**Unemployment And Mental Health In Ghana: Evidence From Microdata**

**Presenting Authors:**

Louis Doabil

Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA)

0209041834

ldoabil@gimpa.edu.gh

**Co – authors:**

Iddisah Sulemana & Ebenezer Bugri Anarfo

**Abstract**

According to World Health Organization reports, in 2007, approximately 652,166 Ghanaians were living with various degrees of mental disorder of some forms, and globally one in four people are expected to experience mental disorders at some point of their lives. The economic and psychological consequences of unemployment have been examined by scholars. In particular, research has shown that unemployment hurts people’s psychological well-being. However, these studies are largely done within developed country contexts. In Ghana, burgeoning unemployment has led to the formation of a graduate unemployed youth association. This study there contributes to the literature by examining its effect on mental health since Ghana’s mental health care is bedeviled with a myriad of problems. Using data from Round 2 and 3 of the Afrobarometer Survey in Ghana, our results from ordered probit model revealed that part-time and full-time employees who were looking for a job were significantly more likely to suffer psychological distress contrary to a replete body of evidence from prior studies that the unemployed are significantly more likely to suffer psychological distress. Additionally, we did not find any evidence for gender differences in the effect of unemployment on mental health.