James Wabenga Yango, Ph.D.

Economist | Macroeconomic modelling

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Website • Google Scholar • ORCID • RePEc • LinkedIn

Profile

I am an economist and a teacher. I hold a doctorate in economics from Université Laval (2025) and a master's degree in economics for development from the University of Oxford. My work sits at the meeting point of macroeconomics, computational economics and mathematical economics: the first supplies the questions, the second the means of answering them once the models stop admitting closed-form solutions, and the third the discipline that keeps the answers well posed. Since 2020 I have been a lecturer at Université Laval and at the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, where I have taught some fifteen undergraduate and graduate courses, in French and in English: macroeconomics, microeconomics, international economics, international trade, managerial economics and quantitative methods. To keep the theory concrete I draw on modelling work carried out for a range of ministries and agencies – the UNDP, the Congolese and Nigerien planning authorities, central banks – so that the concepts connect to the policy questions that prompted them. Alongside the teaching I pursue research in macroeconomics on population ageing, international migration and monetary policy.

Appointments

Current	**Visiting professor** • Université Officielle de Bukavu and Université Évangélique en Afrique, D.R. Congo
2026–present	**Research professional** • Chair in Macroeconomics and Forecasting, ESG UQAM, Montreal
2025–2026	**Research professional** • CIRANO – Centre interuniversitaire de recherche en analyse des organisations, Montreal
2023–present	**Lecturer** • Department of Economics and Administration, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi
2020–2024	**Lecturer** • Department of Economics, Université Laval, Quebec
2014–2019	**Teaching assistant and tutor** • Department of Economics, Université Laval, Quebec
2011–2012	**Instructor** • Faculty of Economics and Management, University of Kinshasa, D.R. Congo

Education

2018–2025 **Ph. D. in Economics** – macroeconomic modelling • Université Laval, Quebec
Thesis: "Three Essays on International Macroeconomics". Supervisor: Kevin Moran. Defended with a unanimous "Excellent". GPA 4.00/4.33.

2016–2017 **M. Sc. in Economics for Development** • University of Oxford, United Kingdom
Supervisors: Christopher Adam and Pramila Krishnan.

2022–present **M. Sc. in Mathematical and Computational Finance** • Université de Montréal
Supervisor: Fabian Bastin. GPA 3.87/4.30.

2012–2014 **M. A. in Economics** • Université Laval, Quebec
Thesis on the demographic determinants of external balances. Supervisors: Benoît Carmichael and Kevin Moran. GPA 4.00/4.33.

2005–2010 **B. Sc. in Mathematical Economics** • University of Kinshasa, D.R. Congo
Awarded with Distinction – first in the graduating class.

Teaching

University of Kinshasa – Faculty of Economics and Management

Current	Time series econometrics *(Master 1)*
Current	Mathematics *(Licence 2 and Licence 3)*
Current	Computable general equilibrium modelling *(graduate level)*
2011–2012	Growth economics • Game theory • Quantitative methods • Operations research

Université Officielle de Bukavu and Université Évangélique en Afrique – D.R. Congo

Current	Computable general equilibrium modelling *(graduate level)*

Université du Québec à Chicoutimi – Department of Economics and Administration

Summer 2025	Computable general equilibrium models • Dynamic optimisation *(graduate level)*
Winter 2025	2ECO205: Managerial economics
Winter 2025	2MGO727: International markets
Fall 2024	2ECO102: The economic environment of the firm (principles of macroeconomics)
Fall 2023	2ECO600: International economics

Université Laval – Department of Economics

Summer 2022–2024	ECN 1010: Principles of macroeconomics *(distance format, monPortail platform)*
Summer 2020	ECN 1000: Principles of microeconomics
2019	ECN 7010/7011: Macroeconomics I and II *(doctoral; tutor and teaching assistant)*
2018	ECN 1010 (macro), ECN 1000 (micro), ECN 1030 (financial markets) *(tutor)*
2014	ECN 7160: Modelling economic development *(graduate, teaching assistant, Prof. B. Decaluwé)*

Course development and online learning

- Full design of course outlines and syllabi (macroeconomics, microeconomics, international economics, international markets).
- Courses built end to end for online delivery (monPortail platform, Université Laval): modules, materials, assessments and feedback.
- Tutorial sessions, worked problem sets and simulation code (for instance the Ramsey growth model).
- Computation and visualisation tools (Matlab, R, Python, GAMS, Dynare) brought into the classroom to make applied concepts concrete.

Professional experience in applied economics

2018–2019	**Macroeconomic consultant (CGE)** • Ministry of Planning, Republic of Niger *Dynamic computable general equilibrium model of the effects of agricultural growth.*
2016–2017	**Macroeconomic consultant (CGE)** • UNDP / Office of the Prime Minister, D.R. Congo *2013 social accounting matrix and a dynamic CGE model of the effects of public spending.*
2013–2015	**Macroeconomic consultant** • Office of the Prime Minister, D.R. Congo *DSGE models (commodity prices, agricultural investment).*

Skills

Programming and modelling: R, Matlab, Dynare, GAMS, Mathematica, Stata, EViews, Julia, Python.
Data and methods: SQL, MySQL; econometrics, big data, machine learning, CGE, DSGE.
Web and e-learning: HTML5, PHP, JavaScript; online learning platforms (monPortail).

