

CURRICULUM VITAE: DR ADELIA JANSEN VAN RENSBURG



SUMMARY PROFILE

Dr Adelia Jansen van Rensburg is currently a senior lecturer in the School of Economic Sciences at the North-West University (NWU), Potchefstroom Campus, South Africa, a position she has held since 2019. In this role, she contributes to teaching and learning, research and innovation, community engagement, and leadership development. Adelia is a trade economist by profession, specialising in international trade, trade policy, and trade policy development. Adelia was appointed as South Africa's WCP Chair holder in November 2024. She is well acquainted with international trade rules, the role and work of the WTO, and regional trade agreements (RTAs) and how the latter fit into the broader multilateral landscape. Adelia holds a PhD in International Trade, which she obtained from NWU in 2009.

Before joining NWU's School of Economic Sciences, Adelia was a postdoctoral fellow in the NWU's TRADE research focus area (2017–2018). Her supervisor and mentor during this period were established researcher, director of TRADE, and former WTO Chair holder, Prof. Wilma Viviers. As a postdoctoral fellow, Adelia was also very involved in the work of the WTO Chairs Programme (WCP), including conducting research on trade policy issues, contributing to the refinement of the University's trade curriculum, and arranging and participating in various outreach activities.

Prior to joining the University, Adelia served as a trade diplomat with the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Secretariat in Windhoek, Namibia (2010–2016). As trade negotiations coordinator in the Directorate: Trade Policy Development and Research, she was responsible for facilitating and coordinating SACU's trade negotiations agenda and work programme. Key focus areas included assisting SACU's decision-making bodies in formulating economic and trade policy positions and mandates and overseeing their implementation; managing the Africa and America trade desks (specifically negotiations and agreements); providing technical assistance and advice on various bilateral and regional negotiations; and initiating and managing research initiatives covering trade policy development. While at SACU, Adelia attended numerous heads of state and government meetings, ministerial meetings, senior trade and finance officials' meetings, and trade negotiations.

Adelia has a particular passion for teaching, inspired by William Arthur Ward's philosophy: "The mediocre teacher tells, the good teacher explains, the superior teacher demonstrates, and the great teacher inspires." She is actively involved in the School of Economic Sciences' Economics and International Trade Programme, where she teaches International Trade Relations—her favourite subject in the curriculum. She also teaches an introductory macroeconomics course and an online Introductory Economics course covering key economic, trade, and trade policy concepts, with a particular focus on South Africa.

On the research side, Adelia has been a member of NWU's TRADE research focus area and the WTO Chairs Programme (WCP) since 2017, under whose auspices she has contributed significantly to the University's research outputs. Her research specialisations include the international trading system, trade policy dynamics, geopolitics and geoeconomics, and regional integration, with a special focus on South Africa and Africa. She is also interested in the ideological tension between the multilateral trade policy approach advocated by the WTO and regional trade arrangements, in new-generation trade issues, and in the evolution of deep trade agreements. Adelia is passionate about helping researchers and policymakers alike to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the evolving geopolitical order and the international trading system, and how policymakers can use trade policy as a tool to unlock their countries' trade and economic potential.

To date, she has co-authored several journal articles, book chapters, books, and other publications. Her research broadly covers international trade and trade policy. She has published on multilateral and WTO-related topics, such as the impact of plurilateral trade agreements on developing countries and how the G20 can help sustainably reshape the global trade system; trade liberalisation and its continued importance, such as the liberalisation of Bangladesh's services trade; issues surrounding trade negotiations, such as developing product-level prioritisation methods for bilateral trade negotiations; and new-generation trade policy matters, including the development of a services trade strategy for South Africa and the harmonisation of digital trade policies in Africa. Her research also examines regional groupings, both in Africa (such as the African Continental Free Trade Area [AfCFTA]) and in other parts of the world (such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association [IORA]).

One of Adelia's recent publications is a book titled *Africa's Digital Future: From Theory to Action*, which provides an overview of Africa's digital trade policy landscape and offers strategic guidance to decision-makers on how to optimise digital technologies to drive the continent's growth and development. The book explores how Africa can benefit from the digital age, despite challenges related to development and technological adoption.

Over the years, Adelia has engaged extensively with government, academic, and public and private sector stakeholders, building an extensive professional network in the international trade field. She has maintained a longstanding and close working relationship with South Africa's Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC), which began in 2007 with the establishment of NWU's Export Promotion Research Group (EPRG). The EPRG provided

export promotion support to the DTIC and Trade and Investment South Africa (TISA). One of the projects in which Adelia was involved focused on enhancing South Africa's economic growth prospects by identifying the country's most viable export opportunities. Many of the group's contributions were captured in the book *Export Promotion: A Decision Support Model Approach*, edited by Prof. Ludo Cuyvers and Prof. Wilma Viviers, for which Adelia served as a reviewer.

Notably, in 2017–2018, Adelia was part of the team that developed a strategic framework and action plan for the export development and promotion of South Africa's services sector. She continues to work closely with the DTIC and Ambassador Xolelwa M. Peter, South Africa's former WTO Ambassador and Deputy Director-General for Trade, on areas of mutual collaboration. Their most recent research project—based on Ambassador Peter's Master's dissertation in International Trade—focuses on reforming the WTO Dispute Settlement System for developing countries, with an emphasis on enhancing accessibility and inclusivity for countries such as South Africa. They have also initiated discussions on potential future collaborations aimed at strengthening the alignment between academic research and trade policy practice.

Over the years, Adelia has been an active member of various international trade, trade policy, and economic development bodies. These include NWU's International Trade Programme, the TRADE research focus area, the WTO Chairs Programme at NWU, the Going Digital Think Tank at NWU, Trade Research Advisory (TRA), the Export Promotion Research Group (EPRG), the Economic Society of South Africa (ESSA), and SACU's Professional Staff Forum.

