

Dr Dagna Rams
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2023 - SNSF Post.Doc Mobility Fellow, **London School of Economics (LSE)**

2022 Visiting Lecturer, **University of Zurich**
2022 Research Officer, **University of Lausanne**
2022 Lecturer, **International University in Geneva**

2015 - 2021 Graduate Assistant, Laboratory of Cultural and Social Anthropology
(Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Culturelle et Sociale - LACS)
University of Lausanne (Université de Lausanne - UNIL), Switzerland
(50% teaching and institutional duties; 50% own research)

EDUCATION

2021 Ph.D., Social Anthropology
University of Lausanne (UNIL), Switzerland
Dissertation: "Scrap-worlds in Ghana: assembling migrant livelihoods, metal markets and international intervention"
Committee: Jean-Christophe Graz (chair), Mark Goodale (thesis supervisor), Brenda Chalfin (University of Florida), Mette High (St. Andrew's University), Véronique Mottier (Cambridge University/University of Lausanne), Andrew Sanchez (Cambridge University)

2015 M.A., Anthropology and Sociology of Development
Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland
Thesis: "Doing politics at the crossroads: transnational movements and party politics in the informal settlement of Old Fadama in Accra, Ghana". Supervisors: Professor Gregoire Mallard, Professor Alessandro Monsutti
Full Scholarship

2011 B.A., Social and Political Sciences, Social Anthropology
Cambridge University, King's College, UK

VISITING FELLOWSHIPS

2020 Visiting Fellow, Gallatin School of Individualized Studies, New York University, USA
2020 Visiting Fellow, Max Planck Institut für ethnologische Forschung, Germany

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2022 UNIL Thesis Prize (1000 CHF)
2022 SNIS Award (nominated)
2022 Post.Doc Mobility, Swiss National Science Foundation
2020 Doc.Mobility, Swiss National Science Foundation
2013-2015 Graduate Institute Scholarship, The Graduate Institute (IHEID) (36'000 CHF)

2007-2011 King's College Bursary, King's College, Cambridge University
2007-2011 University Scholarship, Cambridge University

PUBLICATIONS

- (under review) Creating urban scrap economies to support savanna ecologies: Dagomba trans-local innovations in Ghana's e-waste site of Agbogbloshie and beyond, *Antipode*
- 2025 'What is sustainability if not a regulation?': Social Life of Sustainability in Metal Markets', *Allegra Lab*, <https://allegralaboratory.net/what-is-sustainability-if-not-a-regulation-social-life-of-sustainability-in-metal-markets/>
- 2025 'Regulation (Un) Done: Introduction', with Steph Poster and Gisa Wesklyans, *Allegra Lab*, <https://allegralaboratory.net/regulation-undone-introduction/>
- 2025 'Abfall', *Handbuch Umweltethnologie*, eds. Kathrin Eitel und Carsten Wergin, Hamburg: Springer.
- 2024 'Commodity and supply chains'. In *The Open Encyclopedia of Anthropology*, edited by Hanna Nieber. Online: <http://doi.org/10.29164/24commoditychains>
- 2024 *Circular Economies: Between the Promise of Renewal and Unequal Global Circulation*, eds. Dagna Rams and Patrick O'Hare, Bloomsbury.
- 2023 'Nokofioo: vernacular expressions of clientelism in Ghana', *The Global Encyclopaedia of Informality* (ed. by Alena Ledeneva).
- 2020 'Agbogbloshie: Dumping no more', *Discard Studies Blog*, 9 March

COURSE TEACHING (in bold as a sole instructor)

Development politics and their evaluation (BA); Migration and globalisation (BA); **Media, Society and Culture (BA)**; Social and cultural anthropology (BA); Human rights and social change (MA); Introduction to ethnographic methods (MA); **Global Capitalism Deconstructed (MA)**

