



THE LAW, HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



THIS ISSUE

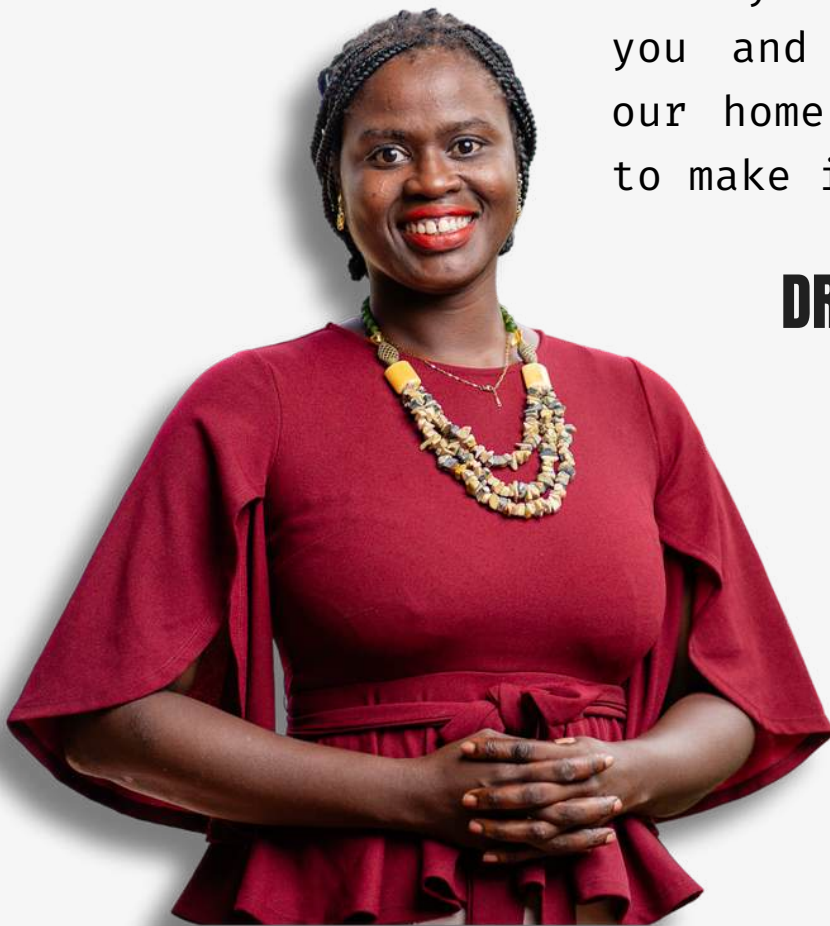
- Message from Dr. Mensa-Bonsu
- Meet the Law & HSS Team
- Department News
- Department Events
- Publications



HALLO!

We are very excited about our newsletter! We hope it will become a source of information, help us know each other and build stronger bonds. If you have any news, big or small, please don't hesitate to share. We look forward to sharing news of your achievements, adventures, and new chapters.

I'd like to say a special thank you to our newsletter editor, Prince Acquaye. Thank you for your effort and commitment. I look forward to getting to know my team better through the sharing in this newsletter. I encourage us all to open up and allow us to cheer you on, clap for you, celebrate you, commiserate with you, wish you well, be inspired by you and inspire you. HSS is our home; let's work together to make it feel cosy. **Cheers!**



DR. MAAME MENSA-BONSU

Head of Law, Humanities &
Social Sciences.



