



THE RESEARCH ADVOCATE

The Research Advocate is a quarterly newsletter published by the Directorate of Research, Innovations and Development (DRID) of GIJ.

JANUARY—MARCH 2021

GIJ RESUMES ACADEMIC WORK

Temperature checks. Hand washing instalments. Face masks. Hybrid teaching and learning. These are the new features of teaching and learning at GIJ as another semester begins. After a 10-month break from regular academic work, due mainly to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in Ghana, Government announced resumption of academic work in January 2021. Management of the Institute has put in place measures and protocols as prescribed by the Ministry of Health and the Ghana Health Service to ensure smooth take off and continuation of academic work. As the pandemic re-surges modifications are being made to how teaching and learning will take place.

Students are excited about continuing their studies but also anxious and careful not to be infected with the virus. Some students have been sharing their expectations of this new normal academic era with The Research Advocate.

Emefa, a level 300 student is optimistic that having piloted reopening of schools with the JHS and SHS students with positive outcomes, the wholesale reopening of schools in Ghana will not be saddled with any setbacks. Adeline, who is in level 400 expressed satisfaction with the measures put in place by Ghana and the Ghana Institute of Journalism. She expects and also anticipates that students will respect all the Covid-19 protocols outlined if they have to be on campus. She was of the view that she had some fears but they were allayed as she came to campus and realized the Institute had measures in place for social distancing in the lecture halls, sanitizers placed at vantage points and veronica buckets for students to wash their hands.

In his words, Yaw, a level 100 students was enthusiastic and expectant when he noted that, "I expect things to go well ..I expect things to be normal... If I say normal, I mean I don't expect the Covid to spread if we obey the Covid protocols. I expect classes go on fine because considering our classes on Monday.. the spacing was cool. Apart from that, lecturers were wearing their masks and students were also wearing theirs."

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- * Student Research spotlight: Mr. Orlando Sylvester Tetey

UPCOMING EVENTS

DRID Research Training & Capacity Building Workshops

JANUARY 29

Strategies for writing scholarly publications and writing workshop session—Dr. Etse Sikanaku

FEBRUARY 26

Strategies for getting published—Prof. Isaac Abeeku Blankson

MARCH 12

The literature review: getting it right—Dr. Gilbert Tietaah

MARCH 26

Attracting Research Funding for academic research

CALL FOR BOOK CHAPTER

(Kindly contact the DRID Secretariat for Detailed information)

Title: Challenges of communicating health and pandemics in Africa: Theory, Practice and Guidelines

Abstract only with title due: 27th February, 2021

**Welcome address from the
Deputy Rector
Prof. Eric Opoku Mensah**



The management of GIJ wishes to welcome all students, staff and the entire GIJ community back to school after the long break due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is a new normal era and though anticipated to be challenging it is my fervent hope and prayer that we will all keep safe by adhering to the prescribed protocols. The uncertainties of the season notwithstanding, our focus and agenda as an institution of higher learning remains resolute.

As a young and growing public university in a globalised world, GIJ understands the place of research in the sustainability and development of every academic institution, and though constrained in resource and infrastructural allocation, GIJ is committed to branding and creating a research niche for itself. We are dedicated to the mandate of promoting and maintaining an environment which fosters and supports research of high ethical standards, mutual co-operation, professionalism and the open and honest exchange of ideas. This has set the

tone for the establishment of the research arm, the Directorate of Research, Innovations and Development (DRID) to foster the research branding of the Institute by identifying and sourcing research funds, promoting and coordinating research within the Institute and also collaborating with industry and other external agencies to engender knowledge-driven growth based on innovation to facilitate learning.

The role of the DRID is aligned with the Ghana Institute of Journalism Strategic Plan (2021-2025) to enable interaction and collaborative research between faculty, scholars, students and industry. This will enhance research opportunities, academic excellence, knowledge creation and dissemination to solve real-world and industry problems. GIJ will strive to provide the needed support through training of trainers and organising the needed fora to build staff and students' capacity for research.

I therefore encourage all and sundry to get on board and get our axes together to help achieve this all-important task to make GIJ the University of Choice we all dream of.

