

Rulof P. Burger

PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS | D.PHIL (OXON) | BEHAVIOURAL ECONOMIST & APPLIED MICROECONOMETRICIAN

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Current Positions

Professor of Economics

STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Jul 2021 – present

- Teaching: Microeconomics (Honours/Masters); Advanced Econometrics (Graduate); Labour Economics (Graduate/3rd year); Development Economics

Founding Director

PREDICTIVE INSIGHTS

2018 – present

- Machine learning product design studio providing demand forecasts and predictive analytics (predictiveinsights.co.za)

Affiliated Professor

ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL POVERTY ACTION LAB (J-PAL), MIT

2020 – present

- Affiliated researcher conducting randomised evaluations to inform anti-poverty policy

Previous Positions

Associate Professor

STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Jul 2015 – Jun 2021

Senior Lecturer

STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

2007 – 2015

Visiting Scholar

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

2016

Short-term Contract Researcher

THE WORLD BANK, WASHINGTON D.C.

2004, 2008, 2011, 2017, 2021

Short-term Contract Researcher

UNU-WIDER AND SA NATIONAL TREASURY

2014

Short-term Contract Researcher

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, SOUTH AFRICA

2006, 2007

Lecturer

ST CLARE'S COLLEGE, OXFORD

2008 – 2009

Tutor (Undergraduate Labour Economics)

MANSFIELD COLLEGE, OXFORD

2009

Lecturer

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

2003, 2013

NRF Rating

C-RATED RESEARCHER (ESTABLISHED RESEARCHER)

2021 – 2026

Y-RATED RESEARCHER (PROMISING YOUNG RESEARCHER)

2015 – 2020

Education

University of Oxford

D.PHIL IN ECONOMICS

2007 – 2012

- Dissertation: Estimating the shape of the South African schooling earnings profile
- Supervisor: Francis Teal; Examiners: Steve Bond and Jan Willem Gunning
- Passed coursework with distinction

University of Cambridge

M.PHIL IN ECONOMICS

2003 – 2004

- Passed with distinction
- Awarded Nedbank/Old Mutual Budget Speech Competition Cambridge Scholarship

Stellenbosch University

M.COMM IN ECONOMICS

2002 – 2003

- Passed with distinction
- Awarded prize for best Master's student in Economics
- Ernst and Ethel Eriksen Scholarship

Stellenbosch University

B.COMM (HONS) IN ECONOMICS

2001 – 2002

- Passed with distinction
- S.A. Cloete Medal for best post-graduate student in Economics
- Finansies & Tegniefik prize for best Honours student in Economics

Stellenbosch University

B.COMM IN MATHEMATICS

1997 – 2000

Publications

FORTHCOMING

Abel M. & Burger R.P.

NAME-BASED RACE DISCRIMINATION: THE ROLE OF HEURISTICS

- Review of Economics and Statistics

Abel M. & Burger R.P.

CHOICE OVER PAYMENT SCHEMES AND WORKER EFFORT

- Experimental Economics

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Khan Z., Patel L., Graham L., Burger R.P., Chowa G.A. & Masa R.

YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAMMES IN SOUTH AFRICA: WHICH FEATURES WORK BEST AND FOR WHOM?

2024

- Development Southern Africa, 41(1), 207–224

Botha B., Burger R.P., Kotzé K., Rankin N. & Steenkamp D.

BIG DATA FORECASTING OF SOUTH AFRICAN INFLATION

2023

- Empirical Economics, 65, 149–188

Rossouw L., Burger R.P. & Burger R.

TESTING AN INCENTIVE-BASED AND COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER PACKAGE INTERVENTION TO IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH AND NUTRITION OUTCOMES: A PILOT RCT

2021

- Maternal and Child Health Journal, 25(12), 1913–1922

Abel M., Burger R.P. & Piraino P.

THE VALUE OF REFERENCE LETTERS: EXPERIMENTAL EVIDENCE FROM SOUTH AFRICA

2020

- American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, 12(3), 40–71

Abel M., Burger R.P., Carranza E. & Piraino P.

