

FERDI BOTHA

Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research
The University of Melbourne
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EDUCATION

Sept. 2014-Oct. 2017 PhD (Socio-Economic Sciences), University of Antwerp, Belgium
2009 M.Com (Applied Econometrics) with distinction, University of the Free State, South Africa
2008 B.Com Honours (Economics), University of the Free State, South Africa
2005 – 2007 B.Com (Law) with distinction, University of the Free State, South Africa

EMPLOYMENT

Mar. 2019 - Research Fellow, Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, The University of Melbourne, Australia
Oct. 2017-Feb. 2019 Associate Professor, Department of Economics & Economic History, Rhodes University, South Africa
Jan. 2014-Sept. 2017 Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics & Economic History, Rhodes University, South Africa
Jul. 2010-Dec. 2013 Lecturer, Department of Economics & Economic History, Rhodes University, South Africa
Jan. 2009-Jun. 2010 Assistant Officer, Department of Economics, University of the Free State, South Africa

TEACHING

2017 – 2018 ECO418: Microeconomics, honours level, Rhodes University
2011 – 2018 ECO315: Econometrics, third year level, Rhodes University
2010 – 2018 ECO508: Financial Econometrics, masters level, Rhodes University
2010 ECO102: Introductory Macroeconomics, first year level, Rhodes University (September – December)
2010 EBN114: Introductory Microeconomics, first year level, University of the Free State (January – June)
2009 EKN124: Introductory Macroeconomics, first year level, University of the Free State (July – August)
2009 EKN214: Microeconomics, second year level, University of the Free State (March – June)

2009 EKN224: Macroeconomics, second year level, University of the Free State,
(March – June)

MASTERS THESIS SUPERVISION

S. Kabi (current), S. le Roux (current), B. Chadwick (2018), A. Pitot (2017), S. Kosiorek (2017), E. Muzinda (2016), N. Dakin (2015), L. Mugomba (2015), L. Bolani (2014), R. Gordon (2014), K. Brock (2014), V. Mncqibisa (2013), M. Feddersen (2013), D. King (2012), C. de Beer (2011), K. Linde (2011), W. Arguile (2011)

PUBLICATIONS

Botha, F., Booysen, F. and Wouters, E. 2018. Family functioning and socioeconomic status in South African families: A test of the social causation hypothesis. *Social Indicators Research*, 137(2), 789-811.

Botha, F., Booysen, F. and Wouters, E. 2018. Satisfaction with family life in South African households: The role of socioeconomic status. *Journal of Happiness Studies*, 19(8), 2339-2372.

Botha, F., Wouters, E. and Booysen, F. 2018. Happiness, socioeconomic status and family functioning in South African households: A structural equation modelling approach. *Applied Research in Quality of Life*, 13(4), 947-989.

Feddersen, M., Nel, H. and Botha, F. 2017. Exports, capital formation and economic growth in South Africa. *African Review of Economics and Finance*, 9(1), 213-244.

Brock, K., Fraser, G. and Botha, F. 2016. Sport consumption patterns in the Eastern Cape: Cricket spectators as sporting univores or omnivores. *Journal of Economic and Financial Sciences*, 9(3), 667-684.

Botha, F., Scott, B. and Snowball, J. 2016. Art investment in South Africa: Portfolio diversification and art market efficiency. *South African Journal of Economic and Management Sciences*, 19(3), 358-368.

Botha, F. 2015. The Good African Society Index. *Social Indicators Research*, 126(1), 57-77.

Botha, F. and Snowball, J. 2015. Editorial: Subjective well-being in Africa. *African Review of Economics and Finance*, 7(1), 1-5.

King, D. and Botha, F. 2015. Modelling stock return volatility dynamics in selected African markets. *Economic Modelling*, 45, 50-73.

Botha, F. and Keeton, G. 2014. A note on the (continued) ability of the yield curve to forecast economic downturns in South Africa. *South African Journal of Economics*, 82(3), 468-473.

Botha, F. and Booysen, F. 2014. Family functioning and life satisfaction and happiness in South African households. *Social Indicators Research*, 119(1), 163-182.

Botha, F. 2014. Life satisfaction and education in South Africa: Investigating the role of attainment and the likelihood of education as a positional good. *Social Indicators Research*, 118(2), 555-578.

