Allan Davids

School of Economics, University of Cape Town

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Housing · Household Finance

Employment

2023–	Senior Lecturer, School of Economics, University of Cape Town
2025–	Director, Financial Innovation Hub, University of Cape Town
2022–2023	South African Reserve Bank Research Chair in Financial Stability
2020–2022	Lecturer, School of Economics, University of Cape Town

Affiliations

2026–	Resident Lead Academic for South Africa, International Growth Centre (IGC)
2026–	Non-Resident Research Fellow and Data Workstream Lead, SA-TIED & UNU-WIDER
2025–	Research Fellow, Centre for Household Finance, Stellenbosch University
2024–	Research Fellow, Environmental Policy Research Unity, University of Cape Town
2019	Visiting Researcher – Department of Finance, Imperial College Business School
2017	Visiting Researcher – Institute for New Economic Thinking, University of Oxford

Education

2022	PhD in Economics, University of Cape Town
2017	Visiting PhD student, Stern School of Business, New York University
2016	MCom Economics *with distinction*, Stellenbosch University
2015	BCom (Hons) Economics, Stellenbosch University
2013	BA Value and Policy Studies, Stellenbosch University

Research

Publications

'Home Foreclosure Discounts in Auctions Without Reserve Prices" - **Real Estate Economics**, 2026

'Social learning in a Covid-19 Network Model" (with Gideon du Rand, Co-Pierre Georg, Tina Koziol, Joeri Schasfoort) - **Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organization** 213, 2023, p. 271–304

Working Papers

Diffuse Bunching with Frictions: Theory and Estimation (with Santosh Anagol, Ben Lockwood and Tarun Ramadorai), June 2026, **Reject and Resubmit, The Review of Economic Studies**

"The Cape of Good Homes: Exchange Rate Depreciations, Foreign Demand and House Prices", May 2020

Selected work in progress

(* draft available on request)

When the Lights Stay On: Electricity Reliability and House Prices (with Joshua Budlender)*

No Room(s) for Locals? Airbnb and the Housing Market in Cape Town (with Kristoff Potgieter)*

Who Owns the City? Foreign Ownership of Real Estate

Policy-related

"Housing Affordability in Cape Town: Evidence and Policy Recommendations", *ERSA Policy Paper 64*, 2026

"Home Foreclosure Discounts in Auctions Without Reserve Prices: Evidence from Cape Town", *ERSA Policy Brief 214*, 2025

"The distributional impact of liquidity regulation on mortgage lending", *South African Reserve Bank Financial Stability Topical Briefing*, 2025

"The consumer credit landscape in South Africa" (with Esti Kemp), *South African Reserve Bank Financial Stability Topical Briefing*, 2017

"Understanding Housing Markets: using municipal data" (with the Centre for Affordable Housing Finance in Africa), *World Bank Report*, 2016

Teaching

2026–	Digital Economics (Postgraduate - ECO4131S), School of Economics, UCT
2021–	Econometrics (Postgraduate), School of Economics, UCT
2020–2024	Policy Analysis (Postgraduate), School of Economics, UCT
2020-2022	Quantitative Methods in Economics (Undergraduate), School of Economics, UCT
2020-2022, 2024	Public Sector Economics (Undergraduate), School of Economics, UCT
2017	Risk Management Computing Skills (Postgraduate), AIFMRM, UCT
Other teaching:	ERSA/World Bank/IGC Winter School on Urban and Regional Economics in Africa; UCT FinTech Winter School

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Supervision

Honours	10 Completed
Masters	18 Completed, 20 Ongoing

Conferences and seminars

2026	University of Pretoria, Stellenbosch University, JPAL / City of Cape Town / IGC Urban Economics Research Seminar (x2)
2025	Western Cape Property Developers Forum · Financial Sector Conduct Authority · Allied Social Sciences Association (ASSA) Annual Meeting* · ESSA Biennial Conference