Adelia's achievements include being appointed WTO Chair in 2024, receiving a postdoctoral WCP bursary in 2018, an NWU postdoctoral fellowship (and grant) for 2017–2018, and a National Research Foundation (NRF) doctoral scholarship for 2005–2009. These awards were granted in recognition of her exceptional academic performance.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name	Adelia Jansen van Rensburg.
Gender	Female
Race	White
Disability	None
Nationality	South African
ID	7910090122089
Driver's licence	Yes
Email address	Adelia.JansenVanRensburg@nwu.ac.za ; adeliajansenvanrensburg@gmail.com
Cell phone number	+27 (79) 973 8307
Residential address	Potchefstroom, South Africa, 2521
Highest qualification	PhD in International Trade
Professional experience	Trade economist, trade policy development and research, trade policy analyst, trade agreements, trade negotiations, lecturer
Work experience	20 years

IMPORTANT LINKS

Adelia's academic contributions can be verified through the following links:

NWU:	https://commerce.nwu.ac.za/trade/wto
ResearchGate:	https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Susara-Rensburg-2
LinkedIn:	https://www.linkedin.com/in/adelia-jansen-van-reensburg-5226a0107/?originalSubdomain=za
Orcid ID:	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2644-0165
Google Scholar:	https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=OWQRWD8AAAAJ&hl=en

QUALIFICATIONS

Study period

2006–2009

Name of qualification

Doctorate/PhD in International Trade

Name of academic institution

NWU, Potchefstroom Campus

Title of thesis

The Export Promotion of South African Crafts

Study period

2003–2005

Name of qualification

MCom in Economics (Cum Laude)

Name of academic institution

NWU, Potchefstroom Campus

Title of dissertation

The Municipal Credit Market in South Africa

Major subjects

-Economics
-Applied Project Management
-Municipal Management

Study period

2001

Name of qualification

BCom (Honours) in Economics, Money and Banking (5 distinctions)

Name of academic institution

NWU, Potchefstroom Campus

Major subjects

-Economics
-Business Management

Study period

2001

Name of qualification

Certificate of London

Name of academic institution

Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment

Major subjects

-Introduction to International Capital Markets
-International Fixed Interest and Bond Markets
-South African Regulatory Module
-International Equity Markets

Study period

1998–2000

Name of qualification

BCom in Economics

Name of academic Institution

NWU, Potchefstroom Campus

Major subjects

-Economics
-Business Management

Study period

1997

Name of qualification

Matric/Grade 12

Name of academic institution

Potchefstroom Gymnasium

Subjects

-Afrikaans
-English
-Mathematics
-Business Economics
-Home Economics
-Biology

WORK EXPERIENCE

Senior Lecturer, NWU, 2019–the present

Duties and achievements

Adelia's primary responsibilities as a senior lecturer at the NWU is to contribute to the University's teaching and learning, research and innovation, community engagement and leadership activities. Since 2019, she has taught a compulsory second-year course to all students enrolled on the International Trade Programme, called International Trade Relations. She also teaches a first-year course, called Introductory Economics, for the Human Resource Development Programme, which covers key economic concepts but with a South African focus. She also taught Economics 101 to all students enrolled on the Economics Programme in 2019 and a Personal Finance module in 2008–2009. In addition, Adelia has supervised several PhD, Master's and Honours students.

Adelia's other responsibilities in her role as a senior lecturer include assisting with the development, management and monitoring of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, modules, and courses. This involves administration, curriculum development, quality management, and programme/course enhancement. Regarding curriculum development, the aim is to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of programmes in accordance with the University's strategy, policies, and procedures, while also conveying the latest developments in the international trade field. To this end, Adelia works closely with colleagues in the School of Economic Sciences, the TRADE research focus area, the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, and the other campuses.

Under teaching and innovation, Adelia is expected to contribute to the research outputs of the University. In this regard, Adelia has written several papers, book chapters and books covering a wide range of topics, but with an emphasis on the latest developments in trade, trade policy and regional integration. Much of her research has been published in peer-reviewed and high-impact academic journals and presented at local and international conferences. Adelia liaises closely with other academic institutions, government bodies and the private sector, where she uses her knowledge and experience to influence thought leadership and cutting-edge practice, especially in the area of trade policy development.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, NWU, 2017–2019

Duties and achievements

As a postdoctoral research fellow, Adelia's primary responsibilities were: (i) to bring new and innovative ideas to the TRADE research focus area, (ii) to contribute to the research outputs of the University through the publication of articles in peer-reviewed journals and books/book chapters, and (iii) to contribute to the University's postgraduate study programme by co-supervising students. Adelia's postdoc work added to the outputs of the School of Economic Sciences, the TRADE research focus area, and the WTO Chairs Programme (WCP).

During her time as a postdoc fellow, Adelia co-authored four peer-reviewed articles in high-impact journals; co-authored two book chapters and two WTO publications; attended two national conferences and one international conference; contributed to three major research projects; and co-authored four research reports. She also co-supervised one PhD student (assistant promoter) and one Master's student (co-supervisor); examined two postgraduate courses; reviewed two journal papers; delivered six special lectures; and participated in over 25 meetings, seminars, workshops and conferences. She also shared her knowledge of trade (and specifically trade policy in Africa) with colleagues, students, and various national and international stakeholders. Adelia was also awarded a WTO bursary under the WCP programme in her second year as a postdoc fellow.

