

Amina Ebrahim

Research Associate

United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER)

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Summary

Economist with extensive experience in administrative data research, data collection, data lab management, and quality assurance for academic research projects in sub-Saharan Africa. Current research on employment policies, tax examinations and advisory visits, and audit patterns. Experience presenting research to both academic and policy audiences. Recently co-authored work with policy makers and junior academics.

Research Interests Public economics, labour, taxation

Education

University of Cape Town, School of Economics | Doctor of Philosophy in Economics 2021

Dissertation title: *A policy for the (jobless) youth: The Employment Tax Incentive*

Including PhD Fellowship at UNU-WIDER, Helsinki.

Supervisors: Prof. Murray Leibbrandt, Prof. Vimal Ranchhod and Prof. Jukka Pirttilä

University of Cape Town, School of Economics | Master of Commerce in Economics 2014

Dissertation title: *Strategies of the unemployed: Does moving allow the unemployed to get ahead?*

Rhodes University, Department of Economics | Bachelor of Business Science in Economics 2011

Dissertation title: *The determinants of happiness levels among race groups in South Africa*

Work Experience

United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Aug 2020 – current

Research (UNU-WIDER), Helsinki, Finland

Research Associate Domestic Revenue Mobilization core researcher and project focal point for Tanzania and Rwanda under the theme of [Building up efficient and fair tax systems](#).

UNU-WIDER, Pretoria, South Africa Feb 2018 – Jul 2020

Research Associate based at the National Treasury of South Africa. Lead the creation and maintenance of sensitive administrative tax data and facilitated research and policy dialogues under the [Southern Africa - Towards Inclusive Economic Development](#) programme.

Research Assistance

SALDRU, Cape Town, South Africa Jun 2015 – Dec 2017

Georgetown University and JPAL, Doha, Qatar Aug 2014 – Jun 2015

National Income Dynamics Study, Cape Town, South Africa Jan 2013 – Dec 2013

Georgetown University, Doha, Qatar Jan 2011 – Aug 2011

Teaching and Supervision

Code Trainer | Technical staff, Tanzanian Revenue Authority Ongoing

Research collaborator | Research staff, National Treasury, Tanzanian Revenue Authority Ongoing

Mentor | IBRAF Fellowship program, Brazil Africa institute Mar 2021

Supervisor | Research Assistant programme, National Treasury/UNU-WIDER Jun 2018 – Jul 2020

Adjunct Instructor | Undergraduate level, Georgetown University Jan 2014 – Jun 2017

Planning, preparation and delivery for Calculus I and Calculus II classes

Teaching Assistant | Undergraduate level, Georgetown University Aug 2011 – Dec 2012

Planning, preparation, and delivery for Introduction to Econometrics (Spring 2014/2012), Calculus (Spring 2012), Principles of Microeconomics (Fall 2012) and Economic Statistics (Fall 2011/2012)

Awards, grants

- 2016 UNU-WIDER Regional Growth and Development in Southern Africa Research grant
- 2014-16 National Research Fund (NRF) Grand Challenges Scholarship
- 2013 University of Cape Town Merit Masters Research Scholarship • NRF Grand Challenges Masters Scholarship • National Income Dynamics Study (NIDS) Masters Scholarship • Mellon Demography School of Economics Scholarship
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Presentations and conferences

- 2020 Helsinki GSE Labour and Public seminar series (Presenter) • WIDER Webinar Series (Discussant) • SALDRU Seminar Series, Cape Town, South Africa (Presenter)
- 2019 Centre for the Study of African Economics (CSAE) conference, Oxford, UK. (Presenter & Discussant) • World Bank/IZA/NJD Jobs and Development conference, Washington, USA (Presenter) • UNU-WIDER Seminar Series, Helsinki, Finland (Presenter) • Nordic Conference on Development Economics, Copenhagen, Denmark. (Presenter & Discussant) • International Institute of Public Finance (IIPF) Annual Congress, Glasgow, Scotland (Presenter & Discussant) • UNU-WIDER Transforming economies – for better jobs, Bangkok, Thailand (Presenter) • Inclusive Growth in Mozambique: Transformation Towards Better Jobs, Maputo, Mozambique (Presenter)
- 2018 UNU-WIDER Think Development, Think WIDER conference, Helsinki, Finland (Presenter) • UNU-WIDER Seminar Series, Helsinki, Finland (Presenter)
- 2017 Tax, Customs and Excise Institute (SARS) Seminar, Pretoria, South Africa (Presenter) • Tax Data Research Workshop. DataFirst, Cape Town, South Africa (Presenter) • Georgetown University in Qatar Seminar Series, Doha, Qatar (Presenter)
- 2016 UNU WIDER Growth and Development Policy Conference. Pretoria, South Africa (Presenter).
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Additional training

