

# NEWSLETTER



## Academia in Ghana by Asiam Aikins Amoako

1. Which are the main topics of interest for social scientists in your country?

Gender, crime and deviance, livelihood empowerment, work and occupation, sexuality and sex, and medical sociology.

2. How do you describe a typical student from your country?

A typical student from Ghana is self-disciplined, independent and can achieve academic excellence with little or no supervision. They have the vision of contributing to the global world and to produce ground-breaking research which makes them passionate about social problems. Many sociology students in Ghana have knowledge in both qualitative and quantitative research methods.

3. In terms of theoretical influence, which are the most discussed theories or authors in Ghana?

Ghanaian scholars blend classical and contemporary sociological theories in their analysis of social phenomena. Auguste Comte, Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, Michel Foucault, Charles Wright Mills, Anthony Giddens, Jürgen Habermas, Immanuel Wallerstein, and Robert K. Merton are some of the most referenced sociologists in Ghana.

4. If anyone in our department decide to go to Ghana for an academic activity, what could they learn?

The educational institution in Ghana has made education increasingly relevant by providing internationally accredited courses. They promote national and global development through cutting-edge research and high-quality teaching and learning. They have positively impacted the lives of those within and outside the Ghanaian community. Hence, if anyone in our department decide to go to Ghana for an academic activity, he or she is surely guaranteed of a high standard of competitive education and personal development.

*[See the full interview](#)*

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## CONFERENCES

Lulu Li - WUN International Conference-Women's Mobility: Negotiating Work and Family Spheres in Asia, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, July 30-31, 2019.

Yumei Gan - The Annual Meeting of The Language and Social Interaction Working Group (LANSI), Columbia University, New York City, USA, October 11-12, 2019.

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## PUBLICATIONS

- Zhao Xiao-hang and Hang-qing Ruan. 2019. *(In Chinese)* "Socioeconomic Gradients in Depressive Symptoms Among Chinese Adults—Evidence from the 2014-2016 China Family Panel Studies Data" 1 *Social Sciences of Beijing* 34(8) ([read the abstract](#))

## Fulbright-RGC Research Scholar Award

by Yumei Gan

*The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program aimed at increasing mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.*



### WHY DID YOU APPLY TO THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM?

I was in the third year of my PhD when I decided to apply for the Fulbright program. My study plan is to submit my thesis at the end of the fourth year. At that time, I was looking for an opportunity which could academically and financially support the final year (i.e. the fourth year) of my PhD. I also found that my study and career plans fit extremely well with the aim of the Fulbright Program in Hong Kong. I therefore believe it would be exciting and helpful to spend the final year in the US to deepen the analysis of my project and write up the thesis.

### CAN YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

The process takes quite long. The deadline for submission of the application was October 2018, and I got the official offer in May 2019. It thus took more than seven months. In general, there are two main steps. First, the submission of the application through the online system. Second, the face-to-face interview. For the former, the most important documents are "research objectives" (you describe your research project for studying in the US) and "personal statement" (you describe yourself). For the latter, I was interviewed by five interviewers (including four professors and one American Consulate officer).

The interview lasted around 15 minutes, and the main questions were about my research, and why I would like to go to the US with the Fulbright program.

[See the full interview](#)

### DID YOU ENCOUNTER ANY DIFFICULTIES?

Since I know the program is competitive. The main difficulty was not practical issues, but was the mental pressure. I still remember how stressed and nervous I was before the interview, but it was really wonderful that I had the chance to chat with my supervisor, friends and family when I felt stressed during the whole application.

### WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS?

For my time in the US, I have two aims: First, to develop the analysis of the empirical chapters of my thesis and take my research to the next level. Second, to equip myself with the necessary expertise in conversation analysis and video analysis, so that I can bring this methodology to China where I hope to pursue an academic career in the near future. By studying in the US, I will be based at one of the foremost centres of video analysis or conversation analysis in the world—Center for Language, Interaction, and Culture (CLIC) at UCLA. I will be working under the supervision of Prof. Tanya Stivers, who is the President for the International Society for Conversation Analysis.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ Conference submission deadline:
  - IV ISA Forum of Sociology - Porto Alegre, Brazil, from July 14th to 18th, 2020 - deadline: September 30, 2019. ([see more informations](#))
  - The 21st Annual Conference of the Hong Kong Sociological Association - The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Nov. 30th, 2019 - deadline: September 30, 2019. ([see more informations](#))
- ✓ Job ads:
  - Presidential Post-doctoral Fellow - Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Hong Kong - Application deadline: September 26, 2019. ([see the ad](#))