

Jing Woei Chien

School of Economics, School of Economics Building, Middle Campus, University of Cape Town,
Private Bag X3, Rondebosch, 7701
Email: jing.chien@uct.ac.za
Cell: +27 76 393 9942

Academic Qualifications

2024 – PhD Economics, University of Cape Town by dissertation (ongoing)
Dissertation title: *The Impact of Preferential Trade Agreements on Firm Trade.*

2014 – 2016: MCom Applied Economics, University of Cape Town. Coursework and dissertation with distinction in the dissertation.
Dissertation title: *Complementary and Competitive: The Impact of Chinese Trade on South African Manufacturing Exports.*

2010 – 2013: BBusSci Economics (includes honours), University of Cape Town.
Honours paper title: *Analysing the Effects of a Diary Intervention on Problem and Pathological Gamblers.*

2005 – 2009: National Senior Certificate, Durban High School.

Areas of Interest

International Trade; Industrial and Trade Policy; Regional Integration; Development Economics

Employment

2022 – Lecturer at the School of Economics, University of Cape Town.

2019 – Research Coordinator and researcher at Policy Research in International Services and Manufacturing (PRISM) research unit.

2017 – 2022: Assistant (Junior) Lecturer at the School of Economics, University of Cape Town.

2019 – 2020: Contract Lecturer at the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE).

2015 – 2016: Contract Lecturer at the School of Economics, University of Cape Town.

Teaching Experience

2024: Nominated for the University of Cape Town Distinguished Teacher Award (DTA).

Undergraduate

First-year level - Micro and macroeconomics for mainstream, non-specialist and engineering students
Second-year level - Macroeconomics
Third-year level - International Trade and Finance; Quantitative Methods in Economics; Applied International Trade Bargaining

Postgraduate

Honours level - Economic Challenges in Africa.

Masters level - Problems of Globalisation, Industrialisation and Development

Postgraduate Supervision

Masters

2026: Sebastian Breitenbach. M.Com Economics (in progress). *The Effect of Port Fees on Exports: A Case Study of South Africa's Export Market between 2011 and 2024.*

2025-2026: Catherine Smith. M.Com Economics (in progress). *Design Matters: How Environmental Provisions in Preferential Trade Agreements Shape Exports.*

2024: James Philips. M.Com Development Economics. *The Pitfalls and Promises of Chinese-led Special Economic Zones for African Development.* Passed with Distinction (80%). 2024. Co-supervised with Professor Anthony Black.

2023: Christopher Ujma. M.Com Applied Economics. *The Impact of Political Violence on Export Flows: Evidence from South Africa.* Passed with Distinction (76%). 2023. Co-supervised with Professor Lawrence Edwards.

Honours

2019 – Supervised 24 students to completion with an average of 3-5 new honours students each year.

External Examination

2024 – University of the Western Cape – Third year level, International Trade Economics

2021 – 2022: Rhodes University – Third year level, International Trade Theory and Policy

Research Projects

2026: Researcher on STEG-funded Institutional Partner Grant (IPG).

2025: Principal Investigator on ERSA Unlocking South Africa's Export Performance Project. Project title: *The Impact of Rules of Origin Provisions on South Africa's Imports from the SADC Region.*

Researcher on South Africa-UK International Economic Partnership (IEP) funded project. Project title: *Assessing the Economic Impact of the US Tariff Policy on the South African Economy.*

Researcher on International Growth Centre (IGC) funded project. Project title: *Quantifying the revenue implications of the AfCFTA for Rwanda.*

2024: Researcher on South Africa-UK International Economic Partnership (IEP) funded project. Project title: *Trade policy research priorities for South Africa.*

2023 – 2024: Principal investigator on UNU-Wider funded project. Project title: *Tariff Pass-through Effects on Importer Prices in the Context of Preferential Trade Agreements.*

2023 – 2024: Co-investigator on PEDL (Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries) funded project. Project title: *Trade Finance and Firms' Response in Africa.*

2021: Junior Consultant on World Bank funded project. Project title: *Leveraging Trade for South Africa's Recovery and for Inclusive Long-Term Growth - South Africa, GVCs and COVID-19: Analysis of Customs Transaction-Level Data*.

2020 – 2021: Co-investigator on International Growth Centre (IGC) funded project UGA-20269. Project title: *Uganda and the African Continental Free Trade Area: A framework for analysis with application to the South African Customs Union, Ghana and Nigeria*.

2019: Co-investigator on project funded by the CEPR (Centre for Economic Policy Research) and PEDL (Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries). Project title: *Market Competition and Investment Dynamics: Evidence from South Africa*.

