

ABSTRACT

'WHAT IS IT THAT NGOS CONTRIBUTE TO DEMOCRACY? THE CASE OF INTERNATIONALLY-SPONSORED RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY ORGANISATIONS IN GHANA'

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This article examines the democratic roles performed by civil society organizations in Ghana. Drawing on a comparative case study approach, I use individual organisational characteristics of five internationally-sponsored Research and Advocacy Organisations (RAOs) to explain their ability to perform different democratic roles. Three main findings are advanced: (a) each organization assumes its own niche with regard to the democratic roles they perform; (b) distinct organisational features explain why a particular organisation performs one role better than the other; and (c) all five organizations perform their role as 'schools of democracy' in a different manner.

