

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## PERSONAL DETAILS

Name : **Laston Petro Manja**  
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Languages : English (Fluent); Chichewa (Native)  
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## BRIEF PROFILE

I am an Economics PhD candidate; an active member of the [Development Economics@Michigan](#) community; and an [African Presidential Scholars alumnus](#) at the [University of Michigan - Ann Arbor](#). I hold a position of Lecturer in Economics (tenure track) at the [University of Malawi](#). I have previously worked with various organizations and international financial institutions, including the World Bank. I completed my MA in Economics and undergraduate studies at the University of Malawi. My current research interests are within issues of development and labor.

## EDUCATION ATTAINMENTS

2023 - Present : PhD in Economics  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
2016 to 2018 : Master of Arts (Economics)  
University of Malawi (UNIMA) – Chancellor College  
2011 to 2015 : Bachelor of Social Science (University of Malawi)

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Jan 2021 – Aug 2023 : Research Assistant: **University of Michigan, Ann Arbor**  
Feb 2020 - : Lecturer in Economics (Tenure): **University of Malawi**  
Jan 2019 – Dec 2020 : Education Analyst Consultant: **World Bank**  
Jan 2019 – Dec 2020 : Finance, Competitiveness & Innovation Consultant: **World Bank**  
Aug 2018 – Dec 2020 : Macroeconomics, Trade & Investment Consultant: **World Bank**  
2018 – 2019 : Research and Teaching Assistant: **University of Malawi**  
2016 to 2018 : Part-time Lecturer: **University of Malawi (Human Ecology & Statistics Departments)**

## TEACHING

University of Michigan :  
Fall 2024 – (Econ 102), U-M GSI  
Winter 2025 – (Econ 101), U-M GSI  
Fall 2025 – (Econ 102), U-M GSI  
Winter 2026 – (Econ 102), U-M Head GSI

University of Malawi (Undergraduate and Masters Lecturer) :

Monetary Economics (ECON 322), 2020, 2021, 2022 (Sem II)  
 History of Economic Thought (ECON 214), 2021(Sem I)  
 Labor Economics (ECON 413), 2021, 2022 (Sem I)  
 Development Economics (DEC 313), 2022 (Sem I)  
 The Malawi Economy (ECON 224), 2021, 2022 (Sem II)  
 Monitoring and Evaluation (DEC 423), 2022 (Sem II)

Advanced Macroeconomics (ECON 620), 2021, 2022, 2023

## AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2022 : University of Michigan African Presidential Scholars (UMAPS) Program  
*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA*

2018 : World Bank Internship (for top of the class from UNIMA's graduate school)  
*Lilongwe, Malawi*

2016 : AERC-CMAP Joint Facility for Electives Scholarship  
*Kenyan School of Monetary Studies, Nairobi, Kenya*

2011-2015 : 1. University of Malawi's (Chancellor College) Deans' list awards (Multiple)  
 : 2. Government of Malawi National Merit Scholarship  
*Undergraduate Studies, University of Malawi, Zomba, Malawi*

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Selected Work in Progress

1. Colonizer identity and economic development: Evidence from the "Scramble for Africa" (joint with Thomas Lloyd), November 2025.
2. School Finance, Administrative Capacity, and Resilience in Malawi