DEAR ASHESI COMMUNITY

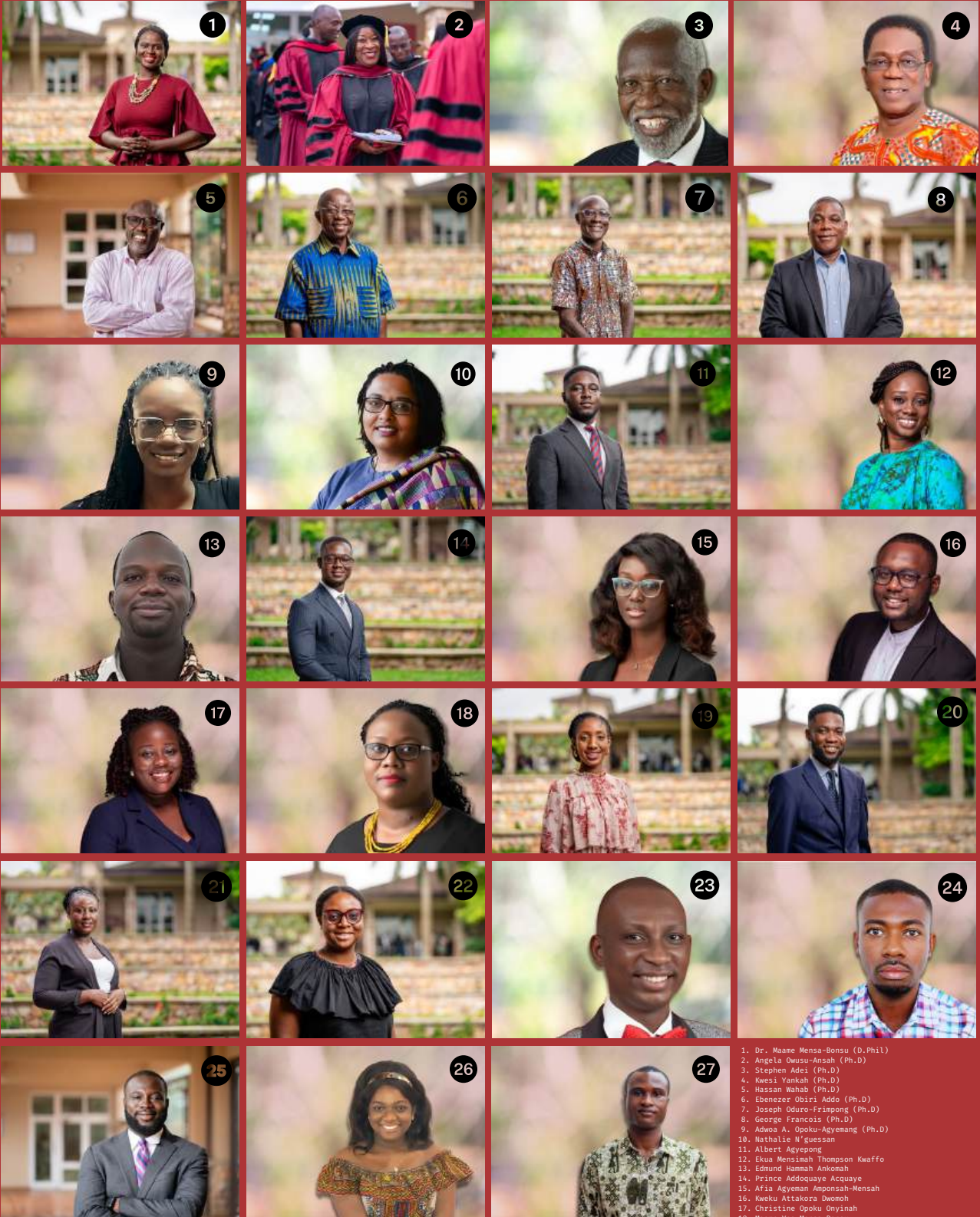
Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Law, Humanities, and Social Sciences Department Newsletter! I am thrilled to introduce this first edition, marking the beginning of what we hope will become a cherished tradition here at Ashesi. This newsletter is designed with one goal in mind: to keep our community informed and engaged with the vibrant life of our department. We aim to highlight the remarkable achievements of our students, faculty, and staff while keeping everyone in the loop about upcoming events, new initiatives, and collaborative opportunities. Thank you for being part of this journey with us. We're excited to have you on board and look forward to many more publications that capture the heart and soul of the Law, Humanities, and Social Sciences department.



