

Dr George Dakurah

Senior Lecturer | Climate Data Analyst | Development Researcher

Department of Geography and Rural Development

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Profile

Interdisciplinary researcher specialising in climate variability, agricultural decision-making, and food security. Experienced in climate data analysis using R-Instat, R, SPSS, and GIS tools, with a strong track record in participatory research, community engagement, and policy-relevant outputs. PhD-trained at the University of Reading (UK), combining empirical climate data analysis with local knowledge in North-western Ghana. Active in teaching, mentoring, and research dissemination, with multiple peer-reviewed publications and international collaborations.

Areas of Expertise

- Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience
 - Climate Data Analysis: R-Instat
 - Agricultural Decision-Making under Climate Stress
 - Food Security & Livelihoods
 - Development Geography & Environmental Policy
 - Participatory Research & Community Engagement
 - GIS & Remote Sensing: ArcGIS, QGIS
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Education

PhD in International and Rural Development

University of Reading, UK | 2014–2018

Thesis: Climate Variability and Change, Smallholder Farmer Decision Making and Food Security in North-western Ghana

MSc Environment and Development (Merit)

King's College London, UK | 2011–2012

Thesis: Uncertainties in Rainfall and Household Food Security in Northern Ghana

MA Population Studies

University of Ghana | 2010–2011

Project: Maternal Education and Under-Five Mortality Differentials in Ghana

BA (First Class Honours) Geography & Resource Development (Major), Political Science (Minor)

University of Ghana | 2005–2009

Project: Gender Inequality in Basic and Senior High Schools in Jirapa District

Professional Experience

Lecturer

Department of Geography and Rural Development, KNUST, Kumasi, Ghana | Aug 2020 – Present

- Deliver undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in climate change, population studies, and research methods
- Supervise 30+ undergraduate and postgraduate theses
- Convene and moderate postgraduate seminars
- Lead departmental community engagement initiatives

Examinations Officer

KNUST, Kumasi, Ghana | 2022 – Present

- Oversee preparation and vetting of departmental results
- Provide induction for new students on assessment policies

Research Consultant – FAO Yenkasa Project

FAO & AMARC | Nov 2018 – Mar 2019

- Led policy review on inclusive communication for agricultural development in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Co-authored final report submitted to FAO

Researcher – Climate Services Project

University of Reading (Senegal Field Mission) | Dec 2017 – Feb 2018

- Assessed Senegal’s 2014 drought response with local stakeholders
- Prepared ministerial briefing on climate services and disaster management

Research Coordinator – PhD Fieldwork

University of Reading, Ghana | Dec 2015 – Oct 2016

- Designed and led multi-district community-based fieldwork
 - Managed research teams and data collection
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Awards & Fellowships

- **2025–2026:** KNUST Research Fund Grant – Principal Investigator
Project: Agroforestry as a pathway to mitigating climate change and improving rural livelihoods in North-west Ghana | GHC30,000
 - **2024:** Emory Global Health Scholars Program – In-country PI
Project: Dynamic relations between soil, food, and bodies: Implications for food security in semi-arid Ghana | \$20,000
 - **2017/2018:** Walker Institute Climate Academy Fellowship, University of Reading
 - **2014–2018:** UK Commonwealth PhD Scholarship, University of Reading | £50,000
 - **2012:** King’s College London Study Travel Grant | £400
 - **2011–2012:** UK Commonwealth Shared Scholarship (Master’s), King’s College London | £15,000
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Selected Publications

