

CARISCA REPORT

CENTER FOR APPLIED RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN SUPPLY CHAIN – AFRICA

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Photo by Sergey Pesterev on Unsplash

Out of Africa

CARISCA is pleased to share a new article from Supply Chain Management Review titled “Out of Africa.” This article comes out of the CARISCA project and is authored by Adegoke Oke, Nathaniel Boso and John Serbe Marfo. Goke is on the faculty here at ASU, and Nat and John are faculty at KNUST.

Our friends at Supply Chain Management Review are allowing people from around the world to access this interesting piece outside the paywall for a limited time. As you probably know, Supply Chain Management Review (SCMR) is a respected publication, and we are excited about this new article from the CARISCA project. There are a lot of opportunities across the growing continent of Africa, and we are proud that our CARISCA faculty are helping highlight these opportunities.

Access the Out of Africa article on the SCMR website: https://www.scmr.com/article/out_of_africa

Save the date for CARISCA's Second Annual Supply Chain Research Summit, June 28-30, 2022. ([See page 2.](#))
The call for papers is open now and I hope to see you at the event.

Dale Rogers

ON Semiconductor Professor of Business
CARISCA Executive Director
Director, Frontier Economies Logistics Lab
Co-Director, Internet Edge Supply Chain Lab





Save the Date!

CARISCA's Second Annual Supply Chain Research Summit, How Africa Matters to the Global Supply Chain, June 28-30, 2022

The summit will be a hybrid event featuring in-person and virtual presentations. In-person sessions will be held in Ghana at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi; virtual sessions will be held via Zoom.

GET EVENT UPDATES

Please subscribe to the CARISCA mailing list to receive event updates and to be notified when registration opens. <https://links.asu.edu/carisca-mailing-list/>

Call for Papers

Share your expertise at the 2022 Summit!

Submit your abstract today:

<https://na.eventscloud.com/carisca-call-for-papers>

Deadline extended!
Submissions due
March 25, 2022

PLANNED TRACKS AND TOPICS INCLUDE:

Track One: General Supply Chains

- Logistics and transportation management
- Procurement, sourcing and supply chain management
- Manufacturing and production management

Track Two: Sectoral Supply Chains

- Health/pharmaceutical supply chain
- Humanitarian operations and disaster management
- Agriculture and commodities supply chain

Track Three: Emerging Issues in Global Supply Chains

- Globalization and supply chains
- Sustainability issues in supply chains
- Emerging technologies in supply chains including blockchain technology, big data analytics, predictive analytics and artificial intelligence
- Global supply chains and grand challenges

Registration will open in early April.

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION ON JUNE 27: PAPER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

CARISCA will also host an in-person Paper Development Workshop for faculty and senior doctoral candidates from higher education institutions in Africa. Applications due April 1: <https://research.wpcarey.asu.edu/carisca/2022-summit/paper-development-workshop/>.

Research update

CARISCA's key objective is to support higher education institutions in building the capacity necessary to provide best-in-class degree programs and training, facilitate research translation and utilization, and engage stakeholders in best practices and policy changes that strengthen supply chains.

One of CARISCA's four project components focuses on research to strengthen the capacity of African higher education institutions to adopt innovative, locally relevant research. A second component focuses on stakeholder engagement and support, engaging policymakers, the private sector, and civil society organizations in supply chain research, education and knowledge transfer.

The CARISCA team is working on five research projects and five industry reports to establish KNUST as Africa's preeminent source of supply chain management expertise and to become a world-class resource for researchers in Ghana and across Africa to drive innovation, research and research translation.

PURSUING LOCALLY RELEVANT RESEARCH

Faculty research teams are producing supply chain research to advance the knowledge base in Ghana. This activity prioritizes projects that could lead to solutions to real development issues identified by USAID and local stakeholders; topics for these projects were sourced from stakeholder engagements in year one of the CARISCA project.

