

# RULOF P. BURGER, D.PHIL (OXON)

---

Economics Department  
CGW Schumann building  
Matieland, 7602  
South Africa

Phone: +27 (0)21 808 2328  
Email: rulof@sun.ac.za

---

## EDUCATION

### **D.PHIL (ECONOMICS): OXFORD UNIVERSITY (2007-2012)**

- Dissertation topic: Estimating the shape of the South African schooling earnings profile
- Supervisor: Francis Teal; Examiners: Steve Bond and Jan Willem Gunning
- Passed coursework with distinction

### **M.PHIL (ECONOMICS): CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY (2003-2004)**

- Passed with distinction

### **M.COMM (ECONOMICS): STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY (2002-2003)**

- Passed with distinction

### **B.COMM (HONS) IN ECONOMICS: STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY (2001-2002)**

- Passed with distinction
- Awarded S.A. Cloete Medal for best post-graduate student in Economics, and Financies & Tegniek prize for best Honours student in Economics

### **B.COMM (MATHEMATICS): STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY (1997-2000)**

---

## POSITIONS HELD

### **STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS (2003-PRESENT)**

- Associate professor: since July 2015
- Previously held positions as Senior lecturer (2007-2015), Lecturer (2004-2007), Junior lecturer (2003-2004), Student assistant (1999, 2001)

### **PREDICTIVE INSIGHTS (2018-PRESENT)**

- Predictive Insights is a machine learning product design studio (<https://www.predictiveinsights.co.za>)
- Founding director

### **OXFORD UNIVERSITY, THE CENTRE FOR STUDY OF AFRICAN ECONOMIES (2011-PRESENT)**

- Research associate

### **HARVARD UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS (2016)**

- Visiting scholar

### **UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS (2003, 2013)**

- Lectured courses in Economic Principles and Graduate Game Theory

### **OXFORD UNIVERSITY, MANSFIELD COLLEGE (2009)**

- Tutored undergraduate Labour Economics

### **ST CLARE'S COLLEGE, OXFORD (2008-2009)**

- Lectured Economic Principles and International Economics

### **SHORT-TERM CONTRACT RESEARCHER**

- The World Bank, Washington D.C. (2004, 2008, 2011, 2017)
- UNU-WIDER and SA National Treasury (2014)
- The Department of Trade and Industry, South Africa (2006, 2007)
- International Trade Commission of South Africa (2004, 2005, 2006)
- SBP, South Africa (2005)

- Bureau for Economic Research, South Africa (1999, 2005)
  - Development Bank of Southern Africa, South Africa (2004)
  - Western Cape Department of Community Safety, South Africa (2003)
- 

## PUBLICATIONS

- Abel M, Burger R.P., Piraino P. (Forthcoming) The Value of Reference Letters: Experimental Evidence from South Africa. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*.
- Abel M, Burger R.P., Carranza E, Piraino P. (2019) Bridging the Intention-Behavior Gap? The Effect of Plan-Making Prompts on Job Search and Employment. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 11(2): 1-19.
- Burger R., Burger, R.P. & Rossouw, L. (2019). An incentive-based and community health worker package intervention to improve early utilization of antenatal care: Evidence from a pilot randomised controlled trial. *Maternal and Child Health Journal* 23(5): 633-640.
- Burger, R. P. & Makaluza, N. (2018). Job-seeker entry into the two-tiered informal sector in South Africa. In F. Fourie (Ed.), *The South African Informal Sector: Creating jobs, reducing poverty*. Cape Town: HSRC Press.
- Burger, R. P. & McLaren, Z., (2017). An Econometric Method for Estimating Population Parameters from Non-Random Samples. *Health Economics: An application to clinical case finding*. *Health Economics* 26: 1110-1122.
- Burger, R. P., Coetzee, L.C., Kreuser, C.F., Rankin, N.A., (2017). Income and price elasticities of demand in South Africa: An application of the linear expenditure system. *South African Journal of Economics* 85(4): 491-514.
- Burger, R.P. & Teal, F.J. (2015). The effect of schooling on worker productivity: Evidence from a South African industry panel. *Journal of African Economies* 24(5): 629-644.
- Burger, R. P., Van der Berg, S. & Von Fintel, D. (2015). The unintended consequences of education policies on South African participation and unemployment. *South African Journal of Economics* 83(1): 74-100.
- Burger, R. P. & Von Fintel, D. (2014). Rising unemployment in a growing economy: a business cycle, generational and life-cycle perspective of post-transition South Africa's labour market. *Studies in Economic and Econometrics* 38(1): 35-64.
- Burger, R. P., & Du Plessis, S. (2013). A New Keynesian Phillips curve for South Africa. In P. Schaeffer & E. Kouassi (Eds.), *Econometric methods for analyzing economic development* (pp. 30-48). Hershey, Pa.: IGI Global.
- Burger, R. P., Burger, R., & Rossouw, L. (2012). The fertility transition in South Africa: A retrospective panel data analysis. *Development Southern Africa*, 29(5), 738-755.
- Burger, R. P., & Jafta, R. C. C. (2012). Affirmative action in South Africa: an empirical assessment of the impact on labour market outcomes. In G. Brown, A. Langer & F. Stewart (Eds.), *Affirmative action in plural societies* (pp. 80-99). Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave (Conflict, Inequality and Ethnicity).
- Black, P., Jafta, R. C. C., & Burger, R. P. (2010). Black economic empowerment. In S. Jones & R. W. Vivian (Eds.), *South Africa: Economy and policy 1990-2000* (pp. 494-513). Manchester: Manchester University Press.
- Von Fintel, D. P., & Burger, R. P. (2009). The South African labour market in the global financial crisis: recovering lost gains. In J. Hofmeyer (Ed.), *Economic Transformation Audit 2009: Recession and recovery* (pp. 34-42). Cape Town: African Minds / IJR.
- Burger, R., Burger, R. P., & Du Plessis, S. (2007). Assessing NEPAD as a growth strategy: A Bayesian Averaging of Classical Estimates approach to examining the robustness of competing explanations of slow growth in African countries. In S. H. Boko & D. Seck (Eds.), *NEPAD and the future of economic policy in Africa*. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press.
- Burger, R. P., & Yu, D. (2006). Wage trends in post-apartheid South Africa: Constructing an earnings series for South Africa from household survey data. *Labour Market Frontiers*, 8, 1-8.
- Burger, R. P. (2005). Labour market and employment: No gains yet for Africans from lower unemployment. In S. Brown (Ed.), *Economic Transformation Audit 2005: Conflict and governance*. Cape Town: UCT Press.
- Burger, R.P., & De Villiers, P. (2005). The Macroeconomic impact of HIV/AIDS in South Africa: A supply-side analysis. *Journal for Studies in Economics and Econometrics*, 29, 1-14.
- Burger, R. P., & Woolard, I. (2005). The state of the labour market in South Africa after the first decade of democracy. *Journal of Vocational Education and Training*, 57(4), 453-476.
- Burger, R. P. (2004). Changing dynamics of employment and unemployment: What drives the South African labour market? In S. Brown & A. Fölscher (Eds.), *Economic Transformation Audit 2004: Taking power in the economy*. Cape Town: UCT Press.
-

## PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

Burger, R. P., Klasen, S. & Zoch, A. Estimating income mobility when income is measured with error: the case of South Africa.

Burger, R.P., Piraino, P. & Zoch, A. Self-reported reservation wages in high-unemployment contexts.

---

## WORK IN PROGRESS

Burger, R., Burger, R. P. & Smith, A, Estimating the influence of universal coverage on health seeking behaviour.

Burger, R.P., Fourie, J., Cilliers, J. Intergenerational mobility estimates in the presence of measurement error.

Burger, R. P. & Kreuser, C.F., Unequal partners: the determinants and consequences of intra-household inequality in South Africa.

Burger, R.P. & Teal, F.J. Endogeneity, heterogeneity and sample selection: Estimating the shape of the schooling-earnings profile in the South African labour market.

Yu, D., Burger, R.P. & Rankin, N. South African employment trends: How reliable are the different data sources.

---

## UNPUBLISHED WORKING PAPERS

Van der Berg, S., & Burger, R. P. (2010). Teacher pay in South Africa. Stellenbosch University, Department of Economics.

Van der Berg, S., Burger, R., Burger, R. P., Louw, M., & Yu, D. (2006). Trends in poverty and inequality since the political transition. Stellenbosch Working Paper 10/2006. Stellenbosch University, Department of Economics.

Burger, R. P. & Jafta, R. C. C., (2006). Returns to race: Labour market discrimination in post-apartheid South Africa. Stellenbosch Working Paper 04/2006. Stellenbosch University, Department of Economics.

Burger, R. P., Burger, R., & Van der Berg, S. (2004). Emergent black affluence and social mobility. DPRU Working Paper 04/87.

Van der Berg, S., Burger, R. P., Leibbrandt, M., & Mlatsheni, C. (2002). Migration and the changing rural-urban interface in South Africa: What can we learn from census and survey data? Paper presented at the CSAE Conference, Oxford, UK.

---

## SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2017

Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE) Conference, Oxford, UK; Biennial Conference of the Economic Society of South Africa (ESSA), Grahamstown, South Africa; Stellenbosch University Economics department seminar, Stellenbosch, South Africa; University of Cape Town Economics department seminar, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

2016

World Bank Poverty Group, Washington D.C., USA; Yale School of Public Health, New Haven, USA; University of Michigan Labour seminar, Ann Arbor, USA; University of Arizona Economic History seminar, Tucson, USA; Department of Labour dissemination workshop, Pretoria, South Africa,

2015

Northeast University Development Consortium (NEUDC) Conference, Providence, USA; Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE) Conference, Oxford, UK; Stellenbosch University Economics department seminar, Stellenbosch, South Africa

