa” organized by Institute for Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) of the University of Ghana, Cornell University, World Bank, United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Accra, Ghana, Summer 2005 (\$1,400)
- World Bank-Netherlands, Governance Knowledge Sharing Program. Project: *Institutional Culture and the Performance of Public Institutions: Learning from “Good Performers,”* 2003-2004 (\$64,000)

- Rockefeller Foundation, African Dissertation Internship Award. Project: *Urban Livelihood Strategies, Institutional Efficiency and Economic Reform in Ghana*, 1995 – 1996 (\$20,000)

Teaching-Related

- ISU Wakonse Fellow, 2008 Wakonse Conference on College Teaching, May 22-27, 2008. Fellows are either nominated by a colleague or chosen for this honor by the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT) because of their dedication to improving teaching and learning on our ISU campus.
- Memorable Teacher Award, Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, Iowa State University (March, 2007 – Students are asked to nominate inspiring teachers who truly encourage and help them succeed).
- 2007 CRP Graduation Address - Nominated by the 2007 graduating class to give a graduation address at the College of Design Graduation Ceremony, May, 2007
- 2006 Polster Teaching Award Recipient, College of Design, Iowa State University (\$1,000) – Competitive award given to one faculty member in the College of Design each year for teaching excellence, April 2006
- Nominated by the Spring 06 graduating class of the Department of Community and Regional Planning to give a graduation address at the College of Design Graduation Ceremony, May, 2006

Professional

- Advisory Panel member, Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (DDRI), Geography and Spatial Science Program, National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA. 2012-present
- Member, Technical Advisory Panel and Network (TAPNETs) of the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), Harare, Zimbabwe. (2011 – present)
- Distinguished External Reference Group member, *Capacity Development for Natural Resources Management*, African Capacity Building Foundation, Harare, Zimbabwe (2012-13)
- Distinguished External Reference Group member, *Africa Capacity Development for Agricultural transformation and Food Security*, African Capacity Building Foundation, Harare, Zimbabwe (2011-12)
- Distinguished Panelist, roundtable on “Africa Capacity Indicators Report (ACIR) – An Insightful Tool for Mapping Development in Africa” at the 7th Annual Meeting of the ACBF Technical Advisory Panels & Networks (TAP-NETs), Yaoundé, Cameroon, November 21-22, 2011
- Special Issues editor (with B. Ikubolajeh Logan and Ezekiel Kalipeni), *Progress in Development Studies*, (forthcoming) Theme: “Beyond the ‘posts’ in African development discourse: exploring real solutions to Africa’s problems”, (Oversaw blind review of submittals, decided which manuscripts to include in the special issue)
- Distinguished External Reference Group member for the development of *Africa Capacity Development for Agricultural transformation and Food Security*, African Capacity Building Foundation, Harare, Zimbabwe (2011 – 2012)
- Distinguished External Reference Group member for the development of *Africa Capacity Indicators 2011: Capacity Development in Fragile States*, African Capacity Building Foundation, Harare, Zimbabwe (2010 – 2011)
- [Fulbright Specialist Scholar List](#), December 2008-Present.
- Member, International Advisory Board of the Techiman Heritage Trust, Techiman Traditional Council, Techiman, Ghana (2009-present)
- Member, Association of American Geographers International Research and Scholar Exchange Committee, 2007-2008

- Chairperson, (elected position) Africa Specialty Group (a subgroup of the Association of American Geographers with over 250 members), 2005 – 2008
- Member, Board of Directors, (elected position), Economic Geography Specialty Group (a subgroup of the Association of American Geographers with over 800 members), 2005 – 2008
- Member, Student Dissertation and Paper Awards Committee, Economic Geography Specialty Group, 2005 – 2008
- Editorial Board Member, *PlacesOnLine* – an online project of the Association of American Geographers that brings together virtual online publications about "real" places; available at: <http://www.placesOnline.com>, 2002 – present
- Editor for the African Region, *PlacesOnLine* (<http://www.placesOnline.com>), 2002 – present
- Special Topics Editor, issue theme “Opportunities and Challenges for Development in Africa” *GeoJournal: An International Journal of Human Geography and Environmental Sciences* Vol. 62, No.1-2, 2005 (Oversaw blind review of submittals, decided which manuscripts to include in the special issue)
- Keynote speaker, “Empowering Future Generations,” Kenyan Night, organized by the Kenyan Students Association, Iowa State University, November, 2005
- Member, Board of Directors, (elected position), Africa Specialty Group (a subgroup of the Association of American Geographers), 2002 – 2005
- Keynote address, “Development in Africa: Beyond Afro-Pessimism” African Night, organized by the African Students Association, Iowa State University, April, 2004
- Student Director (elected position), Africa Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers, 1996 – 1999

