

Ewane William Theophile

PERSONAL DATA

Citizenship: Cameroonian (Canada Permanent Resident)
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EDUCATION

Université du Québec à Montréal 2014-2020
Ph.D. in Economics (Expected Completion Date : December 2020)
Dissertation: "Prices and Trade costs in African Countries"
Committee: Julien Martin (Advisor), Kristian Behrens, Sophie Osotimehin, Mathieu Couttenier

University of Sherbrooke 2012-2013
Ph.D. program in Development Economics

University of Yaounde II / Cheikh Anta Diop University 2008-2010
M.A. in Economics
New Inter-university Postgraduate Program

University of Yaounde II 2004-2008
B.A. in Economics

CERTIFICATION

International Monetary Fund 2020
Edx/IMFx certificate for Macroeconomic diagnostics course (ongoing)

RESEARCH FIELDS

Primary : Development Economics, Empirical Trade
Secondary : Applied Microeconomics, Urban/Spatial Economics

WORKING PAPERS

"Trade costs, prices and connectivity in Rwanda" with Theophile Bougna , Florence Kondylis and Maria Jones

We combine high frequency market prices data and the road network to estimate the size of internal trade costs in Rwanda and evaluate whether better connectivity reduces these costs. We find that internal trade costs in Rwanda defined as a function of distance are 10 times higher than in the USA, 3 times higher than in Ethiopia and 2 times higher than in Nigeria. These costs are particularly high for manufactured products. We then show that a better road connectivity leads to a reduction of internal trade costs.

"The price of remoteness : product availability and local cost of living in Ethiopia" with Julien Martin and Florian Mayneris (Submitted)

We use the microdata underlying the Ethiopian CPI to examine the spatial dispersion in local prices and availability of 400 items across 110 cities. Remote cities face higher prices and have access to fewer products. Large cities also face higher individual prices but enjoy access to a wider set of products. To assess the welfare implications of these patterns, we build aggregate cost-of-living indexes.

The cost of living is higher in remote areas, but not systematically related to population size. We then show spatial differences in the cost of living are a significant determinant of migration flows across Ethiopian regions.

"The measurement of trade costs in Ethiopia"

This paper compares trade costs estimated using spatial price differences with the actual trade costs incurred by the World Food Program in Ethiopia. Based on a model of intermediated intra-national trade, I estimate the trade costs elasticity with respect to distance for both non-food and food products. I find that the estimated trade costs elasticity is lower than the actual trade costs elasticity for non-food products. The type of products considered and the difference in the mode of transport explain this finding. For food products, I find a similarity between the elasticities of estimated and actual trade costs with respect to distance. This result suggests that inferring trade costs from spatial price dispersion is a good method to approximate actual trade costs.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Travel grant (Research), Université du Québec à Montréal	<i>April 2020</i>
Travel grant, Africa Meeting of the Econometric Society	<i>June 2019</i>
Prize for the best Ph.D. research paper presentation "Innovation days, Three minutes Talk", Université du Québec à Montréal	<i>April 2019</i>
World Bank Group Africa Fellowship, The World Bank Group	<i>April 2018</i>
Tuition-fee Waiver Scholarship, Université du Québec à Montréal	<i>2014-2018</i>
Ph.D. Fellowship, Université du Québec à Montréal	<i>2014-2017</i>
Tuition-fee Waiver Scholarship, University of Sherbrooke	<i>2012-2013</i>
Ph.D. Fellowship, University of Sherbrooke	<i>2012-2013</i>
African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) grant for doctoral studies	<i>2012-2016</i>
M.A. Fellowship, New Inter-university PostGraduate Program (PTCI)	<i>2008-2010</i>

EXPERIENCE

Research position

Short Term Consultant, The World Bank Group (Research department) *May-November 2018*

Teaching

- Instructor, Université du Quebec à Montréal

Macroeconomic Analysis (Eco2400) *Fall 2016, Winter 2018, Winter 2019*

- Teaching assistant, Université du Quebec à Montréal

Econometric Foundations of Finance (Eco8600) *Fall 2015, Winter 2016*

Macroeconomics III (Eco3022) *Fall 2017*

- Teaching assistant, University of Yaounde II

Mathematics for economists *2010-2011*

Undergraduate Macroeconomics *2010-2011*

Undergraduate Microeconomics *2010-2011*

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

Presenter

PhD - Economics Virtual Seminar (PhD-EVS). Scheduled	<i>October 2020</i>
UQAM-INRS student conference in Urban Studies	<i>April 2020</i>
CRÉFiR/CRREP/CDER student conference , Quebec City	<i>November 2019</i>
Africa Meeting of the Econometric Society, Rabat	<i>July 2019</i>
Société canadienne de sciences économiques, Quebec City	<i>April 2019</i>
Internal Seminar, Université du Québec à Montréal	<i>January 2019</i>
Doctoral Seminar, Université du Québec à Montréal	<i>September 2017</i>

Attendee

Summer Conference in Urban Economics and Real Estate, Montreal	<i>May 2019</i>
World Bank Africa Fellows Brown Bag Lunch series, Washington DC	<i>September 2018</i>
Société canadienne de sciences économiques, Montreal	<i>April 2018</i>
American Economic Association, annual meetings, Chicago	<i>January 2017</i>
Canadian Economic Association, annual meetings, Ottawa	<i>May 2016</i>

OTHERS

Computer skills: Stata, R, ArcGIS, Matlab, Eviews, Python, Latex, MS Office suite

Languages: French (native), English (fluent)

Professional Affiliations: American Economic Association, Canadian Economic Association, Urban Economics Association, Econometric Society, Société Canadienne des Sciences économiques.

Last updated: September 9, 2020