

Gideon Abagna Azunre

About

Gideon's academic and professional experience spans across the field of planning. He is currently pursuing an MSc in Urban Planning at Politecnico di Milano and an MPhil in Planning at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). His research interests are on urban/rural agriculture, sustainable development, and informal and subaltern urbanism. Professionally, he has worked as a Teaching and Research Assistant at the Department of Planning in KNUST and conducted internships with several Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations such as TradeAid Integrated, Ghana National Commission for Civic Education, and Comune di Milano Municipio 3. At the moment, he serves as a core member of nonurbanism—a non-profit organisation (www.nonurbanism.com). His academic and professional exposure has guided him to publish some peer-reviewed articles that makes contributions to urban sustainability and economic development in both the Global South and Global North. Currently, he is working on research articles that untangles the complexities of informality and sustainable city development in sub-Saharan African cities.

Jury Statement

Before joining nonurbanism, I was always fascinated by the idea of advocacy and trying to magnify and bring to the limelight the spaces and actors generally overlooked by many. This fuels my interests on informality, especially of the urban poor. Consequently, becoming a core member of nonurbanism was fated as the organisation looks to ideate strategies for the socio-economic development of rural areas. The current Call for proposals offers an intriguing opportunity for several academics and policymakers to put forward innovative ideas that will recentre the rural as a crucial socio-spatial logic. I expect to see proposals beyond my immediate geographical context, touching Africa, Asia, North America, South America, etc. I am particularly expecting policy submissions that highlights the socio-economic and resource potentialities of the rural.