SELECTED INVITED TALKS; PANEL PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 **Musee du quai Branly** - invited talk: "Repenser le contrat technologique à travers des économies de déchets électroniques au Ghana"
- 2024 **European Association of Social Anthropology Conference** - co-convening: "Doing and Undoing Regulation" and "Technology matters: ethnographies of technological adoption beyond the Western world", Paper: "What is sustainability if not a regulation?": Social Life of Sustainability in Metal Markets
- 2023 **European Conference on African Studies** - "Scrap-worlds in Ghana: new global connections between waste, resource, and markets" - panel presentation
- 2022 **University of Aberdeen** - Anthropology Department - "Circular economy and anthropology" (together with Patrick O'Hare) - invited talk
- 2022 **University of Lausanne** - Semaine de la Durabilité - "Déchets et Pollution dans les relations nord-sud" - invited talk
- 2021 **University of Bristol** - Centre for Maritime Law and Security - "Trading Waste Panel" - invited talk
- 2021 **University of Florida** - Economic Anthropology Seminar - "Scrap Metal Chains in Ghana: Their complications, connections, and inequities" - invited talk
- 2021 **ETH Zurich** - African Urbanities Seminar - "Reusing, Repurposing, Recycling and the Making of African Cities" - invited talk
- 2021 **University of Pennsylvania** - Forum on Urban Informality - "Financialisation of the Waste Economy" - invited talk
- 2020 **Max Planck Institut für ethnologische Forschung** - "Scrapyards in Ghana: cosmopolitan encounters in informal spaces" - invited talk

2020 **European Association of Social Anthropologists** - "What is 'circular' and 'economic' in circular economies? Learning from scrap dealers in Ghana and their dealings with international metal markets" - panel organisation and presentation

2019 **AAA Annual Meeting, Vancouver** - "When things fall apart: how to make a livelihood out of scrap" - panel presentation

2018 **AAA Annual Meeting San Jose, CA** - Anthropology and Environment Writing Workshop (selected; sponsored) - 'Creating a unity across space: living between subsistence agriculture and scrap work in Ghana'

2017 **7th European Conference on African Studies** - 'Rambo style urban management in Accra, Ghana and strategies for dealing with the threat of evictions' - panel presentation

2017 **Oxford University** - 'Spatialising the social sciences in Post-colonial contexts' Paper: 'No Place for an NGO Outside the Parliament : Spatialisations of Party Politics and NGOs in a Ghanaian Informal Settlement'

2017 **Max Planck Institut für ethnologische Forschung** - 'Electronic waste in Accra, Ghana: ecologies of bridging the digital gap'

2016 **Rencontres Annuelles d'Ethnographie de l'EHESS** - 'Informal electronic waste economy: between squatting and digital futures in Accra, Ghana'

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

Reviewer: Journal of Cultural Economics, Social Analysis, Journal of Human Organization, Allegra Lab, Urban Forum, Worldwide Waste Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies

Conference Organisation and Co-organisation: Annual Swiss Anthropological Association (SAA) 2016; "African Migrations and Mobilities" (UNIL) 2018; "Migration and activism" (UNIL) in 2018.

Membership in institutional organisations: Member of UNIL Commission of Teaching of (Bureau de la Commission d'enseignement); Executive Member of the UNIL Sans Frontières (increasing university admission of people holding a refugee and an asylum seeker status in Switzerland)

Community Engagement: (2015-ongoing) Advisor to Youth and Children Foundation in Accra, Ghana (together with Abdallah Alhassan Ibn raised 5000 USD for a children's centre, secured education sponsoring and communal activities for children from my fieldwork location in Old Fadama); co-creator and co-administrator of social media platforms for the Gbewaa Scrap Dealers Association in Accra (800 members).

LANGUAGES

English, French, Polish, Russian
(learning) Twi, Dagbani

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2022 *Consultant*, UNICEF-Innocenti, Florence, Italy

2021 *Consultant*, World Resources Forum, St. Gallen, Switzerland

2019 *Consultant*, German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), Accra, Ghana

2013 *Consultant*, Institute of Public Affairs (Instytut Spraw Publicznych), Warsaw, Poland

2013 *Project Coordinator*, Agency of Regional Development (Agencja Rozwoju Regionalnego), Warsaw, Poland

2012 *Researcher*, Europe Japan Centre, London, UK

2012 *Intern*, The Social Market Foundation, London, UK

2011 *Intern*, Chatham House, London, U

REFEREES

Prof. Armelle Choplin, University of Geneva (UNIGE), Director, Institut/Pôle GEDT, armelle.choplin@unige.ch

Prof. Gisa Weszkalnys, London School of Economics, Department of Anthropology, g.weszkalnys@lse.ac.uk

Prof. Brenda Chalfin, University of Florida, Director, Centre for African Studies, bchalfin@ufl.edu

Prof. Rosalind Fredericks, New York University, Gallatin Institute of Individualized Study, New York City, rfe2@nyu.edu

Prof. Mark Goodale, Université de Lausanne, Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Culturelle et Sociale (LACS), mark.goodale@unil.ch