

Acting Deputy Director Economics, Parliamentary Budget Office (South Africa)	September – November 2015
Economic Analyst, Parliamentary Budget Office	July 2014 – July 2016
Senior Researcher, Development Policy Research Unit (UCT)	April – June 2014
Lecturer, School of Economics, University of Cape Town	April 2010 – March 2014
Quantitative Research Assistant, Young Lives Project (University of Oxford)	September 2009 – March 2010
Public Policy Partnership Intern, Economic Analysis Unit, Department of Transport	January – December 2004

PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Project collaborator of the Institute for Ascertaining Scientific Consensus (IASC) at the University of Durham (PI: Peter Vickers).

Covid-19 Special Issue Managing Editor (2020/21) for *Scientific African* overseeing approximately 165 submissions handled by 19 guest editors across 5 subject areas.

Section Editor for Economics and Business, *Scientific African* (2019-present), handled 23 submissions to date.

Reviewer for: *South African Journal of Economics* (3), *Economic Research Southern Africa* (4), *Development Southern Africa* (5), *International Journal of Educational Development*, *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, *Journal of Contemporary African Studies* (2), *Economics and Human Biology*, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, *Education as Change*, *World Development Perspectives*, *Critical Arts*, *Development and Change* (3), *Review of Economics of the Household*, *International Migration*, *European Journal of Development Research*, *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*, *Routledge* collection on ‘The Positive and the Normative in Economic Thought’, *Bristol University Press*.

Invited member of the “Review of South African higher education” task team, *Council on Higher Education* (South Africa), 2013/14.

Expert Testimony

Provided analysis and affidavit as an expert witness for the Legal Resources Centre (LRC) and Lungelo Lethu Human Rights Foundation (LLHRF) on economic arguments relating to bank repossession and auction of properties in South Africa, 2017.

Provided analysis and affidavit as an expert witness for the Centre for Environmental Rights regarding the economic arguments relating to, and an economic impact analysis of, the Vele Colliery project in Mapungubwe, South Africa, 2011.

PUBLIC POLICY COMMENTARY

Authored numerous (50+) op-ed and comment pieces for a range of (mostly South African) publications on a variety of topics typically relating to public policy, economics or higher education. Second most-read contributor to *The Conversation* from University of Johannesburg since 2016 with 37 articles and more than 830,000 reads. An occasional columnist for *Handelsblatt* in 2020/21. Regularly invited to give commentary to South African radio, television and print media (private and public) on a range of public policy and public finance issues.

POLICY PUBLICATIONS/REPORTS

“Funding, Access and Success in Higher Education in South Africa”, research report prepared for the *Council on Higher Education*, 2024. (PI, co-authored with Branson and Kerr)

“Technical Paper: Implications of Budget Cuts for Socio-Economic Rights: The Case of Basic Education”, research report prepared for the *Financial and Fiscal Commission*, 2022. (PI, co-authored with Mahabir)

“May Report on Public Provision in South Africa: Education”, research report prepared for the Southern Centre for Inequality Studies, 2021. (co-authored with Mahabir)

“Public spending on schooling from apartheid to the present”, research report for *European Union-funded ‘Putting People in Parliament Project’*, 2021. (lead author, with Mahabir)

“Fiscal Oversight by Parliament and Provincial Legislatures”, [research report](#) for *European Union-funded ‘Putting People in Parliament Project’*, 2019.

“Why has Parliament not yet made a substantive amendment to the national Budget?”, [contribution](#) to “Review of the 5th Parliament”, *Parliamentary Monitoring Group*, 2018.

“Assessing the Performance of National Treasury’s Economic and Fiscal Forecasts”, report prepared by the *Parliamentary Budget Office of South Africa*, 2016. (lead author, with Amra, Ellse, Jantjies and Stiglingh)

“Report on the Sustainability of South Africa’s Social Grants System”, report prepared by the *Parliamentary Budget Office of South Africa* for the Standing Committee on Finance, 2016.

