

Calumet Links

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SYNOPSIS

I currently work as a lecturer/researcher in Economics and Economic History at Stellenbosch University

I currently work as a full time lecturer and researcher for Stellenbosch University. When I worked as a macroeconomist I also compiled macroeconomic and microeconomic research reports assessing African sovereign risk for institutional investors. In the past, I performed work for Oxford Economics Africa on both a fulltime and part-time basis and have compiled economic reports on most sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries. These include issues of macroeconomic risks for South Africa and Nigeria.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Date of Birth: 24/04/1987
Nationality: South African
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Email: calumetlinks@sun.ac.za

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Economist Oxford Economics Africa Paarl, South Africa / Oxford, United Kingdom January 2015 to December 2015.

Oxford Economics Africa scans the political and macroeconomic conditions of 30 African countries and is able to measure sovereign risk in detail. The company's core expertise stems from its understanding of the continent's opportunities and pitfalls due to the ability to weigh political and macroeconomic risk. Oxford also boasts its own sovereign risk ratings model, and are able to assess countries not rated by global ratings agencies. Where those ratings are available, Oxford provides comparative ratings.

Lecturer and Researcher Stellenbosch University Stellenbosch, South Africa & Lund, Sweden January 2019 to present

As part of the Laboratory for the Economics of Africa's Past (LEAP) we primarily work on the Cape Panel Project. This is both a History and a big data project. The project currently focuses on the transcription of large historical archival panel datasets spanning 1689 to the present day for the Cape colony. Much of the groups research output utilises big data techniques to form new conclusion on relatively old data.

Part-time Lecturer The University of South Africa, Kimberley Campus January 2012 to November 2014

Here my task was primarily aimed at teaching UNISA's first year Micro-and Macroeconomics courses every Saturday of an academic term. On average there were two groups of 50 students each that needed instruction over the course of 5 hours.

Deputy Director: Supply Chain Management Northern Cape Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (Kimberley, South Africa) March 2011 to December 2014

The Northern Cape Department of Sport, Arts and Culture provides sporting and library services to the Northern Cape province. The organisation has been instrumental in erecting around 12 new state of the art libraries to many rural parts of the province.

EXAMPLES OF PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Oxford Economics Africa

Macroeconomic forecasting for various African countries. Economists working for Oxford are tasked to make various economic forecasts for African countries on a quarterly basis. In my case I was initially responsible for forecasting inflation, external debt, economic growth, the fiscal balance and more for countries in francophone Africa. These countries included Senegal, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Benin and Cameroon. I have also been actively involved in making forecasts for Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Mozambique, Angola, Namibia, Mauritius, Morocco, Egypt and Ethiopia. Economists are also expected to complete 3 quarterly reports and one longer annual report for each of the countries that they are responsible for in one calendar year.

We are also specifically tasked with assessing the overall sovereign risk rating for various African countries by balancing political and economic risk indicators. More specifically, we have to provide clients with sovereign credit ratings were the major ratings agencies do not provide any sovereign risk assessment. In addition, analysts are also responsible for making forecasts on some commodities, which are critical to the various African economies being assessed.

Major clients include

- KMPG South Africa, the local subsidiary of KPMG, the multinational auditing firm.
- Goldman Sachs
- Kumba Iron Ore, the fourth largest iron-ore producer in the world and the largest in Africa
- Tiger Brands, South Africa's largest food company.
- Coca Cola South Africa, the local subsidiary of Coca Cola, the multinational beverage manufacturer.
- SANLAM, a South African financial services company.

Stellenbosch University / Lund University

Since 2016 I have been working on the Cape Panel project whilst completing my PhD. My research focus has been on Labour Economics and the 19th century Cape Colonial frontier. I primarily work on micro-level panel datasets with roughly 60,000 to 100,000 observations and analyse amongst other things productivity and labour characteristics of the Cape indigenous labour force from 1800 to 1830. I employ well known panel data techniques and have experience with machine-learning algorithms. My primary function has always been as a data analyst and historical data sets have merely been a training environment for many of my analytical endeavours.