Languages: French (fluent, spoken and written); English (fluent – graduate study at Oxford, research and teaching).

Publications and research

Working papers and preprints

- Wabenga Yango, J. & Yemba, B. (2026). *Who Pays for a Tariff Cut? Revenue Replacement in the African Continental Free Trade Area.* SSRN working paper, 47 pages.
- Wabenga, J. (2026). *Artificial Intelligence, Aging, and the Macroeconomy: A Life-Cycle General Equilibrium Model with Endogenous Fertility, AI Capital, and Longevity.* Resubmitted to a journal after revision.
- Wabenga, J. & Moran, K. (2025). *International Migration, Aging, and External Imbalances: A Dynamic Analysis with a Two-Country Life-Cycle Economy.*
- Wabenga, J. & Moran, K. (2025). *Demographic Trends, International Migration, and External Imbalances: A Regional Analysis.*
- Wabenga, J. (2025). *Transmission of U.S. Monetary Policy Shocks to a Dollarized, Resource-Dependent Economy: Evidence from the D.R. Congo* (TVP-VAR model).
- Wabenga, J. & Moran, K. (2024). *The Effects of Demographic Changes and International Migration on Economic Growth: A Regional Analysis.*

Journal articles

- Wabenga, J. (2016). Agricultural Growth and Poverty Reduction in the D.R. Congo: A General Equilibrium Approach. *International Journal of Food and Agricultural Economics.*
- Wabenga, J. & Nlemfu, J. B. (2016). Agricultural Growth and Investment Options for Poverty Reduction in the D.R. Congo. *Journal of Stock & Forex Trading.*

Books, reports and working papers

- Wabenga, J. (2016). *Impacts of Public Expenditures on Agricultural Production, Inequality and Poverty Reduction in the D.R. Congo* (working paper, SSRN).
- Nlemfu, J. B. & Wabenga, J. (2017). *Croissance agricole et options d'investissement pour la réduction de la pauvreté en R.D. Congo : une analyse en équilibre général* (book).
- Nlemfu, J. B. & Wabenga, J. (2017). *Analyse de l'économie congolaise à travers la matrice de comptabilité sociale de 2005* (technical report).
- Wabenga, J. & Nlemfu, J. B. (2011). *Zone de libre-échange de la SADC et économie de la R.D. Congo : création de commerce et bien-être ?* (technical report).

Full records, abstracts and BibTeX entries: jamwab.github.io.

Conferences and presentations

- Annual congress of the Société canadienne de science économique (SCSE).
- Annual conference of the Canadian Economics Association (CEA), Halifax.
- Conference, Queen Mary University of London (United Kingdom).
- Cercle des économistes congolais.

Work presented includes: "International Monetary Policy and Exchange Rate Dynamics in Dollarized Economies: Evidence from the D.R. Congo"; "The effect of the exchange rate on tax revenue in a dollarized economy: the case of the D.R. Congo"; and research on population ageing, international migration and external imbalances.

Awards and scholarships

2025	Scholarship of the Chair in Macroeconomics and Forecasting (CMP), École des sciences de la gestion, Université du Québec à Montréal
2023	Fonds Georges-Henri-Lévesque doctoral completion scholarship, Université Laval

2022	Fin-ML / NSERC-CREATE excellence scholarship, HEC Montréal and Université de Montréal
2020–2021	Mitacs Globalink Ph. D. award, Mitacs, held at Université Laval (2020) • Doctoral excellence scholarships of the Centre de recherche sur les risques, les enjeux économiques et les politiques publiques (CRREP), Université Laval (2020, 2021)
2019	Matuszewski scholarship, Department of Economics, Université Laval (twice) • Doctoral visiting award, Becker Friedman Institute, University of Chicago • Five-year doctoral fellowship, Université Laval
2016	Poler-Oxford Scholarship (best admission file), University of Oxford
2014	"My Thesis in 180 Seconds" prize, Faculty of Social Sciences, Université Laval
2011–2013	Excellence scholarship of the Centre interuniversitaire sur le risque, les politiques économiques et l'emploi (CIRPÉE), Université Laval (2013) • MEXT excellence scholarship, Government of Japan (2011)
2010	Dean's award – first in the graduating class, Faculty of Economics and Management, University of Kinshasa

Specialised training and academic visits

Winter 2020	Doctoral course – Applied computational economics • McGill University *(4.00/4.00; Prof. D. Barczyk)*
Summer 2019	Doctoral course – Monetary and fiscal policy with heterogeneity • Becker Friedman Institute, U. Chicago *(Prof. G. Kaplan and B. Moll)*
2021	Certificate – Machine learning applied to finance and insurance • Université de Montréal
2013–2014	Certificate – Econometrics applied to transport (2014) • Dynamic impacts of policies and shocks (PEP, 2013), Université Laval

Service and responsibilities

2021–2023	Vice-president – Graduate Economics Students' Association (AÉÉCSUL), Université Laval

Referees

Kevin Moran – Professor, Department of Economics, Université Laval (doctoral supervisor). *kevin.moran@ecn.ulaval.ca*