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CV OF FAILURES

Note: This CV of Failures is meant to provide information about my own share of academic failures, trials and rejections. Normal CVs are essentially a record of academic and industry success. Seeing them can be both instructive and comforting, both for myself and for others. I have borrowed the format of my CV of failures from Kevin K. Banda, Melanie I. Stefan and Sara Mitchell.

“Where you started in life should not define where you will end up. The way we deal with obstacles often shapes who we become and who we are through challenges. The key is to overcome the barriers and learn from experiences.” Anonymous, Listening to the Diverse Voices of AAEEA: Part 1

Most of what I attempt fails, but these failures are often hidden from the public, while the few successes are visible. I have a feeling that this sometimes gives others the impression that most things work out for me. As a result, they are more likely to attribute their own failures to themselves, rather than the fact that the world is stochastic, applications are crapshoots, and selection committees and referees have bad days. This CV of Failures is an attempt to balance the record and provide some perspective.

This idea is not mine, but due to an amazing article in *Nature* by Melanie I. Stefan. **I am not the first academic to post their CV of Failures.** I follow others in compiling a list of my failures. This CV is unlikely to be complete – it was written from memory and probably omits a lot of stuff. It also includes corporate and entrepreneurial failures as I live a double life with one foot in academia and another in industry.

Academic Programs I did not get into

2023	PhD Agricultural Economics, Louisiana State University
	PhD Agricultural Economics, ETH Zurich
	PhD Applied Economics, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
	PhD Agricultural Economics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
	PhD Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison
	PhD Finance, Rice University
	PhD Agricultural/Development Economics, University of Bonn
	PhD Business Administration (Finance), Texas Tech University
	PhD Personal Financial Planning, Texas Tech University
	PhD Economics, West Virginia University

	PhD Natural Resource Economics, West Virginia University
	PhD Food and Resource Economics, University of Florida
	PhD Finance & Real Estate, University of Florida
2021	PhD Econometrics, University of Johannesburg
	PhD Economics, Nelson Mandela University
	PhD Financial Management Services, University of Pretoria
2020	MRes Economics, Queen Mary University of London
	MPhil Finance, University of Adelaide
	Master of Business by Research, Edith Cowan University
	MPhil Management and Commerce, James Cook University
2019	PhD Economics, Bristol University
	MBA Finance, University of Cape Town
	Master of Finance by Research, University of Western Australia
2018	MRes/PhD Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science
	MSc Finance, University of Dundee
2014	BSc Economics, University of Zimbabwe
	BCom Finance, National University of Science and Technology

Industry jobs I did not get into

2023	Young Professionals Program, World Bank Group
2021	Fund Manager, Fidelity Life Assurance Zimbabwe

Academic positions and fellowship I did not get

2020	Lecturer in Banking and Finance, National University of Science Education
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Entrepreneurial trials and tribulations

I have heard a fair share of some pain points in my startups.

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| 2021 | I was fired from an agribusiness idea which I started from scratch (Kimberly Acres) and built it up into \$100,000 value in two years. I lost 33 percent in capital and sweat capital. |
| 2019 | My company Auxilium Stationery Supplies (Private) Limited failed to take off and I lost \$3,000 with my partner. |

Awards and Scholarships I did not get

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| 2022 | IHS Grant |
| 2021 | SA-TIED Research Grant

CASNR Helen DeVitt Jones Graduate Fellowship, Texas Tech University

Postgraduate Research Scholarship, James Cook University

Postgraduate Research Scholarship, Nelson Mandela University |
| 2020 | Mandela Rhodes Scholarship (finalist)

University of Zurich Research Scholarship |

Papers rejected by academic journals

As I try to write more, the probability of my ideas getting rejected has also increased as seen below.

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| 2023 | American Journal of Agricultural Economics (1), Comparative Political Studies (1), Managerial Finance (1), International Journal of Managerial Finance (1), Cogent Business & Management (1), Agrekon (1) |
| 2022 | African Development Review (1), Review of Development Economics (1), South African Journal of Economic and Management Sciences (1) |
| 2021 | Food Policy (1), Agricultural Economics (1), Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics (1), Journal of African Economies (1), African Development Review (1), Journal of Behavioral Finance (1), South African Journal of Economics (1), African Finance Journal (1), Studies in Economics and Econometrics (2), Journal of Economic Studies (1), Review of Behavioral Finance (1), Managerial Finance (1), Accounting Research Journal (1), International Finance (1), International Journal of Managerial Finance (1), Journal of Asset Management (1) |
| 2020 | Journal of African Economies (1), International Economic Review (1), African Development Review (1), Accounting & Finance (2), South African Journal of Economics (2), Managerial Finance (2), Internal Journal of Managerial Finance (1), Australian Journal of Management (1), Investment Analysts Journal (1) |

2019	International Journal of Game Theory (1)
2018	Journal of Applied Econometrics (1), Econometric Theory (1), Games and Economic Behavior (1), Journal of African Economies (1), African Finance Journal (1), Economic Development Quarterly (1)
2017	Journal of African Economies (1), African Development Review (2), African Finance Journal (1), Oxford Development Studies (1), Journal of Development Studies (1), Economic Development Quarterly (1), Econometric Theory (1), Investment Analysts Journal (1)

Classes I failed or dropped-out

2019	CFA Level 1 (failed)
2018	I dropped out of MSc Economics program after two weeks.
2015	I failed Quantitative Methods undergraduate class

Referee comments

2021	<p>“I am sorry to say that the Editor has decided that your paper is not close to the themes and published work of the ABC journal, and so I must report that we will not be publishing.” This was contrary to reviewer recommendation for minor revision with the concluding note “Would be glad to provide further comments for a much more polished version of this paper.”</p> <p>“While one reviewer was somewhat optimistic, our view is that there is no theoretical basis for your argument. Why is it interesting to argue that supermarket groups suffer because of xenophobic attacks? I am not convinced that you would not also find a negative effect for a range of other companies during this period, as xenophobia represents a general uncertainty shock that affects the financial markets at large.”</p>
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Research funding I did not

2021	Research Council of Zimbabwe
2019	Mathematical Sciences Scholarship Fund