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CURRENT POSITION

Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Econometrics & Finance, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Groningen (since Jan 2021).

AFFILIATIONS

EEF Fellow, FEB Research Institute (FEBRI), University of Groningen.
CESifo Research Network Affiliate.

PAST POSITIONS

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Econometrics & Finance, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Groningen (Feb 2015-Dec 2020).
Assistant Professor, Wang Yanan Institute for Studies in Economics (WISE), Xiamen University (2013 - 2015).
Harvard Business School and London Business School Post-Doctoral Fellow in Economics of Innovation (2011- 2013).

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Michigan (2011).
Dissertation: Three Essays on Field and Lab-in-the-Field Experiments in Economics.
Dissertation Committee: Dean Yang (Chair), David Lam, Rebecca Thornton, Stephen Leider (Cognate Member).

Ph.D. FIELDS

Development Economics, Industrial Organization, Advanced Theory.

RESEARCH INTERESTS AND EXPERTISE

Development Economics, Behavioral Economics, Contests (Empirical); Lab-in-the-field and Field Experiments.

PUBLICATIONS

- “Uptake, Use and Impact of Islamic Savings: Evidence from a field experiment in Pakistan.” (with S. Ahmad and R. Lensink). *Journal of Development Economics*, 163 (2023).
- “Religion, Social Desirability Bias and Financial Exclusion: Evidence from a List Experiment on Islamic (Micro-)Finance in Pakistan.” (with S. Ahmad and R. Lensink). *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Finance*, 32 (2023).
- “Boosting Survey Response Rates by Undefined Lottery Prizes in Invitation Email Subject Lines: Evidence from a Global Randomized Controlled Trial.” (with S. Ahmad and R. Lensink). *Survey Research Methods*, 16.2 (2022).
- “Trapped by the lack of control over savings: Evidence from Pakistan.” (with E. van Dongen, S. Ahmad and R. Lensink). *Frontiers in Psychology*, 13 (2022).
- “The double bottom line of microfinance: A global comparison between conventional and Islamic microfinance.” (with S. Ahmad and R. Lensink). *World Development*, 136 (2020).
- “Transforming agribusiness in developing countries: SDGs and the role of FinTech.” (with R. Hinson and R. Lensink). *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 41 (2019).
- “Improving intergroup relations through actual and imagined contact: field experiments with Malawian shopkeepers and Chinese migrants.” (with J. Gu, I. Nielsen, J. Shachat, and R. Smyth). *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 68.1 (2019).

WORKING PAPERS

- “Are Rural Road Investments Alone Sufficient to Generate Transport Flows?” (with G. Raballand, R. Thornton, D. Yang, J. Goldberg, and N. Keleher). *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 5535*.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- “Aspirations and Hope Regarding Old Age: A Study in Rural Ghana.” (with F. Amon-Armah, J. Wu, E. Asiedu, R. Lensink, and F. Owusu-Ansah).
- “Prudence and Precautionary Savings Among Islamic MFI Borrowers: Evidence from a Lab-in-the-Field Experiment in Pakistan.” (with S. Ahmad and R. Lensink).
- “Labor Supply Decisions under Different Market Structures: Experimental Evidence from Malawi.” (with J. Shachat).
- “Competition or Collusion: Evidence from an Imperfect Information Setting in the Field.” (with J. Shachat).
- “The Personal Wellbeing Index: An Application to Urban and Rural Samples in Malawi.” (with J. Gu, I. Nielsen, J. Shachat, and R. Smyth).
- “Norms of Distributive Justice in Rural Malawi.”
- “In the Public Eye: Distributional Choices in Rural Malawi under Perfect and Imperfect Information.”

COMPETITIVE RESEARCH GRANTS

3ie proposal preparation grant – Ghana (1st stage). Grant amount: USD 20,000.

Proposal accepted in 2016.

AGRA grant – Ghana (2nd stage). Grant amount: USD 380,000. Proposal accepted in 2018.

ONGOING INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

“Information Transparency system as a low-cost scalable solution to farmers’ access to credit and services in Ghana”

[Funding: NWO-WOTRO, via Wageningen University; Country: Ghana]

“Nebbi Inclusive Development Project”

[Country: Uganda]

SUPERVISION AT RUG

PhD co-supervision and day-to-day supervision

Yu Chen. “Analyzing the impacts of behavioral interventions on promoting healthy food choices: Experimental evidence from China.” (Since 01-03-2022).

Frederick Amon-Armah. “Determinants and impact of savings of smallholder farmers: Applications to cocoa farming in Ghana.” (Since 01-11-2021; joint with Dr. Kristina Czura).

Elisa van Dongen. “Essays about financial inclusion and women empowerment.” (Since 01-09-2021).

