Ralitsa Diana Debrah

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PROFILE

Ralitsa Diana Debrah (PhD) is a designer and educator at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana. She serves as a member of several design organizations such as Cumulus, LeNS, DESIS Network, Open Design Afrika, PADI, World Design Organization (WDO), e/merge Africa Network (CILT | CHED, UCT), Upcycling Network and AOSIS Journal . Her research interests include: Design, Social Innovation, Sustainability, Pluriversal Design, Human-Computer-Interaction and EdTech for Social Transformation within Transdisciplinary settings. She loves people, design and Technology. She is a lifelong learner and a futurist.

RESEARCH

Interests	Design · Social innovation · Sustainability · Service Design · Technology in Education
Areas	Education · Information Systems · Computer Graphics and Computer-Aided Design · General Health Professions · Human-Computer Interaction · Management of Technology and Innovation

RESEARCH SUMMARY

33	47	4	1	0.64	11%
Publications	Citations	h-index	i10-index	Field-weighted impact	World top 10%

Counted from the 33 publications listed below, 2010–2026. Field-weighted impact is the mean over the 18 works scored for it; 1.00 is the world average for works of the same field, type and year. 2 of the 18 papers scored for it are among the world's most cited tenth for their field, type and year.

POSITIONS

Lecturer 2011–present
Communication Design, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana

Online Course and Events Facilitator 2018–2024
e/merge Africa | CILT | CHED, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

Certificate - Facilitating Online Course 2018
CHED | CILT, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, South Africa

PDGDip EDTech 2017–2018
Education | CILT | CHED, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Doctor of Applied Art in Design 2013–2021
Applied Art and Design, Cape Peninsula University of Technology Faculty of Informatics and Design, Cape Town, South Africa

MComm. Design 2007–2010
Communication Design, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana

PR, Advertising and Marketing 2006

Public Relations, Advertising and Integrated Marketing, Ghana Institute of Journalism, Accra, Ghana

BFA - Graphic Design 2002–2006
Communication Design, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana

DISTINCTIONS, MEMBERSHIPS AND SERVICE

WDO - YDC Coach 2022–present
Design | Young Designers Circle, World Design Organization, Montreal, Canada

Full Membership 2022–present
Design, Cumulus, Helsinki, Finland

Ambassador / Research Support 2018–present
Design, Open Design Afrika, Cape Town, South Africa

Member/ Facilitator 2017–present
CILT | CHED | UCT, e/merge Africa Network, Cape Town, South Africa

Regional Representative (Lab Operations Manager) 2015–present
Design, DESIS NETWORK, Milan, Italy

DRAW Facilitator 2014–2019
Applied Art and Design, Cape Peninsula University of Technology Faculty of Applied Sciences, Cape Town, South Africa

PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles 21

1. **Ralitsa Diana Debrah**, Joanne Hardman, Mugendi K. M'Rithaa, Ismaila Moro, Adam Rahman (2026). Activity Theory as a Framework to Analyze e-Portfolios as Mediators in a Communication Design Program. *British Journal of Teacher Education and Pedagogy*. https://doi.org/10.32996/bjtep.2026.5.9.3
2. Emmanuel Rock Nyarko Hanson, **Ralitsa Diana Debrah**, Adam Rahman, Martin Adi-Dako, Ismaila Moro (2026). Analyses of Effective Use of Animation Principles in 2D, 3D and Stop Motion Animation. https://doi.org/10.61424/bjhss.v3i1.880
3. Anthony Kofi Badu, Georgina Owusu Tabiri, **Ralitsa Diana Debrah**, Ismaila Moro, Adam Rahman (2026). Designing Digital Pathways: Social Media Adoption Among Smock Fabric Weavers in Bolgatanga. *Studies in Media Journalism and Communications*. https://doi.org/10.32996/smjc.2026.4.1.3x
4. **Ralitsa Diana Debrah**, Justice Koranteng, Adam Rahman, Kwabena Afriyie Poku (2026). Developing a Hygiene-Focused Colouring Book: An Innovative Educational Approach for Promoting Sanitation and Environmental Sustainability in Ghanaian Schools. *Journal of Science and Technology (Ghana)*. https://doi.org/10.4314/just.v44i2.8
5. Samuel Antwi, Emmanuel D. Appiah, **Ralitsa Diana Debrah** (2026). Instructional Design approaches in African Higher Education: A systematic review of emerging trends and practices. *Journal of Education and Learning Technology*. https://doi.org/10.38159/jelt.2026755
6. Miaosen Gong, **Ralitsa Diana Debrah**, Yumei Dong, Hanqi Yang (2026). Social Innovation in Collaborative Finance: A Comparative Case Study of Grassroots Savings Practices in Ghana and China. *International Journal of Arts and Humanities Studies*. https://doi.org/10.32996/ijahs.2026.6.4.3
7. Adam Rahman, **Ralitsa Diana Debrah**, Ginn Bonsu Assibey (2025). Assessing the Relationship between Packaging Quality and Brand Preference among Consumers of Ghanaian Food and Pharmaceutical Products. *E-Journal of Humanities Arts and Social Sciences*. https://doi.org/10.38159/ehass.20256834
8. Isaac Agyei Annor, Adam Rahman, **Ralitsa Diana Debrah**, Kofi Nyame Amoako-Agyeman (2025). Designing Culturally Responsive Visual Aids for Health Education in Managing Chronic Lifestyle Conditions in Ghana. *Journal of Medical and Health Studies*. https://doi.org/10.32996/jmhs.2025.6.1.22

