Mathias Awuni

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Stevens Institute of Technology
School of Business
Hoboken, NJ

Education

Ph.D. in Business Administration (Finance), Stevens Institute of Technology, USA	*Anticipated: 2027*
MSc. in Finance (FinTech and Financial Analytics), Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong	*2021*
MBA in Finance, University of Mysore, Kanartaka- India	*2018*
BSc. Business Administration, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana	*2015*

Research Interests

Entrepreneurial Finance, FinTech, Behavioural Finance, Labour and Finance

Publications

1. Bonini, S., & Awuni, M. (2023). Business angel syndicates. In *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Private Equity* (pp. 1–7). Cham: Springer International Publishing. DOI
2. Ellis, F., Kwofie, T. E., Awuni, M., Coffie, R. B., & Duffour, M. (2019). Workforce diversity and team effectiveness: Insights from the construction sector in Ghana. *Journal of Business Diversity*, 19(5), 55–65. DOI

Working Papers

1. When Investors Don't Trust the NAV: Valuation Opacity, Runs, and "Retailization" of Private Equity
2. Worker (Mis)Classification Laws and Entrepreneurship
3. Economic Policy Uncertainty and VC Exits
4. Venture Capital and the Dispersion of Startup Outcomes
5. What Happens When Startups Grow Too Fast?
6. Mass Shootings and Angel Investments
7. Regulatory Complexity and Corporate Venture Capital

Conferences

Presentations

- Should Founders Raise Funds from VCs? (BCERC) — *2026 (Scheduled)*
- Worker (Mis)classification Laws and Entrepreneurship (BCERC) — *2026 (Scheduled)*
- When Investors Don't Trust the NAV: Valuation Opacity and Runs (UNC AIC) — *2026 (Scheduled)*
- Workforce Diversity and Team Effectiveness in the Construction Sector in Ghana (AIB Annual Meeting) *2019*
- Robo-advisory: The new paradigm in asset management or a millennial fad? Available on SSRN

Discussions and others

6th RCF-ECGI Corporate Finance and Governance Conference December 2025

- **Discussant:** Breaking Network Barriers in the Era of Data-Driven Venture Capitalists by Melissa Crumling (Drexel University) — *Dec 12, 2025*
- **Session Chair:** Equity Crowdfunding Session (Session 4A) — *Dec 13, 2025*

Dissertation

Title: Ongoing
Advisor: Prof. Bonini Stefano *Expected Completion:* December 2027

Referee Service

Teaching Experience

Teaching and Research Assistant, KNUST, Ghana *2015–2016*
Courses Taught: Introduction to Entrepreneurship, Introduction to Management

Industry Experience

Co-Founder, Coucou Connect, Hong Kong *2022 – 2023*
- Built an alternative credit scoring platform leveraging non-traditional datasets.
- Developed data models to assess creditworthiness without standard credit bureau data
- Spearheaded business development and partnerships to expand user base in underbanked communities.

Business Analyst, Crypto.com, Hong Kong *2021 – 2022*
- Conducted competitor and product research within FinTech and DeFi domains.
- Analyzed decentralized finance applications with a focus on security and utility.
- Contributed to project management and product architecture design.

Director of Research, DataMine Research Consult, Ghana *2016 – 2020*
- Led all phases of client-funded research projects.
- Designed baseline and end-line studies and coordinated fieldwork.
- Analyzed data using SPSS, STATA, and Excel for insight and reporting.

Research Fellow, Africa Centre for Entrepreneurship and Youth Empowerment *2019 – 2021*
- Provide advisory and methodological support for research teams.
- Design data collection instruments and perform data analysis.

Honors and Memberships

1. Provost Doctoral Fellowship, Stevens Institute of Technology
2. Member, Financial Management Association (FMA)
3. Member, American Finance Association (AFA)
4. $100, 000 (HKD) Startup Seed Funding Grant, Cyberport Hong Kong
5. International Postgraduate Scholarship, Hong Kong Baptist University
6. Fintech Star in the Making, Institute of Financial Technologists Asia (IFTA)
7. Outstanding Financial Technologist of the Year, Institute of Financial Technologists Asia
8. Bronze and Silver Awards, Hong Kong Blockchain Olympiad, Hong Kong Blockchain Society
9. Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC &ICCR) Scholarship

Skills

Stata, R, Python, LaTeX, SPSS, AMOS

References

Available on Request