

# Michael Danquah

(July 2024)

---

## CONTACT ADDRESS

Amrahia Tollbooth

C516, Asteroids St.

GD-293-1191

Accra, Ghana

Tel: +233502464735

Email: [mldanqua@gmail.com](mailto:mldanqua@gmail.com) / [mdanquah@ug.edu.gh](mailto:mdanquah@ug.edu.gh)

Twitter: [@mnkdanquah](https://twitter.com/mnkdanquah)

## RESEARCH INTEREST

Development Economics, Climate Change, Probabilistic Machine Learning, Productivity Analysis

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & AFFILIATIONS

2019– 2024/ Research Fellow, UNU- WIDER, Helsinki, Finland

*Responsibilities include:*

- Co-focal point/ lead for the following flagship UNU WIDER work programmes:
  - Transforming informal work and livelihoods
  - Structural Transformation in African cities
  - Sub-national institutional performance across Ghana's districts and regions – variation and causes
  - Towards inclusive development in Myanmar
- Produce and review high-quality research papers for UNUWIDER working paper series/journals.
- Contribute to communication and outreach (including the writing of policy briefs, blogs and Open articles from research outputs)
- Programme Coordinator, PhD fellowship and Visiting Scholars programme.

2022– / Co-chair, IUSSP Scientific Panel on Population, Inequality and Climate change

2017– /Visiting Research Fellow, The Transfer Project, UNICEF Office of Research, Innocenti, Florence, Italy.

2015– /Researcher, International Growth Centre (IGC), LSE, UK

2016– 2019 /Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra-Ghana

2014– 2016/ Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra-Ghana

2012– 2014/ Lecturer, Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), Ghana

2006– 2008/ Development Policy Analyst, National Development Planning Commission, Accra- Ghana

## **AWARDS & MEDIA**

- Best Researcher, 2016/2017- School of Social Science, University of Ghana, Legon
- Most Promising Young Scholar, 2013/14- School of Social Science, University of Ghana, Legon
- Citation of Honour (Harding working and Selfless Lecturer) from University of Ghana Economics Students' Society (UGESS), University of Ghana, Legon.
- BBC World Service (Newsday), The pandemic effect of COVID-19 on the Ghanaian economy, 12/2020.
- BBC World Service (More or Less), Live 8, The G8 and making of Poverty History, 07/2015.

## **EDUCATION**

2008– 2012    PhD (Economics), Swansea University, Wales, UK  
2004– 2006    MA (Economics), U N African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), Dakar, Senegal  
1999– 2002    B.A (Hons) Economics, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra, Ghana

## **ADDITIONAL TRAINING**

2022/Machine Learning in Macroeconomics/ Dept. of Economics, Oxford University, UK  
2020/Machine Learning for Economist and Policy makers/Timberlake Consultants, UK  
2012 /Policy Evaluation Methods, Institute of Fiscal Studies /York University, UK  
2010 /Panel Time Series, Institute of Fiscal Studies /University College London, UK  
2010 /Panel/ Longitudinal Data, Institute of Fiscal Studies /University College London, UK  
2010 /Econometric Estimation of Frontier Functions and Economic Efficiency, Institute of Fiscal Studies /University College London, UK

## **RESEARCH GRANTS (Selected)**

- £32 million, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), African Cities Research Consortium (ACRC), (Co- Principal Investigator on behalf of UNU WIDER), 2020
- £20,000, International Growth Centre (IGC), LSE/UK, Dealing with Single-Use Plastics: Examining the Economic Effect of a Ban in Ghana (Principal Investigator), 2018
- £10,000, International Growth Centre (IGC), LSE/UK, The Impact of Public Investment in Graduate Training on Development Outcomes in Ghana (Principal Investigator), 2018
- €40,000, DFID through Tilburg University, Innovation for productivity growth in Low-income countries (Co- Principal Investigator), 2017
- £10,000, International Growth Centre (IGC), LSE/UK, Informality and the Tax Gap: A case of non-farm enterprise in Ghana (Principal Investigator), 2016

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Edited Collections (Edited Books and Journal Special issue):**

1. *'African cities: Urbanization without structural transformation'* (with K. Sen and R. Gisselquist), Brookings Institution Press, USA (ongoing)

2. '[\*The Job Ladder: Transforming Informal Work and Livelihoods in Developing Countries\*](#)' (with G. Fields, T.H. Gindling, K. Sen and S. Schotte), Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023
3. [\*What sustains informality?\*](#) special issue of *Journal of Development Studies* 58.7 (July 2022). Editor (with K. Sen and S. Schotte).

