

Karmen Naidoo

University of Massachusetts Amherst

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Publications: [Google scholar page](#)

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst	2015 – 2021 (expected)
M.Sc. in Development Economics, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London	2012 – 2013
M.Bus.Sci. in Economics, University of Cape Town	2010 – 2011
B.Bus.Sci. in Economics, University of Cape Town	2006 – 2009

Research Interests

Primary fields: Development Economics, Labor Economics

Secondary fields: Applied Microeconomics

Current Working Papers

1. **Naidoo, K.** and Ndikumana, L (2020) Unit Labor Costs and Manufacturing Sector Performance in Africa. UMass Economics Working Paper Series. (*Under review*)
2. Ndikumana, L., **Naidoo, K.**, and Aboobaker, A. (2020), Capital flight from South Africa: A Case Study. PERI Working Paper Series. (*Revising for an edited volume on capital flight from Africa, OUP*)
3. **Naidoo, K.**, Bengoa, M., Tregenna, F. and Mbula, E.K. (2019), How does innovation affect employment? Firm-level evidence from South Africa, Conference Paper presented at the Community of Practice in Innovation and Inclusive Industrialization conference, Pretoria. (*Under review*)
4. **Naidoo, K.** (2019), Innovation, Exports and Employment Growth: Firm-level Evidence Using Administrative Data from South Africa, UNU-WIDER Working Paper. (*Revising for submission*)

Research Experience

Graduate Research Assistant, Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts Amherst Project: Capital flight and governance Africa	Fall 2016 - current
Senior Researcher, Researcher, Development Policy Research Unit (DPRU), University of Cape Town Conducted research with a focus on labor markets, poverty and inequality. Managed projects, presented at meetings and conferences, supervised junior researchers. Country research focus: South Africa, Zambia, Kenya, Uganda.	2014 - 2015 2013 – 2014

Teaching Experience

Visiting Instructor (Economic Development), Department of Economics, Wheaton College, Massachusetts	Fall 2019
Online Teaching Instructor, Department of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst	
Introduction to Macroeconomics	Summer 2019
Development Economics	Summer 2018
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst	
Introduction to Macroeconomics	Spring 2017
Introduction to Microeconomics	Fall 2015
Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, University of Cape Town	
Macroeconomic Policy Analysis in Low Income Countries	Fall 2014

Other Professional Experience

Research Assistant, Santa Fe Institute, New Mexico	Summer 2017
Provided assistance to Prof Samuel Bowles and Prof Simon Halliday to review, edit and enhance the material of their forthcoming undergraduate textbook <i>Microeconomics: Competition, Conflict and Coordination</i>	
Analyst, Genesis Analytics, South Africa	2011 – 2012
Project-based work on financial inclusion and banking strategy in Africa. Countries of work experience: South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Botswana, Swaziland, Mauritius and Ghana.	

Skills

Microsoft Office, Stata, R, EViews, L^AT_EX, Tableau

Scholarships & Grants

- 2021 Political Economy Research Institute Fellowship, Spring 2021
- 2018-2019 UNU-WIDER Research Grant: South Africa–Toward Inclusive Economic Growth (SA-TIED)
- 2017 Summer Pre-Dissertation Grant, Graduate School, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 2016, 2017 Economics Department Conference Grant, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 2016 Economics Department Fellowship (Spring), University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 2014 Young African Scholar Travel Grant, International Economics Association 17th World Congress, Jordan
- 2012 Chevening Scholarship for Masters Degree, UK Government's Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- 2010 Post-graduate Scholarship, University of Cape Town

Conferences, Seminars & Workshops

- 2020 History and Development Workshop, UMass Amherst Department of Economics (*virtual*)

- 2020 Eastern Economic Association's 46th Annual Conference, Boston
- 2019 UNU-WIDER Development Conference, Bangkok
- 2019 Advanced Graduate Workshop on Poverty, Development and Globalization, organized by Azim Premji University, Institute for New Economic Thinking and the Initiative for Policy Dialogue at Columbia University. Bangalore (1 of 25 selected participants)
- 2018 UNU-WIDER Conference Think Development-Think Wider, Helsinki
- 2018 INET Young Scholars Initiative (YSI) Conference on Productive Structures, Leicester, UK
- 2017 Eastern Economic Association's 43rd Annual Conference, New York City
- 2016 World Bank Jobs and Development Conference, Washington DC
- 2016 Eastern Economic Association's 42nd Annual Conference, Washington DC
- 2014 ICRIER/World Bank Conference on Jobs for Development: Challenges and Solutions. New Delhi.
- 2014 International Economics Association's 17th World Congress, Jordan
- 2014 Session Chair at the Post-2015 Data Test Midterm Stock Taking Workshop in Nairobi, Kenya, hosted by the Centre of Policy Dialogue (Bangladesh), The North-South Institute (Canada), Southern Voice, and Partnership for African Social and Government Research (PASGR).