Awards and Fellowships

- Certificate of Commendation from the Governor of Minnesota, Honorable Jesse Ventura for my work in developing the Minnesota Progress Indicator, August, 2000
- Employee of the Month, Minnesota Planning for my work in developing the Minnesota Progress Indicator, March, 2000
- Best Economic Geography Dissertation Award, Economic Geography Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers, 2001
- Best African Geography Student Paper Award, Africa Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers, 1999
- Dissertation Fellowship, Department of Geography, University of Minnesota, 1997
- Summer Fellowship, Department of Geography, University of Minnesota, 1993
- Awarded a Distinction for MA Dissertation, Carleton University, Canada, 1992
- Neil Huckvale Memorial Scholarship, Carleton University, Canada, 1991/92
- Carleton University Graduate Students Scholarship, 1990 – 1992
- United Nations Fellowship, United Nations Regional Institute for Population Studies, Ghana, 1989 – 1990
- Passed with Distinctions in all MA courses, United Nations Regional Institute for Population Studies, Ghana, 1990
- Awarded a Distinction for MA Dissertation, United Nations Regional Institute for Population Studies, Ghana, 1990

Consultations

- Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR), Nairobi, Kenya
- National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA, USA

- Africa Initiative, The Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), Waterloo, ON, Canada,
- World Bank
- African Capacity Building Foundation, Harare, Zimbabwe
- IFO-Institute for Economic Research, Department for Development Studies, University of Munich, Germany

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles – Refereed

- Sseguya, H., Mazur, R. E., Njuki, J. M., & Owusu, F. Y. Determinants of participation and leadership in food security groups in Southeast Uganda: Implications for development programs and policies. *Journal of Rural and Community Development*, 8(1), 77-97, 2013.
- "Implementing a Revenue Authority Model of Tax Administration in Ghana: An Organizational Learning Perspective", (with Frank Ohemeng), *The American Review of Public Administration*, published online 9 May 2013, DOI: 10.1177/0275074013487943
- "The Socioeconomic Determinants of HIV/AIDS Infection Rates in Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland and Zimbabwe" (co-authors Christobel Asiedu and Elizabeth Asiedu), *Development Policy Review*, Vol. 30, No.3 pp305-326, 2012
- "Beyond the 'posts' in African development discourse: exploring real solutions to Africa's problems" (co-authors: B. Ikubolajeh Logan and Ezekiel Kalipeni) *Progress in Development Studies*, Vol 12, No 2&3, pp93-98, 2012
- "Organizational Culture and Public Sector Reforms in a Post-Washington Consensus Era: Lessons from Ghana's 'Good Performers'." *Progress in Development Studies*, vol 12, No 2&3, pp131-151, 2012
- "Young Women's Marital Status and HIV Risk in Sub-Saharan Africa: Evidence from Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe" (co-authors: Christobel Asiedu and Elizabeth Asiedu), *Journal of African Development* Vol. 12 (2), 2010, pp33-46
- "Locational Choices of the Ethanol Industry in the Midwest Corn Belt" (co-authors: Monica Haddad and Gary Taylor) *Economic Development Quarterly* Vol. 24, No.1, 2010, pp74 –86
- "Using PlacesOnLine in Instructional Activities." *Journal of Geography* (co-authors Michael Longan, and Curtis Roseman) Vol. 107 No.1 2008, pp20-26
- "Post-9/11 U.S. Foreign Aid, the Millennium Challenge Account and Africa: How many Birds can one stone kill?" *Africa Today* Vol. 54, No.1, Fall 2007, pp.1-26
- "Conceptualizing Livelihood Strategies in African Cities: Planning and Development Implications of Multiple Livelihood Strategies." *Journal of Planning Education and Research* Vol. 26 No.4 2007, pp450-463
- "Competing Hegemons? Chinese versus American Geo-Economic Strategies in Africa." *Political Geography* Vol. 26 No.5, 2007, pp504-524, (co-author: Pádraig Carmody)
- "On Public Organizations in Ghana: What Differentiates Good Performers from Poor Performers?" *African Development Review* Vol.18 No.3 2006, pp471-485
- "Differences in the performance of Public Organizations in Ghana: Implications for Public Sector Reform Policy" *Development Policy Review* Vol.24 No.6, 2006 pp675-687
- "Livelihood Strategies and Performance of Ghana's Health and Education Sectors: Exploring the Connections" *Public Administration and Development* Vol. 25 No.2, 2005, pp157-174

