



## Academia in Ghana and Turkey

Zariatu IBRAHIM



### **1. Could you describe how you have pursued your academic interests before coming to Hong Kong?**

Well, I had my basic education, high school, and bachelor's degree in Ghana. I obtained my first degree in Sociology with Information Studies at the University of Ghana. Among the three courses I was offered in my first year, Sociology was the least I ever thought of majoring. However, along the line, I developed a very keen interest in it. With my curiosity to know more about Sociology, I embarked on a Journey to Turkey after my first degree to study my master's degree program, also in Sociology.

### **2. In general, what was your student experience in Ghana and Turkey like?**

My student life in University Ghana was an intriguing one. I enjoyed every bit of it, the challenges, the stress, and success. In senior high school, our mentors used to motivate us that university life is less stressful as compared to high school but that was a fallacy. When I got admitted to the university, I realized that I was misinformed. And because I challenged myself that a first degree will not be the end for me, I had to burn the night candle to achieve excellent grades. Even though I was very serious with my academics, I equally took up leadership positions as well. I enjoyed a bit of social life too. Also, my experience in Sakarya University, Turkey was generally an amazing one. As an international student in Turkey, the major challenge was the language barrier. Most people in Turkey cannot speak English which made communication in the beginning very difficult. But as a Turkish Government Scholarship awardee, it was mandatory to study Turkish in their language center for a year before you can start your main program. Life in the language school was super amazing for me because I got to meet students from different parts of the world. Generally, Turkish people are very hospitable which made my stay a very memorable one.

[See Full Article](#)

## Advice for Guided Studies

### NL Team



Image from aragonoutlook.org

#### The Basics:

- a. You would have to develop a reading list of key works about a subfield of your choice in consultation with your supervisor.
- b. From there, your supervisor will develop questions to ask you in the candidacy exam. You will be given this reading list again when you sit for the exam (closed notes).

#### The Tips:

1. You need to have your own critical understanding of the key concepts.
2. Clarify expectations with your supervisor early in the semester. Doing guided studies is a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in sociological literature related to your dissertation and another field in sociology. The purpose is to know what is being talked about in those circles, understand the key debates, and possibly see where your research enters in this vast undertaking. This is also a preparation for the coming candidacy exams. As this is an immense operation, it would help to discuss with your supervisor her expectations for you in the semester so she could provide you with some structure to help you navigate it. This could mean clarifying what your output would be towards the end of the semester and the major works she expects you to know by the time you are done. My first guided studies entailed developing a reading list about the sociology of work that I continuously edited in consultation with my supervisor. I was also asked to submit an essay analyzing the various perspectives in the sociology of work and learning about labor process theory, pluralist perspectives, and human resources perspectives and how these apply to the Philippine experience.

[See Full Article](#)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ✓ Job Ads

- Post-doctoral Fellow, Department of Sociology, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong. **Deadline for Applications: Nov. 15, 2022** [\[See the ad\]](#)
- Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Social Policy, Lingnan University, Hong Kong. **Deadline for Applications: Oct. 23, 2022** [\[See the ad\]](#)
- Assistant Professor in Sociology, Fondazione Collegio Carlo Alberto, Turin, Italy. **Deadline for Applications: Oct. 11, 2022.** [\[See the ad\]](#)