

# dr. Ruben Dewitte

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I am an international economist who studies the firm-level determinants of technological progress and quantifies the consequences of international trade for technological progress and subsequent economic prosperity. My *research* aims both to advance the theoretical underpinnings of the characterization of firm-level productivity and its evolution over time (technological change), as well as to design novel empirical methodologies that allow to measure productivity better in line with its definition. I apply my obtained state-of-the-art knowledge to *teach* students and prepare them optimally for the job market.

## Current Positions

- 2020–current **Postdoctoral researcher**, *Ghent University*, Ghent.
- 2021 **Research intern**, *National Bank of Belgium*, Brussels.

## Previous Positions

- 2014–2020 **Teaching assistant**, *Ghent University*, Ghent.  
As a teaching assistant, I am responsible for the international economics seminar where third-year bachelor students learn to evaluate the economic or migration impact of recent trade agreements. I also assist Prof. dr. Glenn Rayp and Prof. dr. Ilse Ruysen with their master course 'Modern Trade and Migration Policy' and bachelor courses 'International Economics', 'Economic Globalisation' and 'Development of economic science'. I am co-responsible for the exercise sessions of the first-year general economics course.

## Education

- 2015–2020 **Doctor of Economics**, *Ghent University*, Ghent.  
Thesis title: "*Firm Heterogeneity in International Trade.*"  
Supervisor: *Glenn Rayp*  
Examination committee: *Gerdie Everaert, Bruno Merlevede, Luca David Opromolla, Gonzague Vannoorenberghe, Marijn Verschelde*
- 2014–2015 **Master in General Economics: Research Focus**, *Université catholique de Louvain*, Louvain-la-Neuve, *Distinction*.  
Thesis title: "*Comparative advantage and heterogeneous firms. The case of Portugal.*"  
Note: This master was followed as a preparation for the PhD-program at Ghent University and was obtained while active as a teaching assistant at Ghent University.
- 2013–2014 **Master of Science in Economics**, *Ghent University*, Ghent, *Great Distinction*.  
Thesis title: "*Middle income trap and export sophistication. Assessment and economic policy implications.*"
- 2012–2013 **Erasmus Exchange Program**, *Université de Neuchâtel*, Neuchâtel.
- 2010–2013 **Bachelor of Science in Economics**, *Ghent University*, Ghent, *Great Distinction*.  
Thesis title: "*Measuring human well-being based on an idea of Robert H. Frank.*"

## Single Courses

- spring 2017 **Research on Productivity, Trade, and Growth: Theory and Practice**, *Tinbergen Institute*, Amsterdam, No grade.  
This course focused on empirical research using firm-level data. It introduced dynamic firm models, productivity estimation techniques and structural modeling of productivity, trade and growth. It was taught by Prof. dr. Eric Bartelsman, Prof. dr. Jan de Loecker and Prof. dr. Jo Van Biesebroeck.
- spring 2017 **Economic Growth**, *Kiel Institute for The World Economy*, Kiel, Greatest distinction.  
This course was part of the 2017 “Advanced Studies in International Economic Policy Research”-program. It was taught by Prof. dr. Gino Gancia and focused on topics in the area of economic growth and technological progress.
- spring 2017 **Resampling methods with applications**, *Université catholique de Louvain*, Louvain-la-Neuve, Greatest Distinction.  
This course was part of the “Master in Statistics”-program. It was taught by Prof. dr. Germain Van Bever and focused on the theoretical properties of resampling methods and their applications that are useful in statistics and econometrics.
- fall 2016 **Non- and semi-parametric econometrics**, *Université catholique de Louvain*, Louvain-la-Neuve, Distinction.  
This course was part of the “Master in Statistics”-program. It was taught by Prof. dr. Christian Hafner and focused on non- and semi-parametric estimation methods that are often used in econometrics.

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## Research Interests

International Trade, Firm Performance and Production Function Estimations.

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## Refereed Publications

Ruben Dewitte, Michel Dumont, Bruno Merlevede, Glenn Rayp and Marijn Verschelde, 2020. Firm-Heterogeneous Biased Technological Change: A nonparametric approach under endogeneity., *European Journal of Operational Research* 283(3), 1172–1182.

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## Work in Progress

Ruben Dewitte. The Gravity Equation in International Trade: A Note., *Journal of Political economy*, Revised and Resubmitted.

Ruben Dewitte, Michel Dumont, Glenn Rayp and Peter Willemé. Unobserved Heterogeneity in the Productivity Distribution and Gains From Trade. *Canadian Journal of Economics*, Revise and Resubmit.

Ruben Dewitte, Bruno Merlevede, and Glenn Rayp. Gains From Trade: Demand, Supply and Idiosyncratic Uncertainty. Submitted.

Ruben Dewitte. From Heavy-Tailed Micro to Macro: on the characterization of firm-level heterogeneity and its aggregation properties. Work in Progress

Ruben Dewitte, Catherine Fuss and Angelos Theodorakopoulos. Identifying Unobserved Heterogeneity in Productivity. Work in Progress.

Ruben Dewitte and Glenn Rayp. Comparative Advantage and Heterogeneous Firms: the case of Portugal. Work in Progress.

## Conferences, Workshops & Seminar Presentations

- 2019 Workshop on 'Firm heterogeneity in Technical Change' (Ghent, March), DEGIT XXIV (Odense, August), ETSG (Bern, September)
- 2018 Ghent University PhD day (Ghent, May), NAPW (Miami, June), CompNet (Halle, June), ETSG (Warsaw, September)
- 2017 Ugent General Economics Department meetings (Oudenaarde, May), Ghent University PhD day (Ghent, May), RIEF (Lille, June), ETSG (Florence, September).
- 2016 SNDE (Alabama, March), Ghent University PhD day (Ghent, May), Economics of Global Interactions (Bari, September), ETSG (Helsinki, September), Doctoral Workshop in Economics (Namur, December).
- 2015 Internal Seminar (Ghent, May).

## Refereeing

Empirical Economics

## Administrative Responsibilities

- 2016-2018 Coordination (together with Sümeyra Atmaca) of the External Economics Seminars at Ghent University, Department of Economics.

## Computer skills

- Typesetting Ms Office,  $\LaTeX$
- Data analysis R, STATA, SPSS, Eviews
- Numerical analysis Matlab, Fortran

## Languages

- Dutch Native proficiency
- English Full professional proficiency
- French Full professional proficiency
- Spanish Elementary proficiency
- German Elementary proficiency

## Personal

- Date of Birth October 9, 1992
- Citizenship Belgian
- Sex Male
- Hobbies Cycling, swimming, gymming, hiking, snowboarding ...

## References

Available upon request