- “Introduction” *GeoJournal: An International Journal of Human Geography and Environmental Sciences* Vol. 62, No.1-2, pp115-116, 2005 (Special Topics Editor; theme: “Opportunities and Challenges for Development in Africa”)
- "Pragmatism and the Gradual Shift from Dependency to Neoliberalism: The World Bank, African Leaders and Development Policy in Africa" *World Development* Vol.31, No.10, 2003, pp1655-1672
- “Impoverishment and Multiple Modes of Livelihood in Ghana” *The Canadian Geographer* Vol. 45, No.3, Fall, 2001, pp387-403,
- “Industrial Strategy and the State: The Botswana Experience” *Canadian Journal of African Studies* Vol.31, No.2, 1997, pp268-299, (co-author: Abdi Samatar)

Journal Articles – Under Review (Refereed)

- “Implementing Performance-Based Management System in Ghana: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back?” (with Frank Ohemeng)
- “Making Governance Indicators Useful in Poor Countries: A Case for Governance Indicators to Promote Change”

Book Chapters

- “Improving the Effectiveness of the Public Sector in Africa through the Quality of Public Administration”. In Shaw, T., Hanson, K.T. and Kararach, K., (Eds) *Rethinking Development Challenges for Public Policy*. 2012 Palgrave Macmillan, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, United Kingdom (with Frank Ohemeng).
- “Is Increasing Chinese Investment Good for African Development?” In William G. Moseley (ed) *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on African Issues*, Fourth Edition, 2012, McGraw Hill (with Pdraig R. Carmody) **(Note: originally published in the Third Edition in 2009)**
- “Cities of Sub-Sahara Africa” in *Cities of the World: World Regional Urban Development*, (5th Ed), Stantley Brunn, Donglei Zeigler, and Maureen Hays-Mitchell (eds), Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc, 2012 (co-authors: Garth Myers & Angela Gray) **(Note: originally published in the 4th editor with Garth Myers as a co-author)**
- “A expansão da China para a África: interesses e estratégias”. In: Leão, R. P. F.; Pinto, E. C.; Acioly, L. A (eds) *China na nova configuração global: impactos políticos e econômicos*. Brasília: Dinte/Ipea, 2011 (with Pdraig Carmody).
- “Chinese and US Interests in Africa.” In *Globalization in Africa: Recolonization or Renaissance?* Pdraig Carmody, 2010, Lynne Rienner Publishers: Boulder, CO. (with Pdraig R. Carmody)
- “World Bank” in *Encyclopedia of Geography*, Barney Warf (ed), 2010, Sage Publication
- “Livelihoods”. In Kitchin R, Thrift N (eds) *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography*, Vol. 6, 2009, pp. 219–224. Oxford: Elsevier.
- “Discourses on African Development from Dependency to Neoliberalism.” In Malinda Smith, (ed) *Beyond the ‘African Tragedy’ Development and the Global Economy* Aldershot: Ashgate, 2006, Chap 2, pp 25-47

Citations - Popular Press

- “Urban Planning: The Way Forward for Africa’s cities? *Think Africa Press* (online news magazine); part of a special issue on “Population Matters”, September 14 2011
- “Saiba as consequências do 11 de Setembro para a África” *iG* (Brazilian online news magazine); part of a special issue on the impacts of 9/11 on American foreign policy, September 11 2011

Professional Reports

- “Strengths, Challenges, And Opportunities Of Iowa's Local Housing Trust Funds Program” Report Prepared for the Iowa Housing Authority, August 2011 (with Carlton Basmajian, Pierre Fehrnbach, Doug Johnston, and Amy Logan)
- “Iowa Housing Needs Assessment: Local Housing Trust Fund Summary Assessment” Report Prepared for the Iowa Housing Authority, May 2011 (with Carlton Basmajian, Tim Borich, Doug Johnston, and Amy Logan)
- “Iowa Housing Needs Assessment: Demographic Change and Housing Affordability in Iowa”, Report prepared for the Iowa Housing Authority, May 2010 (with Carlton Basmajian, Tim Borich, Doug Johnston, and Amy Logan)
- “Improving the Effectiveness of the Public Sector in Africa through the Quality of Public Administration”. Operations & Thematic Research Studies, Knowledge & Learning Unit, African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), Zimbabwe, 2011 (with Frank Ohemeng)
- “Socio-Economic Implications of Urbanization in Africa”...
- *Increasing Public-Sector Effectiveness by Changing Organizational Culture* Report on workshop on the Effectiveness of Public Organizations, December 3, 2003 Coconut Grove Regency Hotel, Accra, Ghana, 2004. Submitted to the World Bank-Netherlands Governance Knowledge Sharing Program
- *Organizational Culture and the Performance of Public Organizations in Ghana: Learning from “Good Performers”* submitted to the World Bank-Netherlands Governance Knowledge Sharing Program, 2004
- *Smart Signals: Economics for Lasting Progress*. Report prepared for the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources, Sustainable Development Initiative, Minnesota Planning, 1999 (with six co-authors)
- *Small-Scale Manufacturing and Repair Activities in the urban area of Techiman, Ghana*. Prepared for the IFO-Institute for Economic Research, University of Munich, Department of Development Studies, Munich- Germany, 1988 (with seven co-authors)