1. **Entrepreneurial resilience to supply chain disruptions** *Lead: Dominic Essuman*
2. **Examining capacity constraints and interventions of post-harvest losses** *Lead: John Manso Frimpong*
3. **Towards the development of deterministic supply chain network design in the cocoa sector** *Lead: Kwame Owusu Kwateng*
4. **Improving agri-food supply chain sustainability through digitalization** *Lead: David Asamoah*
5. **Supply chain financing** *Lead: Abdul Muntaka*

INDUSTRY-FOCUSED REPORTS

To catalyze applied research, CARISCA will produce industry-focused reports. This will be an ongoing, multi-year effort. There is limited understanding of supply chain subjects in Ghana at both the micro and macro levels. These reports, with accompanying policy briefs and tailored summary documents, will serve as guides for industry partners and policymakers so that they can make informed decisions based on evidence and highlight the knowledge and expertise being developed by CARISCA.

These industry reports are designed to provide locally relevant research describing important segments of the Ghanaian economy. These reports may also serve as a basis to identify important gaps that inform future research activities.

1. **Women and disadvantaged groups in Ghana's supply chains** *Lead: Dominic Essuman*
2. **Activities of technology companies** *Lead: Kwame Owusu Kwateng*
3. **Healthcare/pharmaceutical supply chain activities** *Lead: Priscilla Kolibea Mante*
4. **Agricultural supply chain activities** *Lead: Robert Aidoo*
5. **Transportation and logistics services** *Lead: Listowel Owusu Appiah*

CARISCA'S CORE PROJECT COMPONENTS

1. Strengthen African higher education institution capacity for and adoption of innovative, locally relevant research.
2. Create a strong network by engaging policymakers, the private sector, and civil society organizations in supply chain research, education, and knowledge transfer.
3. Develop relevant evidence-based training opportunities to benefit students and supply chain management practitioners in Ghana and beyond.
4. Ensure access to supply chain research education and training for women.

Passionate about supply chain sustainability: Meet the winner of CARISCA's 2021 Dissertation Proposal Award

Assilah Agigi won top honors at CARISCA's inaugural Supply Chain Research Summit Dissertation Proposal Award session in 2021. The call for proposals for the 2022 competition is open now. Supply chain management doctoral students from higher education institutions in Africa are eligible to apply. Apply now links.asu.edu/carisca-phd-award.

Assilah Agigi's spirit of growth and determination propels her towards a promising future as a supply chain academic.

She did not set out to study supply chain management, but she was hooked when she learned about logistics while visiting a BMW manufacturer during her honors studies.



Assilah Agigi

"The whole process was mind-opening," she said. "This is something I could be passionate about and enjoy doing.

I went on to finish my master's in supply chain management, and I published a few articles in local South African journals and one article in the Africa Journal of Management,

a leading African journal. My aim is to now focus on my PhD and make a global contribution and publish in top supply chain management journals."

Agigi has always felt catalyzed by the opportunity to positively influence the care of Africa and the planet. Her dissertation, *An Investigation of the Relationship Between the Diffusion and Adoption of Sustainable Supply Chain Management Practices, Organisational Capabilities Development, and Firm Innovativeness*, is inspired by the work of Woolworths, a supermarket chain in South Africa, because of its ongoing sustainability efforts that have been recognized globally.

When Agigi was deciding her dissertation focus, she considered what she wants to be known for — her niche.

"If I will be known for something [through my research], I need it to be about a topic that's meaningful to me. There's an urgency to sustainability, and there is so much more companies can be doing."

Assilah's TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE PRESENTATIONS

The best thing for any PhD student is to present your research to people in your field. Go with no expectation but to present what you have and receive feedback. This is the best way to learn as much as possible.

- 1. Practice, practice, practice!** All of the research seems important, but by practicing your presentation, you can make sure you focus on the most important information in the time available.
- 2. Attend different conferences and consortia.** By attending multiple high-quality conferences and presenting your work, you will get more feedback to improve your presentation style and your research. Also, you will learn a lot about other research that can contribute to your work.
- 3. Get straight to the point.** Don't get bogged down with too many details. Get straight to the point: what makes your research stand out?
- 4. Tell a story.** Tell your research's story and follow it through.