PRINCE ADDOQUAYE ACQUAYE

Editor-in-Chief

MEET THE LAW & HSS TEAM



1. Dr. Maame Mensa-Bonsu (D.Phil.)
2. Angela Owusu-Ansah (Ph.D)
3. Stephen Adeli (Ph.D)
4. Kwesi Vankah (Ph.D)
5. Hassan Mahab (Ph.D)
6. Ebenezer Obiri-Addo (Ph.D)
7. Joseph Oduro-Frimpong (Ph.D)
8. George Francois (Ph.D)
9. Adwoa A. Opoku-Agyemang (Ph.D)
10. Nathalie M'guesan
11. Albert Agyepong
12. Eku Mensimah Thompson Kwaffo
13. Edmund Hammah Ankomah
14. Prince Addoquaye Acquaye
15. Afia Agyeman Ampomah-Mensah
16. Kweku Attakora Duomoh
17. Christine Opoku Onyiah
18. Maame Yaa Mensa-Bonsu
19. Natalie Fordwor
20. Saad Nubulaniyah Moomin
21. Shefi Nelson
22. Dionne Boateng
23. Eric Acheampong
24. Irene Amessouwoe
25. Emmanuel Amisah
26. Nana Amma Opoku-Boadu
27. Alfred Berkoh

Tap to visit our **faculty directory**



MEET OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS



**Afia Agyeman
Amponsah-Mensah**

Full-time Faculty - Law, Humanities
& Social Sciences

I am excited about starting this journey with **Ashesi University**. Ashesi is considered one of the best universities in Ghana and in Africa and it feels good to be part of such a community- a community that allows the mind to thrive and explore. I have been given a warm reception since joining the campus and I am looking forward to growing with Ashesi and contributing towards the continuous success of this prestigious university.



Adwoa Opoku-Agyemang
Ph.D

Full-time Faculty and
Director of the Ashesi Writing Center -
Law, Humanities
& Social Sciences



Kweku Attakora Dwomoh

Full-time Faculty - Law, Humanities
& Social Sciences



Christine Opoku Onyinah

Adjunct Faculty - Law, Humanities
& Social Sciences

INTRODUCING A NEW KIND OF LAW PROGRAMME



The Ghana Tertiary Education Commission has approved the **Law with Public Policy degree** at **Ashesi University** which will be run under the Law, Humanities and Social Science department.

The Law, Humanities and Social Sciences Department at Ashesi designs and helps teach the liberal arts and sciences core curriculum, a cornerstone of the Ashesi education.

The department also houses efforts to launch Ashesi's Law with Public Policy Programme, which prepares students for private, public, non-profit, and non-governmental careers. The programme is also an excellent foundation for postgraduate study in multiple sub-disciplines of the Law.

Our courses encourage students to explore the connections between various pieces of information, question assumptions, and analyse different perspectives.

Through this comprehensive approach, we aim to help students develop ideas on how to shape Africa's diverse societies for future generations.

THE ASHESI WRITING CENTRE



In 2007, **Ashesi University** started an initiative to improve writing and communication skills of Ashesi students.

The Ashesi Writing Centre has evolved over the years to serve the University Community by promoting both print and digital composition as a way of learning, communicating, and thinking clearly for multiple audiences through collaborative learning experiences. It is Ashesi's hope that we cultivate a space where all members celebrate the diversity of language and prepare students to operate in an array of multi-lingual, multi-literate, and multi-modal environments.

The new director of the Ashesi Writing Centre, **Adwoa Opoku-Agyemang Ph.D**, shared that Written and Oral Communication and Text and Meaning will now be under the purview of the Writing Center. She also mentioned the centre is currently designing a course that will keep students focused on communication skills beyond these first-year classes.

Watch this space for news on the next writing session!

ADWOA'S BOOK RECOMMENDATION

Greetings to the Ashesi Community.

For my first recommendation, I am going to be a bit conventional and suggest Chinua Achebe's seminal *Things Fall Apart*. Quite a few readers dismiss *Things Fall Apart* as dull or tedious; for some, it was required reading in high school or seems like the sort of book that should make the required reading list.

