

PETER COURTNEY | *Curriculum Vitae*

Contact Information

Address: School of Business & Economics, De Boelelaan 1105, 1081 HV Amsterdam, Netherlands; Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, Stellenbosch Central, Stellenbosch, 7602, South Africa

Nationality: South African

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Research Interests

- **Primary fields:** Development Economics, Economics of Education, Economic History
- **Secondary fields:** Spatial Econometrics, Political Economy, Land Policy

Current Position

Joint PhD Candidate in Economics (by coursework and dissertation) Stellenbosch University & Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (Tinbergen Institute)	2022 – Present
Consultant Usawa Agenda, a Kenya-based Gates Foundation Grantee	2024 – Present
Consultant Bureau of Economic Research, Stellenbosch University	2024 – Present

Education

Recognised Student (Visiting DPhil), Public Policy Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford <i>Host:</i> Prof. Clare Leaver	Jan 2026 – Mar 2026
MSc: Development Studies – Economics (Cum Laude) Wageningen University and Research, Netherlands <i>Dissertation:</i> “Invisible Borders – Persisting Scars: How the Apartheid Homelands Define Contemporary South Africa”	Sep 2019 – Sep 2021
Bachelor of Commerce: Honours in Economics University of Cape Town	Jan 2018 – Nov 2018
Bachelor of Social Science: Philosophy, Politics & Economics (with distinction in each major) University of Cape Town	Jan 2015 – Nov 2017

Grants and Awards

C. Lowell Harriss Dissertation Fellowship Lincoln Institute of Land Policy (<i>Research on property valuation and taxation</i>)	2025
Emergent Ventures Grant Mercatus Centre, George Mason University (<i>Machine Learning Land Valuation in Cape Town</i>)	2022
Oppenheimer Memorial Trust Scholarship Comprehensive doctoral funding	2022
Orange Knowledge Programme Fellow Fully funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs for MSc studies in the Netherlands <i>Grant values available upon request</i>	2019 – 2021

Research Experience

Research Assistant Roy Havemann, <i>How to Fix a Country</i> (Jonathan Ball Publishers)	2023 – 2024
Research Associate JPAL Africa, Shakuma Violence Prevention Programme (PI: Julian Jamison)	May 2022 – Dec 2022
Agricultural Economics Intern United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation	Sep 2020 – Aug 2021
Research Assistant University of Cape Town School of Economics	Jun 2020 – Oct 2020
Consultant Research Economist & Educational Video Script Writer Money & Macro	Aug 2021 – Aug 2022

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant
Economics of Education (871), Stellenbosch University
Designed & taught Stata-based assignments
University Tutor
Philosophy, Politics, & Economics, University of Cape Town

Jul 2022 – Dec 2022

Jan 2018 – Nov 2018

Publications

Peer-reviewed Book Chapters

- **Mohohlwane, N., Mtsatse, N., & Courtney, P. (2023).** *Bridging the 20-year Literacy Divide: African Language Reading Progress in South Africa*. In *Tracking Changes in South African Reading Literacy Achievement: A Developing Context Perspective*, Brill Publishers.
- **Spaull, N., Courtney, P., & Qvist, J. (2022).** *Mathematical Stunting in South Africa: An Analysis of Grade 5 Mathematics Outcomes in TIMSS 2015 and 2019*. In *Early Grade Mathematics in South Africa* (Eds. Venkat, H. & Roberts, N.), Oxford University Press.

Working Papers and Reports

- **Courtney, P. (2025).** *Education and Growth – Some Ideas on How to Improve Results*. Bureau for Economic Research.
- **Courtney, P. (2024).** *Education, Inclusive Growth, and Fiscal Consolidation*. UNU-WIDER Working Paper.
- **Donaldson, A. R., Guma, N., McKenna, L., van Reenen, N., Ryan, G., Courtney, P., & Janari, S. (2024).** *Inclusive Development in South Africa: Elements of a Structural Reform Strategy*.

Thesis

- **Courtney, P. (2021).** *Invisible Borders – Persisting Scars: How the Apartheid Homelands Define Contemporary South Africa*. MSc Thesis, Wageningen University and Research.

Conferences and Workshops

Oxford Economics September Summer School University of Oxford, United Kingdom <i>Treatment Effects: Beyond the Basics (Econometrics, Morning Sessions); Machine Learning (Econometrics, Afternoon Sessions)</i>	2024
Third Annual UP-SU PhD Workshop in Economics Stellenbosch, South Africa <i>Invisible Borders – Persisting Scars: How the Apartheid Homelands Define Contemporary South Africa</i>	2023
Swedish Economic History Meeting Lund, Sweden <i>Invisible Borders – Persisting Scars: How the Apartheid Homelands Define Contemporary South Africa</i>	2022

Technical Skills

- **Programming:** R (Advanced; preferred), Stata (Advanced), Python (Intermediate)
- **GIS:** R (Advanced; preferred), QGIS (Advanced), ArcGIS Pro (Advanced)
- **Document Preparation:** LaTeX (Advanced), Microsoft Office Suite (Advanced), Adobe Creative Cloud (Advanced)

Additional Information

- **British Parliamentary Debating (Competitive Level)**
- **Advanced First Aid Certification**
- **International Driver's Licence**