BRIDGING THE INTENTION-BEHAVIOR GAP? THE EFFECT OF PLAN-MAKING PROMPTS ON JOB SEARCH AND EMPLOYMENT

2019

- American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, 11(2), 1–19

Burger R., Burger R.P. & Rossouw L.

AN INCENTIVE-BASED AND COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER PACKAGE INTERVENTION TO IMPROVE EARLY UTILIZATION OF ANTENATAL CARE

2019

- Maternal and Child Health Journal, 23(5), 633–640

Burger R.P. & McLaren Z.

AN ECONOMETRIC METHOD FOR ESTIMATING POPULATION PARAMETERS FROM NON-RANDOM SAMPLES: AN APPLICATION TO CLINICAL CASE FINDING

2017

- Health Economics, 26, 1110–1122

Burger R.P., Coetzee L.C., Kreuser C.F. & Rankin N.A.

INCOME AND PRICE ELASTICITIES OF DEMAND IN SOUTH AFRICA: AN APPLICATION OF THE LINEAR EXPENDITURE SYSTEM

2017

- South African Journal of Economics, 85(4), 491–514

Burger R.P. & Teal F.J.

THE EFFECT OF SCHOOLING ON WORKER PRODUCTIVITY: EVIDENCE FROM A SOUTH AFRICAN INDUSTRY PANEL

2015

- Journal of African Economies, 24(5), 629–644

Burger R.P., van der Berg S. & von Fintel D.

THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF EDUCATION POLICIES ON SOUTH AFRICAN PARTICIPATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT

2015

- South African Journal of Economics, 83(1), 74–100

Burger R.P. & von Fintel D.

RISING UNEMPLOYMENT IN A GROWING ECONOMY: A BUSINESS CYCLE, GENERATIONAL AND LIFE-CYCLE PERSPECTIVE

2014

- Studies in Economics and Econometrics, 38(1), 35–64

Burger R.P., Burger R. & Rossouw L.

THE FERTILITY TRANSITION IN SOUTH AFRICA: A RETROSPECTIVE PANEL DATA ANALYSIS

2012

- Development Southern Africa, 29(5), 738–755

Burger R.P. & De Villiers P.

THE MACROECONOMIC IMPACT OF HIV/AIDS IN SOUTH AFRICA: A SUPPLY-SIDE ANALYSIS

2005

- Journal for Studies in Economics and Econometrics, 29, 1–14

Burger R.P. & Woolard I.

THE STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN SOUTH AFRICA AFTER THE FIRST DECADE OF DEMOCRACY

2005

- Journal of Vocational Education and Training, 57(4), 453–476

Burger R.P. & Yu D.

WAGE TRENDS IN POST-APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA: CONSTRUCTING AN EARNINGS SERIES FROM HOUSEHOLD SURVEY DATA

2006

- Labour Market Frontiers, 8, 1–8

BOOK CHAPTERS**Burger R.P., Jafta R. & von Fintel D.**

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

2022

- Handbook on Economics of Discrimination and Affirmative Action, Springer, Singapore

Pieters J., Kujundzic A., Burger R. & Gondwe J.

INEQUALITY AT RISK OF AUTOMATION? GENDER DIFFERENCES IN ROUTINE TASKS INTENSITY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRY LABOR MARKETS

2021

- Cracking the Future of Work: Automation and Labor Platforms in the Global South

Burger R.P. & Makaluza N.

JOB-SEEKER ENTRY INTO THE TWO-TIERED INFORMAL SECTOR IN SOUTH AFRICA

2018

- The South African Informal Sector: Creating Jobs, Reducing Poverty. HSRC Press

Burger R.P. & Jafta R.C.C.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: AN EMPIRICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT ON LABOUR MARKET OUTCOMES

2012

- Affirmative Action in Plural Societies. Palgrave Macmillan

Black P., Jafta R.C.C. & Burger R.P.

