

Research Associate

United Nations University

World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER)

Katajanokanlaituri 6 B, 00160 Helsinki, Finland

Profiles: [ORCID iD](#); [Google Scholar](#); [Research Gate](#); [UNU-WIDER](#)Contact: ✉ schotte.simone@gmail.com | ☎ +358 41 7422676 | 🐦 [Schotte.Simone](#)**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Poverty, inequality, social mobility, labour markets, informality, structural transformation

EDUCATION**Ph.D. in Economics** (summa cum laude), University of Göttingen, Germany 2018Thesis: “Poverty, Inequality, and the Middle Class: The case of South Africa”Incl. **research stays** at Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU/UCT) and Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR), South Africa

Member of research training group Globalization and Development (GlaD)

M.A. in International Economics, University of Göttingen, Germany 2014

Specialisation in Development Economics

Thesis: “The Middle Class in Economic Development: A Case Study of Brazil’s ‘New Middle Class’”

Incl. **exchange semester** at University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), Brazil**B.Sc. in International Economics and European Studies**, University of Tübingen, Germany 2011

Specialisation in Applied Economic Theory, International Trade and Finance, Political Sciences

Thesis: “The Vicious Circle of Poverty: Do countries remain poor because they are poor?”

Incl. **exchange semester** at University of Guadalajara (UdG), Mexico**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE****Research Associate**United Nations University ([UNU-WIDER](#)), Helsinki, Finland 02/2019 – present

- Contribute to the Institute’s research output, specifically under the projects “Addressing Group-based Inequalities”, “The changing nature of work and inequality”, and “Transforming informal work and livelihoods.”

Research Fellow / Doctoral StudentGerman Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg, Germany 10/2014 – 01/2019

- Contributed to the research and outreach activities of the “Growth and Development” Research Programme, specifically within the Institute for African Affairs (IAA).
- Managed the GIGA Research Platform for sub-Saharan Africa.

Consultancies

The World Bank, Poverty Global Practice Unit, Africa Region (remotely) 12/2016 – 06/2017

- Co-authored of two background papers for “Poverty Assessment South Africa”.

The World Bank, Poverty Global Practice Unit, Africa Region (remotely) 10/2014 – 09/2015

- Developed a microsimulation tool to project poverty and inequality outcomes in poor-country contexts with an application to Botswana/Namibia.

The World Bank, Office of the Chief Economist, ECA, Washington, DC, USA 02/2014 – 09/2014

- Co-authored of two background papers for the Regional Flagship Report “Golden Aging”; Empirical analysis for a study on “Shared Prosperity in Europe”.

Research Assistance & Internships

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| University of Göttingen, Chair of Development Economics, Göttingen, Germany | 05/2013 – 02/2014 |
| Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil | 02/2013 – 03/2013 |
| Institute for Applied Cultural Research (IFAK), Göttingen, Germany | 03/2012 – 06/2012 |
| German-Chilean Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Santiago de Chile, Chile | 05/2011 – 09/2011 |
| Institute for Applied Economic Research, Tübingen, Germany | 11/2010 – 02/2011 |

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

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| PhD Scholarship Evangelisches Studienwerk Villigst e.V. | 05/2015 – 04/2018 |
| Best Graduate of the Faculty of Economics, University of Göttingen | Winter term 2013/14 |
| German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Scholarship | 08/2009 – 12/2009 |

RESEARCH OUTPUT**Peer-reviewed scientific articles**

- Danquah, M., **Schotte, S.**, and K. Sen (forthcoming). Informal work in sub-Saharan Africa: Dead end or steppingstone? *IZA Journal of Migration and Development*.
- Schotte, S.** (2020). The anxious and the climbers: Ambivalent attitudes towards democracy among South Africa's middle class. *The Journal of Development Studies*, 1-19.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00220388.2020.1802007>
- Boahen, E. A., Opoku, K., and **S. Schotte** (2020). Duration of pre-university education and labour market outcomes: Evidence from a quasi-experiment in Ghana. *Journal of International Development*. 33(1), 208-232. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jid.3519>
- Danquah, M., **Schotte, S.** and K. Sen (2020). COVID-19 and Employment: Insights from the Sub-Saharan African Experience. *The Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, 63(1), 23-30.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s41027-020-00251-4>
- Flachsbarth, I., **Schotte, S.**, Lay, J., and A. Garrido (2018). Rural structural change, poverty and income distribution: evidence from Peru. *The Journal of Economic Inequality*, 16(4), 631-653.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10888-018-9392-z>
- Schotte, S.**, Zizzamia, R., and M. Leibbrandt (2018). A poverty dynamics approach to social stratification: The South African case. *World Development*, 110, 88-103. Featured in [BusinessDay](#).
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2018.05.024>
- Winkler, H., and **S. Schotte** (2018). Why Are the Elderly More Averse to Immigration When They Are More Likely to Benefit? Evidence Across Countries. *International Migration Review*, 1-33. Featured in [Brookings](#), [The World Bank](#), [World Economic Forum](#). <https://doi.org/10.1177/0197918318767927>
- De Mello, L., **Schotte, S.**, Tiongson, E. R., and H. Winkler (2017). Greying the Budget: Ageing and Preferences over Public Policies. *Kyklos*, 70(1), 70-96. Featured in [World Economic Forum](#).
<https://doi.org/10.1111/kykl.12131>
- Bussolo, M., **Schotte, S.**, and M. Matytsin (2017). Accounting for the bias against the life-cycle hypothesis in survey data: An example for Russia. *The Journal of the Economics of Ageing*, 9, 185-207.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeoa.2017.03.001>