I have also extensively presented my research at international academic conferences. Please see the conferences and meetings I have attended and presented at:

- African Economic History Network Conferences in Brighton, Sussex University UK 2016 • International Development Dialogue Conference in The Hague, The Netherlands 2016
- CAGE Economic History Summer School in Coventry, Warwick University UK 2017.
- African Economic History Network Meeting in Stellenbosch, RSA 2017.
- Economic Society of South Africa Conference in Grahamstown, Rhodes University RSA 2017.
- Lund University Development lunch meeting in Lund, Sweden 2017
- European Social Science History Conference 2018 at Queens University, Belfast, Northern Ireland 2018.
- World Economic History Congress 2018 Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Boston, USA August 2018.
- Digital Humanities Conference 2019 in Utrecht, the Netherlands 2019.
- African Economic History Network Meeting October 2022, Las Palmas Gran Canaria
- World Economic History Congress 2022, Paris School of Economics (PSE) Paris, France, July 2022

- Cape Panel Workshop November 2022, Stellenbosch South Africa.
- Social Science History Association Conference (SSHA), November 2022, Chicago USA.
- African Econometric Society Conference, July 2023, Nairobi Kenya.
- Social Science History Association Conference (SSHA), November 2023, Washington DC USA.
- African Economic History Network Meeting October 2023, Pretoria South Africa.

During 2022 I spent eight months at Lund University working on various research projects that fall under the gambit of the Cape Panel Project – under the supervision of Prof Erik Green. I have also taught a course in Qualitative Data Methods for the Young Scholars Initiative (YSI) summer school programme in Zimbabwe during January 2023. I am currently in the process of applying for a new research grant with the Swedish Research Council, under the supervision of Profs Ellen Hillbom and Juta Bolt of Lund University.

Northern Cape Department of Sport, Arts and Culture

During my tenure as a mid-level manager at this government department I was responsible for the management of an 18-member team. My key performance areas were procurement, asset management, disposal management, risk management and fleet management services. The Department was relatively small in size and had an annual goods and services budget of roughly USD40m.

TERTIARY EDUCATION

University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2010 Awarded a scholarship to complete additional Master's-level courses in Economics

University of Stellenbosch, South Africa

2021 Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) (Economic History)

Specialisation: Microeconomics, Labour Economics, Development Economics

Dissertation: Coerced indigenous labour and effort in pastoral agriculture: Lessons from the nineteenthcentury Cape frontier.

Supervisors: Prof Johan Fourie, Prof Dieter von Fintel & Prof Erik Green

Overview: Coerced labour practices have been widespread throughout most of human history. Although it is now generally accepted that these practices emerged in settings with a high land-labour ratio, the debate about the impact of coercion on effort and, as a consequence, productivity, continues. Some argue that greater coercion induces greater effort in bonded labourers. Therefore, labour coercion and effort can be, and are assumed to be, complementary. This argument is premised on a 'master' being able to easily observe effort and, on the basis of that observation, to exert more or less coercion on the labourer. An opposing argument states that, since coerced labourers do not share in the fruits of their labour, they will almost always exert less effort than free wage labourers.

2010 Master of Commerce (MComm) (Economics)

Dissertation: The impact of BBBEE on labour market outcomes in South Africa

Supervisor: Prof D. von Fintel

Principle Subjects: Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Modern Economic Systems, International Finance, Development Economics, Environmental Economics.

2009 Bachelor of Commerce with Honours (BCommHons) (Economics)

Dissertation: The role of second-tier financial institution in broadening access to banking in South Africa.

Supervisor: Prof A. Schoombee

2007 Bachelor of Commerce (Economic Sciences)

COMPUTER USAGE

Extensive: Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Latex, Stata

Moderate: Python, R,

Introductory: Matlab

PUBLICATIONS

Links, C., Fourie, J., & Green, E. (2020). The substitutability of slaves: Evidence from the eastern frontier of the Cape Colony. *Economic History of Developing Regions*, 35(2), 98-122.

Links, C. (2023). Khoe households in Swellendam, 1825, in Fourie, J. Quantitative History and Uncharted People. Bloomsbury.

