USB in Collaboration USC Darla Moore Business

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Workshop on Research Methods, Co-Organized by: African Centre for Development Finance at the University of Stellenbosch Business School (USB-ACDF) with Darla Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina, Sonoco International Business Department, U.S.A.

Event information

9-13 December, 2019

8:00am to 5:00pm

CLICK FOR MAP

Library 1
University Stellenbosch Business School, Bellville Cape Town, South Africa.

Group Size:
max 25 participants

The objective of the workshop:

A common obstacle to conducting high impact research is limited experience in sourcing, preparing, and analysing high quality data. This workshop will combine instructive tutorials with hands-on experience in writing code in statistical analysis packages (e.g. STATA). Participants are encouraged (but not necessarily required) to bring datasets they are already working with and through the workshop develop code capable of helping them execute their analysis.

What the course will cover:

The course will focus on presenting a cutting edge research methods tailored to high impact African context through a hands-on, **intensive one-week curriculum** covering the following topics:

- Collecting high quality data in an environment where publicly available data is often unavailable or unreliable

- Cleaning and preparing data for analysis

- Conducting analysis through econometric models and descriptive statistics

- Presenting results and developing a personalized library of software code useful to all of the above.

Who should attend:

Academics (including professors, Doctoral Candidates, Post-Doctoral Fellows and **current Doctoral fellows**), policy analysts, and those working in related fields will be given more priority.

Course provider:

African Centre for Development Finance at the University of Stellenbosch Business School (USB-ACDF) with Darla Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina, Sonoco International Business Department, U.S.A.

Pre-quest:

Participants are expected to have an intermediate level of microeconomic theory at undergraduate level. Introductory statistics and econometrics are desired but not required for this quantitative skills course. The software programs STATA and R will be employed.

An online tutorial is available for those without previous experience of STATA or those who would like a refresher.

Course material:

The course pack will be prepared and made available to participants during registration. The materials required for pre-course reading will be sent directly to the participants via email or via the course website.

Presenters

Dr Christopher B. Yenkey

Dr Christopher B. Yenkey is an assistant professor in the Sonoco International Business Department at the Darla Moore School of International Business. Prof. Yenkey's research on investor behavior in Kenya has received numerous prestigious awards, and he currently serves as an Associate Editor at Management Science. He received a B.A. in Economics from the University of Texas, Austin, in 2001, and his Ph.D. in Sociology from Cornell University in 2011. He was a visiting scholar at the Institute for Economic Affairs in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2008 and was associate director of the Center for the Study of Economy and Society at Cornell University from 2010 to 2011.

Presenters

Dr Nyankomo Marwa

Dr Nyankomo Marwa is senior lecturer in Development Finance and Econometrics at the University of Stellenbosch Business School, South Africa. He holds a PhD in Development Finance from the University of Stellenbosch Business School; an MSc Agricultural Economics from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, USA; an MSc Applied Statistics and Biostatistics from Hasselt University, Belgium; and a BSc Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness from Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania. He holds visiting research positions at the School of Management Sciences of the University of Quebec Montreal, Canada, and the University of Saskatchewan, Canada.

Course Outline

Day		Goals	Practicum
Day One	**Morning**	*Acquiring data- Secondary and primary sources:* Learn the sources of existing (secondary) datasets as well as strategies for collecting original, primary data. Understand which types of data are best suited to which types of research questions.	Group discussions of state of the art research in Africa and similar settings; seeing examples of research questions and the data used to answer them. Overview of publicly available secondary data, as well as methods of collecting primary data custom suited to a research project: geocoding, surveys, etc. Hands-on experience downloading secondary data.
	Afternoon	*Preparing data for analysis- cleaning and structuring:* Learn common problems with datasets and how to clean them efficiently; learn how to structure datasets so they are ready for the proposed analysis.	Hands-on experience searching for problems in datasets that need to be cleaned; code writing short cuts that help identify and clean common problems; common dataset formats required for common types of models (prepares participants for the next day's modeling topic)
Day Two and Three	**Tuesday**	*Conducting analysis:* Learn common descriptive and econometric modeling frameworks and which types of data and research questions they are best suited for (e.g. types of linear regression, logistic regression, spatial analysis, etc.)	Primarily a survey of available types of models and how they best used. A combination of lecture from an applied econometrician and group discussion of existing research papers showing best practice in matching research question, available data, and modelling strategy. Coverage of some common misapplications of models so participants can avoid pitfalls in their own analysis.
		Continuation of *Conducting analysis*: Learn common descriptive and econometric modeling frameworks and which types of data and research questions they are best suited for (e.g. types of linear regression, logistic regression, spatial analysis, etc.)	Continuation of surveying available types of models and how they best used models so participants can avoid pitfalls in their own analysis. Participants will get hands-on experience running models on datasets they bring with them and/or datasets provided by workshop organizers.
Day Four	**Morning**	*Creating new datasets and variables: merge existing datasets and use its contents to create variables better suited to your particular analysis*	Hands-on experience downloading and combining secondary datasets in order to build the dataset you need instead of settling for poorly fitting datasets designed for other research questions. Learn strategies for creating new variables from existing secondary data that better capture the theoretical concepts you are studying.
	Afternoon	*Strategies for presenting results: Learn effective presentation strategies for different types of results.*	Hands-on experience creating tables of results and graphing results. Participants will take the results they create in their analyses from the previous two day and visually present them, e.g. create tables of regression results, graph predicted probabilities and/or magnitudes of effects, etc.
Day Five	**Morning**	*Complete or revisit previous topics and get individualized feedback and paper development:* Participants apply the lessons learned to their own research projects.	Return to earlier topics that require further attention. Time permitting, participants can have more focused discussions of individual research projects, identify elements of the lessons that apply, and discuss additional resources and skills (e.g. data sources, modelling frameworks, coding strategies) required to successfully complete the project. Participants can work independently on their own projects, calling for assistance from workshop organizers.

Registration Procedure

The workshop fee is **R9 900** per participants.

Applicants will have to register online:

**CLICK HERE
TO APPLY**

Applications close **18 October 2019**.
Spaces are limited.

You are required to make a payment of account details below with Reference:
12621-014 MW + and your Surname:

Bank Account Details:
Account Name: University of Stellenbosch Business School
Bank: Standard Bank
Account Number: 073003069
Branch: Stellenbosch
Branch Code: 050610

Banking Details (International payments)
Account Name: University of Stellenbosch
Bank: First National Bank
Account number: 62107177083 Swift code:
FIRNZAJJ Reference: 12621 DEA Surname

Logistics

For more details on logistics and other enquiries, please contact the following:

Sheena Maneveld | sheena.maneveld@usb.ac.za | +27 21 918 4196

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the USB.