Publications

Working Papers

2025: Edwards, L., Chien, J., Kumwenda, M., Hakizimana, N., & Rwagasana, C. S. (2025). “Quantifying the revenue implications of the AfCFTA for Rwanda.” *IGC Working paper RWA-25116*. <https://www.theigc.org/publications/quantifying-revenue-implications-afcfta-rwanda>

Edwards, L., & Chien, J. (2025). “Tariff Turbulence: The Consequences of United States Tariff Increases for South African Exports.” *ERSA Policy Paper 41*. <https://doi.org/10.71587/k3p82828>

2024: Chien, J., Edwards, L., & Hlatshwayo, A. (2024). “Importer price effects of tariffs in the context of preferential trade agreements: The case of poultry in South Africa.” *WIDER Working Paper 17/2024*. Helsinki: UNU-Wider. <https://doi.org/10.35188/UNU-WIDER/2024/475-5>

Edwards, L., Chien, J., & Stern, M. (2024). “Trade Policy Research Priorities for South Africa.” *ERSA Policy Paper 30*. <https://doi.org/10.71587/wrq5m11>

2022: Chien, J., Conron, H., Edwards, L., & Kamutando, G. (2022). “Trading up: Harnessing the African Continental Free Trade Area for Growth in Uganda”. *IGC Final Report UGA-20269*. <https://www.theigc.org/publications/trading-harnessing-african-continental-free-trade-area-growth-uganda> [Also published as *PRISM Working Paper Series Number 2022-1*].

Policy Briefs/Reports

2025: Edwards, L., Chien, J., Kumwenda, M., Hakizimana, N., & Rwagasana, C. S. (2025). “Quantifying the revenue implications of the AfCFTA for Rwanda.” *IGC Policy Brief RWA-25116*. <https://www.theigc.org/publications/quantifying-revenue-implications-afcfta-rwanda-0>

Edwards, L., & Chien, J. (2025). “The Consequences of United States Tariff Increases for South African Exports.” *ERSA Policy Brief 213*. <https://doi.org/10.71587/xe0q0368>

2024: Edwards, L., Chien, J., & Stern, M. (2024). “Getting South Africa’s Exports back on Track.” *ERSA Policy Brief 211*. <https://doi.org/10.71587/rcx39048>

News Articles/Podcasts/Research Notes

2025: Chien, J., & Edwards, L. (2025). "SA exports at risk as US tariff hiatus nears end." Business Day 02 July 2025.
<https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2025-07-02-jing-chien-and-lawrence-edwards-sa-exports-at-risk-as-us-tariff-hiatus-nears-end/>

Adou, B., Lenzi, F., & Chien, J. (2025). "What Reduces Frictions in Trade Finance? The Role of Banks, Relationships, and Policy." PEDL ERG MMW3_1 Research Notes – April 2025. <https://pedl.cepr.org/publications/what-reduces-frictions-trade-finance-role-banksrelationships-and-policy>

Chien, J., & Edwards, L. (2025). "SA must prepare for an uncertain and unpredictable global trading environment." Daily Maverick 18 February 2025.
<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2025-02-18-sa-global-trading-environment/>

2024: Edwards, L., Stern, M., & Chien, J. (2024). "The case for a bold export strategy in SA." Business Day 26 November 2024. <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2024-11-26-lawrence-edwards-matthew-stern-and-jing-chien-the-case-for-a-bold-export-strategy-in-sa/>

2023: Edwards, L., & Chien, J. (2023). "A temporary rebate on chicken import duties will be an important pro-poor step." Daily Maverick 09 November 2023.
<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2023-11-09-avian-flu-temporary-rebate-on-chicken-import-duties-needed/>

Workshop and Conferences

2025: Presented "Importer Price Effects of Tariffs in the Context of Preferential Trade Agreements" at the University of Auckland International Economics Workshop on Geoeconomic and the Future of Globalisation. 4-5 December 2025.

2024: Discussant at South Africa-UK International Economic Partnership (IEP) Roundtable Discussion on Trade Policy Research in South Africa.

2023: Selected for the Young Scholars Matchmaking Workshop at Oxford University funded by PEDL, CEPR and Oxford Martin Programme. 10-14 April 2023.

2018: Selected for the Young Scholars Frontiers Workshop at New York University (NYU) Abu Dhabi funded by PEDL and CEPR. 13-15 November 2018.

Community and Other Engagements

2024 – Rating Reviewer for the South Africa National Research Foundation (NRF)

2022 – Member of the Economic Society of South Africa (ESSA)

2025: Module Developer for Cornerstone Institute. Module: International Economics and World Trade at the third year level.

2020: Member of the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance webinar series organising committee on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to support the effective implementation of the AfCFTA, in partnership with the AfCFTA Secretariat.

2018 – 2020: Volunteer for Tzu Chi Foundation South Africa

Tzu Chi is an international humanitarian and non-governmental organisation. Volunteer work includes helping the disadvantaged through the distribution of food, medical aid, disaster relief and environmental work.

2018 – 2019: Member of the decolonisation of economics and curriculum reform committee at the University of Cape Town.

Administrative/Leadership Positions

2023 – Programme Specialist at the School of Economics, University of Cape Town

2015 – Course Convenor at the School of Economics, University of Cape Town

All Courses convened: First-year level macroeconomics; economics for non-specialists; economics for engineering students; third-year level international trade and finance; third-year level applied international trade bargaining; honours-level economic challenges in Africa.

Skills, Hobbies and Interests

Languages: English; Afrikaans; Chinese Mandarin.

Music: Completed UNISA (University of South Africa) and Trinity College of London piano and music theory exams at grade 8 level as well as completing grade 5 for violin.

Sport: Badminton (represented Western Province) and Chess (represented KwaZulu Natal), competed at the provincial, national and international levels.

Driving: South African code B licence.

Software: Microsoft Office Suite, Stata

Referees available on request