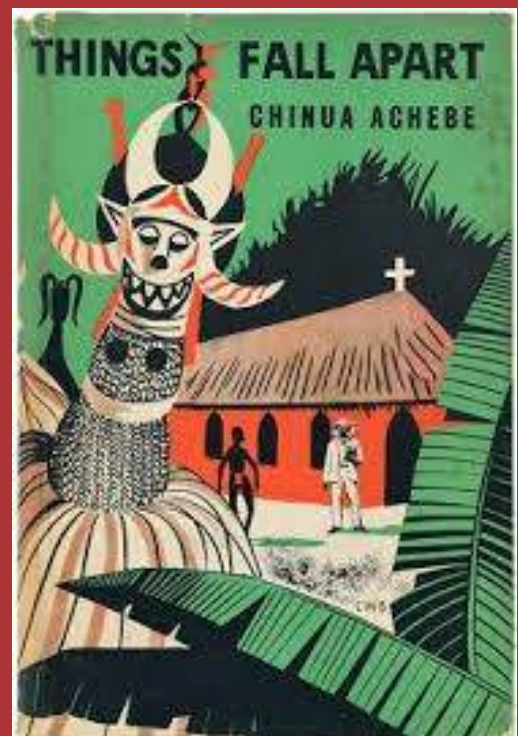
It is not for nothing, however, that *Things Fall Apart* has generated such a colossal body of research work (thousands of articles, essays, book chapters and books) and shows no sign of slowing down. That said, interest from literary scholars is not the main reason for my suggestion. In fact, Achebe's text has inspired everything from very serious academic output through impromptu school plays to fanfiction.

Things Fall Apart is deceptively simple. On the surface, it is the story of an angry man in an old-fashioned community that falls apart, as the title helpfully suggests. But there is so much more to it if we read it intentionally. I have taught this novel to very different audiences and each time, it reveals something new to me. Yes, violence and colonialism are an important part of it, but so are the other things that still bear thinking about every day: masculinity and leadership, familial and cultural relationships, our shared humanity, wonder, and even love.

Happy (re)reading,
Adwoa.

“

**THE WORLD HAS NO END,
AND WHAT IS GOOD AMONG
ONE PEOPLE IS AN
ABOMINATION WITH OTHERS.**



DEPARTMENT NEWS



NATALIE FORDWOR'S WONDERSPACED WINS £30,000

Congratulations to Ashesi HSS faculty lecturer, Natalie Fordwor. Her educational platform, Wonderspaced placed 1st in the Creation Africa Ghana (CAG) Incubation Program with a £30,000 prize.

[TAP TO READ MORE](#)



EMMANUEL ACHEAMPONG WINS A \$110,000 GRANT

Congratulations to Ashesi HSS faculty lecturer, Emmanuel Acheampong, for securing a \$110,000 grant from the University of California, Davis for a research experiment in Ghana on promoting resilient agricultural growth.



DR. DOAMEKPOR IS A NEW MEMBER OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF SURVEYORS.

Senior Lecturer, Naa Adjeley Doamekpor (Ph.D), is officially a member of MRICS. MRICS has a heritage of over 150 years committed to working in the public interest to advance knowledge, uphold standards, and inspire professionals to create and protect built and natural environments that are sustainable, resilient and inclusive for all. ***

DEPARTMENT NEWS



ASHESI LAW & HSS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS NEW COURSES & ACTIVITIES

The Law & HSS department has introduced new courses and other activities that are open to faculty. These include ceramics, Neo-traditional African dance, trade law for non-lawyers and many more.



NEO-TRADITIONAL AFRICAN DANCE

EXPERIENCE OUR NEW COURSES

With a heavy focus on the AfCFTA, this course is an introduction to international trade law for non-lawyers. It encourages our students to explore the opportunities the AfCFTA brings - a fitting initiative for an institution with so rich an entrepreneurial culture.



African Continental
Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)



Crafting Cultures: a practical and intellectual experience of African ceramics and pottery. In addition to learning to produce their own pottery, students get to engage in a conversation about pottery in Africa: its functions, economics and gender politics.

We are excited to have Nii-Tete Yartey Jnr climb aboard the ship to revive our African dance class. With thoughtful conversations, cultural insights, technical expertise, improvisational flair, and a solid dose of fun, this class will enrich students' knowledge, experience, identity, self-awareness and confidence. The fitness and posture boost is a boon we cannot ignore!



Sociocultural anthropology: this introductory anthropology class is a fun way to learn how to observe, document and study ourselves as contemporary Africans

DEPARTMENT NEWS



PRINCE ADDOQUAYE ACQUAYE ATTENDS COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PROGRAMME

Ashesi Law & HSS faculty lecturer, Prince Addoquaye Acquaye, recently participated in an exclusive summer program at Columbia University School of Law, New York, tailored for lawyers and business executives. This intensive week-long program delved into critical topics on mergers and acquisitions as well as cross-border transactions.

