

PETER COURTNEY

School of Business and Economics, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, De Boelelaan 1105, 1081 HV Amsterdam
p.sr.courtney@gmail.com · courtney.ac · October 2026

Fields: development economics, economics of education (primary); economic history (secondary)

EDUCATION

PhD in Economics (joint degree), VU Amsterdam & Stellenbosch University 2022 – Jul 2027 (expected)
Visiting: Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford; FAIR, Norwegian School of Economics, Bergen 2026
MSc International Development Studies (Economics of Development), *cum laude*, Wageningen 2019 – 2021
BCom Honours in Economics, University of Cape Town 2018
BSocSci Philosophy, Politics and Economics, with distinction, University of Cape Town 2015 – 2017

REFERENCES

Menno Pradhan VU Amsterdam M.P.Pradhan@uva.nl <i>Supervisor</i>	Servaas van der Berg Stellenbosch University svdb@sun.ac.za <i>Supervisor</i>	Debra Shepherd Stellenbosch University debrashepherd@sun.ac.za <i>Supervisor</i>	Nic Spaull Gates Foundation Nic.Spaull@gatesfoundation.org
---	---	---	---

JOB MARKET PAPER

Making School-Set Marks Comparable: Test Difficulty and Hidden Learning Inequality

WORKING PAPERS

- Provision Meets Deployment: What a Teacher Post Buys in South African Schools
 - Invisible Borders, Living Institutions: How Apartheid's Bantustans Still Shape Schooling
- Work in progress:* land value taxation in Cape Town; closing small schools; What Makes Housing Reform Acceptable? Tax and Planning in England (with Francis J. DiTraglia, University of Oxford)

PUBLICATIONS AND POLICY PAPERS

Book chapters: Bridging the 20-Year Literacy Divide (with N. Mohohlwane and N. Mtsatse; Brill, 2023); Mathematical Stunting in South Africa (with N. Spaull and J. Qvist; Oxford University Press, 2022).
Policy papers: SA-TIED Working Papers 247 and 273 (UNU-WIDER, 2025); Bureau for Economic Research (2025); Teacher Demographic Dividend Research Notes 10 and 19 (RESEP, 2022 and 2024).

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

CSAE Workshop, Oxford (2026); FAIR, NHH Bergen (2026); SA-TIED Phase II Close-Out Conference (2026); SALDRU, University of Cape Town (2025); World Economic History Congress, Lund (2025)

TEACHING

Seminar Tutor (Institutional Economics, BSc PPE) and BSc Thesis Supervisor, VU Amsterdam 2024 – 2026
Teaching Assistant, Economics of Education, Stellenbosch University 2022

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

C. Lowell Harriss Dissertation Fellowship, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy 2025
Emergent Ventures grants (three), Mercatus Center, George Mason University 2024 – 2025
Oppenheimer Memorial Trust Doctoral Scholarship 2022

RESEARCH AND POLICY EXPERIENCE

Independent Consultant, education data and policy; clients include the Gates Foundation 2025 – present
Research Associate, J-PAL Africa: Shakuma violence-prevention evaluation May – Dec 2022
Research Assistant to Roy Havemann, *How to Fix a Country* (2024) 2023 – 2024
Agricultural Economics Intern, UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Sep 2020 – Aug 2021

OTHER

Software: R, Stata, Python, Git, GIS, L^AT_EX. **Languages:** English (native), Dutch (beginner).
Citizenship: South African, Irish (EU), British.