

# Curriculum Vitae: Dr Heleen Hofmeyr

608 Schumann Building | Department of Economics | Stellenbosch University | 7602 | South Africa

(c) +27 82 717 2057 | [heleenhofmeyr@gmail.com](mailto:heleenhofmeyr@gmail.com) | <https://www.linkedin.com/in/heleen-hofmeyr-9333b1106>

## Education

- |      |                                                                                                                              |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2013 | <b>University of Stellenbosch</b><br>Bachelor of Arts (Value and Policy Studies)                                             |
| 2015 | <b>University of Stellenbosch</b><br>Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) (Economics) (Supervisor: Professor Servaas van der Berg) |
| 2017 | <b>University of Stellenbosch</b><br>Masters in Economics (Supervisor: Professor Servaas van der Berg)                       |
| 2021 | <b>University of Stellenbosch</b><br>PhD in Economics (Supervisors: Dr Gabrielle Wills, Professor Servaas van der Berg)      |

## Employment

- **Researcher – Stellenbosch University** (April 2023 – Present)  
*As a Researcher in the Research on Socioeconomic Policy (RESEP) group within the Economics Department at Stellenbosch I conduct research on education in South Africa. Notably, I am the Principal Investigator on [the first longitudinal study](#) in South Africa to follow learners from the beginning of formal schooling to the end of Grade 3. I am also leading a national survey investigating teacher motivation as part of a [broader study](#) aimed at addressing teacher shortages in the country. As a [GEAI](#) African Fellow in Education, I am conducting a study on the role of socio-emotional skills in early grade learning.*
- **Postdoctoral Fellow – Stellenbosch University** (April 2021 – March 2023)  
*As Postdoctoral Fellow I continued my PhD research on the role of socio-emotional skills in producing learning outcomes, gender gaps in education, and early grade reading.*
- **Sessional lecturer: Applied Economics of Education (Graduate course)** (July 2021 – November 2021)  
*I presented the practical component of the graduate Economics of Education module at Stellenbosch University. The focus of these sessions was managing and analysing large-scale education datasets. I have also presented guest lectures for this course.*
- **Programme Manager – Funda Wandé** (July 2020 – March 2021)  
*While in the final stages of my Ph.D., I was approached by a local NGO to set up the rollout of their early grade literacy and numeracy intervention in the Western Cape province. As Programme Manager, I was responsible for all aspects of setting up the partnership between Funda Wandé and the provincial education department, including writing and presenting proposals to key stakeholders, budgeting, and arranging conferences and training sessions.*
- **Lecturer – Stellenbosch University** (Feb 2017 – June 2017)

I lectured mainstream first-year economics to 150 students. This included teaching, student consultations, and setting and marking tutorials, tests, and essays.

---

## Awards and Appointments

---

- **GEAI African Fellows in Education Fellowship** (June 2023 – June 2025)
- **Stellenbosch University Postdoctoral Fellowship** - Stellenbosch University (March 2021 – March 2023)
- **Masters & PhD NRF Scholarships** - Stellenbosch University (January 2016 – March 2021)

---

## Short courses completed

---

- Project Management: A Monitoring and Evaluation Approach - University of Cape Town (April 2023)