Invited Book Reviews

- Review of “Tradition, Culture and Development in Africa: Historical Lesson for Modern Development Planning” by Ambe J. Njoh. Ashgate Publishing Limited, Burlington, VT. 2006. *Cultural Geographies* July 2009, Vol.16 No.3, pp419.
- Review of “Looting Africa: The Economics of Exploitation” by Bond, Patrick. 2006. Scottsville: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press, 2006 *Africa Today*, Jun 2008, Vol. 54, No. 4: 88–91.
- Review of “Labour and Globalization: Results and Prospects”, by R. Munck (Ed), Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2004. *Regional Studies* Vol.39, No.7 pp1003-1004, 2005
- Review of “Rough Waters: Nature and Development in an East African Marine Park”, by Christine J. Walley, Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2004. *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries* Vol. 42, No.1, 2005
- Review of “Making services work for poor people. World Development Report 2004”, by The World Bank. World Bank/Oxford, 2003. *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries* Vol. 41 No. 9, 2004
- Review of “Verandahs of Power: Colonialism and Space in Urban Africa”, by Garth Andrew Myers. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2003. *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries* Vol.41, No.10, 2003
- Review of “Social Problems in Africa: New Visions”, Apollo Rwomire (Ed), Westport, Connecticut: Praeger, 2001. *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries* Vol.39, No.8, 2002

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Invited Lectures and Presentations

- Guest speaker: “Capacity for Natural Resource Management in Africa: The Role of Africa Diaspora” presentation at the 2012 Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series, (theme: Strategies For Engaging the Diaspora in Capacity Development in Africa) organized by the Constituency for Africa (CFA) and the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Annual Legislative Conference, September 17-24, 2012, Washington, D.C.
- Keynote Address, “You are the hope: The Youth in Africa’s Development” Africa Students Association, Iowa State University, April 14th 2012
- Guest speaker, “US-China-Africa Relationship: New Scramble for Africa?” On Common Ground Conference, organized by the Forum For American/Chinese Exchange at Stanford (FACES), Stanford University, April 12-16, 2010
- Guest speaker, “Christian Faith and International Development in Practice: How US Christians can help achieve the Millennium Development Goals?” Part of Christian Faith and International Development in Practice series, Collegiate Presbyterian Church, Ames, May 2, 2010
- Guest speaker, “Deepening Democracy in Ghana: Some Observations from the 2008 Elections” presentation at 52nd Anniversary of Ghana’s Independence, Ghana Association of Iowa, March, 2009, Des Moines, IA
- Guest speaker, "Planning for Changing Livelihood Strategies in African Cities: Challenges and Opportunities" Cities in Africa seminar series, Kansas African Studies Center, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, March 15, 2007
- Guest speaker, “Recounting Ghana's independence from British colonialism” presentation at a symposium on “Celebrating 50 years as a beacon of Hope in Africa” Ghana Association of Iowa, March, 2007, Des Moines, IA
- Guest speaker, “The African Woman in Perspective” Presentation at the 3rd Annual Umoja Conference, organized by the Grinnell College African Students Union, Grinnell College, April, 2006
- Guest Speaker, "Measuring what counts for a Healthy Economy in Minnesota" Presentation at the Graduate Program in Sustainable Agriculture Research Forum, Iowa State University, March, 2006
- Guest Speaker, "The World Bank, African Leaders and Development Policy in Africa" Presentation at International Seminar, Graduate Program in Urban and Regional Planning, University of Iowa, February, 2006
- Keynote speaker, “Empowering Future Generations,” Kenyan Night, organized by the Kenyan Students Association, Iowa State University, November, 2005
- Guest Speaker, “Iowa in Ghana: Dr. Michael Warren and the Bono – Techiman of Ghana” Presentation at the Octagon Center for the Arts, Ames, as part of Iowa in Ghana Exhibition, August, 2005.
- Guest Speaker, “Changing Realities, Static Theories, and Conceptual Dead-Ends: Theoretical and Development Implications of Changing Livelihood Strategies in African Cities.” Seminar honoring the retirement of Professor Michael McNulty, organized by the Department of Geography and African Studies Program, University of Iowa, IA, April, 2005
- Guest Speaker, “A Ghanaian Perspective on Slavery and Slave Trade” at the African American Historical & Cultural Museum, Waterloo, IA, April, 2005
- Guest Speaker, "Attacking Terrorism at its Roots? U.S. Millennium Challenge Account and Poverty Reduction in Africa" African Studies Colloquia, Iowa State University, IA, February, 2005
- Guest speaker, “Events and Things we’d rather forget: A Ghanaian Perspective on Slavery and Slave Trade” at the African American Historical Museum & Cultural Center of Iowa (AAHMCCI), Cedar Rapids, IA, November, 2004

