



THE RESEARCH ADVOCATE

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

APRIL—JUNE 2021

GIJ STUDENTS COMMEND MANAGEMENT FOR EFFECTIVE ONLINE STUDIES

By Emmanuel Kwarteng, BAC Level 300

A member of the interim Committee of the Students' Representative Council of the Ghana Institute of Journalism, Dennis Attuquaye-fio has commended the school's management for what he described as a "remarkable" improved online studies.

Mister Attuquaye-fio, who received an overwhelming endorsement from the level 300 constituents said, "I think the online class this semester has improved and is performing better than it did last semester."

He continued and said despite, "few hitches that needs to be addressed especially with regards to the LMS, lectures have also been more effective this semester compared to last semester."

He added that one of the major challenges facing students is the cost of data, which is draining their pocket, a situation he said the Committee will engage the school's management to look at.

"Students want the LMS to be better so in my view these are the things students want and so I would do my best to push these for students to feel comfortable", he said.

Ruthaford, a fresh woman of the Institute expressed satisfaction with the progress of the online studies since it replaced physical lectures.

"The LSM has been friendly to me. I haven't faced any difficulties regarding logins. The thing is, I usually login some twenty minutes before the time to avoid the site being jammed as many people rush to join at the last minute", she said.

Deborah is a level 300 student. She said, "so far so good with the online studies. Lectures do take place on time. It's just like physical class because we spend the exact hours. Lecturers are always available. It's going well."

Communication research lecturer, Dr. Rosemary also emphasized that, "online studies has become a part of teaching and learning in many academic institutions."

"Inadequate knowledge in the use of institutional

learning platform is by far the most challenging issue. Continuous training sessions for both staff and students on the use of the learning system would be a good way to improve online studies", she explained.

It would be recalled that management in a memo indicated that from January 25, 2021, teaching and learning will be taking place online.

The news was greeted with mixed reaction from students. Some were of the view that the learning management system is not robust enough to facilitate such move.

However, students have adjusted to the new way of teaching and learning in the ere of a pandemic, COVID-19.

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UPCOMING EVENT

WEBINAR ON MEDIA'S PERFORMANCE DURING ELECTION 2020 IN GHANA

Date: 9 April, 2020

Time: 9:00 am and 2:00 pm each day

Mode: Zoom (details on Page 2)

ENGAGE IN RESEARCH AGENDA THAT HELPS RESOLVE EXISTING PROBLEMS IN THE COMMUNICATION FIELD -

PROFESSOR ABEKU BLANKSON

By: Esther Awagah

Professor Isaac Blankson, the Pro Vice Chancellor of the Ghana Communication Technology University has called on GIJ lecturers to base their research works on problems and not just topics, to help solve the existing problems within the communication field. He stated that, problematization of research lends relevance to issues happening around us from a communication perspective.

He made the call at a research seminar organized by the Directorate of Research, Innovation and Development of GIJ. The Directorate is headed by Dr Etse Sikanku, a senior lecturer and an accomplished scholar at the institution.

The topic for the event was: “How to Select Research Topics and Problematize Communication Research”.

He engaged the faculty in a lively discussion on how to select research topics that further a research agenda. Professor Blankson stated that research should generally be driven by a particular problem, relevant questions and a genuine curiosity and interest to address these problems. He also urged the participants to conduct collaborative research to enhance academic inquiries and publication.

GIJ TO HOST A WEBINAR ON MEDIA'S PERFORMANCE DURING ELECTION 2020 IN GHANA

By Julius Asare Adofo

The Office of Research Innovation and Development of the Ghana Institute of Journalism and the Management will organize a web seminar on the just ended Presidential and Parliamentary election in Ghana which was held in December 2020.

The event which will be held under the theme “Assessing the Media's Performance during the 2020 General Election in Ghana” has been slated for 9th April 2021 and will look at how vital the role of the media has been to the success of the election

Director of the Office of Research Innovation and Development at the Institute, Dr Etse Sikanku said the seminar will bring on board resource persons from the field of communication to evaluate and scrutinize the role of the media in the just ended 2020 general election.

“The purpose of the event is to offer academics and

practitioners the opportunity to reflect on the recently held election to take stock of lessons, challenges and opportunities to in the future”, he noted.

