

Marlies Piek



SUMMARY

I am an economist with more than 6 years of experience in micro econometric research. I have extensive experience working with administrative tax data ranging from requesting administrative data, investigating the quality thereof, cleaning the data and conducting research on the data. Most of my research focuses on performing impact evaluations of policies in South Africa. My research areas have been labour economics, education and inequality.

EDUCATION

PhD Economics, Stellenbosch University, *current*

MCom Economics, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, 2016

Master's Exchange, Maastricht University, Netherlands, 2015

BCom Honours Economics (*Cum Laude*), Stellenbosch University, South Africa, 2013

BCom Economics, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, 2012

OTHER TRAINING

Metadata Management Course for Secure Research Data Centres

Introduction to Data Analysis using R

WORK AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Consultant (Oct 2020 - Nov 2022) & Research Associate (Nov 2022 - present), UNU-WIDER

- Conduct research on South African administrative tax data (CIT, IRP5, VAT, Customs and the matched panels). Projects include: I) Agriculture to drive economic development? A case study using administrative tax data in South Africa, II) The impact of agricultural minimum wages on worker flows in South Africa, III) Dynamic effects of minimum wages and the role of private standards, IV) Agricultural minimum wages in South Africa: Firm-level study V) Exporters, VAT Refunds, and Tax Compliance VI) Income inequality in South Africa: evidence from individual-level administrative data
- Preparing data requests for SARS tax data to be hosted at National Treasury – Secure Data Facility (NT-SDF), evaluating and engaging SARS about the data quality, cleaning the data
- Member of Project Steering Committees that i) oversee the building of a multi-departmental (SARS, DoL, CIPC *inter alia*) database of companies and individuals ii) make aggregated, anonymised tax data available to metros to inform data-driven policymaking; provide technical insights and provide operational support
- Identify new research opportunities; investigate new datasets to be held at NT-SDF and the legality and practicalities thereof; engage with relevant stakeholders
- Oversee NT-SDT operations, assist researchers with data queries, evaluate research proposals
- Manage the data team at the NT-SDF, provide guidance, set objectives, review work deliverables, capacity development, draft documentation

Consultant, UNU-WIDER**July 2019- March 2020**

- Conduct research using the administrative tax data at the NT-SDF; the research project investigated the employment effects of a large increase in agricultural minimum wages in South Africa and is entitled 'Separating employment effects into job destruction and job creation: Evidence from a large minimum wage increase in the agricultural sector using administrative tax data'
- Thoroughly investigate the tax data, understanding its strengths and weaknesses, comparing the data with external sources, understanding potential reporting bias
- Present research findings at the National Treasury and a work-in-progress meeting

Researcher, ReSEP, Department of Economics, Stellenbosch University Feb 2016- June 2019

- Worked on multiple research projects; I) Using satellite data to assess the impact of agricultural minimum wages in South Africa, II) Exposure to international trade, private standards and labour law compliance: the case of agricultural minimum wages in South Africa, III) Employment Effects of the German Minimum Wage: Descriptive Evidence from Labour Flows, IV) The performance of low fee independent schools in South Africa – What can available data tell?
- Two international research visits (Institute of the World Economy, Germany & Goettingen University, Germany)
- Partake and present at research seminars, attend conferences and workshops, keeping up to date with research developments
- Assist with capacity building within the Department of Education; data fundamentals

Junior Lecturer, Department of Economics, Stellenbosch University July 2015- June 2016

- Lectured two undergraduate courses (micro and macroeconomics); preparing lectures and presentation slides; setting up and marking tests, examinations and tutorials
- Assisting students one-on-one when needed; administrative duties related to the position

**Tutor (part-time), Department of Economics, Stellenbosch University Feb 2012- June 2015
and Maastricht University, Netherlands**

- Tutored Master's Microeconomics, Honours Mathematical Economics, undergraduate micro and macroeconomics (Stellenbosch University) and undergraduate International Economic Relations (Maastricht University)
- Prepared and presented weekly tutorials, assisting students with difficult concepts, marking

WORKING PAPERS, PUBLICATIONS & OP-EDS

Van der Berg, S., van Wyk, C., Burger, R., Kotzé, J., Piek, M & Rich, K. 2017. The performance of low fee independent schools in South Africa – What can available data tell? Stellenbosch Working Paper Series No. WP01/2017. Stellenbosch: Stellenbosch University.

Piek, M. & von Fintel, D. 2017. South Africa's national minimum wage could hurt small firms and rural workers. The Conversation.

Piek, M. & von Fintel, D. 2018. Sectoral minimum wages in South Africa: Disemployment by firm size and trade exposure. Stellenbosch Working Paper Series No. WP19/2018. Stellenbosch: Stellenbosch University.

Published as: Piek, M. & von Fintel, D. 2020. Sectoral minimum wages in South Africa: Disemployment by firm size and trade exposure. Development Southern Africa. 37(3): 462-482.

Piek, M. & Kirsten, J. 2020. Kommersiële boere in SA: Dís die status quo. Landbou Weekblad.

Piek, M., von Fintel, D. & Kirsten, J. 2020. Separating employment effects into job destruction and job creation: Evidence from a large minimum wage increase in the agricultural sector using administrative tax data. WIDER Working Paper 2020/51. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.

The working paper was reworked and submitted for review in 2022: Piek, M., von Fintel, D. & Kirsten, J. 2022. The impact of agricultural minimum wages on worker flows in South Africa. Manuscript submitted for publication.