- Owusu-Sarpong, O.J., Abass, K., **Dakurah, G.**, et al. (2025). Social network connectivity and depression among single parents in Ghana: The mediating role of anxiety. *International Journal of Social Psychiatry*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00207640251405455>
- Laarbik Yamboar, Owusu-Sekyere, E., Aboagye, D., & **Dakurah, G.** (2025). Stories of ailing forest reserves and standpoints of agrarian landowners. In: *Remote Sensing and GIS Application in Forest Conservation Planning*. Springer Nature Singapore, pp.329–346
- Dumedah, G., **Dakurah, G.**, et al. (2024). Urban communities and the 15-minute city model in Ghana. *African Geographical Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19376812.2024.2325085>
- Gyasi, R.M., Aikins, E., Hajek, O., Opoku-ware, J., Osei, B.A., Adade, J.K., Jacob, L., Rahmatu, M., **Dakurah, G.**, & Peltzer, K.A. (2024). Cross-sectional association of food insecurity with loneliness in older adults. *Journal of Nutrition, Health and Aging*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnha.2024.100328>
- **Dakurah, G.**, Osbahr, H., & Arnall, A. (2024). Smallholder Farmers’ Cropping Decisions in Rural North-west Ghana under Climate Variability and Change. *Regional Environmental Change*, 24, 30. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10113-023-02168-2>
- **Dakurah, G.**, Adjei, P.O., & Osbahr, H. (2023). Cultural values and beliefs shaping perceptions of climate change in North-west Ghana. *Climate and Development*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17565529.2023.2287744>
- **Dakurah, G.**, Kanwetuu, V. De P., & Bodomo, A. (2023). Symbolic and ritual aspects of crop use among the Dagaaba of North-west Ghana. *Omega: Journal of Death and Dying*
- **Dakurah, G.**, & Osbahr, H. (2023). No Tuozaafi, No Food: Cultural dimensions of food use among the Dagaaba of Ghana. *Food, Culture & Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15528014.2023.2246237>
- Adjei, P.O., & **Dakurah, G.** (2023). Forest Security Appraisal of Community Management Interventions Against Threats of Forest Commons. *Ghana Journal of Geography*
- **Dakurah, G.** (2020). How do farmers’ perceptions of climate variability and change match or mismatch climatic data? *GeoJournal*, 86, 2387–2406. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10708-020-10194-4>

Conferences & Workshops

- **Ghana Geographers Association Annual Conference**, University of Ghana | Sept 2024
Panel Discussant: MIASA Fellow Session – Gender, Land, Climate Change and Agriculture
 - **University of Reading, UK** | May 2017
Preliminary PhD Findings: Climate Variability and Change, Smallholder Farmer Decision Making and Food Security
 - **University of Reading, UK** | May 2015
PhD Proposal & Fieldwork Preparation
 - **University of Oxford, UK** | May 2015
Contributions to Home Country After Award
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Leadership & Engagement

Community & Volunteer Roles

- Vice President, Jirapa Area Students' Union (2008–2009)
- Volunteer Safety Steward, London 2012 Olympics
- Community Volunteer, City Year UK, London

Academic Leadership

- Internal Examiner, MSc & MPhil, KNUST (2020–Present)
 - Reviewer: *Regional Environmental Change, Climate Risk Management, Ghana Journal of Geography*
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Professional Affiliations

- Ghana Geographers Association – Member
 - Commonwealth Scholars Association Alumni – Member
 - Peer Reviewer: *African Geographical Review, Regional Environmental Change, Climate Risk Management, Ghana Journal of Geography*
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Teaching Portfolio

Undergraduate:

- Population Geography
- Research Methods in Geography I
- Population-Environment-Development

Postgraduate:

- Climate Change Science
 - Adapted Land Use
 - Advanced Qualitative Research Methods
 - Research Methods I
 - Population Studies
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Technical Skills

- Climate & Statistical Analysis: R-Instat, SPSS, STATA, NVIVO, DEDOOSE
 - GIS & Remote Sensing: ArcGIS, QGIS, SAGA GIS, Global Mapper
 - Languages: English (Fluent), Dagaare (Native), Twi (Proficient)
 - Office & Data Management: Microsoft Office
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References

Professor Henny Osbahr

University of Reading, UK

Email: h.osbahr@reading.ac.uk | Telephone: +44 (0)118 3788314

Professor Sarah Cardey

Director, Graduate Institute for International Development, University of Reading, UK

Email: s.p.cardey@reading.ac.uk | Telephone: +44 (0)118 3786594

Professor Alexander Yao Segbefia

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