He added that the main purpose of the event is to create a platform to engage in discussions with the public to bring their views on how the media performed during the 2020 election, something he believes will hopefully guide future elections regarding media coverage.

This maiden edition will feature Citi FM's morning show host Bernard Avle, Sulemana Braimah, Executive Director, Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA), Zakaria Tanko Musah, legal practitioner and lecturer at the Ghana Institute of Journalism and Dr. Lawrencina Agyapong, lecturer leading and setting the tone for the conversation.

The poster features the Ghana Institute of Journalism logo and the Directorate of Research, Innovation and Development. The main text reads: "Invites you to a Webinar Themed: ASSESSING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE MEDIA DURING THE 2020 GENERAL ELECTIONS IN GHANA". The time is listed as 12 Noon. The speakers are: Mr. Sulemana Braimah (Executive Director, MFWA), Mr. Bernard Avle (General Manager, Citi FM), Mr. Zakaria Tanko Musah (Lecturer, Ghana Institute of Journalism), and Dr. Lawrencina Agyapong (Lecturer, Ghana Institute of Journalism). The date is Friday, April 9, 2021, and the meeting ID is 89712655484 with passcode 668338.

Ghana has successfully organized its eighth presidential and parliamentary elections under the 4th Republic with the recent being the 2020 General Elections. The media's role, as it has always been, was very central to the conduct of the 2020 election.

Further details concerning the seminar shall be made available to the public.

FACULTY RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Dr. IKE TANDOH



Dr. Ike Tandoh, APR is a lecturer at the Faculty of Public Relations, Advertising, and Marketing. Teaching and practicing as a corporate anthropologist and Accredited Public Relations Specialist, Dr. Tandoh's research focuses on investigating the role integrated marketing communications play in connecting stakeholders to brands and how mutually beneficial relationships between firms and their customers can be established. His research primarily focuses on areas such as Integrated Marketing Communications, Brand Communications, Corporate Social Responsibility, Crisis Communication, and Strategic Management.

Dr. Tandoh has recently co-authored a paper titled: **"The Use of Corporate Websites as Dialogic Public Relations Tools by Ghana's Public and Private Institutions"** published by the *Covenant Journal of Communication (CJOC)*.

Motivated by the non-visibility of literature about African countries, the paper examined corporate websites as dialogic online public relations tools in Ghana. The explorative study used six case studies, three apiece from private and public organizations.

The findings indicated that, while public institutions use their websites to inform, educate, train, and develop positive relationships with their publics, profit-oriented organizations extend the usage to running advertisements to gain more profits. The findings also show that an organization's ethical systems can determine a website's content in dialogic communication.

Dr. Tandoh has several publications in Scopus index journals and has 2 books and publications also in local journals.

GIJ GOES DIGITAL WITH STUDENTS' ACADEMIC WORK

By Michael Davis Afortu

Students of the Ghana Institute of Journalism were always reminded of the success stories of online lectures in other parts of the world and the need for us at GIJ to start preparing for similar experiences. We were comfortable with our traditional form of lectures until Covid-19 struck in March, 2020.

Management of the Institute quickly rolled out the online lectures compelling students to write their end of semester examination online. This announcement from management was generally received with excitement by the rank and file of the student's body.



Challenges faced by students:

Despite the general excitement expressed by students when management migrated lectures to the Learning Management System (LMS) and Zoom platforms, there have been a plethora of challenges faced by students. *Cont'd on page 4*

SOME MAJOR JOURNALS IN THE MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION SPACE (SCOPUS INDEXED)

Interaction Studies

Written Communication

Management Journalism Quarterly

International Journal on Media Management

Management Communication Quarterly

International Journal of Communication

Journal of Children and Media

Poetics

Feminist Media Studies

Review of Communication Research

Discourse and Society

Discourse Studies

Language and Communication

GIJ GOES DIGITAL WITH STUDENTS' ACADEMIC WORK *cont'd*

Firstly, students consistently complained about poor internet connectivity in their various neighborhoods. Below is the statistics on access to internet in Ghana and in some countries around the world.

Internet users in Ghana

There were 15.70 million internet users in Ghana as at the end of January 2021. The number of internet users in Ghana increased by 943 thousand (+6.4%) between 2020 and 2021.