**SOME MAJOR JOURNALS IN THE MEDIA
AND COMMUNICATION SPACE**

Journal of Communication, Media and Society
Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly
Mass Communication and Society
Journal of Communication
Journalism Studies
Journalism Practice
Discourse and Society
Visual Communication Quarterly
International Communication Gazette
Journal of Black Studies
Public Relations Review
Journal of African Media Studies
Social Media and Society
Public Relations Enquiry
New Media and Society

FACULTY RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Modestus Fosu



Dr. Modestus Fosu is the Dean of the Faculty of Integrated Communication Sciences. His teaching and research interests include Language of the news, media and participation, journalism and news writing, media and journalism education, and general language use in communication.

Dr. Fosu has co-authored a book chapter with the title: *African language journalism in Ghana and the quest for quality and sustainable broadcast journalism: an investigation of Peace FM*. The book, *African Language Media: Development, economics and management*, published in 2021 was edited by Prof. Abiodun Salawu and published by Routledge.

The chapter seeks to highlight the issue of quality, professionalism and sustainability of local language journalism in the Ghanaian context from the practitioner, regulator and academic perspectives.

Dr. Fosu has a number of academic publications in reputable outlets in Ghana and abroad. He has also attended and presented academic papers at various local and international conferences.

STUDENT RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Orlando Sylvester Tettey

TRA: How did you cope with the covid during your research?

OST: It wasn't a big deal...erhmm..i just had to observe the protocols that's all. I couldn't get the time to stay in the house most of the time because of work but it was okay for me.

TRA: How was your relation with your supervisor throughout the process of your research?

OST: It was a good relationship that I built with him. It was okay. He helped me a lot throughout the process. Even though there was Covid, it didn't disrupt my work in anyway since I could send my chapters to my supervisor via email.



TRA: What research skill did you gain from school that will be helpful in the execution of your responsibilities at work?

OST: Thematic analysis of data, the use of SPSS for Data analysis. Quantitative analysis of data, skills to undertake literature review and more.

TRA: What is your research interest ?

OST: Media and the various forms in which they set agenda for public discourse.

TRA: Have you been able to partake in any research related program, seminar, project after completing your programme of study at GIJ?

OST: Yes please I have.

TRA: If Yes how was your experience?

OST: My experience as a media monitor was great. I've also served as a research assistant to my boss.

TRA: What was your task and what did you learn?

OST: One was in relation to observing media content and inputting them and another had to do with analysis of a speech.

TRA: Any advice for the up and coming ones.

OST: I will tell them to take everything that they are doing seriously as far as research is concern. Its worth the study.

TIME WITH OUR MASTERS' STUDENTS

The Research Advocate caught up with some Master of Arts in Journalism students and shares the secret behind their choice of GIJ for their masters programmes and what their expectations are.

Richard Agyenim

I chose GIJ because it is my former school. Additionally, GIJ is the only university that offers masters programme in journalism in the Ghana. I expect to build up on what I already know to know more and do more reading, because masters is not like an under-graduate program where you read, pass and forget. This one is more detailed. I expect to be taught more and to broaden my knowledge in Journalism which I have chosen to study. My research interest is in digital media.

Simon Adjabui

After my first degree in a private university, I came to GIJ for a certificate program, that is radio and television presenting. The practical nature of the course, the quality and depth of information I got motivated me to come back to do my masters here. Knowing the daunting nature of the profession I have chosen, that is, being a media practitioner, I have a plan for myself and my future, so I have to learn and know much about what I want to do and go into so that I will not have difficulties in management of what I do. My research interest is to know more about media operations because what I realise is that most of the owners of media houses interfere with media content and ideologies so I want to make sure that professionalism is being displayed.

Victoria Akosua Amakwa

I have always wanted to be a very good communicator and as a communication strategist, I believe GIJ is the best communication pile that can give me what I have always dreamt of. Additionally, I have a political ambition so I really want to equip myself in communication. GIJ is the best journalism and communication institution in Ghana based on the records it has had for decades. My major expectation in GIJ is that students will be given opportunity to explore out there based on the training received here, just as most GIJ graduates are doing. The records speak for itself and the name of the school has already provided that platform. I was expecting to see all these and praise be to God, the few days that I have attended class I have seen that in the lecturers that they are here to help and teach the young ones, and also unleash the potentials and make us the re-

sourceful people we always dream of. My research interest is in gender representation, especially in politics.

Christian Solomon

I chose to study in GIJ because it is a recognised communication institution that brings up young people most people to be out and to be able to communicate effectively and then perform better. I am expecting to know everything about Journalism even though I have had experience before. I expect to build on my experience and then to acquire more knowledge learn about certain things that I didn't know before and master up in everything learnt during my first degree. My research interest is journalism management and the welfare of journalists as a whole. Some journalist are depressed, some have emotional stress and other issues that they are also facing, so as a journalist myself, I think it will be appropriate to also know how my fellow journalists in the industry are also doing and faring.

