

Nixon S. Chekenya

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Fields of Study

International Relations, African Politics, Comparative Politics, Quantitative Methods, Political Economy, Migration, Microfinance, Macroeconomics, Time Series Econometrics

Teaching Interests

Econometrics, Advanced Statistics, International Relations, Conflict Analysis

Academic Positions

2024-present	Graduate Teaching Assistant in Political Science, Texas Tech University
2021-2023	Graduate Research Assistant in Ag. & Applied Economics, Texas Tech University
2021-2023	Teaching Assistant in Ag. & Applied Economics, Texas Tech University
2022-2022	Adjunct Lecturer in Agribusiness, Southern Africa Development Institute
2019-2022	Visiting Lecturer in Economics, Midlands State University
2018-2019	Guest Lecturer in Economics, Midlands State University
2018-2018	Research Assistant in Economics, University of Zimbabwe
2018-2018	Teaching Assistant in Economics, University of Zimbabwe
2015-2018	Research Assistant in Economics, Midlands State University
2015-2018	Undergraduate Teaching Assistant in Economics, Midlands State University
2014-2014	Office Assistant to Executive Dean of Commerce, Midlands State University

Education

2024-2029	Ph.D. in Political Science and Government, Texas Tech University
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Distinguished Graduate Student Assistantship

2021-2023 MS in Agricultural and Applied Economics, Texas Tech University

Full Departmental Fellowship

2021-2023 Master in Business Studies in Finance, Tshwane University of Technology

Withdrawal in good academic standing

2014-2018 Bachelor of Commerce Economics Honours, Midlands State University

Attended on Full Scholarship

Industry Experience

2024-present *Columnist*, The Sunday Mail

2023-present Founder, Kulinda Microinsurance (Private) Limited

2021-present Founder, Maguta Capital (Private) Limited

2020-2021 Consultant, Xtenda Finance (Private) Limited

2020-2021 Corporate & Investment Banking Executive, Steward Bank Limited

2020-2020 Executive Assistant to the CEO, Steward Bank Limited

2019-2021 Co-founder and General Manager, Kimberly Acres (Private) Limited

2019-2020 Business Audit Manager, Steward Bank Limited (seconded)

2019-2019 Business Intelligent Analyst, Steward Bank Limited

2019-2019 Rural Banking Analyst, Steward Bank Limited

2018-2018 Business Development Analyst, Econet Life (Private) Limited (EcoSure)

2018-2018 Graduate Management Trainee, Investment Banking, Steward Bank Ltd

2018-2018 Central Reconciliations Analyst, Steward Bank Limited

2017-2018 *Columnist*, Business Weekly

2017-2017 Acting Senior Economist, Confederation of Zimbabwe

2016-2017 Economist, Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries

2016-2016 Internship-Economics and Banking, Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries

Books Chapters

- 2024 “Environmental Migration and Violent Conflicts in Sub-Saharan Africa”, in Jonathan Crush, Mulugeta Dinhabo and Daniel Tevera (Eds), *Handbook of African Migration*, Edward Elgar Publishing, forthcoming.
- “Floods and Trade Flows: Evidence from Selected Sub-Saharan Africa Countries”, with Canicio Dzingirai and Emeriya Manzote, in Clainos Chidoko (Ed), *Trade Dynamics in the 21st Century. The Southern African Perspectives*, Emerald (Conditionally accepted November 28, 2023).
- 2017 “Financial Stress, Illiquidity and the Role of Private Creditors: Whither Zimbabwe?”, with Zachary Tambudzai, in Albert Makoche Kanwa (Ed), *Zimbabwe’s Liquidity Challenges and Possible Solutions*, University of Zimbabwe Press.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- 2024 “Responsible Conduct of Research for Social Science Graduate Students: What Should they Know?”, with Sukant Misra, forthcoming in *Applied Economics Teaching Resources*.
- 2023 “Climate-induced Crop Failure and Crop Abandonment: What Do We Know and Don’t Know.” *African Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, 18(2), 142-151.
- “On the Empirics of Microfinance Institutions and Local Economic Development.” *Development Southern Africa*, 40(6), 1234-1257. Coverage: *The Sunday Mail*.
- 2022 “Design of a Conceptual Framework for Evaluating the Performance of Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) Laws on Mutual Funds’ Performance in South Africa,” with Heinz Eckart Klingelhöfer. *Managerial Finance*, 48(12), 1795-1810.
- “Intolerance, Xenophobia and Cross-border Supermarket Groups’ Operations in South Africa,” with Laurine Chikoko. *Agrekon*, 61(3), 360-378.
- 2020 “Distributional Effects of Aid Types on Local Economic Development in Malawi,” with Canicio Dzingirai. *Journal of Economic Studies*, 48(8), 1299-1322.
- “Longevity Swaps for Longevity Risk Management in Life Insurance Products,” with Canicio Dzingirai. *Journal of Risk Finance*, 21(3), 253-269.
- “Skin Color and Investment Performance in South Africa’s Mutual Funds Industry,” with Shingirai Sikomwe. *Review of Behavioral Finance*, 14(1), 45-67.
- 2019 “Maximum likelihood estimation of stock volatility using jump-diffusion models,” *Cogent Economics & Finance*, 7(1), 1-17.
- 2016 Nixon S. Chekenya (2016), “Rethinking the Transition to Formalization in Zimbabwe’s Informal Sector,” *Undergraduate Economic Review*, 13(1), 1-45.

