



## **Cash in Crisis in Africa: Navigating Financial Realities in Times of Disruption**

**MIASA IFG 12 Final Conference**

**20-21 May, 2025**

**ISSER Conference Hall, University of Ghana**

### **Concept note**

Financial technology advancements have drastically transformed Africa's payment ecosystem and relationships with money. Yet physical cash (notes and coins) remains an enduring feature of Africa's formal and informal economies. This conference explores the often conflicting dynamics between policy and governance frameworks, and crises, in shaping—and being shaped by—the circulation, accessibility, and utilization of cash in increasingly digitalizing African societies. This multidisciplinary conference with participants from across Africa and beyond examines how these socio-political interactions produce order and disorder in various settings, and how individuals, organizations, and groups navigate and adapt to resultant associated changes. Crises serve as the ultimate test for policy implementations. Examining how individuals and organizations access funds during turbulent times offers a unique opportunity to interrogate the robustness, resilience, and adaptability of African monetary policies and Africans' monetary repertoires.

### **Background/About IFG 12**

This conference is being organized by MIASA's Interdisciplinary Fellow Group on "Cash in Crisis Times: A West African Investigation" (IFG 12). Despite global heralding of digital payments, significant portions of West Africa remain unbanked, relying predominantly on cash for daily transactions. This interdisciplinary project investigates the role of cash in diverse West African settings during times of crisis, from everyday life disruptions to critical regional and national tragedies. The project explores how policies and political mandates (Nigeria, Ghana), hyperinflation, personal emergencies and infra-structural breakdowns (Ghana) impact cash availability, access, usage, and storage. The team, comprising scholars from economics, history, psychology, and sociology, will employ diverse research methodologies to examine policies and practices influencing cash access in times of crisis. The ultimate goal is to propose policy and practice recommendations safeguarding sustainable cash usage amidst evolving payment landscapes in

times of crisis. This project aligns with MIASA's mission of promoting original research on sustainable governance, addressing a pressing issue in West African societies, and fostering collaboration among researchers globally.

The team consists of:

Prof Vivian Dzokoto, Co-convenor  
Prof Isaac Osei-Akoto, Co-convenor  
Prof Oludayo Tade  
Dr Mariusz Lukasiewicz  
Dr Agnes Piekacz

## Programme

Time is scheduled in UTC (Time in Accra/Ghana)

For online participation via Zoom please use the following link:

<https://uni-freiburg.zoom-x.de/j/61374086818?pwd=xIHlaWbL4CBfHTIVYDWKUyAsVabc4c.1>

Meeting-ID: 613 7408 6818

Code: MIASAIfg12

**Tuesday, 20 May 2025**

**Conference Hall of the Institute of Statistical, Social & Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana  
& via Zoom**

<b>8:30 - 9:00</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>09:00 - 10:30</b>	<b>Opening Ceremony</b>  <b>Welcome remarks by MIASA Directors</b> Grace Diabah Mamadou Diawara  <b>Welcome remarks by Provost College of Humanities</b> Joseph Awetori Yaro  <b>Keynote Address:</b>  Fabio Knümann, Deutsche Bundesbank  <b>Chair:</b> Peter Quartey
<b>10:30 - 11:00</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>11:00 - 12:30</b>	<b>Panel 1: Digital Finance, Cashless Policies, and State Interventions</b>  <b>Panel Chair:</b> Oluwatosin Adeniyi  Isaac Abotebuno Akolgo <b>Regulating Digital Finance: Gender and Rural Dimensions of Financial Inclusion in Ghana</b>  Michael Kodom <b>Digital Finance as a Tool for Reducing Leakages in Rural Retail Banking: Evidence from a Pilot Project</b>  Kwadwo Opoku <b>Cashless Transactions Agenda in Ghana: The Impact of Electronic Transactions Levy</b>  Olufunmilayo Arewa and Ayodeji Fakolade <b>FinTechs, CBN Cashless Policy, and Cash Crisis in Nigeria</b>
<b>12:30 - 13:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>13:30 - 15:00</b>	<b>Panel 2: Cash, Trust, and Everyday Negotiations of Value</b>

	<p><b>Panel Chair:</b> Agnes Piekacz</p> <p>Georges Macaire Eyenga  <b>The Platformization of Money and the Concern for Trust in Cameroon</b></p> <p>Divine Fuh  <b>The Original Sin of FINTech: Keyhole Masculinities and the Ethical Quandaries of Cash Technologies</b></p> <p>Gerhard Rösl  <b>Cash Demand in Times of Crisis – An International Perspective</b></p> <p>Jenny Fan  <b>Considerations for Cash: Observations from 17 Years of Research from IMTFI</b></p>
<b>15:00 - 15:30</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>15:30 - 17:30</b>	<p><b>Panel 3: Informal Economies, Crisis Resilience, and Monetary Adaptation</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Vivian Dzokoto</p> <p>Hannah Krienke  <b>Zimbabwe’s Informal Economy Powered by Foreign Currency Remittances</b></p> <p>Oluwatosin Adeniyi  <b>Crisis of Cash or Cash in Crisis: Cash and Its Primacy in Ibadan, Southwestern Nigeria</b></p> <p>Akosa Elizabeth Wambalaba  <b>Challenges of Cash Transfers to the “Poorest of the Poor” Elderly Recipients in Kenya’s OPCT Programme</b></p>
<b>18:00</b>	<b>Conference Dinner: By Invitation Only</b>

### Wednesday, 21 May 2025

<b>09:00 - 10:15</b>	<p><b>Panel 4: Currency Legacies and Monetary Politics</b></p> <p><b>Panel Chair:</b> Mariusz Lukasiewicz</p> <p>Tinashe Nyamunda  <b>Settlers, Sterling and Sanctions: German Money Printers and the Political Economy of Rhodesia’s UDI</b></p> <p>Enrique Martino  <b>From Money Substitutes to Money Substitutes: Public and Private Money in Nigeria’s Monetary Disruptions</b></p> <p>Durix Njiha  <b>When Cash Becomes Scarce! Coin Trafficking, Slot Machines, and New Forms of Exchange in Cameroonian Markets</b></p>
<b>10:15 - 10:45</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>10:45 - 11:15</b>	<p><b>Bank of Ghana Address</b></p> <p>Dominic Owusu, Head of the Currency Department</p>

	<b>Chair:</b> Isaac Osei-Akoto
<b>11:15 - 12:15</b>	<b>Cash in Crises: Perspectives from the Banking Sector</b>  Representatives from GCB and Stanbic Bank  <b>Chair:</b> Franz Seitz
<b>12:15 - 13:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>13:30 - 14:45</b>	<b>Panel 5: Evolving Money Ecologies: Regional Perspectives and Transitions</b>  <b>Panel Chair:</b> Oludayo Tade  Caroline King <b>Ghana's Chang(e)ing Money Systems</b>  Linah Shimi <b>Estimation of Non-Transactional Cash in Morocco</b>  Mahamadou Bassirou Tangara <b>Dynamics and Adaptations of Informal Cash Circulation Practices in Mali in Times of Crisis</b>
<b>14:45 - 15:15</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>15:15 - 17:00</b>	<b>IFG 12 Round Table and Conference Summary</b>  <b>Chair:</b> Franz Seitz

