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dr. Ruben Dewitte

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 both to advance the theoretical underpinnings of the characterization of firm-level productivity and its evolution over time (technological change) and to design novel empirical methodologies that allow to measure productivity better 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

- 2020–current **Postdoctoral researcher**, *Ghent University*, Ghent
As a postdoctoral researcher, I am co-lecturer for the course “European Economic Integration and Regional Integration Analysis”, I teach Gravity in Economics during the “Trade and Migration Policy” course, and I am responsible for the international economics seminar in which third-year bachelor students learn to analyze the impact of recent trade agreements.
- 2021 **Research intern**, *National Bank of Belgium*, Brussels

Previous Positions

- 2014–2020 **Teaching assistant**, *Ghent University*, Ghent
As a teaching assistant, I was responsible for the international economics seminar where third-year bachelor students learn to evaluate the economic or migration impact of recent trade agreements. I also assisted Prof. dr. Glenn Rayp and Prof. dr. Ilse Ruysen with their master course ‘Modern Trade and Migration Policy’ and bachelor courses ‘International Economics’, ‘Economic Globalisation’ and ‘Development of economic science’. I was co-responsible for the exercise sessions of the first-year general economics course.

Education

- 2015–2020 **Doctor of Economics**, *Ghent University*, Ghent
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.

Research Interests

International Trade, Firm Performance and Production Function Estimations.

Grants

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

Refereed Publications

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.

Ruben Dewitte, accepted. The Gravity Equation in International Trade: A Note., *Journal of Political economy*.

Ruben Dewitte, Michel Dumont, Glenn Rayp, and Peter Willemé, accepted. Unobserved Heterogeneity in the Productivity Distribution and Gains From Trade. *Canadian Journal of Economics*.

Work in Progress

Ruben Dewitte, Bruno Merlevede, and Glenn Rayp, submitted. 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, Catherine Fuss, and Angelos Theodorakopoulos, Work in Progress. Identifying Unobserved Heterogeneity in Productivity.

Ruben Dewitte and Glenn Rayp, Work in Progress. Comparative Advantage and Heterogeneous Firms: the case of Portugal.

Conferences, Workshops & Seminar Presentations

- 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)

Refereeing

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