

CURRICULUM VITAE

SYLVANUS KWAKU AFESORGBOR

CONTACT INFORMATION

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CURRENT POSITIONS

- Postdoctoral Researcher, Tuborg Research Centre for Globalization and Firms, Department of Economics and Business Economics, Aarhus University, Denmark (August 2015—present).
- Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellow, European University Institute, Florence, Italy. Worked with Prof. Bernard Hoekman. (September 2015—August 2016).

EDUCATION

- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Economics and Business, Aarhus University, Denmark. (August 2012—November 2015)
PhD thesis: Essays on International Economics and Development.
- Masters of Arts (M.A.), Economics of Development (with distinction), International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Erasmus University of Rotterdam, Netherlands. (September 2009—December 2010)
- Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Economics and Statistics, University of Ghana, Accra. (August 2001—May 2005)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

International Political Economy, Globalization and Development, Impact Evaluations and Applied Econometrics

RESEARCH/WORKSHOP VISITS

- Invited Researcher, Faculty of Management and Economics, Ruhr-Universität, Bochum, Germany (4th - 15th July, 2016).
Invited by Prof. Sanne Hiller and Prof. Matthias Busse.
- Visiting Research Fellow, Centre for Globalization and Development, Gothenburg University, Sweden, (1st - 31st Oct, 2014).
Invited by Prof. Arne Bigsten
- PhD Workshop on Economic Growth and Development, Kiel Institute for World Economy, Germany (14th -18th Jan., 2013)
- PhD Workshop on Treatment Effects and Panel Data Econometrics, University of Crete, Greece. (28th July —5th Aug. 2013)
- PhD Workshop on Advanced Microeconometrics, University of St. Gallen, Switzerland. (3rd —14th June, 2013)

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

- **[Book Review]:** Regionalism in Africa: Genealogies, Institutions and Trans-State Networks, by Daniel C. Bach, Routledge Studies in African Politics and International Relations, The Journal of Modern African Studies, Cambridge University Press. (Forthcoming 2017).
- [Revisiting the Effect of Regional Integration on African Trade: Evidence from Meta-Analysis and Gravity Model.](#) **Journal of International Trade and Economic Development**, (2017), 26(2), 133-153.
- [The Impact of Economic Sanctions on Income Inequality of Target States](#), **World Development** (2016), 83, 1-11. With R. Mahadevan.
- [Economic Diplomacy in Africa: The Impact of Regional Integration versus Bilateral Diplomacy on Bilateral Trade.](#) **Handbook of Economic Diplomacy Research**, Edited by Peter van Bergeijk. Edward Elgar Publishing, UK. Forthcoming 2017.
- [Measuring Multi-Membership in Economic Integration and Its Trade Impact: A Comparative Study of ECOWAS and SADC.](#) **South African Journal of Economics** (2014), 82(4), 518-530. With P. van Bergeijk

WORKING PAPERS

- Aid, Inequality and Regime Change Revisited. With C. Bjørnskov. Presented at Development Dialogue (2014), ISS, The Hague
- Preferential Market Access, Foreign Aid and Economic Development, With K. G. Abreha. Presented at European Trade Study Conference (ETSG) 2014, Munich
- The Impact of Economic Sanctions on International Trade: How do threatened sanctions compare with imposed sanctions? Max Weber Working Paper, EUI, Italy. (Presented at the ETSG Conference, Helsinki, Sept. 2016)
- Impact of Non-Tariff Measures in West Africa. Project commissioned and funded by African Development Bank.

POLICY BRIEFS

- The causes, consequences and control of corruption in Ghana. (January 2016).
<http://www.myjoyonline.com/opinion/2016/January-5th/the-causes-consequences-and-control-of-corruption-in-ghana.php>
- Can Ghana afford not to sign the Economic Partnership Agreement when ECOWAS signs? (April 2014).
<http://news.myjoyonline.com/opinion/2014/April-16th/can-ghana-afford-not-to-sign-the-economic-partnership-agreement-epa-when-ecowas-signs.php>
- A single identification and an integrated database. The way forward for Ghana's development (May 2014).
<http://www.myjoyonline.com/opinion/2014/may-20th/a-single-identification-and-an-integrated-database-the-way-forward-for-ghanas-development.php?print=1>

WORK-IN-PROGRESS

- Economic Consequences of Xenophobic Attacks: Evidence from South Africa.
- The Impact of E-reader on Student Performance: Evidence from Randomized Control Trial in Ghana.

