



ERSA PUBLIC LECTURE AND WORKSHOP: Empirical Methods in Competition and Regulation

Call for Papers

Economic Research Southern Africa (ERSA) invites submissions for a one-day workshop focused on empirical methods in competition policy and regulation. The event aims to bring together senior academics, doctoral students, researchers, and policymakers working on topics related to market regulation, competition policy, and empirical industrial organization. The goal is to foster dialogue between academic research and policy application, and to build capacity in modern empirical tools for market analysis.

The event will open with a public lecture, "*Empirical Methods in Competition and Regulation*," delivered by **Professor Frank Verboven** (KU Leuven), an internationally recognized expert in industrial organization. His lecture will offer an overview of key empirical techniques used in competition analysis, illustrated with policy-relevant applications.

The workshop will feature presentations of both **research and policy papers**, followed by comments from discussants and open-floor discussion. We encourage contributions from academic researchers, doctoral students, and representatives of regulatory agencies. The event also includes dedicated networking sessions to promote collaboration and strengthen connections between the academic and policy communities in Southern Africa.

Topics of Interest (include but are not limited to)

Estimating market power - Merger simulation - Entry and exit dynamics - Abuse of dominance - Cartels and collusion - Market definition - Price regulation - Regulation and monopoly - Digital Markets and Platforms - Auctions in regulated markets - Demand estimation - Regulation of Network Industries - State aid – Vertical relations and restraints

Keynote Speaker

Professor Frank Verboven is one of Europe's leading economists in the fields of industrial organization, competition policy, and empirical methods in economics. He is a Professor of Economics at KU Leuven in Belgium, a Research Fellow at the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) in London, and a Co-editor of the *American Economic Review*.

His research focuses on industrial organization, particularly the econometric analysis of market power, with applications to competition policy and regulation. He has studied a wide range of topics—including mergers, cartels, vertical restraints, and market entry—across various industries such as automobiles, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, health care professions, and local services.

His work has been published in leading journals, including the *American Economic Review*, *Journal of Political Economy*, *American Economic Journal: Micro*, *RAND Journal of Economics*, *Review of Economic Studies*, and *Review of Economics and Statistics*, among others. He teaches courses in industrial organization, microeconomics, and empirical methods for competition policy.

Paper Submission and Registration

We welcome submissions of both research and policy papers that provide insights into issues related to competition and regulation. There is no registration fee. ERSA will cover accommodation costs for both local and international presenters of accepted papers, as well as local travel expenses for presenters based in South Africa. Participation is limited to a maximum of 30 attendees.

Submission format:	Extended abstract (1–2 pages) or full paper
Deadline for submissions:	31 October 2025
Notification of acceptance:	15 November 2025
Submission link:	Paper submission form
Deadline for registration:	30 November 2025
Registration for non-presenters:	Workshop registration form

Further Information

Workshop dates & location:	5 February 2026, Cape Town
ERSA Website:	Visit website
Local organiser:	Lukasz GRZYBOWSKI (University of Cape Town and ERSA)
Email:	lukasz.grzybowski@uct.ac.za