Botha, F. and Booysen, F. 2013. The relationship between marital status and life satisfaction among South African adults. *Acta Academica*, 45(2), 150-178.

- Botha, F. 2013. Stock returns and the Friday the 13th effect in five African countries. *African Review of Economics and Finance*, 4(2), 247-253.
- 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.
- Botha, F. and de Beer, C. 2013. Does national sporting performance affect stock market returns in South Africa? *Journal of Economic and Financial Sciences*, 6(1), 67-82.
- Botha, F. and Booysen, F. 2013. The gold of one's ring is not far more precious than the gold of one's heart: Reported life satisfaction among married and cohabitating South African adults. *Journal of Happiness Studies*, 14(2), 433-456.
- Botha, F. 2012. The economics of suicide in South Africa. *South African Journal of Economics*, 80(4), 526-552.
- Brock, K., Fraser, G. and Botha, F. 2012. A production function for cricket: The South African perspective. *Studies in Economics and Econometrics*, 36(2), 37-51.
- Ezeoha, A. and Botha, F. 2012. Firm age, collateral value and access to debt financing in an emerging economy: Evidence from South Africa. *South African Journal of Economic and Management Sciences*, 15(1), 55-71.
- Simleit, C., Keeton, G. and Botha, F. 2011. The determinants of household savings in South Africa. *Studies in Economics and Econometrics*, 35(3), 1-19.
- Botha, F. 2010. The impact of educational attainment on household poverty in South Africa. *Acta Academica*, 42(4), 122-147.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Botha, F., Booysen, F. and Wouters, E. "Family functioning and socioeconomic status," in B. Roberts & Z. Mokomane (eds.), *Family cohesion, values and strengthening in promoting family well-being in South Africa*. Pretoria: HSRC Press, forthcoming.
- Botha, F. 2015. "Suffering and Good Society analysis across African countries," in R.A. Anderson (ed.), *World Suffering and the Quality of Life*. Dordrecht: Springer, pp. 217-232.
- Botha, F., Snowball, J., de Klerk, V. and Radloff, S. 2015. "Determinants of student satisfaction with campus residence life at a South African university," in F. Maggino (ed.), *A New Research Agenda for Improvements in Quality of Life. SpringerBriefs Social Indicators Research Series 57*, doi: 10.1007/978-3-319-15904-1_2. Dordrecht: Springer, pp. 17-35.

WORKING PAPERS

- Botha, F., Scott, B. and Snowball, J. 2015. Art investment as a portfolio diversification strategy in South Africa. *ERSA Working Paper No. 537*. Cape Town: Economic Research Southern Africa.
- Partly republished with permission under the title "Economically speaking: The truth about art investment," in *South African Business Art*. Rondebosch: South African Art Times, p. 8.
- Botha, F. and Keeton, G. 2014. A note on the (continued) ability of the yield curve to forecast economic downturns in South Africa. *ERSA Working Paper No. 449*. Cape Town: Economic Research Southern Africa.

Botha, F. 2014. The Good African Society Index. *ERSA Working Paper No. 441*. Cape Town: Economic Research Southern Africa.

King, D. and Botha, F. 2014. Modelling stock return volatility dynamics in selected African markets. *ERSA Working Paper No. 410*. Cape Town: Economic Research Southern Africa.

Botha, F., Snowball, J., de Klerk, V. and Radloff, S. 2013. Determinants of student satisfaction with campus residence life at a South African university. *ERSA Working Paper No. 388*. Cape Town: Economic Research Southern Africa.

Botha, F. and Booysen, F. 2013. Family functioning and life satisfaction and happiness in South African households. *ERSA Working Paper No. 363*. Cape Town: Economic Research Southern Africa.

Botha, F. 2013. Life satisfaction and education in South Africa: Investigating the role of attainment and the likelihood of education as a positional good. *ERSA Working Paper No. 349*. Cape Town: Economic Research Southern Africa.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“How African countries stack up in the ‘good society’ stakes”, in *The Conversation: Africa* (18 April 2016). Online: <https://theconversation.com/how-african-countries-stack-up-in-the-good-society-stakes-53643>.

“Buy art because you love it – not because it might make you rich”, in *The Conversation: Africa* (9 December 2015), with Jen Snowball and Brett Scott. Online: <https://theconversation.com/buy-art-because-you-love-it-not-because-it-might-make-you-rich-50921>.

