



# An Interview with Ruseh Oghenekaro (MScSM '21)

Ruseh Oghenekaro (MScSM '21) had her Paper entitled, Interactions between proposed energy-mixed and non-energy Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): a Sub-Sahara African perspective, published in the Environmental Research Communications journal. We talked to Ruseh about choosing her research topic and her experience with the publication process.

## **How do you feel on the publication of your research paper as a refereed journal paper?**

I feel very excited and blessed to have gotten the opportunity and the support needed to achieve this and I am very grateful for the outcome.

## **Why and how did you choose this topic for your research paper?**

Coming from a Renewable Energy Financing background in Nigeria, I was quite interested in the possible impacts of large-scale deployment of renewable energy seeing that it is one of the proposed panaceas to achieve SDG 7 (basically the sustainability of 'clean' energy). So, I had this very high-level initial project idea and topic but there were many perspectives to approach this from and the scope was enormous. I wasn't sure what the appropriate approach or scope would be given the time and resource constraints. Well, thanks to my supervisor, Prof Shashi Kant who offered invaluable direction and guidance, the initial topic evolved over the course of the research and was fine-tuned and narrowed down to be more specific, impactful, and achievable.

## **What encouraged you to pursue the publication of your research paper?**

It was a combination of things: Prof Barbara Murck who was my Research Coordinator had offered a lot of insights and helped to direct the course of the research. Together with Prof Shashi, they both felt strongly that the topic was very interesting and would be a valuable addition to the academic and policy body of knowledge on energy and the interactions with the SDGs. While I considered the possibility somewhere in my mind, I then received a great grade on the final research paper course itself and that was the decider for me. Ultimately, it would be remiss of me to keep the findings to myself and not put it out there where it can add to the body of knowledge.

## **What was your experience during the publication process that you would like to share with MScSM students?**

Prof Shashi had warned that it would be hard work from the onset and would require several iterations to convert the research paper itself to a published format. I found this to be the case but it helped that I started work on it early enough after graduation from the program. The experience also taught me some lessons in patience and resilience going through the peer review process as there was some back and forth with that. It was an overall worthwhile and rewarding experience as there were lessons learned throughout the process.

## **What support did you receive during your research paper and the publication process?**

I got tremendous support from the MScSM Faculty in general. Prof Barb and Prof Soo Min pointed me in the right direction as regards getting a Supervisor at the start of the Research course. Barb was my direct coordinator and she gave me very valuable insights and direction as the research evolved. Prof Shashi was absolutely the best Supervisor I could have asked for. Working with him was so seamless and that gave me a very high level of comfort in my research endeavours. He guided me every step of the way from the direction and content of the research itself, selecting a journal, preparing the paper for publication according to the journal's requirements, and the peer-review process. The support I received gave me a lot of confidence that I could achieve this.

## **What is your message/advice for the current and future students with respect to research paper course and possible publication of their research paper?**

I would say that the first thing is to choose a topic you are very interested in as that sets the tone for the rest of the research, but be also willing and flexible enough to accept guidance and direction because the topic could be ambitious and may require fine-tuning. Starting early is also key as it gives you time for the iterations that may have to happen to get the research to where it should be. It is also easy to think that once you have graduated from the program, the hard work you have put in is enough, but don't be deterred to take it further to get your paper published if you are encouraged to or if you feel strongly about it. It's all worth it!

**Read Ruseh's Paper [here!](#)**