

Charlie Cobbinah

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

PhD candidate in Sustainable African Futures with a focus on decolonization, higher education and sustainable development. Experienced in interdisciplinary research and international academic collaborations, with a passion for advancing sustainable development through policy and youth empowerment.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary: Decolonisation, (Higher) Education, and Sustainable Development.

Secondary: Philosophy of Education, Youth Development, and Social Policy.

EDUCATION

University of the Witwatersrand; University of Edinburgh, PhD in Sustainable African Futures	Johannesburg, South Africa Scotland, United Kingdom Expected: December 2027
University of Edinburgh, MSc by Research in Sustainable African Futures	Scotland, United Kingdom Awarded: November 2024
University of Ghana, BSc in Administration	Accra, Ghana Awarded: March 2023

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Member, Philosophy of Education Research Group The University of Edinburgh	2025 – present
Doctoral Fellow, Wits-Edinburgh Sustainable African Futures, The University of Witwatersrand and Edinburgh	2023 – present
Scholar, Mastercard Foundation Scholars Programme, Mastercard Foundation	2023 – present
Recipient, Ghana Library Commonwealth of Learning Scholarship, Ghana Library Authority	2023
Awardee, Ghana Government Merit Scholarship, Ghana Scholarship Secretariat	2015 - 2017
Awardee, Trinity United Church Scholarships, Trinity United Church	2018 - 2022

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Ghana, Visiting Doctoral Researcher	Accra, Ghana January 2025 - Present
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Engage in qualitative research collaboration with Dr Delali Amuzu of the University's College of Education, alongside ongoing scholarly mentorship.

**University of Ghana,
Research Assistant**

Accra, Ghana
November 2022 – September 2023

- Supported Prof. Anthony Aboagye, Editor-in-Chief of the African Journal of Management Research (AJMR), in research activities including data collection, analysis, and publication support.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**University of Ghana
Teaching Assistant**

Accra, Ghana
November 2022 – September 2023

- Provided support with teaching activities, including preparation of instructional materials and assistance with student-related academic matters.

**Hanson Memorial School Complex,
Teacher**

Accra, Ghana
September 2017 – October 2022

- Taught at the junior and senior high school levels, delivering instruction in Science and Mathematics. Responsibilities included lesson planning, classroom management, student assessment, and academic mentoring. Actively participated in co-curricular activities and contributed to improving academic performance and student development.

PUBLICATIONS

1. **Book Chapter:** Cobbinah, C. (2025). "The Researcher as Ceremony: Decolonising the Self Before Method." In R. Datta, J. Kayira, J. Chapola & T. Starlight (Eds.), *Decolonising Research: A Ceremonial and Transformative Student-Teacher Unlearning and Relearning Journey*. Bloomsbury Publishing. (In preparation).
2. **Journal Article:** Amuzu, D., & Cobbinah, C. (2025) "Dziku" and the Death of the Heart: Language, Emotion, and the Onto-Epistemic Turn in African Thought and "Levity." *Journal of Language and Intercultural Communication*. (Under review).
3. **Opinion Piece:** Cobbinah, C. (2025, November 29). "Beyond GTEC's crackdown, here's what Ghana's title fraud reveals," Asetena Pa, Ghana
4. **Opinion Piece:** Cobbinah, C. (2024, September 17). "Ghana needs to appreciate the unique place of the NSMQ," Asetena Pa, Ghana.

CONFERENCES, TALKS AND MEDIA

1. **Guest Speaker:** "Community engagement and institutional collaborations: what can GLAMs learn with and from communities and collectives with lived experiences?" at the **DeCoGLAM Podcast**, hosted by the **University of Strathclyde**, Scotland, 13 February 2026.
2. **Guest Lecturer:** "Ecologies of Knowing Workshop Series," hosted by the **Adam Smith Business School** at the **University of Glasgow**, October – December 2025. Delivered three lectures exploring the themes of decolonisation, education and sustainability.
3. **Invited Talk:** "African Universities and Sustainable Development: How Decolonisation Works," presented at the **Philosophy of Education Research Seminar**, at the **Moray House School of Education and Sports, The University of Edinburgh**, Scotland, 28 November 2025.
4. **Conference Presentation:** "ESD outside ESD: possibilities through a decolonial lens," presented at the **43rd Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa Conference (EEASA)**, Cape Town, 8 – 13 September 2025.

5. **Invited Speaker:** “*Language Politics in Global Academia*,” presented at **Decolonising Knowledge: Whose Voices Count in Academia**, hosted by the **International Council on Human Rights, Peace and Politics (ICHRPP)**, Dubai, 5 July 2025.
6. **Guest Speaker:** “*Decolonising GLAMS and the curriculum*,” presented at **Decolonising Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums (DeCoGLAMs) Community of Practice Launch Conference**, **University of Strathclyde**, Scotland, 7 May 2025.
7. **Invited Speaker:** “*Remote Interdisciplinary Research and Collaborations: Challenges and Best Practices*,” presented at **Supporting Early-Career Researchers Workshop**, hosted by **The Royal Society of Edinburgh**, Scotland, 12 November 2024.

LEADERSHIP AND IMPACT

Ambassador,
Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program,

February 2025 – present

- Support Mastercard Foundation Scholars at **The University of Edinburgh** through the professional pathway, offering career guidance on a case-by-case basis.

Founder and Head,
We Are Inspirors

January 2019 – present

- Established and lead a community organization focused on empowering young people to become the best version of themselves and pursuing purpose, by providing community, resources and opportunities. Responsibilities include overseeing the design and delivery of mentorship programs, workshops, and outreach initiatives that promote education, leadership, and self-development. Coordinate a team of volunteers, build partnerships with schools and local institutions, and facilitate events that foster personal growth, purpose, and community impact.

Administrator,
Hanson Memorial School Complex

February 2018 – October 2022

- Promoted to administrative leadership after one year of teaching, in recognition of professional competence and organizational impact. Oversaw academic coordination, staff scheduling, student records, and supported the implementation of school policies and development initiatives.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Award for Teaching Excellence – Hanson Memorial School Complex, 2022

Recognised as Overall Best Teacher for outstanding impact in instruction, leadership, and innovation.

- Achieved 100% BECE pass rates (2018, 2019, 2021, 2022), with all students admitted to top SHSs.
- Raised school’s district ranking from 75th to 35th in 2018 (Ghana Education Service, 2018).
- Led post-COVID tutoring initiative that preserved student learning and enrolment.
- Secured 4th place regionally in the 2018 Water Safety Competition through strategic educational programming.

REFERENCES

Available upon request.