

## **Sebastian Paolo**

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**About Sebastian Paolo:** Sebastian Paolo is finalizing his PhD research with the School of Political Science and International Studies (POLISIS), University of Queensland (Australia). He holds two Master of Science degrees from Oxford University (UK) and University of Antwerp (Belgium). Sebastian has also worked with various organizations including VSO-UK (London), YouthLEAD Africa (YOLA), as well as served as an academic researcher and tutor in the Universities both in Ghana and abroad.

### **Education and Qualifications**

- 2019-2021 PhD (thesis analysis stage), 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 cross-sectional study of conflict-affected zones in 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, Peace 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
- Research and presentation for my PhD thesis
  - Assist with department's research and teaching
  - Partake in organizing conferences and seminars in the department
- 2020/2021 Research Fellow, Department of History and Political Studies, KNUST, Kumasi, Ghana
- Partake in joint research and publications with senior members in the department
  - Organize and/or present in conferences connected to the department
  - Partake in joint projects with senior members of the department and other collaborators
- 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

### **Publications**

- Paalo, S. A. (2021). (Re) asserting traditional African peace practices in Hybrid Orders: A Holistic Examination of the Local-International Co-Existence, *African Conflict & Peacebuilding Review*, 11(1).
- Paalo, S. A. and Issifu, A. K. (2021). De-internationalizing Hybrid Peace: State-Traditional Authority Collaboration and Conflict Resolution in Northern Ghana, *Journal of Intervention and State-building*.
- 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. (2017). Political party youth wings and political violence in sub-Sahara Africa: A case of Ghana, *International Journal of Peace and Development Studies*, 8(1), 1-14.
- Paalo, S. A. and Penu, D. A. K. (Accepted). Institutions and pastoralist conflicts in Africa: A conceptual Framework, *Journal of Peacebuilding & Development*.
- Issifu, A. K., Paalo, S. A. and Arthur, D. D. (under review) Assessing a Concurrent Application of Peacekeeping and Reconciliation as Conflict Resolution Instruments for Durable Peace, *Global Change, Peace & Security*.
- Paalo, S. A., Adu-Gyamfi, S. and Arthur, D. D. (under review). Nationalism, separatism and the pursuit of international peace: A comparative study of nationalist movements in Africa and Europe, *Journal of Nationalism, Memory & Language Politics*.
- Paalo, S. A. (under review). The NGO-local ownership nexus in peacebuilding: Establishing an enhanced understanding of 'the local'? *Conflict, Security and Development*.
- Diawuo, F. D., Issifu, A. K., and Paalo, S. A. (under review). Climate Change, Migration and Farmer-Herder Conflict in Ghana, *Conflict Resolution Quarterly*.
- Adu-Gyamfi, S. and Paalo, S. A. (under review). How colonialism promotes and weakens secessionism in Africa: A case of the Western Togoland independence movement in Ghana, *Journal of Borderlands Studies*.

## **Newspaper Articles**

Boafo, J., Paalo, S. A. and Dotse, S. (2019). “Ghana’s traditional and state powers must collaborate to halt illegal mining”, *The Conversation*, 12 November 2019. <https://theconversation.com/ghanas-traditional-and-state-powers-must-collaborate-to-halt-illegal-mining-126072>.

## **Peer review experience**

I review manuscripts for publication in:

- *African security review journal*
- *Journal of student affairs in Africa*
- *Cogent Arts & Humanities*
- *Peace and development studies*

## **Selected conferences and seminars attended**

**Presenter:** *Peace and Conflict Studies Journal Conference*, theme: “unilateralism, nationalism and globalism—the ‘isms’ these schisms create.” Paper to be presented: “Nationalism, separatism and the pursuit of international peace: A comparative study of nationalist movements in Africa and Europe”, 10 February 2021, Nova Southeastern University, Florida, United States.

**Co-convener, and discussant:** *University of Queensland School of Political Science and International Studies and African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) collaborated seminar*. Theme: ‘Political Violence in Africa: The Role of Political Parties’, 29 October 2019, POLSIS, UQ, Australia.

**Presenter and discussant:** *Oxford University Research Colloquium*. 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 discussant:** *Oxford Network for Peace (Oxpeace) Ninth Annual Conference*. Theme: ‘Positive Peace: Concepts and Practice’, 6 May 2017, St John’s College, Oxford University, UK.

**Co-convener and facilitator:** *2nd Biennial Kwame Nkrumah International Conference (KNIC2)*. Theme: ‘Africa’s Many Divides and Africa’s Future’, KNUST in collaboration with Kwantlen Polytechnic University (Canada) and African Studies Association, 21-24 September 2012, KNUST, Kumasi.

## **Selected research grants and scholarship awards (2009-2017)**

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, YouthLEAD 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](mailto: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, [meygamfi@yahoo.com](mailto:meygamfi@yahoo.com), +233245055028

Dr. Bert Ingelaere, Institute of Development Policy and Management, Lange Sint-Anna Straat 7, BE-2000, University of Antwerp- Belgium, [bert.ingelaere@uantwerpen.be](mailto:bert.ingelaere@uantwerpen.be), +32485576069

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