Before setting out to become a supply chain sustainability scholar, Agigi was raised in Mozambique and her family moved to South Africa when she was in high school. Her father, an accountant, was determined to provide better educational opportunities for his children. His efforts were a success as Agigi and her two younger brothers all pursued university study.

“Do more, do bigger,’ was my father’s mantra,” Agigi said, “I take after my father in several ways, particularly when it comes to staying busy and looking ahead to the future.”

Agigi plans to defend her dissertation in 2022. In the meantime, she is busy teaching as a lecturer in the Department of Supply Chain Management at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. Agigi is a member of the University’s first Supply Chain Master’s Program cohort and the flagship PhD program.

“This is a big challenge. We have a big responsibility. We have a high student-to-professor ratio because there are not enough supply chain academics to train everyone who wants to learn more about supply chains. There is a real gap in talented professors, something that CARISCA is doing a stellar job of addressing,” Agigi said.

One of the people who is confident in Agigi’s ability to handle her studies and teaching load is Arizona State University Professor and Senior Technical Advisor for CARISCA, Adegoke Oke, one of her PhD supervisors. He has advised Agigi for the past three years of her PhD studies.

“She is very passionate about her topic, she is always willing to learn, and she is open to taking criticism. I have seen her develop critical research skills over the years, and I have no doubt that she will complete her PhD and go on to become a great scholar,” Oke said.

Agigi is thankful for Professor Oke’s role in shaping her research as well as helping her improve her teaching abilities.

“Professor Oke is very driven, which I aspire to be as well,” she explained.

As a result of Oke’s encouragement, Agigi has presented at multiple international supply chain management conferences representing South Africa and Africa, including the European Operations Management Association (EurOMA) Conference in 2020 (which is where Agigi learned a lot from her peers and changed her dissertation topic to focus on sustainability).

2022 PHD DISSERTATION AWARD SUBMISSION CRITERIA

1. The candidate must be the primary owner of the study.
2. The topic of the PhD research must be in logistics and supply chain management.
3. The candidate’s primary affiliation must be to a university or other higher institution of learning in Africa.
4. Abstract-only submissions will not be accepted for the session.
5. The PhD candidate must register for CARISCA’s 2022 Supply Chain Research Summit and be ready to give a presentation of their proposal in English at the summit if selected as one of the finalists.

Visit links.asu.edu/carisca-phd-award to learn more and apply.

The submission deadline has been extended to April 4, 2022.

Attending conferences and presenting research is Agigi’s top advice for PhD students. She said that Professor Oke has been the catalyzing force that pushes her to share her work and get out of her comfort zone.

Agigi’s long-term goal is to finish her PhD so she can become a supply chain management professor.

“It’s really my students that inspire me to continue in academia. When it comes to my research, I’m interested in conducting research that applies to companies, helping them add value and ‘do things better.’ I am inspired by Arizona State University Professor Thomas Choi’s industry experience, and I would like to conduct this type of research in Africa.



Data-Driven: Six questions with Emmanuel Quansah about building a new tool to support decision-makers in Africa

The Center for Applied Research and Innovation in Supply Chain – Africa is working to become the go-to research center for relevant and valuable data and insights that support business operations in Ghana and Africa, and enable businesses and stakeholders to make evidence-based decisions. The African Business Managers' Index (ABMI) is a specialized aggregated index that will provide a dashboard of indicators measuring business performance and growth — first in Ghana and then more broadly in Africa (similar to how the gross domestic product (GDP) measures economic growth).



Emmanuel Quansah, Lecturer, Supply Chain and Information Systems, KNUST, Research Faculty, CARISCA

Emmanuel Quansah, KNUST lecturer and one of CARISCA's research faculty, is leading the creation of this new business tool to support decision-makers in Africa as part of CARISCA's effort to identify African business trends and support higher education institutions. The goal is to build capacity for the creation of locally relevant supply chain research, provide best-in-class degree programs and training, facilitate research translation and utilization, engage stakeholders in best practices, and increase the participation of women in supply chain education and practice.

The ABMI will rely on feedback from business leaders. CARISCA needs your help to gain valuable knowledge about business activity, so we can work together to improve businesses and livelihoods in Africa. Business leaders will be invited to complete regular surveys. The aggregated data from these surveys will generate insights for public, private and non-governmental organizations in Africa and around the world. Individuals and companies who complete the survey and subscribers will receive ABMI reports and key insights.