Non-refereed scientific articles (incl. book and report chapters)

- Raj, R., **Schotte, S.**, and K. Sen (2020). How Mobile Are Workers across Informal and Formal Jobs in India?. *Economic & Political Weekly*, 55(46), 40-48. Featured in [Mint](#), [Open](#), [Economic Times](#).
- Leibbrandt, M., Schotte, S., and Zizzamia, R. (2019). Tackling persistent poverty and inequality: A dynamic perspective. In: M.S. Smith (Ed.) *Confronting Inequality: The South African Crisis*. Jacana Media.
- Giesbert, L., and **S. Schotte** (2016). Review: Roger Southall, [The New Black Middle Class in South Africa](#). *Africa Spectrum*, 51(3), 135-139.

- Winkler, H., De Mello, L., **Schotte, S.**, and E. R. Tiongson (2015). Overcoming the Legacy of Expanding Populations. In: Bussolo, M., Koettl, J., and E. Sinnott (Eds.) Golden Aging : Prospects for Healthy, Active, and Prosperous Aging in Europe and Central Asia, Washington, DC: World Bank.
- Bussolo, M., Nguyen, T. C., Munoz Boudet, A. M., Albertini, M., Azevedo, J. P., Bauer, J. M., Nie, P., Sousa-Poza, A., Evans, B., Majoka, Z., Nguyen, M., **Schotte, S.**, Signorelli, S., Simler, K., and N. Sinha (2015). Aging and Poverty and Inequality. In: Bussolo, M., Koettl, J., and E. Sinnott (Eds.) Golden Aging: Prospects for Healthy, Active, and Prosperous Aging in Europe and Central Asia, Washington, DC: World Bank.

Working papers (selected)

- Schotte, S.**, and R. Zizzamia. (2021). The livelihood impacts of Covid-19 in urban South Africa: A view from below. WIDER Working Paper, 2021/56; SA-TIED Working Paper, 168. Featured in News24, NewzRoom Afrika, WIDERAngle.
- Schotte, S.**, Danquah, M., Osei, R. D., and K. Sen (2021). The labour market impact of COVID-19 lockdowns: Evidence from Ghana. IZA Discussion Paper No. 14692; WIDER Working Paper, 2021/27. Featured in The Conversation, WIDERAngle.
- Gradín, C., and **S. Schotte** (2020). Implications of the changing nature of work for employment and inequality in Ghana, WIDER Working Paper, 2020/119.
- Lewandowski, P., Park, A., and **S. Schotte** (2020) The global distribution of routine and non-routine work. IZA Discussion Paper No. 13384; WIDER Working Paper, 75/2020. Featured in WIDERAngle.
- Danquah, M., **Schotte, S.**, & K. Sen (2019). Informal work in sub-Saharan Africa: Dead end or steppingstone? WIDER Working Paper, 107/2019.
- Schotte, S.** (2019). Structural poverty dynamics in urban South Africa: A mixed-methods investigation. WIDER Working Paper, 100/2019. Featured in Chronic Poverty Advisory Network, WIDERAngle.
- Zizzamia, R., **Schotte, S.**, and M. Leibbrandt (2019). Snakes and ladders and loaded dice: Poverty dynamics and inequality in South Africa between 2008-2017. SALDRU Working Paper, 235; WIDER Working Paper, 25/2019; SA-TIED Working Paper, 33. Featured in Econ3x3, SA-TIED Research Brief.
- Schotte, S.**, Zizzamia, R., and M. Leibbrandt (2017). Social stratification, life chances and vulnerability to poverty in South Africa. SALDRU Working Paper, 208. Featured in BusinessDay.
- Zizzamia, R., **Schotte, S.**, Leibbrandt, M., and V. Ranchhod (2016). Vulnerability and the middle class in South Africa. SALDRU Working Paper, 188; NIDS Discussion Paper, 2016/15.

