

Gorton Wilmans

HOMETOWN Johannesburg, South Africa

UNIVERSITY University of Johannesburg

FUNDING Self funded

IN 10 YEARS' TIME...

I aim to be an esteemed academic specialising in different fields of Economics, with a formidable research repertoire and impactful involvement in learned societies; as well as a valued teacher at a prestigious university.



Essay synopsis

Following the global financial crisis of 2008, the central banks of several developed economies adopted a set of unconventional monetary policy tools, writes Gorton. Most commonly this took the form of manipulating the bank's balance sheet by embarking on campaigns of large-scale asset repurchases referred to as quantitative easing. These unconventional measures have had a broad range of macroeconomic effects across the world, affecting prices of and yields on long-term bonds in a number of developed countries, and prices and yields of sovereign bonds and shares as well as exchange rates in emerging markets.

Gorton argues that unconventional monetary policy proved to be effective in lowering long-term interest rates in advanced economies, thereby promoting output growth through investment. This, in many cases, effectively helped in curbing deflationary effects, he says.

“Unconventional monetary policy tools are likely to become a standard and conventional part of the arsenal of many central banks in periods of normal economic activity when interest rates are perfectly adjustable as well, which could have interesting and unexpected effects on consumers’ inflation expectations and risk aversion.”

In terms of whether unconventional monetary policy measures are sustainable or leading the world down the path to another financial crisis, Gorton finds them to be “safe” in theory, as long as they’re applied intelligently and with regard for their domestic and foreign effects.

More about Gorton

Favourite subjects:

Subjective Wellbeing and Happiness Studies, Monetary Economics and Public Economics.

Interests:

Piano and music, art and drawing, nature and wildlife and literature.

Inspired by:

My parents, whose unwavering dedication got me where I am today.

Main achievements:

- Graduated Cum Laude (BCom in Economics & Econometrics, UJ).
- HRP submitted for ESSA Founder's Medal consideration.
- Nedbank and Old Mutual Budget Speech Competition: second runner-up (2014), semi-finalist (2015), finalist (2017).

Community activity:

Volunteer at TLC Children's Home & Irwin Animal Rescue Centre.