



**AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND
RESOURCE ECONOMISTS**

<https://afaere.org/>

**Context, Welfare Sensitivity and Positional Preferences in a Developing
Country**

AFAERE Webinar

Date: 13 December 2021

Time: 12h00 Ghana; 14h00 SA

14h00-15h00 (CAT)

Meeting Link

<https://up-ac-za.zoom.us/j/93249790757?pwd=WSt3MjlaRTloWjBGQXlza3pxKzVCZz09>

14h00-14h05: Welcome and Introduction of AFAERE

Charles Nhemachena, Secretary General, AFAERE

14h05-14h10: Introduction of Speaker

Nnaemeka Chukwuone, President-Elect, AFAERE

14h10-14h40: Context, Welfare Sensitivity and Positional Preferences in a Developing Country

Wisdom Akpalu, Former President, AFAERE

Dean, School of Research and Graduate Studies (SRGS),

Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA),

Box AH 50, Achimota-Accra, Ghana. Tel: +233 20 961 2485.

14h40-14h50: Discussion (Q & A)

14h50-15h00: Presidential Address and Vote of Thanks

Selma Karuaihe, President, AFAERE

Webinar Format

30 Minutes presentations by the speaker. (*We follow South African time – same as CAT*)

10 minutes of Q&A at the end of the presentation.

Webinar Summary:

It is well-established in the empirical literature that people care about relative-status or positionality, hence any policy that makes someone better off imposes negative externality on his/her peers.

However, the effectiveness of public policy aimed at mitigating positional externality hinges on the measurement of relative concerns, which is individual and context specific requiring empirical data. This study investigates positional concerns among over-exploited natural resource dependent communities with defined gender roles in a developing country, and the specific role of welfare sensitivity in moderating relative concerns. We found that compared to the women, the men were more positional, on average, and relative concerns are context dependent for both genders. Next, the men had lower welfare sensitivity than the women, and for both groups, and for a specific context, being welfare sensitive over a narrow (broader) income range correlates with a relatively higher (lower) degree of positionality.