

March 1, 2020

Dear Professor Kebalo:

I am writing to you regarding your submission to Economics E-Journal: “Monetary Integration, Fiscal Divergence and Business Cycle Synchronization in West Africa”, MS 3372. After reading the comments from the two reviewers and your responses, I am sorry to say that I have decided to reject your manuscript as a journal article.

As noted by the reviewers and acknowledged by yourself, a significant obstacle in extending the Darvas et al. (2007) methodology to West Africa is the lack of data availability, both in terms of variables to examine and length of sample period. Even with the extended data, you still only have 11 years of data, which is too short to address issues of business cycles, especially as the early period of the sample overlaps with the last stages of the GFC.

With respect to the scarcity of variables, a comparison of your analysis with that of Darvas et al. (2007) highlights your inability to do the kind of robustness checks that Darvas et al. (2007) were able to undertake by virtue of having more data available to them. That is not a criticism of you personally, but it does limit your ability to use that data to make a useful contribution to the literature.

I am sorry to be the bearer of bad news and hope that you are not discouraged from submitting future research to Economics E-Journal.

Sincerely,

W. Robert Reed
Co-editor
Economics E-Journal