2024	ERSA Cities Conference · University of Pretoria · Urban Economics Annual Meeting · Blockchain Africa Conference
2023	ESSA Biennal Conference · International Institute of Public Finance Annual Meeting#* · New York University* · NBER Spring Public Finance Meeting
2022	Ashoka University · NEUDC* · University of Pretoria · UNC Charlotte* · LMU Munich* · CREST* · Toulouse School of Economics*

(past five years, *: presentation by co-author, #: scheduled)

Discussions

2022	American Finance Association (AFA) Annual Meeting: "How do Taxes Affect the Trading Behavior of Private Investors? Evidence from Individual Portfolio Data" - Buhlmann, Dörrenberg, Loos & Voget

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Professional activities

Refereeing activities

The Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics · Review of Financial Studies · Mathematics and Financial Economics · Journal of Economics and Statistics · ERSA Working Paper Series · International Economic Journal

Organizer

2025	Member of Organizing Committee - Economic Society of South Africa (ESSA) Centenary Conference 2025
2023	Co-organizer - South African Reserve Bank Financial Stability Conference
2023	Organizer - Special Session on "Housing and Household Finance" at the Economic Society of South Africa (ESSA) Biennial Conference

Academic service

2025–2028	External examiner, Honours Econometrics, Stellenbosch University
2023–2025	Council member of the Economic Society of South Africa
2022–2026	Degree convener, Masters in Financial Technology, UCT
2022–2026	Convener, Fintech: Disruption in Finance Short Course, GetSmarter & UCT
2022–2026	Convener, Blockchain and Digital Currency Short Course, GetSmarter & UCT
2022–	External examiner, Masters Econometrics, AIFMRM, UCT
2022–2024	External examiner, Econometrics, Cape Peninsula University of Technology
2020–2024	Member, University of Cape Town Senate

Non-academic service

2024	Member of Statistics South Africa CPI user advisory committee
2021	Statistics South Africa - developing a Residential Property Price Index for South Africa
2009–2011	Junior Mayor, City of Cape Town

Awards and grants

2026	Interledger Foundation Education Grant
2026	EPRU Research Grant for 'Who Owns the City? Foreign Ownership of Real Estate'
2026	ERSA Research Grant for 'Understanding Housing Affordability in Cape Town'
2025	IGC Grant for 'Urban and Regional Economics in Africa' (with Kristoff Potgieter)
2025	IGC Grant for 'Urban and Regional Economics in Africa' (with Joshua Budlender)
2024, 2018	South African Reserve Bank Financial Stability Research Grant
2024	ERSA Research Grant for 'The Role of Cities as Drivers of Growth and Employment'
2024	Interledger Foundation Education Grant
2022–2023	South African Reserve Bank Research Chair in Financial Stability
2020	South African Reserve Bank Financial Stability PhD Scholarship
2017–2019	Volkswagen Foundation & AIFMRM PhD Scholarship
2014	National Research Foundation Research and Innovation Research Grant

Media coverage

News articles and media

"Cape Town housing crisis is about more than foreign buyers and Airbnb, economist says", *Eyewitness News*, November 2026.

"Cape Town's housing crisis: Why blaming foreigners and Airbnb misses the bigger picture", *CapeTalk*, November 2026.

"Cape Town won't solve its housing crisis by blaming foreigners and Airbnb", *News24*, November 2026

"Cape Town's housing boom: How long before locals are priced out?", *Bizcommunity*, October 2026

"Cape Town's housing boom is becoming an affordability crisis", *Real Estate Investor*, October 2026

"Cape Town's housing crisis: complex, with no quick fixes", *News24*, April 2026.

"Realising fintech's potential", *BusinessDay*, April 2026.

"Cape Town's housing affordability crisis: 'We're paying the price for years of sluggish policy-making", *Eyewitness News*, February 2025.

"How to make Cape Town cheaper", *CapeTalk*, February 2025.

"Making digital financial inclusion a reality", *UCT News*, October 2024.

"Here's what the many different models predict about Covid-19", *The Citizen*, May 2020.

"The blame game", *Business Day Homefront*, June 2017.

Podcasts

"Interledger on Campus;", *Interledger Future Money Podcast S01 EP11*, July 2024.

Last Update: November 25, 2026