---

## Journal articles and reports

---

- **Hofmeyr, H.** et al. 2023. "Benchmarking early grade reading skills in South Africa: Tshivenda Home Language". USAID. [Online]. Available: [https://www.education.gov.za/Portals/0/Documents/Reports/ReadingBenchmarks22/Xitsonga\\_Tshivenda\\_Reports/Tshivenda\\_EGR\\_Benchmark\\_Summary\\_Report.pdf](https://www.education.gov.za/Portals/0/Documents/Reports/ReadingBenchmarks22/Xitsonga_Tshivenda_Reports/Tshivenda_EGR_Benchmark_Summary_Report.pdf)
- **Hofmeyr, H. & Ardington, C.** 2023. "Roots and Shoots: Wave 2 Report". [Online]. Available: [https://www.rootsandshootsstudy.com/files/ugd/d4434f\\_5349cafa97a248c08fcbf94314502ac1.pdf](https://www.rootsandshootsstudy.com/files/ugd/d4434f_5349cafa97a248c08fcbf94314502ac1.pdf)
- **Hofmeyr, H.** 2022. "ELOM in the Western Cape: Investigating the Early Roots of Reading Failure" in *Early Grade Reading in South Africa*, Spaul, N. & Pretorius, E. (eds.) Cape Town. Oxford University Press.
- **Hofmeyr, H., Ardington, C. & Spaul, N.** 2022. *Roots & Shoots: Baseline Report*. [Online]. Available: [https://www.rootsandshootsstudy.com/files/ugd/d4434f\\_938ce2bb563f488ca35a710c6ff398fe.pdf](https://www.rootsandshootsstudy.com/files/ugd/d4434f_938ce2bb563f488ca35a710c6ff398fe.pdf)
- **Hofmeyr, H.** 2022. Why do girls do better? Unpacking South Africa's pro-girl gap in PIRLS and TIMSS. *International Journal of Educational Development*. 98(1). [Online]. Available: [https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0738059322000980?casa\\_token=RjXdnDS\\_Q2sAAAAA:yKbafrRQS5IXXOGOT198-5OB601PTpdw\\_xUQdPCVGIsnLY6zHkydzCHNJqTC7at-zjQ9fVFPUmE](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0738059322000980?casa_token=RjXdnDS_Q2sAAAAA:yKbafrRQS5IXXOGOT198-5OB601PTpdw_xUQdPCVGIsnLY6zHkydzCHNJqTC7at-zjQ9fVFPUmE)
- **Hofmeyr, H.** 2022. On the interpretation of non-cognitive skills: Implications for the South African economics of education. *Resep Education Working Papers*. [Online]. Available: <https://resep.sun.ac.za/on-the-interpretation-of-non-cognitive-skills-implications-for-the-south-african-economics-of-education/>
- **Hofmeyr, H.** 2021. Perseverance, Passion, and Poverty: Examining the association between grit and reading achievement in high-poverty schools. *International Journal of Educational Development*. 83(1). [Online]. Available: <https://www-sciencedirect-com.ez.sun.ac.za/science/article/pii/S0738059321000298>
- Van der Berg, S., Van Wyk, C., Selkirk, R. & **Hofmeyr, H.** 2021. *Learner flows through schools: Using high quality administrative data to understand education system performance*. Report to the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation.
- **Hofmeyr, H.** 2019. Performance Beyond Expectations: Academic Resilience in South Africa. *Stellenbosch Economics Working Papers*. WP 19/2019. [Online]. Available: <https://www.ekon.sun.ac.za/wpapers/2019/wp192019>
- Wills, G. and **Hofmeyr, H.** 2019. Academic resilience in challenging contexts: Evidence from township and rural primary schools in South Africa, *International Journal of Educational Research*, 98(1). [Online]. Available: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0883035518320378>
- Van Broekhuizen, H., Van der Berg, S. & **Hofmeyr, H.** 2019. "From Grade 12 into, and through, university: Higher education access and success for the 2008 national NSC cohort" in *Post-School Education and the Labour Market in South Africa*, Rogan, M (eds.) Cape Town. HSRC Press.
- Van der Berg, S. and **Hofmeyr, H.** 2018. *Education in South Africa: Background note to the Systematic Country Diagnostic*. World Bank Group. Washington, D.C. [Online]. Available: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/30017>
- Van der Berg, S., Van Wyk, C., **Hofmeyr, H.** & Ferreira, T. 2018. *A report on out-of-school children in Eswatini*. UNICEF.

- **Hofmeyr, H.** 2018. Home background and schooling outcomes in South Africa: Insights from the National Income Dynamics Study. *Stellenbosch Economics Working Papers*. WP 01/2018. [Online]. Available: <https://www.ekon.sun.ac.za/wpapers/2018/wp012018>

---

### Conferences where I have presented papers

---

- Annual meeting of the Economics of Education Association, **Porto**, June 2022
- Comparative and International Society (CIES) Annual Conference, **Minneapolis/Virtual**, April 2022
- CIES Annual Conference, **Seattle/Virtual**, March 2021
- RESEP International Education Research Workshop with Bath University (UK), the University of Bristol (UK), the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (India), and Tribhuvan University (Nepal), **Stellenbosch**, February 2020
- Grant Holders Workshop of the ESRC-DFID Raising Learning Outcomes in Education Systems Research Programme, **Oxford**, January 2019
- RESEP Quantitative Applications in Education Research Annual Conference, **Stellenbosch**, September 2018

---

### References

---

Name	Relationship	Contact Details
<b>Prof Servaas van der Berg</b>	Supervisor at Resep (2016-present)	021-808-2239 (9am-5pm) svdb@sun.ac.za <i>Economics Department Stellenbosch</i>
<b>Dr Stephen Taylor</b>	Resep colleague (2018-present)	072-636-5607 (9am-5pm) stephentaylor17@gmail.com <i>Director: Research, Monitoring and Evaluation, Department of Basic Education</i>
<b>Prof Nic Spaul</b>	Resep Colleague, Employer at Funda Wande (2018-2023)	071-880-6187 (9am-5pm) <a href="mailto:nicspaul@gmail.com">nicspaul@gmail.com</a> <i>Bill &amp; Melinda Gates Foundation</i>