

# Dr. Ruben Dewitte

Ghent University  
Campus Tweekerken  
Tweekerkenstraat 2  
BE-9000 Ghent  
☎ +32 495 364780  
✉ [rubenL.dewitte@ugent.be](mailto:rubenL.dewitte@ugent.be)  
🌐 [www.rubendewitte.be](http://www.rubendewitte.be)

I am an international economist who studies the firm-level determinants of technological progress and quantifies the consequences of international trade for technological progress and subsequent economic prosperity. My *research* aims to advance the theoretical underpinnings of firm-level productivity characterization and its evolution over time (technological change), and designs novel empirical methodologies that improve on the measurement of productivity in line with its definition. I apply my obtained state-of-the-art knowledge to *teach* students and prepare them optimally for the job market.

## Current Positions

2022–current **Visiting professor**, *Ghent University*, Ghent

2021–current **Postdoctoral research fellow of Research Foundation Flanders (FWO)**, *Ghent University*, Ghent

As a postdoctoral researcher and visiting professor, I divide my time between fundamental research in line with my research interests and teaching. My teaching tasks are listed below.

- Responsible lecturer for the course 'International Trade and Migration' (6 ECTS) in the 'Master of Science in Economics';
- Co-lecturer for the course 'European Economic Integration and Regional Integration Analysis' (9 ECTS) in the Master 'Economics of Globalization and European Integration';
- Consultant for the international economics seminar (6 ECTS across three seminars) in which third-year economic bachelor students learn to analyze the impact of recent trade agreements;
- Supervisor of master dissertations (18-24 ECTS).

## Previous Positions

2021 **Research intern**, *National Bank of Belgium*, Brussels

Research internship granted for the research project 'Identifying Latent Heterogeneity in Productivity' that was published as NBB Working Paper no. 428 in 2022.

2020–2021 **Postdoctoral researcher**, *Ghent University*, Ghent

As a postdoctoral researcher, I was expected to continue developing my personal research agenda while providing teaching support. My teaching tasks are listed below.

- Co-lecturer for the course 'European Economic Integration and Regional Integration Analysis' in the Master 'Economics of Globalization and European Integration' (9 ECTS);
- Lecturer of Gravity in Economics class during the 'Trade and Migration Policy' course (6 ECTS) in the 'Master of Science in Economics';
- Responsible for the international economics seminar (6 ECTS across three seminars) in which third-year economic bachelor students learn to analyze the impact of recent trade agreements;
- Supervisor of master dissertations (18-24 ECTS);
- Help coordinate the UN simulation game in the bachelor course 'Economic Globalization'.

2014–2020 **Teaching assistant**, *Ghent University*, Ghent

As a teaching assistant, I was expected to work on my PhD thesis titled "Firm Heterogeneity in International Trade" under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Glenn Rayp while providing teaching support. My teaching tasks are listed below.

- Responsible for the international economics seminar (6 ECTS across three seminars) in which third-year economic bachelor students learn to analyze the impact of recent trade agreements;
- Assist Prof. Dr. Glenn Rayp and Prof. Dr. Ilse Ruysen with their master course 'Modern Trade and Migration Policy' and bachelor courses 'International Economics', 'Economic Globalization' and 'Development of Economic science';
- Assist with the exercise sessions of the first-year general economics course.

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## Grants

2021–2024 **Postdoctoral research fellowship at Research Foundation Flanders (FWO)**,  
*Grant 12B8822N*

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## Research Interests

International Trade, Firm Performance, and Production Function Estimations.

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## Education

- 2015–2020 **Doctor of Economics**, *Ghent University*, Ghent, No grade  
Thesis title: *Firm Heterogeneity in International Trade*.  
Supervisor: *Glenn Rayp*  
Examination committee: *Gerdie Everaert, Bruno Merlevede, Luca David Opromolla, Gonzague Vannoorenberghe, Marijn Verschelde*
- 2014–2015 **Master in General Economics: Research Focus**, *Université Catholique de Louvain*, Louvain-la-Neuve, *Distinction*  
Thesis title: *Comparative advantage and heterogeneous firms. The case of Portugal*.  
Note: This master was followed to prepare for the PhD-program at Ghent University and was obtained while acting as a teaching assistant at Ghent University.
- 2013–2014 **Master of Science in Economics**, *Ghent University*, Ghent, *Great Distinction*  
Thesis title: *Middle-income trap and export sophistication. Assessment and economic policy implications*.
- 2012–2013 **Erasmus Exchange Program**, *Université de Neuchâtel*, Neuchâtel
- 2010–2013 **Bachelor of Science in Economics**, *Ghent University*, Ghent, *Great Distinction*  
Thesis title: *Measuring human well-being based on an idea of Robert H. Frank*.

