

Stephen Gelb

Stephen Gelb leads on Private Sector Development at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), where he is Principal Research Fellow. He did economic research in South Africa for thirty years, including advising Presidents Mandela and Mbeki on macroeconomic policy and domestic and foreign private investment. He established an independent policy research institute in Johannesburg, which he led for ten years. He has taught postgraduate economics, political science and development studies in South Africa, Canada, the US and Switzerland. He has written extensively on macroeconomics, foreign direct investment, and political economy in South Africa; on outward foreign investment from China; and on FDI and value chains in many industries. His work has been shaped by a long-standing interest in businesses' strategy and decision processes, and their economic and political effects. His current research focusses on the links between corporate strategy, corporate collective action and ESG outcomes; on economic resource flows associated with migration; on the renewal of political economy; on the development impact of FDI and value chains; and on enterprise and skills development in low-income countries.

Country research and work experience: South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, China, UK, Switzerland, Canada.

QUALIFICATIONS

1992 PhD (Economics), University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada
1979 MA (Economic History), University of Toronto, Canada
1978 BA (Honours Economics & Maths), University of Toronto, Canada
1972 Matriculated, Cape Town, South Africa

WORK EXPERIENCE

Current post: Principal Research Fellow & Team Leader, Private Sector Development, Overseas Development Institute, London UK (since January 2016)

Previous employment (selected):

Senior Research Fellow & Director: International Investment Initiative, World Trade Institute, University of Bern, Switzerland (3 years)

Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Johannesburg (3 years)

Executive Director, The EDGE Institute, Johannesburg (9 years)

Visiting Professor, Development Studies Programme & Department of Economics, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (7 years part-time)

Founding Director, Centre for Indian Studies in Africa, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (1 year part-time)

Lead Researcher, Office of the President, Government of South Africa (2 years secondment from DBSA)

Senior Economist, Development Bank of Southern Africa, Johannesburg (4 years)

Visiting Professor, Departments of Economics and Political Science, New School for Social Research, New York (6 months)

Visiting Professor, Department of Political Science, York University (Canada) (2 years)

Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Social & Economic Research, University of Durban-Westville (South Africa) (8 years)

Publications & reports (selected):

Business impact on reform of private economic governance, ODI for UK DFID under Business Environment Reform Facility (BERF), 2019

Skills development for the Myanmar garment industry, ODI for UK DFID, 2018 (project leader)

Migration, technology and the SDGs, ODI for Swiss Development Corporation, 2018 (lead author)

Adjusting to rising costs in Chinese light manufacturing: What opportunities for developing countries?, ODI for UK DFID, 2017 (lead author)

Foreign direct investment and economic transformation in Myanmar, ODI for UK DFID, 2017 (lead author)

Towards a complete jobs picture: a new lens on labour data gaps and on automation, ODI Briefing Paper, 2016 (joint author)

Diaspora investment: Making diaspora finance more productive, ODI for Commonwealth Secretariat, 2016

Business and the SDGs – a baseline, ODI for Business and Sustainable Development Commission, 2016 (Co-author)

Swiss firms in global value chains: The Logitech computer mouse, Paper for Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), Bern, 2015

A conceptual framework for global value chains in financial services, Paper for UNCTAD Africa & Least Developed Countries Division, Geneva, 2014

FDI between South Africa and the BRICs: A firm-level overview, Working Paper, World Trade Institute, University of Bern; and Mandela Institute, University of Witwatersrand Johannesburg, 2014 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2614350>)

FDI links between South Africa and China, Report for African Economic Research Consortium, Nairobi, 2010

Macroeconomic Policy in South Africa, In W Freund & H Witt (eds), *Development Dilemmas in South Africa*, University of KwaZulu-Natal Press: Pietermaritzburg, 2010

Black Economic Empowerment and economic performance in South Africa, Working paper for *A growth diagnostic for South Africa*, National Treasury, Government of South Africa, 2007 (with James Robinson & Daron Acemoglu)

South African outward FDI, Background paper for UNCTAD *World Investment Report 2006, FDI from Developing & Transition Countries*, Geneva

South-South Investment: The case of Africa, In JJ Teunissen & A Akkerman (editors), *Africa in the World Economy: National, Regional and International Challenges*, Fondad: The Hague, 2005

The financial services industry in the Western Cape, Working paper, Department of Economic Development & Tourism, Western Cape Government, South Africa

Fragile stability: State & society in South Africa, *Journal of Southern African Studies*, volume 31, 2005 (lead author)

Macroeconomics in post-apartheid South Africa: Real growth versus financial stability, In R French-Davis (ed), *Seeking Growth under Financial Volatility*, Palgrave Macmillan: London, 2005

Determinants of MNCs' mode of entry into emerging markets: some evidence from South Africa and Egypt, *Emerging Markets Finance and Trade*, volume 41, 2005

The South African Economy, 1994-2004: An overview, In J Daniel, J Lutchman & R Southall (editors), *The State of the Nation 2004/2005*, HSRC Press: Cape Town, 2005

Foreign direct investment in South Africa, In S Estrin & K Meyer (editors) *Investment Strategies in Emerging Markets*, Edward Elgar: Cheltenham, UK, 2004

Addressing inequality in South Africa: Nature, Causes and Responses, Working paper for UK DFID project on Inequality in Middle Income Countries, 2003

South Africa, Africa and the African agenda, Working paper for UK DFID, 2001

The NEPAD African Peer Review Mechanism, Office of the President, Pretoria, 2001 (drafting team)

The New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), African Union, 2000 (lead analyst for South African Government team)

Fixed Investment in South Africa, Office of the President, Pretoria, 2000 (Project leader, editor & lead author)

The Affordability of the Defence Procurements, Office of the President, 2000 (lead economic analyst)

The Political Economy of Macroeconomic Reform in South Africa, Conference on The Political Economy of Reform in South Africa, UCT, 1998

Growth, Employment and Redistribution (GEAR), Department of Finance: South African Government, 1996 (technical team)

South Africa's Economic Crisis, David Philip: Cape Town & Zed Press: London, 1991 (Editor & author of lead chapter)

The Crisis in South Africa, Monthly Review Press: New York, 1981, and Monthly Review Press: New York/Zed Press: London, 2nd edition, 1985 (Co-author)

Professional activities (selected):

Peer reviewer for UNCTAD World Investment Report, 2006-12

Member of board of directors, Gauteng Economic Development Agency and Blue IQ (provincial investment promotion and infrastructure agencies), 2010-2012

Member of journal editorial boards: Journal of International Business Policy, Forum of Social Economics, Economic & Labour Relations Review, African East-Asian Affairs