

Ritva Reinikka

Professional Experience

Professor of Practice/Senior Fellow, Aalto University School of Business, Finland

December 2019-present

- *Department of Economics*, teaching development economics and supervising students.

Special Advisor to European Union Commissioner for International Partnerships

March 2021-present

- Appointed by the EU College to serve as Special Advisor to Ms. Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner

UNU-WIDER, Honorary Research Fellow

November 2021-present

- United Nations University, World Institute for Development Economics Research

Independent Development Economist

December 2013-November 2019

- *Department for International Development (DFID), United Kingdom*: Chair of the Delivery Board for Research for Improving Systems of Education ([RISE](#)), a research program directed by Professor Lant Pritchett. Partners include Blavatnik School of Government (Oxford), Oxford Policy Management, Government of Australia and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. March 2015-June 2020.
- *The World Bank*: Chair of the Steering Committee for the Service Delivery Indicators ([SDI](#)) Initiative in education and health care. October 2016-December 2021.
- *United Nations University*: Term member of External Review and Evaluation of UNU-WIDER 2011-2020. February-November 2020.
- *European Stability Mechanism (ESM)*, Advisory Reference Group for (i) an [evaluation](#) of financial assistance to Greece from April 2019 to June 2020; and (ii) ESM Capacity Evaluation from March 2023 to March 2025.
- *Independent Evaluation Group (IEG), The World Bank*: Peer reviewer for “Engaging Citizens for Better Development Results” [report](#) and “Mexico Country Program Evaluation 2008-2017.” March 2017-April 2018.
- *Lappeenranta University of Technology, Finland*: Taught a graduate course in international development. Spring 2017; Spring 2020.
- *Centennial Group International, Washington, DC, USA*: Co-team leader and main author of the report “Making a Difference: The Aga Khan University’s [Economic Impacts](#) in Pakistan.” May 2016-September 2017.
- *African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), Nairobi, Kenya*: Designed and delivered a series of advanced research courses on using the Service Delivery Indicators data in education and health care in Africa. Courses were held in Kenya, Tanzania and Nigeria. August 2015-April 2016.
- *Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland*: Prepared reports “[Results on the Ground?](#) An Independent Review of Finnish Aid” at the request of the Finnish Parliament, *Eduskunta* (February-July 2015, with James W. Adams); “[Stepping Up](#) Finland’s Global Role in Education” (February-August 2018, with Professor Hannele Niemi and

Jukka Tulivuori); and “Stepping Up Finland’s Support to Education in Mozambique” (November 2018-January 2019, with Esmeralda Napaua).

Sector Director, Africa Region, World Bank

November 2010-November 2013

- Responsible for the World Bank’s Human Development (HD) work program and 200+ staff working in the 48 countries of the Africa Region in education, health and social protection. Member of the Bank-wide HD Council and the Africa Region’s Senior Leadership Team.
- The Department’s lending portfolio consisted, on average, of 125 lending operations under supervision, with over US\$10 billion in commitments. Around 35 new operations were delivered annually at about US\$2 billion in IDA, IBRD and trust fund financing.
- The Department produced an average of 50 regional and country-specific analytic and advisory (AAA) products for Sub-Saharan Africa, including Service Delivery Indicators (SDI) and regional flagship reports on youth employment, population, and social safety nets.

Sector Director, Middle East & North Africa Region, World Bank

March 2008-October 2010

- Responsible for Poverty Reduction and Economic Management (PREM) work program in the MENA Region in economic policy and management, trade, poverty, gender, and public sector governance. Member of the Bank-wide PREM Council and the Region’s Management Team.
- Responsible for Finance and Private Sector Development (FPD) work program in the MENA Region. Member of Bank-wide FPD Directors’ group.
- In 2009/10 the Department delivered US\$2 billion in new IBRD lending in response to the global financial and economic crisis; supervised 14 operations; and prepared 37 regional and country-specific analytic and advisory (AAA) products, including reimbursable technical assistance.
- Acting Chief Economist for the MENA Region.