Trade Negotiations Coordinator, SACU Secretariat, Windhoek, Namibia, 2010–2016

Duties and achievements

Adelia was a trade negotiations coordinator in the Trade Negotiations Unit and Policy Development & Research Directorate of the SACU Secretariat over the period 2010–2016. Her main responsibilities were to assist SACU with the formulation and implementation of its trade policy positions and mandates and to help manage (and implement) its trade negotiations agenda and work programme. Most of this work involved Adelia helping to draft and table reports and other documents for SACU decision-making entities, including the SACU Summit (heads of state and government), the SACU Council of Ministers, the SACU Commission (consisting of SACU senior trade officials), and the negotiations team or technical officials (represented by government officials in trade, industry, and finance).

During her time at SACU, Adelia participated in several trade negotiation rounds and helped with the implementation of various trade agreements. She was responsible for the Africa and America desks (particularly with respect to trade negotiations and agreements). Work on the Africa desk revolved around the SACU Agreement, the SADC Protocol on Goods and Services, the SADC–EAC–COMESA Tripartite Free Trade Agreement (TFTA), the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement and the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Adelia also participated in other African trade and trade policy activities, including meetings of the African Union (AU) and meetings of African ministers of trade, who often had discussions before the upcoming WTO Ministerial or on the fringes of AGOA meetings. Work on the America desk revolved around the Trade, Investment and Development Cooperation Agreement (TIDCA) between SACU and the US, AGOA, the GSP (US and SA) and the SACU–Southern Common Market (Mercosur) Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA). From time to time, Adelia also covered the European and Asia desks, which saw her participate in the WTO Trade Policy Review process, implementation of the EFTA–SACU Free Trade Agreement (FTA), exchange of tariff offers under the SACU–India PTA, among other activities.

In addition, a significant part of Adelia's work during her time at SACU involved the initiation, facilitation, and management of research activities. In this regard, Adelia wrote many background, guiding, concept and strategic papers in support of SACU's trade negotiations work, with much of the underlying research work centring on measuring and recording the effects of new trade agreements on SACU and the accession of new member states on current trade agreements to which SACU was a signatory. Adelia also provided advice, guidance and technical assistance on a range of bilateral, regional, continental and multilateral trade issues both to the SACU Secretariat and its member states. Adelia also assisted with the methodical aspects of the trade negotiation process, such as the development of tariff offers or schedules of commitments for third parties and helping others to grasp the technical aspects of trade, including sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, technical barriers to trade (TBT), non-tariff barriers (NTBs), rules of origin (ROO), dispute settlement rules, trade in services, investment promotion activities, and other topics.

Study Leader for International Trade Honours Students, NWU, 2009

Duties and achievements

In 2009, while completing her PhD, Adelia was a study leader for a group of International Trade Honours students. Her duties involved basic student management and supervision of their research activities, most of which focused on export promotion. She also provided mentoring and guidance to students and helped with the marking of their dissertations.

Co-Founder/Director: House of Prayer, Potchefstroom, 2005–2009

Duties and achievements

Between 2005 and 2009, while busy with her PhD, Adelia co-founded and managed a non-profit organisation called House of Prayer (HOP) in Potchefstroom. HOP aimed to love, serve and better the lives of the local community through various outreach programmes. Adelia's responsibilities mainly entailed the provision of strategic guidance to HOP and its staff; human

resource management (the board and staff); project management (planning, organising, motivating, controlling, and managing resources, procedures and protocols to achieve specified goals); and financial management (especially managing the budget). She also oversaw the organisation's social responsibilities, public relations, fundraising and marketing activities.

Junior Lecturer in Personal Finance, NWU, 2008–2009

Duties and achievements

In 2008–2009, while working on her PhD, Adelia taught a compulsory first-year BCom course at the NWU, called Personal Finance. The aim of the course was to equip students with the knowledge and skills to manage their personal finances more effectively. Her work involved delivering lectures and tutorials, and assessing students' course work through assignments, tests, and examinations. She also supported students by assuming a pastoral/advisory role.

Tutor/Academic Assistant, NWU, 2000, 2001 and 2004

Duties and achievements

In 2000, 2001 and 2004, Adelia was a tutor and academic assistant for Economics and Macro Economics (both second-year BCom courses) and Business Ethics (a third-year BCom course) at the NWU. Her work involved delivering tutorials to a small group of students who needed additional support, assessing students' coursework, setting and marking tests and examinations, and playing a guidance/advisory role.

ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

See Google Scholar Profile

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=OWQRWD8AAAAJ&hl=en>

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Adelia has attended the following conferences and presented or co-presented the following papers:

- ❖ Ferreira, M., Jansen Van Rensburg A. and Ferriera, L. 2024. The construction of a Digital Readiness Index for Africa to help understand Africa's digital readiness challenges. WCP Virtual International Conference on International Trade and Investment (ICITI2024) Doctoral and Young Scholars Colloquium, Mauritius, 5–6 November 2024.
- ❖ Viviers, W., Parry, A. & Orkoh, E. 2023. WTO Chairs Programme (WCP) Annual Conference 'Book talk': Digital developments and employment in Africa, 23 June 2023, Geneva, Switzerland. (Co-author of the book but not part of the conference proceedings).
- ❖ Parry, A., Viviers, W. & Orkoh, E. 2023. The employment effects of digital developments in Africa: Emerging trends and the way forward. WCP Virtual Conference on International Trade and Investment (ICTI2023), Mauritius, 14–15 November 2023. (Co-author of the book but not part of the conference proceedings).
- ❖ Viviers, W., Parry, A. & Jansen van Rensburg, A. 2019. 'Are Digital Advances and Inclusive Growth Compatible Goals? Implications for Trade Policy in Developing Countries', Paper presented at the WTO Chairs Programme Annual Conference, 2 July 2019, Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ Jansen van Rensburg, S.J., Grater, S., Viviers, W., Cameron, M. & Parry, A. 2017. 'Connectivity through Services: The Case for a Services Trade Strategy for South Africa'. Paper delivered at the annual conference of the WTO Chairs Programme, 6–7 December, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- ❖ Jansen van Rensburg, S.J. 2016. 'Overview of the Benefits of the FTAs SACU has Concluded and Guidelines on How to Access the Benefits'. Paper delivered at SACU's Roadshow Campaign to Promote SACU's Visibility in Member States, 21–23 September, Botswana University.
- ❖ Jansen van Rensburg, S.J. 2016. 'SACU's Trade Agreements and Negotiations with Third Parties'. Paper delivered at SACU's Roadshow Campaign to Promote SACU's Visibility in Member States, 21–23 September, Botswana University.
- ❖ Jansen van Rensburg, S.J. 2011. 'State of Play: SACU – Where Does SACU Stand with regard to her Trade Negotiations and Regional Integration Efforts?' Paper delivered at the WTO Seminar on Regional Trade Agreements, Gaborone, Botswana.

