Professor Kofi Agyekum is a Professor of Linguistics at the University of Ghana, Legon. He was the Acting Dean of School of Performing Arts, University of Ghana, 2014-2021; Coordinator of the English-Akan Science Dictionary Project, 2010-2015; and Head of Department of Linguistics, University of Ghana, 2010-2013. He holds a Diploma (First Class) from the School of Ghanaian Languages, Ajumako in 1982 and Teachers’ Certificate-A from the Nkoranza Teacher Training College from where he graduated as a teacher in 1976.

Following the completion of the Bachelor of Arts degree in Linguistics in 1989, he went on to study for an MPhil in the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim and returned in 1996, to take up a lectureship position in the Linguistics Department, University of Ghana, while working towards a PhD, which he completed in 2003.

Long before the completion of his PhD, he had become widely known for his exceptional competence and fluency in the use of Akan as an effective language for public discourse and debate, from newspaper reviews on radio and TV commentary on major issues of public interest. Professor Kofi Agyekum was the first to introduce Newspaper Review in Akan at Radio Univers in April 1997. The programme was titled *Afisem* and it is still aired on Radio Univers, Legon. He was the host of *Afisem* and Obiara Nka Bi programmes on Radio Univers and has trained a lot of student-trainee journalists. He is a regular panelist on Peace FM’s Kokrokoo Show.

Professor Agyekum has established himself as a scholar whose research and publications constitute an important point of reference on the Akan language in particular and Ghanaian culture as a whole with over 77 journal articles and book chapters, a number of book reviews and 16 books. His latest books are Akan Kasadwini and Akan Body Part Expressions. He is an internationally recognised Akan and Ethnography of Communication scholar and has been quoted and consulted by several scholars and institutions at both local and international levels. He has also written 5 modules in linguistics for the Institute of Continuing and Distance Education University of Ghana, Legon.

Professor Agyekum is the recipient of many awards and honours for his achievements, including: University of Ghana’s Best Teacher Award (2007); National Award: Companion of the Volta, for Contributions to Public Education
and the Media (2008); the Kwame Nkrumah Genius Award for the Use of Mother Tongue in the Media; and Humanitarian Awards Ghana (Honorary Division) in 2020.

His areas of Research are Ethnography of Communication, Linguistic Anthropology, Pragmatics, Discourse Analysis, Language and Politics, Mother Tongue Education, Sociolinguistics, Stylistics, Semantics, Cognitive Semantics (Body Part Expressions) Translation, Terminology, Lexicology, Lexicography and Oral Literature.

On the strength of his scholarship and outstanding work as an Akan Language educator and research scholar, a public intellectual with wide repute as a principal consultant on Akan/Ghanaian language and culture, Prof. Agyekum was elected to Fellowship of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences on 08 July 2021.

Professor Kofi Agyekum is married to Mrs. Abenaa Akyaa-Agyekum and they are blessed with 4 young adults, two boys and two girls.
The objective of this inaugural lecture is to address issues about Kasahuam and Kasafi, 'Polite and impolite language' in the Media and Political (Politico-Mediatised Discourse) Landscape in contemporary Ghana. The lecture emphasises the use of appropriate language based on our Ghanaian Cultural heritage, cultural norms and values that engineer and provide a perfect atmosphere and some panacea for peace, social cohesion and national development. The lecture is meant to educate and create the awareness for political and media stakeholders to avoid and abhor the use of impolite and intemperate language, hate speech, invectives, lying, fabrications and denigration of personalities. These negative tendencies create divisiveness, tension, ethnic tribal and partisan conflicts and thereby threaten social cohesion, national unity and national development. We will finally recommend that we should look back at how we have stayed as one people with a common destiny and the respect for each other before and after independence. We should therefore not allow the few political and media practitioners to take us for a ride through the misuse of language for their own parochial gains, especially power and fame.