1. WHY DO WE NEED THE ABMI?

“The ABMI is targeted at meeting the need for business information that enables businesses, governments, policymakers and investors to make evidence-based strategic decisions to improve their operations and competitive advantage.

“African businesses need more reliable local data. There is a significant lack of business data in Africa. Information on business activities in Ghana and other countries in sub-Saharan Africa is limited and we need data that support business decision-making. The ABMI will help track the movement of various activities in the business sector to fill the present information gap.

“When fully developed, the ABMI will be an aggregation of several key sector indices, including the Logistics Managers’ Index (LMI), Technology Entrepreneurs’ Index (TEI), Women Entrepreneurs’ Index (WEI), Human Resource Index (HRI), and Customer Satisfaction Index (CSI), which can give businesses in Africa a better snapshot of current trends. The LMI will reveal the current and future status of logistics activities across different industries. The TEI will provide insights into current and emerging innovations by technology entrepreneurs. The WEI will show the state of affairs of activities of women entrepreneurs in key productive sectors. We envisage that the HRI will provide insights into current and future human resource capabilities. The CSI will track and compare customer satisfaction performance across key productive sectors in Africa’s economy.”

2. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO GHANA?

“To a large extent, the limited availability of reliable data has compelled businesses in Ghana to make decisions intuitively, which often leads to sub-optimal outcomes. The ability to make decisions based on empirical evidence would drastically improve the performance of Ghanaian businesses. Getting access to such data is challenging, especially since 60 to 70 percent of business activity in Ghana is in the informal sector. The informal sector consists of productive business activities (and workers) that operate outside of regulated economic activities and protected labor relations.

“We need a tool like the ABMI to collect and track data about the activities of such businesses to help provide a complete picture of the status of productive business activities in Ghana. Such a tool would provide businesses with a better understanding of historical data and enable them to make informed decisions. Over time, the ABMI will provide insight that improves the predictive abilities of businesses.”

3. HOW WILL IT SUPPORT THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS?

“The ABMI will enable the compilation and tracking of business activities in several sectors in Ghana, and this will help support businesses and the government by providing data that allows for informed decision making and policy formation. Each index will focus on specific questions that enable us to track activities within their respective sectors. For example, the Logistics Managers’ Index (LMI) focuses on logistics. Through the LMI, we will measure eight metrics in logistics that involve elements of inventory, warehousing, and transportation.

“These eight metrics are inventory levels, inventory capacity, transportation capacity, transportation utilization, transportation prices, warehouse capacity, warehouse utilization and warehouse prices. We will try to capture the flow of funds through mobile money transfers and see how this impacts the logistics industry and the economy in general. This information has direct implications for the government and businesses as it will be a good indicator of the growth of the logistics industry.”

4. WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES IN CREATING AN INDEX LIKE THE ABMI?

“Building a respondent database and trying to identify the right respondents for the index will be quite daunting. Also, survey response rates tend to be very low, so we will probably need to send out many surveys. We may need to administer some surveys in person, which would mean traveling to meet top-level executives, directors and managers.

“Creating an audience for the ABMI will be pretty challenging since it’s new. But, with the right stakeholder engagement – the right partnerships — we believe that we can make it work. We intend to collaborate with professional societies in Ghana that can connect us to their members, and with government agencies to promote the relevance of the ABMI and increase engagement.”

5. HOW IS THE ABMI CENTRAL TO CARISCA’S MISSION?

“The ABMI actualizes some of the center’s aims. It will be one of the resources that will help CARISCA create meaningful engagements with industry partners and produce locally relevant research. Data and reports from the ABMI will position CARISCA as a critical resource that supports African businesses in making business decisions with timely, relevant data and insights.

“Likewise, the ABMI will improve KNUST’s research capacity and community outreach. Universities are expected to positively impact the communities they serve, and if KNUST, through CARISCA, can deepen industry engagement, it will help everyone. Most importantly, CARISCA will share the data collected as part of these activities with key stakeholders so they will benefit.”

6. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE LONG-TERM IMPACT OF THE ABMI?

“In the long term, being able to establish CARISCA as a leading research institute that cares about and produces research that is relevant to industry, will probably be the most lasting impact of the ABMI.”



Panelists (left to right), Pamela Campbell, Dale Rogers, Susan Uramoto, Ibtisaama Ahmed and Fern Shaw

Advancing through Change: Career Resilience for Supply Chain Professionals

CARISCA's Advancing Women in Supply Chain Webinar Series

On September 15, 2021, CARISCA's Executive Director, Dale Rogers, hosted a panel discussion on career resilience with four leaders: Ibtisaama Ahmed, PhD student at Georgia Southern University and a former ASU and KNUST student, Dr. Pam Campbell, Superintendent of the Columbia School District in Michigan, Fern Shaw, President for UPS Northern Plains District, and Susie Uramoto, former COO of Mighty Leaf Tea.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

One recurring theme discussed was the importance of women speaking up and building relationships in the workplace. Uramoto described her first leadership experience at Nabisco, managing a warehouse of all male employees when she was a young, 23-year-old emerging leader.

"This is when I learned about managing upward in relationships," Uramoto recalled. "At first, I wanted to fit in, so I started changing a little bit of who I really was in an attempt to fit in, and that did not work. What I soon realized is that I can just be myself and focus on what's important to me, and that was relationship building. That's what helped me be successful with leading that team and that ultimately led to another promotion."

Panelists admitted that responding with confidence and resilience in the face of challenges has not always come easily to them, but rather it has taken intentional effort to encourage these characteristics within themselves.

Ahmed confronted these challenges early in her academic career when she continually went to her academic advisor at KNUST for assistance, a resource that isn't always taken advantage of by students, especially young women within the Muslim tradition. It was that academic advisor who eventually encouraged Ahmed and pushed her application forward for the MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program, which gave Ahmed had the opportunity to study at ASU.

"You need to make people know who you are and what you stand for. They may not always agree with your values or your principles, but at the end of the day, they will respect you," said Ahmed, as she reflected on how she gained confidence in school as she learned to present herself and her ideas to others.

"If you don't speak up, you will be left behind," said Ahmed.

SPEAKING UP

Shaw related to the challenges of speaking up and growing confidence.

"To this day I'm still scared sometimes to use my voice, even with the position that I have. I just have to coach myself and encourage myself and almost plunge into whatever I know is right for that moment."

Coaching herself and trusting her instinct has worked well for Shaw. Raised in a traditional Thai family and advised to stay quiet and respect her elders, using her voice as a young female leader was not something Shaw was trained to do, so she had to encourage herself.

“Diversity of thought is always something that’s needed in any type of environment or any type of meeting,” Shaw acknowledges.

Similarly, coaching is a skill set that Campbell uses in her leadership as superintendent. It was a coaching mentality, paired with engaged listening, that helped Campbell discover unique solutions to her district’s challenges and propelled her to success in her leadership role.

“Facilitate change through communication — ask questions and listen,” said Campbell.

FINDING WORK-LIFE BALANCE

At the end of the event, participants asked questions about work-life balance and how the panelists have been able to find career success while raising families. Uramoto talked about rising to the challenge when she was a single mother to a young daughter and held a significant role at Starbucks with global responsibilities.

“She [her daughter] had visited four to five countries with me before she was five years old and she also came to the office with me. One of her first words was ‘Starbucks!’” said Uramoto.

Uramoto’s daughter is now attending college and recently recalled how shadowing her mother as a young child helped to shape some of the characteristics she now embodies as an adult and emerging professional herself.

Shaw shared similar sentiments as she tried to find balance as a mother, noting that she’s had to be bold in speaking up for her needs in the workplace, whether they be physical needs like attending a doctor’s appointment or family needs like attending school events.

She also emphasized the importance of having these conversations at home, so she gets what she needs to be present with her family.

“What you want out of life, what you need, what you expect, these are important to discuss early with your spouse,” said Shaw.

