The complex hierarchy of power relations among key actors in a hotspot mining District in Ghana

Jacob Obodai, Geography, FASS. The Open University. Email: jacob.Obodai@open.ac.uk
Supervisors: Dr Shonil Bhagwat and Prof. Giles Mohan

1. Introduction
- Overlap of mining and farming activities in parts of Ghana’s semi-deciduous rain forest agroecological zones
- Fierce competition for factors of production

2. Aim
- To understand the complex power relations among key actors in a hotspot mining district in Ghana

3. Methods
- Theoretical Lens: A blend of Political Ecology and Capability Approach
- Research Approach: Qualitative
- Data Collection methods/instruments:
  - Key Informant and Semi-structured interviews, Focus Group Discussions
- Data Analysis:
  - Thematic Analysis

4. Study Area

5. Preliminary Findings
- Excessive power of the State and traditional authority actors in accessing resources and benefits
- Migrant food crop farmers and female artisanal miners exercise the least power in relation to access to resources and the economic benefits accrued
- Pronounced social differential
  - Young miners verses old farmers
- The observed power relations hold great implications for food security (study ongoing to unearth these impacts)