

Prof. Dr. Steve William Tonah
Department of Sociology, University of Ghana

**Laureate Research Prize awarded by the Alexander von
Humboldt Foundation
Academic Presentation Evening**

3rd May 2022, 18:00h
Room: OEC 0.167 (hybrid event*)
Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

**Displacement in West Africa: An Examination of the Key Drivers and
Durable Solutions**

Displacements, both internal and international, are a common phenomenon in the West African sub-region. In most countries displacements occur on a localized scale and are a result of human-made and natural disasters such as floods, tidal erosion, recurrent drought, desertification, environmental land degradation and localized violent conflicts. At the sub-regional level, in spite of the different national conditions, there are three main identifiable sources of displacement. These are, first, wars, insurgency and insecurity in the Sahel and the Lake Chad regions; second, recurrent drought, desertification and poverty in the Sahel; and lastly, farmer-herder violent conflicts, particularly in Nigeria. The impact of these varied sources of displacement on the population and environment in the sub-region, as well as the resulting political instability and deepening poverty and disillusionment among large sections of the population are examined. It is argued that the sources of displacement in the Sahelian countries are interlinked and contagious, leading to fears that they could spread to the coastal West African countries. This paper will propose some durable solutions to these hydra-headed difficulties in West Africa, particularly the Sahel region.

*This presentation will take place in presence and online. To register please send an email to victoria.taboadagomez@uni-goettingen.de clarifying whether you want to participate in person or online.