

Sebastian Paolo Angzoorokuu

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About Sebastian Paolo

Sebastian Paolo is a scholar and development practitioner from Ghana. He is currently pursuing a PhD in the School of Political Science and International Studies, University of Queensland (Australia). Sebastian's thesis focuses on the discourses and practices of 'local ownership' in peacebuilding, and, how the framing and operation of local ownership affects local capacity-building and transforms relational dynamics among actors and institutions, and how these affect sustainable peace. Sebastian's research experience, expertise and publications cut across politics of development, peace and conflict studies, and governance, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa. He holds an MSc. in African Studies from Oxford University (UK) and an MSc. in Governance and Development from University of Antwerp (Belgium). Sebastian has also worked with various organizations including VSO-UK (London), YouthLED Africa (YOLA), as well as served as an academic researcher in the Universities both in Ghana and abroad.

Education and Qualifications

- 2019-2021 PhD, Political Science and International Studies, University of Queensland, Australia
Specializing in African politics and governance, democratization, peace and conflict.
Dissertation title: Local Ownership, NGOs and Peacebuilding in Africa: A Comparative Study of Sierra Leone and Ghana
- 2016-2017 MSc. African Studies, University of Oxford, UK
Specialized in African politics, governance, peace and conflict
Thesis title: More Laws Less Peace: The Politics of Managing Farmer-Herder Conflicts in Ghana
- 2015-2016 MSc. Governance & Development, University of Antwerp, Belgium
Specialized in Governance and Conflict
Dissertation title: Political party youth wings and political violence in sub-Saharan Africa: A case of Ghana
- 2008-2012 BA Hons. History, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana
Specialized in African history & politics, World history and International relations

Academic research and teaching experience

- 2019-2021 PhD researcher and course tutor, School of Political Science and International Studies, University of Queensland, Australia
- 2016-2017 Steering committee member, Oxford Network for Peace (Oxpeace)
- Part of team of Oxford scholars which conducted research and organized conferences on global peace and security, as well as advocated for the establishment of a centre for peace studies in Oxford University
- 2012-2013 Research and Teaching Assistant, Department of History and Political Science, KNUST, Kumasi
- Organized tutorials in African history and politics for 200+ bachelor's students
 - Organized tutorials in history and politics of Ghana for 200+ bachelor's of law students, Law faculty-KNUST
 - Assisted lecturers at lectures, in research, organized conferences and marked scripts
- 2013-2015 Researcher, teacher and administrator, Birifoh Senior High School (Ghana Education Service-GES), Lawra, Ghana
- Introduced and taught African History to classes of 100+ SHS students
 - Taught social studies to classes of 100+ recording the highest percentage of subjects passed in WASSCE, 2014
 - Served with unanimous commendation as PTA secretary (2013-2015)
 - Served with distinction as Head of General Arts Department (2014-2015)
 - Introduced innovation and expansion in the school as entertainment master (2014-2015)
 - Served with unanimous commendation as staff secretary

Selected conferences and seminars attended

- Co-convener, and roundtable discussant University of Queensland School of Political Science and International Studies and African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) collaborated seminar, 'Political Violence in Africa: The Role of Political Parties', 29 October 2019, POLSIS, UQ, Australia
- Co-convener and discussant Oxford Network for Peace (Oxpeace) Ninth Annual Conference —*Positive Peace: Concepts and Practice*, 6 May 2017, St John's College, Oxford University, UK
- Presenter and discussant Oxford University *Research-in-Progress Colloquium*, presented a paper: 'Dangerous Mentorship? Assessing the relationship between Political Party Youth Wings and Political Violence in Sub-Sahara Africa: A Case of Ghana', 17 November 2016, St. Antony's college, Oxford University, UK

Co-convener and facilitator 2nd biennial Kwame Nkrumah International Conference (KNIC2): *Africa's Many Divides and Africa's Future*, by KNUST, Kwantlen Polytechnic University (Canada) and African Studies Association, 21-24 September 2012, KNUST, Kumasi

Publications

Paalo, S. A. (2020). The politics of addressing farmer-herder conflicts in Ghana. *Peacebuilding*, 1-21.

