



# MICHELLE PLEACE

Economics Researcher

## ABOUT ME

As a Research Associate at UNU-WIDER and previously as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Pretoria, I am on a continuous journey of learning. I am part of a team that produces anonymized tax administrative data while conducting economic development research with a focus on gender. Passionate about this field, I am exceptionally hardworking and determined to think creatively as a researcher. My research experience includes creating surveys and utilizing big data to understand gender-related economic issues.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

○ August 2024 - Present  
UNU-WIDER

### Research Associate

As a Research Associate at UNU-WIDER, I contribute to the Southern Africa - Towards Inclusive Economic Development program. My work includes producing partially anonymized tax administrative data and conducting economic development research, with a focus on gender issues

○ Jan 2024 - July 2024  
University of Pretoria

### Postdoctoral Fellow in Economics

As a fellow in the Economics of Gender, I examine gender inequalities and try to understand why these inequalities continue to exist. My responsibilities include developing a feasible idea that can be turned into an academic article, writing the initial draft and executing data analysis with supervision from my advisors.

○ Nov 2023 - Present

○ United Nations University World Institute for Development  
Economics Research (UNU-WIDER)

### Research Consultant

I am part of a team that undertakes research with the goal of producing academic articles for publication. In this capacity, my responsibilities encompass data analysis and drafting the initial version of the article. The data we utilise for these projects range from survey responses to big data.

○ 2023 - Present  
University of Pretoria

### Lecturer

I develop and teach the 'Economics of Gender' course for postgraduate students, managing all related administrative tasks. Additionally, I supervise postgraduates in their mini-dissertation projects.

○ May 2022 - Nov 2022  
Economic Research Southern Africa

### Research Assistant

In this project, we utilised Census data to analyse the unemployment issue in South Africa. My role within the team involved analysing the data and drafting the initial version of the paper.

## EDUCATION

**PhD in Economics**  
University of Pretoria  
Jan 2021 - Dec 2023

**MCom in Econometrics**  
University of Pretoria  
Jan 2019 - Dec 2020  
Cum laude

**BCom Honours  
Econometrics**  
University of Pretoria  
Jan 2018 - Dec 2018  
Cum laude

**BCom in Econometrics**  
University of Pretoria  
Jan 2015 - Dec 2017  
Cum laude

## LANGUAGE

English (Proficient)

Afrikaans (Intermediate)

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✉ Michelle.pleace@wider.unu.edu

📍 Johannesburg, South Africa

## WORK EXPERIENCE



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Michelle.pleace@up.ac.za  
Johannesburg, South Africa

Jan 2021 - July 2021  
UNU-WIDER

### Research Assistant

I contributed to the development of administrative tax data. This involved sourcing data from the local Revenue Services and creating a panel dataset of tax certificates designed to be accessible for tax researchers.

2018 - 2022  
University of Pretoria

### Assistant Lecturer

I taught selected units and courses, led tutorial sessions, and engaged with students during these sessions. I also managed the administrative aspects of the course, which included grading and organising students' marks.

## SKILLS

Stata	<div style="width: 100%;"><div style="width: 95%;"></div></div>
LaTeX	<div style="width: 100%;"><div style="width: 95%;"></div></div>
Qualtrics	<div style="width: 100%;"><div style="width: 95%;"></div></div>
Python	<div style="width: 100%;"><div style="width: 80%;"></div></div>
R	<div style="width: 100%;"><div style="width: 70%;"></div></div>
Communication	<div style="width: 100%;"><div style="width: 95%;"></div></div>
Teampayer	<div style="width: 100%;"><div style="width: 95%;"></div></div>
Hardworking	<div style="width: 100%;"><div style="width: 95%;"></div></div>
Organised	<div style="width: 100%;"><div style="width: 95%;"></div></div>

## AWARDS

- 2021 - 2023 Doctoral Bursary
- 2020 Second place in Master's Macro Economics
- 2018 First place in Honour's Macro Economics
- 2017 Second placed in the final year of study for Econometrics
- 2015 First place in the first year of study for Econometrics; Golden Key International Honour Society

## PUBLICATIONS

- Pleace, M., & Nicholls, N. (2024) The role of team composition in willingness to remain in the same team again. *Applied Economics Letters* (Under review)
- Nicholls, N., Pleace, M., & Yitbarek, E. (2024). State trust and vaccine hesitancy. *Social Science and Medicine* (Under review)
- Pleace, M., Clance, M., & Nicholls, N. (2023). The gender wage gap in South Africa: insights from administrative data. *SA-TIED Working Paper*.
- Miranda, J., & Pleace, M. (2023). Importance of employment programs for the youth in South Africa. *Economic Research Southern Africa: Discussion Document*, January.
- Pleace, M., & Nicholls, N. (2023). Impostor feelings and academic decision making: an anchoring vignette approach. *Studies in Higher Education*
- Pleace, M., & Nicholls, N. (2021). Grit, motivation and university grades. *South African Journal of Economics*.

### Publications assisted with

- Nicholls, N. (2023). Procrastination and grades: Can students be nudged towards better outcomes?. *International Review of Economics Education*, 42, 100256.
- Chisadza, C., Nicholls, N., & Yitbarek, E. (2023). The role of incentive structure in eliciting willingness to donate. *Economics Letters*, 224, 111005.
- Nicholls, N., & Yitbarek, E. (2022). Trust in social media and COVID-19 beliefs and behaviours. *Plos one*, 17(10), e0275969.
- Kilumelume, M., Morando, B., Newman, C., & Rand, J. (2022). Spillovers from extractive industries (No. 2022/10). *WIDER Working Paper*.
- Kilumelume, M., Morando, B., Newman, C., & Rand, J. (2021). Tariffs, productivity, and resource misallocation (No. 2021/174). *WIDER Working Paper*.
- Kreuser, C. F., & Brink, D. (2021). Total factor productivity in South African manufacturing firms 2010–17. *WIDER Technical Note* (20/2021).

## CONFERENCES

- Pleace, M., Clance, M., & Nicholls, N. The gender wage gap in South Africa: insights from administrative data. *ESSA Biennial Conference 2023*
- Pleace, M., Clance, M., & Nicholls, N. The gender wage gap in South Africa: insights from administrative data. *UNU-WIDER International Conference 2023*
- Pleace, M., & Nicholls, N. The role of team composition in willingness to remain in the same team again. *IAREP-SABE International Conference 2023*
- Pleace, M., & Nicholls, N. The role of team composition in willingness to remain in the same team again. *ERSA PhD Conference 2023*
- Pleace, M., & Nicholls, N. Impostor feelings and academic decision making: an anchoring vignette approach. *ESSA PhD Conference 2022*
- Pleace, M., & Nicholls, N. Grit, motivation and university grades. *Economics of Education Association International Conference 2021*