

CONTACT      Office 3.13.3, School of Economics      joshua.budlender@uct.ac.za  
University of Cape Town      +27 21 650 5696  
Rondebosch         
Cape Town, 7700      www.joshbudlender.co.za

APPOINTMENTS      **Southern Africa Labour & Development Research Unit (SALDRU),  
University of Cape Town**  
▪ Postdoctoral Research Fellow      Jul 2024 – present  
▪ Junior Research Fellow      Aug 2021 – Jun 2024  
▪ Researcher      Feb 2015 – Jul 2015  
  
**Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa (SERI)**  
▪ Research Fellow      Aug 2015 – Jul 2016

EDUCATION      **University of Massachusetts, Amherst**  
▪ PhD, Economics      Sep 2024  
    • Committee: Arindrajit Dube (chair), Daniele Girardi, Matt Woerman  
  
**University College London (UCL)**  
▪ MSc, Economic Policy      Sep 2017  
  
**University of Cape Town**  
▪ BSocSci (Honours), Economics      Dec 2014  
▪ BSocSci, Economics & Economic History      Dec 2013

PUBLICATIONS      JOURNAL ARTICLES  
& CONFERENCES      [4] I. Bassier, J. Budlender and M. Goldman (2025). “Social Distress and (Some) Relief: Estimating the impact of pandemic job loss on poverty in South Africa” *International Journal of Microsimulation*, DOI: 10.34196/ijm.00312.  
[3] I. Bassier, J. Budlender, R. Zizzamia and R. Jain (2023). “The labour market and poverty impacts of covid-19 in South Africa” *South African Journal of Economics*, DOI: 10.1111/saje.12356.  
[2] I. Bassier, J. Budlender, R. Zizzamia, M. Leibbrandt, V. Ranchhod (2020). “Locked down and locked out: Repurposing social assistance as emergency relief to informal workers” *World Development*, DOI: 10.1016/j.worlddev.2020.105271.  
[1] I. Turok, J. Budlender, and J. Visagie (2018). “Urban ‘Slums’ and Social Mobility” *Development Policy Review*, 36(6): 703-725.

WORKING PAPERS  
[6] I. Bassier and J. Budlender (2025). “When do employers share? Rent sharing, monopsony and minimum wages” (CEP Discussion Paper 2134). London: Centre for Economic Performance, London School of Economics.  
[5] J. Budlender (2024). “Surviving in the dark: the mortality effects of reducing rolling blackouts” (WIDER Working Paper 2024/44). Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.  
[4] I. Bassier and J. Budlender (2024). “Stimulus effects of a large public employment programme” (AFD Research Paper 305). Agence française de développement.  
[3] J. Budlender and A. Ebrahim (2021). “Estimating employment responses to South Africa’s Employment Tax Incentive” (WIDER Working Paper 2021/118). Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.  
[2] J. Budlender (2019). “Markups and Market Structure in South Africa: What can be learnt from new administrative data?” (WIDER Working Paper 2019/58). Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.  
[1] J. Budlender, M. Leibbrandt, and I. Woolard (2015). “South African poverty lines: a review and two new money-metric thresholds” (SALDRU Working Paper 151). Cape Town: Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit.

## REPORTS

- [5] M. Goldman, I. Bassier, J. Budlender, L. Mzankomo, I. Woolard and M. Leibbrandt (2021). “Simulation of options to replace the special COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress grant and close the poverty gap at the food poverty line” (WIDER Working Paper 2021/165). Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
- [4] I. Bassier and J. Budlender (2021). “Methods for credible evaluation of programme stimulus effects in South Africa” (SALDRU Working Paper 278). Cape Town: Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit.
- [3] J. Budlender and A. Ebrahim (2020). “Industry classification in the South African tax microdata” (WIDER Working Paper 2020/99). Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.
- [2] J. Budlender (2016). *Edged Out: Spatial Mismatch and Spatial Justice in South Africa’s Main Urban Areas – Technical Report*. Johannesburg: Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa.
- [1] J. Budlender and L. Royston (2016). *Edged Out: Spatial Mismatch and Spatial Justice in South Africa’s Main Urban Areas*. Johannesburg: Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- [6] J. Budlender, “Surviving in the dark: the mortality effects of reducing rolling blackouts,” for the *2025 Centenary Conference of the Economic Society of South Africa*. Economic Society of South Africa: Somerset West, Sep 2025.
- [5] I. Bassier and J. Budlender, “Stimulus effects of a large public employment programme,” for the *Inequality, Work and Nature Conference*. Agence Française de Développement Group: Cape Town, Nov 2023.
- [4] J. Budlender and I. Bassier, “Monopsony, wage floors and structural transformation,” for the *2023 Biennial Conference of the Economic Society of South Africa*. Economic Society of South Africa: Pretoria, Sep 2023.
- [3] I. Bassier, J. Budlender and M. Leibbrandt, “Stimulus effects of public social programmes,” for the *2023 Biennial Conference of the Economic Society of South Africa*. Economic Society of South Africa: Pretoria, Sep 2023.
- [2] J. Budlender, M. Leibbrandt, and I. Woolard, “Weakly relative poverty lines in developing countries: The case of South Africa,” for the *2015 Biennial Conference of the Economic Society of South Africa*. Economic Society of South Africa: Cape Town, Sep 2015.
- [1] J. Budlender, M. Leibbrandt, and I. Woolard, “A “Weakly Relative” Poverty Line for South Africa,” for the *Workshop on Measuring Deprivation in order to Promote Human Development in South Africa*. Academy of Science of South Africa: Muldersdrift, Jun 2015.

## GRANTS

### Urban and Regional Economics in Africa Research Grant, IGC

- The value of reliable electricity: The impact of load shedding mitigation on property prices in Cape Town (2025-26)

### SRG Research Grant, STEG

- Monopsony, Wage Floors, and Structural Transformation (2023-24)

### RFI Research Grant, EU-AFD

- Stimulus effects of a large public employment programme (2021-23)

### SA-TIED Research Grants, UNU-WIDER

- Firms and racial segregation in the South African formal sector labour market (2025)
- Economic and social costs of rolling blackouts in South Africa (2023-24)
- Monopsony, Wage Floors, and Structural Transformation (2022-23)
- Project on the South African Employment Tax Incentive (2020-21)
- Industry classification in the South African tax microdata (2019-20)
- The market structure-profit relationship in South Africa: Evidence from administrative data (2018-19)

## AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- **Fulbright Scholarship**, Fulbright Foreign Student Program 2017  
Full-tuition scholarship with stipend (2 years), for PhD at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- **Doctoral Abroad Scholarship**, National Research Foundation (South Africa) 2017  
Scholarship with stipend (4 years), for PhD at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- **Chevening Scholarship**, United Kingdom Foreign & Commonwealth Office 2016  
Full-tuition scholarship with stipend (1 year), for MSc at University College London (UCL).
- **Thembi Losi Memorial Prize**, School of Economics, University of Cape Town 2014

For best Honours Long Paper with a developmental theme.

- **Undergraduate Winner, Nedbank & Old Mutual Budget Speech Competition** 2013  
National Economics essay-writing competition, with interview component for top-10.

REFeree SERVICE	<i>Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Development Economics, Review of Social Economy, South African Journal of Economics, Development Southern Africa, Acta Juridica</i>
MEMBERSHIPS	<i>Council for the Advancement of the South African Constitution</i> (Executive Committee), <i>Economic Society of South Africa</i>
REFERENCES	Available on request.