

## Curriculum Vitae

### Michael Samson

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**Profession** Director of Research, Economic Policy Research Institute and a Visiting Associate Professor of Economics at the Williams College Center for Development Economics in the United States.

**Nationality** American

**Summary** Dr. Michael Samson is EPRI's director of research with twenty-five years experience in social protection, specialising in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating social cash transfer programmes. He co-ordinates and co-leads the team implementing the impact assessment of the Child Support Grant in South Africa, as well as EPRI's previous evaluations of social grants in South Africa and the impact assessment in Mozambique. He organised the workshop in Nairobi last year on open source MIS for social cash transfer programmes. He has lectured for policy conferences and training workshops in around the world.

**Key Skills Technical Competence:**

1. Monitoring
2. Evaluation
3. Social Cash Transfer
4. Social Policy

**Experience:**

1. Quantitative Survey Design
2. Qualitative Survey Design
3. Development of Databases
4. Capacity Building
5. Evaluation

**Skills and Expertise:**

1. Statistical Analysis
2. Sampling
3. In-Country Work Experience
4. Process Management

**Country Experience**

He has recently completed policy design projects for social assistance programmes in Malawi, Lesotho, Senegal, Ghana, Rwanda and Kenya. He is currently working on social protection projects in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Mozambique, Nepal, Samoa, South Africa and Uganda.

**Academic and Professional Qualifications**

1994 Stanford University, Ph D. Economics

1983 Yale University, B.A. Economics

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**Present Position**

Director of Research, Economic Policy Research Institute and a Visiting Associate Professor of Economics at the Williams College Center for Development Economics in the United States.

## **Selected Relevant Consultancy Experience**

- 2010      **Quantitative Analysis of the Impact of the Child Support Grant, UNICEF, SASSA and Department of Social Development, South Africa.**  
Team Leader. Consortium includes International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Institute for Development Studies (IDS) and Oxford Policy Management (OPM). This project follows the 2008 impact assessment of South Africa's Child Support Grant, designing and implementing a quasi-experimental evaluation of the impact of the grant on early childhood development, education, health and livelihood outcomes.
- 2010      **Social protection support to the Government of Nepal**  
Team Leader. Policy analysis and micro-simulation modelling of proposed social protection interventions, including Nepal's new child benefits. Analysis of potential impacts, targeting effectiveness, poverty efficiency, costs and fiscal affordability.
- 2010      **Assessment of Chars Livelihood Project in Bangladesh**  
Team Leader. Evaluate an asset transfer programme and assess impact on education, nutrition, and other key outcome indicators. Design development partner opportunities for AusAID to participate in this DFID-funded programme.
- 2009      **Micro-simulation course for social transfers (Bolivia)**  
Team Leader. Teach a micro-simulation course for evaluating costs and benefits of child grants and social pensions for the Latin American region. Participants from government in 4 Latin American countries.
- 2009      **Design and feasibility study of social transfers in Uganda**  
Provide design support and financial analysis of new social transfer programme targeting vulnerable households in Uganda.
- 2009      **Micro-simulation of South Africa's Child Support Grant extension**  
Micro-simulate policy options for the Government of South Africa to expand the Child Support Grant to all children under age of 18 years. Assess cost, poverty impact, fiscal efficiency and targeting performance.
- 2008      **Quantitative Analysis of the Impact of the Child Support Grant, UNICEF and Department of Social Development, South Africa.**  
Team Leader. Examined the impact of South Africa's Child Support Grant (CSG) on children's lives, in order to extend an emerging evidence base with more robust quantitative research (see EPRI's organisational profile for details).
- 2008      **Sustainability of the South African Social Grants System, UNICEF and Department of Social Development, South Africa.**  
Team Leader. Employed a comprehensive modelling exercise to identify and analyse the drivers of South Africa's social grant spending, and to link this investment to broader poverty reduction and economic growth outcomes (see EPRI's organisational profile for details).
- 2008      **A Review of Means Tests for South Africa's Social Grants, Department of Social Development, South Africa.**  
Team Leader. Reviewed the rationale for means testing and its effectiveness in the South African context, and evaluates the specific income threshold for each social grant in order to make policy recommendations (see EPRI's organisational profile for details).

