maja.marcus@uni-heidelberg.de www.maja-marcus.com

Dr. Maja E. Marcus

Professional Profile

I am an economist specialized in global health, with a focus on improving equitable health system access for chronic diseases and healthy aging. My research centers on how health systems and individuals adapt to population aging and the global rise of chronic diseases. In this, my academic profile comprises i) high-impact, large-scale, interdisciplinary projects – providing critical insights into the global state of health care, aging, and health inequities; and ii) evidence-based impact evaluations of health interventions – via experimental, quasi-experimental, and modelling methods.

Academic Positions

2026 – Present	Head of "Global Aging" Research Working Group Heidelberg Institute of Global Health, Heidelberg University
2024 – 2025	DAAD PRIME Postdoctoral Research Fellow Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin
2022 – 2024	Postdoctoral Research Fellow Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital
2017 – 2022	Research Fellow and PhD Candidate Chair of Development Economics & Centre for Modern Indian Studies, University of Goettingen
2020	Visiting Research Scholar Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies

Education

2017 – 2022	Dr. rer. pol. (*summa cum laude*) *"Access to Care for Cardiometabolic Diseases in Low- and Middle-Income Countries"* Prof. S. Vollmer, Chair of Development Economics, University of Goettingen
2014 – 2017	M.A. Development Economics University of Goettingen, Germany
2011 – 2014	B.Sc. Economics University of Bonn, Germany

Leave of Absence

04/2021 – 11/2021	Maternity leave

Lead and Senior Author Publications

* Equal contribution / °Joint first authorship publications / # Joint senior authorship publications

1. Sulola MA, Sibai AM, Damasceno A, Issanov A, Sarria-Santamera A, Orazumbekova B, Norov B, Bicaba B, Houehanou C, Guwatudde D, Kagaruki GB, Gathecha G, Jorgensen JA, Mwangi KJ, Agoudavi K, Sturua L, Mayige MT, Gurung M, Hwalla N, Lunet N, Mwalim O, McClure RW, Quesnel-crooks S, Bahendeka S, Atun R, Bärnighausen T, Davies J, Flood D, Geldsetzer P, Jaacks L, Manne-Goehler J, Theilmann M, Vollmer S[#], **Marcus ME**[#] (2025): Patterns of Traditional Medicine use for the treatment of Hypertension, Diabetes Mellitus, and High Cholesterol in 71 surveys. **Bulletin of the World Health Organization**
2. Marcus ME, Zhang E, Hove J, Jordan HC, Bärnighausen T, Tollman S, Kahn K, Rohr JK, Maughan-Brown B, Manne-Goehler J (2025): Left behind? A longitudinal analysis of need for PrEP counselling among middle-aged and older adults in South Africa. **AIDS**
3. Marcus ME°, Reuter A°, Rogge L°, Diba F, Marthoenis, Vollmer S (2025): Hypertension and diabetes screening uptake in adults aged 40–70 in Indonesia: a knowledge, attitudes, and practices study. **BMC Global and Public Health**
4. *Marcus ME, Reuter A, Rogge L, Vollmer S (2024): The Effect of SMS Reminders on Health Screening Uptake: A Randomized Experiment in Indonesia. **Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization**
5. Marcus ME°, Mahlalela N°, Drame ND, Rohr JK, Vollmer S, Tollman S, Berkman L, Kahn K, Gómez-Olivé FX, Manne-Goehler J, Bärnighausen T (2023): Home-based HIV testing strategies for middle-aged and older adults in rural South Africa: a randomized controlled trial. **AIDS**
6. Marcus ME, Manne-Goehler J, Theilmann M, Farzadfar F, Moghaddam SS, Keykhaei M, Hajebi A, Tschida S, Lemp JM, Aryal KK, Dunn M, Househanou C, Silver B, Rohloff P, Atun R, Bärnighausen TW, Geldsetzer P, Ramirez-Zea M, Chopra V, Heisler M, Davies JI, Huffman MD, Vollmer S, Flood D (2022): Use of Statins for the prevention of cardiovascular disease in 41 low-income and middle-income countries: a cross-sectional study of nationally representative, individual-level data. **The Lancet Global Health**
7. Marcus ME, Ebert C, Geldsetzer P, Theilmann M, Bicaba BW, Andall-Brereton G, Bovet P, Farzadfar F, Gurung MS, Houehanou C, Malekpour MR, Martins JS, Moghaddam SS, Mohammadi E, Norov B, Quesnel-Crooks S, Wong-McClure R, Davies JI, Hlatky MA, Atun R, Bärnighausen TW, Jaacks LM, Manne-Goehler J, Vollmer S (2021): Unmet Need for Hypercholesterolemia Care in 35 Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Cross-sectional Study of Nationally-representative Surveys. **PLOS Medicine**
8. *Chavarría E, Diba F, Marcus ME, Marthoenis, Reuter A, Rogge L, Vollmer S (2021): Knowing versus Doing: Protective Health Behavior against COVID-19 in Indonesia. **Journal of Development Studies**

