

ILAN STRAUSS

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Macroeconomist skilled in econometric modelling, data analysis, and macroeconomic surveillance, with an eye for policy implications and clear non-technical write-ups. Experience producing and managing flagship publications for the *African Development Bank*, UNCTAD's *World Investment Report*, and the *International Labour Organization* (ILO). I currently teach macroeconomics at the *Jones Graduate School of Business*, Rice University. My Ph.D applied Bayesian panel econometrics to firm-level big data, exploring 'secular stagnation' in fixed capital investment rates. Published with Oxford University's *Institute for New Economic Thinking* (INET) and *Oxford Martin School*, currently under review with *the Review of Economic Studies*. Disciplined, creative, and intellectually curious, I enjoy taking the initiative in fast-paced environments.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, *The New School for Social Research*, New York 2014 - 2020 (awarded)
- Columbia University Coursework: Bayesian Statistics, Macroeconomics, Dynamical Systems
MSc, International Development Economics (First Class), *SOAS, University of London* 2010 - 2011
BSc (with Honours), Economics and History, *University of Cape Town* 2005 - 2007

WORK EXPERIENCE

Currently a **Senior Research Associate** in **industrial development** at the *University of Johannesburg* and a contributing researcher at the *Columbia Centre on Sustainable Investment (CCSI)*, Columbia University.

- **Economics Consultant**, 01/2015 - Present.

COVID-19 Project and Technical Lead (05/2020 - Present). *International Labour Organisation* (ILO). Head of modelling, macroeconomic surveillance, project write-up and researchers to produce 2020 estimates of the impact of COVID-19 on employment in South Africa (SA) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, using an augmented input-output model for SA, and using a Bayesian multilevel econometric panel model for SADC countries. Use of high-frequency Google Mobility and commodity price data and annual macroeconomic surveillance data to provide qualitative employment risk assessments for countries.

Chief Macroeconomic Consultant (08/2019 - 04/2020). *African Union Commission and ILO*. Lead author and research manager for a 100 page macroeconomic policy guide for Africa's finance ministers to advance employment and structural transformation within the balance of payments constraints (Mundell-Fleming).

National Minimum Wage Steering Committee (05/2015 - 2016). IEJ, *University of the Witwatersrand*. Macroeconomic modeller and advisor, research published with ILO [here](#). Passing of the first ever national minimum wage for South Africa (01 January 2019).

Lead Author (06/2016 - 10/2016). *Johns Hopkins University* and *Emerge85*. Produce a 100 page history of global economic development: 'The Rise of 'the Rest'? Global Development in the Past, Present, and Future', [Final report here](#).

Expert Consultant (06/2015 - 09/2015). *ILO*, Multinational Enterprises Unit. Write background paper on FDI and MNEs in Africa, for ILO conference on the Tripartite Declaration in Addis Ababa, 30 November-3 December 2015, [Final report here](#).

Consultant (01/2013 - 06/2013). *UNECA*. Produce benchmark definitions on creative sectors for UN and analyse their ability to generate employment in South Africa. Presented findings to expert committee in Addis Abba in 2014.

- **Expert Consultant, UNCTAD (United Nations - Geneva), World Investment Report 12/2013**
- 08/2018

Lead author of Africa Trends section of the World Investment Report and contributed to the Global Investment Monitor. Currently serve as an advisor and external reviewer.

- **Lecturer in Macroeconomics, 01/2016 - Present.**

- Course lead (1/2019 - Present), *Jones Graduate School of Business, Rice University* (Houston, Texas), @MBA program. Manage and help design syllabus, assignments, live lectures, and other teachers.

- Adjunct Lecturer (06/2015 - 12/2019), *New York University* (New York), Division of Applied Undergraduate Studies (DAUC).

- **Research Economist, African Development Bank** (Tunisia) 06/2013 - 06/2014

Second in command managing the internal and external teams which wrote the 200 page African Development Report, a flagship publication of the AfDB involving 11 months of expert meetings, research, editing, macro-economic surveillance, and technical data analysis. Lead author of key chapters on trade, FDI, value chains, regional integration, and policy recommendations.

- **Faculty Member, University of the Witwatersrand** (South Africa) 01/2012 - 12/2012

Lecture econometrics to honours student in development economics. Write policy inputs for government and for European Union funded project on the financial sector called FESSUD. Manage researchers.

- **Chief of Staff to Director, Equal Education** (South Africa) 01/2010 - 6/2010

Manage projects, HR hiring, strategy, speech writing, and campaign coordination for one of the largest non-profits in South Africa. Key Outputs: Marches of 20,000+ people, research presented to Minister of Basic Education, national campaigns across several provinces.