Working Papers & Papers Under Review

“Migrants and Xenophobic Attacks in South Africa: Theory and Evidence,” Reject with option to Resubmit, 1st round, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*.

“Do Political Science Graduate Students Need Responsible Conduct of Research Education?”

“The Economic Costs of Xenophobia.”

“Crop Abandonment Decisions by Smallholder Maize Framers in Zambia,” with Nani Yenibehit and Canicio Dzingirai.

“CEOs Characteristics and the Performance and Outreach of Microfinance Institutions in Africa: A Multitier Model Approach.”

“Digital Xenophobia: What is Known and Unknown?”

“Risk Factors in Crop Abandonment Decisions: Evidence from Zambia,” with Nani Yenibehit and Canicio Dzingirai.

“Shifting Cultivation and Smallholder Maize Production in Zimbabwe,” with Maakwe Cumanzala.

“Consumer Willingness to Pay for Sustainably-produced Cotton Products.”

“Localized Effects of Microfinance Institutions on Economic Growth in Ghana.”

“Is Illegal Immigration Pareto Efficient.”

“Team Formation and Mutual Funds Management in South Africa.”

“Climate-Induced Shocks and Productive Capacities of Vulnerable Groups: A Micro-Perspective from Maize Farmers in Zimbabwe” with Canicio Dzingirai.

Retired Working Papers

“The Role of Microfinance Institutions in Local Economic Development,” with Trust Chakanyuka, Jerry Parwada and Angella Montfaucon.

“Women are Wonderful but Most are Disliked: Evidence from Mutual Funds Industry.”

Non-Technical Policy Briefs & Media Appearance

- 2024 “Group-lending, Peer-monitoring in Microfinance Contracts in Rural Zimbabwe: What Should We Know?” *The Sunday Mail*, May 5, 2024
- “The ABCs of Enhancing Financial Inclusion in Rural Markets.” *The Sunday Mail*, April 28, 2024.
- “Why Banking the Rural Poor in Zimbabwe is Hard But not Impossible?” *The Sunday Mail*, April 14, 2024.
- “Can Microfinance Change Lives of Low-income Rural Households in Zimbabwe?” *The Sunday Mail*, April 7, 2024.
- 2021 “The Effect of Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) Laws on Mutual Funds’ Performance in South Africa,” with Heinz Eckart Klingelhöfer. *AfricaGrowth Agenda*, 18(4), 14-17.
- “The Missing Link in Zimbabwe’s Revenue System: The Informal Sector,” *AfricaGrowth Agenda*, 16(2), 14-16.
- “Time for Hemp Value Chain in Zimbabwe?” *Business Weekly*, December 22, 2018
- “Building a Firm Foundation for Real Economic Transformation,” *Business Weekly*, December 1, 2017.

Conference Presentations

- 2024 Southern Economic Association, Washington DC (scheduled)
- Agriculture Policy Research Group, New Orleans (discussant)
- 2023 Conference on Land Policy in Africa, Addis Ababa
- 2023 Biennial Conference, Economic Society of South Africa, Pretoria
- Young Leaders/Scholars Symposium, Washington D.C.
- Seminar Presentation, Texas Tech University
- Africa Meeting of the Econometric Society, Nairobi (session chair)
- World Bank Group Youth Summit 2023, Washington D.C.
- SAFA Conference, University of Cape Town
- 2022 African Finance Association Conference, Cape Town

	ICAB, University of Johannesburg
2021	Global Development Finance Conference (virtual)
2020	SAFA Conference, University of Cape Town
2019	African Finance Association Conference, Victoria Falls
	South African Society for Research in Music Conference, Stellenbosch University
	Conference on Sustainable Economic Transformation, Midlands State University
	FMCG Conference, Macquarie University City Campus
2018	31 st ABFC Conference, University of New South Wales
	YSI Africa Convening, University of Zimbabwe
	Actuarial and Financial Mathematics Conference, Ghent University
	SAFA Conference, University of Cape Town
2017	BMC Markets PhD Symposium, Harare
	Zimbabwe's Liquidity Challenges Conference, University of Zimbabwe
	African Finance Association Conference, Victoria Falls
2015	2 nd ERAN Conference, Bloemfontein
	Conference on Economic Integration, Midlands State University

