John Tengatenga

The Ohio State University, 154 N. Oval Mall, Columbus, OH, 43210
tengatenga.1@osu.edu • Google Scholar • tengatenga.github.io

Research interests

Comparative politics, urban politics, political economy of development, public opinion, corruption, experimental methods, African politics, and survey research.

Education

2022 – Present **The Ohio State University** – Columbus, Ohio
PhD candidate in Political Science (Comparative Politics & Political Methodology)
Minor in Political Psychology

2025 **The Ohio State University** – Columbus, Ohio
MA in Political Science

2018 **Miami University** – Oxford, Ohio
MA in International Relations

2017 **Michigan State University** – East Lansing, Michigan
BA in International Relations
Minor in Environmental Studies and Sustainability (ESS)

Publications

2021 Chirwa, G., Dulani, B., Sithole, L., Chunga, J., Alfonso, W., & **Tengatenga, J**. (2021). Malawi at the Crossroads: Does the fear of contracting COVID-19 affect the propensity to vote. *European Journal of Development Research*, 34(1): 409-431.

2020 Soyiyo, S., **Tengatenga, J**., & Mosiwa, B. (2020). The Fear of Economic Impacts of COVID-19 and Public Response to Lockdown Measures in Malawi. *Journal of Public Administration*, 55(3): 538-548.

2020 Dulani, B., & **Tengatenga, J**. (2020). Big Man Rule in Africa: Are Africans Getting the Leadership they want? *The African Review*, 46(2):275-291.

Grants, Honors, and Awards

Ohio State University

2026 Mershon Center for International Security Studies Research Grant ($1.4k)
2025 Ohio State Department of Political Science Research Grant ($2k)
2025 Institute for Humane Studies Research Grant ($2.7k)
2025 Mershon Center for International Security Studies Research Grant ($6.5k)
2022 University Fellowship (Tuition and stipend of $30k)

Miami University

2017-2018 Graduate Assistantship (Tuition and stipend of $25k)

Michigan State University

2017 Transformative Leadership Award, MasterCard Scholars Foundation
2013 – 2017 MasterCard Foundation Scholarship
2016 MasterCard Foundation Travel Grant ($3k)
2015 James Madison College Summer Travel Award 2016 ($1k)
2015 MasterCard Foundation Summer Award ($3k)

Teaching experience

Ohio State University

Instructor of Record

Political Violence (UG), Autumn 2025, Spring 2026

Teaching Assistant

Politics of Health (UG)
for Dr. Vladimir Kogan, Spring 2025

The Politics of Legal Decision Making (UG)
for Dr. Arvind Krishnamurthy, Autumn 2024

Politics of Health (UG)
for Dr. Vladimir Kogan, Spring 2024

Politics of Development in the Developing World (UG)
for Dr. Pierskalla, Autumn 2023

Miami University

World Politics (UG)
for Dr. Ashley Streat, Spring 2018

Introduction to Comparative Politics (UG)
for Dr. Venlin Ganev, Fall 2017

2018 – 2020 **University of Malawi, Chancellor College** – Zomba
Part-time Lecturer

Talks and Conferences

2026 **International Studies Association (ISA)**
"Informal Urban Expansion and Public Goods Provision in Malawi"
Columbus, Ohio

2025 **African Studies Association (ASA)**
"Bottom-Up Urbanization and Public Goods Provision in Informal Urban Settlements in Malawi"
Atlanta, Georgia

2025 **Working Group on African Political Economy (WGAPE)**
"Block Leaders, Informal Urban Expansion and Collective Action in Urban Malawi"
Hosted at the Ohio State University

2025 **Comparative Politics Workshop**
"Internal Self-Provision of Public Goods in Urban Malawi"
Department of Political Science, OSU

Research experience

2021 – 2022 **Baseline Evaluations of USAID's Development Food Security Activity (DFSA) in Malawi**
Research Associate for Dr. Lasse Brune, Prof. Dean Karlan and Prof. Craig McIntosh

2020 **Governance and Pre-Election Survey** - IPOR Malawi
Research Manager

2020 **GLD-IPOR COVID-19 Surveys** - Malawi
Data Manager

2019 **Local Governance Perception Index (2019)** - Malawi
Data Manager

Skills

Programming languages & Software
R, R Markdown, STATA, LaTeX, Beamer, GitHub, Qualtrics, Survey CTO/ODK

Languages
Chichewa (native), and English (fluent)