

RESEARCH PORTFOLIO

Kweyakie Afi Blebo

AI Governance | Digital Policy | Technology Law

Research and policy work at the intersection of artificial intelligence, digital systems, law and public institutions, with a focus on African contexts.

Research lens

I came to law from technology, so I begin by understanding how a system works before asking how law should govern it. My research focuses on where technical design, institutional capacity and legal rules meet, and where one of them fails the others.

SELECTED THEMES

- AI accountability, liability and human oversight
- Information integrity, deepfakes and digital rights
- Digital governance, transparency and public institutions
- Electronic commerce, platform responsibility and consumer protection
- Digital money, regulatory design and technology enabled markets

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Research profile

A portfolio built from postgraduate research in Information Technology Law, technical practice in data and AI, and programme work across education and digital inclusion.

CURRENT RESEARCH DIRECTION

My current work asks how African institutions can adopt and govern AI without treating technical capability as a substitute for institutional capacity. I am especially interested in accountability for automated systems, local data and infrastructure, regulatory capacity, information integrity, and the practical implementation of digital policy.

Technical foundation

Technology audit and data science shaped how I read legal and policy problems. I am comfortable with machine learning concepts, system design, data flows, analytics and the operational realities behind digital products.

Legal and policy foundation

My MA in Information Technology Law has focused on AI and robotics law, information control, electronic commerce, data protection, digital governance and the regulation of emerging technologies.

Research approach

Doctrinal legal analysis, comparative law, case analysis, policy evaluation and technical systems analysis. I use technical detail where it changes the legal question, and leave it out where it does not.

Communication

I translate research for non technical audiences through teaching, programme communications and public speaking. I have taught AI, Machine Learning and related subjects to 700+ students.

A RECURRING QUESTION

Does the rule do what it was written to do, and if it does not, what already exists in the law or institutional system that could be made to carry the weight?

ACADEMIC CONTEXT

- MA Information Technology Law, University of Ghana, 2025 to 2026. Academic requirements completed; graduation expected January 2027.
- Selected work in this portfolio was developed through assessed research in AI and Robotics Systems Law, Information Control Law and Electronic Commerce Law.
- Where a project was completed as group research, it is identified as such.

AI governance and accountability

The strongest thread in my research is the gap between what an AI system can technically do and what institutions can responsibly decide, enforce and remain accountable for.

Can AI Solve Ghana's Problems?

Individual research | AI and Robotics Systems Law | 2026

Research question: When does AI meaningfully solve a public problem, and when does it only solve the computational part of that problem?

Core argument: AI can improve prediction, diagnosis and decision support, but technical capability does not remove behavioural and institutional constraints. A flood model can forecast rainfall and blocked drains; it cannot compel planning enforcement. Responsible adoption therefore requires human oversight, local data, governance capacity and accountable institutions.

Approach: Critical assessment of Prof. Isaac Wiafe's inaugural lecture, read alongside the UN Independent International Scientific Panel on AI, Ghana's National AI Strategy, human in the loop governance and technical literature on AI capability.

Policy relevance: Useful for public sector AI policy, digital transformation, AI readiness, responsible deployment and debates about technological sovereignty in African contexts.

What Neural Network Design Means for Liability

Group research | AI and Robotics Systems Law | 2026

Research question: How should law respond when an AI system fails because of training quality, architecture, overfitting, underfitting or poor generalisation?

Core argument: AI error is not a single event detached from design. Liability analysis must be able to examine training data, architecture, testing, known limitations, error rates and deployment decisions. Foreseeable and preventable weaknesses can support questions of negligence, product liability and regulatory compliance.

Approach: Technical reading of neural network design and training, connected to standards of care, accountability and legal responsibility.

Policy relevance: Relevant to AI assurance, model risk, product safety, procurement standards and the design of regulatory duties for high impact systems.

Information integrity and digital rights

These projects examine how digital systems reshape anonymity, access to information, misinformation and the evidentiary value of online content.

Regulating Fake News and Deepfakes in Ghana

Group research | Information Control Law | 2026

Research question: How should Ghana respond to AI generated misinformation without collapsing legitimate commentary, satire, journalism and political criticism into the same category?