RESEARCH CITED IN THE MEDIA

Live radio interview about the Good African Society Index, Radio 702, 30 April 2016.

Live radio interview about the Friday the 13th effect in economics, SA FM, 13 September 2013.

“The economics of suicide in South Africa”, in *News Now* magazine (2 August 2012 issue) in an article on depression and suicide in South Africa.

RESEARCH GRANTS

2013 – 2018 Rhodes University Council Research Grant

2015 Rhodes University Research Development Grant, R44 000

AWARDS

2017 Vice Chancellor’s Distinguished Research Award, Rhodes University

2014 Rhodes University Academic Merit Award

2013 Rhodes University Commerce Faculty Researcher of the Year Award

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research seminar series, University of Melbourne, 21 March, Melbourne, Australia.
- 2017 15th Conference of the International Society of Quality of Life Studies (ISQOLS), 28-30 September, Innsbruck, Austria.
- Biennial Conference of the Economic Society of South Africa (ESSA), 30 August-1 September, Grahamstown, South Africa.
- Commerce Faculty Research Toolkit workshop on quantitative research methods, 14 June, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa.
- 2016 Department of Economics and Econometrics seminar series, University of Johannesburg, 3 November, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- PSPPD workshop, 22-23 February, Protea Hotel Manor, Pretoria, South Africa.
- 2015 5th Conference for the Microeconometric Analysis of South African Data (MASA 2015), 9-10 November, Salt Rock Hotel, Durban, South Africa.
- Biennial Conference of the Economic Society of South Africa (ESSA), 2-4 September, Cape Town, South Africa.
- School of Economics seminar series, North-West University, 20 August, Potchefstroom, South Africa.
- 2014 12th Conference of the International Society of Quality of Life Studies (ISQOLS), 15-18 September, Berlin, Germany.
- 18th ACEI International Conference on Cultural Economics, 25-27 June, Montreal, Canada.
- 2013 AGM of the Eastern Cape Branch of the Economic Society of South Africa, 4 December, Grahamstown, South Africa.
- Biennial Conference of the Economic Society of South Africa (ESSA), 25-27 September, Bloemfontein, South Africa.
- 2012 11th Conference of the International Society of Quality of Life Studies (ISQOLS), 1-4 November, Venice, Italy.
- 2nd Conference for the Microeconometric Analysis of South African Data (MASA 2012), 12-13 November, Durban, South Africa.
- 2011 1st Conference for the Microeconometric Analysis of South African Data (MASA 2011), 7-8 November, Salt Rock Hotel, Durban, South Africa.
- Biennial Conference of the Economic Society of South Africa, 5-7 September, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

COMMITTEES

- 2019 – Seminars, Professional Development, and Social Committee (SPDSC), Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, The University of Melbourne, Australia

- 2018 Department of Economics & Economic History Research Ethics Committee Chair, Rhodes University.
Rhodes University Ethical Standards Committee (RUESC), Rhodes University.
Rhodes University Human Research Ethics Sub-Committee (RUESC-HE), Rhodes University.
- 2017 – 2018 Research Committee, Rhodes University.
- 2016 – 2018 Department of Economics & Economic History Research Ethics Committee, Rhodes University.
Faculty of Commerce Curriculum Review Committee, Rhodes University.
- 2014 – 2015 Board of Residences, Rhodes University.
- 2013 – 2018 Coordinator of the Department of Economics & Economic History's research meetings, Rhodes University.
- 2011 – 2018 Senate Standing Committee on Plagiarism, Rhodes University.
- 2010 Department of Economics Research Committee, University of the Free State (January – June).

JOURNAL SERVICE

- 2018 – Editorial Board, *Journal of Happiness Studies*
- 2016 – Associate Editor, *African Review of Economics and Finance*
- 2015 Joint Guest Editor (with Prof. Jen Snowball) of a special issue of the *African Review of Economics and Finance* on subjective well-being in Africa, published June 2015.
- 2013 – 2015 Assistant Editor, *African Review of Economics and Finance*
- 2011 – Editorial Board, *African Review of Economics and Finance*
- Refereeing: *Journal of Happiness Studies, African Review of Economics and Finance, Applied Economics, International Journal of Wellbeing, South African Journal of Economic and Management Sciences, African Journal of Business Management, Social Indicators Research, Journal of Economic Psychology, Applied Financial Economics, Economic Research Southern Africa Working Paper Series, Economic Modelling, British Journal of Economics, Management & Trade, Journal of Economic and Financial Sciences, South African Journal of Economics, Studies in Economics and Econometrics, South African Journal of Business Management, Economic History of Developing Regions, Development Southern Africa, Journal of Family Studies, Journal of Development Studies, Emerging Markets Finance and Trade, Tydskrif vir Geesteswetenskappe, Journal of Adult Development, Journal of Australian Political Economy, Applied Economics Letters, Applied Research in Quality of Life, Forum for Social Economics, Economic Analysis and Policy, National Research Foundation (South Africa), International Journal of Happiness and Development, International Journal of Finance and Economics*