NATIONAL CONFERENCES

Adelia has attended the following conferences and presented or co-presented the following papers:

- ❖ Jansen van Rensburg, S.J. 2018. 'The Recent Rise in Trade Protectionism: Should Africa be Concerned?' Paper delivered at the 6th annual postdoc conference held on 7 August at North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus.
- ❖ Jansen van Rensburg, S.J. 2017. 'South African Services'. Paper delivered at the 5th annual postdoc conference held on 2 August at North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus.
- ❖ Jansen van Rensburg, S.J. & Viviers, W. 2009. 'The Export Promotion of South African Craft Products'. Paper delivered at the Economic Society of South Africa's biannual conference on International Trade, 7–9 September, Port Elizabeth, South Africa.
- ❖ Saayman, A. & Horn, S.J. 2005. 'The Municipal Bond Markets in South Africa'. Paper delivered at the South African Finance Association Conference on Financial Markets, 21–23 January 2004, Cape Town, South Africa.

REVIEWS

Adelia has reviewed several articles for reputable journals in her areas of specialisation, including: Agrekon, the South African Journal of Economic and Management Sciences, World Development and the SA Journal of Economics. She has also reviewed the following book:

- ❖ Cuyvers, L. & Viviers, W. (Eds.). (2012). Export Promotion: A Decision Support Model Approach. African Sun Media.
- ❖ Kessie, E. (2024). Review of the Trade Policy Review Mechanism of the World Trade Organization: Lessons for the AfCFTA Implementation Review Mechanism (Policy Insight 159). South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA).

RESEARCH SUPERVISION

Adelia has supervised or co-supervised the following PhD, Master's and Honours students:

PhD supervision:

- ❖ Penias Chabwela: PhD in International Trade, thesis titled: 'The impact of smart technology adoption on Africa's trade and development'.
- ❖ Marnel Ferreira: PhD in International Trade, thesis titled: 'The construction of a digital readiness index for Africa using selective criteria'.
- ❖ Gabriel Monyera: PhD in International Trade, thesis titled: 'Identifying priority products and sectors for bilateral trade negotiations: the case of AGOA beyond 2025'.

Master's supervision:

- ❖ Ali Parry: MCom in International Trade, dissertation titled: 'Determining the links between digital developments and inclusive growth: Implications for Africa'.
- ❖ Nico Wiid: MCom in International Trade, dissertation titled: 'The Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on SACU's trade resilience'.
- ❖ Frederick Sefume: MCom in International Trade, dissertation titled: 'The sustainability of road freight logistics in South Africa and its impact on regional trade'.
- ❖ Ms. Xolelwa M. Peter: MCom in International Trade, dissertation titled: 'Reforming the WTO Dispute Settlement System for Developing Countries, with a special focus on accessibility and inclusivity for developing countries such as South Africa'.

Honours supervision:

Adelia has supervised the dissertations of nine Honours students. As a supervisor, one of her main aims is to facilitate and enhance the trade and trade policy research and analytical skills of her students. To achieve this, her students' research topics incorporated the following:

- ❖ The export potential of South Africa's aluminium sector – a gravity approach
- ❖ The relationship between non-tariff barriers and trade: a South African overview.
- ❖ The role, presence and impact of SA multinational corporations in Southern Africa.
- ❖ More trade protectionist or trade liberalising? A case study on Australia.
- ❖ China–US trade: were there signs of any trade protectionism before the trade war?
- ❖ Determining the impact of the Russia–Ukraine war on trade in general and Africa trade in particular.
- ❖ Determining the impact of the Belt and Road Initiative of China on African Trade.
- ❖ Determining the effect of Covid–19 on China's trade and China's trade resilience: a comparative study.
- ❖ The impact of Brexit on SA in general and on UK–SA trade in particular.
- ❖ SA, trade and NTB's how liberal or protectionist is SA really?
- ❖ Determining the impact of the conflict in Israel-Hamas on trade in general and South Africa's trade in particular.
- ❖ The Effect of War on Food Security: An Analysis of Ukraine's Maize Exports.
- ❖ The Effect of War on Food Security: An Analysis of Ukraine's Wheat Exports
- ❖ The Effect of War on Food Security: An Analysis of Ukraine's Sunflower Exports

POSTGRADUATE EXAMINATIONS

Adelia has examined the following postgraduate students:

- ❖ A. Opperman (2019), MCom in International Trade, dissertation titled: 'Die identifisering van realistiese bilaterale uitvoergeleenthede vir Suid-Afrika en China: 'n Besluitondersteuningsmodel'.
- ❖ M.R. Malefane (2018), PhD in Economics, thesis titled: 'Economics, Trade Openness and Economic Growth: Experience from SACU Countries'.
- ❖ M. Bondesio (2016), MCom in International Trade, dissertation titled: 'Determining the Market Accessibility of Southern African Exports'.
- ❖ M. Mzumara (2012), PhD in Economics, thesis titled: 'Economics, Development of an Export Promotion Strategy for the Post-Conflict Reconstruction of Zimbabwe'.
- ❖ S. Grater (2011), PhD in International Trade, thesis titled: 'The Development of an Export Opportunities Model for South African Services'.
- ❖ M.L. Kühn (2010), PhD in International Trade; thesis titled: 'Exporters' Information Requirements: The Role of Competitive Intelligence in the Export Promotion of Extruders'.

