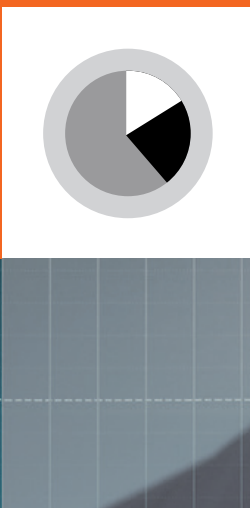
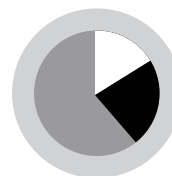


School of Economics



School of Economics

Shared fourth in South Africa and in the top three-five percent Schools of Economics worldwide.



Prof Hardus van Zyl
Director

OVERVIEW

The School of Economics is mostly a research unit within the College of Business and Economics. We house undergraduate and postgraduate academic programmes in economics and econometrics as well as three research centres, namely, the Centre for Competition, Regulation and Economic Development (CCRED), the Centre for Local Economic Development (CENLED) and the Public and Environmental Economics Research Centre (PEERC).

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS 2020

The School of Economics has moved into a higher band on the prestigious QS-rankings. We improved our ranking in South Africa and worldwide. We are now placed in the third position (with Wits) in South Africa and in the top 3-5% Schools of Economics worldwide. The School is constantly improving its overall RePec ranking and is steadily moving towards the third position in South Africa. This improvement is due to the upgrade of quality research publications in highly ranked economic journals from staff members and research fellows. In this regard it is important to mention that one of our DVP's Prof F Riedel has managed to publish two articles in *Econometrica* (one of the top three journals in the world in the field of economics and econometrics).

Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 the School hosted a successful webinar series. International presenters came from the DRC, Denmark, China, UK, USA, and Italy. Staff members from the School presented papers on various international webinars.



Prof Frank Riedel

FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION (4IR) FOOTPRINT

The School of Economics has maintained a strong 4IR research footprint throughout 2020.

CCRED has received a 3-year R15 million grant renewal for the Industrial Think Tank (IDTT). The IDTT program focussed on research, capacity building and knowledge dissemination on industrial development, competition policy and structural transformation in the 4IR era of the South African economy. It also investigates themes such as a survey of digital skill requirements in manufacturing, machinery and equipment masterplans, economic regulation, and competition



in digital policy platforms policy briefs. An expert panel on the regulation of digital platforms for academic development was hosted in the first quarter of the year and it was well attended by an important policy maker in that space.

Dr Stephen Cinelli (an expert in the 4IR space of financial markets) and Dr Miriam Altman (an expert in the 4IR space of new economic development strategies) joined the School as Professors of Practice.

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- Dr Thando Vilakazi was appointed as a member of the Competition Tribunal of South Africa.
- Dr Miriam Altman serves in the National Development steering committee and she is also the convenor of the important COVID-19 Economist Group. This group brings together a network of top policymakers and financial economists to design strategies to mitigate the

impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Prof Talita Greyling developed a Happiness Index for South Africa (the first of its kind on the African continent) and the results are widely published/discussed on media platforms (TV, radio, printed media, and social media).
- Prof Marius Venter has been appointed as a member of the Pan-African Scientific Research Council. He still serves as the Deputy Chairperson of the Small Enterprise Development Agency and on the advisory committee of the Ministerial Committee in respect of Entrepreneurial Universities. He is the Director for PASCAL Africa. Prof Venter played an important part in CENLED being awarded a R5 million contract from the British Council to lead a presidential project on the establishment of a doctoral training academy in partnership with the University of Glasgow. Prof Venter was awarded the certification of 'Professional Municipal Manager' by the Institute of Local Government Management.



Dr Thando Vilakazi



Dr Miriam Altman



Prof Talita Greyling



Prof Marius Venter

CONTINENTAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH FOOTPRINT

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the School has maintained and, in some instances, expanded its strong continental and international footprint. Individual staff members have contributed to the expansion of this footprint, but the three research units are in main responsible for the strong continental and international research footprint. Collaborations include:

African Development Bank, BRICS New Development Bank, African Economic Research Consortium, American University Egypt, Baze University in Nigeria, Central Bank of Namibia, Centre For Innovations in Regional Economic Development, Gauteng Growth and Development Agency, HEM Research Centre Morocco, Institut National de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquee Morroco, Institut Superieur Pedagogique DRC, Mount Kenia University Kenya, Strathmore University Kenya, Universite des Antilles Guadeloupe, University of Abomey Calavi Benin, University of Kinshasa Kinshas DRC, University of Las Palmas, University of Mauritius.

CCRED

The University of East Anglia, Competition authorities in the UK, University of Rwanda, Copenhagen Business School, Industrial Development Cooperation, National Treasury, United Nations University, University of Edinburgh, University of London, Zimbabwe Economic Policy Research Unit.



CCRED
CENTRE FOR COMPETITION,
REGULATION AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PEERC

African Association of Environmental Economists, Duke University, Environment and Climate Research Centre Ethiopia, European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and National Resources Malawi, Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research, Makerere University Uganda, Nordic Africa Institute, South African Local Government Association, United Nations University Ghana, University of California, University of Dar es Salaam Tanzania, University of Gothenburg, University of Kinshasa DRC, University of Nairobi, University of Washington.



PEERC
PUBLIC AND
ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS

CENLED

African Centre for Pascal International Observatory, Economic Development Council of South Africa, Higher Polytechnic and Technology Institute Mozambique, International Economic Development Council, Philippine Normal University, Sol Plaatje Municipality, The British Council, The Global Institute, University of Mpumalanga, University of Zululand, the Wroclaw University of Economics in Poland.



CENLED
CENTRE FOR LOCAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT