

**CURRICULUM VITAE**  
FULERA ISSAKA-TOURE  
Email: fulera.issaka@gmail.com

***LANGUAGES SPOKEN***

English-Fluent  
German-Basic communication  
Dendi (Songhay)-Fluent  
Hausa-Fluent  
Twi-Fluent  
Ga-Fluent

***EDUCATION***

PhD with magna cum laude, Bayreuth University, Germany, (thesis title: Islamic Construction of Gender in Accra: The Role of Islamic Religious Authorities in Mediating Marital Conflicts)

***CURRENT POSITION:*** Post-doctoral researcher, Department of Islamic Studies, University of Bayreuth, Germany.

***LIST OF PUBLICATIONS (PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES/BOOK CHAPTERS)***

- Capital: Social and Cultural Perspectives on Shi'i Marriages in Accra, Ghana to Appear in Global Dynamics of Shia Marriages, to be published by Rutgers University (forthcoming, 2019)
- Jihad of the Soul in Africa: An Historical Overview, appearing in a Handbook of Islam in Africa, ed. F. Ngom, T. Falola and M. Kurfi, Palgrave Macmillan 2019 (forthcoming).
- Issaka-Toure, Fulera, 2018b, Muslim Women's Perspective on Marriage and Gender Based Violence in Accra, Ghana, *Praxis: Journal of Gender and Cultural Critique*, (forthcoming, July 2019).
- Issaka-Toure, Fulera, 2018a, "Marriage Practices: Ghana", in the Peer Reviewed Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures (BRILL), Supplement 17.
- Issaka-Toure, Fulera, 2016c, "Claiming Autonomy through Agency in a Patriarchal Structure: The Experiences of Muslim Women in Marital Relationships in Ghana", *HAWWA (BRILL): Journal of Women of the Middle East and the Islamic World*, vol. 14:78-93.
- Issaka-Toure, Fulera, 2016b, "Agency in Praxis", *Journal of Race, Ethnicity and Religion* vol. 7: 1-18.
- Issaka-Toure, Fulera, 2016a, Creating Communitas: Muslim Voices, Gendered Norms and Mediated Sacred Spaces in Ghana, In *Religion and Space: Perspectives from African Experiences*, Serawit Bekele Debele and Justice Anquandah Arthur (eds), Bayreuth African Studies Working papers, BIGSASworks 15, available on [https://epub.uni-bayreuth.de/2743/3/BIGSASworks%2015\\_16.02.10-Final.pdf](https://epub.uni-bayreuth.de/2743/3/BIGSASworks%2015_16.02.10-Final.pdf)
- Issaka-Toure, Fulera, 2013, "Contesting the Normative", *Crosscurrents* 63 :198-210.

### **BOOK REVIEW(S)**

- Issaka-Toure, Fulera, 2018, Harmony O'Rourke's *Hadija's Story: Diaspora, Gender and Belonging in the Cameroon Grassfields*, *Research Africa Reviews* vol. 2., no. 2: 40-41.

### **PUBLICATIONS IN PREPARATION**

- Androcentric Voices from the field, *Annual Review of Islam in Africa*, under review.

### **WORKING PAPER(S)/VOLUME(S)**

- "I Divorced Him but He Said He Has not Divorced Me": Gendered Perspectives on Muslim Divorce in Accra, Ghana. To Appear in *Islamic Divorce in a Global World: Everyday Realities and Practices in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, ed. Erin Stiles, Rutgers University Press.
- Muslim Family Law and Gender in Africa, Special Issue of *Islamic Africa* published by BRILL, Guest Editors, Fulera Issaka-Toure and Ousseina Alidou.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE (Semester long courses)**

- Islam, Gender and Sexuality (University of Bayreuth, Germany)
- Religion and Gender (Teaching Assistant- University of Ghana, Legon)
- Intro., to Eastern Religions (Teaching Assistant-University of Ghana, Legon)

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- 2016-date Steering Committee (secretary) and founding member, Islam in Africa Studies Group (IASG), Coordinate organization of the African Studies Association of the USA.

### **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS ORGANISED**

- Co-Organiser of a Panel on Research on Gender in Africa: Challenges and Prospects, BIGSAS Alumni Conference, Addis Ababa, October 30, 2018-November 3, 2018.
- Member of the panel organization and selection committee of the panels organized by the Islam in Africa Studies Group, for 2017 meeting of the African Studies Association, Chicago.
- Co-organised a Panel (Muslim Family Law, Gender, The State and Legal Conditions of The Minority in Sub Saharan Africa) at the African Studies Association meeting, December 1-3, 2016, Washington.

### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

Since 2007, I have carried out extensive field research among Muslims of Accra in various phases which add up to sixteen months.

