

RICHARD MENSAH ADONU

University of Tennessee

Graduate Teaching Associate & PhD Student in Communication and Information

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SUMMARY

Graduate Teaching Associate with a solid background in leading discussion sections, grading assignments and assisting professors. Strong ability to communicate complex concepts in an understandable manner, fostering student engagement. Skills include curriculum development, lesson planning and providing constructive feedback to enhance student learning outcomes.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD): Communication and Information Studies | *August 2025*
University of Tennessee | Knoxville, TN, USA

Master of Science: Journalism and Mass Communication | *May 2025*
Iowa State University | USA | **GPA: 3.96**

Bachelor of Arts: Journalism | *June 2020*
Ghana Institute of Journalism (GIJ) | Ghana | **GPA: 3.51/4.0**

SKILLS

Software & Technology: Microsoft Suite • Corel Draw • Photoshop • Filmora • Audacity • WordPress • Blogspot • SPSS • JASP • Excel • SAP • Google Analytics

Communication Platforms: Zoom • Microsoft Teams • Google Meet • Google Forms • SurveyMonkey • Qualtrics • Canvas • Moodle • TopHat

Social Media & Marketing: Facebook • TikTok • Twitter • Instagram • SEO

Academic & Research: Media analysis • Course development • Project coordination • Academic advising • Peer evaluation • Online teaching • Pedagogical skills • Examinations proctoring • Student counseling • Classroom instruction

WORK EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Associate & Instructor of Record | *Aug 2025 - Current*
University of Tennessee | Knoxville, USA
College of Communication and Information

- Teaching JMED 466: Media, Diversity and Society to 59 undergraduate students
- Design and deliver course curriculum focusing on media representation, framing, and social justice issues
- Hold regular office hours to provide academic support and guidance to students
- Grade and provide detailed feedback on assignments, exams, and projects
- Collaborate with faculty on research projects related to AI, media and platform governance

Graduate Teaching and Research Assistant | *January 2023 - April 2025*
Iowa State University | USA
Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication

- Continuously assess and grade assignments, quizzes, and projects submitted by undergraduate journalism students through Canvas learning management system
- Assist in coordination and organization of classroom logistics, including scheduling guest speakers and ensuring availability of necessary materials
- Communicate with students regarding course updates, announcements, and important deadlines
- Provide timely feedback on student work to support learning and academic growth
- Collaborate with professors to maintain consistency in grading standards and ensure assessments align with course objectives
- Assist professors with data collection, literature reviews, and updating ongoing research projects

Trade and Market Analyst | *December 2021 - October 2022*
British American Tobacco | Ghana

- Monitored industry trends and regulatory developments and provided insights to management
- Conducted market research and analyzed consumer data to identify trends and opportunities
- Managed day-to-day website operations, including web content management, sitemap, navigation, localization, and analytics to improve discoverability (SEO)

Reporter and Fact-Checker (Fellow) | *July 2020 - November 2021*
Media Foundation for West Africa | Ghana

- Investigated and verified information for over ten news stories on politics, governance, and human rights
- Mentored and trained more than fifteen young journalists on fact-checking and data journalism techniques
- Participated in two media training workshops and one outreach program

Research and Marketing Assistant | *May 2018 - March 2020*

Assignment Desk Educational Consultancy | Ghana

- Assisted senior researchers in downloading over 100 related literature and research articles for various projects
- Managed three project databases and assisted in report writing and editing
- Provided administrative support to the project team, including scheduling interviews and logistics management
- Worked closely with demand generation, marketing operations, and go-to-market teams to ensure digital marketing initiatives
- Created more than 20 surveys and interview questions for data collection

Content Manager and Freelance Graphic Designer | *February 2017 - February 2018*

Razak Media | Ghana

- Managed 3 social media accounts and developed content strategy for clients in various industries
- Designed and created graphics for websites and social media
- Created social media posts and handled comments engagements

Visiting ICT Teaching Assistant | *January 2014 - January 2017*

Prince Daycare School | Ghana

- Conducted computer literacy classes for over 30 primary school students
- Developed lesson plans and assessments to measure student progress
- Collaborated with classroom headteachers to integrate technology into the curriculum

CONFERENCE PANELS

- **Evaluating the prevalence of Breast cancer-related misinformation on Twitter during Breast cancer awareness month** | Panelist | Central States Communication Association 2024 Convention, Grand Rapids, Michigan | April 2024
- **2024 State Science Technology Fair of Iowa** | Judge | The Iowa 4-H Youth Development's State Science + Technology Fair of Iowa (SSTFI) | April 2024
- **What it Means to Be a First-Year International Graduate Student: Inspiration, Problems, Challenges, and Opportunities** | Panelist | National Conference on Race and Ethnicity (NSCORE-ISCORE) | February 2024

- **Iowa Student Leadership Experience (ISLE) Conference** | Panelist | University of Northern Iowa | February 2024
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PEER REVIEW AND EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Peer Reviewer | 2024

Journalism Practice, Taylor Francis

- Served as peer reviewer for three manuscript submissions
 - Review contributions recognized and verified on Web of Science researcher profile
 - Maintained rigorous academic standards in evaluating research quality, methodology, and scholarly contribution
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PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Ghana Student Association (GSA), Iowa State Chapter
 - Central States Communication Association (CSCA)
 - Africa Learning and Evolving Community (AFLEC)
 - Conservation Leaders
 - National Communication Association (NCA)
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AWARDS

