Emmanuel Saboro

Senior Lecturer · Department of English
University of Cape Coast

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PROFILE

Dr. Emmanuel Saboro is a senior lecturer at the Centre for African and International Studies, University of Cape Coast, Ghana and a fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), African Humanities Program (F'17). He is an interdisciplinary scholar with research interests centred on the interface between Literature/ Folklore and Oral History. Specifically, he has been interested in the impact of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade on Africa, late 19th and 20th Century Abolitionism and Anti-Slavery Discourses, 19th Century Internal Slave trafficking in Africa in general and Northern Ghana, in particular. Most recently, his research has focused on Memory, Trauma, Resistance and Identity Construction in Northern Ghana. An integral feature of his research has involved the expansion of the methodological tools scholars can use to uncover the histories of those time periods and areas of the world in which written sources are often scarce and inaccessible. Dr. Saboro has particularly been interested in applying historical, cultural and literary methodologies to the historical study of indigenous cultures in Africa. He has within the past 15 years through ethnographic fieldwork collected and interpreted oral traditions, songs and oral histories, on slavery, its legacies and afterlives across some Ghanaian communities. He has complemented this complex nuanced data with close literary reading techniques and contextual analyses, as well as insights from cultural anthropology to develop rich histories and narratives of the slave experience within the context of Ghana and West Africa. His book, Wounds of Our Past: Remembering Enslavement in African Oral Narratives, is currently under consideration by the Global Slavery Series: BRILL

RESEARCH

Interests	African Literature · Cultural Memory · Slavery Studies · Oral History · Senior Lecturer · CAIS
Areas	Anthropology · Sociology and Political Science · Education · Geography, Planning and Development · Literature and Literary Theory · Political Science and International Relations

RESEARCH SUMMARY

19	79	5	3	0.47	20%
Publications	Citations	h-index	i10-index	Field-weighted impact	World top 10%

Counted from the 19 publications listed below, 2013–2026. Field-weighted impact is the mean over the 5 works scored for it; 1.00 is the world average for works of the same field, type and year. 1 of the 5 papers scored for it are among the world's most cited tenth for their field, type and year.

POSITIONS

Senior Lecturer 2010–present
Centre for African and International Studies, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

PhD 2011–2015
Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation, University of Hull, Hull, United Kingdom

MPhil (African Literature) 2004–2009
English, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana

BA (ARTS) 2000–2003

English, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana

PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles 15

1. **Emmanuel Saboro** (2026). Worlds of Unfreedom: West Central Africa in the era of global abolition. *Cultural Studies*. https://doi.org/10.1080/09502386.2026.2701183
2. **Emmanuel Saboro** (2026). "Oh, Friends, Do Look at Kweku Ananse's Amazing Ways": The Song as a Subtext in Efua Sutherland's Edufa (1967) and The Marriage of Anansewa (1975). *KENTE-Cape Coast Journal of Literature and the Arts*. https://journal.ucc.edu.gh/index.php/kente/article/download/1752/934
3. **Emmanuel Saboro** (2024). Towards an Understanding of Local African Abolitionism: George Ekem Ferguson, an Unexplored Abolitionist in 19th Century Ghana. *Esclavages & Post-esclavages. Slaveries & Post-Slaveries*. https://journals.openedition.org/slaveries/10958
4. Rogers Asempasah, **Emmanuel Saboro**, Samuel Papa Arthur (2022). Animality: Animal imagery, characterization, and the articulation of difference in Victor Yankah's dear blood. *Asɛmka A Bilingual Literary Journal of University of Cape Coast*. https://doi.org/10.47963/asmka.v11i2.1617
5. CA Sam, **Emmanuel Saboro** (2022). Intimations of Futurity: Masculinities, Traumatic Memories and Spatial Dynamics in Adichie's Purple Hibiscus (2004). *Journal of African Languages & Literary Studies (JoALLS)*. https://doi.org/10.31920/2633-2116/2022/v3n1a5
6. Rogers Asempasah, **Emmanuel Saboro** (2021). Unsettling the coloniality of power: form, grievability, and futurity in Opoku-Agyemang's Cape Coast Castle: A Collection of Poems (1996). *Cogent Arts and Humanities*. https://doi.org/10.1080/23311983.2021.1993596
7. **Emmanuel Saboro** (2021). 'Why Was He Videoing Us?': The ethics and politics of audio-visual propaganda in child trafficking and human trafficking campaigns. *Anti-trafficking review*. https://dev.antitraffickingreview.org/index.php/atrjournal/article/view/538
8. **Emmanuel Saboro** (2020). Slave Traders by Invitation: West Africa's Slave Coast in the Precolonial Era. *African Studies Quarterly*. https://search.proquest.com/openview/e6f4df83d05bd7f3e79e1f813efdf94b/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=60413
9. **Emmanuel Saboro** (2019). Studies in global slavery. *(No Title)*. https://www.academia.edu/download/132042040/Kravets_Ostapchuk_Cossacks_as_Captive_Takers_in_the_Ottoman_Black_Sea_Region_Unfreedom_in_Northern_Countries.pdf
10. **Emmanuel SABORO** (2017). ETHNOGRAPHIC FIELDWORK TECHNIQUES IN ORAL LITERATURE: SOME PRACTICAL PERSPECTIVES. *PERSPECTIVES ON CONDUCTING AND REPORTING RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES*. https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Abdulrasheed-Adeoye-Formerly-Rasheed-Abiodun-Musa/publication/358942155_Theoretical_Construct_as_Spine_of_Research_in_the_Humanities/links/621e874b395296023159b89c/Theoretical-Construct-as-Spine-of-Research-in-the-Humanities.pdf#page=240
11. **E Saboro** (2017). Our fathers shot arrows: Songs of resistance to the slave trade in Ghana. *Fight for freedom: Black resistance and identity*. https://scholar.google.com/scholar?cluster=10704074503543794434&hl=en&oi=scholarr
12. **Emmanuel Saboro** (2017). The wound and the voice: Verbal articulations of enslavement among the Bulsa and Kasena of Ghana. *Nordic Journal of African Studies*. https://www.academia.edu/download/57960460/SABORO__The_Wound_and_the_Voice.pdf
13. **Emmanuel Saboro** (2016). Remembering Enslavement through Expressive Culture: Animistic Metaphors Contesting Notions of Victimhood among the Bulsa of Ghana.
14. **Emmanuel Saboro** (2016). The burden of memory: Oral and material evidence of human kidnapping for enslavement and resistance strategies among the Bulsa and Kasena of Ghana. *Africology: The Journal of Pan African Studies*. https://www.academia.edu/download/78683905/JuneJuly-8-Saboro.pdf
15. **Emmanuel Saboro** (2013). Songs of sorrow, songs of triumph: Memories of the slave trade among the

Bulsa of Ghana. *Bitter legacy: African slavery past and present*. https://scholar.google.com/scholar?cluster=6115575824276710820&hl=en&oi=scholarr

Book chapters 2

1. **Emmanuel Saboro** (2025). Chapter 12. The confluence of fiction, historical memory and oral history: The crises of identity and traumatic memories in Ama: A Story of the Atlantic Slave Trade. *A Comparative Literary History of Modern Slavery: The Atlantic world and beyond. Volume II: Slavery, memory and literature*. https://doi.org/10.1075/chlel.37.12sab
2. **Emmanuel Saboro** (2021). War Songs: Slavery, Oral Tradition, and Identity Construction. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-55517-7_22

Reports 2

1. **Emmanuel Saboro** (2022). Wounds of Our Past: remembering captivity, enslavement and resistance in African oral narratives. *Brill*. https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=27BxEQAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PR7&dq=info:21MX0dSY5PQJ:scholar.google.com&ots=6dBvjRJ2AC&sig=7l1G-ELy7ZAXucutzUsjFENqeB0
2. **Emmanuel Saboro** (2017). Fight for freedom: Black resistance and identity. *Sub-Saharan Publishers*. https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=t3E6DwAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PP1&dq=info:FXtA-pHNgAAJ:scholar.google.com&ots=8ejuHVCXGo&sig=eABV_AK8CJCfXLF7Y6TQzpOj5eo