“Report on State-Owned Enterprises for the Standing Committee on Finance”, [report](#) prepared by the *Parliamentary Budget Office of South Africa*, 2015. (lead author, with Amra and Jantjies)

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Modules completed towards *Postgraduate Diploma in Research Supervision* (University of Johannesburg):

- 2018: Postgraduate research supervision
- 2020: Assessment of postgraduate research
Emerging issues in postgraduate supervision

ERSA Economic History Workshop, “Colonial data and economic history research in South Africa”, Johannesburg, 2-4 November 2011

Royal Economic Society Easter School in Econometrics, “Model Selection”, Oxford, 7-10 April 2008.

ERSA Workshop, “Corporate Control and the Theory of the Firm”, UKZN, 21-23 February 2007.

ERSA Decision Theory Workshop, University of Cape Town, 13-15 July 2006.

Trade and Industry Policy Strategies (TIPS)/UCT ‘Introduction to Computable General Equilibrium Modelling’ Course; WITS, 4-16 July 2004.

Trade and Industry Policy Strategies (TIPS) ‘Introduction to Economy-wide Policy Impact Analysis Course’: 11-15 March 2003.

SELECTED POLICY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT (2017-PRESENT)

Presentation to Parliament on the 2024 National Budget Fiscal Framework, 1 March 2024

Presentations to Parliament on the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement, 8 and 11 November 2023

Presentation to Parliament on the 2023 National Budget Fiscal Framework, 1 March 2023

Presentation to Parliament on the Climate Change Bill, 7 September 2022

Presentation to colloquium on “Institutional Autonomy of Universities” of the Higher Education, Science and Innovation committee of the Parliament of South Africa, 9 March 2022

Invited presentation to Parliament of South Africa workshop, “Ensuring Accountability in Public Expenditure through Effective Parliamentary Financial Oversight and Accountability”, 4-5 May 2021

Written submission and presentation to Portfolio Committee on Transport regarding the Economic Regulation of Transport Bill (with Muller, M, 2020)

Submission and presentation to Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature on the Eastern Cape Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Bill (B1-2020) in collaboration with Public Service Accountability Monitor (Rhodes University) as part of EU-funded PPIP project

Submitted brief comments to South African National Treasury on the Finance Minister’s Economics Policy Paper (2020)

Submission to Department of Higher Education and Training on Policy Framework to Address Gender-Based Violence in the Post-School Education and Training System (2019)

Written submission to Parliament’s Select Committee on Land and Mineral Resources regarding the Electronic Deeds Registration Bill (2019)

Submission and presentation to Gauteng Provincial Legislature Ad Hoc Committee on the draft GPL Money Bills Act (2019)

Invited presentation for Budget Justice Coalition prior to 2018 MTBPS (October 2018)

Written submission to Parliament of South Africa’s finance committees on the 2018 Budget

Capacity-building presentations for civil society organisations in advance of the 2018 Budget: “Overview of SA’s tax system and architecture” and “Parliament oversight and the Money Bills Act” (February 2018)

Written submissions and presentations to Parliament of South Africa's finance committees on amendments to the Money Bills Act (2017)

Invited presentation to panel discussion with head of the South African National Treasury's budget office at the *SPII and FES Colloquium on a Decent Standard of Living*, "Budgeting for progressive realisation of an adequate standard of living" (September 2017)

Written submission and presentation to Parliament of South Africa's finance committees on the 2017 Budget (with Mahabir)

SELECTED ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE AND EXPERIENCE

Selection panels: Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study Writing Fellowships (2019); South Africa-at-Large Rhodes Scholar Provincial Selection Panel (2018-2020); Commerce Faculty Representative on Exchange Programme Selection Panel (University of Cape Town, 2011-2012)

Member of School of Economics Higher Degrees Committee (University of Johannesburg, 2016-2021)