### Select Peer-Reviewed (Pre-PhD) Journal Articles

1. Manja, L. P., Zingwe, D. E., & Kamangila, A. E. (2025). Smallholder farming commercialization and food security in Malawi: do land rights and intrahousehold bargaining power matter?. *Agriculture & Food Security*, 14(1), 2. Available [here](#)
2. Tembo, D., Manja, L. P., & Joshua, M. K. (2025). Faith and food in rural Malawi: an investigation into the sociocultural determinants of household food security. *Food, Culture & Society*, 28(4), 1055-1083. Available [here](#)
3. Manja, L. P., & Badjie, I. A. (2023). Does household welfare change with finance access? The case of women and the youth in The Gambia. *Review of Development Economics*, 1–41. Available [here](#).
4. Chirwa, G.C., Manja, L.P., Chasukwa, M., Gunde, A., Dulani, B., Kayuni, H. & Chinsinga, B. (2023). Assessing the relationship between digital divide and citizens' political participation in Africa. *Development Southern Africa*, Available [here](#).
5. Zingwe, D.E., Banda, A.E. & Manja, L.P. (2023). The effects of remittances on household food nutrition security in the context of multiple shocks in Malawi, *Cogent Food & Agriculture*, 9:1. Available [here](#).
6. Salima, W., Manja, L.P., Chiwaula, L.S. & Chirwa, G.C. (2023). The impact of credit access on household food security in Malawi. *Journal of Agriculture and Food Research*, 11. Available [here](#).
7. Manja, L.P., & Badjie, I.A. (2022). The Welfare Effects of Formal and Informal Financial Access in the Gambia: A Comparative Assessment. *SAGE Open*. Available [here](#).
8. Manja, L.P., Silumbu, E.B.D. & Chaweza, R.D.C. (2022). Determinants of Demand for International Reserves in the SADC Region. *African Review of Economics and Finance*, 1-28. Available [here](#).
9. Kambewa, P., Khangamwa, L., Masanjala, W., Chaweza, R. & Manja, L.P. (2022). The Impact of Ill-Health on Welfare of Rural Agricultural Households of Teuka Village in Zomba District, Malawi: An Application of the Individual Household Modelling Approach. *Malawi Journal of Economics*, 3(1): 1-13.
10. Zingwe, D.E., Manja, L.P. & Chirwa, E.W. (2021). The Effects of Engendered Intra-household Power Dynamics on Household Food Security and Nutrition in Malawi. *Journal of Gender Studies*, DOI: 10.1080/09589236.2021.1940110. Available [here](#).
11. Al-Hanawi, M.K., Chirwa, G.C., Kamninga T.M. & Manja L.P. (2020). Effects of Financial Inclusion on Access to Emergency Funds for Healthcare in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. *Journal of Multidisciplinary Healthcare*, 2020(13): 1157—1167. Available [here](#).

## Working Papers

1. **Manja, L.P.** (2022). Payment Delays for Cash Transfers: The Role of Subsistence Constraints. University of Michigan African Presidential Scholars Fellowship Working Paper. Available [here](#).
2. **Manja, L.P & Isatou A. Badjie.** (2022). The Impacts of Access to Finance on Household Welfare - A Mixed Methods Approach for Women and the Youth in The Gambia. African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) Working Paper. Available [here](#). Published paper available [here](#).

## GRANTS

1. Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant (2026)
2. **Co-Grantee:** U-M ISR - Marshall Weinberg Fellowship in Population, Development and Climate Change (2026)
3. **Co-Grantee:** U-M ASC Support for Student Research and Internships in Africa (2026)
4. **Co-Grantee:** AERC “Inclusive Finance for Fragile and Post-Conflict States in Africa” Project. Conducting study on “The Impacts of Formal and Informal Access to Finance on Household Welfare: The Case of Women and the Youth in The Gambia” (2021).
5. **Co-Grantee:** IFPRI’s “Enhancing the impact of agricultural extension in Malawi” project. Conducting study on “Agricultural Extension and Technical Efficiency for Malawian Smallholder Farmers” (2019).
6. **Co-Grantee:** AERC AFPON project. Study on “A Comparative Assessment of the Impacts of Malawi Farm Input Subsidy and Irrigation Policies on Child Nutrition Status” (2019).

## SKILLS AND ABILITIES

- Statistical: Stata | R | Julia | Python | eViews | Nvivo | CsPro | SPSS.
- Administrative: LaTeX | JabRef | Git | Microsoft Office Suite | Project Management | Project Administration.
- Survey Design: SurveyCTO | ODK | World Bank CAPI/CAWI
- Proposal writing, Data Collection, Data Analysis and Report Writing, Research, Monitoring and Evaluation