THE DEFENSE TAKES PLACE:
July 13th, 12.00-15.00 (CEST)

TITLE:
‘Climate Change and Sustainable Livelihoods Adaptation: User Perspectives on Community Managed Irrigation Schemes in North-Eastern Ghana’

ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE:
• Associate Professor Anne Grete J. Pedersen, Aalborg University (Chair)
  • Professor Tom Bartlett, University of Glasgow
  • Professor Kenneth Peprah, Tamale University

SUPERVISOR & CO-SUPERVISOR
• Professor Emeritus Inger Lassen (Supervisor), Aalborg University
• Associate Professor Issaka Kanton Osumanu, University for Development Studies, Ghana

VENUE
Online via ZOOM
The defense will be conducted in english
Registration for the event is mandatory to jma@hum.aau.dk

Deadline 12th July
SUMMARY:

Research has shown that climate change is affecting many developing countries and the livelihoods of many small-holder farmers; however few studies have explored and assessed the impact of climate change on the livelihoods of small-scale irrigation farmers in rural communities including Tanga in North-Eastern Ghana. This study investigates the issue of climate change and sustainable livelihood adaptation in North-Eastern Ghana with a focus on how small-scale irrigation scheme farmers rely on their indigenous knowledge to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Research has demonstrated the significant role discourse plays in shaping opinion and perceptions of climate change, and the manner in which climate change is perceived and constructed discursively has major implications for the responses chosen for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Anchored on the complex phenomenon of climate change, the PhD thesis explores the perceptions of causes of climate change, with a focus on impacts of climate change on livelihoods and the role of indigenous knowledge systems for adaptation to climate change.

The PhD thesis is inspired by Fairclough’s version of critical discourse analysis (CDA). However, the discourses that emerge in this study are not analysed by way of a typical linguistic analysis. Instead, the analysis draws on Fairclough’s version of CDA which assesses and interprets societal phenomena on the basis of different discourses derived from the social actors during interviews and discussions with a starting point in social constructionism. The analysis is based on the notion that interactions between people and their environment create social reality. In addition to Fairclough’s version of CDA, the study draws on Gee’s discourse analysis approach to categorize and label discourses into big D Discourses and small d discourses.