

Report on MS-2953, entitled "A Replication of 'The long-run impact of foreign aid in 36 African countries: Insights from multivariate time series analysis' (Oxford Bulletin of Statistics and Economics, 2014)"

As follows from the title this is a replication study. The replication is done to a high standard and allows the reader to access to what extent the impact of foreign aid on output and investment in African countries depends on the data source employed. However, while it is a quality replication, this study also contributes to a stream of the literature on the effects of revisions in the Penn World Tables. Overall, this is a well-executed study with many nuances taken into account.

Suggested corrections:

- Part 3.2, p. 7: "In Cameroon, all measures follow an almost identical path until the mid-1980's, but then split up: PWT8 and WDI register continued growth until the late 80's, followed by about a decade of recession, PWT6 and PWT7 start indicating a similarly severe recession earlier."

From Figure 1 though it seems that PWT6 and WDI "register continued growth until the late 80's, followed by about a decade of recession", PWT7 and PWT8 "start indicating a similarly severe recession earlier."

"...in Cameroon (and in Lesotho, to some extent), PWT6 and PWT7 take one path, PWT8 and WDI the other..." In the case of Cameroon this statement is not consistent with Figure 1.

- Part 3.3, p. 11: "The relative importance of revisions to price and NA data"

Acronym NA should be defined.

- Part 3.3, p. 13. It would make sense to state how many countries are considered in Table 2.
- Part 4.1, p 14, equation 1. There should be $C^*(L)$ instead of C^* .
- Part 5.3.1, p. 21 Footnote 10: "Due to the fundamental importance of institutional knowledge the present set-up, careful inspection of the residual series generally served as the primary source of information." A proposition seems to be missing in this sentence.
- Part 5.3.1, p. 23, first paragraph: There is a reference to alpha and beta parameters which are not defined.

- Part 5.3.1, p. 23, second paragraph: "... affecting about 150.000 people" Should it be 150,000?
- Part 5.3.1, p. 23, Tests for misspecification, second paragraph: "Note that there is no indication for residual autocorrelation in the second lag in any of the models when applying a 5% significance level, and only in three cases (Gabon PWT7, Benin PWT8, Madagascar PWT6) the test would reject at the 10% level (first column, table 6)."

What about Rwanda WDI? Also it would make sense to capitalize the word "table" in this sentence.

- Table 7: It is not clear what "Inf." stands for in the first column.
- Part 5.3.1, p. 31, second paragraph: "The last column reports the final choice of ranks after weighing pf criteria (i)-(iv)." It is not mentioned which weights are used, equal?
- Part 5.3.2, p. 33, the last sentence: "The conclusion of aid effectiveness, clearly supported by PWT6 with 8 out of 12countries providing evidence for it, compared to only 1 country (Benin) providing evidence for harmfulness...."

There should be 2 countries (as reported in the last row Table 9) providing evidence for harmfulness, the other country is Rwanda.

- Table 11, page 49: The las column is not well aligned.