Core argument: Disclosure duties for synthetic media are a useful starting point, but regulation alone is insufficient. A credible framework also needs platform governance, content authentication, independent journalism and media literacy, with clear protection for lawful expression.

Approach: Legal analysis of Ghanaian communications and cybersecurity law, comparison with the EU AI Act, and review of research on misinformation, trust and media literacy.

Policy relevance: Relevant to election integrity, journalism, platform policy, synthetic media governance and public trust.

Do Exemptions Hollow Out the Right to Information?

Individual research | Information Control Law | 2026

Research question: Does Ghana's Right to Information Act grant access with one hand and remove it with the other through statutory exemptions?

Core argument: The existence of exemptions does not make the right hollow where the categories are defined, subject to a public interest override and backed by an enforcement body that can compel compliance and sanction institutions. The more important policy question is whether enforcement is visible, timely and credible.

Approach: Doctrinal analysis of Act 989, constitutional access rights and enforcement practice, with attention to the public interest override and institutional accountability.

Policy relevance: Relevant to transparency, democratic governance, public administration, access to information and institutional trust.

Digital markets, platforms and consumer protection

I am interested in the places where digital architecture changes the assumptions on which older legal rules were built.

Why Compelled Disclosure Is Not Enough

Individual research | Electronic Commerce Law | 2026

Research question: Can disclosure rules protect consumers when an online seller can fabricate the very information the law requires them to provide?

Core argument: Identity and refund disclosures improve transparency but do not verify truth. For prepaid internet commerce, consumer protection should add platform level responsibility and a consumer elective escrow model that releases payment after confirmed delivery.

Approach: Analysis of Ghana's Electronic Transactions Act, platform intermediary rules, comparative consumer law and the architecture of internet anonymity.

Policy relevance: Relevant to marketplace regulation, digital trust, consumer protection, fintech enabled commerce and platform accountability.

Electronic Contracting under Act 772

Individual research | Electronic Commerce Law | 2026

Research question: How well does Ghanaian law translate writing, signature and assent requirements into email, clickwrap and browsewrap contracting?

Core argument: Act 772 translates writing and digital signatures into electronic form convincingly and supports email and clickwrap transactions. Browsewrap exposes a gap because passive use can be treated as assent even where terms were not conspicuously presented before use.

Approach: Statutory interpretation, Ghanaian case law and comparative analysis of shrinkwrap, clickwrap and browsewrap authorities.

Policy relevance: Relevant to online contracting, consumer consent, platform terms, digital services and legal design for electronic transactions.

Cross border digital regulation and financial systems

Digital systems routinely move faster than the jurisdictional and reporting structures designed to govern them. These projects focus on closing that gap.

Policy Guidelines for a Ghanaian Law on Jurisdiction in Cyberspace

Individual research | Electronic Commerce Law | 2026

Research question: What principles should Ghana use to determine jurisdiction when online conduct, victims, defendants and infrastructure sit in different countries?

Core argument: A workable framework should begin with defendant domicile, locate tort jurisdiction where harm occurs, recognise the victim's centre of interests for online personality harms, test foreign defendants for purposeful availment, preserve party choice in contract and coordinate criminal jurisdiction across borders.

Approach: Comparative analysis of eDate and Martinez, the Brussels regime, Zippo, World Wide Volkswagen, the Budapest Convention and the Malabo Convention.

Policy relevance: Relevant to cybercrime, online harms, digital trade, cross border enforcement and African legal harmonisation.

Electronic Money, Risk and the Law

Individual research | Electronic Commerce Law | 2026

Research question: What did the Zeepay licence revocation reveal about the design of Ghana's electronic money oversight regime?

Core argument: A regulator can monitor what an issuer owes while still lack direct visibility into what the issuer actually holds. I proposed direct reporting by the bank holding the customer float so that daily reconciliation is checked against a figure the issuer does not control. The same risk logic can extend to fiat backed stablecoins.

Approach: Regulatory diagnosis using Ghana's Payment Systems and Services Act, comparative electronic money rules and the principle of same activity, same risk, same regulation.

