

# Leonard le Roux

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Fields: Development; Urban; Political Economy

## Education

Ph.D. Sciences Po, 2020 to 2025 (expected)  
Economics

M.Com. University of Cape Town, 2019  
Economics, Specialising in Applied Economics, with distinction in the dissertation.

M.A. CERDI, University of Clermont Auvergne, 2017  
Development Economics, with distinction (mention: Très Bien)

B.Com. Honours, Stellenbosch University, 2016  
Economics

B.Soc.Sci., University of Cape Town, 2015  
Mathematics, Economics, Philosophy (triple major)

## References

Professor Benjamin Marx  
Boston University, Department of Economics  
617-353-4123, [bmarx@bu.edu](mailto:bmarx@bu.edu)

Professor Pierre-Philippe Combes  
Sciences Po Paris, Department of Economics  
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Professor Roberto Galbiati  
Sciences Po Paris, Department of Economics  
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Professor Gunnar Kohlin  
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## Job Market Paper:

### Informality and Violence: Evidence from South Africa

Abstract: This paper studies the emergence of violence in legal markets, with a particular focus on the informal commuter transport sector in South Africa, where minibus taxis are integral to urban mobility. Despite being a legal sector, the taxi industry is plagued by significant and persistent violence, imposing substantial social costs. Using novel administrative data from the government's operating license system, route-level pricing information, and a unique dataset of taxi-related violence compiled from print and online media, I examine the interplay between competition, firm growth, and violence. I leverage variation from a sudden decline in rail service quality to estimate the effect of local demand shocks on taxi-related violence in a difference-in-differences framework. The taxi associations most positively affected by this demand shock experience both a large growth in their membership and substantial increases in violence. The results are interpreted through the lens of contest theory, highlighting that even legal but informal markets can suffer from violence due to failures in contract enforcement, akin to those observed in illegal markets.

## Working Papers

1. *The Political Economy of Migration Restrictions under Apartheid* (with Tomás Domínguez-Iino)
2. *Individual Agglomeration Gains and Sorting in South Africa*.
3. *Cooperative Governance: Traditional Leaders and Local Government* (with Dieter von Fintel)

## Publications

1. Le Roux, L., and Choumert-Nkolo, J. (2024), "[Leaving the Hearth You Know: Internal Migration and Energy Poverty](#)", *World Development*.
2. Visser, M., Le Roux, L., Mulwa, C., Tibesigwa, B., and Ayele, M. (2024), "[Adaptive Investment With Land Tenure and Weather Risk: Behavioral Evidence From Tanzania](#)", *Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organization*, Vol. 217, pp. 398-433.
3. Das, I., Le Roux, L., Jeuland, M., and Ruhinduka, R. (2024), "[Willingness to Pay for Cooking Fuels in Two African Cities: A Comparative Analysis of Nairobi and Dar es Salaam](#)", *PLOS Sustainability and Transformation*.
4. Bruhl, J.M., Le Roux, L., Visser, M., and Kohlin, G. (2020), "[Decision-Making in a Water Crisis: Lessons From the Cape Town Drought for Urban Water Policy](#)", *Oxford Encyclopedia of Water Resources Management and Policy*. (book chapter)
5. Choumert-Nkolo, J., Combes Motel, P., and Le Roux, L. (2019), "[Stacking up the Ladder: A Panel Data Analysis of Tanzanian Household Energy Choices](#)", *World Development*, Vol. 115, pp. 222-235.

## Experience

Royal Economic Society

*Data Replicator (part time), 2023*

Environmental Economics Policy Research Unit (EPRU)

*Junior Research Fellow, Environment for Development Initiative (EfD), 2018-2020*

Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches sur le Développement International (CERDI)

*Research Intern, 2017*

University of Cape Town, School of Economics

*Research Assistant and Tutor, 2016-2017*

Numeric

*Mathematics Coach, 2015*

## Grants & Awards

Aix-Marseille School of Economics PhD fellowship, 2024-25

UNU-Wider research grant, 2023

Center for History and Economics in Paris PhD student grant, 2022-2023

Oppenheimer Memorial Trust Doctoral Scholarship, 2020-2023

UNU-Wider research grant, 2020

Sciences Po Department of Economics Doctoral Contract, 2020-2023

National Research Foundation Masters scholarship, 2018

Embassy of France in South Africa Masters Scholarship, 2016-2017  
University of Cape Town travel fund grant, 2013

## **Academic Presentations**

2024. CSAE conference, Oxford; European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association; HEC PhD conference; International Conference on Development Economics

2023. Warwick PhD student conference; UNU-Wider work-in-progress workshop; IAST-OxPo conference; CSAE, Oxford; Transport, Energy and Climate Economics Working Group, Dauphine PSL; Sciences Po Department of Economics Departmental Seminar

2022. Sciences Po Department of Economics Departmental Seminar; Stellenbosch University Spatial Economics Workshop; NOVAFRICA Conference on Economic Development

2021. Sciences Po Department of Economics Seminar; Economic History of Developing Regions Virtual Seminar; Environment for Development Annual Meeting

2019. Stellenbosch University Spatial Econometrics Workshop, Stellenbosch; Sustainable Energy Transitions Initiative (SETI) annual meeting, Santiago; Future of Farmworkers conference, Cape Town

2018. Sustainable Energy Transitions Initiative (SETI) annual meeting, Duke University; Asian Development Bank Market-Based Approaches to Environmental Management, Manila, Philippines (participant)

## **Teaching**

Quantitative Methods - Fall 2021. Developer of course material and course instructor.

Labour Economics - Spring 2021. Teaching assistant to Pierre Cahuc.

Development Economics - Fall 2021. Teaching assistant to Golvine de Rochambeau.

Economic History - Fall 2022. Teaching assistant to Moritz Schularick.

## **Contributions to policy reports**

[Greening Markets: Market Based Approaches for Environmental Management In Asia](#), 2021. Asian Development Bank. (Contributing member of research team, not an author.)

## **Refereeing**

American Journal of Agricultural Economics; Journal of Law, Economics and Organization

## **Campus Activities**

Co-organiser of PhD Seminar series, Sciences Po, 2022-2023

Executive committee member, University of Cape Town Mountain and Ski Club, 2012-2014

Executive committee member, University of Cape Town Student Sports Union, 2016-2017

## **Statistical programming skills**

R, Stata, Qgis, familiarity with version control using Git.

## **Language Skills**

English (fluent), Afrikaans (fluent), French (fluent), Spanish (intermediate)

## **Citizenship**

South African

Last updated: October 3, 2024  
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