TEACHING/ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

- Lecturer, Aarhus University, Denmark
 - International Economic Integration at the graduate level (Jan. 2017)
 - Seminar in Global Business at undergraduate (Fall 2016)
 - Trade and International Economics at the undergraduate level (Fall 2013 & 2014)
- Teaching Assistant, Aarhus University, Denmark
 - Microeconomics at the undergraduate level (Fall 2013)
 - Business Strategy/Game Theory (Spring 2013)
 - Macroeconomics Undergraduate level (Spring 2013)
- Lecturer, University of Professional Studies, Accra, Ghana
 - Research Methods(Feb- June 2012)
 - Managerial Economics (Feb- June 2012)
 - Quantitative Methods (July-Sept 2011)
 - Business Statistics (July-Sept 2011)
- Course Instructor, ISS, Erasmus University of Rotterdam, Netherlands
 - Advanced Microsoft Excel 2010 at the graduate level (Nov-Dec, 2010)

RESEARCH/CONSULTANCY EXPERIENCE

- Research Consultant, African Development Bank, Abidjan and International Trade Centre, Geneva (August —Dec. 2015)
 - Conducting an analytical study on the impact of non-tariff measures in West Africa (ECOWAS)
- Assistant Research Fellow, University of Professional Studies, Accra, Ghana. (July 2011—August 2012)
 - Supervised undergraduate theses, wrote proposal for grants and policy briefs, fieldworks and data management.
- Data Analyst and Consultant, ILC Africa (USAID-funded Project), Accra, Ghana (August—September 2011).
 - Conducted final impact evaluations of E-Readers on student performance.
- Research Assistant, Ministry of Health (World Health Organization funded Project), Ghana. (June 2006—Feb. 2008)
 - Survey organization and fieldwork. Supervised about 300 field workers in over 350 communities.

OTHER EXPERIENCES

- Financial Controller, ProCredit Bank, Accra, Ghana. (March 2011—July 2011)
- Premium/Finance Administration Officer, Enterprise Life Assurance Company, Ghana. (Sept. 2005—June 2006)

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- Max Weber Post-doctoral grant of €32,400.00 (2015/16), European University Institute, Florence, Italy (45 from 1140 applicants)
- A grant of \$3,000.00 by African Development Bank (AfDB) to present at the Eighth Annual African Economic Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa (October 2013)
- A grant of €1,500.00 by German Research Committee for Development Economics to present at Seventh Annual Conference in Berlin, Germany (June 2011)
- Professor Hans Opschoor Award for Best Research Paper, Economics of Development, International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University, Netherlands (December 2010)
- PhD fellowship by the Danish Government
- Master's Degree fellowship by Dutch government (September 2009—December 2010)

CONFERENCES

- Meta-Analysis of Economics Research Network Colloquium; Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas, USA. (Sept 2016)
- 17th Annual European Trade Study Group Conference, Helsinki, Finland. (September 2016)
- High-level Regional Round Table on Non-Tariff Barriers in West Africa, African Development Bank, Abidjan, Ivory Coast (June 2016)
- International Business Conference, Aalborg University, Denmark (June 2016)
- Sustainable Development Conference, Columbia University, New York, USA (April 2015)
- Danish Public Choice Workshop, Aarhus University, Denmark (January 2015)
- 12th Development Dialogue Conference, ISS, Erasmus University, Netherlands (October 2014)
- 16th Annual European Trade Study Group Conference, Munich, Germany (September 2014)
- International Network for Economic Research Workshop on Distance and Border Effects in Economics, Loughborough, UK, (January 2014).
- 8th Annual African Economic Conference, Johannesburg, South Africa (October 2013)
- 14th Annual European Trade Study Group Conference, Leuven, Belgium (September 2012)
- 17th Annual Conference of the German Research Committee for Development Economics, Berlin, Germany (June 2011)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Proficient in statistical software: Stata, SPSS, EpiData, Latex and Matlab

REFEREEING

- Empirical Economics, Social Science Journal, Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics, African Journal of Economic and Management Studies, Development Southern Africa, Economics E-Journal, Journal of Modern African Studies.