In his words, “The mix of cultures and expertise made the sessions dynamic and insightful, enhancing our understanding of these complex global issues”. It was a truly rewarding experience for all who took part.



ASHESI WELCOMES KWESI YANKAH AS EMERITUS PROFESSOR

Kwesi Yankah is a Ghanaian academic, author, and a university administrator. He is a professor of linguistics and oral literature specializing in the ethnography of communication.



*** Dr. Naa Adjeley Doamekpor has moved departments to the home of her research interests (Business Administration). The Law and HSS department wishes her the best and know she will be as amazing there as she has been here.

DEPARTMENT EVENTS

The History of Berekuso event took place on March 15, 2024, at the Hive. The event aimed to provide insights into the rich cultural heritage of Berekuso and foster dialogue between the community, university members and the public. The conversation with the Chief of Berekuso was moderated by Prof. Obiri Addo, offering attendees a unique opportunity to learn about the history and traditions of the Berekuso community.

HISTORY OF BEREKUSO



ASHESI-RWANDAN GENOCIDE COMMEMORATION

The Commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda occurred on the 17th of May in the Hive at Ashesi University. The event solemnly honored the memory of those who lost their lives during the genocide.

LAUNCH OF CENTRE FOR AFRICAN POPULAR CULTURE

The Centre for African Popular Culture, aims to be a hub for the exploration, celebration, and scholarly study of the rich and diverse popular cultural expressions across the African continent.



[tap to learn more](#)



MUSIC EXHIBITION EVENT

The African Music Exhibition, held on January 18, 2024, marked the inaugural Ashesi passport event for the class of 2027. The exhibition aimed to showcase the vibrant music production of six student music bands.

MUSIC FROM THE AFRICAN DIASPORA

Ashesi University HSS department collaborated with Whitman College and the William H. Bailey Memorial Scholarship to present Music from the African Diaspora. It features the New York 'Voice of an Angel', pianist and HSS faculty, **Dr. George Francois**.



FIRESIDE CHAT WITH REGGIE ROCKSTONE

The Fireside Chat with hiplife icon, Reggie Rockstone, took place on the 22nd of February 2024 at the Efua T. Sutherland Drama Studio in Legon. The event aimed to provide insights into the musical journey, inspirations, and impact of Reggie Rockstone. Dr. George Francois served as the host for the evening, facilitating a discussion with Reggie Rockstone that was open to the public, followed by a Q&A session.

EDITOR'S PICK

GLOBAL FOODIE, ADVENTURER, AND FRIEND OF FEARLESS FUN!

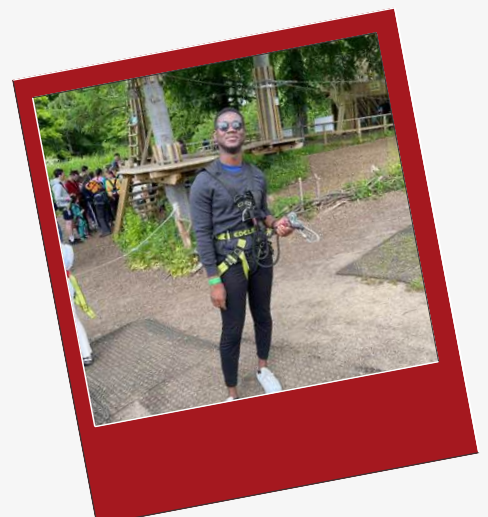
Did you know our Editor-in-Chief, **Prince Addoquaye Acquaye**, is a dedicated global foodie? Prince has traveled to 19 countries across four continents - Africa, Asia, North America, and Europe - sampling unique cuisines and discovering local flavors wherever he goes. From street food in bustling markets to fine dining, he believes food is one of the best ways to connect with different cultures. And his journey is far from over! Prince hopes to continue exploring and experiencing even more of the world's culinary landscapes.

This love for diverse flavors adds a unique spice to his work, bringing a global perspective to everything he does.

Beyond his global taste adventures, Prince loves meeting new people and diving into exciting new experiences—quite literally! Just this past May, he plunged into the Aegean Sea in Greece, an exhilarating adventure that taught him the thrill of overcoming fears. The stunning blue waters were a vivid reminder of what's possible when nature is preserved. Prince describes the dive as both a leap into the unknown and a reminder of the courage it takes to embrace new challenges.

Reflecting on this, Prince asks, **"How can we, as Ghanaians, dive into the River Offin or any of our rivers and have the same exhilarating experience?"** With illegal mining (galamsey) polluting our water bodies, this isn't just about aesthetics—it's about the urgent need to protect our environment so future generations can experience the beauty of our own rivers and landscapes.

And a friendly tip from the Editor: **"Don't try diving if you can't swim!"**



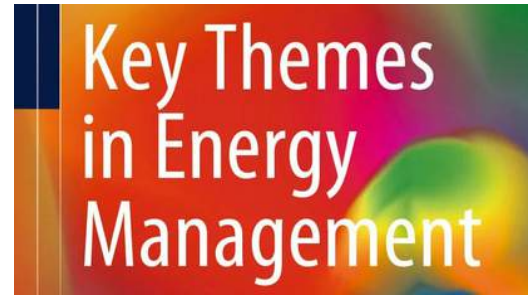


Integrated Urban Governance of COVID-19 interventions in Ghanaian Cities: Insight from marketplaces in Accra and Kumasi

This publication is by Senior Lecturer, Naa Adjeley Doamekpor, (Ph.D).

The publication is from an international research collaboration funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) through the COVID-19 Focus Programme to evaluate the dynamics of urban governance and pandemic resilience in our marketplaces in Ghana.

Journal article DOI:
10.1080/02723638.2024.2336844 (Asante, L. A., Doamekpor, N. A. A., Kidido, J. K., Asante, P. Y., Abbas, J., & Füller, H. (2024).

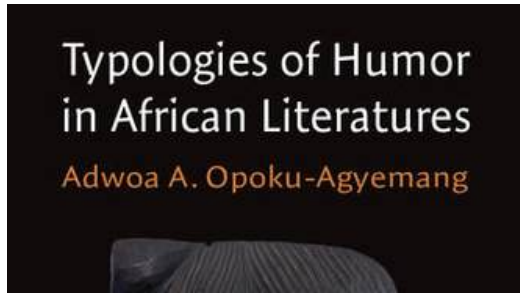


Book chapters in Yunusa-Kaltungo, A. (2024)

Senior Lecturer, Naa Adjeley Doamekpor, (Ph.D), contributed to two (2) key chapters as part of a scholastic & industry collaboration in Akilu Yunusa-Kaltungo's book: Key Themes in Energy Management: A Compilation of Current Practices, Research Advances, and Future Opportunities.

CHAPTERS

- Relational dynamics of adoption-decision factors: The case of photovoltaic energy technologies in the Ghanaian building industry.
- Designing for low-cost low-energy building in sub-Saharan Africa using a simulation-based approach: The case of a residential building in Ghana.



Typologies of Humor in African Literatures

This book is by Full-time Faculty and Director of the Ashesi Writing Center, Adwoa A. Opoku-Agyemang, (Ph.D).

Published by the University of Michigan Press, the book is a study on the use of humour and comedy in African literary texts across the twentieth century. Despite humour being omnipresent in African societies and their literatures, discussions of contemporary African literature have largely dismissed it as being too lighthearted compared to the more serious issues of post-colonial history, class inequality, and politics.



African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

AfCFTA's Dispute Resolution System

In 2018, fifty-four African nations established the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), creating the world's largest free trade area.

This paper by the Law & HSS lecturer, Emmanuel Kwabena Owusu Amoah, scrutinizes the AfCFTA's dispute resolution system, which draws inspiration from the World Trade Organization's (WTO) system—currently hampered by a deadlock in its appellate body, leaving 24 cases unresolved.

Through a comparative analysis, this study reveals that the AfCFTA is at risk of encountering similar deadlock issues due to procedural shortcomings.



WHERE THERE IS NO AFRICA (A SHORT STORY BY AFIA BOATEMAA-FI, LAW & HSS)

Even your life in that hell excites you: not like you have a choice anyway. Yet yesterday, you called my heavenly Africa sustaining you and your nation a sorry name...

