

FACULTY OF COMMERCE, LAW AND MANAGEMENT

DEAN: PROFESSOR J COHEN BCom Hons PhD (Witwatersrand)

Doctor of Philosophy

AYODELE, Ademola Emmanuel

Graduate School of Business Administration

THESIS: Essay on agricultural finance, financial development and economic growth in Nigeria

The thesis examined essays on agricultural finance, financial development, and economic growth in Nigeria by focusing mainly on the individual and joint effects of agricultural finance and financial development on output growth in Nigeria. Also, the threshold of agricultural finance at which financial development optimizes inclusive growth in Nigeria is computed. Importantly, the study investigated the response of economic growth to shocks in agricultural finance and financial development, as well as their direction of causality.

Supervisor: Dr G Tweneboah

BOB-MILLIAR, Gloria Kafui

Graduate School of Business Administration

THESIS: Development Aid, NGOs and the North-South divide in Ghana

This research examined the yawning development gap between the north and the south of Ghana and the role of development aid and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in bridging the gaps. Using grounded theory and phenomenological analysis the empirical evidence established 'poverty dance' and 'red herring' of aid implementation. Among others, the study showed that interventions by NGOs in northern Ghana has not succeeded in alleviating poverty, and in some instances aid fungibility heightens the divide between the north and the south.

Supervisor: Professor IP Alagidede

BUTHELEZI, Norbert Sfiso

Economics

THESIS: Essays on inflation targeting and macroeconomic performance

Many central banks have adopted inflation targeting as their monetary policy framework. However, the effect of this framework on macroeconomic performance remains uncertain. The thesis finds that there is a non-linear relationship between inflation and economic activity. This relationship differs across economies. This makes "one size fits all" approach to monetary policy inappropriate. Furthermore, existing inflation targets lead to sub-optimal outcomes. Therefore, policy makers ought to consider raising their inflation targets.

Supervisor: Professor C Malikané

CHIKANE, Rekgotsofetse

Wits School of Governance

THESIS: Using Complexity to Unlock Emergent-Decolonial Development

This thesis argues the need for a theoretical and philosophical understanding of emergent-decolonial development within development studies and decolonial thinking to formulate the notion of decolonisation within both fields as an ongoing developmental practice. As both a theoretical and philosophical framework, emergent-decolonial development functions as an economic, policy and philosophical analytic exercise to unravel the complex nature of the entanglement of political and economic notions of decolonisation that create an epistemological quagmire within developmental discourse, currently understood as coloniality.

Supervisor: Professor D Everatt

CHIPATO, Ngonidzashe

Graduate School of Business Administration

THESIS: Understanding corporate social investments' results measurement in South Africa: the case of three foundations

This qualitative study investigates how three corporate foundations in South Africa measure results of their activities. Findings show that foundations activities are linked to business operations. It recommends using social statements for integrated reporting and results management for businesses' competitiveness and sustainability.

Supervisors: Dr B Moyo and Dr A Fowler

ESHUN, Richard

Graduate School of Business Administration

THESIS: Essays on the proposed monetary integration in the Ecowas region

This PhD thesis used the optimal currency area criteria (OCA) to examine the feasibility of the introduction of ex-post monetary integration in the ECOWAS region since ex-ante introduction of the single currency in the sub-region has witnessed several postponement because of non-convergence of macroeconomic variables. Using several econometric techniques, we established that ex-post monetary integration is the best approach for the region because members' macroeconomic variables converge in the long run.

Supervisor: Dr G Tweneboah

FRANKLYN, Claire

Law

THESIS: Courting an intervention: conceptualising the judicial role in matters relating to section 139 of the South African Constitution

This thesis conceptualises and evaluates the developing judicial role in matters concerning intervention by provincial or national executives in the affairs of dysfunctional municipalities, under section 139 of the South African Constitution. Through comprehensive content analysis of relevant judgments, it considers the judicial role in relation to justiciability, intensity of scrutiny, and remedial prescriptiveness.

Supervisor: Professor M Pieterse

GEORGE, Lucie Marie

Law

THESIS: Gender and transitional justice in the Central African Republic

This thesis proposes to assess whether the transitional justice mechanisms created in the Central African Republic can combat Gender Based Violence by challenging the unequal gender norms and structures pre-existing the conflicts and, therefore, bring about a significant change in the life of women in the country. The thesis studies three different modes of justice through the lens of transitional justice: interactional justice, distributive justice, and normative justice from the perspective of a feminist analysis of transitional justice.

Supervisor: Professor M Swart

GURUWO, Paul Tarisayi

Graduate School of Business Administration

THESIS: Entrepreneurial marketing orientation adoption and youth entrepreneurial performance: examining the mediating factors

This study explores the complex interconnections between entrepreneurial marketing orientation (EMO) and youth entrepreneurial performance (YEP). By pioneering the examination of organisational structure (OS), knowledge of business (KoB), and managerial skills (MS) as mediating factors, the study reveals critical pathways through which EMO and its integrated dimensions impact YEP. The research highlights the significant role of EMO in shaping youth entrepreneurship, providing actionable insights for policymakers and educators to enhance entrepreneurial success through strategic EMO integration.

Supervisor: Professor F Saruchera

INWEREGBU, Cynthia Ngozi

Graduate School of Business Administration

THESIS: Diversity management in the Ghanaian Health Sector: a case study of the NHIA

Diversity management has become a critical tool for ensuring efficiency and productivity in organisations and societies. The concept of diversity management has assumed a global dimension, and a context-specific approach is required to make it effective. This calls for an approach that suits the African and, particularly, the Ghanaian context. To this effect, this thesis explores the concept, policies, and challenges of diversity management from a Ghanaian perspective to assist in fashioning a context-specific strategy for diversity management.

Supervisor: Dr C Maier

IROHA, George Chikwado

Graduate School of Business Administration

THESIS: The impact of technology innovation on higher education institution: a case study of a Private and Public University in Johannesburg

This study explores technology's innovation role in higher education amid Industry 4.0 and its impact in South African institutions. Findings reveal a notable correlation between technology innovation and the Moodle learning method, students' attitude, and satisfaction. These findings hold implications for policymakers and educators aiming to equip students for the challenges of the fourth industrial revolution. Utilising a positivist paradigm and quantitative methodology, the study contributes valuable insights to educational innovation and technological advancement.

Supervisor: Dr R Horne

KAGONDO, Brian Victor Tinashe

Graduate School of Business Administration

THESIS: Dynamic capabilities in strategy formation and knowledge conversion in Zimbabwean organisations

Adopting a strategy-as-practice approach, this qualitative study explored the intraorganisational dynamics between people, processes and systems in strategy formation and knowledge conversion in the developing nation of Zimbabwe. Using the theoretical lenses of contingency theory and institutional, resource, and knowledge-based views, it was established that strategy formation, purported to be formal and structured, was, in reality, often chaotic, motivated by desire for political and procedural correctness and based on tacit, informal knowledge sources within organisations rather than established frameworks.

Supervisors: Dr C van der Hoven and Professor T Carmichael

KHOZA, Fhatani

Graduate School of Business Administration

THESIS: Examining antecedents, mediators and moderators of consumer behavioural outcomes of mobile banking
This research advances the understanding of mobile banking by examining the antecedents, mediators, and moderators of consumer behavioural outcomes. Integrating theoretical constructs with empirical analysis from 453 South African bank customers, the research validated a comprehensive framework identifying key quality dimensions and performance expectancy drivers. The study highlights the pivotal role of customer satisfaction in driving behavioural loyalty and provides strategic insights for enhancing user engagement. This contribution enriches the academic discourse and offers practical frameworks for industry application.

Supervisor: Professor F Saruchera

KRUGER, Petronell

Law

THESIS: When less is more-tiny housing as "adequate" housing

This thesis investigates the evolving legal concept of housing adequacy amidst persistent housing crises and climate change impacts. It examines the potential of tiny housing movements to challenge conventional standards, considering affordability, sustainability, and community values. Through comparative legal analysis and policy evaluation, it explores pathways for integrating tiny housing into public and private housing frameworks, aiming to broaden access to adequate housing for all.

Supervisor: Professor M Pieterse

MAGIDA, Ayanda

Graduate School of Business Administration

THESIS: The nexus between the digital divide, income inequality and social cohesion in South Africa

This study examined the relationship between the digital divide, social cohesion, and socioeconomic drivers in South Africa. It used ecological systems theory as its primary theoretical framework and social categorisation and resource appropriation theories as secondary frameworks. A concurrent mixed-method research design was implemented to collect in-depth data. The results showed that the digital divide affects social cohesion and is shaped by socioeconomic factors. The study has provided valuable insights into the digital divide, social cohesion, and socioeconomic drivers, contributing to our understanding of these complex issues.

Supervisor: Professor B Armstrong

MOKUENA, Medi Moira

Law

THESIS: Good corporate governance in State-Owned Entities in South Africa: challenges and compliance

This research argues that good corporate governance is a critical determinant and fundamental for the success of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) in South Africa. Mokuena, employing qualitative research methods posits that lack of appreciation of, and non-compliance with good governance practices fail SOEs. The antithesis of good corporate governance is corruption and financial burden on the state. The private sector's role in floundering SOEs cannot be ignored and minimized. Boards espousing accountability, ethics, responsibility and transparency is an answer for SOEs.

Supervisor: Professor H Kawadza

MOTI, Mahad

Graduate School of Business Administration

THESIS: The relevance of entrepreneurial self-efficacy, social networking and the institutional environment on immigrant entrepreneurship in South Africa

The thesis examined the degree to which entrepreneurial self-efficacy and social networking influence the performance of Pakistani immigrant entrepreneurs in South Africa, while accounting for the regulatory environment as a moderator to this relationship. The impact of the negative influence of the local regulatory environment is highlighted which encourages greater unproductive entrepreneurial activities such as corruption. By statistically testing complex theories and social relationships the thesis make a unique contribution to the growing body of knowledge on immigrant entrepreneurship.

Supervisor: Professor B Urban

MUDAU, Fungai Paul

Law

THESIS: The role of local government in achieving spatial equity through the realisation of the right to housing in South Africa

This thesis considers whether the constitutional and legal powers of local government match its rights-related responsibilities and its statutory role in achieving spatial equity. Focusing on access to housing and well-located urban land, the thesis illustrates the related challenges experienced by South African municipalities through case studies of the metropolitan municipalities of Cape Town, Johannesburg, and eThekweni.

Supervisor: Professor M Pieterse

MUDIMBA, Prisca Chipo

Law

THESIS: Re-defining gender equality in the formal mining industry: a case of select categories of women in South Africa

This thesis focuses on gender equality in the South African formal mining sector. The study focuses on understanding and interpreting the concept of equality in relation to three groups of women, namely, women in ownership of mining related businesses, women mine employees and women resident in mine hosting communities. Through the lens of different ideas of equality, the thesis evaluates the extent to which these groups of women enjoy substantive gender equality. The study uses a socio-legal approach comprising of mixed methods, including an empirical study of women's experiences in the sector.

Supervisor: Professor C Albertyn

MUKONOWESHURO, Tonderai Fadzai

Wits School of Governance

THESIS: Policymaking and institutional crisis: formalising artisanal gold mining in Zimbabwe

This thesis investigates how politics, power, and institutions shaped Zimbabwe's artisanal gold mining (ASM) policy trajectories from 2005 to 2017. The findings demonstrated that while politics influenced ASM informalisation, state actors in positions of power in shadow networks drove policy to maximise self-interest. Local policy implementation involved transitory actors like small-scale artisanal miners, gold dealers, and traders. As gold miners, these networked actors set their own unwritten norms and policies.