Redish, A. Carlos, A. Green, E. & Links, C. (2024) Commodities, early-modern globalization and the fate of indigenous agency. *The Economic History Review*, 1-28.

Links, C. & Green, E. (2024). Wages, Gender, and Coercion: Socio-Economic Stratification and Labour Practices among the Khoe in Early Nineteenth-Century Cape Colony (1801-1810). *International Review of Social History*. Forthcoming

Paper completed and submitted to Explorations in Economic History (Revise and Resubmit):

Von Fintel D. Green, E. & Links, C. (2024). Estimating historical inequality from social tables: towards methodological cohesion. *Explorations in Economic History*.

Papers to be completed in 2024:

McCants, A. & Links, C. (2024). A comparative history of indigenous women's work during the nineteenth century: The case of the Cape Khoi and the Lakota of the Great Plains.

Fourie, J. & Links C. (2024). On the causes of The Great Trek: An empirical investigation.

Von Vintel, D. & Links, C. (2024). Coerced indigenous labour and effort in pastoral agriculture: lessons from the nineteenth century Cape frontier.

TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES

Teaching responsibilities:

Economics 114 2019 to 2024
Economics 114 2024, 2025 (Course convenor)
Economics 281 2024

SUPERVISION

Co-supervisor with Johan Fourie and Kate Ekama
PhD student: Lauren Stevens
Topic: The economics of Manumission in the Cape colony. Registration
2023

Main supervisor: 2024
Honours student: AGW Dennison
Topic: The impact of sexual violence on the later life labour market outcomes of South African women post-Apartheid.
Student number: 23568127

Main Supervisor: 2024
Masters Student: SK Dube Student
number: 23084103

SERVICE RENDERING

Internal Service Rendering:

Tutorial Administrator for Economics 114/144
Period: 2021 – present

Departmental Transformation Committee:
Period: 2019 – present

Implementation team CORE first year curriculum along with Sophia du Plessis, Gideon du Randt and Liezel Nieuwoudt
Period: 2019

Departmental Employment Equity Representative 2024 (Faculty)

AvREQ Restitution Book Project: (University Wide)
Period 2024 to 2025

First year Registration support: (University Wide)
Period: 2024

External Service Rendering:

Riksbanken Jubileum Fund postdoctoral researcher (affiliated to Lund University in Sweden)
Period: 2020 – present

NRF Thutuka Grant Holder

Period: 2021 – present

Economic History Society of Southern Africa Secretary

Period: 2019 – 2023

Economic History Society of South Africa Treasurer

Period: 2024 – present

Becker Friedman Scholar at the University of Chicago, November 2022, under the supervision of Prof James Robinson.

Visiting Scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), November 2023, under the supervision of Prof Anne McCants

Teaching fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), November 2024, as part of the course “Colonialism and Economic History”

OTHER

Languages: English (excellent), Afrikaans (excellent), Swedish (basic)

Interests: Reading, History, amateur archaeology, hiking, and travel

Awards:

Department of Economics 3rd prize 2007, Department of Economics top ten 2006, Rachel's angels Mentor of the year 2007, BATSA Scholarship 2007 to 2008, Economics Departmental Scholarship 2009, Scholarship Award to attend summer school program at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin (2009). Stellenbosch University Graduate School Economic and Management Sciences Scholarship for PhD studies in Economics. Erasmus Mobility Grant (2017) for study in Lund, Sweden, Visiting scholar at the Becker Friedman Institute at the University of Chicago (2022).

Leadership positions:

Student Representative Council 2008/2009 Manager for Community Interaction and environmental affairs, Maties Community Service Governing body 2009, Community Interaction committee of the Senate Stellenbosch University 2009, Helderberg Head Mentor 2008/2009, Helderberg House committee 2007/2008

Portfolios: Academics, Diversity, RAG Admin, Rachel's Angels Mentor 2007/2008, Economics Departmental selfvaluation committee 2007, Departmental Academic Demi 2007 to 2009, Helderberg Mentor 2006, Tutor Economics 178 2006