Sebastian Angzoorokuu Paalo

Department of History & Political Studies
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology

ORCID 0000-0003-4757-6149 · Profile knust.peerford.com/staff/831a95e5-b1e1-45f9-965d-52b3440bd55b

PROFILE

Sebastian Paalo is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Government and Society at United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) in the United Arab Emirates. His research sits at the intersection of African politics and governance, international relations and geopolitics, peace and security, and the political economy of energy, natural resources, and green transitions. His work examines how domestic political institutions, state–society relations, regional organizations, global power dynamics, and resource governance shape conflict, development, security, and political outcomes in Africa.

His publications explore a range of interconnected themes, including peacebuilding and conflict governance; African security and regionalism; democracy, governance, and political settlements; China–Africa relations and the geopolitics of external engagement; energy governance and regional electricity cooperation; extractive industries and natural-resource politics; and the emerging political economy of critical minerals and green transitions in Africa. More recent work extends these interests to questions of multipolarity, geopolitical competition, and the changing dynamics of regional and global governance.

Sebastian's research has appeared in leading international journals across political science, international relations, African studies, development, energy policy, and resource governance, including Review of International Studies, International Politics, Global Society, Contemporary Politics, Energy Policy, Extractive Industries and Society, African Security Review, Africa Today, and Conflict Resolution Quarterly. He has also contributed book chapters to volumes published by major academic presses, including Oxford University Press, Springer, and SUNY Press, and has produced policy research with institutions such as Chatham House and the Social Science Research Council (SSRC).

Sebastian is a Member of the Board of Directors of the International Peace Research Association (IPRA) Foundation and serves as Assistant Director for Research at the Institute for Research and Policy Integration in Africa (IRPIA). He is also a Research Fellow at the Brew-Hammond Energy Centre, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana. He has led and contributed to several independent and collaborative research projects, including policy research with Chatham House on forest governance in Africa; an African Peacebuilding Network (APN) Individual Fellowship project supported by the SSRC on the inherent disempowerment of women's empowerment in peacebuilding in Ghana and Sierra Leone; and collaborative research on energy governance, regional electricity cooperation, and natural-resource politics in Africa.

His broader research agenda seeks to connect African political and economic dynamics with wider debates in international relations, security studies, development, and the global political economy, with particular attention to how changing geopolitical orders and resource transitions are reshaping governance and development trajectories across Africa.

RESEARCH

Interests	Conflict Resolution & Peacebuilding · African Politics · Governance & Political Economy · International Relations · Regionalism & Geopolitics · Energy · Natural Resources & Green Transitions
Areas	Sociology and Political Science · Development · Political Science and International Relations · Economics and Econometrics · Building and Construction · Demography

RESEARCH SUMMARY

20	100	5	3	1.88	25%
Publications	Citations	h-index	i10-index	Field-weighted impact	World top 10%

Counted from the 20 publications listed below, 2019–2026. Field-weighted impact is the mean over the 20 works scored for it; 1.00 is the world average for works of the same field, type and year. 5 of the 20 papers scored for it are among the world's most cited tenth for their field, type and year.

POSITIONS

Assistant Professor 2026–present
Government and Society, United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

PhD 2019–2022
School of Political Science and International Studies, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

MSc. African Studies 2016–2017
African Studies Centre, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom

MSc. Governance & Development 2015–2016
Institute of Development Policy, University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium

BA. History 2008–2012
History and Political Studies, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana

PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles 19

1. Kawsara Wanyiwonara Mohammed, Emelia Sefah, **Sebastian Angzoorokuu Paalo** (2026). Africa's just energy transition: Political economy, marginalization, and human security. *Energy Policy*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2026.115257
2. Patrick Benebere, David Damtar, Miles Larmer, **Sebastian Angzoorokuu Paalo** (2026). Governing critical mineral transitions: democracy, delay, and the politics of lithium extraction in Ghana. *The Extractive Industries and Society*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.exis.2026.101956
3. **Sebastian Angzoorokuu Paalo**, Aminu Dramani, John-Paul Safunu Banchani, Kawsara Wanyiwonara Mohammed (2025). (Re)theorizing hybrid governance in the Global South: chieftaincy's resilience and implications for post-pandemic political order in Ghana. *International Politics*. https://doi.org/10.1057/s41311-025-00731-8
4. John-Paul Safunu Banchani, **Sebastian Angzoorokuu Paalo**, John Bosco Dramani, Daniel Dramani Kipo-Sunyehzi, Abass Mohammed (2025). African Union's Institutional Innovations for Promoting Good Governance: A Focus on the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). *African Quarterly Social Science Review*. https://doi.org/10.51867/aqssr.2.3.6
5. **Sebastian Angzoorokuu Paalo**, Samuel Adu-Gyamfi, Godfred Badu Mills, Kevin Aggrey, Christian Ahensah (2025). Beyond culture: economic strains and the transactional turn in Ghanaian vote-buying practices. *Contemporary Politics*. https://doi.org/10.1080/13569775.2025.2507274
6. Eugenia Ama Breba Anderson, **Sebastian Angzoorokuu Paalo**, Aminu Dramani (2025). Pandemic-induced border closures in West Africa and the perils of cross-border Ghanaian women traders. *Women s Studies International Forum*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2024.103048
7. Samuel Adu-Gyamfi, **Sebastian Paalo**, Abdul Karim Issifu (2024). 5 - Recalibrating the labyrinths of