## **Selected Relevant Consultancy Experience**

- 2008      **South Africa's Social Security Reforms and Improvements – A 15-Year Review, Office of the Presidency, South Africa.**  
Team Leader. Reviewed South Africa's social security reforms over the last 15 years. Examined both social assistance, which targets the poor based on means testing, and social insurance, contributory schemes for the formally employed (see EPRI's organisational profile for details).
- 2008      **Consultancy Report on Ghana's LEAP Programme, Ministry of Manpower, Ghana.**  
Team Leader. Served as a consultant on Ghana's Livelihoods Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) programme to make recommendations about transfer amount and payment method, mitigation of fiduciary risk, targeting, conditionalities and complementary programmes (see EPRI's organisational profile for details).
- 2008      **Development of a National Social Protection Strategy in Kenya, DFID, Kenya.**  
Team Leader. Developed a national social protection strategy for Kenya, in order to help poor and vulnerable households meet basic needs, to develop human capital, to minimise vulnerability to shocks, and to redistribute income (see EPRI's organisational profile for details).
- 2008      **Monitoring and Evaluation of Kenya's Hunger Safety Net Programme, DFID, Kenya.**  
Team Leader. Set up a monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the impact and efficiency of Kenya's Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP), in order to build an evidence base for cost-effective delivery of social protection in Kenya (see EPRI's organisational profile for details).
- 2008      **Delivery Mechanism Design for OVC Transfer Programme, UNICEF & the Government of Lesotho, Lesotho.**  
Team Leader. Addressed key design issues for Lesotho's forthcoming cash transfer programme for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), which will be established in three pilot areas before scaling up (see EPRI's organisational profile for details).
- 2008      **Feasibility Study for a Social Pension, commissioned by Government of Malawi, funded by HelpAge International, Malawi.**  
Team Leader. Produces fifteen different scenarios for a proposed social pension in Malawi, and examined poverty gap reduction, cost as percentage of GDP and efficiency for each scenario (see EPRI's organisational profile for details).
- 2008      **Integrated Social Protection Feasibility Study, commissioned by Save the Children, funded by UNICEF, Rwanda.**  
Team Leader. Assessed the feasibility of a model for social protection in Rwanda that will integrate poverty and childhood vulnerability (see EPRI's organisational profile for details).
- 2008      **Options for Supporting BEAM in Zimbabwe, Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare and UNICEF, Zimbabwe.**  
Team Leader. Explored Zimbabwe's Basic Education Assistance Module's (BEAM) current operation in detail. Proposed viable options for supporting the programme (see EPRI's organisational profile for details).
- 2008      **Dynamic Social Security for Africa: An Agenda for Development, ISSA, Regional Africa.**  
Team Leader. Highlighted, synthesised and interpreted recent developments and trends in social security policy and practice in Africa (see EPRI's organisational profile for details).

## **Selected Relevant Consultancy Experience**

- 2008      **Supporting Inclusive Economic Growth in Nepal: Potential Interventions, DFID, Nepal.**  
Team Leader. Supported Nepal's 'Three-Year Interim Plan' which calls for acceleration of pro-poor and broad-based economic growth. Recommended practical actions for the government to undertake in partnership with donors (see EPRI's organisational profile for details).
- 2008      **Cash Transfers for Children in Papua New Guinea, UNICEF, Papua New Guinea.**  
Team Leader. Examined the international experience of cash transfers in light of Papua New Guinea's social, economic and policy context, identified lessons and raised questions for examination by policymakers and other key stakeholders (see EPRI's organisational profile for details).
- 2008      **Targeted and Universal Social Transfers, DFID, International**  
Team Leader. Reviewed the effectiveness and efficiency of alternative targeting mechanisms for social transfers in low-income and low capacity contexts (see EPRI's organisational profile for details).
- 2007-      **Designing and Implementing Social Transfer Programmes, DFID, South Africa and Thailand.**  
Team Leader. The past three years EPRI has coordinated a two-week course in both Cape Town (July) and then in Chiang Mai (October). The course aimed to give participants an in-depth understanding of the theoretical and practical issues involved in developing social transfer programmes (see EPRI's organisational profile for details).
- 2007-      **Social Protection Study Tours, DFID, South Africa.**  
Team Leader. EPRI was commissioned by DFID's Equity and Rights Team in the UK to host a series of one-week study tours for key government officials from developing countries (see EPRI's organisational profile for details).
- 2000-      **Parliamentary Capacity Building Programme, South Africa**  
Team Leader. The Parliamentary Capacity Building Programme was launched in 2000 to promote social and economic development in South Africa by enhancing capacity for economic policy analysis in the public sector (see EPRI's organisational profile for details).

