

Nixon S. Chekenya

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Research Interests

Development Economics, Climate Economics, Macroeconomic Modelling, Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, Climate Economics, Agricultural Economics, Economics of Migration, Microfinance, Economics of Education, Political Economy, Value Chains, Rural Development, Health Economics, Financial Economics

Teaching Interests

Applied Optimization Methods, Development Economics, Principles of Microeconomics, Natural Resource Economics, Agribusiness Marketing and Management

Academic Positions

2021-present	Graduate Research Assistant in Ag. & Applied Economics, Texas Tech University
2021-present	Instructor of Record in Ag. & Applied Economics, Texas Tech University
2021-present	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
2014-2016	Voluntary English and Science Teacher, Rota Secondary School

Education

2021-2023	MS in Agricultural and Applied Economics, Texas Tech University <i>Thesis:</i> Responsible Conduct of Research for Agricultural and Applied Economics Graduate Students: What Should they Know? (advisor: Sukant Misra) <i>Full Departmental Fellowship</i>
2021-2023	Master of Business Studies in Finance, Tshwane University of Technology <i>Thesis:</i> Design of a Conceptual Framework for Evaluating the Performance of Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) Laws in South Africa (advisor: Heinz Eckart Klingelhöfer)
2023-2025	Candidate, CFA Institute
2018-2019	Graduate Management Training Program, Steward Bank Limited
2018-2018	Visiting Scholar, Department of Applied Mathematics, Computer Science and Statistics, Ghent University
2014-2018	Bachelor of Commerce Economics Honours, Midlands State University <i>Dissertation:</i> Selection Bias and the Performance of Black Fund Managers in South Africa (main advisors: Jerry T. Parwada & Canicio Dzingirai)

Industry Experience

2023-present	Co-founder, Chex Meats (Private) Limited
2021-present	Co-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	<i>Columnist</i> , Business Weekly
2017-2017	Research Fellow, Zimbabwe Economic Policy and Research Unit
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 and Book Chapters

- Nixon S. Chekenya and Leonard Mushunje (2024 exp), “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, Invited chapter proposal accepted and chapter under review.
- Nixon S. Chekenya (2024 exp), “Research Misconduct for Economics Graduate Students: What Should they Know?”, *Proposal in preparation for MIT Press*.
- Zachary Tambudzai and Nixon S. Chekenya (2017), “Financial Stress, Illiquidity and the Role of Private Creditors: Whither Zimbabwe?” in Albert Makochekanwa (Ed), *Zimbabwe’s Liquidity Challenges and Possible Solutions*, University of Zimbabwe Press.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Nixon S. Chekenya (2023), “On the Empirics of Microfinance Institutions and Local Economic Development,” *Development Southern Africa*.
- Nixon S. Chekenya (2023), “Climate-induced Crop Failure and Crop Abandonment: What Do We Know and Don’t Know,” *African Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, forthcoming (Conditionally accepted May 22, 2023).
- Nixon S. Chekenya and Heinz Eckart Klingelhöfer (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,” *Managerial Finance*, 48(12), 1795-1810.
- Nixon S. Chekenya and Laurine Chikoko (2022), “Intolerance, Xenophobia and Cross-border Supermarket Groups’ Operations in South Africa,” *Agrekon*, 61(3), 360-378.
- Nixon S. Chekenya and Canicio Dzingirai (2020), “Distributional Effects of Aid Types on Local Economic Development in Malawi,” *Journal of Economic Studies*, 48(8), 1299-1322
- Nixon S. Chekenya and Canicio Dzingirai (2020), “Longevity Swaps for Longevity Risk Management in Life Insurance Products,” *Journal of Risk Finance*, 21(3), 253-269

- Nixon S. Chekenya and Shingirai Sikomwe (2020), “Skin Color and Investment Performance in South Africa’s Mutual Funds Industry,” *Review of Behavioral Finance*, 14(1), 45-67.
- Nixon S. Chekenya (2019), “Maximum likelihood estimation of stock volatility using jump-diffusion models,” 7(1), 1-17.
- Nixon S. Chekenya (2016), “Rethinking the Transition to Formalization in Zimbabwe’s Informal Sector,” *Undergraduate Economic Review*, 13(1), 1-45.

Revise and Resubmit Requests

- Yi Chen, Donna Mitchell-McCallister, Bing Liu, Phillip Johnson and Nixon S. Chekenya (2021), “Risk Analysis of Irrigation Technology Adoption in Cotton Production Systems in Texas High Plains,” Resubmit and Resubmit at *Q Open: A Journal of Agricultural, Climate, Environmental, Food, Resource and Rural Development Economics*.

