

Curriculum Vitae

THELMA Z, ABU

Email: thelma.abu@uconn.edu

EDUCATION

2021	PhD Geography, University of Waterloo, Canada
2016	MPhil Environmental Science, University of Ghana, Ghana
2012	BSc Environmental Science, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana

ONLINE CERTIFICATE COURSES

2020/2021	Women Leaders for Planetary Health, Mentorship and Digital Academy Program
2020	Fundamentals of University Teaching, Center for Teaching Excellence, University of Waterloo
2020	Knowledge Translation, Canadian Association for Global Health
2020	Water Supply and Sanitation Policy in Developing Countries, University of Manchester offered through Coursera

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

08/2022-	Assistant Professor (Tenure-Track) , Department of Geography, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
01-08/2022	Postdoctoral Fellow , Department of Geography, Geomatics, and Environment, University of Toronto Mississauga
05-08/2021	Course Instructor , Department of Geography and Environmental Management, University of Waterloo, Canada
2017-2022	Graduate Teaching and Research Assistant , University of Waterloo
2015-2017	Environmental Consultant , Ghana
2016-2017	Intern , WaterAid Ghana, Accra
2013- 2014	Health, Safety and Environment Assistant , HS+E Consulting Ghana, Kumasi-Ghana
2012-2013	National Service Person , Environmental Protection Agency (Head Office) Accra-Ghana
05-07/2011	Industrial Attachment Trainee (Intern) , Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Water Research Institute, Accra Ghana
05-07/2010	Industrial Attachment Trainee (Intern) , Environmental Protection Agency, Accra Ghana
08/2010	Field Assistant , United Nations Commission on Human Rights & National Catholic Secretariat (UNHCR&NCS), Bujumbura Refugee Camp Food and Nutrition Security Survey - Ghana.
2007-2008	Volunteer tutor , Dan-Ibu International School, Wa-Ghana

SCHOLARSHIP, AWARDS AND HONOURS

2021-2022	University of Toronto <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UTM Postdoctoral Fellowship Award• Black Research Network (BRN) Ignite Grant
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- Center for Urban Environment (CUE) Research Award

2017-2021 University of Waterloo

- Queen Elizabeth Scholarship- Advanced Scholar (QES-AS)
- Graduate Research Studentship
- UW Graduate Experience Award
- International Doctoral Award
- UW Graduate Scholarship
- Graduate Studies Research Travel Assistantship

2014-2015 University of Ghana, Legon.

- Adaptation at Scale in Semi-Arid Regions (ASSAR)-MPhil Thesis

ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

1. **Abu, T. Z.**, & Elliott, S. J. (2022). The critical need for WASH in emergency preparedness in health settings, the case of COVID-19 pandemic in Kisumu Kenya. *Health and Place*, 76(102841) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2022.102841>
2. Araos, M., Jagannathan, A., Shukla, R., Ajibade, I., Coughlan de Perez, E., Davis, K., Ford, J. D., Galappaththi, E. K., Grady, C., Hudson, A.J., Joe, E. T., Kirchhoff, C. J., Lesnikowski, A., Alverio, N. G., Nielsen, M., Orlove, B., Pentz, B., Reckien, D., Siders, A.R., Ulibarri, N., van Aalst, M., **Abu, T.Z.**, Agrawal, T., Berrang-Ford, L., Kerr, R.B., Coggins, S., Garschagen, M., Harden, A., Mach, K.J., Nunbogu, A. M., Spandan, P., Templeman, S., Turek-Hankins, L.L. (2021) Equity in adaptation: A systematic global review: *One Earth*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oneear.2021.09.001>
3. Berrang-Ford, L., Siders, A. R., Lesnikowski, A., Fischer, A. P., Callaghan, M. W., Haddaway, N. R., ... & **Abu, T. Z.** (2021). A systematic global stocktake of evidence on human adaptation to climate change. *Nature Climate Change*, 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-021-01170-y>
4. **Abu, T. Z.**, Karanja, D. & Elliott, J.S. (2021). "When you preach water and you drink wine": WASH in healthcare facilities in Kenya: *Journal of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Development*, 11(4): 558–569. <https://doi.org/10.2166/washdev.2021.238>
5. **Abu, T. Z** & Elliott, S.J. (2020). When it is not measured, how then will it be planned for? WASH a critical indicator for universal health coverage in Kenya. *International Journal for Environmental Research and Public Health*, 17(16),5746. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17165746>
6. **Abu, T. Z.**, Bisung, E., & Elliott, S. J. (2019). What If Your Husband Doesn't Feel the Pressure? An Exploration of Women's Involvement in WASH Decision Making in Nyanchwa, Kenya. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 16(10), 1763. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph16101763>