9. Emmanuel Rock Nyarko Hanson, Adam Rahman, **Ralitsa Diana Debrah**, Ben-Bright Benuwa, Clara Afranie (2025). Designing Moral Narratives through 3D Animation: Youth Identity and Cultural Reflections in Ghana's Pressure Music Video. *Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Studies*. https://doi.org/10.32996/jhsss.2025.7.5.8

10. Kwame Opoku-Asare, Alettia V. Chisin, **Ralitsa Diana Debrah**, Mugendi K. M'Rithaa (2025). Game-Based Learning in Graphic Design Education: An Experiential Learning Approach to Contextualise Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Matters in a Ghanaian University. *SAGE Open*. https://doi.org/10.1177/21582440251378844

11. Anthony Kofi Badu, Ginn Bonsu Assibey, Prosper Seenam, **Ralitsa Diana Debrah** (2024). An Exploration of Factors Affecting Students' Choice of Career Paths in Communication Design. *Journal of Science and Technology (Ghana)*. https://doi.org/10.4314/just.v42i2.6

12. **Ralitsa Diana Debrah**, Adam Rahman, Samuel Antwi, Abigail Kusi-Amponsah Digi, Jerry Armah (2024). Integrating 3D Multimedia into Nursing and Midwifery Education: A Case Study on Paediatric Massage Instruction. *Journal of Medical and Health Studies*. https://doi.org/10.32996/jmhs.2024.5.3.12

13. Edward Appiah, Patrick Gyamfi, **Ralitsa Dian Debrah** (2020). Integrated Methodology for Co-designing and Co-creating for Sustainable Sanitation Project. *Arts and design studies*. https://doi.org/10.7176/ads/83-11

14. **RD Debrah** (2020). What have we learnt from Emergency Remote Teaching in African Higher Education? *Editors: Dr UG Singh (University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa) Prof CS Nair (Victorian Institute of Technology, Australia) e-ISBN: 978-1-990901-49-2*. https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Mohamed-Mitwally-3/publication/389254162_What_have_we_learnt_from_Emergency_Remote_Teaching_in_African_Higher_Education/links/67ba3988461fb56424e67649/What-have-we-learnt-from-Emergency-Remote-Teaching-in-African-Higher-Education.pdf#page=26

15. **Ralitsa D. Debrah**, Retha de la Harpe, Mugendi K. M'Rithaa (2017). Design probes and toolkits for healthcare: Identifying information needs in African communities through service design. *The Design Journal*. https://doi.org/10.1080/14606925.2017.1352730

16. **RD Debrah** (2017). Designerly ways of exploring climate change: participatory design methods and the storied artefact. *Hong Kong Design Institute*. https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Faseeh-Saleem-2/publication/353526604_-_36''_24''_36''_-/links/6101b9ce169a1a0103c38565/36-24-36.pdf#page=443

17. **RD DEBRAH** (2015). Exploring design strategies to determine information needs of caregivers. *CONFERENCE OVERVIEW AND PUBLICATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS*. https://www.academia.edu/download/40682313/DEFSA2015_Conference_Proceedings1.pdf#page=77

18. **RD Debrah** (2014). MULTIMEDIA LEARNING AND NURSING INFORMATICS EDUCATION IN SOUTH AFRICA. *DDR 2014*. https://digitalknowledge.cput.ac.za/bitstream/11189/8044/1/DDR%202014_%20Design%20for%20participation%20connecting%20disciplines%20people%20and%20ideas.pdf#page=425