SPECIAL LECTURES

Adelia has given various special lectures on the NWU Campus with a trade policy theme. These include:

- ❖ Guest lecture: US–SA Trade Relations and AGOA, 27 February 2017.
- ❖ Guest lecture: Regional Integration with a special focus on SACU, 29 March 2017.
- ❖ Guest lecture: Regional Integration with special focus on SACU 30 March 2017.
- ❖ Guest lecture: Inter-cultural communication 6 September 2017.
- ❖ Guest lecture: Inter-cultural communication 7 September 2017.
- ❖ Guest lecture: SA-US Trade and Agriculture May 2024.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Adelia has participated in the following national and international research projects:

❖ Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Academic Group

Adelia participated in a research project with the IORA Academic Group. A report was compiled and a paper, titled: 'Identifying export opportunities between IORA member states using the TRADE-DSM® methodology: A case study involving South Africa and Thailand', was published in the *Journal of the Indian Ocean Region*.

❖ South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)

Adelia worked with SAIIA and the UK Department of International Development (DfID) on a research project titled "Developing Country Participation in Plurilateral Trade Agreements". A report was compiled and a paper published in the *South African Journal of International Affairs*. This project involved Adelia visiting Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 1–8 April 2017 together with Ali Parry, a member of the TRADE and WCP teams.

❖ Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC)

Adelia participated in a research project that TRADE conducted for South Africa's Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) titled "Design of a Strategic Framework and Action Plan for the Export Development and Promotion of South Africa's Service Sectors". More academic research and publications emanated from this project. The project involved a research team (including Adelia) visiting Bangladesh from 1–8 April 2017 for the purpose of conducting field work as part of a wide-ranging research initiative aimed at uncovering the reasons for developing countries' limited involvement in four plurilateral trade agreements: the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA), the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA), the Information Technology Agreement (IPA) and the Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA).

❖ London School of Economics International Trade Policy Unit

In 2024, TRADE has begun to explore possible collaborative research opportunities with the London School of Economics, and particularly its International Trade Policy Unit. One of the inaugural activities in this initiative was a research visit to London by selected members of TRADE from 21–28 April 2024. Though she was unable to join the group in London, Adelia will continue to contribute to this new partnership and any research opportunities that stem from it.

❖ SACU Secretariat

While at the SACU Secretariat, Adelia undertook various research projects in support of SACU's trade policy agenda. The following provides an overview of Adelia's research activities at SACU:

Trade and tariff analyses

- ❖ SACU–AGOA Trade Analysis (2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016).
- ❖ SACU–EFTA Trade Analysis (2011).
- ❖ SACU–Japan Trade and Tariff Analysis (2011).
- ❖ SACU–Pakistan Trade Analysis (2011).
- ❖ SACU–Singapore Trade Analysis (2012).
- ❖ SACU–Chile Trade and Tariff Analysis (2014).

Strategic papers

- ❖ Roadmap for Moving SACU towards an Economic and Monetary Union.
- ❖ Strategic Approach that SACU Should Follow with Respect to Ensuring that the Current AGOA Provisions are Extended Beyond 2015.
- ❖ Strategic Approach on How to Effectively Implement the SACU–TIDCA Agreement.

- ❖ Recommendations to be Considered for Further Engagement with the USA to Enhance SACU–US Trade.
- ❖ SACU–US Trade Relations: The Best Way Forward.

Papers on trade policy development and negotiations

- ❖ SACU–US Draft Framework for Trade and Investment Promotion.
- ❖ Overview of SACU's Customs and Trade Facilitation Work Programme.
- ❖ The Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Requirements of SACU in the Area of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS).
- ❖ Overview of SACU's Regulatory Regimes and Infrastructure w.r.t Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).
- ❖ Bolivia's Accession to MERCOSUR and the Impact thereof on SACU.
- ❖ Venezuela's Accession to MERCOSUR and the Impact thereof on SACU.
- ❖ Overview of the Free Trade Zones in MERCOSUR.

Studies

Adelia assisted with the initiation, facilitation, management and execution of the following research studies in SACU:

- ❖ Analysis of Implications for SACU of the Proposed Establishment of a Tripartite FTA between COMESA, SADC and the EAC.
- ❖ Impact Analysis of a Possible Trade Agreement between SACU and the EAC.
- ❖ A Study Aimed to Identify the Technical Capacity Constraints that affect SACU Exports.
- ❖ Access into the US Market under the TIDCA and Mitigation Measures.
- ❖ The Continental Free Trade Agreement Negotiations and the Implications thereof for SACU.
- ❖ Free Zones in MERCOSUR and SACU.

RESEARCH REPORTS

Adelia has contributed to the following research reports:

- ❖ Bertelsmann-Scott, T., Jansen van Rensburg, S.J., Viviers, W., Parshotam, A., Parry, A., Rossouw, R., Langalanga, A. & Nkhata, D.P. 2018. 'Plurilateral Trade Agreements and the Impact on LDCs – To Participate or Not to Participate?' Report prepared for DfID by the South African Institute of International Affairs in collaboration with Trade Matters and the TRADE research focus area at the North-West University.
- ❖ Bertelsmann-Scott, T., Jansen van Rensburg, S.J., Parry, A., Parshotam, A., Nkhata, D.P. & Rossouw, R. 2018. 'Plurilateral Trade Agreements Country Case Studies – Bangladesh'. South African Institute of International Affairs.
- ❖ Bertelsmann-Scott, T., Jansen van Rensburg, S.J., Parry, A., Parshotam, A., Phiri Nkhata, D., Rossouw, R., Langalanga A., Makong, T., Grater, S. & Nedumpara, J. (2018). Plurilateral trade agreements and the impact on LDCs – to participate or not to participate? FINAL REPORT 25 OCTOBER 2017. This report was prepared for DfID by the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) in collaboration with Trade Matters and the TRADE research focus area of the North-West University.
- ❖ Draft action plan for the export development and promotion of South Africa's service sectors. See tender: <https://www.thedti.gov.za/news2016/Bid21.pdf>. Report available on request from the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC).