PERSONAL INTERESTS

I love to cook, write letters to the Financial Times, and the outdoors. Travelled to over 45 countries and lived in 3 continents.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

In Progress

with Jangho Yang, 'Corporate Secular Stagnation: Empirical Evidence on the Advanced Economy Investment Slowdown', *Review of Economic Studies* [Under Peer Review].

with Jangho Yang, 'Empirical Evidence on the Slowing in Developing Economy Corporate Investment Rates', *Journal of Development Economics* [Under Consideration].

'Modelling a COVID-19 Shock to Final Demand: Estimates on the Impact on Employment using Augmented Input-Output Tables with Application to South Africa', *the International Labour Review (ILR)*, special edition on COVID-19 and the world of work [Accepted].

Published

Strauss, I. 'Understanding South Africa's Current Account Deficit: The role of foreign direct investment income', *Transnational Corporations* (UNCTAD), Volume 23, Number 2, 2017.

Strauss, Ilan and Charaf-Eddine, Naym. 'Ten Commandments of Applied Regional Integration Analysis: The African Case', *African Development Review*, Special Edition, Volume 26, Issue S1, pages 7-20, November 2014.

Strauss, I. 'Manufacturing and the National Development Plan: Which way forward?', *Social Dynamics: A Journal of African studies*, 2013, 39:1, 119-129.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Strauss, I. ‘2019 Trends in FDI Flows and Policy’, in Lisa Sachs and Lise Johnson (eds). *Yearbook on International Investment Law and Policy 2019*. Oxford University Press. Forthcoming October 2020.
- Strauss, I. ‘Explaining Global Trends in FDI in 2015 and Beyond’, in Lisa Sachs and Lise Johnson (eds). *Yearbook on International Investment Law and Policy 2015-2016*. Oxford University Press. November 2017.
- Strauss, I. ‘Teacher Absentee Rates: Setting the Record Straight’, in Joshua Maserow(ed). *Taking Equal Education into the Classroom*. Equal Education. 2016.

WORKING PAPERS SERIES AND BRIEFS

- ‘Corporate Secular Stagnation: Empirical Evidence on the Advanced Economy Investment Slowdown’, with Jangho Yang, *Oxford Martin School Working Paper*, December 2019.
- Strauss, I., Isaacs, G., and Capaldo, J. ‘The Impact of Minimum Wage Increases on the South African Economy in the Global Policy Model’, *ILO Research Paper No. 20*, October 2017. International Labour Office.
- Strauss, I. and Mavroedi, V. ‘How India can Benefit from FDI: lessons from China’, *Columbia FDI Perspectives*, No. 194 February 27, 2017. Columbia University.
- Strauss, I. ‘Understanding South Africa’s Current Account Deficit: the role of FDI income’, *Africa Economic Brief*, Volume 6, Issue 4, 2015, African Development Bank.
- Krüger, R., and Strauss, I. ‘Africa Rising Out of Itself: the growth of intra-African FDI’, *Columbia FDI Perspectives*, N.139, January 19 2015, Columbia University.
- Strauss, I. ‘Race-to-the-bottom Labour Policies a Dead-End: the clothing and textile workers debate’, *South African Labour Bulletin*, Vol 37 Number 1, March/April 2013.
- Strauss, I. ‘NDP: A Mixed bag’, *South African Labour Bulletin*, Vol 36 Number 5, December 2012/January 2013.
- Strauss, I. and Reddy, N. ‘Treasury Evidence on Youth Wage Subsidy Suspect’, *South African Labour Bulletin*, Vol 36 Number 3: 45-48, August/September, 2012.

BUSINESS PAPER OP-EDS

- Strauss, I. ‘An expat’s guide to Williamsburg, Brooklyn’. *Financial Times, Property Listings*. 10 May 2020.
- Strauss, I. ‘Current accounts: it’s not as simple as “wine for cloth” anymore’. *Financial Times, Letter to the Editor*. August 27 2018.
- Strauss, I. ‘How a minimum wage can help South Africa’. *Fin 24*. 02 August 2016.
- Strauss, I. ‘Subsidies won’t make a dent’. *Mail & Guardian Business Section*. 07 June 2013.
- Strauss, I. ‘ “Beggar-my-neighbour” wage policies a race to the bottom’. *Business Day*. 12 February 2013.
- Strauss, I. ‘ “Cheap labour” fiction will hobble plan’s effectiveness’. *Business Day*. 23 January 2013

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- Strauss, I., Johnson, L., Toledano, P., James, S. ‘Background Paper on Investment Incentives: The good, the bad and the ugly: Assessing the costs, benefits and options for policy reform’. *Draft Conference Paper*. Columbia University and the IFC. 2014
- Molinari, A., Strauss, I., and J. De Angelis. ‘South-South cooperation between Latin America and Africa Analysis with trade and FDI indicators’. *Flacso-ISA Joint International Conference*, July 23rd-25th 2014, Buenos Aires.

Strauss, I and Charaf-Eddine, N. 'The 10 Rules of Regional Integration', *African Economic Conference* hosted by the AfDB, UNDP, and UNECA. October 28-30 2013, Johannesburg.

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