Internet penetration in Ghana stood at 50.0% in January 2021. Source: *Datareportal*

Worldwide digital population as of January 2021

(Published by Joseph Johnson, Mar 5, 2021)

How many people use the internet?

As of January 2021 there were 4.66 billion active internet users worldwide - 59.5 percent of the global population. Of this total, 92.6 percent (4.32 billion) accessed the internet via mobile devices.

Global internet usage

By now, a world without the internet is unimaginable. Connecting billions of people worldwide, the internet is a core pillar of the modern information society. The global internet penetration rate is 59 percent, with Northern Europe ranking first with a 95 percent internet penetration rate among the population. The countries with the highest internet penetration rate worldwide are the UAE, Denmark, and South Korea. At the opposite end of the spectrum is North Korea with virtually no online usage penetration among the general population, ranking last worldwide. As of 2019, Asia was the region with the largest number of online users – over 2.3 billion at the latest count. Europe was ranked second with almost 728 million internet users.

Which country has the highest number of internet users?

China, India and the United States rank ahead all other countries in terms of internet users. China has more than 854 million internet users, and India has approximately 560 million online users. Both countries still have large parts of the population that are offline.

Global digital population as of January 2021(in billions)

Number of users in billions

Active internet users 4.66

Active mobile internet users 4.32

Active social media users 4.2

Active mobile social media users 4.15

From the statistics on access to internet in Ghana and the global picture, it's clear that, Ghana needs to broaden its net

to have more than half of her population having access to internet in this pandemic era.

Every class at GIJ, averagely has at least one hundred students, but for the poor internet connectivity a little over half of this number are able to join for the online classes amidst intermittent break in sound and connectivity. Another concern for students on the online classes is the cost of data for the classes. Also, students have a huge challenge in accessing the Learning Management System (LMS).

What's an LMS?

LMS is an online education hub that provides a large and indispensable set of features to support educational activities such as classroom learning, distance education and continuing education.

A good number of them have visited the IT department of the institute to have the LMS set up yet the challenge still persists and this is making such students lose instructional hours and its really affecting their academic work. Students are comfortable with the use of the Zoom platform because it is easier navigating your way round it unlike the LMS. But, management stresses that the LMS is the official learning platform for all GIJ students and they need to familiarize with its use.



Success stories of the online classes:

Irrespective of the challenges faced by students, there are a number of positives:

* The online classes is the way to go especially in the Covid-19 era. It has eliminated the large number of students gathering in a hall for lectures thereby reducing the risk of getting infected with the virus.

Since the online started, lecturers have supervised a number of virtual group presentations by students which is fantastic for us to be able use technology in getting assignments, project works and group presentations done and delivered from the comfort of our homes.

Responses from students on their experiences of online teaching and learning.

Student A:

TRA: Good morning, please can you tell me your level and program of study?

SA: Good morning, sure, I'm in

Cont'd on page 5

GIJ GOES DIGITAL WITH STUDENTS' ACADEMIC WORK *cont'd*

level 400, PR weekend student.

TRA: Great! What's your view on the online classes so far?

SA: I will say, so far so good, I'm able to sign in to the LMS to have my lectures and it's been a fantastic experience.

TRA: Some of your mates are of the view that, the online classes is expensive considering the cost of data and all, please what's your response to that?

SA: I disagree because, depending on your network and the kind of data plan you're on. For me, data cost for my online classes is cool.

TRA: What do you think should be done to improve on the online classes?

SA: I think management should add other E- Learning platforms for students who are unable to access the LMS.

TRA: It's been exciting talking to you, boss.

SA: My pleasure, Sir.

Student B:

TRA: Good afternoon. Please, what is your level and specialisation?

KD: Good afternoon, I'm in level 200 Journalism regular student.

TRA: Alright! What's your views on the online classes so far?

KD: The online classes has been smooth for me, I'm excited that I've had to use technology to study online and to present assignments virtually.

TRA: Some of your mates are of the view that, the online classes is expensive considering the cost of data and all, please what's your response to that?

KD: Yeah! I agree with them to an extent, but then, we're not in normal times so they should sacrifice till we're back to the lecture hall.

