



Communication and Marketing Department
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**UCT expert to speak on Economics and Transformation: Measurement,
Models, Maths and Myths**

**Inaugural lecture by Professor Martin Wittenberg: Wednesday, 8 August 2012, at
17h30 in LT1, Kramer Law Building, Middle Campus**

Professor Martin Wittenberg of the School of Economics at the University of Cape Town will speak on "Economics and Transformation: Measurement, Models, Maths and Myths" on Wednesday, 8 August 2012, at 17h30.

Professor Wittenberg's research has focused on the analysis of household surveys: ranging widely from writing technical papers dealing with measurement problems to producing analyses of the economic determinants of obesity and how South Africans use their time. Some of these papers have been published in top-ranked economics journals. He has also worked on more applied problems for the South African government, including designing the multibillion-rand "equitable share" formula that underpins the transfers from central government to municipalities.

More recently he has directed the DataFirst unit at UCT: a unique facility on the African continent, specialising in making household surveys available for academic users and training researchers and officials from national statistics offices. It has also engaged actively with Statistics South Africa around the quality of publicly released datasets.

Born in Germany but growing up in Pietermaritzburg, Professor Wittenberg received his university education at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, where he majored in philosophy, mathematics and statistics, did an Honours in political philosophy and a Masters in political science before completing his doctorate in human geography. He spent much of the 1980s active in anti-apartheid organisations. After 1994 he took up a lecturing position in the Economics Department at the University of the Witwatersrand, teaching mathematical economics and econometrics. He joined UCT in 2004 teaching mainly postgraduate courses in econometrics and game theory.

ENDS

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