Publications intended for the general public

- Schotte, S.**, Zizzamia, R., and M. Leibbrandt (2017). Defining the Middle Class in the Global South: A Quantitative Perspective from South Africa. Ifri, *L’Afrique en questions*, 33.
- Giesbert, L., Pfeiffer, B., and **S. Schotte** (2016). Economic Partnership Agreements with the EU: Trade-Offs for Africa. *GIGA Focus Africa*, 7. Featured in Deutsche Welle, BR Podcast, Süddeutsche Zeitung.
- Giesbert, L., and **S. Schotte** (2016). Africa’s New Middle Class: Fact and Fiction of Its Transformative Power. *GIGA Focus Africa*, 1.
- Lay, J., and **S. Schotte** (2013). Lateinamerikas neue Mittelschicht: nachhaltiger Aufstieg? [Latin America's new middle class: Sustainable advancement?]. *GIGA Focus Latin America*, 8.
- Dane, F., and **S. Schotte** (2013). Brazil: Economically overestimated and politically underestimated? Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Country Report Brazil.
- Lingenthal, L., and **S. Schotte** (2013). Brasiliens Mittelklasse wächst – Was sind die Politischen Folgen? [Brazil's middle class is expanding – What are the political consequences ?]. Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Country Report Brazil.

TEACHING & SUPERVISION

Lecturer

- Lecture on “Labour markets in developing countries” as part of Master degree course Development Economics I, Aalto University, Helsinki, Finland Winter term 2020/21 and 2019/20

Teaching Assistant

- Support data lab sessions at UNU-WIDER Summer School on Applied Labour Economics (two-week programme), University of Cape Town, South Africa 11/2019
- Tutorial: Methods of Economic Policy Evaluation, University Göttingen, Germany Winter term 2014/15

Supervision & Examination

- External PhD examiner: Università degli Studi dell'Insubria (2021), University of Stellenbosch (2022).
- African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), Resource Person for Group A: Poverty, income distribution and labour market issues in Africa (2020, 2021).
- Mentoring of visiting PhD fellows at UNU-WIDER: Susan Wambui Kamundia, University of Cape Town (2021); Godfrey Kamutando, University of Cape Town (2020); Rekha Ravindran, Indian Institute of Technology (2019); Shreshti Rawat, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (2019).

PEER REVIEW ACTIVITIES

Africa Spectrum; Area Development and Policy; Economic Modelling; European Journal of Development Research; International Journal of Social Economics; Journal of Development Studies; Review of Income and Wealth; Politikon; Social Indicators Research; The British Journal of Political Science (BJPolS); The Journal of Development Studies; World Development.

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

2021: IZA/World Bank/UNU-WIDER Jobs and Development Conference, IEA World Congress, International Conference in Development Economics (ICDE), Conference on Globalization and Development (GlaD), Western Economic Association International (WEAI); **2020:** IZA/World Bank/NJD/UNU-WIDER Jobs and Development, Helsinki Development Days 2020; **2019:** UNU-WIDER Annual Conference; AFD International Conference on Development; **2018:** Development Research Conference–Göttinger Schule, Mixed Methods Workshop on “Poverty, Inequality Dynamics, and Economic Development” at King’s College London; invited talk at Ifri-OCP Policy Center Roundtable “African Middle Classes Beyond the Buzz: Economic, Social, and Political Dynamics”; **2017:** PEGNet Conference; Spring Meeting of Young Economists (SMYE); Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE); **2016:** Development Studies Association (DSA), SMYE, PSE Summer School; **2015:** ECINEQ Conference, ECPS, Trento Summer School.

SKILLS

Languages: German native; English proficient; Spanish intermediate; Portuguese intermediate; Finnish basic; French basic.

Statistical Analysis Software: STATA proficient user; NVivo general user; R basic user.

Quantitative Methods: Experience in working with cross-country and household survey data, incl. own survey design and data collection; panel data models; quasi-experimental impact evaluation methods; microsimulation approaches; statistical decomposition techniques; life-cycle models.

Qualitative Methods: Experience in planning and conducting focus group discussions and life history interviews, incl. training of research assistants; thematic analysis.