

ELVIS EFFAH

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Professional Summary

I am a doctoral researcher in Sociology specializing in disasters, climate change, and community resilience. My work employs mixed-methods approaches to examine how vulnerable communities experience, adapt to, and recover from environmental hazards. My current research investigates Black producers' experiences during Hurricane Helene in Southwest Virginia, while my previous projects in Ghana explored Indigenous Knowledge, ocean management, and climate adaptation in coastal communities. I am committed to bridging research, community voices, and policy action to promote equitable climate resilience.

EDUCATION

Virginia Tech <i>PhD. Sociology (Disasters, Climate Change, and Community Resilience)</i>	Blacksburg, Virginia. <i>August 2024-Present</i>
University of Cape Coast <i>MPhil Sociology (Blue Economy)</i>	Cape Coast, Ghana. <i>June 2020-Sept. 2023</i>
University of Cape Coast <i>Bachelor of Arts (Sociology and Geography)</i>	Cape Coast, Ghana. <i>August 2015 – May 2019</i>

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Disasters and Climate Change
- Blue Economy
- Environmental Justice
- Community Resilience

AWARDS AND HONOURS

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| • Bill Anderson Fund Fellow | 2025-Present |
| • One Ocean Hub Field Research Fund, UK Research & Innovation (\$3,200) | 2022 |
| • Ghana National Petroleum Local Scholarship, Ghana (\$2,000) | 2022 |

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Cape Coast (MPhil Thesis) <i>Principal Investigator (Indigenous Knowledge and Ocean Management Practices in the Western Region of Ghana)</i>	Ghana <i>June 2022- July 2023</i>
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- Designed and led an independent research project examining Indigenous Knowledge systems in coastal resource management.
- Authored the full research proposal and obtained institutional approval.

- Developed and implemented six tailored research instruments for diverse participant groups.
- Conducted, transcribed, and analyzed 68 in-depth interviews using qualitative analytical techniques to generate actionable insights for sustainable ocean governance.

UK Research & Innovation

Research Assistant, One Ocean Hub Project

May 2021- July 2023

- Conducted an extensive literature review to establish the theoretical and empirical foundation of the study.
- Carried out over 60 in-depth interviews across coastal communities including Apam, Mumford, Otum, Winneba, and Axim (Coastal Ghana)
- Transcribed and systematically coded qualitative data using Excel spreadsheets and Atlas in alignment with research and ethical standards.
- Verified and analyzed more than 1,200 pages of transcripts, contributing to data interpretation and reporting that deepened understanding of ocean governance in coastal communities

Plan International

Ghana

Research Assistant (Wise Project)

18th -26th June, 2021

- Supported the Women's Innovation for Sustainable Enterprises (WISE) Project, implemented across four regions: Northern, Bono, Bono East, and Ahafo, to enhance women's livelihoods through beekeeping, snail and mushroom farming, and crop production.
- Conducted and transcribed 15 focus group discussions and numerous field interviews with women aged 19–55 engaged in small-scale enterprises.
- Collected, coded, and verified qualitative data in accordance with institutional research and ethical standards using structured coding frameworks.
- Produced detailed field reports and feedback summaries that informed program implementation, stakeholder engagement, and progress evaluations.

Solidaridad

Ghana

Research/Field Assistant (Cocoa Rehabilitation and Intensification Program)

June 2020- May 2021

- Collected, coded, and verified qualitative data in accordance with institutional research and ethical standards using structured coding frameworks.
- Produced detailed field reports and feedback summaries that informed program implementation, stakeholder engagement, and progress evaluations.
- Contributed to project outcomes that enabled approximately 148,010 farmers to adopt responsible and climate-smart production practices on their cocoa farms, advancing sustainable agriculture and rural livelihoods.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Virginia Tech

Blacksburg, Virginia.

Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology

August 2025 – Present

- Assist in facilitating undergraduate courses, including Social Problems and Sociological Theory, supporting active learning and classroom engagement.
- Proctor quizzes, grade assignments, and provide constructive feedback to enhance student performance and comprehension.
- Manage academic support and assessment for approximately 150 undergraduate **students**, ensuring consistency, fairness, and academic integrity.
- Collaborate with course instructors to refine lesson delivery and integrate contemporary sociological perspectives into classroom discussions.
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University of Cape Coast

Ghana

Teaching Assistant (Department of Sociology and Anthropology)

Sept. 2019-Aug. 2023

- Co-taught undergraduate courses including Political Economy, Politics, State and Governance, Sociological Theory, and Research Methods.
- Supported professors in developing course materials and conducting research-related activities.
- Proctored quizzes and examinations, ensuring fairness and adherence to academic standards.
- Graded assignments and exams for classes averaging **190 students**, maintaining accuracy and timely feedback.

University of Cape Coast

Cape Coast, Ghana

Chairperson, UCC SRC Editorial Board

August 2018 – May 2019

- Wrote and edited communiqués and official reports for the Students' Representative Council

University of Cape Coast

Cape Coast, Ghana

Vice- President, SOASA Debate Society

September 2018 – May 2019

- Organized weekly debate sessions for the Society
- Organized the team to win the Inter-Tertiary Sociological Debate at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

- Effah, Elvis. 2025. "Climate Change, Heritage Vulnerabilities, and Mitigations in Coastal Communities of Ghana." Paper presented at the *Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting*, Charlotte, North Carolina, April 9–12
- Effah, Elvis. 2022. "Indigenous Knowledge and Ocean Management Practices in the Western Region of Ghana." Paper presented at the *6th Annual Conference of the Ghana Sociological and Anthropological Association*, University of Ghana, Accra, September.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

- Principal speaker, 2019 College of Humanities inter-faculty debate, University of Cape Coast
- Principal Speaker, Inter-tertiary Sociological Debate, 2019
- Principal Speaker, Annual debate for Politics, State & Governance students, 2018

WORKING PAPERS

- Effah, Elvis, John Windie Ansah, Georgina Oduro, Albert Nii Dodoo and Ronald Osei Mensah. *n.d.* “The Patterns of Ocean-Related Indigenous Knowledge Transfer in the Western Region of Ghana: Prospects for Ocean Management.” Under review.
- Effah, Elvis, John Windie Ansah, Georgina Oduro, and Ronald Osei Mensah. *n.d.* “Drawing the Future: Children’s Visual Imaginaries of Ocean Governance and Indigenous Knowledge in Coastal Ghana.” Under review.
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- Georgina Yaa Oduro, John Windie Ansah, Effah, Elvis, Kenneth Amakwaah Boateng and Albert Nii Dodoo. *n.d.* “Climate Change, Heritage Vulnerabilities, and Mitigations in Coastal Communities of Ghana.” Under review.

KEY SKILLS

- Proficient in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Competent with statistical Software such as SPSS and Stata
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Ability to work independently, under limited supervision, following standardized practices.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Member, *Southern Sociological Society (SSS)*
- Member, *American Sociological Association (ASA)*