Country Director, Africa Region, World Bank

August 2004-February 2008

- Based in Pretoria, provided strategic leadership for Bank programs and led policy dialogue in five middle-income countries South Africa, Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia, and Swaziland and two active low-income IDA countries Lesotho and Madagascar.
- Led preparation of an action plan for middle income countries in Africa. Region’s Award for Excellence in 2008.
- Oversaw preparation of a Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for South Africa paving the way for deeper cooperation including subsequent IBRD lending; the first Interim Strategy Note (ISN) for Namibia; and of Country Assistance Strategies (CAS) for Lesotho and Madagascar.
- Lending operations included: the first IBRD loan for Namibia; IBRD lending program for Mauritius where opened a Bank office; and new infrastructure lending and an IBRD buy-down for HIV/AIDS in Botswana.

Director, 2004 World Development Report (WDR), World Bank

July 2002-June 2003

- Co-directed, with Shantayanan Devarajan, the 2004 WDR *Making Services Work for Poor People*, working with the core WDR team, Public Services Research Team, and the Bank-wide Human Development Network.

- Disseminated the Report's findings extensively in Africa, East and South Asia, Europe, Latin America, and North America.

Research Manager, Development Research Group, World Bank

February 2001–August 2004

- Led integration of two existing research teams—one in human development working on the demand side and using household survey data and the other in public economics working on the supply side and using macro and fiscal data—into a single Public Services Research Team.
- Led piloting of quantitative service delivery surveys (QSDS) to measure service quality and analyze incentives and behavior of service providers. Managed surveys in Africa, Russia and East Asia.
- Carried out and published research on the role of motivation and information interventions (a newspaper campaign, citizen report cards) in service delivery.
- Member of the PREM Public Sector Board.

Lead Economist, Development Research Group, World Bank

September 1999–January 2001

- Member of the Public Economics Research Team, working on the impact of poor public capital (infrastructure) on private sector development; taxation; and service delivery in health care and education.
- *Poverty Reduction Support Credit*, Uganda (2001). Task team leader for the first-ever Poverty Reduction Support Credit (PRSC) in the World Bank. The operation focused on poverty, human development outcomes, and service delivery. Its reform agenda included public spending, budget management, cross-cutting public sector reforms, public financial management, education, health, water, and sanitation. The *President's Award for Excellence* in 2002.

Economist/Senior Economist, Africa Region, World Bank

December 1993–August 1999

Lending operations

- Uganda Education Sector Adjustment Credit (US\$155 million, 1997-98). Team member responsible for education finance component. This operation represented an early shift from the project modality to supporting a sector-wide program in education. In response to government's universal primary education (UPE) initiative, which brought over 3 million additional children to primary school.
- Third Structural Adjustment Credit for Uganda (US\$125 million, 1997). Team member responsible for the trade policy component.
- Second Structural Adjustment Credit for Uganda (US\$80 million, 1994-95). Task manager responsible for the second tranche release.

Analytic and Advisory Work

- Enterprise surveys in Uganda (1997-98). Task team leader responsible for design and implementation of domestic and foreign investor surveys jointly with the main private sector association in Uganda. They contributed to the subsequent design of standardized investment climate (ICA) surveys. Led to a medium-term competitiveness strategy adopted by Government. Published peer-reviewed journal articles in the *Journal of Development Economics* and *Journal of African Economies*.
- Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) for Uganda (1997). Team leader for the first public CAS in the World Bank.
- Public expenditure tracking survey (PETS, 1996). Task manager responsible for design and implementation of the first-ever PETS to quantify leakage of public funds in education and health care in Uganda. The PETS became a widely-used survey tool across the world and continues to be used today. Published peer-

reviewed journal articles in the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, and *Journal of Public Economics*.

- Poverty Eradication Action Plan (1995-97). Task manager responsible for technical support to the Government of Uganda to prepare its first Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP). Subsequently, Uganda's PEAP became a model for the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) for all low-income countries benefiting from debt relief under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative.
- Country Economic Memorandum (1995-96). Task manager for a red cover report *Uganda: The Challenge of Growth and Poverty Reduction*.

Research Officer, Helsinki School of Economics

October 1986-September 1990

- Research Institute (Perustutkimuksenlaitos); Program for Development Cooperation (PRODEC).
- Participant in the Yrjö Jahnsson Foundation's 1988 Graduate Course on *International Trade Theory*, taught by Professors Victor Norman and Anthony Venables.

Assistant Program Officer, United Nations Children's Fund

May 1982-July 1983

- Responsible for managing UNICEF's Liaison Office in Maseru, Lesotho and—jointly with the UNICEF area office in Lusaka, Zambia—for the Lesotho country program, including programs in health care, education, sanitation, and women's economic empowerment.

