

Amina Ebrahim

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

Summary

Economist with extensive experience in administrative data collection, management and quality assurance for academic research projects. Currently managing a team of data scientists at the National Treasury Secure Data Facility in Pretoria. Experience working with international research teams and bridging the divide between research and policy making. Published research has focused on the constraints young people face when entering the labour market in South Africa. Experience in teaching students at Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service in Qatar. Presented research to academic and policy audiences in several countries and has collaborated on research projects with teams in South Africa, Qatar, USA, Finland and the Philippines.

Education

Ph.D., Economics, University of Cape Town Current
Supervised by Murray Leibbrandt, Vimal Ranchhod & Jukka Pirttilä

M.Com., Economics, University of Cape Town June 2014
Dissertation title: [*Strategies of the unemployed: Does moving allow the unemployed to get ahead?*](#)
Supervised by Murray Leibbrandt & Ingrid Woolard

B.Bus.Sci., Economics, Rhodes University April 2011
Dissertation title: *The determinants of happiness levels among race groups in South Africa*
Supervised by Ferdinand Botha & Jen Snowball

Professional Experience

Research Associate Feb 2018 - Current
United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER)

Leading the creation, maintenance, and updating of sensitive administrative tax data from the South African Revenue Service and making it available to researchers. Also responsible for producing research using the tax data and documenting potential uses, and pitfalls, thereof.

Adjunct Instructor in Economics Jan 2014 – June 2017
Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service in Qatar

Responsible for lecture planning, preparation and delivery for Calculus I and Calculus II classes. Provided office hours, assigned and checked student work, set and invigilated exams and managed teaching assistants. Lectures and tutorials were delivered to international economics undergraduate students.

Teaching Assistant in Economics Aug 2011 – Dec 2012
Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service in Qatar

Responsible for the preparation and delivery of tutorials for the following courses: Introduction to Econometrics (Spring 2014/2012), Calculus (Spring 2012), Principles of Microeconomics (Fall 2012) and Economic Statistics Fall 2011/2012). Duties also included grading, invigilating and holding office hours.

Additional training

- 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
- 2014 SESRI Intermediate Survey Sampling training
- 2013 J-PAL Africa executive training on randomised evaluations
DataFirst Analysis of Complex Sample Surveys course using survey data from South Africa

Awards, grants and fellowship

- 2019 UNU-WIDER Visiting PhD Fellowship (Helsinki)
- 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

Research experience

- 2016 Researcher for the Regional Growth and Development in Southern Africa project
- 2015 – 2017 Research Assistant for the Youth (Un)employment Overview in South Africa
- 2014 Co-investigator for Health Commitment Study in Doha, Qatar
- 2013 Research Intern for the National Income Dynamics Study Wave 3
- 2011 Research Assistant to Associate Prof. Ganesh Seshan, Georgetown University in Qatar
Research Assistant for the Doha International Institute for Family Studies & Development

Working papers

- Ebrahim, A. and K. Lilienstein. (2019). ‘Gender and the South African labour market: Policy relevant research possibilities using South African tax data’. SA-TIED Working Paper 2019/54. 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- SA-TIED Working Paper 2019/37. 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- SA-TIED Working Paper 2019/36. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER
- Ebrahim, A., R. Gcabo, L. Khumalo and J. Pirttilä. (2019). ‘Tax Research in South Africa’. WIDER Working Paper 2019/9 - SA-TIED Working Paper 2019/27. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
- Ebrahim, A., M. Leibbrandt, V. Ranchhod (2017). ‘The effects of the Employment Tax Incentive on South African employment’. WIDER Working Paper 2017/5. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
- Ebrahim, A., Leibbrandt, M. and Woolard, I. (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., Woolard, I. and Leibbrandt, M. (2013). ‘Unemployment and Household formation.’ SALDRU Working Paper Number 126/ NIDS Discussion Paper 2013/8. Cape Town: SALDRU.

Publications

- Ebrahim, A., Leibbrandt, M. and Woolard, I. (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.
- Ebrahim, A., Botha, F., and Snowball, J. (2013). 'Determinants of life satisfaction among race groups in South Africa.' *Development Southern Africa*, 30(2): 168–185.
- Hall, K., Ebrahim, A., De Lannoy, A. and Makiwane, M. (2015). 'Youth and mobility: linking movement to opportunity.' In S. Swartz, Lake, L. and Smith, C.(eds), *South African Child Gauge 2015*. Children's Institute, University of Cape Town.

Presentations and conferences

- 2020 SALDRU Seminar Series, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2019 Centre for the Study of African Economics (CSAE) conference, Oxford, UK. (Presenter & Discussant)
World Bank/IZA/NJD Jobs and Development conference, Washington, USA.
UNU-WIDER Seminar Series, Helsinki, Finland
Nordic Conference on Development Economics, Copenhagen, Denmark. (Presenter & Discussant)
International Institute of Public Finance (IIPF) Annual Congress, Glasgow, Scotland (Presenter & Discussant)
UNU-WIDER Transformation Towards Better Jobs, Bangkok, Thailand
Inclusive Growth in Mozambique: Transformation Towards Better Jobs, Maputo, Mozambique
- 2018 UNU-WIDER Think Development, Think WIDER conference, Helsinki, Finland
UNU-WIDER Seminar Series, Helsinki, Finland
- 2017 Tax, Customs and Excise Institute (SARS) Seminar, Pretoria, South Africa
Tax Data Research Workshop. DataFirst, Cape Town, South Africa
Georgetown University in Qatar Seminar Series, Doha, Qatar
- 2016 UNU WIDER Growth and Development Policy Conference. Pretoria, South Africa.
- 2013 NIDS Wave 3 launch, National Planning Commission, The Presidency, South Africa