China in Africa and the Case of Ghana

Elizabeth Asiedu, Professor of Economics, University of Kansas

What can Ghana tell us about China’s interest in Africa?

China’s investment in Africa has a long and complicated history, made more so by COVID-19. While the Belt and Road Initiative continues to expand Chinese power, the response to the spread of Covid-19, as well as the African government’s growing debt to China, has seen pushback. In her presentation, Dr. Elizabeth Asiedu will focus on Ghana, which has a long history of relations with China, and use this case to spur larger discussions on China’s influence in Africa.

Dr. Asiedu is a Professor of Economics at the University of Kansas. She was Associate Chair and the Director of Graduate Studies of the Economics Department and is also the President and founder of the Association for the Advancement of African Women Economists (AAAWE), editor of the Journal of African Development (JAD) and former President of the African Finance Economic Association (AFEA).

She teaches graduate and undergraduate classes in Development and International Economics. Dr. Asiedu’s research focuses on Foreign Direct Investment, Foreign Aid and Gender. Her research has received both national and international prominence. In 2007, she was one of ten recipients of Emerging Scholar Award - a nation-wide award that honors minority faculty in the US. Her work has been published in leading scholarly journals and international publications. She has consulted for many international organizations, including The United Nations University/World Institute of Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER), International Labor Organization (ILO), The African Development Bank and The Global Development Network.

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