

Governing Ghana's Maritime Domain: Monitoring, Mapping, and Surveillance

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During summer 2012, I was very fortunate to spend nine weeks in Ghana both as a summer FLAS Fellow and as a research assistant to Dr. Brenda Chalfin. Two other PhD students and I accompanied Dr. Chalfin to Ghana as part of the Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) Research Tutorial Abroad program. The RTA project focused on issues of risk, threat and vulnerability in Ghana's emerging offshore oil and gas sector. As a research assistant, I was given the opportunity to interview and interact with a number of stakeholders involved in the offshore oil sector. The RTA project was an incredible learning experience in terms of fieldwork methods, collaborative research and knowledge production. Not only did I come away from the project with a better understanding of offshore oil production in Ghana, but I also learned a great deal about the challenges and rewards of studying contemporary anthropological problems.

In addition to the RTA project, I was able to spend six weeks studying Fante at the University of Cape Coast. While

staying in Cape Coast, I was able to meet with fishermen and representatives from government and NGOs working on issues related to marine resources. These discussions, combined with experiences from the RTA project, have inspired me to look further into issues of marine resource management and the deployment of various techniques and technologies of governance such as sensitivity mapping and the development of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) systems for the littoral zone.

Ghana has a large swath of maritime territory that plays an important role in the country's economy and the day-to-day lives of many Ghanaians. Ghana's maritime domain includes rich fishing grounds, valuable minerals, attractive beaches, habitat for endangered species, oil and gas reserves and busy shipping routes. Given these manifold activities and the increasing significance of Ghana's offshore resources to the national economy and international supply chains, there is increasing domestic and international pressure to monitor, map and establish systems of surveillance in Ghana's littoral zone. My proposed dissertation research

builds off of my earlier research on community-based fisheries management in Ghana and is focused on particular technologies and techniques designed to know and to govern Ghana's maritime domain. In particular, I am interested in how the country's new offshore oil and gas sector has spurred national and international interests in governing this maritime territory. What technologies are being employed or developed, and what are the goals and anticipated outcomes behind their use? When and where were these technologies developed and how will they be deployed, modified or adapted to the Ghanaian context?

Now in my second year at UF, I am working to develop a dissertation proposal that will allow me to build off of the CIBER RTA project and continue exploring my interests in technologies of governance in maritime jurisdictions, especially as they relate to marine resources such as fisheries and offshore oil and gas. These technologies include the development of regulatory frameworks, identification schemes for small-scale fishermen, mapping sensitive and vulnerable socio-environmental systems and developing vessel-monitoring systems. Through an analysis of these efforts to map and govern Ghana's maritime space, I hope to explore the relationship between modern state systems, international organizations and global flows of technology and standards of practice. I am very grateful for the support that the Center for African Studies has given me since I came to UF and for the opportunity to participate in the CIBER RTA project. These experiences will serve as a strong foundation as I continue my research.

Donald Underwood is a PhD student in anthropology and a FLAS Fellow (Akan, 2011-2013 and summer 2012).