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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, Suffolk University, Boston, MA, 2011 (January)

M.A. in Economics (with Honors), University of Dakar (UCAD), Senegal, 2004.

B.A. in Economics (with Honors), University of Mali, Bamako, Mali, 2001.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

General Economic Education, Applied Econometrics (including Microeconometrics), Applied Statistics to Business and Economics, International Economics (Finance and Trade), Managerial economics, Development Economics (including Poverty Analysis and Impact Evaluation).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics, Siena College Fall 2011-Spring 2012

- Principles of Microeconomics (Fall)
- Development Economics (Fall)

Lecturer, Northeastern University Sum 2010-Sum 2011

- Principles of Macroeconomics (College of Social Sciences and Humanities)
- Principles of Microeconomics (College of Professional Studies)
- Principles of Economics (Intensive) (College of Professional Studies)
- Statistics and Business Decision Models (College of Professional Studies)
- Managerial Economics (College of Professional Studies)

Lecturer, Suffolk University Fall 2006-current

- Applied Statistics to Business and Economics (Fall, Spring and Summer)
- Applied Statistics to Communication and Journalism (Fall 2010)
- Taught more than 700 students, with excellent course evaluations

Lecturer, Fisher College Fall 2010

- Principles of Microeconomics

Teaching Assistant (Online), World Bank Institute. Nov 2008-Jan 2009

- Assisted Professor Jonathan Houghton in teaching Advanced Poverty Analysis Course (Poverty Dynamics) to about 80 students from around the World.

- Tutor, Balotti Learning Center at Suffolk University** Jan.-May 2006
- Tutored undergraduate students in Principles of Economics (Micro and Macro) and Statistics.
- Instructor, University of Dakar (UCAD), Dakar, Senegal** Jan 2004-Aug 2005
- Taught Principles of Macroeconomics classes.
 - Taught a masters' level Econometrics course in June-July 2005
- Instructor, ISM (Private Business School), Dakar, Senegal,** Dec 2004-July 2005
- Taught Principles of Economics and Economic History.
 - Helped prepare students for admission exams in Business schools (HEC) in France.
- Tutor (private), University of Mali, Bamako, Mali,** Oct 1999-Dec 2001
- Tutored more than 400 students in Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Mathematics, Statistics, Econometrics and Growth Theory.
 - Organized special tutoring sessions for working adults.

AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES

- Certified E-Learning Instructor, July 2010, Northeastern University
- Excellence in Teaching, January 2010, Economics Department, Suffolk University
- Outstanding Faculty of the Year nominee, April 2008, SGA, Suffolk University
- Merit-based scholarship to pursue PhD in Economics in 2005, Suffolk University
- Grant from Council for Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) for my masters dissertation on Finance and Growth in 2003.
http://www.codesria.org/Links/Home/annual_report03.pdf
- Merit-based scholarship for my Masters degree in 2001, University of Dakar

PAPERS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

- “Dual Effects of Financial Liberalization: Does the Positive Direct Effect Really Outweigh the Negative Indirect Effect?”
Abstract: This paper empirically tests for the net effect of financial liberalization on per capita GDP growth. Using a sample of 113 developing and emerging economies, I find that the net effect, depending on empirical methodology and control variables, ranges from -0.06 percent up to 0.55 percent. The estimation results indicate that developing economies grow faster when they financially liberalize, which is consistent with previous findings. However, unlike previous studies, I find that the negative effect of financial crisis wipes away most of the gains, especially when poor institutions are controlled for. These findings emphasize the importance of high-quality institutions in developing economies. Finally, I find some evidence that the growth effect of financial liberalization is duration-related.
Keywords: Financial liberalization, crisis, institutions and growth.
JEL codes: G15, G18, F34, F36, F43.

- “Effect of Currency Union on Trade: Evidence from CFA zone”

Abstract: While other developing countries increasingly move towards a flexible exchange rate regime, the African countries in the CFA franc zone have maintained a de facto currency union alongside a relatively stable peg, first with the French Franc and then with the Euro, for more than half a century. This study investigates the impact of the currency union and the peg on bilateral trade flows for the fourteen countries in the CFA zone.