- Keynote address, “Development in Africa: Beyond Afro-Pessimism” African Night, organized by the African Students Association, Iowa State University, April, 2004
- Guest Speaker, “The International Community and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD): Pragmatism or Post-9/11 Reality?” Presentation at the Department of Geography Seminar Series, Miami University, Ohio, January, 2004
- Speaker, “Organizational Culture and Performance of Public Organizations in Ghana: Some Preliminary Findings” presentation at the Workshop on Public Sector Effectiveness, Accra, Ghana, December, 2003
- “Economic Development Issues in Africa” Presentation at the African Studies Colloquia, Iowa State University, IA, October, 2003
- “Geography and (under)development: Africans as Prisoners of Geography?” Presentation at the Fall 2003 College for Seniors course on African Mosaic, Iowa State University, September, 2003
- Guest speaker, “Livelihood Strategies and Public Organizations in Ghana” Catholic University of Ghana, Ghana, July, 2003
- Speaker, “Adventures in Planning: Doing Development in Africa” Department of Community & Regional Planning Coffee Talk, Iowa State University, IA, March, 2003
- Guest speaker, “What United States citizenship means to me” Naturalization Ceremony, Iowa Federal Court, Des Moines, September, 2002
- Guest speaker, “Globalization: What on Earth is it about?” Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ames, February, 2002
- Guest speaker, “Development of Community Indicators for Council Bluffs” Community Enhancement Committee of the Iowa West Foundation, December, 2001
- Guest speaker, “How Ghana’s Public Health Employees make a Living and Why it Leads to Low Productivity” Forum on Health and Human Rights in Africa organized by the Program on Africa, University of Washington, WA, December, 2000
- Speaker “Social and Economic Impacts of Structural Adjustment in Africa” at the Department of Geography Coffee hour Series, University of Minnesota, MN, April, 1997

Peer-Reviewed Lectures and Presentations

- “Building a Developmental Public Sector for Development in Sub-Sahara Africa” International Congress of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS), Merida, Mexico, June 18-22 2012(with Frank Ohemeng)
- “Where Private Sector Solutions are not enough: The Case for a Developmental Public Sector in Sub-Saharan Africa” XVI Annual Conference of the International Research Society for Public Management (IRSPM), Rome, Italy, 11-13 April, 2012 (With Frank Ohemeng)
- “Globalization and African development: Challenging the hegemonic marginalization narrative” Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, February 2012, New York.
- “Harnessing the Benefits of State Housing Trust Funds: Understanding the Role of Local Administrators in Meeting Affordable Housing Needs in Iowa” Annual conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP), Salt Lake City, Utah, October 2011, (with Carlton Basmajian)
- “Does Marriage Increase the Risk of HIV/AIDS for Young Women? Evidence from Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Las Vegas, August 2011, (with Christobel Asiedu and Elizabeth Asiedu)
- “The Politics of Tax Administration Reforms in Developing Countries: A Critical Examination of the Ghanaian Case” Annual meeting of the International Research Society for Public Management,

(IRSPM), Dublin, Ireland, 11th – 13th April, 2011, Panel Track on The Politics and Governance of Public Services in Developing Countries (with Frank Ohemeng)