MEMBERSHIPS

- Member, International Network for Economic Research
- Affiliate, African Growth and Development Policy Modelling Consortium (AGRODEP)
- Member, Meta-Analysis of Economics Research Network (MAER-NET)

REFERENCES

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|---|---|
| ➤ Professor Dr. Philipp J.H. Schröder
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SUMMARIES OF SOME SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

1. **The Impact of economic sanctions on income inequality of target states. *World Development* (2016), 83, 1-11. (with Mahadevan R.)**

Abstract: In this paper, we draw on established theoretical work to empirically analyze which segments of the population in the target states bear the most cost when economic sanctions are imposed. More specifically, we examine whether the imposition of sanctions affects the income shares of political/economic elites differently from the poorer segment of the population, and adversely skews the income distribution. To account for the fact that sanctioning states employ different instruments of sanctions, we examine whether there exists any differential effect of different instruments of sanctions. Finally, we consider the duration of the economic sanctions to distinguish their impact on income inequality when sanctions span short and long periods.

2. **Revisiting the effect of regional integration on African trade: Evidence from meta-analysis and gravity model, *Journal of International Trade and Economic Development*, (2017), 26(2), 133-153.**

Abstract: Two main shortcomings flaw the estimation of gravity model in previous studies that examined the trade-creating effects of African regional Trade Agreements (RTAs). First, these studies fail to account for the multilateral resistance term (MRT). This omission makes the estimates from standard gravity model bias and inconsistent. Second, there is a significant proportion of zero trade flows, however, these studies also fail to account for them properly. They use either the Tobit model or replace zero flows with arbitrary small values. Apart from these problems, they also exhibit considerable heterogeneity in the RTA effects on trade. In this paper, a meta-analysis of previous empirical studies is conducted to derive a combined effect size and also explain heterogeneity in RTA effects. In addition, I use the gravity model to compare the trade-creating effect of the main African RTAs. Using the gravity model, I compare the estimation methods of previous studies to the Poisson pseudo-maximum-likelihood estimator that tackles the zero flows. From the meta-analysis, I find a general positive effect of African RTAs of about 27-32% after correcting for publication bias. The source of upward bias is not limited to publication selection as the RTA effects tend to be significantly overestimated when zero flows and MRT are not controlled for properly. A comparative assessment of the RTAs shows a striking heterogeneity.

3. **Preferential market access, foreign aid and economic development (with Dr. Kaleb Girma Abreha) Under review**

Abstract: Several studies highlight that exporters in LDCs face substantial trade costs exporting to developed countries. To this end, preferential market access granted by developed countries is expected to play a pivotal role especially in reducing non-tariff barriers. However, granting preferential market access may be necessary but not a sufficient condition to promote economic development in the case of LDCs mainly because there are endemic structural constraints. These constraints undermine the capacity of LDCs' producers to utilize these market access opportunities effectively. Focusing on the EU-ACP non-reciprocal preferential market access, we show that the EU preferential scheme is effective in promoting exports, however, this market access only improves economic development if it is complemented with a sufficient level of foreign aid targeted at trading activities.

4. **The impact of economic sanctions on international trade: How do threatened sanctions compare with imposed sanctions? Presented at the European Trade Study Group Conference, September 2016, Helsinki, Finland**

Abstract: In this paper, we draw on established theoretical works in international political economy to compare the empirical impact of the threat of economic sanctions to the actual imposition of economic sanctions on international trade. Deepening the analysis, we analyze whether there are any differential effects when different instruments are employed. We also examine the international trade effect of sanctions at a more disaggregated products level. Thus, we are able to test whether sanctions have any adverse effect on essential commodities such as food and medical supplies in contravention of the Geneva Convention which stipulates the passage of such essential goods even in times of sanction. To achieve this, we use the gravity model as our empirical tool and recent detailed disaggregated data on sanctions spanning a long time series from 1960 to 2009. Our results show that the impact of threatened sanctions differs qualitatively and quantitatively from imposed sanctions. Whereas imposed sanctions lead to a decrease in the trade flow between the sender and the target, a threat of sanctions leads to an increase in the trade flow. The positive impact of the threat may be due to economic agents in both the sender and its target resorting to stockpiling prior to the actual imposition of sanctions to minimize any adverse consequences of the sanctions. In addition, we find varying effects for the different sanction instruments. In addition, the detrimental effect of sanctions extends to essential products.