BLACK ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

2010

- South Africa: Economy and Policy 1990–2000. Manchester University Press

Von Fintel D.P. & Burger R.P.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN LABOUR MARKET IN THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS: RECOVERING LOST GAINS

2009

- Economic Transformation Audit 2009. African Minds / IJR

- NEPAD and the Future of Economic Policy in Africa. Africa World Press

Research Funding

World Bank

MEASUREMENT ERROR AND DYNAMICS OF WELLBEING: BETTER DATA AND METHODS FOR TRACKING GLOBAL POVERTY

2022

- Principal Investigator

IDRC

FUTURE OF WORK IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

2019

- Principal Investigator

UNU-WIDER

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN SOUTH AFRICA

2015

- Principal Investigator

World Bank

RANDOMISED CONTROL TRIAL: SKILL CERTIFICATION AND JOB COUNSELLING

2014

- Principal Investigator

PSPPD II (National Presidency / EU)

RANDOMISED CONTROL TRIAL: JOB COUNSELLING, PRODUCTIVITY SIGNALS AND EMPLOYMENT

2014

- Principal Investigator

Broadreach Healthcare & J-PAL Africa

PILOT STUDY: THULA BABA BOX MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH INTERVENTION

2014

- Principal Investigator

REDI (Research on Employment, Income Distribution and Inclusive Growth)

SOUTH AFRICAN UNEMPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

2014

- Team Leader

Stellenbosch University Elite Research Grant

CAUSAL EFFECT OF SCHOOLING INVESTMENT ON WORKER PRODUCTIVITY

2013

- Principal Investigator

J-PAL Africa (CALIE)

PILOT STUDY: JOB COUNSELLING, PRODUCTIVITY SIGNALS AND EMPLOYMENT

2012

- Principal Investigator

Awards & Honours

2021–26 NRF C-rated Researcher (Established Researcher)

2015–20 NRF Y-rated Researcher (Promising Young Researcher)

2015 HB & MJ Thom Award for Sabbatical Study

2015 Oppenheimer Memorial Trust Award for Sabbatical Study

2012–15 Rector's Award, Stellenbosch University

2006–07 Nominated for Golden Key Best Lecturer Award, Stellenbosch University

2003–06 Departmental Teaching Award, Stellenbosch University

2003 Prize for Best Master's Student in Economics, Stellenbosch University

2002 Nedbank/Old Mutual Budget Speech Competition Cambridge Scholarship

2002 Ernst and Ethel Eriksen Scholarship for Master's Studies

2002 S.A. Cloete Medal for Best Post-Graduate Student in Economics

2002 Finansies & Tegniek Prize for Best Honours Student in Economics

1997, 2001–2 Merit Bursaries, Stellenbosch University

PhD Students Supervised

2015	Dieter von Fintel	<i>Completed</i>
2015	Marisa von Fintel	<i>Completed</i>
2016	Hendrik van Broekhuizen	<i>Completed</i>
2017	Asmus Zoch	<i>Completed</i>
2019	Kholekile Malindi	<i>Completed</i>
2019	Nwabisa Makaluza	<i>Completed</i>
2020	Joel Gondwe	<i>Completed</i>
2025	Melt van Schoor	<i>Completed</i>
Ongoing	Michael Kilumelume	<i>Current</i>
Ongoing	Wawa Nkosi	<i>Current</i>

Professional Activities

MEMBERSHIPS

- American Economic Association; Economic Society of South Africa; African Finance and Economics Association

CONVENER

- 2024 Nobel Symposium on Microdevelopment Research in the Last 20 Years

REFEREE

- American Economic Review; Quarterly Journal of Economics; Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics; World Development; Journal of Development Studies; Empirical Economics; Journal of International Development; Journal of Economic Inequality; Journal of African Economies; South African Journal of Economics; African Review of Economics and Finance; Journal for the Studies in Economics and Econometrics; South African Journal of Economic and Management Sciences; Acta Academica