- “Implementing Performance-Based Management System in Ghana: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back?” Annual meeting of the International Research Society for Public Management, (IRSPM), Dublin, Ireland, 11th – 13th April, 2011, Panel Track on The Praxis of Performance Management in Public Services (with Frank Ohemeng)
- “Making Governance Indicators Useful in Poor Countries: A Case for Governance Indicators to Promote Change” Annual conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP), October 6-9, 2010 Minneapolis, MN
- “Post-Washington Consensus & Developmental Public Service: Organizational Culture as a Framework for Public Sector Reform in Africa” Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Las Vegas, Nevada, March, 2009
- “Effects of HIV/AIDS on Poverty in Sub-Saharan African Cities” 51st Annual Meeting of the Africa Studies Association in Chicago, IL, November 13-16, 2008
- “Why Do Ethanol Plants Locate Where They Do? Locational Choices of Ethanol Refineries in the American Midwest” (Monica Haddad and Gary Taylor) Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Boston, Massachusetts, April 15-19, 2008
- “Neoliberalism and the Changing Nature of Formal Sector Work in Urban Ghana” Annual conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP), October 18-21 2007 Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- “Rethinking Public Sector Reforms in Ghana: The case for Greater Empiricism and Understanding of Organizational Cultures” Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Chicago, Illinois, March, 2006
- “Competing Hegemons: American versus Chinese Geo-economic Strategies in Africa” Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Chicago, Illinois, March, 2006 (with Pádraig Carmody)
- “Geography and Public Sector Reforms in Ghana: The case for Greater Empiricism in Policy Design” Presentation at 57th Annual Meeting of the West Lakes Division of the Association of American Geographers and the International Geographical Union’s Commission on Geography and Public Policy, University of Iowa, Iowa City, November, 2005
- “Planning for Changing Livelihood Strategies in African Cities” Presentation at the 46th Annual Conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Kansas City, MO, October, 2005
- “Organizational Culture, Performance and Public Sector Reforms in Africa: The Ghanaian Case” Presentation at the “International Conference on Shared Growth in Africa” organized by Institute for Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) of the University of Ghana, Cornell University, World Bank, United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Accra, Ghana, July, 2005
- “Multiple Livelihood Strategies in African Cities: Implications for Planning and Development” Presentation at the 101st Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Denver, April, 2005
- “Organizational Culture and the Performance of Public Organizations in Ghana: Learning from “Good Performers” Presented at the 45th Annual Conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Portland, Oregon, October, 2004
- “Student Learning Outcomes Assessment in the Planning Curriculum” Presented at the 45th Annual Conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Portland, Oregon, October, 2004 (with 4 others)

- “Falling through the cracks? Poverty Reduction in Africa and the US War on Terrorism” Presented at the 100th Annual Meeting of Association of American Geographers, Philadelphia, PA, March, 2004
- “The International Community and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD): Pragmatism or Post-9/11 Reality?” Presented at the 99th annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers, New Orleans, LA, March, 2003
- “Livelihood Strategies & Public Institutions: Explaining the poor performance of Schools and hospitals in Ghana” Presented at the 98th Annual Meeting of Association of American Geographers, Los Angeles, CA, March, 2002
- “Structural Adjustment, Urban Impoverishment and Multiple Modes of Livelihood in Ghana” Presented at the 95th Annual Meeting of Association of American Geographers, Honolulu, Hawaii, March, 1999
- “Structural Adjustment, Urban Livelihood and Service Provision in Ghana” Presented at the MacArthur Consortium on International Peace and Cooperation, Spring Symposium entitled “The Challenge of Urban Sustainability”, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, May, 1998
- “States and Industrial Development: The case of Botswana” Presented at the 94th Annual Meeting of Association of American Geographers, Boston, MA, March, 1998 (with Abdi Samatar)
- “Ghana’s Structural Adjustment and the Burden of Survival” Presented at the 93rd Annual Meeting of Association of American Geographers, Fort Worth, TX, April, 1997
- “Liberal Democracy versus Social Justice in Botswana: A Model for Africa?” Presented at the 91st Annual Meeting of Association of American Geographers, Chicago, IL, March, 1995 (with Abdi Samatar)
- “Unequal Regional Development in Ghana: The Root Causes and their Implications for Current Development Policies” Presented at the 90th Annual Meeting of Association of American Geographers, San Francisco, CA, March/April, 1994
- “Spatial Implications of Ghana's Structural Adjustment Program” Presented at the 21st Annual Canadian Association of African Studies Conference, University of Quebec, Montreal Canada, May, 1992
- "Migration and Regional Development in Africa: Evidence from the Brong Ahafo Region of Ghana" Presented at 1991 Annual Meeting and 40th Anniversary of the Canadian Association of Geographers, Queens University, Kingston, Canada, June, 1991 (with Joseph Mensah)
- “Migration and Agricultural Production in Ghana: Evidence from Brong Ahafo Region” Presented at the 20th Annual Canadian Association of African Studies Conference, Toronto, Canada, May, 1991