School of Economics representative (one of two) for Gender and Transformation (University of Johannesburg, 2020-2021)

Member of Faculty Decolonisation Committee (University of Johannesburg, 2017-2021)

Student advisor, School of Economics, University of Cape Town (2010-2012)

Undergraduate Microeconomics Committee member, University of Cape Town (2010-2012)

PROJECT GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS AND RELATED

PI for research grant from the Financial and Fiscal Commission (with Mahabir)	2022
IASH-SPSS Visiting Research Fellow, University of Edinburgh	2022
Book contract with Springer Academic Publishing	2019-2022
PI for research grant from Council on Higher Education (with Branson & Kerr)	2020-2024
University Capacity Development Grant: teaching buyout and conference travel	2019
Visiting Fellow at the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study (JIAS)	2019-2020
PI for URC grant for research on South African property markets (with Brophy, Kerr, Pholo Bala)	2018-2021
Co-applicant on EU Grant: Enhancing CSO Participation in Legislatures' Public Finance Oversight Processes	2018-2021
University Research Committee PhD sabbatical award	2013-2014
University of Cape Town Economics 'PhD Internship'	2010-2013
Rhodes Scholarship for study at University of Oxford	2007-2009
UCT University Research Associate Award	2007
NRF Prestigious Masters Scholarship	2006-2007
Various conference travel grants (Rome, Canterbury, New York and Lisbon)	2006-2013
Woodrow Wilson Public Policy Partnership Fellow	2002-2007
Natale Labia Award: Best UCT Economics Honours Student	2003

TEACHING

Course	Level	Class	Institution	Year(s)	Short description
Cooperation and Competition (summer term)	2 nd year lectures	100 – 150	University of Cape Town	2006/7	Core course taught over two intensive weeks during Summer Term. Introductory and applied game theory. Assessed through problem sets and short questions.
Microeconomics (summer term)	2 nd year lectures	100 – 150	University of Cape Town	2006/7	Core course taught over two intensive weeks during Summer Term. Standard neoclassical microeconomics at second year level. Assessed through problem sets and short questions.
Quantitative Methods	3 rd year lectures	350+	University of Cape Town	2010	Core course on mathematical optimisation methods and econometrics. I taught the first five weeks on mathematical methods.
History of Economic Thought	3 rd year lectures	50 - 100	University of Cape Town	2011–2013	Taught three weeks per year. Developed content, focusing on the Marginalists, Neoclassical Economics, Institutional Economics and some Behavioural Economics. Assessed through essays.
Public Sector Economics	3 rd year lectures	100 - 150	University of Cape Town	2011–2013	Elective course. Public economics for undergraduates with a focus on South Africa and applied issues. Taught half the course and convened it in 2012 and 2013.
Applied Microeconomic Issues for Industrial Policy	Master's lectures and seminars	+/-25	University of Johannesburg	2016–2021	A semester core Master's course on the MPhil Industrial Policy. I taught and convened the full course and developed the material.
Advanced Practice of Industrial Policy	Master's seminars	+/-5	University of Johannesburg	2017–2021	A semester Master's elective on the MPhil Industrial Policy. I taught and convened the course and developed the material, incorporating UNIDO's EQuIP initiative.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- “Randomised trials as a dead-end for African development”, *Africa Development*, [49\(1\): 45-70](#), 2024.
- “Is economics credible? A critical appraisal of three examples from microeconomics”, *Journal of Economic Methodology*, [30\(2\): 157-175](#), 2023.
- “Econometric methods and Reichenbach’s principle”, *Synthese*, [200\(3\): 1-21](#), 2022.
- “Evidence for a YETI? A cautionary tale from South Africa’s youth employment tax incentive”, *Development and Change*, [52\(6\): 1301-1342](#), 2021.
- “Masks, mechanisms and Covid-19: the limitations of randomized trials in pandemic policymaking”, *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences Topical Collection “Seeing Clearly Through COVID-19: Current and future questions for the history and philosophy of the life sciences”*, [43\(2\): 1-5](#), 2021.
- “The dangers of performative scientism as the alternative to antiscientific policymaking: A critical, preliminary assessment of South Africa’s Covid-19 response and its consequences”, *World Development*, [140](#), 2021.
- “The implications of a fundamental contradiction in advocating randomized trials for policy”, *World Development* (Symposium on Experimental Approaches in Development and Poverty Alleviation), [127](#), 2020.
- “Reply to “Research incentives and research output”: a caution on quantity incentives and the use of economic models for higher education policy”, *Higher Education*, [78\(3\): 1129-1138](#), 2019.
- “The economics and philosophy of the brain drain: A critical perspective from the periphery”, *South African Journal of Philosophy* (special issue on brain drain), [36\(1\): 115-132](#), 2017.
- “Academics as rent seekers: distorted incentives in higher education, with reference to the South African case”, *International Journal of Educational Development*, [52: 58-67](#), 2017.
- “Interaction and external validity: obstacles to the policy relevance of randomized evaluations”, *World Bank Economic Review* (conference special issue), [29\(1\): S217-S225](#), 2015.
- “The transmission of longevity across generations: The case of the settler Cape Colony”, *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, [35: 105-119](#), 2014. (with Piraino, Cilliers and Fourie)
- “Another problem in the estimation of intergenerational mobility”, *Economics Letters*, [108\(3\): 291-295](#), 2010.

BOOKS

- “The Incentivised University: Scientific Revolutions, Policies, Consequences”, *Springer*, [2022](#).

BOOK CHAPTERS

- “Chapter 10: Why emphasis on randomised controlled trials is a flawed approach to evaluation for a more equitable society”, in *Equitable Evaluation: Voices from the Global South*, Masvaure, Chirau, Fish and Morkel (eds), *AOSIS*, 2024.
- “The Unacknowledged Normative Content of Randomised Control Trials in Economics and Its Dangers”, Chapter 9 in *The Positive and the Normative in Economic Thought*, Badei and Grivaux (eds). *Routledge*, [pp. 167-189](#), 2022.
- “Randomised trials in economics”, Chapter 5 in *The Modern Guide to Philosophy of Economics*, H. Kincaid and D. Ross (eds). *Edward Elgar*, [pp.90-126](#), 2021.
- “The Black Middle Class: The Challenges of Joining Two Economies”, chapter in *Making Mistakes, Righting Wrongs, Insights into Black Economic Empowerment*, Duma Gqubule, ed., Jonathan Ball and KMM Review Publishing, p.187-220, 2006.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

“What does an (South) African economics look like?”, [Proceedings of the 2017 Scholarship of Teaching and Learning \(SoTL\) in the South Conference](#), Johannesburg, 24-27 July, 2017.

BOOK REVIEWS

“Can the producers of policy analysis be trusted?”, review of *Public Policy in an Uncertain World* by Charles Manski, *Development Southern Africa*, [30\(4-5\)](#), 697-700, 2013.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

[Presented peer-reviewed submissions at over 50 conferences across 14 countries and four continents: full list available on request]

SUPERVISION

Honours dissertations to completion: six (University of Cape Town: 2011-2012)

Master's to completion: four (University of Johannesburg: 2017-2020)

SOFTWARE AND PROGRAMMING

Microsoft Word: used extensively for academic and policy writing, as well as technical reports

Microsoft Powerpoint: used extensively for academic presentations, policy presentations and presentations to legislatures

Microsoft Excel: used extensively for basic data analysis, data visualisation and basic modelling

STATA: learned in Master's studies and used extensively for multiple dissertations and research projects

LaTeX: learned in Master's studies and used for multiple dissertations, research projects and presentations

Python: completed *Coursera* ‘Python for Everybody’ programme in 2019 (modules include: data structures, access to web data and databases)

REFEREES

[Available on request]