- ❖ Jansen van Rensburg, S.J. & Sandrey, R. 2016. 'South Africa's Tariff Policy – Does it Matter?' Working paper developed as part of the 'Geek Week' data training workshop held at Tralac from 11 April–15 April.

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING COURSES (SELECTED)

While at SACU, Adelia attended various heads of state and government meetings, ministerial meetings, meetings of senior trade and finance officials, and technical meetings. These meetings were mostly in support of SACU's trade negotiations agenda and work programme and are too numerous to list here.

As a postdoctoral fellow, Adelia attended various conferences, seminars, workshops and skills development courses and was privileged to serve on some of the panels and moderate some sessions. A few are mentioned below:

- ❖ Webinar by the Trade Policy Research Forum on Writing and Presenting for Policymakers in Trade, 16 May 2024, NWU, Potchefstroom Campus.
- ❖ Guest lecture by the Deputy Director General of Trade, Ambassador Xolelwa M. Peter, on: 'Overview of South African Trade Policy and the Latest Developments', 21 May 2024, NWU, Potchefstroom Campus.
- ❖ Strategic Planning Session for TRADE, 31 January 2024, Pont de Val, Parys, South Africa.
- ❖ 3-day Postgraduate Supervision Workshop by Prof Eric Hofstee, 3–5 May 2023, NWU, Potchefstroom Campus.
- ❖ Faculty-EMS Induction Programme for new Academics 2021, 4 November 2021, NWU, Potchefstroom Campus.
- ❖ Annual International Trade & TRADE-DSM® User Group Conference, 12 March 2020, NWU, Potchefstroom Campus.
- ❖ TRADE SA –Tunisia Export Opportunities Project, 1st Workshop, 3–5 December 2019, NWU, Potchefstroom Campus.
- ❖ Launch of the 'Going Digital Think Tank', 19 February 2019, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- ❖ The first TRADE colloquium which took place on 14 February 2019, NWU, Potchefstroom Campus. New Master's and PhD students were required to attend this colloquium to present their research problems and obtain feedback.
- ❖ International Trade & TRADE-DSM® User Group Conference on some of the latest developments in international trade, 12–13 March 2019, Pretoria, South Africa.
- ❖ Trade Strategic Planning Workshop, 11 July 2019, NWU, Potchefstroom Campus.
- ❖ Research Integrity and Plagiarism – Focusing on International Publications from Different Levels by Dr Ida Sabelis, 9 October 2019.
- ❖ Special visit to TRADE by academics from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh to explore possible future collaboration opportunities between the two parties, 30–31 October 2018, NWU, Potchefstroom Campus.

- ❖ International Trade & TRADE-DSM® User Group Conference, 11–12 September 2018, Pretoria, South Africa. GEG Africa – Digital Transformation in Africa: Leveraging the Promise and Addressing New Challenges, 10 September 2018, Pretoria, South Africa.
- ❖ TRADE-DSM® User Group Conference, 13–14 March 2018, NWU, Potchefstroom Campus.
- ❖ Visit of H.E. Ambassador, Helene Budliger Artieda, from the Swiss Embassy to South Africa to discuss matters pertaining to the SACU–EFTA Free Trade Agreement, 25 January 2018, Brooklyn, Pretoria.
- ❖ Guest lecture by Prof Jonathan Calof on 'Global Competitive Intelligence (CI) Practices Study – Preliminary results and some interesting insights', 29 January 2018, NWU, Potchefstroom Campus.
- ❖ SAIIA – Workshop on the Challenges of Regional Integration, Trade Facilitation and Gender Equity for Africa, 1 December 2017, SAIIA, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- ❖ WTO National Consultative Conference to prepare South Africa's negotiating position for the WTO Ministerial Conference in Argentina in December 2017, 13 November 2017, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- ❖ WTO Chairs Programme Annual Conference, 6–7 December 2017, Buenos Aires, Argentina prior to the WTO's 11th Ministerial Conference (MC11).
- ❖ SADC–EU Economic Partnership Agreement, Civil Society Forum, 16 October 2017, IDC Conference Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- ❖ GEG Africa – Roundtable on The Multilateral Trading System and Africa: Key Developments, 15 September 2017, Pretoria, South Africa.
- ❖ TRADE research focus area, Article Writing School, 20–21 September 2017, NWU, Potchefstroom Campus.
- ❖ A research methodology and qualitative data analysis workshop by Prof Brigitte Smit from UNISA on 26–27 June 2017, NWU, Potchefstroom Campus.
- ❖ WTO workshop on GVCs and TRADE in Value Added (TiVA), 30 May–1 June 2017, NWU, Potchefstroom Campus.
- ❖ Honorary Doctorate ceremony of Prof Ludo Cuyvers, 26 May 2017, NWU, Potchefstroom Campus.
- ❖ Training for the Department of Trade and Industry on trade in services, 4–5 May 2017, DTI Campus, Pretoria, South Africa.
- ❖ Research visit to Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 1–8 April 2017 focusing on 'Developing Country Participation in Plurilateral Trade Agreements'.
- ❖ TRADE's Export Promotion Decision Support Model (DSM) training sessions, 23–24 March 2017, 4–5 April 2017 and 15–16 May 2017, NWU, Potchefstroom Campus.
- ❖ Cultural Intelligence Workshop, 23–24 April 2017, NWU, Potchefstroom Campus.
- ❖ TRADE-DSM® User Group Conference, 22–23 March 2017, NWU, Potchefstroom Campus.

