**CURRICULUM VITAE**

SAMUEL ATO BENTUM

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, USA

KENNETH P. DIETRICH ARTS AND SCIENCES GRADUATE FELLOW

ORCID No.: [Link](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8545-7100)

 **EDUCATION**

2025—present Doctor of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh, USA

2020–2022 Master of Philosophy (Literature-in-English), University of Cape Coast

2015–2019 Bachelor of Arts (Linguistics and English), University of Cape Coast

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

1. Postcolonial Studies
2. 20th Century African American Studies
3. Critical theory
4. Food Studies
5. Anti-slavery African discourse

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

1. 2022-2023 — Research Assistant

Project Title: *African abolitionism: The rise and transformations of anti-slavery in Africa (AFRAB).* A European Research Council (ERC) project under the European Union's Horizon2020 Research and Innovation Program (Grant Agreement No. 885418). Investigated by Professors Benedetta Rossi (Lead Researcher) and Emmanuel Saboro (Coordinator, Ghana Team) ([See here](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/history/research/research-projects/african-abolitionism-rise-and-transformations-anti-slavery-africa-3))

1. 2022 — Postgraduate (Master of Philosophy, MPhil.) Thesis

Titled*: The dilemma tale and the continuities of African oral tradition in August Wilson’s The Piano Lesson and Kwaw Ansah’s Heritage Africa*

Advisor: Dr. Hannah Woode Amissah-Arthur, Department of English, University of Cape Coast, Ghana

1. 2019 — Undergraduate (Bachelor of Arts) Long Essay

Titled: *A rhetorical study of Squealer’s speeches in George Orwell’s* *Animal Farm*

 Advisor: Dr. (Mrs.) Gladys Y.M.F. Akyea, Department of Ghanaian Languages and Linguistics, University of Cape Coast, Ghana

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Book Chapter**

1. **Bentum, Samuel. A.** & Traore, Moussa. (2023). Framing postcolonial trauma and the redemption of the postcolony in Nii Ayikwei Parkes’ *Tail of the Blue Bird* (2006). In: Yoda Lalbila Aristide and Sanon/Ouattara F. Emilie Georgette (Eds.), *Actes du Colloque International: Langues, Littératures et Identités: Nouveaux Enjeux et Perspectives*, (pp. 35-60). Ouagadougou: Presses Universitaires.

**Research Papers (Peer Reviewed)**

1. Asempasah, Rogers. & **Bentum, Samuel. A**. (2023). In search of a post trans-Atlantic slave trade dwelling and conviviality: Rethinking Ghana’s Year of Return with Ama Ata Aidoo’s The Dilemma of a Ghost. *Critical* *African* *Studies*, *14*(2), 1-15. [Link](https://doi.org/10.1080/21681392.2023.2176900)
2. **Bentum, Samuel. A**. & Oppong-Adjei, Daniel. (2022). Beyond laughter: An analysis of phonological joke in A.B. Crentsil’s Atia and Osookoo. *Journal of Communication Inquiry*, *47*(1), 1-18. [Link](https://doi.org/10.1177/01968599221141740)
3. **Bentum, Samuel. A.** (2021). Framing the problematics of choice and legacy: A reading of August Wilson’s The Piano Lesson as a dilemma tale. *Journal of Black Studies*, *53*(1), 76-91. [Link](https://doi.org/10.1177/00219347211055331)

**Poetry Publications (**Selected**)**

1. Bentum, Nenyi Ato. (**Forthcoming**). *Bibiani: An Anthology of Poems*. Ghana Writers’ Marathon (2nd Batch). Maryland, USA.
2. Bentum, Nenyi Ato. (**January, 2024**). Three poems: Mood; How To Mourn A Thing Yet To Die; & Of Dreams and Mirage. *Journal of Writers’ Project of Ghana, 2*(1), 47-49. [Link](https://writersprojectghana.com/journal/reader/jwpg/volume2/number1/Bentum_v2n1.pdf)
3. Bentum, Nenyi Ato. (**December, 2023**). Two poems: In front of the castle & Carbo Corso. *Tampered Press*. [Link](https://tamperedpress.com/in-front-of-the-castle/)
4. Bentum, Nenyi Ato. (**July**, **2022**). Three poems: Mourning; Little Things Also Die; & Faces. *Contemporary Ghanaian Writers’ Series,* IssueIV, (pp. 24; 39; 49). [Link](https://cgwseries.com/cgws-issue-iv-roots/)
5. Bentum, Nenyi Ato. (**July**, **2020**). Bye-Bye Black Birds. *Lunaris Review: A Journal of the Literary,* Issue 12. [Link](http://www.lunarisreview.com.ng)

**Works In Progress**

1. Witnessing and singing the crisis of the African border issues: A metadata from contemporary Ghanaian songs. Journal article in preparation for submission
2. Reading Nii Ayikwei Parkes’ *Tail of the Bluebird* as an animist postcolonial trauma text. Journal article in preparation for submission

**INVITED GUEST/PANELIST**

1. 2024 “Writers Project of Ghana: Poetry time at Goethe Abansoro”. Goethe

Institut, Cantonments, Ghana. Invited guest poet (13th March)

1. 2023 “Launch of issue 8: Blackness”. Tampered Press, Osu, Ghana. Invited

panelist (14th December)