- **Research Excellence Award** | Iowa State University | 2025
 - **ISU Pappajohn Entrepreneurship Start Something Digest Winner** | USA | 2023
 - **Best Fact-Checker and Data Journalism Fellow** | Media Foundation for West Africa | Ghana | 2022
 - **New Decade Challenge Winner** | Global Young Leaders' Alliance | Ghana | 2020
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VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- **ISU Repair Cafe at Sustainapalooza** | February 2024 | USA
Had 49 attendees over a three-hour period, worked on 53 items including sewing, jewelry/accessory repair, small electronics, laptops/tablets, and bike repair
- **Campus Service Day** | April 2023 | Creek cleanup exercise | USA
- **IWATCH Africa - Digital Rights Initiative** | February 2020 - Present | Ghana
- **GYLA Ghana Covid-19 Support Donation** | 2020 | Ghana
- **JA Africa Delta Innovation Challenge** | 2020 | Ghana

- **Strategic Youth Network for Development** | 2019 | Ghana
 - **Family Planning Campaign (UNFPA)** | 2019 | Ghana
 - **Biker Girl Foundation** | 2017 | Ghana
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RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND CONFERENCES ATTENDED

Master's Thesis:

- **Adonu, R.M.** (2024). "Journalism Practice in the Age of Generative AI: How Are American Journalism Schools/Professors Training Future Journalists." Master's thesis, Iowa State University.

Published Research:

- Boyles, J.L. & **Adonu, R.M.** (2025. Published online March 2025; Accepted February 2025). "Beyond the Big City: Rural Journalists, Role Orientations and Reimaginings of Computational Journalism." *Journalism: Theory, Practice & Criticism*.
- Boyles, J.L. & **Adonu, R.M.** (2025. Published online March 2025; Accepted October 2024). "Training Next-Generation Newspaper Reporters: Understanding Computational Curricula." *Newspaper Research Journal*.
- Isiaka, A.B., Anakwenze, V.N., Ilodinso, C.R., Anaukwu, C.G., Ezeokoli, C.M., Noi, S.M., Agboola, G.O., & **Adonu, R.M.** (2024). "Harnessing artificial intelligence for early detection and management of infectious disease outbreaks." *International Journal of Innovative Research and Development*.

Conference Presentations:

- Nyarko, A.J., **Adonu, R.M.**, & Buatsi, R. (2024). "Social Media and Identity Construction: Exploring the Role of TikTok in Shaping a Sense of Belonging among Millennials." Paper presented at the Southern States Communication Association 94th Annual Convention, Frisco, Texas.
- Boyles, J.L. & **Adonu, R.M.** (2024). "Computation in the Heartland: How Rural Journalists Approach Code." Abstract presented at the Local Journalism Researchers Workshop conference at Duke University.
- **Adonu, R.M.** & Nyarko, A.J. (2023). "Gender-Based Violence in Digital Spaces: Exploring the Experiences of Ghanaian Women." Paper presented at the African Women in Media 2023 Conference, Kigali, Rwanda.
- Nyarko, A.J. & **Adonu, R.M.** (2023). "The Role of Information Communication Technologies in Shaping Organizational Communication Practices: Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities in the era of COVID-19." Paper presented at the Organizational Communication Mini-Conference 2023, New Brunswick, New Jersey.
- **Adonu, R.M.**, Nyarko, A.J., Buatsi, R., & Yerb, S.M.J. (2023). "Investigative Journalism in the new age: Examining the Use of AI Tools in Investigative Journalism Practices in

Ghana." Paper presented at the Global Investigative Journalism Conference 2023, Gothenburg, Sweden.

- Nyarko, A.J. & Adonu, R.M. (2023). "Investigating Gender Representation in Radio Breakfast Show Host in Ghana." Paper presented at the Pacific Northwest Conference of Political Communication and Journalism Studies, Seattle, Washington
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LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Judicial Committee Member, Associate Justice | *September 2023 - May 2025*

Student Government, Iowa State University

- Actively engaged in student government meetings and discussions, contributing to policy development and revision
- Participate in various student government committees, focusing on finance, student affairs, and diversity and inclusion
- Provide advice to student government leaders on legal and ethical considerations during policy initiation

Member, Student Representative Council | *September 2019 - June 2020*

Ghana Institute of Journalism

- Acted as voice for the student body, addressing concerns and advocating for rights and needs within the GIJ community
- Collaborated with fellow council members to organize student-centered events, initiatives, and activities
- Gathered feedback from students on various issues, ensuring council decisions were informed by student needs and opinions

Co-Founder and Leader | *June 2018 - April 2020*

Assignment Desk Educational Consultancy, Ghana

- Identified, recruited, and engaged with close to 200 underprivileged students, providing essential support and guidance for higher education and study abroad opportunities
- Offered over 200 students' valuable insights into scholarship opportunities, application processes, and financial aid strategies
- Mentored 30 students in academic and research skills, encouraging intellectual growth and commitment to educational excellence