- ❖ Guest lecture by Mr Ed Winant from the US Economic Office at the US Embassy in South Africa on US–SA trade relations, 23 March 2017, NWU, Potchefstroom Campus.
- ❖ Seminar on US Trade Policy in the Trump Administration (Trade Rules to Trade Deals) on 28 February 2017 at BUSA, South Africa.
- ❖ Services Strategy Steering Committee, 13 February 2017, DTI Campus, Pretoria, South Africa.
- ❖ Tralac Geek Week, 11–15 April 2016, Trade Law Centre, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- ❖ Meetings in preparation of SACU's 4th WTO Trade Policy Review, throughout 2015, Windhoek, Namibia.
- ❖ SACU Trade Policy Review – Regional Workshop, 4 November 2014, Windhoek, Namibia.
- ❖ Short Course on SACU – 'Taking Stock and Considering Future Developments', 5 September 2014, Windhoek, Namibia.
- ❖ Technical Regulations Framework Workshop, 16–18 September 2014, Swakopmund, Namibia.
- ❖ Excel Training (Levels 1–3), 19–21 May 2014, Cape Town, South Africa.
- ❖ African Union (AU) Workshop on Internal Markets, 21–22 November 2013, Arusha, Tanzania.
- ❖ Contemporary Diplomatic Practices and Protocols, 8–9 March 2012, Windhoek, Namibia.
- ❖ WTO Scheduling Exercise, 12 August 2011, Windhoek, Namibia.
- ❖ WTO Seminar on Regional Trade Agreements for English-Speaking African Countries, 17–19 May 2011, Gaborone, Botswana.

AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS

Adelia has the following awards/achievements to her credit:

WTO Chair of South Africa

In November 2024, Adelia was appointed as South Africa's WTO Chairs Programme (WCP) Chair holder, a prestigious role that recognises her expertise and leadership in international trade research and policy. In this capacity, she leads efforts to strengthen trade-related research, teaching, and outreach at the North-West University and across the country. Her responsibilities include guiding research on key trade policy issues, supporting capacity-building initiatives for students and policymakers, fostering collaboration between academia, government, and industry, and promoting South Africa's engagement with the global trading system. This appointment reflects her standing as a leading trade economist and her commitment to advancing knowledge and evidence-based policy in international trade.

WTO Chairs Programme bursary holder

Adelia was the recipient of a WTO Chairs Programme bursary in 2018.

Postdoctoral fellow at NWU

Adelia was the recipient of a postdoctoral fellowship (and grant) from the NWU from 2017–2018. The fellowship was designed to support Adelia in advancing her academic career.

National Research Foundation (NRF) doctoral scholarship

Adelia was an NRF doctoral scholarship (and bursary) holder from 2005–2009. The NRF is a government-mandated research and science development agency dedicated to promoting research excellence and the practical impact thereof in South Africa. Adelia was awarded the scholarship in recognition of her exceptional academic performance on having obtained her MCom in Economics with distinction. Adelia's PhD thesis, which was titled "The Export Promotion of South African Craft Products", contributed to a wider NRF research project being conducted in the School of Economic Sciences at the NWU at the time which aimed to identify the products/markets with the highest export potential for South Africa.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Adelia has been a member of various bodies, including:

WTO Chairs Programme (WCP)

Adelia has been a member of the WTO Chairs Programme at North-West University since 2017. The WCP was launched in 2010 as a capacity-building programme and is implemented through partnership agreements between the WTO and selected academic institutions worldwide. The programme supports trade-related academic activities at universities and research institutions in developing and least-developed countries. It has three pillars: curriculum development, research and outreach. Adelia has contributed to all three pillars.

TRADE (Trade and Development) research focus area

Adelia has been a member of the TRADE research focus area since 2017. TRADE specialises in the fields of trade and economic development and has made a significant contribution to these fields. In 2021, for example, TRADE members published 104 research articles in accredited journals, with a total research output of 65 article equivalents. Adelia's research contributions have mainly been in the areas of trade, trade policy, trade policy development, regional integration and digital trade. Much of her research to date has had an Africa focus.

International Trade Programme at NWU

Adelia has been a member of the School of Economic Sciences' International Trade Programme since 2019. The programme oversees and manages all work relating to International Trade at the School, including curriculum design, development and review at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Through the programme the School aims to offer world-class academic education in international trade and to ensure that all courses and modules reflect the latest developments in the field and meet the required quality standards.

TRADE research colloquium

Adelia has been a member of the TRADE research colloquium since 2017. The aim of the colloquium is to enhance the quality of the research outputs of the Master's and PhD students enrolled on the International Trade Programme at the NWU. During the colloquium, students are given the opportunity to present their research proposals to other, established researchers in TRADE. The latter then give students feedback to help them improve their work or generally guide them in their studies. Adelia has been a very active participant in the TRADE research colloquium process.

Going Digital Think Tank

Adelia has been a member of the 'Going Digital Think Tank' since February 2019. The 'Going Digital Think Tank' is a forum designed to facilitate regular discussions on digitalisation and the opportunities and challenges it presents for regional and international trade. The inaugural meeting was attended by selected trade experts as well as postgraduate students who were focusing on different aspects of the digitalisation phenomenon. The book Adelia co-wrote and co-edited, *Africa's Digital Future: From Theory to Action*, is one of the outputs of this forum.

