

JOE QUARCOO

PORTFOLIO CV | Formal name: Joseph Dennis Nii Noi Quarcoo
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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Multidisciplinary researcher, programme designer, author, community builder and creative practitioner with more than fifteen years of experience across public policy, government planning, organisational development, university teaching, commercial growth, international research, community health, frontline social care, worker representation, publishing, media, music and faith-informed service.

Joe works across the connected levels of person, team, organisation, community and public system. He helps mission-led organisations translate evidence into action, strengthen people and partnerships, understand implementation at the frontline and communicate complex knowledge in accessible forms. His background combines MPhil degrees in Social Psychology and Urban Studies with practical leadership across Ghana, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

AREAS OF CONTRIBUTION

Strategy and implementation	Programme architecture and portfolio leadership
Partnerships and stakeholder engagement	Research, evaluation and knowledge mobilisation
Organisational development and workforce voice	Community health, inclusion and social impact
Teaching, facilitation and public speaking	Publishing, media and creative advocacy

SELECTED IMPACT

Contributed to Ghanaian national planning, policy and monitoring processes; a staffing-gap analysis helped inform the recruitment of approximately 120 planning professionals.

Founded and developed Nkosuo Initiative Foundation; its menstrual-health work reached more than 30,000 beneficiaries across 15 public-school clusters.

Helped grow a managed institutional debt-recovery portfolio from below approximately GHS 500,000 to more than US\$18 million in value while building commercial and recovery teams.

Contributed to international urban and climate research with Cornell University and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, including African city-leader outreach and public knowledge translation.

Combines current frontline social-care practice with UNISON worker representation, migrant-worker advocacy and facilitation of dedicated social-care steward learning.

Built public-learning platforms spanning Voice1Africa, ECHO OUR DREAMS™, Guiding Light Press, The Confident Careers Show and creative work connecting research with accessible media and music.

OPPORTUNITY FOCUS

Senior and cross-functional opportunities in strategy, partnerships, programme leadership, organisational development, workforce and community engagement, policy, research, knowledge mobilisation and public impact; board, trustee and advisory roles; consulting, facilitation, speaking and creative collaborations.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Frontline Social Care Worker and Support Worker

2023-Present

London social-care provider | London, UK

Provide person-centred support to adults with learning disabilities and autism, including personal care, communication support, daily routines, safeguarding, risk awareness, behaviour-support implementation and detailed handovers. Work with managers, therapists, behaviour teams and colleagues to support continuity and responsive care, while using accurate documentation and constructive staff voice to strengthen service quality.

Trade Union Steward, Branch Officer and Worker Educator

2024-Present

UNISON Greater London Community and Voluntary Organisations Branch | London, UK

Represent and organise social-care workers; support workplace concerns and contribute to branch and equality work as co-Black Members Officer, Green Representative and a Fair Visa Campaign organising contributor. Facilitated two sections of UNISON's first dedicated Social Care Stewards Training on 5 August 2026 and contributes to learning on employment rights, disciplinary and grievance processes and workforce wellbeing.

Founding Chair

2020-Present

Voice1Africa | Pan-African and digital

Provide strategic direction to a civic and public-learning platform connecting experts, practitioners, volunteers and audiences around governance, health, migration, anti-corruption, youth and social transformation. Build teams, partnerships and accessible public conversations while encouraging role clarity, distributed capability and cross-country collaboration.

Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

2021-2023

Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority | Ghana

Conducted research, monitoring and policy analysis supporting national and regional land-use and spatial-planning priorities; contributed to reports, frameworks, policy discussions and implementation monitoring. Contributed to a national staffing-gap analysis that informed the case for recruiting approximately 120 planning professionals and represented the Authority in multi-agency and stakeholder processes.

Assistant Town Planner and Town Planner

2016-2020

Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority | Ghana

Contributed to spatial development frameworks, structure plans, stakeholder consultations, policy review, national standards and implementation-related research. Prepared and reviewed reports and proposals and supported technical, board and inter-institutional documentation.

Research Consultant and Visiting Lecturer

Feb-May 2022

Cornell University College of Architecture Art and Planning | International

Supported African outreach for the Global Survey of City Leaders through engagement with city leadership and institutional networks across the continent. Delivered a guest lecture on Musical Urbanism, connecting urban studies, social psychology, culture and creative storytelling.

Junior Researcher

Aug-Dec 2021

Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre | International

Worked with the Urban and Policy Team, including Roop Singh and colleagues, on climate vulnerability, urban resilience, comparative COVID-19 analysis, policy research and public knowledge translation. Supported research and communication connected with the Can't Take the Heat podcast; Joe was a research contributor, not the programme host.

LEADERSHIP BUSINESS AND ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Founder and Former Operational Leader

2016-2023

Nkosuo Initiative Foundation | Ghana

Created and developed a youth-led organisation advancing health, education, research, advocacy and capacity building; the initiative began in 2016 and was formally registered in 2019.

Led the evolution of menstrual-health work through evidence, participant choice and local delivery; built partnerships, volunteer pathways and mentoring systems, then supported succession to a new Executive Director in 2023.

Director of Marketing and Development

Jul 2014-Oct 2016

Provincial Financial Group | Ghana

Served on the senior management team, leading business development, marketing, client engagement, team building and institutional growth.