Awards, Scholarships and Grants

2024-2028	<i>Distinguished Graduate Student Assistantship</i> , (\$25,000/year for 4 years + waivers)
2024-2025	<i>Teaching Assistantship</i> , Department of Political Science, Texas Tech University
2024	Agriculture Policy Research Group/USDA Travel Grant & Conference Funding
2023	Presidential Scholarship, Texas Tech University, \$1,000
2023	Dept. of Agricultural and Applied Economics Scholarship, \$2,000
2023	Texas Public Education Grant, Texas Tech University, \$2,000
2023	Young Leaders/Scholars Award, \$200
2023	Texas Tech University Scholarship, \$2,000
2023	CFA Access Scholarship, \$1,000

2023	Research and Development Scholarship, Texas Tech University, \$1,000
2022	Excellence in Reviewing Award, <i>African Development Review</i>
2022	CFA Access Scholarship, \$1,000
2022	U.S. Higher Education Relief Fund, \$1,500
2021-2023	CASNR Graduate Fellowship, \$60,000 (plus tuition fee waivers)
2020	WOG Grant EUR500
2020	Excellence in Reviewing Certificate, <i>African Development Review</i>
2020	Tshwane University of Technology Conference Funding, ZAR3,500
2019	<i>Finalist</i> , Mandela Rhodes Fellowship
2019	CFA Access Scholarship, \$1,000
2017	Midlands State University Conference Travel Award, \$2,500
2016	Best Internship Student, Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries
2016	Midlands State University Conference funding, \$150
2012	Merit Award for being best O Level Student, Rota Secondary School
2009	<i>First Prize</i> , English Essay Competitions, “Life of a Day Scholar”

Teaching (Undergraduate Courses)

Spring 2022	<i>Agribusiness Management</i> , Southern Africa Development Institute
Fall 2021	<i>Applied Optimization Methods</i> , Texas Tech University
Fall 2021	<i>Agricultural Economics</i> , Midlands State University
Fall 2019	<i>Business Statistics</i> , Midlands State University
Fall 2018	<i>Principles of Economics</i> , University of Zimbabwe
Fall 2018	<i>Development Economics</i> , Midlands State University
Fall 2017	<i>Financial Econometrics</i> , Midlands State University
Fall 2017	<i>Microeconomics I</i> , Midlands State University

Mentorship & Supervision of Student Dissertations & Placements

2023	Nanii Yenibehit (supervisor), Texas Tech University doctoral student Mazvita N. Dzangare (co-supervisor), Maguta Capital (Private) Limited
2021	Kevin T. Jeketera (supervisor), MSU Book Prize, Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe Moreblessing Masimura (co-supervisor), CBZ Bank Everjoy Muchimwe (co-supervisor), Zimbabwe Women's Microfinance Bank Anna Mafunga (supervisor), Ministry of Finance, Zimbabwe
2020	Tonderai Kanyekanye (co-supervisor), Zimbabwe Farmers' Union Mavis M. Dzapasi (supervisor), MSU Book Prize, Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe

Referee Activity

Agrekon (1), Africa Insight (1), African Development Review (4), African Review of Economics and Finance (1), Cogent Education (1), Global Food Security (1), International Journal of the Economics of Business (1), Journal of Economic Studies (2), Review of Development Economics (3), South African Journal of Economics (1)

Departmental Service

2022-2023	Vice President, Agricultural Economics Graduate Student Association (AEGSA), Texas Tech University
2015-2016	Founder and President, Economics Undergraduate Students Association (EUSA), Midlands State University

Sports Leadership Positions

2012-2013	1 st Team Volleyball Captain, Nyahuni High School
2008-2011	1 st Team Volleyball Captain, Rota Secondary School
2004-2007	Volleyball Captain, Rota Primary School

Volunteer Roles

2023-present	Mentor, Graduate Applications International Network (GAIN)
2022-2023	Judge, Graduate Student Poster Competition (GPSC), Davis College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
2022-2023	Volleyball Coach, Lubbock Junior Academy
2014-2018	Community Teacher (Commerce, English, Integrated Science), Rota Secondary School
2012-2014	Assistant Volleyball Coach, Nyahuni High School

Professional Memberships

African Association of Agricultural Economists, African Studies Association, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, American Economic Association, American Finance Association, American Political Science Association, Econometric Society, Economic Society of South Africa, International Political Economy Society, International Studies Association, Midwest Political Science Association, Peace Science Society, Southern Political Science Association

Computer Languages and Software Skills

STATA	Proficient
R	Intermediate
Python	Intermediate
MATLAB	Proficient
Mathematica	Intermediate
LaTeX	Proficient
Excel	Proficient
Mathcha	Proficient
SPSS	Beginner

Languages

English	Mastery (C2) (Native or bilingual proficiency)
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Shona	Mastery (C2) (Native or bilingual proficiency)
Ndebele	Intermediate (B1) (Working proficiency)
French	Pre-intermediate (A2) (Limited working proficiency)

References

Available upon request