Country Economist/Officer, FINNIDA, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland

May 1978-September 1986

- Country Economist/Officer for Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and Southern African Development Coordinating Conference (now SADC).
- Task team leader for bilateral projects in human development in Sub-Saharan Africa and Egypt.
- Economist in FINNIDA's Development Policy Unit.
- Staff member assigned to the Nordic high-level coordination committee for development cooperation led by then-Under Secretary of State, President Martti Ahtisaari.
- Secretary to the multi-stakeholder national Development Policy Committee (TALKE), chaired by Minister Per Stenbäck.
- Participant in the Foreign Ministry's Training Course for Diplomats (KAVAKU-11) in 1980.

Education

D.Phil (Oxon). 1993. University of Oxford, United Kingdom. Economics (applied macroeconomics, international trade and economic development). Thesis: *Credibility, Speculation and Speed of Trade Liberalization with an Application to Kenya*. Thesis supervisor Professor Paul Collier.

Lic.Sc. (Econ.). 1990. Helsinki School of Economics, Finland. Major in economics (international trade). Thesis: *Liberalization of Trade in Developing Countries: The Effects on Employment and Welfare*. Thesis supervisor Professor Pertti Haaparanta.

M.Sc. (Econ.) program. 1983-84. L'Université de Montréal, Canada. Major in economics (microeconomics, macroeconomics, economic development). Supervisor Professor André Martin. (Rotary International scholarship for one year).

M.Sc. (Econ.). 1978 Helsinki School of Economics, Finland. Major in economic geography and minor in business administration. Thesis supervisor Professor Reijo Helle.

B.Sc. (Econ.). 1977 Helsinki School of Economics, Finland. Major in economic geography and minor in business administration.

Awards

Yrjö Jahnsson Foundation Science Award in 2022.

Jaakko Honko Medal, Aalto University School of Business in 2021.

Prize of the Finnish Cultural Foundation (*Suomen Kulttuurirahaston Palkinto*) in 2014.

The World Bank President's Award of Excellence in 2002.

Publications

"The Power of Information in Public Services: Evidence from Education in Uganda" *Journal of Public Economics*, 2011, vol. 95 (7-8): 956-966 [with Jakob Svensson]. [JoPubEcon](#)

"Working For God? Evidence From a Change In Financing of Nonprofit Health Care Providers in Uganda." *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 2010, vol. 8 (6):1159–1178 [with Jakob Svensson]. [JEEA](#)

"Shifting Tax Burdens through Evasion and Exemptions: An Empirical Investigation of Uganda." *Journal of African Economies*, 2006, vol. 15 (3): 373-398 [with Bernard Gauthier]. [JAE](#)

"Using Micro Surveys to Measure and Explain Corruption." *World Development*, 2006, vol. 34 (2, February): 359-370. [with Jakob Svensson]. [ScienceDirect](#)

"Fighting Corruption to Improve Schooling: Evidence from a Newspaper Campaign in Uganda." *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 2005, vol. 3 (2-3): 259-267. [with Jakob Svensson]. [JEEA](#)

"Local Capture: Evidence from a Central Government Transfer Program in Uganda." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2004, vol. 119 (2):679-705 [with Jakob Svensson]. [QJE](#) [Emerald Citations of Excellence Award "Top Fifty" (UK) for 2004.]

"How Research Can Assist Policy: The Case of Economic Reforms In Uganda." *World Bank Research Observer*, 2002, 17 (2, Fall): 267-92. [with John Mackinnon]. [Full text](#).

"Coping with Poor Public Capital." *Journal of Development Economics*, 2002, vol. 69, issue 1 (October): 51-69. [with Jakob Svensson]. [JDE](#)

"The Credibility Problem in Trade Liberalisation: Empirical Evidence from Kenya." *Journal of African Economies*, 1996, vol. 5 (October): 444-68. [JAE](#)

World Development Report 2004 "*Making Service Work for Poor People*." 2003. Washington, D.C.: A Co-[Publication](#) of the World Bank and Oxford University Press. [co-director with Shantayanan Devarajan]

[Uganda's Recovery: The Role of Farms, Firms, and Government](#). Regional and Sectoral Studies. Washington, D.C.: World Bank and Fountain Publishers, Kampala. 2001 (eds). [with Paul Collier].

A full list of publications and reports is available upon request.

Languages

Finnish (native); English (excellent); French (good); Swedish (good); Spanish (basic)