19. **RD Debrah** (2014). Technology assimilation in community healthcare in the Western Cape, South Africa. *Proceedings of the 9 th Health Informatics in Africa Conference (Helina '14). Hamburg, Germany: Koegni eHealth*. https://www.academia.edu/download/123295180/2014_Helina_Proceedings_Part1.pdf#page=87

20. **Ralitsa Diana Debrah** (2013). Health Care in Sub-Saharan Africa: An Exploratory Study of Photography as a Healing Art. *Journal of health informatics*. https://www.academia.edu/download/116335389/37.pdf

21. **Ralitsa Diana Debrah**, Retha de la Harpe, Doreen Kainyu Mugendi M'Rithaa (2013). Health care in sub-Saharan Africa: an explorative study of photography as a healing art. *Journal of Health Informatics*. https://doi.org/10.12856/jhia-2013-v1-i1-61

Book chapters 3

1. **RD Debrah** (2026). The Impact of Students Using AI Tools in Higher Education, Design, Innovation, and Learning Outcomes. *AI and Innovation in Human–Computer Interaction*. https://doi.org/10.1201/9781003728801-9
2. **RD Debrah**, Antwi (2025). Designing an online course. *The SAGE handbook of higher education instructional design*. https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=tRREEQAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PA300&dq=info:GAhV7v-C2igJ:scholar.google.com&ots=_TxgbNV01y&sig=riWaEI-pk0QcE5GNJXufV9DH8EI
3. **RD Debrah** (2024). Building Corporate Brand Product Reputation. *African Industrial Design Practice: Perspectives on Ubuntu Philosophy*.

Conference papers 4

1. Helina Oladapo, Eric Owusu, **Ralitsa Diana Debrah** (2026). Cross-Cultural Interaction on Social Media Health Platforms: Challenges and Opportunities from Africa. *Lecture notes in computer science*. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-12801-0_4
2. Helina Oladapo, **Ralitsa Diana Debrah**, Eric Owusu, Godfred O. Antwi (2026). User Experience Design for Women's Health: A Prototype Mobile App for Cervical Cancer Awareness and Care in Developing Context. *Lecture notes in computer science*. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-31418-5_28
3. Eric Owusu, **Ralitsa Debrah**, Helina Oladapo (2025). Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education: Student Perceptions of the Adoption and Integration in Ghana, West Africa. *Lecture notes in computer science*. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-93539-8_17
4. **Ralitsa Diana Debrah** (2023). How to understand and teach upcycling in the context of the circular economy: Literature review and first phase of Delphi. *Product Lifetimes And The Environment (PLATE) 2023 Conference, Espoo.*.

Reports 4

1. **RD Debrah** (2026). Health Platforms: Challenges and Opportunities. *HCI International 2025–Late Breaking Papers: 27th International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction, HCII 2025, Gothenburg, Sweden, June 22–27, 2025, Proceedings, Part VII*. https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=oZulEQAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PA50&dq=info:zqVOO7tSde4J:scholar.google.com&ots=-PkdgbY5LJ&sig=bQyUj5T6RlUUYblPdUshdBDUdFQ
2. Noel, Lesley-Ann, Rosenberg, Ronni, Agrawal, Shalini, Botchway, Nii, Borrero, Alfredo Gutiérrez, Cabalfin, Edson, Lodaya, Arvind, Muratovski, Gjoko, **Debrah, Ralitsa Diana**, Wing, Sadie Red, Robertson, Natalie, Rodriguez, Jorge, Ruiz, Adolfo, Srinivasan, Srini, Udoewa, Victor, Van Amstel, Fred, Verma, Neeta (2023). The Future of Pluriversal Design Education. *Zenodo (CERN European Organization for Nuclear Research)*. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7662366
3. **RD Debrah** (2022). Design Courses and the 'New Normal': ePortfolios as a Pedagogic Innovation in Advancing University Education. *Machakos University Press*. https://ir.mksu.ac.ke/items/4acff9c4-e09d-490f-b263-975191fa658d
4. **RD Debrah** (2010). Video Production in Ghana: A Study of Postproduction. *Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology*. https://scholar.google.com/scholar?cluster=5699779662130354342&hl=en&oi=scholarr

Theses 1

1. **RD Debrah** (2021). Design for health: co-designing health information services in the Afrikan context. *Cape Peninsula University of Technology*. https://etd.cput.ac.za/bitstreams/dc915bbd-149d-4a0e-a8e3-57e5524b9d9b/download