Supervisor: Dr N Pophiwa

NGCOBO, Makhosazana Nomcebo

Graduate School of Business Administration

THESIS: The ripple effect of demographics on the entrepreneurial behaviour-performance relationship in the South African tech sector

This thesis delves into the intricate interplay of race and age in shaping entrepreneurial strategies and their effects on firm success within South Africa's technology sector. Analyzing quantitative data from tech start-up founders, the study confirms hypotheses on the significance of entrepreneur behaviour and intangible assets. It proposes a pioneering 'entrepreneur means' framework, highlighting the pivotal role of intangible resources and offering new insights into firm performance in South Africa's diverse business environment.

Supervisor: Dr M Murimbika

NJOROGE, Stephen Chege

Law

THESIS: Land rights in Kenya: the role of law in protection against forced evictions

The candidate's thesis examines the role of the law, policies and institutions in protecting individuals and communities against forced evictions in Kenya. It evaluates the prevalence of forced evictions and highlights the inadequacies of the extant legal framework in forestalling the scourge of forced evictions. The thesis draws best practices from international law and comparative normative regimes, and significantly, provides a series of recommendations that, if properly implemented, will play a pivotal role in ushering security of tenure in Kenya.

Supervisor: Dr K Moyo

NSIAH, Anthony Yaw

Graduate School of Business Administration

THESIS: Financial inclusion, institutional quality and poverty reduction in Africa

The thesis investigated the impact of financial inclusion on poverty reduction in Africa. Using Financial Intermediation, Kuznets, Competition-stability, and Neo Institutional theories, the study established double threshold levels where financial inclusion will stimulate poverty reduction in Africa, moderated by institutional quality. Financial stability was established to be key, hence must not be compromised when advocating for financial inclusion. Policy must therefore target the level of inclusion that will inspire poverty reduction as well as strengthen institutions operating within the economies.

Supervisor: Dr G Tweneboah

OPPONG, Priscilla Boafowaa

Graduate School of Business Administration

THESIS: Interconnectedness of global competitiveness, logistic performance, and global value chain in Africa

The emergence of the global value chain as a standard pillar in international trade dynamics has triggered an empirical investigation into the nexus between global competitiveness, logistic performance, and global value chain participation in SSA countries. The research highlights the significance of logistic efficiency in bolstering global value chain involvement and economic prosperity. The thesis emphasizes the imperative for governments to foster conducive environments for global value chain participation and illuminates pathways for SSA countries to amplify competitiveness in the global trade landscape.

Supervisor: Dr G Tweneboah

RATHOGWA, Belinda

Graduate School of Business Administration

THESIS: The cognitive process of entrepreneurs seeking access to external finance to drive SMME growth

Inspired by sector reports which estimate that up to 80% of South African entrepreneurs do not apply for external finance, this study explores how the cognitive process of entrepreneurs promotes or limits SMME access to external finance. The study develops an integrated model of the cognitive process of entrepreneurs seeking external finance to drive SMME growth (MCPSEF). An in-depth understanding of entrepreneurs' financing decisions supports efforts to improve SMME access to the external finance needed to drive growth.

Supervisor: Dr J Msimango-Galawe

ZHUWAO, Patrick

Graduate School of Business Administration

THESIS: Harnessing digital transformation to build social-ecological-systems resilience into institutional arrangements of agricultural transformation

Agricultural transformation is failing to address South Africa's triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment because, as an aspirational concept steeped in historical analyses, it downplays current realities especially farmers' small-scale. To address those scale and currency challenges, this thesis proposes reconceptualising agricultural transformation as digitally enabled agricultural transformation which utilises platform business models to develop architectures for hybrid agricultural industry multi-sided marketplace super-app platforms that can be built through the study's proposed digital agriculture disruption framework.

Supervisors: Professor B Armstrong and Dr J Zuwarimwe