

# **Feedback Report on PhD Land Governance Specialisation Course, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa, 8<sup>th</sup> January to 9<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

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## **Course convenors**

University of Cape Town – School of Economics

African Land Policy Centre (ALPC)

## **Funding Support**

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and The World Bank

## **Number of Attendees**

24 attendees representing fourteen African countries namely Benin, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kingdom of Eswatini, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zimbabwe)

## **Overview**

The aim of this 5 weeks intensive PhD course was to help build and strengthen the analytical capacity in Land Economics and Governance in Africa, building the capacity of network universities in teaching and research in conformity to best global practices with deep African perspectives. It was targeted at both students/faculty members and practitioners with an understanding at the second year PhD level in Economics, Land Economics, Agricultural Economics, Development Economics or other relevant doctoral programs. The course included an online preparatory course before travelling to UCT that took place in the month of November 2018. The course was facilitated by local and international experts on land related research of both academia and the World Bank, equipping participants with the latest theories and tools to conduct state of the art research on the subject.

This course was immensely beneficial to me at many levels. Firstly, it exposed me to advanced research methodologies and approaches being applied in both academia and the development projects across the world. Some of these methods, approaches and software include:

- Experimental randomisation
- Randomised control trials
- Difference in Difference
- Propensity score matching
- Impact evaluation projects and research
- Patterns of urbanisation with and without growth concepts
- STATA

Secondly, as a lecturer I picked up different techniques of delivering lectures that I will apply in my classes. Owing to the diversity of our course instructors coming from University of California Davis, George Washington University, New York City University, Namibia University of Science and Technology and University of Cape Town, I learnt creative and effective ways of teaching. In addition, I also learnt what not to do as a lecturer in order to bring out the best in students. Thirdly, I learnt how NUST, through NELGA, could deliver similar courses in forms of seminars or workshops to benefit the NUST-southern African NELGA node. The course came with assignments and weekly examinations

for each of the five instructors. Therefore, the course participants are expected to receive certificates with accompanying transcripts. The credits gained in this course are transferrable to other universities.

With 24 course mates coming from different cultural background and at different stages of their PhD journey, this offered me an opportunity to tap into their knowledge and exchange notes on how to advance our careers in academia and contribute to research in our respective institutions. It was also a great networking opportunity for future research and consultancy work that relate to land governance on the continent. Some of these are already in the pipeline with colleagues from Malawi, Togo, Kenya, South Africa and Tanzania. Further, through this course I managed to get colleagues from the University of Johannesburg and Pretoria to join the NUST/NELGA-Southern Africa node.

Apart from the serious business of the course, UCT had also organised excursion in and around the beautiful city of Cape Town. The Table Mountain and the V& A Waterfront were two of the highlights of the excursions. Such moments gave us a chance to unwind from the busy schedule of the course.

The course content covered, among other elements, the following:

Week 0: Minimum One-month online pre-course training on research methods

Week 1: Land ownership as a determinant of economic structure & political economy

Week 2: Land use, land & other factor markets and structural transformation

Week 3: Economics of urban land use and policy

Week 4: Using and collecting survey & spatial data on land tenure & use – World Bank

Week 5: Evaluating the impact of land-related policy interventions

Photo gallery



