At home and in the workplace, these industry leaders have proven that career resilience can be built with intentionality and a good support system.

“If you do not feel confident, you go out there and you do it anyway, because every single time that you go out and speak in front of people, share your thoughts, ask for things that you need. You are building that capability and you are building that confidence by having that experience,” Uramoto said.

“It’s really important to get a mentor — there are females in the business world, there are females in supply chain, and there are resources who you can meet with on a consistent basis. And then, when you make it to that level, it’s important for you to be a mentor to others.”

This panel was presented as part of CARISCA’s Advancing Women in Supply Chain Webinar Series, an ongoing effort to expand our work in access and inclusion, highlighting the importance of promoting women in supply chain as a top priority to achieve CARISCA’s goals and have a positive impact on Ghanaian and African livelihoods. The event is part of CARISCA’s ongoing Advancing Women in Supply Chain Webinar Series.



CARISCA

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/carisca>

Advancing Women in Supply Chain Group

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12531329/>



Background photo by CHUTTERSAP on Unsplash

SUPPLY CHAIN ACTION NETWORK MEETING

Managing Global Supply Chain Disruptions: An African Perspective with Atoapem Frimpong Barimah

CARISCA's Supply Chain Action Network (SCAN) brings together leading supply chain experts and stakeholders from multiple sectors to translate university research into real-world solutions for Ghanaian and pan-African supply chains.

In November 2021, CARISCA hosted a hybrid SCAN meeting, *Managing Global Supply Chain Disruptions: An African Perspective*.

"We want to build partnerships that can help us create professional development opportunities and bridge the gap between academia and practitioners," said Professor Nathaniel Boso, Director of CARISCA, in his opening remarks.

"Part of CARISCA's goal as a center of excellence is to engage key stakeholders to address developmental barriers caused by inefficient and ineffective supply chains in Ghana and Africa. Engagements, like this meeting, are a major source of ideas that will help us address locally relevant supply chain problems."

Atoapem Frimpong Barimah, Logistics and Warehouse Governance Manager at Newmont Gold Corporation Ghana, served as the keynote speaker and led a lively discussion.

"I'm happy to be here because of what CARISCA is doing. Theory is important, but alone it is not enough. We have to apply knowledge, and there should be a collaboration between our universities and industry. It is time we train supply chain professionals through development courses to help them understand what is happening in the industry as well as their theoretical knowledge," said Frimpong Barimah.

A PAN-AFRICAN FOCUS ON SELF-RELIANCE

Frimpong Barimah highlighted Africa's importance to global supply chains and said Africa should focus on self-reliance by working with others in Africa, especially higher education institutions, to manage future supply chain disruptions.

"African countries should support each other. This [mutual aid] will help the supply chain eventually. The only way to beat supply chain disruption is to be self-reliant. What we need in Africa is collaboration, not competition. What can Ghana provide Nigeria? What can Nigeria do for Tanzania?"

Frimpong Barimah believes that COVID is not the sole cause of recent supply chain disruptions.

"Supply chains have been vulnerable since 2017. For example, everything from labor shortages to warehouse fires can cause supply chain disruptions, and these events existed before COVID, but COVID just made them worse."

Frimpong Barimah said he does not think there is a one-size-fits-all remedy for managing supply chain disruptions.

"Supply chain must be in the board room of most organizations. It must be part of the corporate strategy and road map in every organization."

More than 200 attendees participated: 60 in person and more than 140 online.

Plan to join CARISCA for the next SCAN Meeting in April 2022! Please sign up for [CARISCA's mailing list](#) to receive notifications about upcoming events.



Top row: Priscilla Addo Asamany, PhD student, Christa Agyemang, CARISCA staff; Bottom Row: Owusu Boahen and Ishmael Acquah, PhD students, and Elsie Konadu Addae, CARISCA staff; Photo by Emmanuel Offei/URO, KNUST

“This workshop gave participants the opportunity to align their research projects with relevant theories and subsequently leverage them to further their supply chain research within the African context,” said Kekeli Adonu, CARISCA’s research and training coordinator.

