BASTIAAN QUAST
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Department of International Economics | *The Graduate Institute*
Geneva, Switzerland

Research Interests

Internet and Telecommunications adoption | Trade Analysis | Microeconomic estimators | Artificial Neural Networks (R & Python) | Blockchain (Bitcoin) | Complexity Modeling

Employment

2015–16   ECONOMIST FELLOW | THE INTERNET SOCIETY, GENEVA
Paper on exogenous increase in availability of local language content and internet adoption, presented at EEA 2016 | Conceputalised and executed report "Promoting Local Content in Africa" presented at Africa Internet Summit, leading to Google update advertising policy to help monetise African language content.

2013-15   RESEARCH CONSULTANT | COGINTA, GENEVA / GUINEA
Directed a large scale representative baseline survey of Conakry (Guinea) population | Conducted analysis for Canton of Geneva commissioned survey on police victimisation

2014–15   RESEARCH ASSISTANT | CENTRE ON CONFLICT, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACEBUILDING
Collaborated with the "Institute Nationale du Development Humaine" (govt. Morocco) to direct a survey on behaviour and community relations, using a Regression Discontinuity Design Identification Strategy

2013-14   RESEARCH ASSISTANT | CENTRE FOR FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT, GENEVA
Developed survey design on remittances from Geneva | Redeveloped Centre's website

2013-14   TEACHING ASSISTANT | THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE, GENEVA
Taught weekly Masters' Statistics workshops | Supervised Masters' Research Projects

2012   RESEARCH CONSULTANT | DUTCH DEVELOPMENT FINANCE INSTITUTE FMO, THE HAGUE
Designed and directed survey on implementation of environmental, social, and governance best practices among FMO-invested hedge funds

2009   RESEARCH ASSISTANT | UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN, NETHERLANDS
Data collection and analysis for Ministry of Economics Affairs commisioned survey on adherence of businesses to Corporate Social Responsibility code (code Tabaksblat)

Education

2012–16   PHD IN DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS | THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE GENEVA
Internet Adoption in Africa | Trade & Global Value Chains | Gender and Child Growth
Jury: Richard Baldwin (president), Jean-Louis Arcand (supervisor) & Michael Kende

2010–12   MASTER IN QUANTITATIVE ECONOMICS AND FINANCE | UNIVERSITY OF ST. GALLEN
Studied under Piedro Veglio, former Executive Director for Switzerland to The World Bank
Research on microhydropower renewable energy, at The World Bank

2006-10   BSC ECONOMICS | UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN

2006-10   BA THEORETICAL PHILOSOPHY | UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN

Research Papers

| 2016 | "Global Value Chains in LICs" | *forthcoming* |

2016   "Making the Next Billion Demand Access: google.co.za in Setswana" | *CFD Working Paper Series*

2015   "decompr: GVC decomposition in R" | *CTEI Working Paper Series*

2014   "Cryptocurrencies and Inflation" | *CFD Working Paper Series*

Conference Presentations

2016   "Making the Next Billion Demand Access: The Local-Content Effect of `google.co.za` in Setswana" | *EEA Annual Conference 2016*

2013   "Urban Violence and Collective Efficacy in Karachi and Dhaka" | *Pictet Foundation / Centre for Finance and Development Conference 2013*

Software Development

2016   `rnn` *CRAN.* First Recurrent Neural Network in the R language.
https://cran.r-project.org/package=rnn | multilayer Recurrent Neural Network (Deep Learning) | > 2500 downloads in 5 months

2015   `decompr` *CRAN.* Global Value Chain decomposition.
https://cran.r-project.org/package=decompr | Implementation of Wang-Wei-Zhu GVC decomposition algorithm | > 6000 downloads | Used for: World Bank GVC study, VoxEU GVCs eBook, Taiwan Bureau of Statistics China-trade study

2015   `sigmoid` *CRAN.* Sigmoid functions (logistic, Gompertz), inverses (logit), and SoftMax
https://cran.r-project.org/package=sigmoid

2015   `rddtools` *CRAN.* Framework and tools for Regression Discontinuity Design
https://cran.r-project.org/package=rddtools

2015   `learNN` *CRAN.* Learn how Neural Networks work
https://cran.r-project.org/package=learNN

2014   `gvc` *CRAN.* Tools for Global Value Chain analysis
https://cran.r-project.org/package=gvc

2014   `diagonals` *CRAN.* Tools for manipulating fat-diagonal matrices, e.g. block matrices
https://cran.r-project.org/package=diagonals

Other Publications

2016   Promoting Content in Africa, *The Internet Society*

2014   Diagnostic Local de Sécurité 2014 de Conakry (Guinée), *Coginta*

2013   Diagnostic Local de Sécurité 2013 de Genève (Suisse), *Coginta*

Affiliations

Centre for Finance and Development; The Graduate Institute, Geneva

Centre on Trade and Economic Integration; The Graduate Institute, Geneva

Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding; The Graduate Institute, Geneva

Ifo Expert Group