## **Other Professional Experience**

- 2000 –      **Director of Research, Economic Policy Research Institute, Cape Town, South Africa.**  
Direct research and training programmes for the institute. Research projects include an analysis of social security reform options for the Ministry of Social Development, the design of a social protection strategy in Kenya, support for social transfer programmes for the Government of Pakistan, and studies on the socio-economic impact of HIV/AIDS. Capacity-building initiatives include degree-oriented economic policy programmes for Southern African parliamentarians and government economists as well as social protection courses for government and other stakeholders.
- 2000 –      **Visiting Associate Professor, Williams College, Department of Economics, Center for Development Economics, Williamstown, Massachusetts, USA.**  
Visiting Associate Professor of Economics (Joint appointment with the Economic Policy Research Institute.)  
Assistant Professor of Economics, 1993 to June 2000.
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## Awards, Honours, and Fellowships

1985 – 1988	National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship, Stanford University.
1986	Tinker Foundation Research Grant, Stanford University.
1983	Summa Cum Laude, Distinction in Economics, Yale University.
1983	Phi Beta Kappa, Yale University.
1983	Ellsworth Prize for Excellence in the Senior Thesis, Yale University.
1983	Fellows Prize for academic standing, Yale University.
1981	National Science Foundation Undergraduate Research Grant, Yale University.

## Selected Publications

Michael Samson, Kenneth Mac Quene and Ingrid van Niekerk (2008). Feasibility study for a social pension in Malawi. Government of Malawi report.

Michael Samson, Cecile Cherrier, Kenneth Mac Quene and Ingrid van Niekerk (2008). A child-centred social protection strategy for Rwanda. UNICEF and Save the Children Rwanda.

Michael Samson, Kenneth Mac Quene, Ingrid van Niekerk and Sheshi Kaniki (2007). Feasibility study for a child grant in Lesotho. Government of Lesotho report commissioned by UNICEF.

Michael Samson, Kenneth Mac Quene, Ingrid van Niekerk and Sheshi Kaniki (2007). Implementation plan for the Livelihoods Empowerment Against Poverty cash transfer programme. Government of Ghana report.

Michael Samson, (with K. Mac Quene and I. van Niekerk) *Designing and Implementing Social Transfer Programmes*. EPRI Press: Cape Town, 2006.

Michael Samson, (with K. Mac Quene and I. van Niekerk) "A Case Study of Social Security in South Africa". Commissioned 2005 by the Inter-regional Inequality Facility (NEPAD, African Development Bank, Economic Commission on Africa, et. al.)

\_\_\_\_\_, (with K. Mac Quene, I. van Niekerk, J. Lorentzen, H. Rhee, S. Kaniki, G. S. Mabilo, E. Mtonga, R. Lamberti and K. Reynolds). "An Assessment of the Government's Microeconomic Reform Strategy and Overview of Developments and Outlook of South Africa's Real Economy". Commissioned 2004 by the Ministry of Trade and Industry's Office of the Director-General for the 2005 Cabinet Lekgotla.

\_\_\_\_\_, (with U. Lee, A. Ndlebe, K. Mac Quene, I. van Niekerk, V. Gandhi and T. Harigaya). "The Social and Economic Impact of South Africa's Social Security System". Commissioned by the Economics and Finance Directorate, Ministry of Social Development, 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_, "The Socio-economic Impact of South Africa's State Old Age Pension". Commissioned by the Economics and Finance Directorate, Department of Social Development, 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_, (with U. Lee, K. Mac Quene, I. van Niekerk, V. Gandhi) "The Social and Economic Impact of Social Assistance Grants". Research report commissioned by the Department of Social Development (South African Government), 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_, "HIV/AIDS and poverty in households with children suffering from malnutrition: The role of social security in Mount Frere". *South African Journal of Economics* Vol. 70:7, 2002.

\_\_\_\_\_, "The Social, Economic and Fiscal Impact of Comprehensive Social Security Reform for South Africa". *Social Dynamics* Vol. 28:2, 2002.

