

# Michael Danquah

(March 2023)

---

## CONTACT ADDRESS

United Nations University

World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER)

Katajanokanlaituri 6B

FI-00160 Helsinki

Finland

Email: [danquah@wider.unu.edu](mailto:danquah@wider.unu.edu)

Website: <https://www.wider.unu.edu/expert/michael-danquah>

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

## RESEARCH INTEREST

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

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & AFFILIATIONS

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

- Co-focal point/ lead for the following UNU WIDER work programmes:
  - Transforming informal work and livelihoods
  - Structural Transformation in African cities (currently working in 6 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.
- Contribute to communication and outreach (by writing policy briefs, blogs and Op-ed articles from research work)
- 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)**

- £20,000, International Growth Centre (IGC), LSE/UK, Dealing with Single-Use Plastics: Examining the Economic Effect of a Ban in Ghana (PI), 2018
- £10,000, International Growth Centre (IGC), LSE/UK, The Impact of Public Investment in Graduate Training on Development Outcomes in Ghana (PI), 2018
- €40,000, DFID through Tilburg University, Innovation for productivity growth in Low-income countries (Co- PI), 2017
- US\$ 20,000, UNDP Ghana, Unmasking the factors behind socio-economic inequalities in Ghana (PI), 2017
- US\$5,000, African Development Bank, Ghana's long run growth: policy options for equity and sustainable growth (PI), 2017
- £10,000, International Growth Centre (IGC), LSE/UK, Informality and the Tax Gap: A case of non-farm enterprise in Ghana (PI), 2016
- US\$8,000, *ESID*, University of Manchester, Political settlements, the deals environment and economic growth: The case of Ghana (Co – PI), 2015

## PUBLICATIONS

### Edited Collections (Edited Book and Journal Special issue):

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

### Book Chapters:

3. '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
4. '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
5. '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 (forthcoming).
6. '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, OUP, Oxford, UK
7. '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, OUP, Oxford, UK.

### Articles in Peer Reviewed Journals (Selected From 2014):

8. 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
9. Aid and Social cohesion (with B. Ouattara), *Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance*, 2023, 87(1):118-131
10. 'What sustains informality?' (with K. Sen and S. Schotte), *Journal of Development Studies*, 2022, 58(7):1307-1311.
11. 'Ethnic diversity and informal work in Ghana' (with C.S. Awaworyi), *Journal of Development Studies*, 2022, 58(7):1312-1331.

12. '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.
13. 'Informal institutions, transaction risk, and firm productivity in Myanmar' (with K. Sen), *Small Business Economics*, 2021, 58(1): 1721-1737.
14. 'Financial inclusion and energy poverty: Empirical evidence from Ghana' (with I. Koomson), *Energy Economics*, 2021, 94(1):1-12
15. 'Urban cash transfers and poverty in Ghana' (with J. Cuesta), *Review of Development Economics*, 2021, 26(1): 133-155
16. '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.
17. 'Fiscal decentralization and efficiency of public services delivery by local governments in Ghana' (with I. Otoo), *African Development Review*, 2021, 33(3): 411-425.
18. '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
19. 'R&D, Human Capital and Export Behavior of Manufacturing and Service Firms in Ghana' (with A.W. Amadu), *Journal of African Business*, 2019, 20(3):283-304
20. '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
21. 'Gender bias in households' educational expenditures: Does the stage of schooling matter? (with A. M. Iddrisu, P. Quartey, and W. Ohemeng), *World Development Perspectives*, 2018, 12(1): 15-23
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. 'Unmasking the contributing factors of entrepreneurial activities among men and women in Ghana' (P. Quartey, G. Owusu and A. M. Iddrisu), *Journal of Economic Studies*, 2018, 45(1): 114-125.
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. '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
26. 'Comparison of Stochastic Frontier Approaches for Estimating National Efficiency: An Application to Sub-Saharan African countries' (with B. Ouattara), *Journal of Economic Development*, 2018, 43(3): 119-142
27. 'Cost Efficiency of Insurance Firms in Ghana' (with D. M. Otoo and A. Baah-Nuakoh), *Managerial and Decision Economics*, 2018, 39(2): 213-225.
28. 'Corruption, Institutions and Capital Flight: Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa' (with E. Osei-Assibey and K. Domfeh), *Journal of Economic Studies*, 2018, 45(1):59-76.
29. '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.
30. '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.
31. 'Paying for education among households in Ghana: Is there any role for household resources and contextual effects?' (with A. M. Iddrisu and P. Quartey), *International Journal of Development Issues*, 2017, 16(2): 214-226.
32. 'Unmasking the factors behind income inequalities in Ghana' (with W. Ohemeng), *International Journal of Social Economics*, 2017, 44(7): 884-899.
33. '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
34. 'Sources of retirement income among formal sector workers in Ghana' (with P. Quartey and M. E. Kunawotor), *African Journal of Economic and Management Studies*, 2016, 7(4):366-378.
35. 'Market Efficiency and Price Discovery in Cocoa Markets' (with W. Ohemeng and B. Sjo), *Journal of African Business*, 2016, 17(2): 209-224.
36. 'Tax reforms and revenue mobilization in Ghana' (with W. Bekoe and S. Senahey), *Journal of Economic Studies*, 2016, 43(4): 522-534.
37. 'What drives national efficiency in sub-Saharan Africa?' (with B. Ouattara), *Economic Modelling*, 2015, 44(1): 171-179.

38. 'Examining the determinants of efficiency using a latent class stochastic frontier model' (with P. Quartey), *Cogent Economics and Finance*, 2015, 3:1124741.
39. 'Hedging Under Uncertainty: Price Risk Management for Cocoa Exporting Countries' (with W. Ohemeng and B. Sjo), *African Review of Economics and Finance*, 2015, 7(2):84-104.
40. 'TFP growth and its determinants: a model averaging approach' (with E. Moral-Benito and B. Ouattara), *Empirical Economics*, 2014, 47(1): 227-251.
41. '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/Background Notes/Blogs/Policy briefs:**

42. [Climbing the job ladder: A clearer picture of informal work.](#) UNU WIDER Policy brief, April 2023.
43. [Rethinking African debt and exploitation of natural resources.](#) African Business Magazine, March 2023.
44. [How can cities create better jobs in sub-Saharan Africa?](#) Foresight Africa 2023, Brookings Institution, February 2023
45. [What does 'promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth' mean for everyday life?](#) WIDERAngle, March 2022.
46. '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.
47. 'Unravelling Africa's raw material footprints and their drivers' (with A. Osei-Owusu and E. Towa). WIDER Working Paper 2022/115. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
48. '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.
49. 'Digital technology and productivity of informal enterprises: Empirical evidence from Nigeria' (with S. Owusu). WIDER Working Paper 2021/114. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
50. '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.
51. '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.

52. 'Ethnic diversity and informal work in Ghana' (with C.S. Awaworyi). WIDER Working Paper 2020/126. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
53. '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.
54. 'COVID-19 and the socioeconomic impact in Africa: The case of Ghana' (with S. Schotte). WIDER Background Note 2020/5. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
55. '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.
56. 'Informal work in sub-Saharan Africa: Dead end or steppingstone?' (S. Schotte and K. Sen). WIDER Working Paper 2019/107. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
57. 'Unmasking the factors behind Socio- economic inequalities in Ghana' (with W. Ohemeng). UNDP Discussion Paper, 2017, Accra.
58. '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).
59. '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.
60. '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

## **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