#### **Book Chapters:**

4. 'The job ladder' (with G. Fields, T.H. Gindling, S. Sen and S. Schotte), in G. Fields et al. (eds), *The Job Ladder: Transforming Informal Work and Livelihoods in Developing Countries*, 2023, Oxford University Press, 2023
5. 'How to transform informal work and livelihoods?: Lessons learnt and policy options' (with G. Fields, T.H. Gindling, S. Sen and S. Schotte), in G. Fields et al. (eds), *The Job Ladder: Transforming Informal Work and Livelihoods in Developing Countries*, 2023, Oxford University Press, 2023
6. 'Subnational Governance in Ghana: A Comparative Assessment of Data and Performance' (with D. Chachu and R. Gisselquist), in JP. Faguet and S. Pal (eds), *Global Perspectives on Decentralized Governance: Ways to Create Effective and Democratic Political Systems*, 2023, LSE Press, UK.
7. 'Informal-formal transitions in work status in sub-Saharan Africa: a comparative perspective' (with S. Schotte, and K. Sen), in G. Fields et al (eds.), *The Job Ladder: Transforming informal work and livelihoods in developing countries*, 2023, Oxford University Press, 2023
8. 'Political Settlements and Structural Change: Why Growth Has Not Been Transformational in Ghana' (with R. D. Osei, C. Ackah, and G. Domfe), in Pritchett, L., Sen, K., and Werker, E. (eds.), *Deals and Development: The Political Dynamics of Growth Episodes*, 2017, Oxford University Press, 2023

#### **Articles in peer reviewed journals (selected):**

9. 'The financial inclusion agenda: Examining the role of conventional banks in deepening access to formal credit' (with A.M. Iddrisu), *Economic Systems*, 2024, 48(2):1-21
10. 'The labour market impact of COVID-19 lockdowns: evidence from Ghana' (with K. Sen and S. Schotte and R.D. Osei), *Journal of African Economies*, 2023, 32(1):10-33
11. 'Aid and social cohesion' (with B. Ouattara), *The Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance*, 2023, 87, 118-131.
12. 'What sustains informality?' (with K. Sen and S. Schotte), *Journal of Development Studies*, 2022, 58(7):1307-1311.

13. 'Ethnic diversity and informal work in Ghana' (with C.S. Awaworyi), *Journal of Development Studies*, 2022, 58(7):1312-1331.
14. 'Do gender wage differences within households influence women's empowerment and welfare? Evidence from Ghana' (with A.M. Iddrisu, E.O. Boakye and S. Owusu), *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 2021, 188(1): 916-932.
15. 'Informal institutions, transaction risk, and firm productivity in Myanmar' (with K. Sen), *Small Business Economics*, 2021, 58(1): 1721-1737.
16. 'Financial inclusion and energy poverty: Empirical evidence from Ghana' (with I. Koomson), *Energy Economics*, 2021, 94(1):1-12
17. 'Urban cash transfers and poverty in Ghana' (with J. Cuesta), *Review of Development Economics*, 2021, 26(1): 133-155
18. 'Informal work in Sub-Saharan Africa: Dead end or stepping stone?' (with K. Sen and S. Schotte), *IZA Journal of Migration and Development*, 2021, 12(1): 2-44.
19. 'Fiscal decentralization and efficiency of public services delivery by local governments in Ghana' (with I. Otoo), *African Development Review*, 2021, 33(3): 411-425.
20. 'COVID-19 and Employment: Insights from the Sub-Saharan African Experience' (with S. Schotte and K. Sen), *The Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, 2020, 63(1): 23–30
21. 'The Extent and Determinants of Tax Gap in the Informal Sector: Evidence from Ghana' (with E. Osei- Assibey), *Journal of International Development*, 2018, 30(6): 992-1005
22. 'Technology Transfer and National Efficiency: does absorptive capacity matter?' (with B. Ouattara, and P. Quartey), *African Development Review*, 2018, 30(2): 162-174
23. 'Technology Transfer, adoption of technology and the efficiency of nations: Empirical evidence from sub-Saharan Africa' *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 2018, 131(1):175-182
24. 'Access to mobile phones and wellbeing of non-farm enterprise households: evidence from Ghana' (with A. M. Iddrisu), *Technology in Society*, 2018, 54(1), 1-9
25. 'Cost Efficiency of Insurance Firms in Ghana' (with D. M. Otoo and A. Baah-Nuakoh), *Managerial and Decision Economics*, 2018, 39(2): 213-225.

26. 'Assessing the relationships between human capital, innovation and technology adoption: Evidence from sub-Saharan Africa' (with J. Amankwah-Amoah), *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 2018, 122 (1): 24- 33.
27. 'Analysis of School Enrollment in Ghana: A Sequential Approach' (with A. M. Iddrisu and P. Quartey), *Review of Development Economics*, 2017, 21 (4): 1158- 1177.
28. 'Access to financial services via Rural and Community Banks and poverty reduction in rural households in Ghana' (with P. Quartey and A. M. Iddrisu), *Journal of African Development*, 2017, 19(1):67-76
29. 'What drives national efficiency in sub-Saharan Africa?' (with B. Ouattara), *Economic Modelling*, 2015, 44(1): 171-179.
30. 'TFP growth and its determinants: a model averaging approach' (with E. Moral-Benito and B. Ouattara), *Empirical Economics*, 2014, 47(1): 227-251.
31. 'Productivity Growth, Human Capital and Distance to Frontier in Sub-Saharan Africa' (with B. Ouattara), *Journal of Economic Development*, 2014, 39(4):27-48.

