

Growth, Unemployment and Inequality in South Africa

2 July – 6 July 2018

Lecturer: Bokang Mpeta

Economists usually view development from two perspectives. Firstly, we wish to understand more broadly why some economies are poor and why others have performed so well. Secondly, we consider how broad economic trends and policies impact households and individuals. The literature on economic growth is vast, and seeks answers in many focus areas: from the relationship between aid and growth, to the more long-term influences of geography, the slave trade, and legal and informal institutions. The lectures of this component of the forum will give a broad overview of the theoretical and empirical literature on economic growth, and hopes to understand a large spectrum of likely causes and influences. Some topics will be placed within a historical and institutional view, while others will consider the more recent debates. Both will inform the developmental status quo.

However, we also turn to micro level evidence on economic development, which abstracts from the more one-dimensional concept of “growth”. Among the topics we consider are the role of education and educational quality in development, the broad understanding of poverty and inequality, labour markets and economic views on discrimination, social security and the targeting of other state expenditure to the poor. Much of the evidence that will be discussed will draw on South Africa as a case study, but comparative evidence will be presented to generalize the issues at hand. Inevitably, much of the literature in Economics relies on empirical analysis to understand the features that are discussed. While an in depth knowledge of Econometrics will not be required for this forum, basic quantitative literacy will be necessary to follow the broad themes in the development literature.

Programme:

2 – 6 July	<p>Mon 2 July 09:00-12:30 Our roots in Africa</p> <p>Johan Fourie, lecturer in Economics</p> <p>14:00-16:30 An African and South African future</p> <p>Johan Fourie</p>	<p>Tues 3 July</p> <p>South Africa and inequality in a global context: Discussion Session</p> <p>Bokang Mpeta, lecturer in Economics</p> <p>The South African labour market</p> <p>Nwabisa Makaluza, lecturer in Economics</p>	<p>Wed 4 July</p> <p>South Africa’s macro-economic outlook (I)</p> <p>Hylton Hollander, lecturer in Economics</p> <p>South Africa’s macro-economic outlook (II)</p> <p>Hylton Hollander</p>	<p>Thurs 5 July</p> <p>Women in South Africa’s economy</p> <p>Nwabisa Makaluza</p> <p>Education in Africa</p> <p>Debra Shepherd, lecturer in Economics</p>	<p>Fri 6 July Test: 09:00-10:30</p>
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Assessments:

Test (6 July) and written assignment (due date: Friday, 13 July at 12am). Submit your essay via Turnitin.

The year is 2050. Write a history of African development since 2010.

- Consider in your answer the potential opportunities and pitfalls the continent might face over the next four decades.
- 1500 words
- Please ensure that you don't plagiarise and that you are consistent in referencing your sources. Please read the information regarding plagiarism and how to reference correctly.

Contact:

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Selected research papers will be provided in class.