"Hey!" Kwesi. "What's up?" I like Kwesi very much. He is like an inspiration, a certain helper but sometimes comes off quite interruptive. I dropped the pen, about to shut the book... "Did I interrupt something?"

"It's fine. Were you walking in the air? I could not hear a step." He ignores. His hand finds the book, flips it open, and his face scoops up. "I'm sorry."

"It's fine." We hug. We look, staring into our eyes. We reminisce briefly. About the seven years of friendship before this four months of relationship. Kwesi puts his soft lips down the line of my forehead and leaves a kiss. A rush like an electric shock creeps through me. I haven't known love before. But if this is it, then I will never hate again. Love is so subtle and careful, makes soft, calms, and transforms; how I wish every bitter soul could come face to face with it.

Sitting down hurts because standing heals us. His stature towering above me. A stout dark-skinned man. His head: big and vigorous. A face like the tiger's. A bold nose spreading joyful breath in my face. Beautiful teeth, set in a thick mouth. Don't remind me of his smile. It moves every being in me.

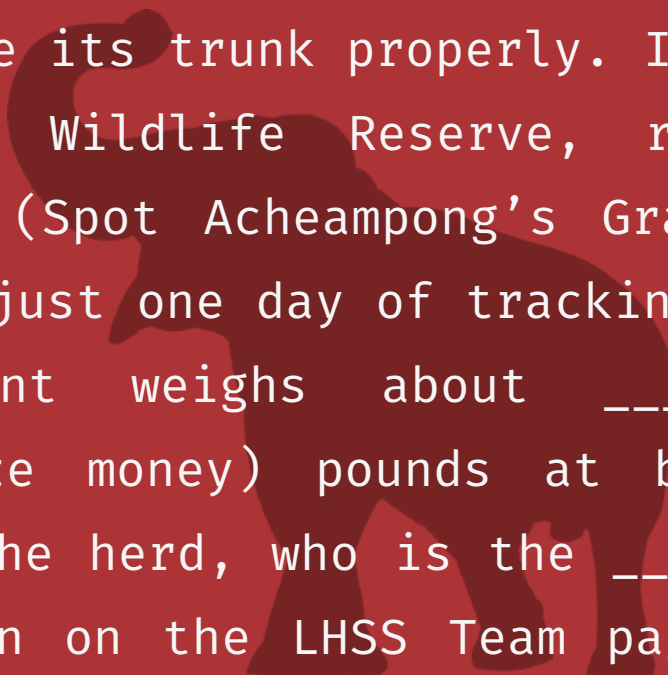
"Who does hell excites?" Kwesi delights in knowing and sharing my stories. 'Don't ever stop writing.' It's like a command but to him, it's his way of saying. 'I don't want you to give up anything you love doing.' I smile, looking into his eyes, I am feeling a joy I can't have you share. In my mind, I conclude, **where there is no Africa**, where would I have found Kwesi? My precious mineral. A treasure I can't ever forsake. Oh, Africa, I won't shy away my gratitude. He starts to smile and asks "What are you thinking about?"

"You." A kiss on the lips is a bad idea. It's a hall with eyes spread all over. Kiss is sacred. Our passion must not distort us. We keep to our customs: of course, Africa is us. We will never lose it. "Can I write a quick piece for you?" And he busts out, a hearty laughter telling everyone love is sweet. The stares come unto us. But they can't tell. My privilege. Their privilege. And I pray they see it soon, how blessed they are to have been planted here. "Alright. I will leave you. Can I?" I nod. He kisses my forehead again, and I look as he walks away. I am missing him. This gift Africa has given me.

THE HSS CIPHER (TREASURE HUNT)



The average elephant can live up to ____ (faculty count) years in its natural habitat! Scientists discovered that it takes about _____ (law degree years) months for a baby elephant to learn to use its trunk properly. In a recent study at the Wildlife Reserve, researchers counted _____ (Spot Acheampong's Grant money) footprints in just one day of tracking. A small forest elephant weighs about _____ (Find Fordwor's prize money) pounds at birth. The matriarch of the herd, who is the _____ (third lady's position on the LHSS Team page) oldest female, leads the group with wisdom. Fascinatingly, elephants can remember _____ (number of letters in department name) distinct calls from other elephants!"





The Law, Humanities & Social Sciences Department
Newsletter
VOLUME 1

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