### Single Courses

- spring 2017 **Research on Productivity, Trade, and Growth: Theory and Practice**, *Tinbergen Institute*, Amsterdam, No grade  
This course focused on empirical research using firm-level data. It introduced dynamic firm models, productivity estimation techniques, and structural modeling of productivity, trade, and growth. It was taught by Prof. Dr. Eric Bartelsman, Prof. Dr. Jan de Loecker and Prof. Dr. Jo Van Biesebroeck.
- spring 2017 **Economic Growth**, *Kiel Institute for The World Economy*, Kiel, Greatest distinction  
This course was part of the 2017 'Advanced Studies in International Economic Policy Research'-program. It was taught by Prof. Dr. Gino Gancia and focused on topics in the area of economic growth and technological progress.
- spring 2017 **Resampling methods with applications**, *Université Catholique de Louvain*, Louvain-la-Neuve, Greatest Distinction  
This course was part of the 'Master in Statistics'-program. It was taught by Prof. Dr. Germain Van Bever and focused on the theoretical properties of resampling methods and their applications that are useful in statistics and econometrics.
- fall 2016 **Non- and semi-parametric econometrics**, *Université Catholique de Louvain*, Louvain-la-Neuve, Distinction  
This course was part of the 'Master in Statistics'-program. It was taught by Prof. Dr. Christian Hafner and focused on non- and semi-parametric estimation methods that are often used in econometrics.

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## Refereed Publications

Ruben Dewitte, The Gravity Equation in International Trade: A Note., *Journal of Political economy*, 130(5), 1412-1418.

Ruben Dewitte, Michel Dumont, Glenn Rayp, and Peter Willemé, 2022. Unobserved Heterogeneity in the Productivity Distribution and Gains From Trade., *Canadian Journal of Economics*, 55(3), 1566-1597.

Ruben Dewitte, Michel Dumont, Bruno Merlevede, Glenn Rayp and Marijn Verschelde, 2020. Firm-Heterogeneous Biased Technological Change: A nonparametric approach under endogeneity., *European Journal of Operational Research* 283(3), 1172–1182.

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## Work in Progress

Ruben Dewitte, Catherine Fuss, and Angelos Theodorakopoulos, NBB working paper no. 428. Identifying Latent Heterogeneity in Productivity.

Ruben Dewitte, Bruno Merlevede, and Glenn Rayp, Third round R&R at *Journal of Applied Econometrics*. Gains From Trade: Demand, Supply and Idiosyncratic Uncertainty.

Ruben Dewitte, Work in Progress. From Heavy-Tailed Micro to Macro: on the characterization of firm-level heterogeneity and its aggregation properties.

Ruben Dewitte, Work in Progress. The Log of Heavy-Tailed Gravity.

Ruben Dewitte, Giorgio Presidente, and Angelos Theodorakopoulos, Work in Progress. Technology, Prices and Market Power.

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## Conferences, Workshops & Seminar Presentations

- 2023 ITIM seminar (Ghent, March), ETSG (Guildford, September)
- 2022 Antwerp University Job Market Seminar (Antwerp, January), BORDERS workshop (Ghent, March), CEA (Ottawa, June), ETSG (Groningen, September)
- 2021 ITIM seminar (Ghent, February), CEA (online, June), vNAPW (online, June), ETSG (Ghent, September)
- 2019 Workshop on 'Firm heterogeneity in Technical Change' (Ghent, March), DEGIT XXIV (Odense, August), ETSG (Bern, September)
- 2018 Ghent University PhD day (Ghent, May), NAPW (Miami, June), CompNet (Halle, June), ETSG (Warsaw, September)
- 2017 Ugent General Economics Department meetings (Oudenaarde, May), Ghent University PhD day (Ghent, May), RIEF (Lille, June), ETSG (Florence, September).
- 2016 SNDE (Alabama, March), Ghent University PhD day (Ghent, May), Economics of Global Interactions (Bari, September), ETSG (Helsinki, September), Doctoral Workshop in Economics (Namur, December)
- 2015 Internal Seminar (Ghent, May)

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## Refereeing

European Economic Review, Economic Inquiry, Journal of Productivity Analysis,  
Empirical Economics

## Administrative Responsibilities

- 2021-current Coordination of the ITIM Seminars at Ghent University, Department of Economics.  
2016-2018 Coordination (together with Sümeyra Atmaca) of the External Economics Seminars at Ghent University, Department of Economics.

## Computer skills

R, STATA, Matlab, Fortran, SPSS, Eviews

## Languages

- Dutch Native proficiency  
English Full professional proficiency  
French Professional proficiency  
Spanish Elementary proficiency