## Selected Publications

- \_\_\_\_\_, (with N. Sogaula, R. van Niekerk, M. Noble, C. Green, and M. Sigala) "Social security transfers, poverty and chronic illness in the Eastern Cape: an investigation of the relationship between social security grants, the alleviation of rural poverty and chronic illnesses including those associated with HIV/AIDS – a case study of Mount Frere in the Eastern Cape". Economic Policy Research Institute, 2002.
- \_\_\_\_\_, (with A. Stevens, T. McCarthy-Johnson, K. Mac Quene and I. van Niekerk) "Linkages between poverty and the environment: evidence from cross-country studies and the 1999 October Household Survey". *EPRI Research Paper No. 29*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2002.
- \_\_\_\_\_, (with K. Mac Quene, I. van Niekerk, and T. McCarthy-Johnson) "Poverty, HIV/AIDS and social security". *EPRI Research Paper No. 30*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2002.
- \_\_\_\_\_, (with C. Haarmann, D. Haarmann, K. Mac Quene, I. van Niekerk, G. Khathi and O. Babson) "The impact of the social security system on poverty in South Africa". *EPRI Research Paper No. 19*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2001.
- \_\_\_\_\_, (with C. Haarmann, D. Haarmann, K. Mac Quene, I. van Niekerk, G. Khathi and O. Babson) "Methodological issues in evaluating poverty policy". *EPRI Research Paper No. 23*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2001.
- \_\_\_\_\_, (with C. Haarmann, D. Haarmann, K. Mac Quene, I. van Niekerk, G. Khathi and O. Babson) "Social security take-up and the means test in South Africa". *EPRI Research Paper No. 24*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2001.
- \_\_\_\_\_, (with O. Babson, C. Haarmann, D. Haarmann, G. Khathi, I. van Niekerk and K. Mac Quene) "The impact of social security on school enrolment in South Africa". *EPRI Research Paper No. 25*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2001.
- \_\_\_\_\_, (with D. Rosenblum, C. Haarmann, D. Haarmann, K. Mac Quene and I. van Niekerk) "The socio-economic impact of "Workfare": Welfare reform lessons from the United States and other international experiences". *EPRI Research Paper No. 26*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2001.
- \_\_\_\_\_, (with C. Green and R. van Niekerk) "AIDS, Poverty and Malnutrition". *EPRI Research Paper No. 34*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2001.
- \_\_\_\_\_, (with O. Babson, K. Mac Quene, I. van Niekerk and R. van Niekerk) "The macroeconomic implications of poverty-reducing income transfers". *EPRI Research Paper No. 9*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2000.
- \_\_\_\_\_, (with A. Bayat and I. van Niekerk). "Gender equality and comprehensive social security reform". *EPRI Research Paper No. 12*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2000.
- \_\_\_\_\_, (with I. van Niekerk and K. Mac Quene) "Macroeconomic Options for Job Creation and Social Development". *EPRI Research Paper No. 15*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2000.
- \_\_\_\_\_, (with I. van Niekerk and N. Bovula) "Poverty-eradicating job creation". *EPRI Research Paper No. 7*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 1999.

\_\_\_\_\_, (with C. Haarmann, D. Haarmann, K. Mac Quene, I. van Niekerk, G. Khathi and O. Babson) “The impact of the social security system on poverty in South Africa”. *EPRI Research Paper No. 19*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2001.

\_\_\_\_\_, (with C. Haarmann, D. Haarmann, K. Mac Quene, I. van Niekerk, G. Khathi and O. Babson) “Methodological issues in evaluating poverty policy”. *EPRI Research Paper No. 23*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2001.

\_\_\_\_\_, (with C. Haarmann, D. Haarmann, K. Mac Quene, I. van Niekerk, G. Khathi and O. Babson) “Social security take-up and the means test in South Africa”. *EPRI Research Paper No. 24*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2001.

\_\_\_\_\_, (with O. Babson, C. Haarmann, D. Haarmann, G. Khathi, I. van Niekerk and K. Mac Quene) “The impact of social security on school enrolment in South Africa”. *EPRI Research Paper No. 25*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2001.

\_\_\_\_\_, (with D. Rosenblum, C. Haarmann, D. Haarmann, K. Mac Quene and I. van Niekerk) “The socio-economic impact of “Workfare”: Welfare reform lessons from the United States and other international experiences”. *EPRI Research Paper No. 26*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2001.

\_\_\_\_\_, (with C. Green and R. van Niekerk) “AIDS, Poverty and Malnutrition”. *EPRI Research Paper No. 34*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2001.

\_\_\_\_\_, (with O. Babson, K. Mac Quene, I. van Niekerk and R. van Niekerk) “The macroeconomic implications of poverty-reducing income transfers”. *EPRI Research Paper No. 9*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2000.

\_\_\_\_\_, (with A. Bayat and I. van Niekerk). “Gender equality and comprehensive social security reform”. *EPRI Research Paper No. 12*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2000.

\_\_\_\_\_, (with I. van Niekerk and K. Mac Quene) “Macroeconomic Options for Job Creation and Social Development”. *EPRI Research Paper No. 15*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2000.

\_\_\_\_\_, (with I. van Niekerk and N. Bovula) “Poverty-eradicating job creation”. *EPRI Research Paper No. 7*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 1999.

Curriculum Vitae – Kenneth Mac Quene