TRA: What do you think should be done to improve on the online classes?

KD: Management should set up a quick response unit purposely for the online classes to address student's peculiar challenges.

TRA: It's been nice talking to you, boss

KD: Thank you for having me.

Students are excited about the introduction of the online classes especially in this pandemic era and using technology in the learning process is generally exciting for students. However, they are looking forward to management to address the identified issues with the online classes so that the good intent for the online classes will be achieved.

Going forward, management should take a number of steps to improve upon the online classes. Firstly, spearheaded by the

IT department, management should organize a virtual training for students on the use of the LMS platform because that seems to be a major challenge for students. Also, management should improve on the capacity of the IT department to be able to deal with the huge number of students having challenges accessing the LMS. Finally, Management should direct all lecturers to record their lectures and make it available on the WhatsApp platforms for students who were not able to have access to lecture at the time of teaching to listen to it so that they are not left out.

FINAL YEAR STUDENTS OF GIJ BRACE UP FOR THEIR PROJECT WORK

By Mortty Richard Bediako

It's that time again in every student's life where you have to do an academic research work before you are awarded certificate of merit. A few students sampled by convenience share their views on their readiness and expectations:

Richard Anaman

Well, with respect to the project work, whether we like it or not, we will definitely do it and now is the time. Right from the beginning of the semester, I have positioned my mind to do it. It's something I have prepared for, and I will be working on something that has to do with communication.

Sakina Ankoma Badu

I am very prepared for the research work because I am in my final year and when you get to your final year, you will do a research work. I just expect the supervisors to be easy on us, because we are not in normal times. They should help shape what we have already studied in class into a practical experience. For my group, we are now soliciting ideas on arriving at a researchable problem.

Efo Mawutor.

I believe that, my time in GIJ from level 100 first semester till level 400 first semester has prepared me enough to take up this research work. The assignments that have been given over the years and the mini project works done have prepared me. I approached them diligently and the lecturers helped us to do our in-text citations, to find materials for the literature review and also to support the claims we made. I have also learnt to do referencing and formatting for general presentation of work. I think that I have gathered enough knowledge and experiences and I am ready for the project work.

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Mr. Emmanuel Kwarteng, Level 300 BAC Journalism

Mr. Michael Davis Afortu, Level 200 BAC Journalism

Mr. Julius Asare Adofo, Level 300 Journalism Top-up

Mr. Evans Aziamor-Mensah—Correspondent/Writer

Ms. Esther Awagah—Correspondent/Writer

Design: Mrs. Caroline Aboagye Da-Costa (Research Officer)

CALL FOR PAPERS

Kindly contact the DRID office for further details

EMERALD PUBLISHING

COVID-19: advancing international marketing theory and guiding practice

· Submissions close: December 31, 2021.

Submissions should be prepared using the IMR Manuscript Preparation Guidelines (https://www.emeraldgroupublishing.com/products/journals/author_guidelines.htm?id=imr)

Manuscripts must be submitted electronically online at <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/imrev>

· Please select this special issue from the drop down menu during submission

· Papers will be reviewed according to the IMR double-blind review process

Informal enquiries relating to the Special Issue, proposed topics and potential fit with the Special Issue objectives are welcomed. Please direct any questions to the Managing Guest Editor, Dr Michael Christofi at: michael.christofi@cut.ac.cy

Global Health Emergency, Risk and Knowledge Management Across Cultures

The deadline for submissions of full papers is **31st October 2021**.

Manuscripts should be submitted via Emerald <http://www.emeraldinsight.com/journal/jkm> in the Article Type "Special Issue: Global Health Emergency, Risk and Knowledge Management Across Cultures". Submissions should not have been previously published nor be currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. Refereeing and the selection of papers follow the normal standards of JKM. For details related to the format, please refer to the webpage: <http://emeraldgroupublishing.com/authors/index.htm>.