migration and health in West Africa. *Africa Development*. https://doi.org/10.57054/ad.v48i4.5576

8. **Sebastian Angzoorokuu Paalo**, John-Paul Safunu Banchani, Aminu Dramani, Dauda Atule (2024). Global Governance, Glocalisation and Endemic Instability in Africa. *Journal of African Politics*. https://doi.org/10.58548/2024jap42.2039
9. John-Paul Safunu Banchani, **Sebastian Angzoorokuu Paalo**, Martin Acheampong, Daniel Dramani Kipo-Sunyehzi, Aminu Dramani (2024). The Challenge of Attaining Resilient Local Structures in Grassroots Peacebuilding: A Study of Post-1994/95 Peacebuilding in Northern Ghana. *Global Society*. https://doi.org/10.1080/13600826.2024.2435066
10. **Sebastian Angzoorokuu Paalo**, Aminu Dramani (2024). The Labyrinth of State Intervention in Communal Conflict in Africa: Ghana's Maiden Official State-Led Efforts in Resolving the Bawku Conflict. *African Studies*. https://doi.org/10.1080/00020184.2025.2487481
11. Aminu Dramani, **Sebastian Angzoorokuu Paalo**, Samuel Adu-Gyamfi (2023). Emerging Local Voices and New Possibilities toward Attaining Sustainable Peace in Bawku, north-eastern Ghana. *African Journal on Conflict Resolution*. https://doi.org/10.17159/ajcr.v23i1.16787
12. **Sebastian Angzoorokuu Paalo**, Dominic Degraft Arthur, Aminu Dramani, Samuel Adu-Gyamfi (2023). Exploring hybrid security strategies in Ghana: State and private sector partnerships. *African Security Review*. https://doi.org/10.1080/10246029.2023.2286225
13. **Sebastian Angzoorokuu Paalo**, Samuel Adu-Gyamfi, Dominic Degraft Arthur (2023). Nationalist secessionism and global order: A comparison of the dynamics and impact of secession movements in Africa and Europe. *Nations and Nationalism*. https://doi.org/10.1111/nana.12995
14. Abdul Karim Issifu, Francis Diawuo Darko, **Sebastian Angzoorokuu Paalo** (2022). Climate change, migration and farmer–herder conflict in Ghana. *Conflict Resolution Quarterly*. https://doi.org/10.1002/crq.21346
15. **Sebastian Angzoorokuu Paalo** (2022). Title: Intergenerational gaps in women's grassroots peacebuilding in Ghana: a critique of "inclusive peacebuilding". *Journal of Aggression Conflict and Peace Research*. https://doi.org/10.1108/jacpr-01-2022-0663
16. **Sebastian Paalo**, Samuel Adu-Gyamfi, Dominic Degraft Arthur (2022). Xenophobia and the challenge of regional integration in Africa: understanding three cardinal dynamics. *Acta Academica Critical views on society culture and politics*. https://doi.org/10.18820/24150479/aa54i2/2
17. Dennis Amego Korbla Penu, **Sebastian Angzoorokuu Paalo** (2021). Institutions and Pastoralist Conflicts in Africa: A Conceptual Framework. *Journal of Peacebuilding & Development*. https://doi.org/10.1177/1542316621995733
18. **Sebastian Angzoorokuu Paalo**, Ransford Edward van Gyampo (2019). Campus Politics and Intra-Party Vote Buying in Ghana: How Political Mentorship Could Destruct. *Journal of Student Affairs in Africa*. https://doi.org/10.24085/jsaa.v7i2.3829
19. Adu-Gyamfi, Samuel, Ashaba, Ivan M., **Paalo, Sebastian A.** (2019). State Fragility, Regime Survival and Spoilers in South Sudan. *DOAJ (DOAJ: Directory of Open Access Journals)*. https://doi.org/10.13135/1825-263x/3319

Book chapters 1

1. **Sebastian Angzoorokuu Paalo**, Abdul Karim Issifu (2022). De-internationalizing Hybrid Peace: State–Traditional Authority Collaboration and Conflict Resolution in Northern Ghana. *Advances in African economic, social and political development*. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-92474-4_49