Saibu Mutaru

Lecturer · Department of Sociology & Anthropology
University of Cape Coast

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PROFILE

I am a social anthropologist with special interest in the anthropology of Africa. I received my Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology with Political Science from the University of Ghana, Legon in 2007. In 2011, I won the prestigious Commonwealth-Shared Scholarship to study at the Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh where I graduated with a Master of Science degree in Africa and International Development. I worked briefly as Education Coordinator and Project Manager for an Austrian NGO based in Ghana, BRAVEAURORA. In 2015, I was awarded the Lisa Maskell Doctoral Fellowship by the Graduate School of Arts and Social Sciences, Stellenbosch University (South Africa). I officially enrolled as Lisa Maskell Doctoral Fellow at the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, (Stellenbosch University), graduating with a PhD in Social Anthropology in 2019. While studying for my doctoral degree, I won the Monica Wilson Prize in anthropology, a prestigious award conferred by Anthropology Southern Africa. In 2020, I joined the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Cape Coast, Ghana. I currently serve as Lecturer and Graduate Seminar Coordinator in the Department. In August 2023, I was elected as the Evans-Pritchard Lecturer for 2023-24 by the University of Oxford. I hold this position until May 2024. My teaching and research interests include ethnography, anthropology of religion (witchcraft, magic, rituals), medical anthropology, anthropology of aging, and the anthropology of development and human rights. I have conducted fieldwork in northern Ghana. I have published in internationally reputed journals including the Nordic Journal of African Studies, Social Dynamics, and Anthropology Southern Africa.

RESEARCH

Interests	Anthropology of religion · witchcraft studies · magic and rituals · medical anthropology · anthropology · Social anthropology · Witchcraft
Areas	Sociology and Political Science · Anthropology · History · Political Science and International Relations · General Agricultural and Biological Sciences · General Health Professions

RESEARCH SUMMARY

13	29	3	1	0.54	0%
Publications	Citations	h-index	i10-index	Field-weighted impact	World top 10%

Counted from the 13 publications listed below, 2013–2024. Field-weighted impact is the mean over the 5 works scored for it; 1.00 is the world average for works of the same field, type and year. 0 of the 5 papers scored for it are among the world's most cited tenth for their field, type and year.

POSITIONS

Lecturer 2020–2024
Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

PhD Social Anthropology 2016–2019
Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa

MSc. Africa and International Development 2011–2012
Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

MSc. Africa and International Development 2011–2012
Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

BA Sociology with Political Science 2003–2007
Department of Sociology, University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana

DISTINCTIONS, MEMBERSHIPS AND SERVICE

Monica Wilson Prize 2017
Anthropology Southern Africa, Anthropology Southern Africa, Cape Town, South Africa

Visiting Evans-Pritchard Lecturer in Social Anthropology 2024
All Souls College, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom

PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles 8

1. Baba Iddrisu Musah, Adams Sulemana Achanso, **Saibu Mutaru** (2024). Child Fostering and the Question of Child Labour in Northern Ghana's Alleged Witches' Camps. *Child Abuse Review*. https://doi.org/10.1002/car.2870
2. **Saibu Mutaru** (2023). Murder at Kafaba: Debating Witchcraft and "Witch Camps" in Ghana. *Nordic Journal of African Studies*. https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Saibu-Mutaru/publication/369730046_Naa_Adjeley_Suta_Alakija_Sekyi_teaches_Sociology_and_Anthropology_at_the_University_of_Cape_Coast_Ghana_She_holds_a_BA_in_Sociology_and_Economics/links/6429546666f8522c38f021a9/Naa-Adjeley-Suta-Alakija-Sekyi-teaches-Sociology-and-Anthropology-at-the-University-of-Cape-Coast-Ghana-She-holds-a-BA-in-Sociology-and-Economics.pdf
3. **Saibu Mutaru** (2023). Old Age: A Painful Transition in Ghana. *African Journal of Ageing Studies*. https://www.ajol.info/index.php/afjas/article/view/329514
4. **Saibu Mutaru** (2022). Access to land in difficult times: an ethnographic study of morally compromised strangers in northern Ghana. *Social Dynamics*. https://doi.org/10.1080/02533952.2022.2049156
5. **Saibu Mutaru** (2021). The State, NGOs, and Other Actors in the Management of “Witch Camps” in Northern Ghana. *Ghana Journal of Sociology & Anthropology*. https://www.jstor.org/stable/28013626
6. **Saibu Mutaru** (2020). Dale Peterson: The Ghosts of Gombe: A True Story of Love and Death in an African Wilderness. California: University of California Press, 2018, 232 pp. ISBN-10: 9780520297715 …. *Research Africa Reviews*.
7. **Saibu Mutaru** (2019). Wazi Apoh, Revelations of Domination and Silence: Unearthing the Buried Past of the Akpini, Akan, Germans and British at Kpando, Ghana. Accra: Sub-Saharan Publishers, 2019 362 …. *Research Africa Reviews*.
8. **Saibu Mutaru** (2018). Conducting anthropological fieldwork in northern Ghana: emerging ethical dilemmas. *Anthropology Southern Africa*. https://doi.org/10.1080/23323256.2018.1465350

Book chapters 3

1. **Saibu Mutaru** (2024). “If you are strong, let’s meet outside. I will show you”: The dark side of the National Reconciliation Commission in Ghana. *African Sun Media eBooks*. https://doi.org/10.52779/9781991260277/03
2. **Saibu Mutaru** (2022). Marriage and Ethnicity: Perspectives and Experiences of Married Men and Women in the Cape Coast Metropolis, Ghana. *Marriage and Family in Contemporary Ghana: New Perspectives*.
3. **Saibu Mutaru** (2018). An anthropological study of “witch camps” and human rights in northern Ghana. https://doi.org/10.18820/9781928314431/17

Reports 1

1. **Saibu Mutaru** (2013). Poverty reduction in northern Ghana: Policy implementation challenges. *LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing*. https://scholar.google.com/scholar?cluster=14500418662070953404&hl=en&oi=scholarr

Theses 1

1. **Saibu Mutaru** (2019). Naming the Witch, Housing the Witch and Living with Witchcraft: An Ethnography of Ordinary Lives in Northern Ghana's Witch Camps. *University of Stellenbosch, South Africa*. https://scholar.sun.ac.za/handle/10019.1/107326