Selected Further Peer-Reviewed Publications

9. Global Health and Population Project on Access to Care for Cardiometabolic Diseases Collaborators (2026): Attainment of global diabetes targets in 2021: a pooled analysis of individual-level data from national surveys in 100 low-income, middle-income, and high-income countries. **The Lancet Global Health**
10. Yoo SGK, Teufel F, Theilmann M, Si Y, Toure EA, Aryal K, Bärnighausen T, Bait A, Barreto M, Bovet P, Brant LCC, Cuschieri S, Damasceno A, Farzadfar F, Fawwad A, Geldsetzer P, Hambleton IR, Houehanou C, Howitt C, J Rgensen J, González-Rivas JP, Labadarios D, **Marcus M**, Martins J, Mwalim O, Nieto-Martínez R, Odili AN, Orazumbekova B, Perman G, Quesnel-Crooks S, Moghaddam SS, Sewpal R, Sousa-Uva M, Sulola MA, Venkataraman K, Vollmer S, Xueling S, Atun R, Banegas JR, Franco JVA, Arnott C, Chandiwana N, Huffman MD, Davies J, Ali MK, Flood D, Manne-Goehler J (2026): GLP-1 receptor agonists for obesity: eligibility across 99 countries. **Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol**
11. Geldsetzer P, Tisdale RL, Stehr L, Michalik F, Lemp J, Aryal KK, Damasceno A, Houehanou C, Jørgensen JMA, Lunet N, Mayige M, Moghaddam SS, Mwangi KJ, Bommer C, **Marcus ME**, Theilmann M, Ebert C, Atun R, Davies JI, Flood D, Manne-Goehler J, Seiglie J, Bärnighausen T & Vollmer S (2024): The prevalence of cardiovascular disease risk factors among adults living in extreme poverty. **Nature Human Behavior**
12. Diallo AO, **Marcus ME**, Flood D, Theilmann M, Rahim NE, et al. (2024): Multiple cardiovascular risk factor care in 55 low- and middle-income countries: A cross-sectional analysis of nationally-representative, individual-level data from 280,783 adults. **PLOS Global Public Health**

Selected Further Peer-Reviewed Publications ctd.