The topic of impoliteness and invectives, and the need for polite language in politics and the media has been lamented upon by many Ghanaians for about two decades now and we must have a solution. The outline of my lecture will be as follows:

- Abstract and Introduction
- Ghanaian communalistic and collectivist Life:
- Ghanaian cultural norms and values
- Political and Media Discourse Analysis (PMDA)
- Kasapa and Kasahuam-Politeness in language
- Political apology as ingredients of Polite language
- Kasafi, kasafo, eburu kasa, Impolite language
- Political Invectives and verbal taboos, discriminatory language,
- Political Duabc 'Grievance Religious Imprecation'
- Lying, fabrications, innuendoes, defamation, dehumanisation
- Recommendations and conclusion
5:30 PM

- Welcome Address and Introduction of Chairperson
  
  Prof. Helen Yitah, FGA,
  
  Honorary Secretary, GAAS

- Chairperson’s Remarks and Introduction of Speaker
  
  Prof. Kofi Anyidoho, FGA
  
  Former Vice President, Arts Section, GAAS

- Lecture Begins

- Chairperson’s Closing Remarks

- Honorary Secretary’s Remarks

- Closing  [ Guests to pick up bagged refreshments in the foyer ]
INAUGURAL LECTURES

Since 1973, all newly elected Fellows have had to deliver an Inaugural Address before other Fellows and specially invited guests at evening meetings arranged for the purpose. These lectures are expected to be of a high standard but not so technical as to be beyond the comprehension of non-specialists.

Originally restricted to invited guests and Fellows, the popularity of the lectures and the choice of topics which have always focused on contemporary issues of national or international significance have compelled the Academy to make these lectures public to a larger audience in recent times.

Inaugural lectures delivered since 1993 are as follows:

      Emeritus Prof. Ivan Addae-Mensah*
1994  Health, Medicine and Society;  
      Prof. S. K. Owusu*
1995  Does Africa Really Need Her Universities?  
      Prof. Akilagpa Sawyerr
1997  Religion and National Identity: Assessing the Discussion from Cicero to Danquah;  
      Prof. Kwame Bediako
1997  Efficient Utilisation of the Vertic Soils of the Accra Plains: Prospects, Constraints & the Way Forward;  
      Prof. Yaw Abenkorah*
1998  Horticultural Research in Ghana: An Overview;  
      Prof. J. C. Norman*
1999  The Role of the Judiciary in the Establishment of Democracy in Ghana;  
      Dr. S. Y. Bimpong-Buta
2000  Scholarly Authority and the Quest for a New World Academic Order,  
      Prof. Kwesi Yankah
2001  Ghana's Animal Agriculture;  
      Prof. W. S. Albassan*
2002  Theology and Culture: An African Perspective;  
      Most Rev. Peter K. Sarpong, Archbishop Emeritus of Kumasi
2002  Private Investment and Law in a Developing Economy: Some Reflections;  
      Justice Prof. S. K. Date-Bah
2003  The Future of Cardiothoracic Surgery in Ghana;  
      Prof. K. Frimpong-Boateng*
2004  The Impact of Cocoa Research Innovations on Poverty Alleviation in Ghana;  
      Dr. M. R. Appiah*
2004  Bricks, Blocks and the Future Administrative Capital of Ghana;  
      Prof. K. A. Andam*
2004  Voyage from Birth to Death: Health Hazards for Ghanaians;  
      Prof. J. O. M. Pobee*
2005  The Ethnic Factor in National Development: Uses and Abuses;  
      Prof. D. K. Agyeman
2005  Physics for Wealth Creation;  
      Prof. Aba Bentil Andam*
2005  Chemistry – The Neglected Element in the Industrialisation Equation;  
      Prof. V. P. Y. Gadzekpo
2005  Ghana's Juvenile Justice System on Probation: Making Progress with Painful Steps and Slow;  
      Prof. Henrietta J. A. N. Mensa-Bonsu
2006 Libraries and National Development: Implications for Ghana;  
*Prof. A. A. Alemna*

2006 Where there is No Silence: Articulations of Resistance to Enslavement,  
*Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang*

2006 Race, Political Identity and Citizenship in Ghana: The Example of the Lebanese;  
*Prof. E. K. Akyeampong*

2006 Embodiment and Epiphanies: Disability in Literature and Society;  
*Prof. L. A. Quayson*

2006 Implementing the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD): Challenges and the Path to Progress;  
*Prof. S. K. B. Asante*

