CURRICULUM VITAE - DENNIS ESSERS

May 2013

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Nationality: Belgian
Marital status: Single
Date of birth: 21 June 1985
Place of birth: Antwerp

EDUCATION

Oct. 2010 - : *University of Antwerp, Belgium*
PhD Programme, Faculty of Applied Economics

Topic: Transmission and impacts of the 2008-2009 financial and economic crisis on developing countries: From macro to micro (working title)

My PhD research project combines conceptual and empirical work and is organised around three research questions:

(1) What have been, globally, the main transmission channels of the 2008-2009 financial and economic crisis from its epicentre in the US and Western Europe to developing countries and how has countries' vulnerability to such mechanisms of transmission been dealt with (or could it be dealt with) by countries themselves and the international community?
(2) Which factors/characteristics explain cross-country differences in the economic performance of developing countries during the fallout of the crisis and the subsequent recovery period?
(3) How have country-level shocks emanating from the global crisis translated into micro-level welfare impacts on developing country households?

Supervisor: Prof. Danny Cassimon
Committee members: Prof. Jan Annaert and Prof. Robrecht Renard

Doctoral courses:

- Advanced Macroeconomics (Prof. W. Meeusen, University of Antwerp)
- Advanced Applied Econometrics (Prof. D. Czarnitski, Catholic University of Louvain)
- Advanced Presentation Skills (Prof. D. Philips, University of Antwerp)

2008 - 2009: *University of Manchester, United Kingdom*
MSc International Development
Major: Economics and Management of Rural Development
Included one-week field visit to Uganda (Kampala, Lugazi, Bushenyi, Mbarara)

2007 - 2008: *University of Antwerp, Belgium*
MSc Business Engineering (summa cum laude)
Major: International Trade Relations and Diplomacy

2003 - 2007: *University of Antwerp, Belgium*
BSc Business Engineering (magna cum laude)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Oct. 2009 - : *Institute of Development Policy and Management (IOB)*
University of Antwerp, Belgium
Research and teaching assistant to Prof. Danny Cassimon

Main research topics:

- Financial globalisation and crises
- Debt relief and debt swaps
- Local currency bond markets in developing countries

Teaching and administrative support:

- Postgraduate IOB course: Introductory Macro- and Microeconomics
- Postgraduate IOB course: Working with Data (practical Excel course)
- Tutoring IOB students and advising them on dissertations
- Organisation annual student trip to Paris (incl. OECD visit)
- Organisation annual series of USOS-IOB seminars: Debating Development

Feb. 2010 - : *Belgian Development Agency (BTC)*
Instructor, Information Cycle on North-South Relations

- Infocycle course: The World Bank and the IMF in the New Aid Architecture
- Infocycle course: Introduction to Development Economics

Sep. 2009/ May 2011: *UNESCO Working Group on Debt Swaps for Education*
Short-term consultancy (with Prof. Danny Cassimon)

- Desk Study on Debt Swaps for Education
- Report chapter for Feasibility Study on Conducting Innovative Debt Swaps for Education

PUBLICATIONS

Articles in peer-reviewed journals/ chapters in edited books:

- 'Developing country vulnerability in light of the global financial crisis: shock therapy?', *Review of Development Finance*, in press. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.rdf.2013.02.001.
- 'Aid flows' (with D. Cassimon, R. Renard and K. Verbeke), In: G. Caprio (ed.), *The evidence and impact of financial globalization*, Elsevier Academic Press, Amsterdam, November 2012, pp. 81-102. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-397874-5.00031-2.
- 'An assessment of debt-for-education swaps: case studies on swap initiatives between Germany and Indonesia and between Spain and El Salvador' (with D. Cassimon and R. Renard), *Comparative Education* 47 (2), June 2011, pp. 139-156. http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1080/00263206.2011.553931.

- 'The pitfalls and potential of debt-for-nature swaps: a US-Indonesian case study' (with D. Cassimon and M. Prowse), *Global Environmental Change* 21 (1), February 2011, pp. 93-102. http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2010.10.001.

Working papers:

- 'A Chameleon called debt relief' (with D. Cassimon), IOB Working Paper 2013/01, 31p. http://ideas.repec.org/p/iob/wpaper/2013001.html.
- 'Washing away original sin: vulnerability to crisis and the role of local currency bonds in Sub-Saharan Africa' (with D. Cassimon), IOB Working Paper 2012/12, 45p. http://ideas.repec.org/p/iob/wpaper/2012012.html.
- 'Democracy and external shock resilience in developing countries: evidence from the Great Recession', IOB Working Paper 2012/02, 46p. http://ideas.repec.org/p/iob/wpaper/2012002.html.
- 'Financing the Clean Development Mechanism through debt-for-efficiency swaps? Case study evidence from a Uruguayan wind farm project' (with D. Cassimon and M. Prowse), IOB Working Paper 2011/06, 29p. http://ideas.repec.org/p/iob/wpaper/2011006.html.