Syedah Ahmad. “Experiments and quasi-experiments in Islamic microfinance: New evidence on outreach, use and savings.” (Completed in 2020).

Research Master in E&B co-supervision

Jilong Wu. “Can we use visual media to enhance savers' aspirations and actual savings: Evidence from an RCT in Ghana.” (Completed in 2020).

Other Thesis Supervision

Annual supervision of Master’s Theses in International Financial Management (since academic year 2020/2021).

Annual supervision of Master’s Theses in Finance (since academic year 2017/2018).

Annual supervision of Bachelor’s Theses in E&BE-Economics (academic year 2016/2017 – 2021/2022).

MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL DUTIES

Program Coordinator, MSc International Financial Management (since Sep 2023).

Member, FEB Curriculum Working Group International Financial Management (since Sep 2023).

Member, Curriculum Working Group/Curriculum 2024 Subproject *Visualizing Active and Blended Learning* (Feb 2023-Feb 2024).

Member, Group of the Interdisciplinary Theme *Sustainability and Future Prosperity* (since 2022).

Member, Board of Examiners FEB (since Mar 2022).

Member, FEB Curriculum Working Group International Business (“Research Driven Education”, “Technology Enhanced Learning”; “Learning Line Economics”; since Sep 2021).

Member, GrEELab Committee (since 2017).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT RUG

Collegial Learning Project (Group 2a; 2022).

Coaching Ph.D. Students Course (Autumn 2021).

Certificate "Assessment and Testing in Higher Education: Construction and Analysis of Open Questions" (November 2018).

University Teaching Qualification (November 2018).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AT RUG

Co-Instructor, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Groningen

Graduate

Finance and Development (Block 2.B, 2015 - 2016).

Inclusive Finance (Block 2.B, 2017 - 2022).

Course Coordinator and Co-Instructor, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Groningen

Undergraduate

Statistical Modelling for EOR (Block 2.B, 2016 - 2021).

[Nomination for Quality of Education for Students (Quest) Faculty of Economics and Business (FEB) Newcomer of the Year Award in 2016].

Course Coordinator and Co-Instructor, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Groningen

Undergraduate

Development Finance (Block 1.A, since 2015).

[Course Design and Development in Summer 2015].

Economics for International Business (Block 2.A, since 2015).

Tutor, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Groningen

Statistics I for International Business (Block 2.A, 2022 - 2023).

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Wang Yanan Institute for Studies in Economics, Xiamen University

Graduate

Advanced Microeconomics (for the Economics of Globalization and European Integration Joint European Studies Program, Fall 2013).

Mathematics for Economists (for the Economics of Globalization and European Integration Joint European Studies Program, Fall 2013).

Undergraduate

Microeconomics (for the Study Abroad Program, Fall 2014).

Experimental Economics (for the International Undergraduate Experimental Program, Winter 2014).

[Best Instructor Award for excellence in teaching in the International Undergraduate Experimental Program].

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Michigan

Graduate

Micro-Econometrics, Grader for Prof. Jeff Smith (Fall 2009).

Economics of Development, Grader for Prof. Dean Yang (Fall 2007).

Undergraduate

International Finance, GSI for Prof. Jean-Marie Viaene (Winter 2009).

[Letter of Commendation for excellence in teaching at the Department of Economics].

[Nomination for (university-wide) Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award 2009].

Strategy (Introduction to Game Theory and Mechanism Design), GSI for Prof. Emre Ozdenoren (Winter 2006, Fall 2006, Winter 2007).

[Letter of Commendation for excellence in teaching at the Department of Economics].

Introductory Microeconomics, GSI for Janet Gerson (Fall 2004, Winter 2005, Fall 2005), GSI for Chad Hogan (Winter 2008).

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS AND STUDENT/FACULTY GRANTS

Teaching Innovation Grant, University of Groningen (2023).

WISE Faculty Research Grant (2013-2014).

Visiting Fellow, Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance (Jul 2011).

International Institute Conference Travel Grant (2011).

Rackham International Travel Grant (2010/2011, 2011/2012).

Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, University of Michigan (2010).

Research Grant, African Studies Centre, University of Michigan (2010).
Rackham International Research Award, University of Michigan (2009).
Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, University of Michigan (2008).
I L Sharfman Economics Fellowship, University of Michigan (2004, 2005).
Rackham Regents Fellowship, University of Michigan (2003-2007).
Scholarship from the German National Academic Foundation (2002-2003).

CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED SEMINARS

2023

XLIII. Tax Day, Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance; Summer School on Financial Inclusion and Sustainable Growth, University of Groningen; ESA World Meeting; SABE/IAREP Conference 2023; IMEBESS 2023.

