

*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

- 2016- RESEARCHER | UNCTAD, GENEVA
Gender impact evaluation of FTAs | Modelling Impact of FTA with EU
- 2015-16 ECONOMIST | THE INTERNET SOCIETY, GENEVA
Paper on exogenous increase in availability of local language content and internet adoption, presented at EEA 2016 | Conceptualised 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 Developement 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 commissioned 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