Journal of Screenwriting

Special Issue: 'The New Screenplay? Emerging Styles, Modes and Languages'

[Call for paper PDF](#)

Deadline: 1 April 2021

East Asian Journal of Popular Culture

Special Issue: 'The Occult in Everyday Life'

[Call for paper PDF](#)

Deadline: 1 April 2021

Short Film Studies

Call for Papers: 'Issue 11.2'

[Call for paper PDF](#)

Deadline: 16 April 2021

Interactions: Studies in Communication & Culture

Special Issue: 'British and Irish Radio in the Twenty-First Century'

[Call for paper PDF](#)

Deadline: 28 May 2021

Journal of Arab & Muslim Media Research

Special Issue: 'New Media and National Identity'

[Call for paper PDF](#)

Deadline: 15 June 2021

Journal of Applied Journalism and Media Studies

Special Issue: 'What's next for media development?'

[Call for paper PDF](#)

Deadline: 21 September 2021

Journal of Applied Journalism and Media Studies

Special Issue: 'VUCA Communication'

Call for paper PDF

Deadline: 15 January 2022

The 12th Asian Conference on Media, Communication & Film (MediAsia2021)

Conference Dates: Tuesday, November 09, 2021 to Friday, November 12, 2021

Early Bird Abstract Submission Deadline: June 20, 2021*

Final Abstract Submission Deadline: August 20, 2021

Results of abstract review returned to authors: Generally within four weeks

Full conference registration fees due for all presenters : October 30, 2021

Full conference paper submission (after the event): December 13, 2021

Full conference registration fees due for all presenters : October 30, 2021

Full conference paper submission (after the event): December 13, 2021

*Submit early to take advantage of the discounted registration rates.

International Communication Association

Call for Conference Papers

Date	Conference	Location	Deadline
22 July 2021	Distant Com-	Virtual Zoom Event	30 April 2021
	Meta-analysis on effects of social comparison on social media: Request for unpublished studies		1 May 2021
PUBLICATION	Call for Abstracts: Special Issue on Frontiers in Communication	PUBLICATION	26 April 2021
PUBLICATION	Global TV Images of Female Masculinity in the 2010's	PUBLICATION	1 June 2021
PUBLICATION	Sex, Gender, Sexuality, & Communication: A Special Issue of Profesional de la Información	PUBLICATION	15 July 2021
PUBLICATION	Social news diffusion: Platforms, publics, scenarios, and dimensions of news sharing	PUBLICATION	30 November 2021



GHANA INSTITUTE OF JOURNALISM CALL FOR BOOK CHAPTERS

Title: Handbook of Election News Coverage and Communication in Ghana

Editors: Modestus Fosu, PhD; Lawrencia Agyepong, PhD; James Asante, PhD;
Etse Sikanku, PhD

Publisher: Ghana Institute of Journalism Press

SCOPE OF THE BOOK

Ghana conducted its eight presidential and parliamentary elections (2020) since the democratic renaissance of the early 1990s. Throughout this journey the media, language and communication have played significant roles in safeguarding, entrenching and consolidating Ghana's democratic experience.

Assessing media and communicative roles should be an issue of concern to practitioners, academics, civil society, media managers, analysts and researchers. The Handbook of Election News Coverage and Communication in Ghana comprehensively examines how the media covered the 2020 general elections as well as the broader role of communication in the election. This book provides analytical opportunities to better understand media coverage and communication in an emerging democracy.

TOPICS OF INTEREST

The call for submissions is open to authors from around the country or beyond and is open to a wide range of topics under the broad subject area. Authors may approach topics from multiple perspectives, socio-economic contexts, and methodological approaches within the discipline. The areas of interest include:

- In-depth analysis of traditional and digital news media such as print, online radio and television.
- Communication, public relations and advertising strategies used by the various parties during the 2020 Elections.
- Language use, the power of words, speeches and rhetoric related to the 2020 general elections in Ghana.
- Explores emerging areas such as the role of blogging and social media sites during elections.
- Discusses theories and concepts related to media coverage, political journalism and political communication.
- History and appraisal of electoral coverage in Ghana
- Fake news and disinformation during the 2020 elections
- Gender dynamics and reportage during the elections

IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES

Abstract only with the title due:	March 30, 2021
Preliminary acceptance/rejection notification:	April 15th, 2021
Full chapter submission:	September 30th, 2021
Expected date of publication:	November 30th, 2021

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE:

Please send your abstract of 200- 300 words and six keywords along with a short bio of 200-300 words, to sikankuetse@gmail.com with the title of the book as subject.