**CONFERENCE/ SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS (**selected**)**

1. Beyond the tune: Contesting Europe as a salvific space for the postcolonial subject in Kofi Kinaata’s *Behind the Scene* and Sarkodie’s *Borga.* Movement and Impact: The Ghanaian Literary Scholar and Creative Imaginations. Literature Association of Ghana (LITAG) Maiden Conference, held at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana, from 8th — 10th May 2024
2. Flight as a traumatic surviving strategy in Moussa Toure’s La Pirogue and Ike Nnaebu’s No U-Turn. *Authoring Human Rights in West Africa and Beyond: Expressions of Slaveries in Literature (Texts) and the Arts (Visuals)*. Centre for African and International Studies, University of Cape Coast, Ghana, January 30 – February 1, 2023.
3. Revenging the colonizer: Animality, agency and the question of humanness in Azasu’s The Slave Raiders. *African Studies Association of Africa (ASA-A) 4th Biennial Conference co-hosted by Institute for Humanities in Africa, University of Cape Town*, South Africa, 11th – 16th April 2022.
4. (**July 2, 2021**). Food, commensality and a response to postcolonial crisis in Soyinka’s *Madmen and Specialists* and Ayikwei Parkes’ *Tail of the Blue Bird. Departmental Seminar: Department of English, University of Cape Coast, Ghana*.
5. (**February 12**, **2021**). Animal turn and the defense of the empire: An ecocritical reading of Azasu’s The Slave Raiders and some selected Akan trickster tales. *Departmental Seminar: Department of English, University of Cape Coast, Ghana*.

**AWARDS/ CONFERENCE GRANT**

Arts and Sciences Graduate Fellow — Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, Department of English, University of Pittsburgh, PA, USA

1. African Studies Association – Africa (ASA-A) 2022 International Development Research Centre (IDRC) grant. Grant Number: IDRC001. $100 Conference travel grant

**PROFESSIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

2023 – 2025 — IBMYP & DP Teacher, Tema International School (An IB World School)

* English A: Language & Literature (Diploma Programme, DP)
* Language & Literature (Middle Years Programme, MYP)

2022 – 2025 — Course Tutor, College of Distance Education, UCC, Ghana

* ENG 808s: Literary Stylistics
* ENG 824s: Critical Approaches to Literature
* ENG 213: The Language of Drama
* EBS 308J: Oral Literature in Africa

2019-2020 — Teaching Assistant, Department of Ghanaian Languages & Linguistics, UCC

* LIN 101: Introduction to Linguistics
* LIN 320: Language Documentation
* LIN 306: Introduction to Sociolinguistics

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY (selected)**

1. Oct., 2023 – Aug., 2025

International Baccalaureate (IB MYP & DP) English Teacher, Tema International School, Ghana (An IB World School)

1. 2022 — 2025

Course Tutor, College of Distance Education, University of Cape Coast. Staff ID No. WS0028

1. 2021 – 2022

Graduate Research Assistant, Department of English, University of Cape Coast,

1. 2019 – 2023

English Language Examiner, West African Examinations Council (WAEC). Examiner’s Number: WS03130222144

1. 2019 – 2020

Teaching Assistant, Department of Ghanaian Languages & Linguistics, University of Cape Coast, Ghana

1. 2016 – 2018

Part-time Literature-in-English teacher, Ideal College International School, Tema Branch, Ghana

**VOLUNTARY SERVICES (selected)**

1. 2023 — 2025

Member, Language Policy Committee, Tema International School, Ghana (An IB World School)

1. 2023 — 2025

Patron, Tema International School Reading Club, Ghana (An IB World School)

1. 2020 — present

Public Relations Officer, Bibiniba Foundation, Ghana, West Africa

1. 2019 – present

Secretary, *Kente: Cape Coast Journal of Literature and the Arts*. A peer-reviewed journal hosted in the Department of English, University of Cape Coast, Ghana

1. 2021 — present

Reviewer (3x), Linguistics Association of Ghana (LAG) Annual Conference (Years: 2021, 2022, 2023)

1. July 24— 28, 2023

Technician (IT), 13th Biennial PASMAE/ISME regional conference, Africa, Theme:  Evolving Musical Arts Spaces, Cultures and Sustainable Development in Africa. Hosted by the Department of Music and Dance, University of Cape Coast, Ghana

1. January 30 – February 1, 2023

Planning Committee Member for the conference: Authoring Human Rights in West Africa and Beyond: Expressions of Slaveries in Literature (texts) and the Arts (visuals). Hosted by the Centre for African and International Studies, University of Cape Coast, Ghana

1. September 7– 9, 2022

Member, Logistics and Transport Sub-Committee Planning the Conference to Honor Three Professors on Post-retirement Contract, Department of English, University of Cape Coast, Ghana

1. July 18 – 22, 2021

Technician Volunteer, 2021 International PANAFEST Colloquium organized by the University of Cape Coast, Ghana

1. January, 2018 – December, 2019

Editorial Member, University of Cape Coast Students’ Representative Council

1. 2018 (June - December)

English Grammar Course Tutor, Intern, Ngleshie Amanfro Senior High School

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

1. 2023 — present Member, Literature Association of Ghana (LITAG)
2. 2023 — present Member, Linguistics Association of Ghana (LAG)
3. 2022 — present Member, African Studies Association of Africa (ASA-A)

**TRAINING/ SKILLS**

1. 7th August – 3rd September 2024

IB pedagogical skills: English A: Language and Literature Category 1 Online Workshop (August 2024 cohort). Organised by the IB Online Professional Development Department and facilitated by Brent Whitted, a certified IB Workshop Leader

1. 13th – 18th March 2017

Creative writing skills: Creative Writers Workshop organized by the Creative Writers Club, University of Cape Coast, Ghana.

1. 23rd April 2016

Public speaking skills: TEDx University of Cape Coast under the supervision of TED Conferences LLC.

1. Highly skilled in archival research and report writing/ documentation

**SPOKEN LANGUAGES**

1. English - Fluent in reading & writing
2. Akan (Mfantse and Twi – Niger-Congo: Kwa) - Native proficiency
3. Effutu (Niger-Congo: Kwa) - Mother tongue

Date of CV: September 2025