

A B R E A V I A T E D C V

Prof Leward Jeke
Department of Economics
School of Economics, Development Studies and Tourism
Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences

Prof Leward Jeke is Head of Department and Full Professor of Economics at Nelson Mandela University. He graduated Cum Laude with a BCom in Management and Economics in 2009, which launched his path to Honours in Economics at UCT. With 14 years' experience as a university lecturer, he specialises in financial economics, econometrics, and policy research. His work has shaped debate across the SADC region on financial liberalisation, credit markets, bank stability, financial inclusion, illicit financial flows, climate finance, and environmental economics.

Prof Jeke has contributed extensively through commissioned research and more than 61 DHET-accredited journal articles. He has participated in externally funded projects, including collaboration with UNU-WIDER on special economic zones, regional growth, firm survival, and human capital development in Africa. He regularly presents at international conferences, chairs sessions, and provides expert commentary to major media outlets such as SABC News, City Press, The Herald Newspaper, and Madibaz Radio (political show). He co-organised the 2020 Pan African Entrepreneurship Research Council conference.

In academia, and academic leadership, Prof Jeke has supervised more than 20 PhDs, numerous Master's and Honours students, and mentors postdoctoral fellows and youth interns. He serves as external examiner for 12 South African and 5 international universities, having examined over 38 PhD and 91 Master's theses. At Nelson Mandela University he has been involved in curriculum development and quality assurance, served as PhD coordinator, programme leader, and module coordinator. He served and serves on numerous university committees such as FRPC, EFMC, FRIC, PGSC, SRMC, DRPC, Transdisciplinary Internationalisation Committee, NMU Death Claims Committee, Board member and Employer Trustee (NMU Retirement Fund), BOF, Senate,

and REC-H. He is an NRF Peer Advisory Panel member and NRF grant proposal reviewer. He reviewed over 30 articles and editorials for DHET-accredited journals.

Prof Jeke's professional accolades include being honoured as the runner-up for the prestigious Researcher of the Year award in 2024 and receiving a Distinguished Academic Award in research at GCBSS conference in Bangkok, Thailand (2023) and best paper presenter certificate at the same conference, a testament to his outstanding scholarly contributions to research. He is a member of several academic and professional bodies, such as the Southern African Institute for Management Scientists (SAIMS) and the Global Conference on Business & Social Sciences Advisory Board. His proficiency in advanced statistical and econometric tools supports his rigorous approach to research and data analysis.

In summary, Prof Leward Jeke embodies academic leadership, research excellence, and a commitment to capacity building in economics. His impact is reflected in his extensive supervision of postgraduate research, international collaborations, contributions to policy-relevant research, and active participation in academic governance and community engagement. His work continues to shape the discourse on financial liberalisation, economic development, financial markets, and sustainability in Southern Africa and beyond.