Other Conference Activities

- Co-organizer, panel on “Rethinking Public Sector Reforms in Democratic Developmental States” International Congress of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS), Merida, Mexico, June 18-22, 2012 (with Frank Ohemeng)
- Participant, 2012 Africa Capacity Indicators Report (ACIR) Launch & Panel Discussion, World Bank, Washington, DC, USA, May 17th 2012
- Chaired a session on “ACIR Design and Roll-Out (Strategy, Field Surveys & Data Collection)” & served as a panelist on a session on Crystalizing Vision, Intention and Creating Strategic Scenarios (In-depth Discussion on Draft 2012 ACIR Report, Next Steps and Way Forward), 2012 ACIR Validation Workshop, Tunis, Tunisia, 19-20th January 2012
- Panelist, “Overview of the 2012 ACIR” at the 2012 Africa Capacity Indicators Report (ACIR) Book Launch And Round Table Discussion, London, United Kingdom April 3, 2012
- Co-organizer & chair, session on “New Geographies of African Development” Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, February 2012, New York (with Padraig Carmody)

- “Globalization and Africa’s Development” Nordic African Institute, Uppsala, Sweden, Jan 17th 2012
- Chair, Kwadwo Konadu Agyemang Distinguished Scholar Award Committee, African Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers, 2012
- Faculty Expert, World Food Prize Youth Institute, Pioneer Carver Center, Oct. 18th 2011, Des Moines
- Co-organizer, “The Challenge of Global Aging” Heartland Global Health Consortium (HGHC) 3rd Annual Conference, October 12, 2011, Des Moines University, Des Moines
- Conference Organizer, “Influence of Agriculture on Global Health” Heartland Global Health Consortium (HGHC) 2nd Annual Conference, October 13, 2010, Des Moines University, Des Moines
- Discussant, session on “Planning, Housing and Urban Livelihoods” Annual conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP), October 6-9, 2010 Minneapolis, MN
- Co-organizer and Chair, three sessions on “Beyond the “Post” and Revisionist Discourses in African Development: Exploring Real Solutions to Africa’s Problems” Annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Las Vegas, Nevada, March, 2009
- Participant, Biofuels and the Rural Economy Roundtable, Town/Craft ISU Extension, Perry, IA, May 2008.
- Program Organizer, “Poverty, Food Security, Health, Education & Governance in Africa – Conversations with African Ambassadors and Leaders”, Iowa State University, October 17, 2007;
- Session Organizer, “Urban Work/Labour: The Politics and Ethics of the Changing Development Debate”, Annual conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning ACSP, October 18-2, 2007 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Poster, “Geographic Analysis of Foreclosure Trends and Patterns in a Small Town America” (with Abigail Amissah-Arthur and Brittany Ryhal of Slippery Rock University) Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Boston, Massachusetts, April 15-19, 2008;
- Panel Organizer and Panelist, “Opportunities, Expectations and Challenges of Organizing Trans-Atlantic Conferences and Workshops in Africa”, Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Boston, Massachusetts, April 15-19, 2008
- Session Organizer and Chair, “Africa’s Economic Recovery: Opportunities and Challenges: In Memory of Professor Konadu-Agyemang”, Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Boston, Massachusetts, April 15-19, 2008
- Discussant, paper session on “Religion in Transnational Migration and Development” Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, April 17-21 2007, San Francisco, CA
- Panelist, “Global Climatic Change and its impact on Africa” part of the 2007 Pesek Colloquium for Sustainable Agriculture, organized by the Wallace Chair for Sustainable Agriculture, on February 28, 2007 at Iowa State University
- Panelist, “How to Spend \$50 Billion to Make the World a Better Place” World Affairs Series, University Lectures Program on November 13, 2006
- Panelist, “One Foot In: Geographers Working in Other Disciplines: Interdisciplinary Methodologies and Applications” Panel discussion at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Chicago, Illinois, March, 2006
- Organizer and Chair, session on “Changing Livelihoods in Africa: Development and Planning Implications” at the 101st Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Denver, April, 2005
- Co-organizer, session on “Africa in the Post-911 World” at the 100th annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Philadelphia, PA, March, 2004
- Co-organizer, four sessions on “Africa’s Development in the 21st Century: Pertinent issues, Opportunities and Challenges” at the 99th annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers, New Orleans, LA, March, 2003

- Chair, session on “Homelessness and Planning in a Comparative Perspective: India, Africa and the East in a Historical and Contemporary Approach” at the 98th Annual Meeting of Association of American Geographers, Los Angeles, CA, March, 2002
- Co-Organizer, two sessions on “Economic Reform and Change in Africa and Latin America” at the 95th Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Honolulu, Hawaii, March, 1999
- Co-Organizer, session on “Global Restructuring and the Third World” at the 94th Annual Meeting of Association of American Geographers, Boston, MA, March, 1998
- Co-Organizer, session on “Social and Economic impacts of Structural Adjustment Programs in Africa” at the 93rd Annual Meeting of Association of American Geographers, Fort Worth, TX, April, 1997
- Panelist “Religion and Politics Today” Panel discussion at the Conference on “Africa toward the 21st Century: Developing with our Soul” Minneapolis, MN, March, 1995