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

- Commission on Legal Pluralism since 2017-date.
- Islam in Africa Studies Group (IASG) founding member, 2016 to date.
- Right Livelihood College, Junior Scientist, Bonn, 2016 to date.
- African Studies Association, 2015 to date.
- African Good Governance Network, 2015 to date.
- BIGSAS Alumni Association since 2018

## **AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

- Post-doctoral funding from the Bavarian Government through the University of Bayreuth, June 1, 2018-May 31, 2019.
- Travel Grant from the International Club of the University of Bayreuth, November 2017.
- Conference Grant (for African Studies Association Conference 2017, Chicago) from the Equal Opportunity Department, University of Bayreuth.
- Conference Grant from the University of Amsterdam for workshop on Shia marriages, August 2017.
- Travel Grant (for African Studies Association Conference 2016, Washington) from Equal Opportunity Department, University of Bayreuth
- Scholarship for Female Doctoral Candidates from the Faculty of Language and Literature, University of Bayreuth, Germany, 2016.
- German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Scholarship holder from October 2013 to November 2018.
- Research Grant from the German Research Foundation (DFG,) 2013-2018.
- Right Livelihood College Scholarship for Research on Human Rights in Africa and Asia, September 2016.
- Conference Grant, University of Tubingen, Germany, July 2014.
- University of Bayreuth Graduate School Conference Grant 2015-16.
- Ghana Education Trust Fund, 2013-2016
- National Research Foundation Bursary from the South African Government, 2010 to the year 2011, University of Cape Town, South Africa

## **SELECTED PAPERS PRESENTED**

- Presented a paper at the African Studies Association (Quran 4:34 as an Islamic Law in Practice: Voices of Muslim men, women and Malamai (Ulama) from Accra), Chicago, 16-18, November 2017.
- Presented a paper on Shia marriages Two forms of Marriages among the *Shi'i* Sub Muslim Minority: A Case of Acceptance and Absolute Rejection in Accra, Ghana, University of Amsterdam, 24-25 August 2017.
- Presented a paper at the African Studies Association (State's Application of the Sharia in Ghana through Customary Law Practices), Washington, 1-3 December, 2016,
- International Conference: Thinking Through Concepts/Thinking through Data: Processes of Mediation and Pitfalls in Academic Dealings with African Lifeworlds, BIGSAS, University of Bayreuth, Germany, 21-23 October, 2016: ( title of presentation: A Contribution towards the understanding of Islamic

feminism/s from the works of the Islamic charity centre for women's orientation, Accra)

- International Workshop of Right Livelihood College- Bonn Campus (Presented the summary of my PhD findings), University of Bonn, September 3-8, 2016.
- Presented a paper (Representing the Tijaniyya through Physical and Spiritual Mediation) ZMO, Berlin, July 14-20, 2016.
- Presented a paper (Acceptance, Rejection and Reappropriation: The Case of 4:34 and Violence against Muslim Women in Accra), International Conference on Religion, Peace and Conflict in Contemporary Africa, Ambassador Hotel, Addis Ababa, May 14-15, 2016.
- Presented a paper at the African Studies Association (The Muslim family law in Ghana: a case of ambivalence and change), San Diego, 19-22 November 2015,
- Presented a paper (Islamic modernism, marital conflicts and the secular state), Rutgers University, 30th November 2015.
- Presented a Paper in a Summer School Workshop (A Ghanaian brand of Islam: A perspective on Gender) at the XXI. World Congress for the International Association of the History of Religions, August 23-29 2015, Erfurt, Germany.
- Presented a Paper at the Future Africa Congress (VAD) (Enacting Agency in the Global South: The Example of Muslims in Accra), University of Bayreuth, Germany, 11-14 June 2014.
- Presented a Paper in a Summer School Workshop (A Ghanaian brand of Islam: A perspective on Gender) at the Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies, Eberhard Karls University, Tübingen, Germany, 18<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>th</sup> July 2014.
- Participated and presented a summary of my PhD project in the Berlin Summer School in Social Sciences, July 20-August 2, 2014
- Presented a paper (Expressing Agency: The Experiences of the Ghanaian Muslim Woman) at the African and African Diasporic Women in Religion and Theology Conference, Talitha Qumi Centre, Trinity Theological Seminary, Legon, Ghana, July 18-14, 2012
- Presented a paper (The Place of Individuals in Marriage and Divorce in Accra) at the 2011 Post Graduate Conference: Current Researches in the Humanities, University of Cape Town, South Africa, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2011
- Presented a poster (Negotiating Marriage and Divorce in Accra: Muslim Women's Experiences at a Conference for Islamic Reform and Public Life in Africa, Organized by the Centre for Contemporary Islam, University of Cape Town, South Africa, 12-14 October, 2011
- Presented a paper (Gender-Based Violence in Accra), at the Conference for the Empowerment of Women, Grabouw, South Africa, 29<sup>th</sup> September -2<sup>nd</sup> of October, 2011
- Presented a poster ("Islamic Feminism through Marriage and Divorce") for Africa Day Exhibition, 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> May, 2011, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Challenging Marital Violence in the Ghanaian Muslim Community: Women Between the Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a and Non-Religious Organizations, 2010 Congress of the Association for the Study of Religions in Southern Africa, University of South Africa, Pretoria, 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> August, 2010
- Gender Based Violence in the Ghanaian Muslim Community at the National Muslim Women's Conference: 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2008, Ghana Museums and Monuments Board, Accra

### ***OTHER PRESENTATIONS***

Discussant of a documentary titled: Female Pleasure, Iwalewaha, University of Bayreuth, 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2019.

## ***OTHER WORK EXPERIENCES***

- Office Assistant, Islamic Education Trust Fund- Ghana, March 2012-April 2013.

### ***Responsibilities***

Assisted in the management and organization of the Trust

- Graduate Assistant at the Centre for Contemporary Islam, University of Cape Town, South Africa, from May 2010- September 2011

### ***Responsibilities***

Assisted the administrator in the management of the Centre for Contemporary Islam

- Teacher- Ghana Education Service, from May 2009 to April 2010
- Assistant Examiner, West African Examinations Council

### ***Responsibilities***

Marking of Islamic Religious Studies, WASSCE (West African Senior Secondary Certificate Examination)

## **REFEREES**

Professor Dr. Rüdiger Seesemann  
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