

## Children and Work Research Series: Session 13

### Assessing the Outcomes of Child Labour Abolitionism in the Ghanaian Mining Sector:

#### *Evidence from a re-study*

Dr. Sam Okyere (University of Bristol)

#### **Abstract**

In this presentation, the findings of a study on the long-term socioeconomic outcomes of Ghanaian children working in the artisanal gold mining industry are covered. Governmental and non-governmental organizations have committed a lot of resources to the fight against dangerous child labor, citing, among other things, the fact that such work denies children the chance to develop, trapping them and their families in a cycle of poverty. However, there are few longitudinal studies that focus on child workers and their outcomes, so the evidence supporting this is patchy and dispersed. To this end, the researcher conducted a follow-up ethnographic study in 2022 to a 2010 study that sought to comprehend the living and working circumstances of children engaged in artisanal gold mining. This time, the study retraced the original participants in order to comprehend their paths and current living socioeconomic circumstances after being involved about ten years ago in artisanal gold mining work. The results of this small-scale qualitative study show that children's future development success prospects are persistently undermined by structural constraints rather than by their involvement in this labour.

#### **Speaker Bio**

Sam Okyere is a socio-anthropologist and Senior Lecturer in Sociology at the School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies (SPAIS), University of Bristol. He is primarily interested in the linkages between rights, (un)freedom, globalisation, and the legacies of slave trade and colonisation, mainly but not exclusively in African contexts. Over the past decade, he has explored these issues through extensive research and publications on child labour, migration, artisanal mining, sex work, trafficking, and phenomena popularly labelled as 'modern slavery'.