2006 Improving Human Livelihood: A Development Challenge of the 21st Century;  
*Prof. K. Asenso-Okyere*

2007 Challenges of Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Some Reflections;  
*Dr. Eugenia Date-Bab*

2008 The Marriage of Mathematics and Biology;  
*Prof. K. S. Nokoe*

2008 An 11th Region of Ghana? Ghanaians Abroad;  
*Prof. Takyiwaa Manub*

2008 Some Thoughts on Ministerial Reshuffles in Ghana;  
*Prof. J. R. A. Ayee*

2008 Nuclear Power for Generating Electricity in Ghana: Issues and Challenges;  
*Emeritus Prof. E. H. K. Akabo*

2008 Urban Housing and Sanitation – Our Habitat, Our Health;  
*Prof. Ralph Mills-Tettey*

2008 African Boundaries and Regional Integration: Ghana, OAU and ECOWAS;  
*Prof. R. B. Bening*

2009 The Public Law of Ghana – A Tale of Two Legal Systems;  
*Emeritus Prof Albert K. Fiadjoe*

2009 Modernising Ghana’s Agribusiness: Science, Technology, Engineering and Indigenous Bio-process Systems;  
*Prof. S. K. Sefa-Dedeh*

2010 From Everyday Risks to Disaster Risks: Confronting ‘Brown’ and ‘Green’ Issues in Ghana’s Human Settlements;  
*Prof. J. Songsore*

2011 To Mine or Not to Mine: The Economic Controversy and its Resolution;  
*Prof. D. Mireku-Gyinab*

2011 Culture and the Health of the Nation;  
*Prof. K. Anyidoho*

2011 Treating Ghana’s Sick Health Service;  
*Prof. A. B. Akosa*

2011 The Political Economy of Poverty, Equity and Growth;  
*Prof. K. Ewusi*

2012 Poverty and Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa: Are we winning or losing the Game?  
*Prof. G. K. S. Aflakpui*

2013 Politics in the African Development Bank: A Study on the Role and Limits of Politics in an Intergovernmental Institution;  
*Kantinka Sir Dr. K. Fordwor*
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>The Dangers that Obsolete Chemicals Pose to Us;</td>
<td>Prof. J. H. Ephraim*</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Harnessing Science for Development of Medicines: Challenges for Ghana in the Global Matrix;</td>
<td>Prof. Arthur C. Sackeyfio*</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>The Role of Veterinary Medicine in National Development;</td>
<td>Prof. Paa Kobina Turkson*</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>The Law and Practice of Contempt of Court in Ghana;</td>
<td>Justice Stephen A. Brobbey</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Truth and Nation-State Building: A Theologian's Perspective;</td>
<td>Rev. Prof. Emeritus John Samuel Pobee,</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Tailor Light to Task, For Sustainable Development in Ghana;</td>
<td>Prof. Paul K. Buab-Bassuah*</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Building Biomedical Research Capacity for Malaria Vaccine and Public Health from Grassroots to Policy: Challenges, Achievements and Future Perspectives;</td>
<td>Prof. Isabella Quakyi*</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Architecture for Autism: A Technical Response With Mind and Heart to A Dire Human Need;</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Ing. Nii-Adziri Wellington*</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Will Our Food Animals Live Beyond Tomorrow?</td>
<td>Prof. Ben K. Abunu*</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Distressed Fish in Dying Waters?</td>
<td>Prof. Rose Emma Mamaa Entsua-Mensah*</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>An Audit of Our Contemporary Art Heritage: Rationale for the Preservation of the Legacy and the Restoration of the Culture</td>
<td>Prof. Ablade Glover</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Channels of Prayer, Prophecy and Power: Contemporary Religion, New Media and Transformation of the Public Sphere in Africa;</td>
<td>Very Rev. Prof. J. Kwabena Asamoab-Gyadu</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Medicines and Healthcare In Ghana;</td>
<td>Prof. David Ofori - Adjei*</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Slavery In Ghana: Our Story And Our Heritage;</td>
<td>Prof. Akosua Adoma Perbi</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Peak Phosphorus: What it Means for Ghana's Agricultural Productivity and Food Security;</td>
<td>Prof. E. Owusu-Bennoab*</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>The Philosophy of Man;</td>
<td>Justice Prof. V. C. R. A. C. Crabbe</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>Space Technology Unleashing a Wave of Disruptive New Technologies — To Post-Scarcity Economy;</td>
<td>Dr. Asbitey Trebi-Olennu, FGA*</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>Plant Diseases, Crop Production and Food Security in Ghana;</td>
<td>Prof. G. T. Odamtten*</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>&quot;Who are We and Whose are We?</td>
<td>Prof. Akosua Adomako Ampofo</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>The Governement of Ghana and International Arbitration;</td>
<td>Dr. Richard Frimpong</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>Access to Sustainable and Affordable Energy for All: The Role of Nuclear Energy;</td>
<td>Prof. B.J.B. Nyarkoh*</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>The Tyranny of Foreign Expertise: Epistemic Injustice in the Global Arena with Impacts for Ghanaians’ Public Health Care;</td>
<td>Prof. Helen Lauer</td>
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2017 Achieving Food and Nutrition Security Through Plant Breeding
Prof. Hans Adu-Dapaah*