2022

Galapagos Experimental Economics Conference; 7th European Research Conference on Microfinance.

2021

Workshop for NWO-WOTRO Project “Information Transparency system as a low-cost scalable solution to farmers’ access to credit and services in Ghana”.

2019

ESA North American Meeting.

2018

The Inaugural Wuhan Workshop in Experimental Economics, University of Wuhan.

2017

Maastricht Lecture Series in Economics, University of Maastricht.

2016

Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies; Summer School on Experiments in Developing Countries, University of Groningen; SABE/IAREP Conference 2016; SEEDEC 2016; ESA North American Meeting.

2015

Summer School on Experiments in Developing Countries, University of Groningen.

2014

Department of Economics, Econometrics & Finance, University of Groningen; Monash-WISE Workshop Session, 2014 China Meeting of the Econometric Society; Tsinghua School of Economics and Management, Department of Economics.

2013

4th Annual Xiamen University International Workshop on Experimental Economics; ESA North American Meeting; Development Economics Group, Wageningen University; CESifo Area Conference on Employment and Social Protection; Department of Economics, Econometrics & Finance, University of Groningen; CSAE 2013 Conference; LICOS, KU Leuven; Development Lunch, Harvard University; RES PhD Presentation Meeting.

2012

ESA North American Meeting; INFORMS Annual Meeting; Development Seminar, University of Michigan; ESA European Conference; IAREP Conference 2012; 10th International Open and User Innovation Workshop; SABE Conference 2012; WEAI 87th Annual Conference; 2nd World Bank Conference on Equity; ASFEE 3rd Annual Meeting; CISEPS, University of Milan-Bicocca Interdisciplinary Workshop; MEA Annual Meeting 2012; CSAE 2012 Conference.

2011

IAREP / SABE / ICABEEP Conference; WEAI 86th Annual Conference; ASFEE 2nd Annual Meeting; Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance.

Pre 2011

Development Lunch, University of Michigan (2009, 2010); Social Science Research Center (Market Processes and Governance Research Unit, Berlin) (2008).

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee Activity

Journals

Economics of Transition and Institutional Change, Spatial Economic Analysis, World Bank Economic Review, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Frontiers of Economics in China, International Journal of Environment and Sustainable Development.

Other

International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), Macmillan International Higher Education.

Supervision and Mentorship

Wang Yanan Institute for Studies in Economics, Xiamen University

Master's

Thesis supervision (2 students; Economics of Globalization and European Integration, and Economics and Financial Engineering programs).

Undergraduate

Thesis supervision (3 students; Double Degree Program).

Mentoring (4 students; International Undergraduate Experimental Program).

Project Management

Project Manager for “Transportation and Isolation in Rural Malawi” (May-Aug 2009).

Project Affiliate for “Biometric and Financial Innovations in Rural Malawi” (May-Nov 2008).

Research Assistance

Research Assistant to Prof. Dean Yang (2008).

Research Assistant to Prof. William J. Adams (2004, 2005).

Research Assistant to Prof. Kai A. Konrad (2001-2002).

Other Professional Activities

Member of PhD examining committee, Yiqing Peng (2021).

Member of PhD examining committee, Emmanuel Abokyi (2020).

Recruitment Committee Member for the position of

Program Director of MSc IFM (April 2023).

TT Corporate Finance (November 2022 – present).

Professor by Special Appointment Sustainable Development and Economics (June 2022).

Professor of Practice of Business Ethics (June 2022).

Director of the BSc E&BE (April - May 2022).

Reviewer, Groningen-Venice PhD Exchange Program (for 2021-2022 and 2022-23).

Discussant: 12th Dutch Development Economics Workshop (2023).
Summer 2021 SOM Conference.

Interview Committee Member, Study Abroad Program, Xiamen University (2014).

Interview Committee Member, Singapore Management University Master of Science in Applied Finance Program (2014).

Committee Member, WISE-SOE International Master's Program, Xiamen University (2013 - 2015).

Thesis Committee Member, WISE-SOE International Master's Program, Xiamen University (2014).

Member of Organizing Committee for the Annual International Workshop on Experimental Economics, Xiamen University (2013, 2014).

Member of the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation's (3ie's) Expert Roster (2012 - present).

Session Chair: CSAE 2013 Conference, ESA European Conference 2012, SABE Conference 2012, WEAI 87th Annual Conference 2012, ASFEE 3rd Annual Meeting 2012, CSAE 2012 Conference, WEAI 86th Annual Conference 2011.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Economic Science Association.

LANGUAGES

English (fluent), German (native), Dutch (beginner), French (beginner), Han Chinese (beginner), Latin (Latinum).

CITIZENSHIP

German.