



## SUMMER SCHOOL 2026 GHANA

### EXTRACTIVE INVESTMENTS AND RESOURCE CONFLICTS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

*Sketching Collaborative and Transdisciplinary Research Agenda with Career Scholars*

♀ Tamale, Ghana | March 9-13, 2026

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

#### BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

##### The Challenge:

Sub-Saharan Africa sits at the epicenter of a global scramble for natural resources, driven by rising demand for industrial raw materials, clean energy transition, and arable land. While the continent's extractive industries possess immense potential to drive sustainable development, they remain entangled in complex challenges including weak governance, environmental degradation, and escalating social conflicts.

##### The Research Gap:

African scholars remain significantly underrepresented in global research discourse on extractivism and resource conflicts. Only 13 African scholars authored articles among 2,744 authors of the 25 most highly cited geoscience articles, despite Africa being central to these discussions.

High-income countries spend US\$1,064 per capita on research, while Africa invests only US\$42 per capita.

##### Program Vision:

The Summer School Series signifies an innovative response to these challenges, bringing together former Volkswagen Foundation Fellows, international experts, and promising early-career scholars from across Africa and beyond. This initiative creates a unique mentorship ecosystem where established academics guide the next generation of African researchers.

##### Objectives:

The Summer School Series aims to build comprehensive knowledge of extractive investment regulation and agricultural commercialization processes at international and national levels across Sub-Saharan Africa; enhance understanding of current drivers of social, economic, environmental, and civil conflicts in resource-rich regions; strengthen African scholars' capabilities in theoretical frameworks, empirical methodologies, scientific writing, networking, and research funding acquisition; create sustainable academic networks linking early-career scholars with established academics in extractive industries research; and produce high-quality scientific outputs including peer-reviewed articles and an edited volume on resource extraction in Sub-Saharan Africa.

#### PROGRAM FOCUS: "EXTRACTIVISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICTS"

The first Summer School in Ghana will focus on "Extractivism and Environmental Conflicts", providing participants with deep insights into:

- Analysis of extractive investments and their ecological consequences across Sub-Saharan Africa
- Exploration of international and national regulatory mechanisms governing resource extraction
- Investigation of large-scale land acquisitions and resulting community tensions
- Understanding local responses and resistance movements to extractive operations
- Development of locally relevant and culturally appropriate research approaches

#### ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- **Prof. Michael Ayamga** (University for Development Studies, Tamale - Ghana)
- **Prof. Annabella Osei-Tutu** (University of Ghana, Legon, Accra)
- **Prof Roland Balgah** (Bamenda University of Science and Technology, Cameroun)
- **Prof. Godfrey Maringira** (Sol Plaatje University, South Africa)
- **Dr. Isaac Gershon Kodwo Ansah** (University for Development Studies, Tamale - Ghana)
- **Prof. Dr. Gertrud Rosa Buchenrieder** (University of Bundeswehr Munich, Germany)

#### PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Participants will engage through:



Expert-led Seminars



Interactive Workshops



Field Excursions



One-on-One Mentorship



Research Development

#### PROGRAM STRUCTURE AND BENEFITS

**Duration:** 7 days intensive program

**Location:** Tamale, Ghana

**This is a fully funded program that includes:**

- ☒ Coverage for accommodation and meals during the program
- ☒ International travel support for selected participants
- ☒ Local transportation and field excursion costs
- ☒ Conference materials and resources
- ☒ Access to ongoing mentorship network
- ☒ Research collaboration opportunities

#### PARTICIPATION AND ADMISSION

##### Who Should Apply:

We seek passionate post-doctoral candidates and early-career scholars committed to advancing research on extractivism and resource conflicts in Africa. The program is designed for researchers who want to make meaningful contributions to understanding these critical continental challenges.

##### Eligibility Criteria:

The ideal post-doctoral applicant:

- holds a doctoral degree completed within the last 5 years
- is actively engaged in research on themes relevant to the African continent
- has background primarily in humanities and social sciences

- **demonstrates proficiency in English language**

- is a candidate from Anglophone, Francophone, and Lusophone African countries

**We are strongly committed to ensuring gender balance. We will give special consideration for candidates from countries experiencing resource conflicts as well as scholars demonstrating high research potential and collaborative mindset.**

#### APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Interested persons should submit the following documents to [wac-srt@uds.edu.gh](mailto:wac-srt@uds.edu.gh), with copy to [agershon@uds.edu.gh](mailto:agershon@uds.edu.gh) and [aopare-henaku@ug.edu.gh](mailto:aopare-henaku@ug.edu.gh):

- Detailed curriculum vitae highlighting research experience
- Statement of purpose (500 words maximum) explaining research interests and career goals
- Research proposal outline related to extractivism or resource conflicts
- Two academic reference letters from established scholars
- Proof of doctoral degree completion

**Language proficiency documentation**

#### SELECTION PROCESS

Applications will be evaluated by an international Planning and Management Committee comprising established scholars from Ghana, South Africa, Cameroon, and Germany.

##### Selection criteria emphasize:

- research potential and academic excellence
- relevance of research interests to program themes
- commitment to collaborative engagement and publication
- contribution to program diversity goals

**Up to 5 additional local postdocs (emerging scholars) will be selected to join the Summer School. Selection will be made by the local organizing committee, chaired by the host. Participants will benefit from all privileges, except for accommodation and international travel.**

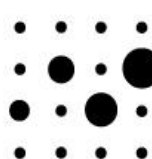
**APPLICATION DEADLINE**  
Sunday, November 30, 2025

**PROGRAM DURATION**  
7 Days Intensive  
March 9-13, 2026

#### CONTACT & SUBMISSION

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