Reports:

- 'Coming to terms with reality: evaluation of the Belgian debt relief policy (2000-2009)' (with D. Cassimon, L. Berlage, F.-X. de Mevius, P. Reding, R. Renard, B. Van Campenhout and K. Verbeke), Report commissioned by the Special Evaluation Office of the Belgian Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DGD), October 2011, 224p. http://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/binaries/evaluation_debt_relief_cameroon_tcm312-199012.pdf.
- 'Overview of debt relief policies, debt size and lessons from debt swaps for education' (with D. Cassimon), In: Debt swaps and debt conversion development bonds for education, Report for UNESCO Advisory Panel of Experts on Debt Swaps and Innovative Approaches to Education Financing, June 2011, pp. 13-30. http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002111/211162e.pdf.
- 'What potential for debt-for-education swaps in financing Education For All?' (with D. Cassimon and R. Renard), Background document for the UNESCO 35th General Conference and UNESCO 10th Meeting of Education for All Working Group, October 2009, 24p. http://www.unesco.org/education/EFAWG2009/additional/Deskstudyondebt.pdf.

Work in progress:

- 'South African labour market transitions during the global financial and economic crisis: micro-level evidence from the NIDS panel'.
- 'Debt relief as disguised budget support' (with D. Cassimon, R. Renard and K. Verbeke).
- 'Indonesia's debt swap experience: past, present and future' (with D. Cassimon and A. Fauzi).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

'South African labour market transitions during the global financial and economic crisis'

- *CSAE Annual Conference: Economic development in Africa*
  University of Oxford, United Kingdom, 17-19 March 2013.
- *II Semana Internacional de Economía: La economía y su aporte a la sociedad*
  Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, Quito, Ecuador, 19-23 November 2012.

'Democracy and external shock resilience in developing countries'

- *University of Lille I/GRESI/MESHS Conference on inequalities, skills and globalization*
  Polytechnic University of Lille, France, 21-22 June 2012.

'Financing the Clean Development Mechanism through debt-for-efficiency swaps?'

- *13th EADI/DSA General Conference*
  University of York, United Kingdom, 19-22 September 2011.

'Developing country vulnerability in light of the global financial crisis'

- *1st AfricaGrowth Institute Global Development Finance Conference*
  Spier Hotel, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 24-26 November 2010.
- *CERES Summer School: Global governance, the crisis and development*
  International Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, Netherlands, 23 June 2010.

'What potential for debt-for-education swaps in financing Education for All?'

- *10th Meeting of UNESCO Education for All Working Group*
  UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France, 9-11 December 2009.

SEMINARS

'South African labour market transitions during the global financial and economic crisis'

- University of Antwerp, Faculty of Applied Economics, Doctoral Day
- Catholic University of Louvain, LICOS Lunch Seminar

'Democracy and external shock resilience in developing countries'

- University of Antwerp, Faculty of Applied Economics, Doctoral Day
- Institute of Development Policy and Management, Lunch Seminar

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

June 2012: *National Income Dynamics Study Course*, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Participation in intensive one-week course on using the NIDS panel survey dataset in Stata

Feb. 2008: *McKinsey EuroAcademy2008 - Shape A New Europe*, Kitzbühel, Austria
- Participation in seminars and discussions with Ministers, European MPs, business leaders and students from leading European universities

July 2007: *Jean Monnet EFRI Summer School*, University of Rijeka, Croatia
- Participation in lectures, group discussions and joint presentations with students from Central and South Eastern Europe

March 2007: *Semi-finalist in the Boston Consulting Group Strategy Cup*, Brussels, Belgium
- Team work with university friends on business case, with presentation of findings to senior consultants

July 2006: *Georgetown University Summer Exchange*, Washington DC, United States
- Participation in guest lectures and study visits to World Bank, IMF, Federal Reserve and US Congress

2nd Sem. 2006: *Tutor as part of 'Tutoraat' Programme*, Antwerp, Belgium
- Coaching of foreign secondary school students with learning problems

LANGUAGE AND COMPUTER SKILLS

Dutch (native), English (fluent), French (fluent), Spanish (basic)

Thorough command of MS Office, Stata, EViews, SPSS
Basic notions of R

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2009: *Prize 'Pierre Wildiers' for best dissertation MSc Business Engineering 2008*
Granted by the University of Antwerp

2008: *ActUA Prize for Personal Development*
Granted by ActUA vzw, University of Antwerp

2008: *Postgraduate scholarship*
Granted by King Baudouin Foundation

2008: *Postgraduate scholarship and interest-free loan for overseas study*
Granted by Fernand Lazard Foundation

REFERENCES

References are available upon request