Trade Research Advisory

Adelia was a research fellow at Trade Research Advisory from 2017–2023. Trade Research Advisory is a research and consulting firm specialising in international trade and economic development. The services provided by Trade Research Advisory centre on the identification of realistic export opportunities and the formulation of strategies to boost economic development and the impacts thereof on trade facilitation, infrastructure, logistics, market concentration, geography, technological innovation, entrepreneurship and foreign direct investment.

Export Promotion Research Group (EPRG)

Adelia was a member of the Export Promotion Research Group in the NWU's School of Economic Sciences from 2007–2009. The research group was established to provide export promotion assistance to the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) and Trade and Investment South Africa (TISA). One of the EPRG projects that Adelia was involved in was focused on boosting South Africa's economic growth prospects through the identification of South Africa's most realistic export opportunities. Most of the contributions made by this research group were captured in a book titled *Export Promotion: A Decision Support Model Approach*, edited by Prof Ludo Cuyvers and Prof Wilma Viviers. Adelia was one of the reviewers of the book.

Economic Society of South Africa (ESSA)

Adelia has been an occasional member of the Economic Society of South Africa since 2002. ESSA is a discussion forum for economists in academia, government and business in South Africa, and Adelia has presented papers at ESSA conferences over the years.

SACU Professional Staff Forum

Adelia was a member of SACU's Professional Staff Forum from 2010–2016. The Forum provided an opportunity for professionals in SACU (economists, trade policy analysts, trade negotiators and researchers) to come together and share their knowledge and views on the latest economic and trade developments (globally, multilaterally, continentally, regionally and within SACU) and to determine how these developments or events might influence SACU's trade policy agenda.

OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Adelia has built up an extensive international and regional network during her career, including the following entities:

Trade and trade policy related:

International: World Trade Organization and WTO Secretariat; WTO Chairs; International Trade Centre (ITC); Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR); UK Department for International Development (DfID); World Trade Institute (WTI); International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD); Institute for International Trade (IIT).

African: UNECA's African Trade Policy Centre.

South African: South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA); Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS); Trade Law Centre (Tralac); Tutwa Consulting; Global Economic Governance (GEG) Africa.

Regional trade organizations:

The African Union (AU) and AU Secretariat; the AfCFTA and AfCFTA Secretariat; the Tripartite FTA and Tripartite FTA Secretariat; the EAC; COMESA; SADC and their respective Secretariats; SACU and the SACU Secretariat.

Universities:

International:

Harvard's Kennedy School of Government; London School of Economics and Political Sciences (International Trade Policy Unit).

African: University of Botswana, National University of Lesotho, University of Namibia, University of Mauritius; University of Tunis.

South African: University of Cape Town; University of Stellenbosch; University of Pretoria; University of Johannesburg; University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) and the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA); University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) and Rhodes University.

She is also acquainted with the following individuals (and their work), who have made significant contributions to trade policy research, advocacy and development in Africa. Peter Draper, Trudi Hartzenberg, Dr. David Luke, Francis Mangeni, Gerhard Erasmus and Faizel Ismail, Elizabeth Sidiropoulos and Catherine Grant Makokera, amongst others.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

Adelia has the following professional skills and competencies:

General:

Adelia has excellent managerial capabilities, a visionary leadership style, proven strategic planning and decision-making skills, and strong analytical/critical thinking skills. She also has good verbal and written language skills (English, Afrikaans and basic French) and is proficient in the use of the MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook), among other programs.

Interpersonal:

Adelia loves working with people and has excellent interpersonal skills and cross-cultural sensitivity, and she builds relationships easily. Over the years, she has developed an extensive network of marketplace 'friends'. Two of her top five Gallup strengths are winning others over (WOO) and communication.

Strategic:

Adelia has an exceptional ability to think strategically and to be innovative, including in the design and execution of strategies. Her strategic orientation is her top Gallup strength. In this regard, she is forward-thinking, can recognise priorities, is an effective organiser, sets clear goals and helps team members deliver on those goals.

Teaching/lecturing:

Adelia enjoys teaching/lecturing very much, with students enjoying her highly engaged approach, her extensive knowledge and wide-ranging interests, and the effort she puts into motivating them to succeed in their studies and reach their full potential.

Trade negotiations and diplomacy:

Over the years, Adelia has developed excellent negotiation, cross-cultural communication, problem-solving and conflict-resolution skills. She is also politically savvy and is familiar with diplomatic protocols.

Trade, trade policy and trade policy development:

Adelia has a strong grasp of economic concepts and theories, but her main area of expertise is trade – specifically, trade relations, the trading system, trade rules, regulations and policies, trade agreements, trade negotiations, trade policies of developing nations and Africa, non-tariff barriers, customs procedures, regional trading blocs the technical aspects of trade. She is also very familiar with new-generation trade issues, such as trade in services and digital trade.

Research and analytical skills:

Adelia has advanced research and analytical skills. She can think critically, analyse and recommend solutions to problems, identify trends and patterns in given data, write effective papers and reports, speak knowledgeably about trade and economic concepts, convey research results clearly and convincingly, work independently and work in teams, as may be required.

Trade, trade policy and trade policy development:

Adelia is very familiar with several data sources and quantitative methods that focus on trade and trade policy issues. These include (but are not limited to):

Trade Map, Export Potential Map, Market Access Map, Investment Map, Decision Support Model (DSM) software, Global Trade Alert (GTA) database, UNCTAD TRAINS, UN COMTRADE, WORLD Integrated Trade Solutions (WITS), OECD trade in services data and the WTO–OECD Balanced Trade in Services datasets (BaTiS).

She is also well acquainted with various economic, trade and trade policy uncertainty indexes, regional integration indexes, and digital development and digital readiness indexes.

REFERENCES

The following individuals can be contacted for a confidential reference on Adelia:

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