Africa Training Workshops in International Trade & Finance in Development
(AFTW-2026)
September 22 to October 30, 2026.
FULLY REMOTE

Dates:

Workshop 1 - International Trade: **Sept. 22–24, 2026**
Workshop 2 - Finance in Development: **Sept. 28-Oct. 30, 2026**

Purpose:

Workshop 1: International trade plays a central role in economic development by shaping production patterns, employment opportunities, productivity, and consumer welfare. Understanding the microeconomic foundations of trade is essential for analyzing how countries, firms, and workers respond to international market integration and trade policy. In developing economies, where informal sectors remain large and market imperfections are widespread, the effects of trade reforms and policy interventions often differ from those predicted by standard models, making rigorous theoretical and empirical analysis particularly important.

This workshop series introduces the theoretical and empirical foundations of modern international trade. The workshop is organized around two complementary components. The first covers the microeconomic theory of trade, including comparative advantages, international prices, trade distortions (such as tariffs and taxes), and welfare analysis. The second examines empirical evidence on the effects of trade on firms, workers, and households, with a focus on developing countries, informal sectors, trade reforms, and welfare outcomes. Throughout the workshop, participants will learn how economic theory guides empirical analysis and informs policy evaluation.

Workshop 2: Finance is central to the process of economic development. Access to credit, insurance, savings instruments, and payment systems shapes the ability of households and firms to manage risk, undertake investment, accumulate assets, and respond to economic and environmental shocks. In many low-income settings, however, access to formal financial services remains limited, and existing products do not always reflect the constraints and needs of their intended users.

This workshop series brings together leading scholars to examine core topics in finance and development. The lectures will integrate economic theory with empirical evidence and recent methodological and conceptual advances in the field. Topics will include household credit, informal and formal insurance, savings and capital accumulation, payment systems, financial technology, and the implications of artificial intelligence for financial markets and institutions. The series will also consider recent innovations in financial contracting and product design, including flexible repayment arrangements, asset collateralization, equity- and performance-based contracts, climate-adaptation finance, and carbon-credit markets.

Target audience:

The workshop is intended primarily for PhD students and early-career scholars affiliated with institutions in Africa, while also welcoming participants from Europe, North America, Asia, and other regions.

Organizers: Prosper Dovonon (Concordia University), Ameet Morjaria (MIT, Sloan), Tavneet Suri (MIT Sloan), Didier Tatoutchoup (Universite de Moncton), Firmin Doko Tchatoka (Adelaide University)

Format: **Fully remote**

Registration fees: **250 USD**

Instructors (in alphabetical order)

International Trade (6 lectures)**:**
Arnaud Costinot (MIT)
Heitor Pellegrina (Notre Dame)

Finance in Development (10 lectures)**:**
Lorenzo Casaburi (University of Zurich)
Julieta Caunedo (Cornell University)
Pascaline Dupas (Princeton University)
Thierry Foucault (HEC Paris)
Sean Higgins (Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management)
Kelsey Jack (University of California, Berkeley)
Robert Osei (University of Ghana)
Simon Quinn (Imperial College London)
Chris Udry (Northwestern University)
Chris Woodruff (Oxford University)

Important Dates:

Deadline for applications: September 1, 2026
Admission decision: September 7, 2026
Registration deadline: September 20, 2026

How to apply?

Applicants must be members of the Econometric Society at the time of application.To join the Econometric Society, please go to ES-join-renew or ES-membership-AfRegion. Special rates apply to students and scholars currently based in low- and low-middle income countries.

Sponsored membership: Africa-based applicants may apply for *sponsored membership* (for more information click here.)

Application file and submission: Applicants shall provide a detailed CV and a cover letter (in pdf format). Applications shall be submitted through Oxford Abstracts:
https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/83213/submitter

The admission decision will be notified individually.

Information about scholarships and registration will be made available on the homepage of the Africa Training Workshop at ES-aftw-2026 or here.

For more information, email Prosper Dovonon at prosper.dovonon@concordia.ca

Topics and Schedule

Workshop 1: International Trade

Topics

Microeconomic Foundations of Trade (MFT)
By Prof. Arnaud Costinot

Empirical Trade Analysis (ETA)
By Prof. Heitor Pellegrina

Schedule

Date/Time	Topic	Course Title	Instructor
Tuesday, Sept. 22 13:00-16:00 GMT (9:00-12:00 US EDT)	Microeconomic Foundations of Trade (MFT)	Lecture 1: MFT	A. Costinot
Tuesday, Sept. 22 18:00-21:00 GMT (14:00-17:00 US EDT)	Empirical Trade Analysis (ETA)	Lecture 2: ETA	H. Pellegrina
Wednesday, Sept. 23 12:00-15:00 GMT (8:00-11:00 US EDT)	Empirical Trade Analysis (ETA)	Lecture 3: ETA	H. Pellegrina
Wednesday, Sept. 23 17:00-20:00 GMT (13:00-16:00 US EDT)	Microeconomic Foundations of Trade (MFT)	Lecture 4: MFT	A. Costinot
Thursday, Sept. 24 12:00-15:00 GMT (8:00-11:00 US EDT)	Empirical Trade Analysis (ETA)	Lecture 5: ETA	H. Pellegrina
Thursday, Sept. 24 17:00-20:00 GMT (13:00-16:00 US EDT)	Microeconomic Foundations of Trade (MFT)	Lecture 6: MFT	A. Costinot

Workshop 2: Finance in Development

Topics

Savings: two lectures by Profs. Pascaline Dupas, and Julieta Caunedo
Credit: two lectures by Profs. Robert Osei, and Chris Woodruff
Insurance: two lectures by Profs. Chris Udry, and Lorenzo Casaburi
Innovations in Financial Products: two lectures by Profs. S. Quinn, and K. Jack
Fintech and Payment Systems: two lectures by Profs. S. Higgins, and T. Foucault

Schedule (subject to minor changes)

Date/Time	Topic	Course Title	Instructor
Thu Oct. 1 13:00-16:00 GMT (9:00-12:00 US-EDT)	Savings	Savings and capital accumulation	P. Dupas
Mon Oct. 5 13:00-16:00 GMT (9:00-12:00 US-EDT)	Savings	Capital accumulation	J. Caunedo
Wed Oct. 7 13:00-16:00 GMT (9:00-12:00 US-EDT)	Credit	How does credit help firms	C. Woodruff
Mon Oct. 12 13:00-16:00 GMT (9:00-12:00 US-EDT)	Credit	The role of credit for households	R. Osei
Tue Oct 13 13:00-16:00 GMT (9:00-12:00 US-EDT)	Insurance	Informal insurance and barriers to perfect insurance	C. Udry
Thu Oct. 15 9:00-12:00 GMT (5:00-8:00 US-EDT)	Insurance	Formal insurance markets	L. Casaburi
Thu Oct. 22 13:00-16:00 GMT (9:00-12:00 US-EDT)	Innovations in Financial Products	Flexibility, asset collateralization and equity/performance contracts	S. Quinn
Fri Oct. 23 13:00-16:00 GMT (9:00-12:00 US-EDT)	Fintech and Payment Systems	The role of payment systems in development	S. Higgins
Tue Oct. 27 17:00-20:00 GMT (13:00-16:00 US-EDT)	Innovations in Financial Products	Financing Climate Adaptation and Carbon Credits	K. Jack
Thu Oct. 29 13:00-16:00 GMT (9:00-12:00 US-EDT)	Fintech and Payment Systems	The role of AI in the financial system	T. Foucault