2018 Addressing the Crisis of Work in Ghana: What Role for Transformative Social Policy?
Prof. Dzodzi Tsikata

2019 Understanding Biodiversity as an Infrastructure of Life for Development
Prof. Alfred A. Oteng-Yeboah*

2019 Deficit of Critical Citizenship in Ghana: A Critique of Political (il)literacy, Civic (ir)responsibility and (un)critical Followership.
Prof. Wisdom Tettey

2021 The Origins and Consequences of the Mass Migration from West Africa to Libya and Europe - A West African Perspective.
Prof. Steve Tonab

Justice Sir Dennis Dominic Adjei

2021 Laughing, Singing, Dancing for Health: Creative Arts and the Science of Health Communication in Ghana.
Prof. Ama De-graft Aikins

2021 Ghanaian Humour in a Time of Crisis: Reflections on the Making of Cultural Meaning
Prof. Helen Yitah

Prof. Gabriel Ayum Teye*

2022 Linguistic Pan-Africanism as a Global Future
Prof. Adams Bodomo

2022 Pain; the Bane of Mankind
Prof. Gladys Amponsah*

2022 Establishment of Academic Medical Centres in Ghana
Prof. Aaron Lante Lawson*

2022 Upgrade in Gold Recovery from Refractory Carbonaceous Gold Ores: the Use of Phanerochaete Chrysosporium
Prof. Grace Ofori-Sarpong*

*Science-oriented Presentations
The Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences is Ghana’s Premier Learned Society. It was founded in November 1959 by Government Instrument of Incorporation. Its aim is to bring together the highest level of intellectuals, experts, professionals in the country to constitute a 'Think Tank' in the Arts and Sciences to enable it advise government and other relevant bodies on issues of importance to national development.

Mission
The mission of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences is to encourage the creation, acquisition, dissemination and utilisation of knowledge for national development through the promotion of learning.

Objectives
The Academy's objectives are to:

- **Promote** the study, extension, and dissemination of knowledge of the Arts and Sciences;
- **Promote** the establishment and maintenance of proper standards of endeavour in all fields of the arts and sciences;
- **Recognize** outstanding contributions to the advancement of the arts and sciences in Republic of Ghana;
- **Contribute** actively to the advancement of Ghana and Africa in particular and the world in general by examining and addressing issues of development; and
- **Do** any other things that are conducive or incidental to the attainment of all or any of the foregoing objects.
Most Rev. Prof. K.A. Dickson, FGA
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1987 - 1990

Rev. Prof. C.G. Baete, FGA
1991 - 1994

Prof. D.A. Bekoe, FGA
1995 - 1996

Prof. F.G.T. Torto, FGA
1981 - 1982

Mr. Justice N.A. Ollenu, FGA
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1999 - 2002

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2003 - 2006

Dr. Letitia E. Obeng, FGA
2007 - 2008

Prof. Emeritus Samuel Sefa-Dedeh, FGA
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