Under Review

- Nixon S. Chekenya, “Environmental Migration and Xenophobic Tensions: Evidence from South Africa”, Under Review.
- Nixon S. Chekenya, “Agricultural Productivity and Xenophobia: An Instrumental Variables Approach”, Under Review
- Nixon S. Chekenya and Leonard Mushunje, “CEO Characteristics and the Performance and Outreach of Microfinance Institutions in Africa: A Multitier Model Approach”, Under Review.
- Nixon S. Chekenya and Heinz Eckart Klingelhöfer, “Measuring Performance Persistence in South African Mutual Funds,” Under Review.

Work in Progress

- Nixon S. Chekenya, “Responsible Conduct of Research for Agricultural and Applied Economics Graduate Students: What Should they Know?”, Ready for submission at *Applied Economics Teaching Resources (AETR)*.
- Nixon S. Chekenya, “Shifting Cultivation, Migration and Smallholder Maize Production in Kotwa: Pathways to Poverty Alleviation?” Intended for *World Development*.
- Nixon S. Chekenya, “Localized Effects of Microfinance Institutions on Economic Growth in Ghana”, Intended for *Review of Development Economics*.
- Nixon S. Chekenya, “Deforestation and Violent Conflicts: Theory and Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa”, Intended for *Annual Review of Resource Economics*.
- Nixon S. Chekenya and Leonard Mushunje, “Illegal Immigration, Labor Supply and Pareto Efficiency”, Intended for *Econometrica*.
- Nixon S. Chekenya, “On the Determinants of Demand for Micro Agricultural Finance Products by Smallholder Farmers”, In preparation for *Agricultural Finance Review*.

Retired Working Papers

- Trust T. Chakanyuka, Nixon S. Chekenya, Jerry Parwada and Angella F. Montfaucon, “The Role of Microfinance Institutions in Local Economic Development.”
- Nixon S. Chekenya, “Women are Wonderful but Most are Disliked: Evidence from Mutual Funds Industry”.

Non-Technical Policy Briefs

- Nixon S. Chekenya and Heinz Eckart Klingelhöfer (2021), “The Effect of Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) Laws on Mutual Funds’ Performance in South Africa,” *AfricaGrowth Agenda*, 18(4), 14-17.
- Nixon S. Chekenya (2019), “The Missing Link in Zimbabwe’s Revenue System: The Informal Sector,” *AfricaGrowth Agenda*, 16(2), 14-16.

Media Appearance

- “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.
- “Informal Sector: The Missing Link in Zimbabwe’s Tax System,” *Intelligence Bulletin*, August 2, 2017.

Conference Presentations

2023	African Economic Conference 2023, Addis Ababa (scheduled)
	2023 Conference on Land Policy in Africa, Addis Ababa (scheduled)
	2023 Biennial Conference, Economic Society of South Africa, Pretoria (scheduled)
	YSI Symposium, Washington D.C. (scheduled)
	LSE Environment Week, London (scheduled)
	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

2023	Presidential Scholarship, Texas Tech University Scholarship, \$1,000
	Dept. of Agricultural and Applied Economics Scholarship, \$2,000
	Texas Public Education Grant, Texas Tech University, \$2,000
	Young Leaders/Scholars Award, \$200
	IEA Research Grant, PI, Amount Requested: \$15,200
	IHS Publication Accelerator Grant, \$5,000
	Humane Studies Fellowship, Amount Requested: \$3,800
	Humane Studies Research Fellowship, Amount Requested: \$4,000
	Texas Tech University Scholarship, \$2,000

	CFA Access Scholarship, \$1,000
2022	African Economic Research Consortium, PI, Amount Requested: \$10,000
	Research and Development Scholarship, Texas Tech University, \$1,000
	Excellence in Reviewing Award, <i>African Development Review</i>
	CFA Access Scholarship, \$1,000
	U.S. Higher Education Relief Fund, \$1,500
2021	CASNR Graduate Fellowship, \$60,000 (plus tuition fee waivers)
2020	WOG Grant EUR500
	Excellence in Reviewing Award, <i>African Development Review</i>
	Tshwane University of Technology Conference Funding, ZAR3,500
2019	<i>Finalist</i> , Mandela Rhodes Fellowship
	CFA Access Scholarship, \$1,000
2017	Midlands State University Conference Travel Award, \$2,500
2016	Best Internship Student, Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries
	Midlands State University Conference funding, \$150
2012	Merit Award for being best O Level Student, Rota Secondary School
	<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

Supervision of Undergraduate Student Dissertations

2023	Mazvita N. Dzangare (co-supervisor)
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

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

Departmental Service

2022-present	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	GAIN Mentor to Nanii Yenibehit (University for Development Studies, Ghana)
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2022-present	Judge, Graduate Student Poster Competition (GPSC), Davis College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
2022-present	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 (AAAE), Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA), Agricultural Economics Graduate Student Association (AEGSA), American Economic Association, American Finance Association, Econometric Society, Economic Society of South Africa (ESSA), Southern Africa Finance Association, Western Agricultural Economics Association, Western Finance Association

Computer Languages and Software Skills

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

Languages

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

Swahili Beginner (A1) (Beginner)

References

Available upon request