

Covid-19 Macroeconomic Policy Research in Africa Project

The Macroeconomic Impact of Covid-19 in Africa

3 February 2020, 15h00 – 17h00 (GMT+2), Zoom

Speakers Biographies

- **Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, Chief Executive, SAIIA**

Elizabeth Sidiropoulos has been SAIIA's Chief Executive since 2005. With more than 26 years of experience in the field of politics and international relations, Elizabeth's expertise lies in South Africa's foreign policy, South-South Cooperation and the role of emerging powers in Africa. She is a regular commentator in South African and foreign media. She has published on various aspects of South Africa's foreign policy including on its peace-making model as a key dimension of its soft power, its development diplomacy and edited a volume on SA's foreign policy in the first decade of democracy – Apartheid Past, Renaissance Future (SAIIA, 2004). She has also co-edited two books exploring the rise of the new development cooperation providers: Development cooperation and emerging powers: New Partners or Old Patterns (Zed Books, 2012) and Institutional Architecture and Development: Responses from Emerging Powers (Jacana, 2015). She is the editor-in-chief of the DHET accredited South African Journal of International Affairs. She is the co-chair of the Think 20 Africa Standing Group, one of the task forces of the Think 20, which is one of the engagement groups of the G20. Most recently she co-edited a volume titled 'Values, Interests and Power: South African foreign policy in uncertain times', which was published in October 2020.

- **Ms Erin Tansey, Director, Sustainable Inclusive Economies Program, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)**

Erin joined IDRC in November 2020. She brings over 20 years of experience in international development and humanitarian sectors within Canadian and international NGOs, United Nations agencies and bilateral development programs. She worked with WUSC in Malawi, CARE Canada in Bosnia Herzegovina, the UN Refugee Agency in Thailand, Algeria and Ghana, the UN World Food Programme in various countries in sub-Saharan Africa and with USAID in Pretoria, South Africa. Erin has worked on various applied research projects and was the coordinator of research for IOM's Partnership on HIV and Mobility in southern Africa, generating new evidence and thought leadership in applied policy in this field. Most recently, Erin worked on a governance program with Global Affairs Canada together with the South African government. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and French Literature from the University of Western Ontario and a Master of Arts in Political Science from the University of Windsor.

- **Dr Chukwuka Onyekwena, Executive Director, Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA)**

Dr. Onyekwena is the Executive Director of CSEA. He holds a PhD in Economics from University of Portsmouth, UK, a Master of Science degree in Economics from University of Kent, UK, and a Bachelor of Science in Economics from University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He also holds a certificate in Executive

Education, Financial Inclusion from John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. His research interests include Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Trade, Global Economic Governance, Climate Change, and Financial Inclusion. Within these areas, he has authored various peer-reviewed publications and led several research projects. Dr. Onyekwena is a member of the steering committee of the West African Think Tank Network (WATTNet), a member of the African Policy Circle (APC), Global Economic Governance Africa (GEGAfrica) and Governance of Africa's Resources Programme (GARN) both in South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA). He had worked as a part-time lecturer at Economics Department of University of Portsmouth.

- **Dr Bhim Adhikari, Senior Program Specialist, Sustainable Inclusive Economies Program, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)**

Bhim Adhikari is currently a Senior Program Specialist at IDRC and work specifically on environment, climate change and sustainable development issues. Over the past 25 years, he has worked with several international organizations and academic institutions, including the United Nations agencies. Prior to IDRC, he worked with the United Nations University and led research activities on environment and climate change, with a focus on capacity building in developing countries. At the IUCN in Pakistan, he tackled issues around environmental fiscal reforms and mainstreaming environment into poverty reduction strategies. He worked with the UNDP in Nepal on rural development and energy-environment issues. His research appointments include a Research Fellow at the School of Environment and Sustainability, University of Michigan, USA; visiting Research Fellow at the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) in Tokyo, Japan; and an UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of York. Bhim holds a PhD in environmental economics from the University of York, UK and researched and written widely on the economics of environment and natural resources management.

Presentations

- **Dr Adedeji Adeniran, Senior Fellow, CSEA**

Dr. Adeniran is the Director of Education, Governance research, & Senior Fellow at CSEA. He holds a Ph.D from the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. He also holds a Masters' and Bachelor's degree in Economics and Educational Management/Economics from the University of Ibadan. He previously worked as a seasonal Lecturer in the Department of Witwatersrand, as a Data Analyst at the Analyst Data Services and Resources (ADSR) and as a Teaching Assistant in the Department of Economics University of Ibadan. His research interests cuts across macroeconomics, development finance, public economics and policy analysis and experimental economics.

- **Dr Ian Heffernan**

Ian Heffernan is an Assistant Professor at the African School of Economics and the director of research at the Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy in Benin. Ian's research specializes in political economy, conflict, and development economics. Ian has a diverse methodological background having conducted research using applied econometrics, microeconomic theory and laboratory experiments.