Acknowledgement

The Research Advocate team appreciate the following correspondents who assisted with the publication of this maiden edition by interviewing students:

Mr. Emmanuel Kwaku Adaboh, Level 400, BAC Journalism

Mr. Mortty Richard Bediako, Level 400, BAC

CORE STAFF OF DRID

DIRECTOR

Dr. Etse Sikanku

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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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CALL FOR PAPERS

(Kindly contact the DRID Secretariat for Detailed information on Call for papers/manuscripts)

Journal Title: Human-Machine Communication

"Diffusion of Human-Machine Communication During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic" (Special Issue of Human-Machine Communication)

For more information or questions, please contact the Special Issue Editor Dr. David Kim at kimcomm@louisiana.edu.

Visit <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/hmc/callforpapers.html>

Submission and Deadline: February 28, 2021. All manuscripts should be submitted via the journal's online submission system with the remark, "Special Issue" in the cover letter:

<https://hmcjournal.com>

In the online submission system, there will be a drop-down menu under Document Type. Please choose "Special Issue Submission"

The Iowa Journal of Communication

The Iowa Journal of Communication has extended the deadline for submissions for two issues:

- Special Issue: "Crisis Communication: Surviving and Thriving during a Pandemic" (Volume 53.1)

- General Issue: Open to any topic in communication (Volume 53.2)

Contact Kristen L. Majocha on majocha@calu.edu
The deadline for both issues is April 30th, 2021.

Texas Speech Communication Journal Volume 45, Issue 1

The Texas Speech Communication Journal issues a call for papers that focus on research in human communication. Contributors may approach topics from multiple perspectives, contexts, and methodologies supported within the discipline. Manuscripts should be received no later than March 31, 2021. Texas Speech Communication Journal (TSCJ) follows a policy of blind review so no author identification should appear in the abstract and body of the manuscript.

Queries and manuscript submissions should be sent via email to: Amanda Jo Ratcliff, tscjeditor@gmail.com

2021 Union for Democratic Communications (UDC) 40th Anniversary Conference June 23-25

Call for Papers: "Masking the Crisis: Social Movements, Street Politics, and the Political Process"
To be held online due to COVID-19

Deadline for Submissions: April 1, 2021

• In all abstracts, describe clearly and concisely (300-500 words) what your submission does. Make sure it is well-edited.

Graduate students should submit full papers and abstracts to be considered for the Brian Murphy Student Paper Award. (<http://www.democraticcommunications.org/.../brian-murphy.../>)

*All submissions undergo a double-blind review.

Notice of Acceptance: Applicants will be notified of their acceptance no later than 1 May 2021.

For more information, please visit our Conference Index. For any questions, please contact: udc.steering@gmail.com

Link to Submit:

<https://easychair.org/my/conference?conf=udc2021>

Call for Audiovisual Work: International Association for Media and Communication Research Nairobi Online 2021 Conference

Flow 34 - Call for Proposals for Audiovisual Work at the International Association for Media and Communication Research -IAMCR- Nairobi online 2021 conference

IAMCR calls for academic audio and/or visual work to be presented at the IAMCR Nairobi conference, which will be held online from 11 to 15 July, 2021.

We call for audio/visual work with a maximum duration of 30 minutes, but shorter contributions are also welcomed. Proposals for presentation of audio/visual work will consist out of two documents, namely an abstract and a (basic) script.

Submissions of proposals for audio/visual work will follow the regular timetable for submitting proposals to the IAMCR conference. This means that abstracts must be submitted before 9 February 2021 at 23.59 UTC.

The combined abstract and script should be submitted at:

<https://iamcr.org/nairobi2021/flow34-submit>

The Flow 34 evaluation team will review the submitted proposals, announcing their decisions by 15 March 2021. The audio/visual work itself will then need to be submitted by 7 June 2021.

Bruce Girard, bgirard@iamcr.org

International Conference on Child Responsive Inclusive Development—Accra, organised by the Ghana Inclusive Development Research Network (GRDNR)

Theme: Effective policy responses to the impacts of Covid-19 on children and families for child responsive inclusive and sustainable development.

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 15th February, 2021. Call GRDNR on 0372092362/0504395605