Helped expand a managed debt-recovery portfolio from below approximately GHS 500,000 to more than US\$18 million in value; this represents portfolio value, not turnover, profit or cash recovered.

Sales and Marketing Executive

2012-2014

Fig Tree Publishing Limited | Ghana

Developed proposals, institutional sales campaigns and academic-book distribution relationships involving international publishers and educational customers.

University Teaching and Research

2009-2020

Distance Education Tutor, University of Ghana, 2011-2020 - taught Industrial and Organisational Psychology to adult and distance learners.

Teaching Assistant, University of Cape Town, Aug-Dec 2020 - supported Society and Space teaching within Environmental and Geographical Sciences.

Research Assistant, University of Ghana Business School, 2012-2013 - supported organisational and human-resource research.

Teaching Assistant, University of Ghana Department of Psychology, 2009-2011 - supported Community, Social and Industrial or Organisational Psychology.

Research assignments, IPSOS Ghana and Random House, 2012 - market-research and data-related fieldwork.

EDUCATION

Qualification	Institution	Awarded
MPhil Urban Studies	University of Cape Town, South Africa	2022
MPhil Social Psychology	University of Ghana	2013
BA Psychology with Archaeology as minor	University of Ghana	2009
Certificate in Christian Leadership	Dominion Bible School, Croydon	12 Jul 2026

SCHOLARSHIPS FELLOWSHIPS AND INTERNATIONAL FORMATION

MINDS Fellow - Mandela Institute for Development Studies; a highly competitive scholarship and intensive Pan-African leadership-development programme associated with postgraduate formation.

Mastercard Foundation Scholar - a distinct part of Joe's academic and leadership formation.

Andrew W. Mellon Scholar - academic and interdisciplinary research formation associated with postgraduate study.

African Civic Engagement Academy, University of Georgia, 2021 - intensive civic-engagement and leadership development.

YALI Regional Leadership Center West Africa - leadership development and regional peer learning.

MASHAV International Course in Policies, Strategies and Support Systems for Rural Revitalization, Weitz Center for Sustainable Development, Rehovot, Israel, 26 Nov-20 Dec 2017 - month-long classroom, field-visit and international peer-learning programme.

CURRENT PROGRAMME MEDIA AND CREATIVE PRACTICE

Lead Curatorial Advisor and Visionary Lead

Current

Guiding Light Press | United Kingdom

Shape intellectual direction, publication concepts, original authored content and programme connections while legal ownership, administration and formal publishing operations remain with Oretha Quarcoo.

Programme Creator and Product Vision Lead

Current

ECHO OUR DREAMS™ | United Kingdom and global

Created a culturally rooted, whole-person life-and-career development programme and its workbooks, facilitator resources, evaluation framework and future digital-product requirements.

Partner and Co-host

2026-Present

The Confident Careers Show | Croydon, London

Co-develop career-education conversations with Femi Yusoof, bringing together complementary experience in careers, education, public conversation and media production.

Technical Support Lead and Media-production Practitioner

2026-Present

CSEP Media Lab | Croydon, London

Support studio preparation, recording, technical troubleshooting and post-production; produce and edit Joe's own podcast videos and undertake podcast-video work for Dez Mighty and Fredi Nwaka's Boy Podcast through the Media Lab.

Faith Music and Community Leadership

2007-Present

Ghana and United Kingdom

Served as Music Director and later Associate Pastor from 2007-2024 and was ordained in 2015; this was not full-time ministry. Continues creative and community contribution through music, writing and public reflection.

SELECTED RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS AND KNOWLEDGE OUTPUTS

Your Mess, My Life: The Junction between Land Use Planning and Street Vending in the Accra Mall Enclave - MPhil Urban Studies thesis based on policy analysis, fieldwork, observation and 53 participants.

Determinants of Self-Esteem in the Ghanaian Cultural Context - MPhil Social Psychology research.

Present and Visible: Napier Settlement and its Stories - collaborative research and publication contribution.

Musical Urbanism - interdisciplinary practice translating urban research and lived experience into music, accessible media and facilitated dialogue.

Public-interest writing, books, podcasts and creative outputs spanning leadership, work, migration, health, climate, African identity, cities and human flourishing.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Launching Your Venture, University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business - intensive, practical 200-hour programme.

Climate Adaptation in Africa, University of Cape Town, 2020.

Studying Cities: Social Science Methods for Urban Research, Erasmus University Rotterdam, 2020.

NGO Project Management, Green Hill College and Cambridge Centre of Excellence, 2014.

UNISON representative development including disciplinary procedures, grievance procedures, employment law and Green Representative learning; ERA accreditation.

Ongoing adult safeguarding, learning-disability, autism and role-relevant social-care development since 2023.

MEMBERSHIPS PUBLIC ROLES AND LANGUAGES

Member, Ghana Institute of Planners | UNISON steward and branch committee member | UNISON Green Representative | Co-Black Members Officer | Fair Visa Campaign organising contributor

Language: English | Geographic experience: Ghana, South Africa and the United Kingdom, with Pan-African and international collaboration

Availability: Based in London. Any external appointment or paid supplementary engagement remains subject to applicable right-to-work, sponsorship, employment and conflict-of-interest requirements.