

## CURRICULUM VITAE

DR SEÁN MFUNDZA MULLER

Email: [seanm@uj.ac.za](mailto:seanm@uj.ac.za)

Work: +27 11 559 7456

I am an academic economist with experience in both academia and the public sector. My research interests in economics span a wide range of areas: applied microeconomics and microeconometrics, public economics, public finance, economics of education and higher education, and philosophy of economics. I currently lecture Master's courses in microeconomics of industrial policy and development, and applied industrial policy, while supervising Master's students on a variety of industrial policy and development-related topics.

### EDUCATION

---

PhD Economics, University of Cape Town	2014
MPhil Economics, University of Oxford	2009
MCom Applied Economics, University of Cape Town	2007
BBusSc Economics, University of Cape Town	2003

### EMPLOYMENT

---

Senior Lecturer, University of Johannesburg	August 2016 –
Economic Analyst, Parliamentary Budget Office	July 2014 – July 2016
Acting Deputy Director Economics, Parliamentary Budget Office	September – November 2015
Senior Researcher, Development Policy Research Unit (University of Cape Town)	April – June 2014
Lecturer (University of Cape Town)	April 2010 – March 2014
Quantitative Research Assistant, Young Lives Project (University of Oxford)	September 2009 – March 2010
Intern, Economic Analysis Unit, National Department of Transport (South Africa)	January – December 2004

### PUBLICATIONS

---

#### JOURNAL ARTICLES

“The economics and philosophy of the brain drain: A critical perspective from the periphery”, *South African Journal of Philosophy* (special issue on brain drain), [36\(1\): 115-132](#), 2017.

“Academics as rent seekers: distorted incentives in higher education, with reference to the South African case”, *International Journal of Educational Development*, [52: 58-67](#), 2017.

“Interaction and external validity: obstacles to the policy relevance of randomized evaluations”, *World Bank Economic Review* (conference special issue), [29\(1\): S217-S225](#), 2015.

“The transmission of longevity across generations: The case of the settler Cape Colony”, *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, [35: 105-119](#), 2014. (with Piraino, Cilliers and Fourie)

“Another problem in the estimation of intergenerational mobility”, *Economics Letters*, [108\(3\): 291-295](#), 2010.

### **CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS**

“What does an (South) African economics look like?”, *Proceedings of the 2017 Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) in the South Conference*, Johannesburg, 24-27 July, 2017.

### **BOOK CHAPTERS**

“The Black Middle Class: The Challenges of Joining Two Economies”, chapter in *Making Mistakes, Righting Wrongs, Insights into Black Economic Empowerment*, Duma Gqubule, ed., Jonathan Ball and KMM Review Publishing, p.187-220, 2006.

### **BOOK REVIEWS**

“Can the producers of policy analysis be trusted?”, review of *Public Policy in an Uncertain World* by Charles Manski, *Development Southern Africa*, [30 \(4-5\)](#), 697-700, 2013.

“The Economist's Burden”, review of Paul Collier's *The Bottom Billion*, *Oxonian Review of Books*, Winter 2007, vol 7:1.

### **AWARDS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

---

URC grant for research on South African property markets	2018-2020
Co-applicant on EU Grant: Enhancing CSO Participation in Legislatures' Oversight and Participation Processes	2018-2021
UCT University Research Committee PhD sabbatical award	2013/14
University of Cape Town Economics ‘PhD Internship’	2010-2013
Rhodes Scholarship for study at University of Oxford	2007-2009
University Research Associate Award	2007
NRF Prestigious Masters Scholarship, South Africa	2006-2007
UCT and NRF conference travel grants (Rome, Canterbury, New York and Lisbon)	2006-2013
Woodrow Wilson Public Policy Partnership Fellow	2002-2007
Natale Labia Award: Best Economics Honours Student	2003

## **PUBLISHED WORKING PAPERS**

---

“Randomised trials for policy: A review of the external validity of treatment effects”, [SALDRU Working Paper 127](#), 2014.

“The transmission of longevity across generations: The case of the settler Cape Colony”, [SALDRU Working Paper 113](#), 2013.(with Patrizio Piraino, Jeanne Cilliers and Johan Fourie)

“Econometric methods and Reichenbach's principle”, [SALDRU Working Paper 85](#), 2012

“Begging the Question: Permanent Income and Social Mobility”, [ERSA Working Paper 75](#), September 2007.

## **TEACHING AND SUPERVISION**

---

### **TEACHING**

2<sup>nd</sup> year: Game Theory (UCT)

3<sup>rd</sup> year: Quantitative Methods in Economics; History of Economic Thought; Public Sector Economics (UCT)

Master's: Applied Microeconomics for Industrial Policy and Development; Advanced Practice of Industrial Policy (UJ)

### **SUPERVISION**

Honours to completion: six (UCT: 2011, 2012)

Master's to completion: two (UJ: 2017/18)

Master's to submission: two (UJ: 2018/19)

Master's under supervision: five (UJ: 2018)

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS**

---

Research Associate, Public and Environmental Economics Research Centre, University of Johannesburg (2017-)

Research Associate, Department of Philosophy, University of Johannesburg (2016)

Referee for *South African Journal of Economics*, *Economic Research Southern Africa*, *Development Southern Africa*, *International Journal of Educational Development*, *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, *Economics and Human Biology*

Affiliate, Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU)

“Review of South African higher education” task team, Council on Higher Education, 2013/14

External examiner: Public Economics (University of Western Cape, 2012-2015)

Committee member: University of Johannesburg College of Business and Economics Decolonisation Committee (2017-)

Member of the American Economic Association

## **OTHER WORK**

---

- 2018 Pro bono expert affidavit for the Legal Resource Centre on the auctioning of bank repossessed properties
- 2013 Contributor to Oxfam report on 2013 South African government Budget (focusing on basic education)
- 2011 Provided a *pro bono* analysis and affidavit as an expert witness for the Centre for Environmental Rights regarding the economic arguments relating to, and an economic impact analysis of, the Vele Colliery project in Mapungubwe, South Africa
- 2003 - Author of various op-ed and comment pieces for a range of national South African publications on a variety of topics mostly relating to public policy, public finance or higher education (Top 3 contributor to *The Conversation* from the University of Johannesburg by number of reads).