Peter Courtney

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Placement Director
Prof. Eric Bartelsman, Tinbergen Institute
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Placement Assistant
Christina Månsson, Tinbergen Institute
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Fields: development economics, economics of education (primary); economic history, public economics (secondary)

Education

PhD in Economics (joint degree), VU Amsterdam & Stellenbosch University — 2022 – Jul 2027 (expected)
Additional courses (Tinbergen Institute): Development Economics, Health Economics
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
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Supervisor

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Supervisor

Debra Shepherd
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Job Market Paper

Making School-Set Assessments Comparable: How School Assessments Hide Learning Inequality

Working Papers

- Provision Not 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, LaTeX. **Languages:** English (native), Dutch (beginner).
Citizenship: South African, Irish (EU), British.