The empirical methodology consists of a theoretical gravity model in which a binary variable for the currency union (the western part of the CFA zone, the entire CFA zone or the CFA franc-euro peg) is included as an additional regressor. The data consist of a matrix of 150 exporting by 150 importing countries. The results indicate that, the volume of the trade flows between two members of WAEMU (West African Economic and Monetary Union), which is one of the two parts of the CFA franc zone, is not significantly different from the volume of other bilateral trade flows, when other determinants of trade are controlled for. This finding also holds for the ‘soft’ currency union which comprises all CFA zone countries. Contrary to the literature, I also find that peg (CFA franc-Euro) has a negative and significant effect on exports from a CFA country to a Euro zone country.

Keywords: currency union, peg, volatility, CFA franc zone, Euro, exchange rate, gravity equation, trade. JEL codes: F18, F31, E58.

- “How Important Are Non-Tariff Barriers to Agricultural Trade within ECOWAS?” (Under review at the Journal of African Economies; with Jonathan Haughton, Abdoulaye Seck and Lassana Cissokho)

Abstract: It is widely believed that the countries of Africa trade relatively little with the outside world, and among themselves, despite an extensive network of regional trade agreements. We examine this proposition by focusing on agricultural trade. Specifically, we ask whether non-tariff barriers (NTBs) are stunting agricultural trade within ECOWAS, a grouping of 15 countries in West Africa that has removed tariffs on agricultural trade among its members. Our survey of truckers in Tambacounda (Senegal) in August 2009 found evidence of extensive bribery by police and border officials, effectively representing a barrier to trading.

We estimate a gravity model of agricultural trade, using data from 135 countries for 2000, 2003, and 2006, and employing both ad hoc and theoretically-based specifications. A robust result emerges: agricultural trade among the countries of ECOWAS is higher than one would expect. This does not mean that there are no NTBs within ECOWAS, but it does imply that any such barriers are less harmful to agricultural trade in ECOWAS than in the world as a whole. Similar, if somewhat weaker, effects are found for COMESA and SADC. This suggests that African countries are not averse to agricultural trade, and local traders have been effective at exploiting trade opportunities.

Keywords: Non-tariff barriers, agricultural trade, gravity equation, ECOWAS. JEL codes: F15, Q17, Q18.

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

BEACON HILL INSTITUTE, Suffolk University, Boston, MA

Research Assistant

Sept 2005-August 2006

- Participated in a research on “IOWA Discounted Tax Reform”.
- Worked on States & Metro Areas Competitiveness Report 2005 (www.beaconhill.org)
- Researched background on economic policy issues for reports and publications
- Participated as needed on all aspects of policy research and analysis

CENTER OF APPLIED ECONOMIC RESEARCH (CREA), UCAD, Dakar, Senegal

Research Assistant

Aug 2004-Aug 2005

- Participated in research programs on governance, poverty analysis, education, gender and development, including “How to formalize the informal: The Case of Senegal”
- Assisted in updating the “Decade Education Program Model” and writing the 2004 report for the Ministry of National Education in Senegal.

FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION (FES, German NGO), Dakar, Senegal

Consultant

May 2004-Jul 2004

- Conducted and timely delivered a research on “ The Question of Gender in Multilateral Trade relationships : The Case of African-Caribbean-Pacific and European Union agreement ”

AID TRANSPARENCY, Dakar, Senegal

Consultant

Dec 2003- Feb 2004

- Analyzed and summarized different proposals regarding the feasibility of a Monetary Union for all the West African countries.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Presented at the 78th South Economic Association Conference, Washington, DC, Nov. 20-23, 2008.
- Presented at the 68th International Atlantic Economic Conference, Boston, MA, Oct. 8-11, 2009.

MEMBERSHIP

- American Economic Association
- International Atlantic Economic Society
- Southern Economic Association

OTHER SKILLS

- LANGUAGES: English and French (schooled and taught extensively in both languages)
- COMPUTER SKILLS: Gauss, Eviews, Matlab, SAS, SPSS, Stata, Scientific Workplace.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Citizenship: Togo (West Africa)
- Lived, and/or studied, and/or taught in seven countries: Benin, Burkina-Faso, Ghana, Mali, Senegal, Togo, and USA.

REFERENCES

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