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7. Ziervogel, G., Satyal, P., Basu, R., Mensah, A., Singh, C., Hegga, S., & **Abu, T. Z.** (2019). Vertical integration for climate change adaptation in the water sector: lessons from decentralization in Africa and India. *Regional Environmental Change*, 19(8), 2729-2743. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10113-019-01571-y>
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BOOK CHAPTERS

1. Plamondon, K., Shahram, S., **Abu, T. Z.**, & Hanson, L. (2021). Weaving ways of knowing into pathways toward equitable futures. In: Bisung, E & Plamondon, K., (Ed) Equity in global health research. Geographies of health series. Routledge, Taylor, and Francis group. (accepted)
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CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. **Abu, T.Z.**, Andrea Rishworth, Fatema Ali, JeeHee Suh, Kiara Kim, Ayesha Lodhi, Tracey Galloway, Kathi Wilson Exploring the COVID-19 Journeys of Black communities in the Greater Toronto Area, Oral Presentation. 72nd Canadian Association of Geographers, Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, May 30-June 03, 2022.
2. **Abu, T. Z.**, Elliott, J.S & Karanja D. Sociopolitical structures and ecological factors hindering the contribution of WASH in building resilient health systems, Oral Presentation. 42nd WEDC International Conference, Loughborough, United Kingdom, September 13-15, 2021.
3. **Abu, T. Z.**, Karanja, D. & Elliott, J.S. Building resilient health care systems: a Political Ecology of Health approach. Oral presentation. Canadian Association of Geographers Conference, University of Northern British Columbia, Canada, June 7-11, 2021.
4. **Abu, T. Z.**, Karanja, D. & Elliott, J.S. Quality of WASH in Healthcare facilities in Kisumu Kenya. Oral presentation. Africa-Western Collaborations Day 2020, Western University, London, Canada, November 18, 2020.
5. **Abu, T. Z.**, Karanja, D. & Elliott, J.S. When you preach water and you drink wine: Exploring the implementation, use and management of WASH in healthcare facilities in Kisumu County. Poster presentation. Canadian Conference on Global Health, Ottawa, Canada, 19-22 October 2020.
6. **Abu, T. Z.**, & Elliott, J.S. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH): A priority in global health care. Oral presentation. Canadian Conference on Global Health, Ottawa, Canada, 16-20 October 2019.

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7. **Abu, T. Z.**, & Elliott, J.S. "WASH for Resilient health systems in Kenya". Oral Presentation, 2018 IGU Regional Conference - CAG Annual Meeting, Quebec City, Canada, August 6-10, 2018.
8. **Abu, T. Z.**, & Elliott, J.S. "Small Action, Big Results: Can WASH and risk reduction contribute to health system resilience". Side Event 41st WEDC International Conference, Nakuru, Kenya, July 10, 2018.
9. **Abu, T. Z.**, & Elliott, J.S. Water security and health in sub-Saharan Africa: Exploring the links. Poster presentation, 1st international water security conference, Toronto, Canada, 17-20 June 2018.
10. **Abu, T. Z.**, Mensah, A. & Gordon, C. Water use and management in the context of climate variation in the Lawra District of Ghana. Oral Presentation, Canadian Association of African Studies, Kingston, Canada, 3-6 May 2018.
11. **Abu, T. Z.**, Mensah, A. & Gordon, C. Water use and management in the context of climate variability in the Lawra District. Oral Presentation, CAGONTS, Kingston, Canada, 20-21 October 2017.
12. **Abu, T. Z.**, Mensah, A. & Gordon, C. Exploring the competing uses of water in the context of climate change and variability in the Lawra District. Poster presentation, 5th Climate Change and Population Conference on Africa, Accra, Ghana, 19-21 July 2016.
13. **Abu, T. Z.**, Mensah, A. & Gordon, C. Exploring the competing uses of water in the context of climate change and variability in the Lawra District. Poster presentation, College of Basic and Applied Science (CBAS) Annual Science and Development Platform, Accra, Ghana, 17-19 February 2016.