13. Stein DT, Reitsma MB, Geldsetzer P, Agoudavi K, Aryal KK, Bahendeka S, Brant LC, Farzadfar F, Gurung MS, Guwatudde D, Houehanou YCN, Malta DC, Martins JS, Moghaddam SS, Mwangi KJ, Norov B, Sturua L, Zhumadilov Z, Bärnighausen T, Davies JI, Flood D, **Marcus ME**, Theilmann M, Vollmer S, Manne-Goehler J, Atun R, Sudharsanan N, Verguet S (2024): Hypertension care cascades and reducing inequities in cardiovascular disease in low- and middle-income countries. **Nature Medicine**
14. Gregg, Edward W., James Buckley, Mohammed K. Ali, Justine Davies, David Flood, Roopa Mehta, Ben Griffiths, …, **Marcus ME**, et al. (2023): Improving health outcomes of people with diabetes: target setting for the WHO Global Diabetes Compact. **The Lancet**
15. Rahim NE, Flood D, **Marcus ME**, Theilmann M, Agoudavi K, Aryal K, Aung TN, Bahendeka S, Bicaba B, Bovet P, Diallo AO, Farzadfar F, Gathecha G, Guwatudde D, Houehanou C, Houinato D, Hwalla N, Jorgensen J, Kagaruki G, Karki K, Larijani B, Mayige M, McClure RW, Saeedi Moghaddam S, Mwallim O, Mwangi KJ, Rahimi S, Sarkar S, Sibai AM, Sturua L, Tsabedze L, Wesseh C, Geldsetzer P, Atun R, Vollmer S, Bärnighausen T, Davies J, Ali MK, Seiglie JA, Manne-Goehler J (2023): Diabetes prevention in 44 low- and middle-income countries: a cross-sectional analysis of nationally representative, individual-level data in 145,739 adults. **Lancet Global Health**
16. Ochmann S, von Polenz I, **Marcus ME**, Theilmann M, Flood D, Agoudavi K, Aryal KK, Bahendeka S, Bicaba B, Bovet P, Campos Caldeira Brant L, Carvalho Malta D, Damasceno A, Farzadfar F, Gathecha G, Ghanbari A, Gurung M, Guwatudde D, Houehanou C, Houinato D, Hwalla N, Jorgensen JA, Karki KB, Lunet N, Martins J, Mayige M, Moghaddam SS, Mwalim O, Mwangi KJ, Norov B, Quesnel-Crooks S, Rezaei N, Sibai AM, Sturua L, Tsabedze L, Wong-McClure R, Davies J, Geldsetzer P, Bärnighausen T, Atun R, Manne-Goehler J, Vollmer S (2023): Diagnostic testing for hypertension, diabetes, and hypercholesterolaemia in low-income and middle-income countries: a cross-sectional study of data for 994 185 individuals from 57 nationally representative surveys. **The Lancet Global Health**
17. Zhu JZ, Manne-Goehler J, Agarwal A, Bahendeka SK, Damasceno A, **Marcus ME**, Moghaddam SS, Vollmer S, Huffman MD, Flood D (2023): Medication Use for Cardiovascular Disease Prevention in 40 Low- and Middle-Income Countries. **Journal of the American College of Cardiology**
18. Manne-Goehler J, Theilmann M, Flood D, **Marcus ME**, Andall-Brereton G, et al. (2022): Data Resource Profile: The Global Health and Population Project on Access to Care for Cardiometabolic diseases (HPACC). **International Journal of Epidemiology**
19. Basu S, Flood D, Geldsetzer P, Theilmann M, **Marcus ME**, Ebert C, Mayige M, Wong-McClure R, Farzadfar F, Moghaddam SS, Agoudavi K, Norov B, Houehanou C, Andall-Brereton G, Gurung M, Brian G, Bovet P, Martins J, Atun R, Bärnighausen T, Vollmer S, Manne-Goehler J, Davies J (2021): Estimated impact of increased diagnosis, treatment, and control of diabetes mellitus among LMICs: A microsimulation model. **The Lancet Global Health**
20. Seiglie JA, **Marcus ME**, Ebert C, Prodromidis N, Geldsetzer P, Theilmann M, Agoudavi K, Andall-Brereton G, Aryal KK, Bicaba BW, Bovet P, Brian G, Dorobantu M, Gathecha G, Singh Gurung M, Guwatudde D, Msaidié M, Houehanou C, Houinato D, Jorgensen JMA, Kagaruki GB, Karki KB, Labadarios D, Martins JS, Mayige MT, McClure RW, Mwangi JK, Mwalim O, Norov B, Quesnel-Crooks S, Silver BK, Sturua L, Tsabedze L, Stanford Wesseh C, Stokes A, Atun R, Davies JI, Vollmer S, Bärnighausen TW, Jaacks LM, Meigs JB, Wexler DJ, Manne-Goehler J (2020): Diabetes Prevalence and Its Relationship With Education, Wealth, and BMI in Twenty-Nine Low- and Middle-Income Countries. **Diabetes Care**, Volume 43, Issue 2
21. Geldsetzer P, Manne-Goehler J**, Marcus ME**, Ebert C, Zhumadilov Z, Wesseh CS, Tsabedze L, Supiyev A, Sturua L, Silver BK, Sibai AM, Quesnel-Crooks S, Norov B, Mwangi JK, Mwalim O, McClure RW, Mayige MT, Martins JS, Lunet N, Labadarios D, Karki KB, Kagaruki GB, Jorgensen JMA, Hwalla NC, Houinato D, Houehanou C, Msaidié M, Guwatudde D, Gurung MS, Gathecha G, Dorobantu M, Damasceno A, Bovet P, Bicaba BW, Aryal KA, Andall-Brereton G, Agoudavi K, Stokes A, Davies JI, Bärnighausen T, Atun R, Vollmer S, Jaacks LM (2019): The state of hypertension care in 44 low- and middle-income countries: a cross-sectional study of individual-level nationally representative data from 1.1 million adults. **The Lancet**, DOI: 10.1016/S0140-6736(19)30955-9
22. Lemp J, De Neve JW, Bussmann H, Chen S,Manne-Goehler J, Theilmann M, **Marcus ME**, Ebert C, Probst C, Tsabedze L, Sturua L, Kibachio JM, Moghaddam S, Martins JS, Houinato D, Houehanou C, Gurung MS, Gathecha G, Farzadfar F, Dryden-Peterson S, Davies JI, Atun R, Vollmer S, Bärnighausen T, Geldsetzer P (2020): Lifetime Prevalence of Cervical Cancer Screening in 55 Low- and Middle-Income Countries. **JAMA**, 324(15): 1532–1542

For full publication record, see ORCID.

