

EDUARD VAN DER MERWE

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Affiliation: Rice University,
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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Economics

Rice University

Aug 2021 – Present

Houston, Texas, USA

- Current cumulative GPA: 3.70/4.00.
- Relevant coursework: Development Economics, Empirical Microeconomics, Matching & Market Design, Computational Economics, Human Rights and Human Security in MENA, Econometrics I & II, Empirical Industrial Organization, Financial Economics, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Real Analysis.

Master of Commerce (MCom) in Econometrics

University of Pretoria

Jan 2020 – Jul 2021

Pretoria, South Africa

- Graduated Cum Laude.
- Average: 86.17% (equivalent GPA: 4.00/4.00)
- Relevant coursework: Quantitative Econometrics, Computable General Equilibrium Modeling, Microeconometrics, Macroeconomics, Panel-Data Econometrics, Microeconomics.

Bachelor of Commerce Honors (BComHons) in Econometrics

University of Pretoria

Jan 2019 – Dec 2019

Pretoria, South Africa

- Graduated Cum Laude.
- Average: 90.50% (equivalent GPA: 4.00/4.00)
- Relevant coursework: Microeconomics I & II, Macroeconomics I & II, Cross-Section Econometrics, Time-Series Econometrics.

Advanced Certificate in Emerging Markets and Country Risk Analysis

Fordham University

May 2019 – Sep 2019

New York, New York, USA

- GPA: 3.917/4.00
- Relevant coursework: Political Risk Analysis, Emerging Markets, Strategic Financial Management.

Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) in Econometrics

University of Pretoria

Jan 2016 – Dec 2018

Pretoria, South Africa

- Graduated Cum Laude.
- Average: 90.82% (equivalent GPA: 3.98/4.00)
- Top-performing undergraduate student in the faculty of Economic and Management Sciences.
- Relevant coursework: Economic Growth and Development, Mathematical Statistics, Calculus, Linear Algebra, Multivariate Analysis, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Stochastic Processes, International Trade, Public Economics, Accounting.

EXPERIENCE

Graduate Scholar

Boniuk Institute, Rice University

Aug 2023 – Present

Houston, Texas, USA

- Gained valuable insights into the qualitative data collection and analysis process.
- Acquainted with faith and community leaders and leading religious scholars to talk about timely issues, engage with ongoing research and share resources.

Teaching Assistant

Rice university

Aug 2021 – Present

Houston, Texas, USA

- ECON 433: Dynamic Models for Computational Economics (undergraduate, Rice University) for Dr. Chase Coleman.
- ECON 479: Math for Computational Economics (undergraduate, Rice University) for Dr. Chase Coleman.
- ECON 203: Macroeconomics (undergraduate, Rice University) for Prof. Amelie Carlton.

Research Assistant

Dr. Matthew Clance, University of Pretoria

Apr 2019 – Jul 2021

Pretoria, South Africa

- Gathered, cleaned and organized several datasets (including survey data) using Stata, R and QGIS.
- Collaborated and worked on various projects in development economics while producing two research papers.

Teaching Assistant

University of Pretoria

Feb 2019 – Jul 2021

Pretoria, South Africa

- Completed Certified Tutor Training in 2019, 2020, & 2021.
- Tutored students in second-year and third-year Economics as well as in honors-level Econometrics.
- Created several videos to introduce students to R programming while consultation with students enhanced communication skills.

RESEARCH AND PROJECTS

Publications

- VAN DER MERWE, E., CLANCE, M., & YITBAREK, E. (2022). Climate Change and Child Malnutrition: A Nigerian Perspective. *Food Policy*, 113, 102281. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodpol.2022.102281>

Working Papers

- VAN DER MERWE, E., CHISADZA, C., & CLANCE, M. (2021). Government Religious Preference and Intrastate Conflict. *Economic Research Southern Africa Working Paper Series*, 867

Selected Work in Progress

- Do Ethnic Characteristics Matter for Child Poverty and Malnutrition? An Intrahousehold Resource Allocation Approach
- Religion, Poverty and Conflict: How beneficial is it to adhere to the state's religion? (with Matthew Clance)

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- How best could we predict climate-driven disease outbreaks to better respond in WaSH? Oxfam, MSF, UoN, ThinkPlace, Centre for Humanitarian Change (Webinar, April 2021).

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages : Stata, R, Python, Julia, ArcGIS, \LaTeX

Familiarity : QGIS, SAS, EViews, MATLAB, GEMPACK Software Platform

FELLOWSHIPS, NOMINATIONS AND ACCOLADES

- Boniuk Institute Graduate Student Scholar Awardee (2023/2024).
- Anton and Huberte Rupert Bursary (2020).
- Nominated for the ESSA Founders' Medal for Best Honors Research Paper (2020).
- National Research Foundation's (NRF) Postgraduate Scholarship (2019).
- Vice-Chancellor and Principal's Award (2019).
- Dean's List in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences (2019).
- Bain & Company Merit Award for Outstanding Performance in the Economics Department (2018).
- Genesis Analytics Award as Top Performing third-year student in the Department of Economics (2018).
- Genesis Analytics Award as Top Performing second-year student in the Department of Economics (2017).
- Bain & Company Merit Award as Top Performing Econometrics second-year student (2017).
- ERSA award for the best first-year student in Economics (2016).

TESTIMONIAL

"Forget about the achievements for a moment. . . solely through who he is – with his impeccable character and humanity does Eduard van der Merwe deserve the honor that comes to him and the 'Erewapen' without a doubt. . . Eduard will among other things be remembered for his hard work, his big heart, his leadership and his achievements will definitely be written in the history books. . ."
– Helpmekaar Kollege