TEACHING

GEOG 2200: Introduction to Human Geography, University of Connecticut

GEOG 225: Global Environment and Health, University of Waterloo

Graduate Course Teaching Assistant (University of Waterloo)

Water 601: Integrated Water Management

Undergraduate Course Teaching Assistant (University of Waterloo)

GEOG 203: Environment and Development in Global Perspectives

GEOG 101: Geography and Human Habitat

GEOG 293: Approaches to Research in Human Geography.

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GUEST LECTURES/SPEAKER/ MODERATOR

- 06/2022** Guest Panelist in Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs (GSPA) PhD Candidacy Workshop and Celebration, University of Waterloo to discuss comprehensive exams, qualifying exams and completion of their dissertation.
- 11/2021** Guest panelist in GEOG 700/800 Professional Skills Development for Masters and Doctoral Students, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, University of Waterloo to discuss *Field Research*
- 05/2021** Co-Host at the CAGH Global Health Round Table Series, Session 2: Promoting equity in global health teaching & learning: Leveraging insights from the pandemic. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFp2NCsASj8>
- 02/2021** Co-Host at the CAGH Global Health Round Table Series, Session 1: Trade, Vaccine Nationalism and Global Health Governance. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SWpGOhJo4>
- 02/2021** Guest lecture in GEOG:325 Geographies of Health, Department of Geography, University of Waterloo to teach *Health Inequalities at the Global Level*.
- 01/2020** Guest speaker in GEOG 625: Qualitative Methods class, Department of Geography, University of Waterloo to discuss *Interviews as a field research tool*.
- 11/2019** Guest speaker to the University of Waterloo Water Institute and Office of the President meeting to present my research funded by the Water Institute and Queen Elizabeth Scholarship-Advance Scholars.
- 06/2018** Guest speaker to the Africa2030WaterSecure Capacity gaps and needs for water security meeting by the UNU-INWEH, Canada to speak on *WASH for resilient healthcare systems and community capacity building*. Please see: <https://inweh.unu.edu/africa2030watersecure-capacity-gaps-and-needs-for-water-security/>
- 05/2018** Moderated the annual menstrual hygiene day panel discussion at the University of Waterloo.

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03/2018

Guest to the Canadian Association for Global Health Forum, Hamilton, Canada to discuss *Research to reality: My experience*.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING ON CLIMATE CHANGE, WASH AND HEALTH RESEARCH

1. Angelica Marie Sanchez (2022, June 01). Celebrating Environment's outstanding PhD student. Retrieved from: <https://uwaterloo.ca/environment/news/celebrating-environments-outstanding-phd-student>
2. Tina Adamopoulos (2022, May 06). UTM researcher hopes to significantly improve clean water access in Africa. Retrieved from: <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/main-news-research-news-general/utm-researcher-clean-water-access>
3. **Abu, T.Z.**, (2020, November 19). Why do we have to make toilets a human right? Retrieved from: https://uwaterloo.ca/geographies-of-health-in-place/blog/post/why-do-we-have-to-make-toilets-human-right?utm_medium=shareblock
4. **Abu, T.Z.**, (2018, August 13). *My 41st WEDC Conference Experience, July 2018*. Retrieved from: <https://uwaterloo.ca/geographies-of-health-in-place/blog/post/my-41st-wedc-conference-experience-july-2018>
5. **Abu, T.Z.**, (2017). Exploring the competing uses of Ghana's Lawra District. *ASSAR Spotlight*. Retrieved from: http://www.assar.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/138/Spotlights/ASSAR%20Spotlight%20on%20Water%20-%20June%202017.pdf
6. Hoffman. T., (2016, March 17). *University of Ghana ASSAR student - Thelma Zulfawu Abu*. [Video File]. Retrieved from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0w9VZ2XXbrc>

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENTS, LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

05/2022-

Health and Place & Wellbeing, Space and Society Journals

Early Career Editorial Board member

- Review manuscripts

11/2021-

Canadian Association for Global Health (CAGH) Ghana-Canada Partnership

co-coordinator

- Organizing networking events
- Designing newsletters

02-07/2021

Canadian Association for Global Health (CAGH)

Global Health Leadership Fellow

- volunteer internship positioned alongside the University Advisory Council co-chairs.

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- organizing and co-hosting global health round table discussion series.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

1. American Association of Geographers
2. Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG) -Health and Health Care Speciality Group
3. Canadian Association for Global Health (CAGH)
4. Global Adaptation Mapping Initiative Project (GAMI)
5. Women Leaders for Planetary Health
6. Adaptation at Scale in Semi-Arid Regions Consortium (ASSAR)