



ERSA Public Lecture and Workshop: Empirical Methods in Competition and Regulation

University of Cape Town, School of Economics
5 February 2026

Program

8:15-8:30	Registration and Welcome
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Session 1:

Chair: Melissa Newham (ETH Zurich)
8:30-10:15

Friedrich Kreuser*(University of Stellenbosch), Michael Kilumelume, and R.P. Burger
Market Power and Merger Control in South Africa
Discussant: Joshua Budlender (University of Cape Town)

Raynold Runganga*(University of Cape Town)
Chinese Import Penetration and Job Duration within the Manufacturing Sector: Evidence from South Africa
Discussant: Friedrich Kreuser (University of Stellenbosch)

Melissa Newham*(ETH Zurich), David Jaggi, Jan-Alexander Posth
Greening the deal: Do acquisitions boost or block clean innovation?
Discussant: Lukasz Grzybowski (University of Cape Town & ERSA)

10:15-10:45	Coffee Break
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Session 2:

Chair: Willem Boshoff (University of Stellenbosch)
10:45-12:30

Dumakude Nxumalo*(University of Pretoria), Steve Koch
Estimates of Banking Competition in SA Loan Markets
Discussant: Willem Boshoff (University of Stellenbosch)

Ryan Hawthorne*(Acacia Economics), Zubair Patel
Are banking and mobile money services substitutes or complements? Evidence from Eswatini and Lesotho
Discussant: Raynold Runganga (University of Cape Town)

Willem Boshoff*(University of Stellenbosch and ERSA), Maarten Pieter Schinkel
Dating cartels
Discussant: Dumakude Nxumalo (University of Pretoria)

12:30-13:30 Lunch Break

Public Lecture

Chair: Lukasz Grzybowski (University of Cape Town & ERSA)
13:30-15:30

Frank Verboven (KU Leuven)
Competition and investments in telecommunications

15:30-16.00 Coffee Break

Session 3

Chair: Lukasz Grzybowski (University of Cape Town & ERSA)
16:00-17:45

Helanya Fourie*(University of Stellenbosch), Debra Shepherd
The impact of fast and affordable fibre broadband on economic participation in Kayamandi, Stellenbosch
Discussant: Ryan Hawthorne (Acacia Economics)

Olivia Wirth*(University of Passau), Marina Dodlova, Krisztina Kis-Katos, Anna Kochanova
Mobile Technologies and Firm Formalization: Evidence from Uganda
Discussant: Helanya Fourie (University of Stellenbosch)

Joshua Budlender*(University of Cape Town), Ihsaan Bassier
When do employers share? Rent sharing, monopsony, and minimum wages
Discussant: Yonas Alem* (University of Cape Town)

17:45-17:50 Closing Remarks

18:00 Shuttle to Groot Constantia

18:30-20:30 Dinner (for presenters and discussants) in Jonkershuis (Groot Constantia)