- 2021 An Introduction to Stata Programming, StataCorp [online]
- 2020 Management training course “Managing for Results”, Gordon Institute of Business Science at the University of Pretoria. [online]
- 2019 Generating Synthetic Data for Statistical Disclosure Control
Microdata Curation for Secure Data Centres
- 2018 Doctoral course in Public Economics, HECER, Finland
Micro simulation – SAMOD training, Pretoria, South Africa
- 2014 SESRI Intermediate Survey Sampling training, Doha, Qatar
- 2013 J-PAL Africa executive training on randomised evaluations, Cape Town, South Africa
DataFirst Analysis of Complex Sample Surveys using survey data, Cape Town, South Africa
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In the media

- Using tax data to inform economic policy in South Africa – *WIDER Angle* (2021)
- How a data revolution in South Africa can help address gender inequality – *WIDER Angle* (2020)
- The power of data to impact change – *SAfm Life Happens* (2020)
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Language Proficiency

English (native), Afrikaans (proficient), Arabic (limited)

ICT Skills

Stata (Advanced) | Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook) | RStudio (Basic) | Nesstar (Basic) | Microsoft SQL | Endnote X9

Publications

- Ebrahim, A., M. Leibbrandt and I. Woolard (2016). ‘Strategies of the Unemployed in South Africa: Does moving allow the Unemployed to get ahead?’ *Africanus: Journal of Development Studies*, 46(1):52-75.
- Hall, K., A. Ebrahim, A. De Lannoy, and M. Makiwane (2015). ‘Youth and mobility: linking movement to opportunity.’ In S. Swartz, L. Lake, and C. Smith (eds), *South African Child Gauge 2015*. Children’s Institute, University of Cape Town.
- Ebrahim, A., F. Botha, and J. Snowball (2013). ‘Determinants of life satisfaction among race groups in South Africa.’ *Development Southern Africa*, 30(2): 168–185.
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Working papers

- Ebrahim, A., C. F. Kreuser and M. Kilumelume (forthcoming 2021). ‘The guide to the CIT-IRP5 panel version 4.0’. WIDER Working paper 2021. Helsinki; UNU-WIDER.
- Budlender, J. and A. Ebrahim (2021). ‘Estimating employment responses to South Africa's Employment Tax Incentive’. WIDER Working Paper 2021/118. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
- Ebrahim, A. and A. Cassim (2021). ‘Building Tax Data For Research: The South African Experience’. WIDER Background Note 2021/2. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
- Kilumelume, M., H. Reynolds and A. Ebrahim (2021). ‘Identifying Foreign Firms And South African Multinational Enterprises: CIT-IRP5 Panel V4.0’. WIDER Technical Note 2021/1. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
- Budlender, J. and A. Ebrahim (2020). ‘Industry Classification In The South African Tax Microdata’. WIDER Working Paper 2020/99. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
- Ebrahim, A (2020). ‘COVID-19 and socioeconomic impact in Africa: The case of South Africa’. WIDER Background Note 2020/2. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
- Ebrahim, A. and K. Lilenstein (2019). ‘Gender and the South African labour market: Policy relevant research possibilities using South African tax data’. WIDER Working Paper 2019/31. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER
- Ebrahim, A. and J. Pirttilä (2019). ‘Can a wage subsidy system help reduce 50 per cent youth unemployment?’. WIDER Working Paper 2019/28. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER
- Ebrahim, A. and C. Axelson (2019). ‘The creation of an individual-level panel using administrative tax data in South Africa’. WIDER Working Paper 2019/27. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER
- Ebrahim, A., R. Gcabo, L. Khumalo and J. Pirttilä (2019). ‘Tax Research in South Africa’. WIDER Working Paper 2019/9. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
- Ebrahim, A., M. Leibbrandt, and V. Ranchhod (2017). ‘The effects of the Employment Tax Incentive on South African employment’. WIDER Working Paper 2017/5. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
- Ebrahim, A., M. Leibbrandt, M. and I. Woolard (2015). ‘Strategies of the unemployed in South Africa: Does moving allow the unemployed to get ahead?’ SALDRU Working Paper Number 157. Cape Town: SALDRU.
- Ebrahim, A., I. Woolard and M. Leibbrandt (2013). ‘Unemployment and Household formation.’ SALDRU Working Paper Number 126/ NIDS Discussion Paper 2013/8. Cape Town: SALDRU.