#### **Working Papers:**

32. 'Urbanization, climate change, and structural transformation in Accra, Ghana' (with B. Ouattara, W. Ohemeng and A. Barimah) WIDER Working Paper 2024/25. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
33. 'Ethnic diversity and financial inclusion in post-apartheid South Africa' (with I. Koomson, and E. Martey). WIDER Working Paper 2023/119. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
34. 'Temperature, climate change, and household financial behaviour: Evidence from Viet Nam' (with S. Awaworyi Churchill and T-A. Trinh) WIDER Working Paper 2023/95. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
35. 'Unravelling Africa's raw material footprints and their drivers' (with A. Osei-Owusu and E. Towa). WIDER Working Paper 2022/115. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
36. 'Tax effort revisited: new estimates from the Government Revenue Dataset' (with K. McNabb and A.M.E. Tagem). WIDER Working Paper 2021/170. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
37. 'Digital technology and productivity of informal enterprises: Empirical evidence from Nigeria' (with S. Owusu). WIDER Working Paper 2021/114. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
38. 'How Covid-19 is affecting workers and their livelihoods in urban Ghana: Results from the GSPS-Covid Panel Survey' (with S. Schotte, R. Darko Osei and K. Sen). WIDER report, 2021. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.

39. 'The Labour Market Impact of Covid-19 Lockdowns: Evidence from Ghana' (with S. Schotte, R. Darko Osei and K. Sen). WIDER Working Paper 2021/27. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
40. 'Ethnic diversity and informal work in Ghana' (with C.S. Awaworyi). WIDER Working Paper 2020/126. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
41. 'Rural Financial Intermediation and Poverty Reduction in Ghana: A Micro-Level Analysis' (with A. M. Iddrisu, W. Ohemeng and A. Barimah). WIDER Working Paper 2020/2. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
42. 'Informal work in sub-Saharan Africa: Dead end or steppingstone?' (S. Schotte and K. Sen). WIDER Working Paper 2019/107. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
43. 'Unmasking the factors behind Socio- economic inequalities in Ghana' (with W. Ohemeng). UNDP Discussion Paper, 2017, Accra.
44. 'Qualitative Study on Innovation in Manufacturing Small and Medium –Sized enterprises (SMEs) in Ghana' (with J. Voeten and W. Baah- Boateng). Enabling Innovation and Productivity Growth in Low Income Countries, 2017 (EIP-LIC/PO 5639).
45. 'Informality and the Tax Gap: A case of Non-Farm Enterprises in Ghana' (with E Osei-Assibey). IGC Working Paper S-33206-GHA-1, 2016, London.
46. 'Political settlements, the deals environment and economic growth: The case of Ghana' (with R. D. Osei, C. Ackah, and G. Domfe), ESID Working Paper, No. 53, 2015, Manchester

**Blogs/ Op-eds/ Policy briefs:**

47. [Local governance in Ghana is more complicated than central versus regional.](#) UNUWIDER Blog, November 2023
48. [Climbing the job ladder: A clearer picture of informal work.](#) UNU WIDER Policy brief, April 2023.
49. [Stuck at the bottom of the job ladder in Africa: the stumbling block to resilient growth and prosperity,](#) UNU WIDER Blog, 2023
50. [Rethinking African debt and exploitation of natural resources.](#) African Business Magazine, March 2023.
51. [How can cities create better jobs in sub-Saharan Africa?](#) Foresight Africa 2023, Brookings Institution, February 2023
52. [What does 'promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth' mean for everyday life?](#) WIDERAngle, March 2022.

53. '[Creating sustainable growth and reducing poverty through structural transformation](#)' (with K. Sen, R. Gisselquist and Matthew Sharp), African Cities Research Consortium (ACRC) blog, 6 June 2022.
54. '[COVID-19 and employment: Insights from the sub-Saharan African experience](#)' (with S. Schotte and K. Sen). WIDER Background Note 2020/7. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
55. '[COVID-19 and the socioeconomic impact in Africa: The case of Ghana](#)' (with S. Schotte). WIDER Background Note 2020/5. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.

## **TEACHING AND GRADUATE SUPERVISION** (at the Univ. of Ghana, Legon, 2014-19)

### *Teaching:*

Microeconomics (Undergraduate)

Element of Economics (Undergraduate)

Econometrics/ Quantitative Methods (Undergraduate and Graduate)

The Economy of Ghana (Undergraduate)

PhDs Awarded -1

Masters Awarded -16

## **LANGUAGES AND COMPUTING**

- English (Fluent), French (basic)
- Computer skills: Limdep/Nlogit, Stata, Microsoft Office.

## **REFERENCES**

Available upon request