- **Ms Mma Amara Ekeruche, Research Fellow, Center for the Study of the Economies of Africa**

Ms. Mma Amara Ekeruche is a Research Fellow at the Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA). In addition, she runs a column 'Your Nigerian Economist' on Stears Business, Africa's leading business publication. She holds a Master's in Economic Policy from University College London (UCL), United Kingdom and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana. Her research interests are development economics, macroeconomics, and fiscal policy. Consequently, her research experience cuts across key issues in development including government debt and public financial management, South-South Cooperation and the impact of Chinese investment in Africa. You can find her work on Brookings, the United Nations Office on South-South Cooperation, Southern Voice, Africa Portal, and On Think Tanks.

Panellists

- **Dr Oswald Mashindano, The Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF, Tanzania)**

Dr Oswald Joseph Mashindano holds a PhD degree in Economics from the University of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania (1998). He works with the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) as a Senior Research Fellow and Coordinator of the RARIS Programme. Prior to this position Dr Mashindano worked as a Lecturer of Economics at the University of Dar-es-Salaam, Economics Department, and served as a Treasury Registrar at the Ministry of Finance. He has been teaching and researching in areas of agricultural economics; rural development; policy analysis; governance and local government. Dr Mashindano is the co-author and editor of a number of books and journal articles. The published books include *Climate, Food, Trade: Analysis of Institutional Interplay and Information Sharing* (2015), CUTS International Geneva; *Climate, Food and Trade: Where is the Policy Nexus*, (2013) TANZANIA, CUTS International – Geneva; *Translating Growth into Poverty Reduction: Beyond the Numbers*, (2013) Mkuki na Nyota, Dar-es-Salaam; and *Deepening Integration in SADC: Tanzania – Torn between EAC and SADC*; (2007) Economic and Social Research Foundation (SRF) and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES). Other books are *Globalization and Development Challenges in Tanzania*, (2006) Dar-es-Salaam University Press (DUP); *Maendeleo Stahimilivu (Sustainable Development)*; (2002) Dar-es-Salaam University Press (DUP); *Tourism Growth and Sustainable Development*; (2002) Dar-es-Salaam

University Press (DUP); and Tourism Growth and Sustainable Development; Dar-es-Salaam University Press (DUP).

- **Dr Susan Kavuma, Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE, Uganda)**

Susan is an Academic and Economist with wide experience in policy research and lecturing university students. She is a Research Associate at ACODE, attached to the Centre of Budget and Economic Governance (CBEG) that undertakes research activities on budget monitoring and economic governance in Uganda. Susan has lectured university students in the School of Economics at Makerere University since 2006. She holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Nottingham, which she attained as a commonwealth scholar in 2015. In 2017, Susan was a CAPREx Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge. Susan is experienced in panel data analysis and action research. She has authored and co-authored several research papers in peer reviewed Journals. Susan's research interests are in the areas of economic governance, women empowerment, development economics, labour and education economics.

- **Dr Arthur Minsat, Head of Unit for Africa and Middle East - Senior Economist, OECD Development Centre**

PhD, London School of Economics. Arthur heads the OECD Development Centre's Unit for Africa, Europe and Middle East, which produces Africa's Development Dynamics and Revenue Statistics in Africa, in partnership with the African Union. As lead economist, Arthur led the themes of the African Economic Outlooks (AEO). At UNDP in New York, Arthur researched for the flagship Human Development Reports. In Abidjan, he volunteered for the United Nations Operations in Côte d'Ivoire (ONUCI) during the electoral crisis. He taught at the LSE, King's College London and Sciences-Po. Arthur gained private sector experience at Wolters Kluwer.

- **Ms Neuma Grobbelaar, Director of Research, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)**

Neuma Grobbelaar is an experienced foreign policy and development expert with 28 years of specialist research, project, research management, fundraising and policy practitioner experience. A former South African diplomat, she is the research director at SAIIA, a leading African Foreign policy think tank based at the University of the Witwatersrand. Her areas of research specialisation include the intersection between foreign policy, regional integration and human development; the role of the private sector in African development initiatives and South Africa's role as an emerging development partner in Africa. She has extensive research conceptualisation and research management skills; project management and donor management skills; proposal writing, fundraising and editing skills; staff management and mentoring skills; and Monitoring and Evaluation skills. She is fully versed in developing indicators for complex projects following logical framework and results-chain approaches. She has a wide scope of knowledge of South Africa's foreign policy, its relationship with the region, and especially its development cooperation. She has participated and contributed towards developing evaluation criteria for South-South Cooperation through her participation in the Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST) activities, has contributed to the OECD development anthology on development risks for the Global South, has participated in a Delphi-style consultation process for the German Development Cooperation Ministry through its Future Development Policy Global Partnerships Division to frame German Development cooperation towards 2030 and has contributed to the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency's internal strategic reframing of its development cooperation policy. She has participated in numerous international, national and regional conferences on South Africa foreign policy, peace-building, development cooperation and commercial diplomacy. She has

peer-reviewed and quality assured countless papers, articles and opinion pieces and has a wide network of foreign policy and development cooperation associates – both regionally and internationally.