This dissertation explores the making (and breaking) of promises of infrastructural development and their impact on everyday life in a coastal community in south-western Ghana. While scholars, media, and politicians greeted the recent establishment of the petroleum industry in Ghana with speculations on how to manage the seemingly unavoidable unfolding of a resource curse, the local population in this community looked to the new industry with hope and anticipation. Its establishment meant new resources, new facilities, more people and opportunities; all perceived as potential keys to their ambition of escaping the confined structures of their hometown; keys to unlock futures that otherwise would neither be imaginable nor accessible.

Drawing on these observations, this study investigates how people who live in an environment characterised by uncertainty and unpredictability, where everyday actions appeared to revolve around managing the present, continuously try to find better futures for themselves. Based on the recent questioning of the assumed progressive linearity of modern time and the development of what some refer to as an archaeological turn in anthropology, this dissertation show how people in this coastal community tend to look for futures in the physical and social circumstances in which they find themselves, rather than making futures through long-term planning and time-management.

It is, however, important to note that the proposals made in this dissertation should not be read as evidence of a distinct Ghanaian time-universe or temporality. Instead, they are temporal experiences intricately linked people's socio-economic status and their lack of security from the very uncertainty that the future is commonly seen to hold. As such, the analysis and proposals made in this dissertation carries insights that should be applicable in social and political contexts far removed from the specific situation discussed in this dissertation.