Professional Affiliations

- Member, American Planning Association
- Member, Association of American Geographers
- Member, Heartland Global Health Consortium, Des Moines University
- Member, Planners of Color Interest Group (POCIG)
- Member, African Studies Association
- Member, Canadian Association of Geographers

Refereeing Activities

External Reviewer for Appointment, Tenure & Promotion

- University of Ghana Business School, Department of Public Administration and Health Services Management
- Howard University, Department of History & Geography
- University of Ghana, Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER)

Grant Proposals Reviewed (selected)

- Seed Grants for Collaborative Work, Center for Excellence in the Arts and the Humanities (CEAH), Iowa State University, 2010
- National Science Foundation, Geography & Regional Science Program, 2006, 2010, 2011
- Faculty Senate Grant for Research and Scholarship, West Virginia University, 2004
- Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program, University of Illinois and Purdue University, Spring, 2004
- Faculty Research Incentive Grant, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, 2003
- Faculty Research Incentive Grant, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, 2002

Journals (selected)

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| • Africa Geographic Review (AGR) | • Africa Today |
| • African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition, and Development (AJFAND) | • International Migration |
| • African Studies Quarterly | • Journal of Environmental Management |
| • African Studies Review | • Journal of Planning Education and Research (JPER) |
| • Environment and Planning A | • Journal of Third World Studies |
| • Geoforum | • Professional Geographer |
| • Geojournal: An International Journal on Human Geography | • Reviewed 3 background papers for the 2012 Africa Capacity Indicator Report (ACIR) |

- Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography
- Societies Without Borders
- The Canadian Geographer
- The Geographical Journal
- The Social Science Journal
- Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers

SERVICE AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY (ISU)

University

- Member, Provost Budgetary Advisory Committee, 2012-present
- Member, Be a Magnet For Students Task Force, a subcommittee of the ISU Strategic Planning Committee, Fall 2009
- Contact Person, ISU's Memorandum of Understanding with University of Ghana, Legon, 2007-present.
- Steering Committee Member, African & African-American Studies Program, 2007-present.
- Senator, CRP representative to the Faculty Senate, 2007-2010.
- Member, Faculty Development & Administrative Council, Faculty Senate, 2007-2010.
- College of Design Representative, Coordinating Committee of the Graduate Program in Sustainable Agriculture (GPSA), 2006-present.
- Member, Admissions committee, GPSA, 2003-2008.
- Faculty Advisor, Nigerian Students Association, 2007-2010.
- Member, African Studies Advisory Committee, 2003-present.
- Faculty Advisor, African Students Association, 2006-2008.

Collegiate (College of Design)

- Member, College of Design Promotion and Tenure Council
- Review Committee Member, Pickard/Chilton Professorship, Architecture Department, 2011.
- Coordinator, New Faculty Mentoring Program, College of Design, 2010-present.
- Member, College of Design Caucus, 2007-2010.
- Member, Diversity Committee, 2004-2009.
- Member, Envisioning II Committee, 2004-2008.
- Member, International Programs Committee, 2002-2005.
- Member, Academic Affairs Committee, 2002-2005.
- Member, Dean's Lecture Series Committee, 2001-2002.
- Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Shared Foundations, 2001.

Departmental (Community & Regional Planning – CRP)

- Chair, CRP Chair Review Committee, 2012
- Chair, CRP Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2012 - Present
- Chair, CRP Faculty Search Committee, 2010-2011.
- Director of Graduate Education (DOGE), 2008-present.
- Chair, Student Admissions and Awards Committee (SAAC), 2008-present.
- Member, CRP Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2007-2012.
- Member, GIS Graduate Certificate Program Committee, 2002-present.
- Member, CRP Post-Tenure Review Committee, Spring 2009.
- Chair, CRP Faculty Search Committee, 2007-2008.
- Member, CRP Curriculum Committee, 2005-2010.

- Faculty Advisor, CRP Graduate Students Club, 2005-2008.
- Member, CRP/LA Academic Advisor Search Committee, 2006.
- Member, CRP PhD Exploratory Committee, 2005-2006.
- Chair, CRP Curriculum Committee, 2002-2005.
- Faculty Advisor, CRP Undergraduate Students Club, 2002-2005.
- Member, the search for three (3) faculty positions, 2005.
- Member, CRP/Landscape Architecture Shared Leadership Review, 2003-2004.
- Member, CRP/LA Academic Advisor Search Committee, 2004.
- Member, Urban Design Faculty Search Committee, 2004.
- Member, GIS Faculty Search Committee, 2003.