On day one of the two-day event, ASU Professor Thomas Choi led attendees through six exercises over the three-hour workshop. Choi had students and faculty review two published journal articles and present them to other attendees.

On day two of the event, Professors Nathaniel Boso, KNUST, and Adegoke Oke, ASU, discussed ways to apply relevant theories to research projects.

Participants then broke into teams to discuss how to integrate these theoretical concepts into their research.

“We gained experience on how to practically apply theories into our research projects,” said one PhD student. “During the breakout sessions, questions were asked and contributions were made on how these projects will make an impact on society and the supply chain in general. In my group, for example, we sought to develop software to help the supply chain, especially for cereal and grain producers in Ghana.”

One faculty member said, “These workshops have been beneficial. This workshop, in particular, has given me a deeper understanding of both established and newer theories, and how they are relevant to my research.”

CARISCA will continue to host faculty workshops every six months throughout the project to build capacity to conduct high-quality, rigorous supply chain management research.

Grounding Research in Theory CARISCA’s Research Capacity Building Workshop Series

CARISCA’s mission is to support higher education institutions in building capacity to create locally relevant supply chain research, provide best-in-class degree programs and training, facilitate research translation and utilization, engage stakeholders in best practices, and increase the participation of women in supply chain education and practice.

As part of its research capacity-building efforts, CARISCA is enhancing the research capacity of KNUST faculty through a series of semi-annual workshops.

The October 2021 workshop focused on supply chain research theories. To create novel research and further existing academic literature, a researcher must have a firm grasp of the key theories in their field. From supply chain theories about complex adaptive systems to social network analysis, the researchers presented papers and answered questions from their colleagues, furthering everyone’s understanding.

CARISCA’s Upcoming Events

- Call for Papers: 2022 Supply Chain Research Summit. Deadline extended to March 25
links.asu.edu/2022-carisca-summit
- Call for applications: PhD Dissertation Award, Deadline extended to April 4
links.asu.edu/carisca-phd-award
- Partnership Coordination Committee Mtg., March 29
- CARISCA Advisory Board, April 13
- Supply Chain Action Network Meeting, April 26
- Second Annual Supply Chain Research Summit, June 28-30

Event dates and details are subject to change. Visit research.wpcarey.asu.edu/carisca/news/upcoming-events for the latest information.

CARISCA TEAM PROFILE: Christa Nyameye Agyemang

Christa Nyameye Agyemang, CARISCA's web administrator, is an example of the optimism and talent in Ghana and on CARISCA's team.

"CARISCA has taught me a lot," said Agyemang. "It's taught me how to work hard, and I've really picked up a can-do spirit."

She is also enthusiastic about CARISCA's potential.

"I'm really excited about CARISCA's work. We are only in the middle of our second year as a project, and I think there is so much more we can do in the years to come. I am proud to be part of CARISCA because the Centre will help women and girls know that there are opportunities for them beyond basic education."

Agyemang also has big plans for herself as she follows her passion for helping her fellow Ghanaians, especially children and individuals with special needs.

"One day, I want to open a school that gives people opportunities that they would not have otherwise based on their family's income or their disability. Right now, there are not a lot of options for people in these situations in Ghana."

Agyemang was inspired at a young age by the work of Kofi Annan, a Ghanaian diplomat who served as the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations. Her dream is to follow in his footsteps and work for the United Nations, ideally with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

"I'm not easily swayed by distractions or fleeting ideas of success. Success, to me, is achieving my goals with a fulfilled heart," she said.



CARISCA team member Christa Nyameye Agyemang (Photo courtesy of Christa Agyemang)

Born in Germany, Agyemang spent four years in the United Kingdom while her father studied for his PhD. Her family relocated to Ghana when her father became a professor of environmental management in the Northern Region of Ghana. Her mother, an interior designer, started and runs a business out of their home.

"I've always felt inspired, encouraged, and supported by my parents. You have to make your parents proud; they've invested so much," Agyemang said, "they've always made me know that there is nothing I can't do."

Stay connected

If you want to learn more and receive project updates and information about upcoming events, please visit CARISCA's project website and sign up for our newsletter. research.wpcarey.asu.edu/carisca

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