Ashaba, I. M., Paalo, S. A. and Adu-Gyamfi, S. (2019). State Fragility, Regime Survival and Spoilers in South Sudan, *Kervan-Journal of Afro-Asiatic Studies*, 23(1), 77-99.

Boafo, J., Paalo, S. A. and Dotse, S. (2019). Institutional Dynamics of Chinese-Locals Illegal Mining in Ghana, *Journal of Sustainability*, 11, 1-18.

Paalo, S.A. and Gyampo, R.E.V. (2019). Campus Politics and Intra-Party Vote Buying in Ghana: How Political Mentorship Could Destruct. *Journal of Student Affairs in Africa*, 7(2), 51-64.

Paalo. S. A. (forthcoming). (Re) asserting traditional African peace practices in Hybrid Orders: A Holistic Examination of the Local-International Co-Existence, *African Conflict & Peacebuilding Review*.

Paalo, S. A. and Issifu, A. K. (forthcoming). De-internationalizing Hybrid Peace: State-Traditional Authority Collaboration and Conflict Resolution in Northern Ghana, *Journal of Intervention and State-building*.

Paalo, S. A. (2017). Political party youth wings and political violence in sub-Saharan Africa: A case of Ghana, *International Journal of Peace and Development Studies*, 8(1), 1-14.

Selected research grants and scholarship awards (2009-2017)

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| 2020 | International Peace Research Association (IPRA) Foundation Grant for field research in Ghana and Sierra Leone |
| 2019-2021 | University of Queensland Graduate School Scholarship, PhD (Political Science and International Studies) |
| 2016-2017 | Oxford-Mitsui full graduate scholarship for top two MSc. applicants from Africa- University of Oxford |
| 2017 | Patrick Duncan graduate research grant for top two applicants from MSc. African Studies-University of Oxford |
| 2015-2016 | Ghana Education Trustfund (GETfund) graduate scholarship for brilliant but needy students from Ghana (MSc. Governance and Development, University of Antwerp-Belgium) |
| 2011 | Social Sciences Faculty scholarships for brilliant but needy undergraduate students-KNUST, Ghana |
| 2009 | Kingdom Books and Stationary scholarship for brilliant but needy undergraduate students-KNUST, Ghana |

2009-2012 Catholic Church hardship fund and food supplies for brilliant but needy students-KNUST, Ghana

Selected industry and policy-based experience

- 2018- 2020 Policy, Networks and Partnerships Coordinator, YouthLED Africa (YOLA).
- Coordinated the policy advocacy desk of YOLA
 - Created network of young people, both vulnerable youth and young achievers so that they benefit from YOLA programming
 - Established and sustained YOLA partnerships including donors, professionals and collaborators
 - Organized YOLA clubs interested in youth-related research to explore opportunities for their contributions in ongoing research works
 - Led the development of YOLA's 'Club Development Plan (CDP)' and is being implemented.
 - Led and coordinate activities and actions of Regional Coordinators
 - Ensured that all Regional Coordinators develop action plans and are implementing and reporting on their plans etc.
- 2017 Volunteers' Trainer and Facilitator, Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO-London)
- Trained VSO 100+ international volunteers
 - Facilitated conferences and events for VSO-UK
- 2017 Assistant team leader, Oxfordshire County Council National Citizen Service (NCS)
- Led teams of young people to carry out social action programs, targeting three crucial pillars of social cohesion, civic engagement and social mobility
- 2017 Student consultant, Oxford Student Consultancy Team
- Consulted for businesses, NGOs and the public sector

References

Morgan Brigg, Senior Lecturer, School of Political Science and International Studies, The University of Queensland, Australia, m.brigg@uq.edu.au, +61428138196

Dr Samuel Adu-Gyamfi, Senior Lecturer and Head of Department, Department of History and Political Science, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi-Ghana, mcygamfi@yahoo.com, +233245055028

Dr Dominic DeGraft Arthur, Senior Lecturer, Political Science, University for Development Studies (UDS), Wa campus, darthur@uds.edu.gh, +233554499381

Dr Ali Nyaaba Yakubu, Lecturer, Department of History and Political Science, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi-Ghana, ayimbi@yahoo.co.uk, +233243921278