Academic Collaborations

2017 – Present	Leadership Member of *"Global Health and Population Project on Access to Care for Cardiometabolic Diseases in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (HPACC)"* *Research consortium spanning 80+ researcher from 30+ countries and universities such as Harvard, Stanford, Birmingham, Heidelberg and more*
2017 – Present	Research Collaborator on Cardiovascular Disease in Aceh, Indonesia *Together with Syiah Kuala University, Indonesia, and the University of Goettingen, Germany*
2020 – Present	Research Collaborator on NIH-funded cohort study *"Health and Aging in Africa: Longitudinal Studies in South Africa (HAALSA)"* *Together with the Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies, USA, and the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa*
2024 – Present	Member of the IDF Atlas 11th Edition Committee's special interest group "Undiagnosed Diabetes" *International Diabetes Federation*

Scholarships, Awards & Grants

2026	American Diabetes Association's Young Investigator Award
2024 – 2025	DAAD PRIME Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Grant
2024	Brigham and Women's Hospital Postdoctoral Association Travel Award
2019 – 2022	Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation's doctoral scholarship grant
2017	German Academic Exchange Service's "Vortragsreise" travel grant

Teaching, Mentoring, and Committees Work

2019 – Present	Advisor and mentor to 5 students writing manuscripts for their bachelor, master or doctoral theses; supervising of 10+ research assistants
2017 – 2022	Equal Opportunities Officer Centre for Modern Indian Studies, University of Goettingen
Winter Term 18/19	Master's Course "Poverty and Inequality" with Prof. Dr. Sebastian Vollmer and Dr. Janina Steinert
Summer Term 18	Master's Course "Essentials of Global Health" with Prof. Dr. Sebastian Vollmer
Winter Term 17/18	Master's Course "Quasi-Experiments in Development Economics" with Prof. Dr. Sebastian Vollmer and Cara Ebert

Ad hoc Reviewer

The Lancet;
PLOS Medicine;
BMC Public Health;
Journal of Health Economics;
PLOS Global Public Health;
European Journal of Health Economics
Journal of Epidemiology and Global Health;
International Journal of Epidemiology;

Selected Invited Seminars & Conference Presentations

2026 American Diabetes Association Scientific Session
"Trajectories in Diabetes Care: A Longitudinal Cohort Study from China, England, South Africa, and the United States." Oral presentation.

2026 European Association for the Study of Diabetes Annual Meeting
"Trajectories in Diabetes Care: A Longitudinal Cohort Study from China, England, South Africa, and the United States" E-Poster and Young Investigator Award.

2026 Mt. Hood Conference Health Economics and Simulation Modelling
"Trajectories in Diabetes Care: A Longitudinal Cohort Study from China, England, South Africa, and the United States." Oral presentation.

2025 IAS2025 Conference
"Barriers of HIV PrEP in Middle-Aged and Older Adults in South Africa." Poster Session.

2024 AIDS2024 Conference
"HIV PrEP Indication in Middle-Aged and Older Adults in South Africa." Poster Session.

2023 IHEA 2023 Congress, International Health Economics Association
"The Effect of SMS Reminders on Health Screening Uptake: A Randomized Experiment in Indonesia." Oral presentation.

2023 Harvard University Center for AIDS Research
"HIV PrEP Indication and Barriers of Use in Middle-Aged and Older Adults in South Africa" Oral presentation.

2023 ASSA 2023 Annual Meeting, American Economic Association
"The Effect of SMS Reminders on Health Screening Uptake: A Randomized Experiment in Indonesia." Poster Session.

2021 "World Class Professor 2021" Seminar, Syiah Kuala University, Indonesia; and "Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Non Communicable Diseases" International Seminar, Serambi Mekkah University, Indonesia
"Cardiovascular Diseases in LMICs: The Global State of Care"