Professional Service

- 2020 Referee for *Economics of Innovation and New Technology*, *Scientific African*.
- 2020 Co-organized and co-hosted the INET YSI webinar "Economic Development after Covid-19 - Q&A with Ha-Joon Chang", May 2020
- 2018-present Organizer, Development Economics Working Group, INET Young Scholars Initiative
- 2018-2019 Co-organized and chaired the Development Economics Working Group sessions at the INET YSI North America Convening, California, Feb. 2019
- 2016-2017 Graduate Student Studies Committee, Department of Economics, UMass Amherst
- 2015-2016 Department Steward, Graduate Employee Organization, UMass Amherst
- 2012-2013 Pro-bono Consultant, Oxford Associates for International Development (OxAid), London U.K.

Professional Memberships

American Economic Association, Global Labor Organization Affiliate, African Finance and Economic Association, Eastern Economics Association.

Publications

Book Chapters

1. Bhorat, H. and Naidoo, K. (2017), [Drivers of Inequality in the Context of the Growth-Poverty-Inequality Nexus in Africa: An overview of key issues](#). In Odusola, A., et al. (eds.), *Income Inequality Trends in sub-Saharan Africa: Divergence, Determinants, and Consequences*, United Nations, New York.
2. Bhorat, H., Chelwa, G., Naidoo, K., Stanwix, B. (2017) [Resource Dependence and Inequality in Africa: Impacts, consequences and potential solutions](#). In Odusola, A., et al. (eds.), *Income Inequality Trends in sub-Saharan Africa: Divergence, Determinants, and Consequences*, United Nations, New York.
3. Bhorat, H., Naidoo, K., Oosthuizen, M. and Pillay, K. (2016) [Demographic, Employment and Wage Trends in South Africa](#). In H. Bhorat and F. Tarp (Eds.), *Africa's Lions*. UNU-WIDER and Brookings Institution Press. [Working paper version available [here](#)]

4. Borhat, H. and **Naidoo, K.** (2015), [Africa's Jobs Challenge](#). In Zedillo, E., et al. (eds.), *Africa at a Fork in the Road: Taking Off or Disappointment Once Again?*, New Haven: Yale University.
5. Borhat, H., **Naidoo, K.** and Yu, D. (2015), [Trade Unions in an Emerging Economy: The Case of South Africa](#). In Celestin, M. and Lin, J. (eds.), *Handbook of Africa and Economics*, Oxford University Press. [UNU-WIDER working paper available [here](#)]

Policy Reports

1. Borhat, H. and **Naidoo, K.** (2018), [Economic Growth and the Pursuit of Inequality Reduction in Africa](#), Working Paper commissioned by the Group of 24 (G24) and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, New York.
2. Borhat, H. and **Naidoo, K.** (2016), [The Returns to Training and the Determinants of Training Expenditure: The Case of Manufacturing Firms in South Africa](#), Labour Market Intelligence Partnership Report 24. Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa.
3. Cassim, A., **Naidoo, K.**, Pillay, K., Steenkamp, F. (2016) [SETA Labour Market Survey: Case Studies of Firms' Experiences](#), Labour Market Intelligence Partnership Report 24. Human Sciences Research Council and the Department of Higher Education and Training: Pretoria, South Africa.
4. Jourdan, B., Lilenstein, K., **Naidoo, K.**, Oosthuizen, M. and Pillay, K. (2015), [The Status of Women in the South African Economy](#), Report Prepared for the Department of Women, Government of South Africa.
5. Borhat, H., Cassim, A., Masumbu, K., **Naidoo, K.**, Steenkamp, F. (2015), [Youth Employment Challenges in Zambia: A Statistical Profile, Current Policy Frameworks and Existing Interventions](#), Scoping paper commissioned by IDRC and MasterCard Foundation.
6. **Naidoo, K.**, Stanwix, B. and Yu, D. (2014), [Reflecting on Racial Discrimination in the Post-Apartheid South African Labour Market](#), DPRU Policy Brief 14/39, commissioned by the World Bank.

Popular Writing & Media Mentions

- 2020 [The labour market challenges of COVID-19 in Sub-Saharan Africa](#), Africa Portal features
- 2017 [The Tipping Point: the Youth Bulge and the Sub-Saharan African Labor Market](#), Brookings Institution (with Borhat, H. and Ewinyu, A.)
- 2016 My research mentioned in "Everything you need to know about SA's government workers", BusinessTech South Africa
- 2014 [Sub-Saharan Africa's Twin Jobs Challenge](#), Brookings Institution blog (with Borhat, H.)