Policy relevance: Relevant to fintech supervision, digital money, stablecoins, regulatory reporting and financial system resilience.

Research in practice

My research is strongest when it is connected to systems I have built, taught or had to make work in real organisations.

AI systems

At Because She Can, I helped develop Ascendancy, an AI enabled platform for mentor matching and programme management. Building a system that influences access to opportunity sharpened my interest in fairness, design choices and accountability.

Teaching

At the Burkina Institute of Technology, I taught 700+ students across Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Big Data, Data Analysis, Advanced Programming and IT Project Management.

Public scholarship

I have spoken publicly on bias and fairness in AI, including at PyCon Africa, and across 60+ wider speaking engagements I have translated technical and policy ideas for audiences outside specialist research communities.

Open source and inclusion

Through the NumFOCUS Diversity and Inclusion in Scientific Computing Committee, I contribute to global work on inclusion in open source and scientific computing, connecting technical communities with questions of access and participation.

WHY THIS MATTERS

The common thread is implementation. I am interested in the point where a policy becomes a workflow, a model becomes a decision, a legal right becomes an enforcement mechanism, or a technical system begins shaping who receives an opportunity.

CURRENT QUESTIONS

- How should African regulators build technical capacity for AI oversight without importing governance models wholesale?
- What should accountability look like when automated systems influence education, employment, finance or public services?
- How can local data, public infrastructure and regional cooperation reduce dependency while preserving openness and innovation?
- Which parts of existing data protection, consumer protection and sectoral law can carry AI governance now, and where are new rules genuinely needed?

Selected research outputs

A concise index of work that can be shared in full where appropriate.

AI AND GOVERNANCE Can AI Solve Ghana's Problems? A Critical Assessment of Prof Isaac Wiafe's Inaugural Lecture on Human Centred AI

AI AND LIABILITY What Neural Network Design Means for Liability: A Legal Reading of Boadu on Machine Learning

ROBOTICS AND LIABILITY Who Is Liable When a Robot Acts on Incomplete Information? A Legal Reading of Mataric's Robotics Primer

INFORMATION INTEGRITY Regulating Fake News and Deepfakes in Ghana: Disclosure Duties and the Limits of the Existing Legal Framework

DIGITAL RIGHTS Anonymity, Harm and the Law: The Legal Implications of Anonymous Posts on Social Media

TRANSPARENCY Do Exemptions Hollow Out the Right to Information? Testing Ghana's Act 989 Against Its Enforcement Record

CYBER JURISDICTION Policy Guidelines for a Ghanaian Law on Jurisdiction in Cyberspace

CONSUMER PROTECTION Why Compelled Disclosure Is Not Enough: An Escrow Model for Consumer Protection in Ghanaian Internet Commerce

ELECTRONIC CONTRACTING Electronic Contracting under Act 772: Where Ghanaian Law Reaches Clickwrap and Where It Fails on Browsewrap

DIGITAL MONEY Electronic Money, Risk and the Law: The Regulatory Implications of the Zeepay Revocation

SELECTED PRIMARY AND COMPARATIVE SOURCES USED ACROSS THE PORTFOLIO

Ghana Constitution 1992; Right to Information Act 2019 (Act 989); Electronic Transactions Act 2008 (Act 772); Payment Systems and Services Act 2019 (Act 987); Cybersecurity Act 2020 (Act 1038); Ghana National Artificial Intelligence Strategy; EU Artificial Intelligence Act; Brussels I Recast; Budapest Convention; Malabo Convention; relevant Ghanaian and comparative case law.

Research direction

I am building toward research and policy work that connects technical understanding with institutions, regulation and public interest outcomes.

The question I want to keep working on is simple to state and difficult to solve: how do we make sure that increasingly capable digital systems are governed by institutions that can understand them, challenge them and remain accountable for the decisions made with them?

AREAS FOR COLLABORATION

- AI governance and accountability in African contexts
- Digital public policy and regulatory implementation
- Research on bias, fairness, transparency and human oversight
- Technology law, platform governance and information integrity
- Programme research, evidence synthesis and policy communication

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Selected academic research conducted as part of the MA Information Technology Law programme at the University of Ghana, 2025 to 2026.