Chris Rooney

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Accomplished policy analyst and researcher with 10 years of relevant experience in research, policy analysis, and strategy implementation for governmental and non-governmental organisations. Proven ability to conduct in-depth research and economic/financial analysis to inform provincial policies and strategies. Adept at applying data-driven insights to real-world policy problems, including minimum wage and social protection. Excellent track record in stakeholder management and strategic partnerships across diverse groups, including government officials and policymakers. Proficient in leveraging tools like R and Stata to analyse large datasets and present complex, technical findings to various audiences.

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

DEVELOPMENT POLICY RESEARCH UNIT, UCT   Cape Town
Junior Research Analyst   Jan. 2015 – Dec. 2024

- **Policy Analysis & Strategy:** Built a predictive model based on several demographic characteristics to estimate the impact of national minimum wage on unemployment, inequality and poverty, which was used as a direct input in determining the level of the national minimum wage in South Africa.

- **Policy Development:** Produced an input paper for the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs about expanding social protection in Africa, discussing the creation of new social protection infrastructure, the introduction of the Covid-19 Social Relief Distress grant, and potential financing options.

- **Monitoring & Evaluation / Planning Assessment:** Provided a monitoring and evaluation role to the Jobs Fund by constructing unique 'Project Success' and 'Project Constraints' indices to evaluate the effectiveness of projects based on several set criteria.

- **Research & Data Analysis:** Utilised South African labour force data to measure the evolution of digital content in occupations, suggesting that occupations require a higher level of digital skills. Conducted research on the skills needs of the informal sector and how technological trends impact jobs in the South African insurance sector.

- **Stakeholder Management & Coordination:** Successfully managed projects and coordinated with clients (including academics, government officials, policymakers, and industry association members) in multiple economic and policy areas to understand requirements and manage expectations.

- **Research Design:** Designed, conducted, and analysed three separate surveys covering multiple firms, industry associations, and sectoral experts on topics including skills gaps, industry challenges, and job opportunities for women and youth.

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

2U   Cape Town
Assessor (part time)   Jan. 2023 – Current

- Evaluate 25–35 postgraduate assignments weekly, applying structured rubrics to assess analytical reasoning, argumentation, and clarity in public policy analysis.

- Provide detailed written feedback to enhance conceptual understanding and academic rigour in student work.
- Support consistency and reliability in evaluation standards through peer calibration and responsive clarification of grading decisions.
- Developed a reputation for constructive, precise feedback that strengthens students' critical engagement with complex policy and economic material.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN   2015
Master of Commerce (Economic Development): Upper Second-Class Honours

- UCT Master's Research Scholarship

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN   2012
Bachelor of Business Science (Economics): Upper Second-Class Honours

- Dean's Merit List
- Commerce Faculty Merit Scholarship

CERTIFICATIONS

- Google Advanced Data Analytics Professional Certificate   2025
- Google Data Analytics Professional Certificate   2024

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Software:** Stata, R, Python, SQL, Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, Word