2014

Micro-econometric Analysis of South African Data (MASA) conference, Durban, South Africa; Research Project on Employment, Income Distribution and Inclusive Growth (REDI) workshop on Understanding Inequality in South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa; DataFirst Data Quality Workshop, Cape Town, South Africa; Research on Socio-Economic Policy workshop (ReSEP), Stellenbosch, South Africa; University of KwaZulu-Natal Economics department seminar, Durban, South Africa; Brown bag lunch seminar, Stellenbosch, South Africa; Economics department seminar, Stellenbosch; University of Pretoria Economics department seminar, Pretoria, South Africa;

Research on Socio-Economic Policy (ReSEP) workshop on the Labour Market and Service Delivery, Stellenbosch, South Africa

2013

American Economic Association (AEA) Annual Conference, San Diego, United States; 8th IZA/World Bank Conference on Employment and Development, Bonn, Germany; Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE) Conference, Oxford, United Kingdom; Biennial Conference of the Economic Society of South Africa (ESSA), Bloemfontein, South Africa; Micro-econometric Analysis of South African Data (MASA) conference, Durban, South Africa; Research on Socio-Economic Policy (ReSEP) workshop, Stellenbosch, South Africa

2012

Micro-econometric Analysis of South African (MASA) Data conference, Durban, South Africa; University of Pretoria Economics department seminar, Pretoria, South Africa; University of Cape Town Economics department seminar, Cape Town, South Africa; Stellenbosch University Economics department seminar, Stellenbosch, South Africa

2011

Centre for the Study of African Economies Conference, Oxford, United Kingdom; Centre for the Study of African Economies internal seminar, Oxford, United Kingdom; University of Oxford Economics department Gorman Workshop, Oxford, United Kingdom; Biennial Conference of the Economic Society of South Africa (ESSA), Stellenbosch, South Africa; Micro-econometric Analysis of South African Data (MASA) conference, Durban, South Africa; Stellenbosch University Economics department seminar, Stellenbosch, South Africa; University of Stellenbosch Economic and Management Sciences Faculty research day, Stellenbosch, South Africa

---

## RESEARCH FUNDING AWARDED

IDRC funding awarded for research project on Future of Work in the Global South (Principal Investigator), 2019  
UNU-WIDER funding awarded for research project on Affirmative Action in South Africa (Principal Investigator), 2015

World Bank funding awarded for randomised control trial study of Skill Certification and Job Counseling (Principal Investigator), 2014

The Programme to Support Pro-poor Policy Development Phase II (PSPPD II) funding awarded by National Presidency and European Union for randomised control trial study of Job Counselling, Productivity Signals and Employment (Principal Investigator), 2014

Broadreach Healthcare funding for pilot study on Thula Baba Box maternal and infant health intervention (Principal Investigator), 2014

J-PAL Africa seed funding provided for pilot study on Thula Baba Box maternal and infant health intervention (Principal Investigator), 2014

Research Project on Employment, Income Distribution and Inclusive Growth (REDI) team grant for research on South African unemployment and employment (Team Leader), 2014

Research Project on Employment, Income Distribution and Inclusive Growth (REDI) team grant for research on South African income inequality (Team Member), 2014

Stellenbosch University Elite Research Grant awarded for research project on the causal effect of schooling investment on the productivity of South African workers (Principal Investigator), 2013

Collaborative Analysis for Labour Interventional Effectiveness (CALIE) funding awarded by J-PAL Africa for pilot study on Job counselling, productivity signals and employment, 2012

---

## AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

HB & MJ Thom award for sabbatical study, 2015

Oppenheimer Memorial Trust award for sabbatical study, 2015

Rector's award 2012-2015 (University of Stellenbosch)

Departmental teaching award 2003, 2005, 2006 (University of Stellenbosch)

Nominated for Golden Key Best lecturer award 2006, 2007 (University of Stellenbosch)

Awarded prize for best Master's student in Economics (University of Stellenbosch), 2003

Awarded Nedbank/Old Mutual Budget Speech Competition Cambridge Scholarship, 2002

Awarded Ernst and Ethel Eriksen Scholarship for Master's degree studies at University of Stellenbosch, 2002

S.A. Cloete Medal for best post-graduate student in Economics (University of Stellenbosch), 2002

Finansies & Tegniek prize for best Honours student in Economics (University of Stellenbosch), 2002

Merit bursaries from University of Stellenbosch, 1997, 2001-2

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Member of American Economic Association, Economic Society of South Africa and African Finance and Economics Association.

Referee for Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, World Development, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of International Development, Journal of African Economies, South African Journal of Economics, African Review of Economics and Finance, Journal for the Studies in Economics and Econometrics, South African Journal of Economic & Management Sciences, Acta Academica.

---

## PHD STUDENTS

- Dieter von Fintel (completed 2015)
- Marisa von Fintel (completed 2015)
- Hendrik von Broekhuizen (completed 2016)
- Asmus Zoch (completed 2017)
- Kholekile Malindi (completed 2019)
- Nwabisa Makaluza (completed 2019)
- Joel Gondwe (ongoing)
- Melt van Schoor (ongoing)