

Abbreviated CV: Philippe Burger

Philippe Burger is Professor of Economics and Head of Department at the University of the Free State, South Africa. He is also the Immediate Past President of the Economic Society of South Africa (for the term Sept 2012-Sept 2014). In addition, he is also a member of the OECD Advisory Panel on Budgeting and Public Expenditure, as well as a member of the South African Treasury's Panel of Experts. He is furthermore also a member of the South African Statistics Council.

Philippe Burger finalised his PhD in 2001 and subsequently received the 2002 Founders Medal of the Economic Society of South Africa for the best PhD completed at a South African university. His publications include three books and numerous academic articles. In 2009 (3rd ed) and 2014 (4th ed) he co-authored an intermediate macroeconomics textbook with Frederick Fourie, while in 2008 he edited an official OECD book, coauthored by himself, Daniel Bergvall and Stephane Jacobzone (both from the OECD) on public-private partnerships (PPPs).

His earlier book (2003) on fiscal sustainability and economic stability dealt with the difficulties to restore fiscal sustainability after a government stabilised an unstable economy – a topic that since 2009 became known popularly as the design of an 'exit strategy following fiscal stimulus' (the book was published by Edward Elgar, UK). It was short listed for the 2006 Bill Venter/Altron Literary Award.

Philippe Burger was seconded three times to the OECD in Paris (May & June 2007, January & February 2010, May & June 2012) to work as consultant for the OECD on PPPs. Four publications (including the book mentioned above) follow from these visits. These publications focus on the alignment of government and private sector objectives and incentives so as to improve value for money for government. The research he did for the OECD formed the basis on which the OECD designed its official OECD Recommendation on Principles for Public Governance of Public-Private Partnerships in 2012.

In late 2011 he also joined an OECD mission to Indonesia. The mission assessed governance in the Indonesian government, with a sub-component dedicated to PPPs.

In 2009 the IMF also invited him to spend a month at the IMF to write a research paper on the impact of the global financial crisis on PPPs internationally. The research output intends to enable the IMF to advise countries on how to deal with PPPs during the financial crisis. The research culminated in an IMF working paper (co-authored by Jason Tyson, Izabela Karpowicz and Maria Delgado-Coelho, all from the IMF).

On fiscal sustainability in South Africa he co-authored another IMF working paper in 2011 with Ian Stuart, Charl Jooste (both from National Treasury) and Alfredo Cuevas (from the IMF).

The South African National Treasury in 2014 commissioned Philippe Burger and Estian Calitz to write a review of South African fiscal policy covering the 20 years following the implementation of democracy in South Africa. In 2005 Philippe Burger and Marina Marinkov wrote the background report for the African Peer Review Mechanism of NEPAD on economic governance and management in South Africa. This is one of the four background reports on South Africa done for NEPAD. Together with other researchers he also completed reports on the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on the revenue of the Mangaung Local Municipality as well as the economic consequences and policy implications of the non-payment of services experienced by local governments in South Africa. The latter was a study prepared for USAID under the administration of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

As members of the interdepartmental task team led by Michael Schur of the national Department of Finance researching the viability of PPPs in South Africa in 1999, Philippe Burger and Frederick Fourie wrote an unpublished research report for the South African Department of Finance that entailed an economic and fiscal assessment of PPPs within the South African context.

The articles that Philippe Burger authored deal, among other, with the South Africa business cycle, fiscal sustainability, economic development, fiscal and monetary rules for emerging market countries, PPPs, the economics of resource-abundant vs. resource-poor countries, as well as social capital. On these topics he also presented numerous conference papers, seminars and workshops.

In 2009 Meshach Aziakpono, the PhD student that Philippe Burger supervised, with Stan du Plessis as co-supervisor, received the 2009 Founders Medal of the Economic Society of South Africa for the best PhD completed at a South African university.

Philippe Burger was one of the three associate editors of the South African Journal of Economics (responsible for macroeconomics) and he has acted as referee for several journals including the South African Journal of Economics, Development Southern Africa and World Development.

He is also member of the Central Council of the Economic Society of South Africa. His teaching experience (on both under- and postgraduate level) includes teaching macroeconomics, public finance and fiscal policy, monetary policy as well as advanced time-series econometrics.