MEMBERSHIPS

- 2016 – International Society of Quality of Life Studies (ISQOLS)
National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)
- 2016 Association for Social Economics (ASE)
- 2012 – Economic Society of South Africa (ESSA)
- 2010 – Economic History Society of South Africa (EHSSA)

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION: COURSES

- 2018 – University of the Free State, Business School, Business Conditions Analysis (MBCA7910/7920), postgraduate level.
- 2018 – University of the Free State, Business School, Economics for Managers (PGEC5813/23), postgraduate level.
- 2018 – University of Johannesburg, Department of Economics and Econometrics, Microeconomic Issues in Development (MID9X02), Masters level.
- 2017 – 2018 University of the Free State, Department of Economics, Microeconomics, Honours level.
- 2014 – 2017 University of the Witwatersrand, Business School, Applied Financial Econometrics (BUSA7031), Masters level.
- 2014 – 2019 University of Kwazulu-Natal, School of Economics and Finance, Advanced Mathematics for Economists (ECON7DT), Honours level.
- 2013 – 2017 University of Stellenbosch, Department of Economics, Financial Economics, Honours level.
- 2011 – 2016 University of Kwazulu-Natal, School of Economics and Finance, FINA4QF/FINA7QF Honours level (Quantitative Methods in Finance).

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION: POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH

- 2018 PhD thesis: “The impact of financial literacy on risk and time preferences and behavioural intentions,” for University of the Free State.
- MBA half thesis: “Strategic planning in brownfields gold exploration projects,” for University of the Free State.
- M.Com half thesis: “The economics of happiness: Exploring the complex relationship between income and subjective well-being,” for University of Cape Town.
- M.Com half thesis: “South African wine as an alternative investment for portfolio diversification,” for University of Johannesburg.
- M.Com half thesis: “Smoking and subjective well-being in South Africa,” for University of Johannesburg.

- M.Com half thesis: “Language and labour markets in South Africa,” for University of the Witwatersrand.
- M.Com half thesis: “How have world shocks affected the business cycles of Africa’s frontier economies?,” for University of Cape Town.
- PhD thesis: “Interest rate liberalisation and economic growth in SADC countries,” for Nelson Mandela University.
- 2017 M.Com half thesis: “The impact of dividend policy on share price volatility of JSE AltX listed companies,” for University of Johannesburg.
- M.Com half thesis: “Corruption distance and FDI in Africa,” for University of Cape Town.
- 2016 M.Com half thesis: “The effect of monetary policy on inflation and unemployment in Kenya,” for Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.
- 2015 M.Com full thesis: “Feedback trading and investor sentiment in the JSE ALSI mini futures market,” for University of Kwazulu-Natal.
- 2014 M.Com half thesis: “Labour market status and subjective well-being in South Africa,” for University of Kwazulu-Natal.
- M.Com half thesis: “Subjective well-being through an individual’s lifespan in South Africa,” for University of Kwazulu-Natal.
- 2013 M.Com half thesis: “Investigating the relationship between income and subjective well-being in South Africa,” for University of Kwazulu-Natal.
- 2012 M.Com half thesis: “The impact of mega-sporting events in South Africa,” for University of Johannesburg.

WORKSHOPS FACILITATED

Rhodes University Commerce Faculty “Research Toolkit” workshop on quantitative research methods, 14 June 2017, Rhodes University, Grahamstown.

SHORT COURSES COMPLETED

Introduction to Stata Graphics. Stata NetCourse 120, 9 September 2016 – 30 October 2016.

Assessors’ Course, Centre for Higher Education, Teaching, and Learning, Rhodes University, 2012.