

MICHELLE MUTONGAWAFA

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Economics postgraduate with experience in quantitative research, data analysis, academic research and research communication. Currently completing a Master of Commerce in Economics at the University of the Western Cape, with experience conducting an independent longitudinal research project using official Statistics South Africa datasets. Skilled in analysing and synthesising quantitative data using Stata, EViews and Excel, conducting literature-based research, and translating complex findings into clear written and verbal communication. Experienced working independently and collaboratively in academic environments, with strong attention to detail and an interest in evidence-based research and policy-related work.

CORE COMPETENCIES

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| 🔍 Research and Literature Reviews | 📄 Academic Research and Report Writing | 📅 Independent Project Management |
| 📊 Quantitative Data Analysis | 🗣️ Research Communication and Presentation | 👥 Stakeholder Communication and Collaboration |
| 📁 Data Collection and Management | 🔍 Evidence-Based Analysis | 🔍 Attention to Detail |
| 📈 Data Synthesis and Interpretation | 📊 Quantitative Research Methods | |
| 📉 Econometric and Statistical Analysis | | |
| 📊 Stata, EViews and Microsoft Excel | | |

EDUCATION

Master of Commerce in Economics | University of the Western Cape | In Progress

Research-based Masters degree completed through independent thesis research.

Masters Thesis: *Examining the State of the South African Labour Market Thirty Years Since the Economic Transition*

Bachelor of Commerce Honours in Economics | University of the Western Cape | Completed

- Completed an independent research paper titled *"Investigating Female Informal Sector Activities in South Africa."*
- Analysed datasets from various waves of labour market surveys to investigate the activities in which women participated within South Africa's informal sector.

Bachelor of Commerce in Law | University of the Western Cape | Completed

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Masters Thesis Researcher - *Examining the State of the South African Labour Market Thirty Years Since the Economic Transition*. University of the Western Cape, Department of Economics | 2024–2026

- Independently conducted a research-based Masters thesis examining the state of the South African labour market over the 30 years following the economic transition, covering the period 1995–2024.
- Analysed changes in the labour force, labour force participation rate, employment, unemployment and the unemployment rate over the study period.
- Investigated the characteristics of the labour force, employed and unemployed populations, including race, gender, age, province and educational attainment.
- Examined workers' activities and working conditions, as well as unemployment duration, duration of seeking work and the prior work experience of unemployed individuals.
- Analysed multiple labour market survey datasets released by Statistics South Africa, including the 1995 October Household Survey (OHS), 2005 Labour Force Survey (LFS), and the 2015 and 2024 Quarterly Labour Force Surveys (QLFS).

- Used the datasets to derive comprehensive descriptive statistics and multivariate econometric findings, supporting evidence-based analysis of long-term changes in South Africa's labour market.
- Conducted the research independently and synthesised quantitative findings into a full Masters thesis, demonstrating experience in data analysis, research interpretation and academic writing.

Honours Researcher - Investigating Female Informal Sector Activities in South Africa. | University of the Western Cape

- Conducted an independent research paper examining female participation in South Africa's informal sector.
 - Analysed data from various waves of labour market surveys to investigate the informal sector activities in which women engaged.
 - Applied quantitative data analysis to examine patterns in women's participation in informal economic activities.
 - Synthesised research findings into a structured academic research paper.
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Lecturer | Quantitative Literacy for Commerce | *University of the Western Cape* Jan2025-Jun2025

- Designed and delivered mathematics instruction to a cohort of 150 first-year students.
- Analysed student performance data to identify gaps and used findings to adjust teaching strategies.
- Supervised and coordinated a team of three tutors, supporting collaborative delivery and communication.
- Translated complex quantitative concepts into clear and accessible explanations.

Graduating Lecturing Assistant | Intermediate Econometrics & International Economics | *University of the Western Cape* 2023-2024

- Facilitated third-year Intermediate Econometrics sessions, supporting the application of Stata and EViews for regression analysis, time-series modelling and hypothesis testing.
- Supported instruction in International Economics, including topics relating to trade policy, macroeconomic modelling and global economic dynamics.
- Communicated quantitative and economic concepts clearly to students and supported their understanding of research and analytical methods.

Tutor | Microeconomics, Macroeconomics & Quantitative Skills | *University of the Western Cape* 2020-2023

- Facilitated tutorials in Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and Quantitative Skills for Commerce.
- Supported student in understanding and applying economic and quantitative concepts.
- Developed strong communication and stakeholder engagement skills through consistent interaction with students.

Student-Athlete Mentor | *University of the Western Cape* 2021-2022

- Increased academic participation among student-athletes through structured monitoring and personalised study plans.
- Conducted regular academic check-ins to support student discipline and performance.

CERTIFICATIONS

Mastercard Advisors & Consulting Services Job Simulation

TEFL/TESOL CERTIFICATE

Teaching and Learning Certificates

Quantitative Economics Bootcamp Certificate of Merit

E-Learner IT Basics Certificate

REFERENCES

Available upon request
